



THE FLASH

Fraser High School - 34270 Garfield Road, Fraser, Michigan 48026 - Volume 61 - Issue 1 - 2024-2025 FHSTheFlash.com



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The Welkin: Honored by the NCTE

By Kourtney Cifka
Flash Editor-in-Chief

The Welkin is Fraser’s literary magazine. The magazine is a collection of art and writing excerpts from students across the art and creative writing programs. They have been selected for an Honorable Mention in the 2024 National Council of Teachers of English Recognizing Excellence Art and Literary Magazines (REALM). The magazine was recognized by the NCTE and is a big achievement for the magazine.

The NCTE REALM program tries to recognize successful literary magazines created by students with the support of their teachers. The current Welkin editor, Dawson Sarcona has been editor for majority of his time in high school. His efforts in creating the past few Welkin’s played a vital role in them accomplishing this achievement.

“It’s an honor to see my efforts, and the work of everyone who contributed art and writing to this magazine, recognized,” Sarcona said.

Overall, this achievement is a very big feat for The Welkin and will be a very memorable accomplishment for the students that worked to make this happen.

Cross Country State Success

Kourtney Cifka
Flash Editor-in-Chief



Grace Grupido running at a meet. Photo given by the Athletic Booster Club.

Over the past month, Fraser girl’s cross country team have been competing and succeeding. The girl’s team qualified for states after finishing third in the region for the second year in a row. Junior, Lance Edgehill, also individually qualified on the boy’s team.

The girl’s states team consisted of Grace Grupido (12), Katie Cariney (12), Gabby Miller(12), Olivia Cereska (11), Katelyn Frazier (11), Kate Molloy (11), Carolanne Hammer (11), Jewel Zschernig (11), Alice Foley (10),and Isabelle Keyes (9).

Grupido broke her own record multiple times this year. This year alone, she has broken the overall record 3 times and the senior record 8 times. Over her entire Fraser career she has broken

over 40 records across cross country and track, not including this upcoming spring.

“I don’t think they are going to stay for long because I have a lot of good team mates and a lot of good people coming up from the middle school that should be able to beat me” Grupido says.

Overall, cross country had an incredible season full of personal bests and amazing memories for all the athletes.



Cover of The Welkin 2024 created by Dawson Sarcona.

Basketball Record Broken

Kourtney Cifka
Flash Editor-in-Chief



Photo from the Yearbook Staff.



Senior, Sam Zanon, broke a 57 year old record on January 21st.

He broke the record for points in a single game scoring 47 points in the team’s win over L’Anse Creuse.

The previous record was 43 and set in 1968 by Ron Byrd.

Fraser DECA Excels at State Competition

By Olivia Palazzolo

Flash Staff Reporter

Fraser High School’s DECA team made an impressive showing at the Michigan DECA State Career Development Conference, competing against 5,700 students from across the state. With over 10,000 members in Michigan, earning any award is a significant achievement.

Nouri Hollins and Aneko Nichol were awarded the prestigious Glass Top Award in Personal Finance, which qualifies them for the International DECA Conference in Orlando. Other standouts included Thomas Mina, who won three medals in Accounting Applications, and Scarlett Gervasone, who earned a medal in Human Resource Management.

Additionally, team members Jeanie Lemire and Amber Masinick excelled by securing two medals each in the Travel & Tourism Team Decision category.

Fraser High School celebrates these students for their outstanding accomplishments and wishes the best of luck to those heading to the international competition.



Photo credits to Fraser Yearbook Staff

Jeanie Lemire and Amber Masinick celebrating after a success at DECA Competition.

Fraser Food Pantry Seeking Donations

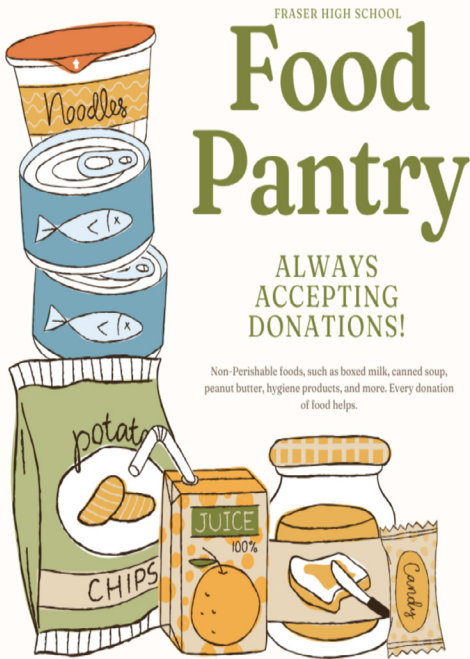
By Olivia Palazzolo

Flash Staff Reporter

Fraser High School’s on-site pantry is continuing its mission to support families in need by providing essential items such as food, hygiene supplies, and paper products.

The pantry is accepting donations year-round, with a wish list that includes boxed milk, canned soup, peanut butter, hygiene products, and more.

Donations can be dropped off at the Fraser High School Main Office. Families in need of assistance are encouraged to contact their child’s counselor for support.



Fraser Bands Earns Top Honors at MSBOA District Festival

By Olivia Palazzolo

Flash Staff Reporter

Fraser High School’s Varsity, Concert, and Symphony bands all earned top honors at the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association District 16 Band Festival on March 6-7 at Stevenson High School.

The Symphony Band received a Superior rating with straight First Division scores in performance and Sight Reading. The Varsity and Concert Bands also earned Superior ratings, with the Varsity Band securing a First Division in performance and a Second Division in Sight Reading, while the Concert Band achieved First Division in both categories.

Special thanks to Mrs. Fiedler, Mr. Rodgers, and Mr. Santamaria for all of their hard work, and congratulations to all members of the band who performed during the competition.



Photo credits to Fraser Yearbook Staff

FHS Band posing together at MSBOA Festival

Sinners: Review

Nick Ruhlman

Flash Broadcaster

Sinners is the latest film from one of my personal favorite directors, Ryan Coogler. Ryan Coogler is known for directing box office hits such as Black Panther and Creed. Three out of his five movies have been franchise movies with Sinners being an original idea from Ryan, with soooooo much hype behind this movie. So, as someone who praises Ryan Coogler's movies, I wanted to stay away from the hype and the history already made with this movie. Does it live up to all the praise?

Starting off, Sinners is about these twins, both played by Michael B. Jordan, named Smoke and Stack, they come back to the south after some trouble in Chicago to open a juke joint. After opening the juke joint, they become the target of vampires. Which isn't a spoiler because it was in the trailer. The concept hooked me in as Ryan Coogler doing a horror movie with Michael B. Jordan in it was like getting Christmas early. Surprisingly its more than a horror movie as it's a genre blend of gangster movies with horror movies and a bit of a musical element.

Starting with the positives, I can't name an actor or actress that doesn't kill their role. Michael B. Jordan shows how great of an actor he is with his two roles, as Smoke is a more serious character and Stack being a character, I got excited seeing on screen due to how funny he can be. Another great acting performance is from Miles Canton with this being his acting debut. I also think others like Hailee Steinfeld, Delroy Lindo and Omar Benson Miller do great jobs too.

Keeping up with positives, Coogler does a great job of blending all these genres together to make none of them feel out of place. There's also a scene in this movie where his mixes many styles and time periods of music and people to represent the future and past of the culture, and while on paper that scene wouldn't work in a million years, somehow it gets pulled off in the best possible way. I also really love how Ryan Coogler can make such a prestige movie while also having the movie have such a mainstream appeal. I would also like to point out while there are main characters, this movie gives enough story to the side characters to where you feel like they're main characters too.

The only negative I have with this movie is the marketing as the vampires would be amazing to have as a surprise. But when you have a movie that blends so many things together, it's hard to market and vampires is probably the easiest way to make money. But overall, this movie is getting a 5/5 from me as I loved it from beginning to end. I have no complaints and I can't wait to see what Ryan Coogler does in the future.

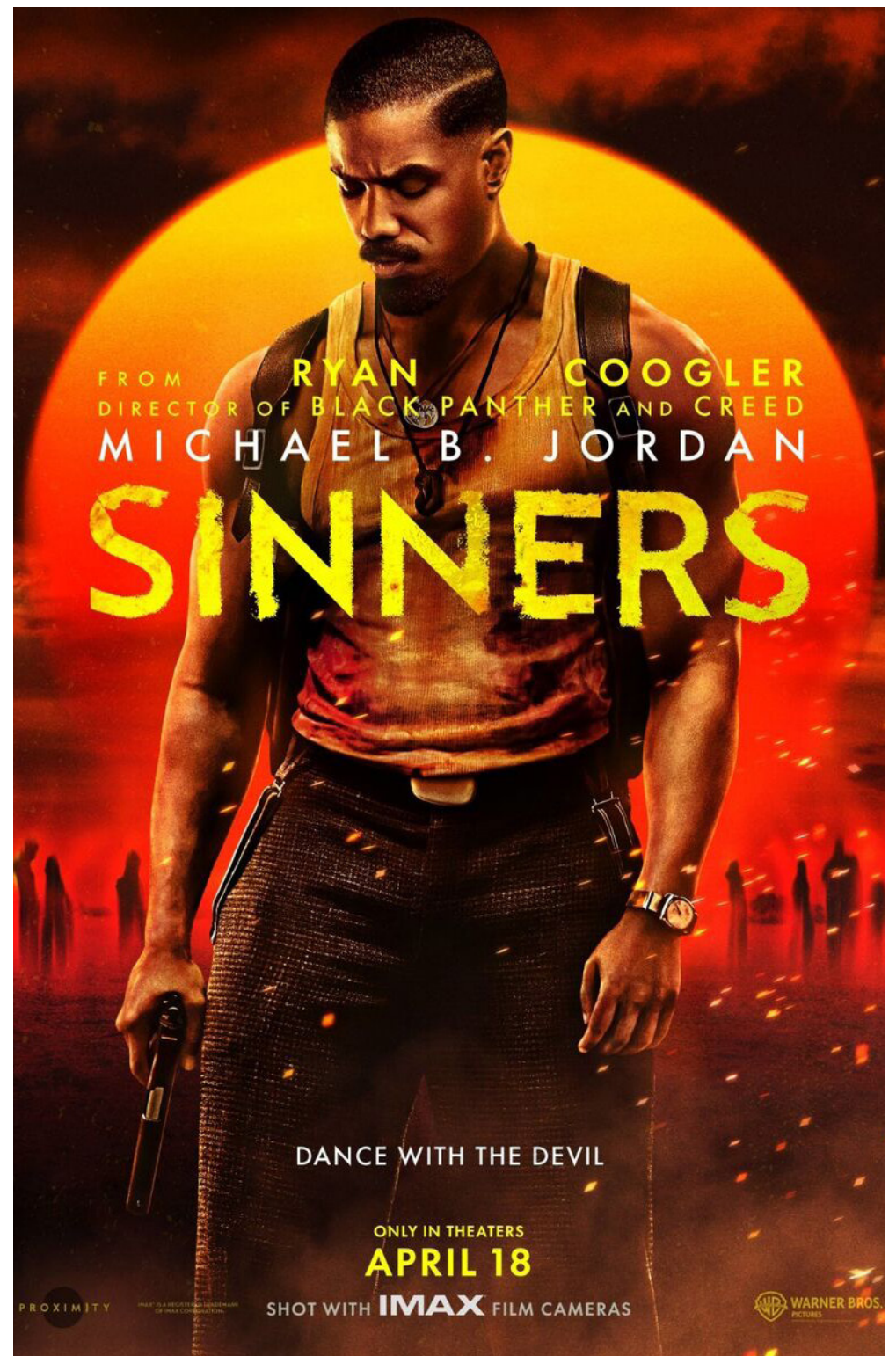


Image courtesy of Warner Brothers.

Nick's Picks - the best films of the Decade

Barbarian (2022) - Directed by Zach Cregger
TMNT: Mutant Mayhem - Directed by Jeff Rowe
Godzilla: Minus One - Directed by Takashi Yamazaki
Everything Everywhere All at Once - Directed by The Daniels
Longlegs - Directed by Osgood Perkins
Strange Darling - Directed by JT Mollner
IF - Directed by John Krasinski
Abigail - Directed by Radio Silence
And of course, Sinners - Directed by Ryan Coogler

A Minecraft Movie: Review

Dawson Sarcona

Flash Staff Reporter

A Minecraft Movie, Directed by Jared and Jerusha Hess, finally delivers the long awaited live action adaptation of the beloved video game: Minecraft. While full of references and decent visuals, unfortunately, this movie falls short of its potential as an adaptation and expansion of the Minecraft universe.

Starting with the positive, this movie does a fairly good job of adapting and re-vamping the visual language of the game itself. For those who don't know, the Minecraft graphics consist exclusively of blocks and cube-based designs. The live action designs for this movie were initially very controversial, and divided a lot of the fanbase. However, in the context of the movie and the world that it builds, these designs work well and do a good job of immersing the audience into this new world.

This movie is also pretty funny. With Jared and Jerusha's previous work directing films like Napoleon Dynamite and Nacho Libre, they carry over a lot of the absurdist humor they're known for in their work. While the humor can be cheesy, or somewhat cringey at points, this film has some genuinely funny moments. This is because it lets Jack Black and Jason Momoa cut loose and just have fun as their respective characters. That being said, the film often relies a little too heavily on Jack Black's silly line delivery, or ability to casually break out into song, rather than working to fully deliver a great movie for the fans.

Aside from Black and Momoa, the rest of the performances in this movie are exceedingly underwhelming. The additional characters put in this movie just felt like filler plot devices and added basically nothing to the film itself. While it tried to have a heartfelt core following the story of a brother and sister, Henry and Natalie, this movie really fails to deliver any performance that evokes any emotion. This leaves the movie exposed at what it really is— another video game adaptation that was made in the interest of making money, rather than making something truly good.

If this film had leaned into its absurdity like Nacho Libre or Napoleon Dynamite did before it, it could've actually really worked. Instead, the movie has an identity crisis between action adventure, absurdist comedy, and heartfelt family movies. But without being able to successfully pull any of these things off fully, it ends up being a disappointment of a movie overall.

This movie and its marketing play into a common theme of recent big IP-based movies. It seems a majority of the marketing and reasoning to see this movie was simply to make fun of it. A Minecraft Movie definitely feels like this year's attempt at being like Morbius or Madame Web— a film that was made almost purposefully bad in order to go viral. With the current trends and memes surrounding this movie (especially Jack Black's character), it's becoming increasingly clear that the secret motive behind this movie was to make it cringey, cheesy, and disappointing for the fans, becoming a large topic of discussion on the internet. Of course, this means that no matter how good it is, people will see it. This will result in it making a lot of money, and studios continuing with more films like it. It's no surprise that as of recent



years movies geared towards children and the younger generations have decreased in quality, and it's because of movies like this, that lack heart or any rich storytelling, but instead are geared toward internet culture and being the butt of the joke. Unfortunately, as long as clips can be farmed from these movies, and the internet continues to talk about them, they will continue to be made by studios simply seeking a check.

In the end, I'd give this movie a 2/5 purely for Jack Black and Jason Momoa alone. While it was poorly written, and, for the most part, poorly performed, whether or not you like this movie comes down to one simple thing: are you a fan of Jack Black? If you enjoy just watching Jack Black be himself on screen, with a bunch of Minecraft references thrown in your face, you'll enjoy this movie. If that's not for you, then I definitely wouldn't see this movie. As someone who loves Jack Black, I did have fun watching this film, but there were way too many issues to overlook and an overwhelming sense of disappointment at yet another video game adaptation failure.



Photo Credits to Moxie

Freya Skye promotion pictures

Zombies 4 Star Freya Skye's New Hit "Can't Fake It"

Olivia Palazzolo

Flash Staff Reporter

Freya Skye isn't new to the music scene, however, her new hit "Can't Fake It" is grabbing a lot of attention, giving her a fresh spotlight in the media.

From an early age, the British singer-songwriter made waves with her powerful voice and undeniable stage presence. Most notably, she was a contestant in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest in 2022, where she showcased her talent for infectious hooks and powerhouse vocals.

At just 15, Freya has already built a reputation for her fierce yet vulnerable songwriting. But "Can't Fake It" is the song that signals her evolution from a rising talent to a full-fledged pop powerhouse.

From the first beat, "Can't Fake It" grabs you. The tempo is not too rushed, not too slow, but enough to make you move. The drumline is sharp and punchy, setting the foundation for the song's driving energy. There's an undeniable groove to it, something you can feel in your chest as the bass thumps along, wrapping around you in a way that makes you want to hit repeat before the song even ends.

The vocal progression is amazing, starting off controlled, almost restrained, before building into something massive.

Her range is on full display as she dips into softer, more intimate tones before exploding into powerful high notes that make the chorus impossible to ignore.

The vocal effects are subtle but effective. The careful use of echo and layering contributes to a sound that is both polished and authentic, striking a harmonious balance between commercially appealing pop elements and deep emotional storytelling.

Lyrically, "Can't Fake It" is as relatable as it gets. It's about honesty, about refusing to pretend something is fine when it's not. Whether it's about a relationship, personal struggles, or simply the pressure to be something you're not, the message resonates. The words cut through the beat like a confession, but one set to a melody so catchy you can't help but sing along.

In addition to being a fantastic song, "Can't Fake It" is accompanied by an impressive music video set in an office that captures a chic 2000s vibe, enhancing the overall feel of the track. This song effectively showcases Freya's talent and indicates that this is just the beginning of her musical popularity.



Photo Credits to Moxie

Freya Skye promotion pictures

Hell of a Summer: Review

Nick Ruhlman

Flash Broadcaster

Hell of a Summer is the directorial debut form actors, Billy Bryk and Finn Wolfhard. Finn Wolfhard known for Stranger Things and It, Billy Bryk known for small roles in Ghostbusters: Afterlife and Saturday Night. Starting off I have a bias for camp slashers as that's what got me into horror movies with the original Friday the 13th. So, seeing the trailer and who was directing really got me excited to see this movie, probably because I was needing a new camp slasher.

Anyway, Hell of a Summer is about teen (and a 24-year-old) camp counselors the day before camp opens having a fun time until they find out that a killer is

there with them. This is a comedic horror movie, and you can feel that right away with this movie. The movie is about 85% comedy and 15% horror, so while the marketing showed it being about 50/50 it didn't turn out to be that... but I'm not complaining.

Starting with the positives, EVERY CHARACTER is a lot of fun, and I loved them all. I thought every character had a fun personality and every actor/actress did really well in their roles. I specifically really enjoyed Billy Bryk (Bobby), Finn Wolfhard (Chris), Abby Quinn (Claire), Krista Nazaire (Shannon) and D'Pharaoh Woon-A-Tai (Mike). A lot of the comedy was great and felt natural, there were a few moments where it felt forced but

I'm leaning positive on the comedy because more times than not I found myself laughing. I also thought the reveal of the killer was done very creatively especially sense the who done it element really feels overdone.

With the negatives because I am not mixed on anything, I thought the kills were done horribly. I would've enjoyed seeing some camp themed kills but every kill in this movie could've been from any setting, such as a suburban area. A SMALL SPOILER but while yes there are kills in this movie, no one gets killed on screen and when you say your movie is a slasher, everyone is going to expect some cool kills. This could've done without the horror parts of this movie, but to a certain extent I'm happy they added it.

Overall, this is a good debut



Image courtesy of 30WEST.

movie. While it could've used more horror, this movie was pretty funny, and I would recommend it. I'll give it a 3.5/5 as this movie was entertaining. It's not great but it was good.

Mickey 17: Review

Nick Ruhlman

Flash Broadcaster

Mickey 17 is the latest film from legendary Korean film director, Bong Joon Ho. He's known for directing films such as, The host, Memories of Murder, Snowpiercer, and for his 2019 film Parasite. Bong Joon Ho had everyone wondering what movie he can make after Parasite due to it being his magnum opus and we got the answer with Mickey 17. Just to catch up on why this is important, Parasite set the bar really high for whatever Bong Joon Ho decided to do next, especially due to what that movie was able to do. Not only was it beloved by many and is considered to be one of the best movies of all time, but it was the first ever foreign movie to win best picture at the Oscars.

Anyway, Mickey 17 is about this

character named Mickey, played by Robert Pattinson, whose job is to be an expendable. On his 17th life he survives due to a creature on that planet saving his life. When he goes back to his home, he sees he's been replaced which leads to many issues. I would like to start and say that this movie is very odd, mainly due to the characters. And while this movie has mainstream appeal, I still think the oddness of this movie might turn of people who want to watch this for the first time.

Starting with the positives, the CGI is phenomenal and looks great, same with the cinematography. All of the performances are Oscar worthy, especially Mark Ruffalo, Robert Pattinson and Toni Collette. I think for Robert playing two characters with different personalities, he really pulled it off. Due to the characters being odd, the comedy in this movie

just happens naturally. The score of this movie was also phenomenal as at times it can also be odd, but also the right sound to get the story going.

With the stuff I'm mixed about, I think the dialogue is pretty hit or miss. Sometimes it sounds natural other times it's corny movie lines. Sense that's the only thing I'm mixed on let's just go to the negatives. For starters, I don't like Nasha as a character. Which is pretty bad if this is a character that you're supposed to be rooting for. I also thought the scientists in this movie were portrayed in a stereotypical way which can get pretty annoying.

Overall, Mickey 17 is a very enjoyable movie with a lot of positives. While the argument can be made that this is the worst film in Bong Joon Ho's filmography, this for other directors would be their best



Image courtesy of Warner Brothers.

film. This movie deserves a 4/5 and I recommend you watch this movie.

Transformers One: Review

Dawson Sarcona

Flash Staff Reporter

Transformers One, directed by Josh Cooley is Hasbro's latest installment in the Transformers saga. Pitched as an origin story, this movie focuses on how The Autobots and Decepticons were formed. This movie has had press all over the place, starting with the original trailer, in which pretty much everyone was unimpressed. But as the movie has gotten closer and more and more press screenings have aired, this movie has gotten a lot of really good press. Some are even comparing this movie to a universally loved animated film, Spider-man Into the Spider-verse. With these conflicting views, I went into this movie very intrigued and somewhat hopeful that it would hold strong to these good reviews. But after my screening, I've come to the conclusion this movie was very overhyped.

Starting with arguably one of the most important features of every Transformers movie: The design. While this movie does have some very beautiful environmental design and animation, that's pretty much where the good in this art style ends. The designs of the Prime Transformers are actually pretty solid and I found their characters to be interesting. However, the core four main characters in this movie have some of the worst designs in any Transformers movie. They feel like poor attempts to change the design just enough to make a new line of toys and action figures to sell, and while their designs do evolve, I don't think we get actually good designs until the very end. For an origin story, it's so important that they convey the original designs of these characters, and I'm so hyped they got there eventually (it was my favorite moment in the film), but it took way too long to get there.

I really liked Megatron in this movie, and I thought the way his transition to evil was done was cool, even though it felt a little rushed, Brian Tyree Henry (Megatron's Voice actor) aces this vocal performance and makes it work completely. Optimus Prime (Chris Hemsworth) however, is a different story. I think this movie screwed up Optimus's character and consequently the dynamic between him and Megatron. In this movie, Optimus was played as an anti-rule follower and someone who is kind of selfish. This could be a good character trait to grow out of and provide some character development. But instead, the movie just plays it off as a leadership trait, when in reality it consistently gets them into sticky situations throughout the movie. His character is somewhat redeemed by the last act of the movie, because of some cool moments, but in the end, he still doesn't feel like a great representation of Optimus Prime.

Because of these issues, there is a very odd dynamic shift in this movie. Optimus is the reckless one (until the end), he's the one who's kind of selfish, he is the one who rebels against the rules, and he is actually much more goofy. This felt pretty backward to me, as it left Megatron feeling like the older brother, the one who was more serious and more protective. Then these dynamics flipped about halfway through the movie and it felt unnatural. If these traits were flipped, we would be able to see each character grow into their own realistically, and for Megatron, it would be his downfall. We would be able to see the flaws early on, and how they grow and affect the characters. Instead, they kind of come out of nowhere and flip-flop at the midpoint of the movie.

Aside from the final battle of this movie, My favorite part is by far Keegan Michael Key as Bumblebee. From the trailers, I was a little concerned about if his humor would be able to stick the landing, but after watching I would say it was actually one of his best roles. There are a lot of jokes packed into this movie, and they feel unnecessary at times, but Key's comedic timing almost always makes them work. He also gets some cool action scenes that I



enjoyed as a Bumblebee fan.

All in all, I was pretty in the middle of this movie. It was nowhere near what it had been hyped up to be, but it also wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. I think this movie is a classic example of something made for the fans. I'm not sure that the general public will enjoy it as much, but I know the die-hard Transformers fans will have a good time seeing their favorite characters back on the big screen. I would rate this movie a 2.5/5, and recommend you see it this weekend and make your decision on whether or not this movie truly lived up to its hype.

Stress and sports: exploring student-athletes workloads.

Kourtney Cifka

Flash Editor-in-Chief

Homework, practice, homework, games, practice, homework: the list of responsibilities goes on and on for student-athletes. Working to compete physically at their best while also staying on top of academics; student-athletes are some of the hardest working people in a school environment. The pressures and expectations raise the concern of time management for student-athletes.

Commonly people will make fun of the term student-athlete, making jokes like ‘when you have to actually put the student in student-athlete.’ While these jokes are made for fun, they do make a serious point on the pressures of a student athlete.

“Athletics are a privilege, not a right. Student athletes are held to a high standard,” Fraser High School Principal, Ryan Sines said.

Being an athlete makes one an automatic representative of a school. Their behavior at away games, seeing the teamwork and perseverance on the field or court, and admiring the dedication and



In order left to right: Josiah Randelle, Leah Woods, and Meghan Tapp. Photo provided by AH Photography.

Need someone to talk to? Reach out to one of the hotlines below for additional mental support.

Teen Help: 800-852-8336
N.A.M.I: 1-800-950-6264
Crisis Text Line: text
741-741

hard-work of a team is a direct reflection of a school and its people. Sports connect communities together making pride for sports an uncanny way of recognition. With this pressure to perform the best to support your school culture, it takes mental strength out of an athlete. The pressure can affect student-athletes.

Fraser High School’s grade policy for student-athletes is that they at least have to be passing 5 out of 7 classes. Athletic Director, Shane Redshaw, does grade checks throughout every semester to verify grades. If someone falls below the standard, they will become ineligible to play.

Mr. Sines states how most teams and coaches have good resources for those athletes struggling with their grades.

“Coaches take grades into consideration when they have tryouts. They might be cut from a sport if they have lower grades. Athletes that struggle a little bit have tutoring programs,” Mr. Sines said. “Tutoring programs are mostly ran by the coaches.”

A good thing about Fraser is that coaches are mainly teachers at the school who have a passion for teaching academics and sports alike. That combination of coaches and teachers allows them to get more help for student’s that struggle academically.

Head football coach, Jon Skladanowski; for example, is one of the math teachers. For football, he is able to assist any athletes’ academic struggles.

“If they’re ineligible they are put a study table and have to do their work. We have study table every Wednesday for an hour,” Coach Skladanowski said. So, from an administrator or teacher’s perspective, student-athletes are given many opportunities to put grades first due to the ineligibility policy. However, student athletes have varying opinions on the stress.

“Even if you have bad grades, you



Mr. Skladanowski watching a play. Photo provided by AH Photography.

still have to go to everything which still doesn't help you get your grades up," 11th grade varsity volleyball player, Meghan Tapp said.

With Tapp's claim, one can see the different expectations sport by sport. Coach Skladanowski allots his ineligible players the entire practice to do homework, while ineligible volleyball players are expected to come to all practices and games and get their grades up at the same time. Sitting on the bench at a game might be a punishment or incentive for the athlete, but it does not necessarily help them get their grades up. While being benched can be a motivation, depending on the player, that motivation varies.

11th grade varsity football player, Josiah Randalle explained some of his struggles with balancing sports and schoolwork.

"I always feel stressed during football season because we are immediately going from school to practice, so I don't get a breather. Being a varsity player, I do feel the extra pressure that I need to perform amazingly or else someone will believe I don't deserve the title of 'Varsity Football Player,'" he said.

Randalle explains his mental struggles of being on a varsity sport. Football is one of the most popular and advertised sports at school. Football games are some of the biggest events during the school year. That pressure of not only performing at his best for his teammates but also his peers add a ton of weight on his shoulders. Balancing that with homework and school after getting home late from a long practice can take a mental toll on someone.

Another sport that takes a lot of effort is dance. 11th

grade varsity dance team member, Leah Woods, is a part of various different dance extracurriculars in and outside of school that takes up a lot of her time.

"I'm on varsity dance team, competitive studio dance at Ultra Dance Company, and I'm a part of the USPBL dance crew at Jimmy John's Field. My studio schedule is nightly from around 4-8 or 9 and dance team is from 2:30-5:30 on Thursdays and Fridays. Then on football games, dance team performs on the sidelines and at half time. Competition for dance team starts in November and competition for studio starts in March. We have various extra rehearsals throughout the season as well," Woods explains.

Adding on 3 hours of homework a day to 5 hours of practice after an 8 hour school day is a lot. Time management for student-athletes is critical;

however, sometimes it's not enough.

"Sometimes the pressure affects my schoolwork but usually I figure things out. And on the occasion that I don't, I usually just email my teachers and explain the situation. Most of them are understanding are willing to work with me," Woods said.

The teacher's ability to cooperate with student's is an important part of a successful student-athlete. Which connects back to the raised concern between student-athletes and schoolwork. Administration does their best to put the grades of student athletes first while student's try putting that same effort into prioritizing their grades. One hypothetical scenario for meeting the struggles of student-athletes and prioritizing grades would be that student-athletes to only have assignments due weekly instead of by class, so they could slowly do their work throughout the week and be able to miss a day if they have a game or long practice. The reply of the students was varied.

"It would help to not be as overwhelmed especially on game days, but I also think it would make my weekends much more stressful because I would push it all till then," Tapp said.

Randalle makes a similar point to Tapp.

"I would definitely be less stressed out, but the weekends are when I'd want to relax so making my relax days, workdays would be pretty annoying and stressful," Randalle said.

Then, Woods has a different opinion to Tapp and Randalle.

"I would love the idea of everything being due Sunday. Last year in AP US History, he had us turn things in online by Sunday night or the first class of the following week. That definitely allowed me to work at my own pace throughout the week and weekend," Woods said.

Adjusting deadlines may or may not help. What works for one person might not work for everyone. The idea of longer deadlines to Tapp and Randalle make them worry about procrastination, while Woods thinks it would take a lot of pressure off her shoulders. The real answer lies in the cooperation of the teachers. There will be no one way to please every student-athlete or every teacher. Some methods will not work for both parties. Communication between teachers and students is the key to a successful student-athlete. If a student is able to properly express their concerns, a cooperating teacher should be able to get them the help they need. Which ties back to some coaches being teachers, allotting more resources for their athletes. Student-athletes are respected and appreciated members of Fraser High School and if teachers are willing to work, make accommodations, and help student-athletes struggling it could make the world of a difference to someone.

Phones and Driving: a Deadly Mix

Kourtney Cifka

Flash Staff Reporter

Every time someone steps into a car they are responsible for keeping themselves and everybody else on the roads safe. To keep the roads civil and protected, there are rules and safety precautions in place. The demographic of people that tend to forget or not care about these rules are very often teenagers. Whether teens have the mindset that they're invincible and not prone to consequences, it is still important to recognize the dangers of being on the road.

Distractions in a vehicle are a major reason why teen crashes are so prevalent. The world is in a time of technological advancement with access to phones, radios, and so much more. All the older generations had already learned how to drive without these distractions, so they are not as prone to being on their phone while driving, compared to teens who are learning to take time away from their screens in a technology driven world.

Michigan Auto Law is a firm that represents people that are injured in an accident. They are big advocates for promoting teen safety while driving. The week of October 20-26 was National Teen Driver Safety week. Michigan Auto Law promotes safety through scholarships, community outreach, partnership, and through additional information on their website. Chris Hunter is a lawyer at Michigan Auto Law who has been practicing for almost 30 years in both Michigan and Ohio. He has represented teens that have been in crashes due to distracted driving and represented people injured in a crash caused by a teenager driving distracted.

“Every generation looks at the generation behind them and says we didn't do this that way, or we didn't do this that way. The biggest difference is technology,” Hunter said. “Drivers who text are 23 times more likely to be involved in a crash.”

Driving is a privilege. That privilege is something that should be earned. Past generations had different struggles, but by the time they were considered experienced is when portable technology like phones had arrived at society.

“That's the difference with experience. In my teenage years, I was invincible and immortal. I did a lot of stupid things and when I look back, I'm really shocked and surprised that one, I did it and that no one was injured,” Hunter said.

Starting to drive is the one the biggest challenges people face. The fear, excitement, and nerves of being on the road and the sense of freedom that comes with being able to go anywhere at the drop of a hat. But, while gaining that freedom is an important part of growing up, being aware of the laws and how to keep people safe is another important part of that.

Kelsey's Law is a law that was created after the unfortunate death of a teenage girl. She was on her phone when she got into a car crash that took her life. Looking past their grief, her family took action about speaking up on the dangers of distracted driving. They wanted to try and prevent crashes from happening to anybody else.

Teenagers being aware of these laws and understanding they are in place for their safety, is an important part of keeping the roads safe. Looking past a mindset of invincibility and maturing as an individual.

“My mom was in a car accident a couple months ago due to a person being on their phone. It made me feel like some people don't understand the dangers [of texting and driving] until it's too far” 11th grade student, Jessica Elzerman said.



Michigan Auto Law logo.

Photo by Michigan Auto Law

Schools and parents can always help educate the youth by continuing to reenforce these rules to teen drivers. Remind them of the ways of the road, tell them the Kelsey's story, and educate them on what a good driver is.

“Spending time with their kids. Modeling that good behavior. When the parents are in the car they shouldn't be on their phone, not answering a call, and not engaging in those activities,” Hunter said.

Driver's training can only do so much for teens. They cover the basics and start the thinking process for teens, but ultimately it is up to the parents to keep enforcing that good behavior for their children. Behavior is learned at home; therefore, parent's need to have those hard conversations with their children and remind them about dangers of being on the road like distracted driving.

Teenage drivers are the newest people on their road and with the rise in technology, it can be hard to be the picture-perfect driver. Being on the road can be a nerve-racking experience and those nerves can also fuel impulsiveness which is just teenage nature. But when all is said in done, driving is a privilege. The privilege is a wonder opportunity that individuals can experience, yet that opportunity can be diminished if not used properly. Knowing the rules and laws, being aware of one's surroundings, and eliminating distractions: all important aspects of being a good, active driver. While it may be hard for some, taking these precautions may save a life.

Exploring D.E.I Cuts and College Admissions

By Kourtney Cifka

Flash Editor-in-Chief

Diversity, equity, and inclusion: 3 words that have caused controversy in American politics. The D.E.I. movement is federal organization framework designed to promote groups who have been marginalized throughout history. D.E.I. for some felt like a new way to create opportunities for minorities while others saw this as an opportunity to hand out jobs to people in the name of diversity.

The only way to really understand the impact of D.E.I and its removal, is to understand the history of civil rights as a whole. Things like employment, owning property, and voting have not always been a right. After the Civil War, there was still a push for racist ideologies causing a delay in social reform. Segregation was implemented through the Supreme Court ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson. The ruling of Plessy v. Ferguson was decided in 1896 and was not overturned until the ruling of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954. Then, it was not until the mid 1960's where actual civil rights legislation was starting to be implemented. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965 gave more rights to minorities including race, religion, and gender. The LGBTQ+ community did not have the ability to get married until the Supreme Court case of Obergefell v. Hodges in 2015.

For women, they could not vote, own property, or do pretty much anything without their husband or father's consent until the 1900's. In the 1920's, women finally got the right to vote when the Nineteenth Amendment was ratified. Also, it was illegal to discriminate against disabled individuals until the 1990's with the Americans Against Disabilities Act. The act eliminated discrimination in employment, public transportation, public accommodations, and more.

Access to civil liberties has been a slow, grueling battle for minorities. In America's 249 years as an established independent country, minorities have been fighting for rights up until the modern day. People have fought against prejudice in laws and employment and fought for their rights. This all connects back to D.E.I. and what its goals were. D.E.I. was a program started to promote equal treatment of people who have been marginalized in the past. An article by CNN states that critics of D.E.I. claim that the policy is just a way to get unqualified people into positions of power. D.E.I can be tied back to the Civil Rights Movement of 1964, and since then, understanding of different cultures has grown with it. Support for D.E.I movements spiked during President Trump's first term in office, but backlash from the program formed during President Biden's term according to Forbes Magazine.

One of President Trump's first acts in office for his second term was to eliminate federal funding for D.E.I. programs. Instead, President Trump believes in a new ideology when it comes to hiring in the workplace according to Forbes Magazine. The program he believes in is called "M.E.I." which stands for merit, excellence, and intelligence. The beliefs behind M.E.I. relate to hiring people based on their accomplishments, merits, and overall intelligence level. The idea that the best in a field should get the opportunity. Critics of President Trump question his beliefs in diversity and what he believes is qualified, however, according to The Medium, Trump has appointed more women to his cabinet than any other Republican president between his two terms combined. He also has appointed women to positions in the White House Cabinet that a woman has never fulfilled before. However, his cabinet does lack representation for people of color. According to the Politico, President Trump has not been appointing people for the sake of diversity, but people he believes are the best for office. But again, lack of diversity is a tricky issue, and it could be near to impossible to please every group struggling after the D.E.I. cuts. D.E.I. is a popular program in more liberal minded establishments. Big companies and colleges utilize the practices to hire and admit people. Companies' personal efforts of utilizing D.E.I. though is a choice they make. By President Trump eliminating D.E.I federally, does not mean that private businesses cannot chose to continue following D.E.I. practices and ideologies.

Michigan State University's Executive Director of Admissions, John Ambrose, who is in control of admissions and new students, is unsure to how the policy will affect the future of college admissions but is confident in their ability to continue fueling a diverse academic environment.



"While Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.I.) initiatives play a role in various aspects of campus life, our admissions process has always adhered to state and federal laws. Proposal 2 (Prop 2), which was passed in Michigan in 2006 prohibits public institutions from considering race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin in admissions decisions," Ambrose said.

When D.E.I. was eliminated federally and talks about cutting the Department of Education, people were worried about how it will affect them being on the verge of graduating within the next few years. The fear of being overlooked after putting in the work to create a resume guaranteed to get someone into their dream school.

However, as Ambrose mentioned, schools in Michigan cannot consider race, gender, ethnicity, or national origin in admission decisions. There are also a multitude of other laws in place to prevent discrimination at a federal level. The Fourteenth Amendment is in place to clarify what a citizen is. The equal protection clause in the Fourteenth Amendment protects all citizens in America. Title IX protects women from discrimination based off their sex in educational settings like university and college. And while eliminating D.E.I. is something people are grieving over, there are still laws in place to protect people and private businesses can still run their business based on a D.E.I. philosophy.

"The depth of its value can be measured by the contributions that its alumni make to everyday society and that is a direct outcome of the kind of campus environment created by all its community," Ambrose said.

The elimination of D.E.I. at the federal level is scary for some and something to celebrate for others. However, at the end of the day it just comes back to the citizens and their right to speak against the government. Political change can be scary, but voting and trying to stay as educated on civil matters can be beneficial during times of political turmoil. Staying divided as a society is not the way to solve a problem and cognitive dissonance is a good thing, not bad.

Sources:

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