

# THE MILTON PAPER

## Graduation 2022—the Same, but Different

ABBY DUNN '24



Milton.edu

On June 10th, the entire upper school community will gather on the quad for the first normal Milton graduation since 2019. According to Mr. Ball, the administration does not anticipate making any pandemic related changes to the ceremony. Unlike last year's graduation, there will be no limit on numbers—Mr. Ball emphasized that “all are welcome.” Additionally, he explained that the structure of the ceremony will be “quite familiar,” featuring two valedictorians, a guest speaker, and a randomly ordered distribution of diplomas. Last year's graduation ceremony saw the addition of video screens, which will be present at this year's ceremony as well; the ceremony will also be livestreamed for anyone who cannot attend in person.

While the ceremony itself will be like every other Milton graduation prior to the pandemic, this year's graduating class is certainly unique. As Anna Cressman (I) explained, “nothing about [the class of 2022's] Milton trajectory has been ‘normal.’” In a normal year, most graduating seniors would have experienced three typical Milton graduations and would know what to expect for their own. This year, however, graduating seniors who started at Milton during their sophomore or junior years have never seen a normal Milton graduation. Rhea Anand (I) is one of those seniors. While Rhea attended last year's graduation, she thinks having a larger turnout at her own graduation will certainly make the ceremony feel different. Despite not completely knowing what to expect at graduation, Rhea thinks the fact that her first “‘real’ Milton graduation will be [her] own grade's” will make the ceremony “all the more meaningful.”

Forming connections through Zoom and socially distanced gatherings, this year's graduating class has faced pandemic restrictions throughout the bulk of their high school career. Regardless, Anna explained that “being forced to spend so much time apart gave [the senior class] a greater appreciation for being together.” Anna said her class made “a conscious effort to regain a sense of community” in their own class and the larger Milton community, feeling a sense of “respon-

sibility to carry certain Milton traditions and norms through COVID.” Rhea agrees, saying that enduring “incredibly trying” times and still making it to graduation together “speaks volumes about how close [her] class [has] become.”

Ms. RK, Class I Dean, shared Anna's and Rhea's sentiments, saying that “despite the setbacks,” the senior class has consistently managed to “lead and provide support and care for the school.” Ms. RK elaborated that the graduating class “cares deeply about each other” since they are the “only ones who truly understand” the unique challenges of their class's high school experience.

The last time Anna experienced a typical Milton graduation was her freshman year. She says it feels “surreal” that she was a freshman at the last normal graduation and now she will be “walking across that stage in a couple weeks,” because she always expected to see four, not two, typical Milton graduations. “It feels fitting,” Anna said, “to end our Milton experience the same way we started it,” with a normal Milton graduation. Ms. RK agreed with Anna, saying things finally feel like they “should be.” The Class of 2022 will get a normal end to an atypical high school experience and a chance to be recognized for the hope and positivity with which they have led the Milton community.

## A Statement on All-Gender Housing

Let us begin by introducing ourselves - Gracie is a boarder in Hallowell House from Dubai U.A.E and Gujarat, India, and Teddy is a boarder in Norris House from Sudbury, MA; we're your boarding monitors for this upcoming year. As we're sure you all know by now, the 2022-2023 school year will see an additional dorm on campus: the all-gender house. Recently, lots of students have raised ques-

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# THE MILTON PAPER

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## Graduation Editorial

The 2021-22 school year has been a slow crawl out from the shadows of COVID. All of us, boarder and day, domestic and international students alike, returned to campus, but it wasn't the same one we left in March 2020. Everyone was in-person! but masks were mandatory, and 'large gatherings' weren't allowed; boarders were back in their dorms! but they faced draconian restrictions in the name of 'safety'. When we began to feel a sense of routine in this new post-lockdown Milton, the janky new schedule became another obstacle in our return to normalcy.

But, happily, as vaccines came along, COVID restrictions started to be lifted, and we were able to adapt back into life at Milton: masks became optional, boarders were allowed into dorms in the day, even harkness tables have come back into our classrooms (farewell, spinny wheelie chairs). However, despite loosening restrictions bringing back the spaces we missed, there was still something incomplete: our sense of community felt like a diluted, half-hearted version of what once was. We as a student body may not be responsible for the restrictive policies established by the administration, but conversations with faculty and students across a range of ages and backgrounds reveal that we have failed to recognize our part in restoring Milton's sense of community.

Despite our romanticization of how Milton 'used to be,' teachers have made clear that this student body is not so different from that of five, even fifteen years ago. When asked about how he felt the student body has changed in his time here, Mr. Chung

explained that while there are external challenges that were absent in past years—limited class time to connect with teachers and a culture of constant distraction, for example—we are not intrinsically different people. We regularly complain about the toxicity of our focus on productivity and college, yes; everyone is running around, frantically trying to get their million and five projects off the ground, yes; none of us ever get any sleep, yes. But these aren't new concerns at Milton Academy. So, if the pandemic did not alter the student body's values in any significant way, why do we (particularly the upperclassmen) feel as though our community has disappeared?

Maybe, upperclassmen, we should look to the freshmen for our answer. When asked about their feelings of community at Milton, roughly ten Class IV students explained that they have not felt a lack of community. Instead, they spoke about experiencing more community this year than they had in a long time. Contrary to the general upperclassmen experience, the majority of interviewed freshmen described encountering others who were actively seeking to build connections and create community. Perhaps the freshman community is flourishing because instead of expecting an established community, as we upperclassmen did, they came proactively seeking to build one themselves. Interestingly, when they described difficulties in building connections, they spoke almost exclusively about struggling to connect with upperclassmen.

In contrast, when describing their transitions back to campus, a number of seniors shared that they did not encounter that

same openness and willingness to cultivate new relationships. Many upperclassmen even recognized their difficulties with finding community as self-created, describing their slow adaptation from a "fend for yourself" attitude and a hesitation to reach out and form new connections. When we speak about the "Milton community," we tend to detach ourselves from it, as though we are somehow not members, but observers from afar. However, we must not forget that we are the Milton community: we are the ones who have the power to shape it, to resolve the divisions that have marred the most important (and arguably memorable) aspect of the Milton experience.

We expected to return to the same school—we remembered the Stu which was always overcrowded during recess, the ease of long Forbes tables where we would be forced to expand our social circles, and the harkness tables at which we left our mark (more literally than figuratively)—and we found a different one. However, we cannot simply lament its disappearance: we must learn from the freshmen and actively start rebuilding our community. We must engage with our friends and create new relationships; we must reinvest ourselves in our clubs and publications and pass down the knowledge that we have gained. In the midst of all the change coming about next year (the Math department/library/Straus shuffle, Mr. Ball stepping down as the Upper School Principal, and a whole new catering company), we as a student body are the ones that must nurture that vibrant, 'quirky' community that we've always remembered having—no one else will hand it to us.

# A Statement On All-Gender Housing

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tions, concerns and thoughts about the new dorm—as boarding monitors, we wanted to address what the dorm means for the boarding community. We chose to publish this in The Milton Paper’s graduation issues to reach as many students, parents, and faculty as possible.

First, we want to start out by saying this dorm represents many firsts, ones which leave members of our community wondering about how this change will impact us. The simple answer is: Yes, things are going to change. Yet, it’s important to recognize this is a change which makes boarding at Milton a true home for everyone on campus. It is our responsibility to ensure that residents of our new dorm are welcomed into the Milton community—and that effort has to include all of us.

While much of the boarding population identify with the gender of the dorm they are assigned to, many members feel ex-

cluded not just every day but during hallmark traditions such as dorm dodgeball, caroling, and traditional brother-sister dorms. While many of the members in our boarding community enjoy caroling “Sleigh Bells” to their sibling dorm, not everyone in the community can enjoy these experiences. Everyone who calls themselves a boarder at Milton deserves these experiences, not just a handful of people. Even as traditions do change, or caroling takes a different form, remember that these changes ensure that everyone can enjoy the boarding experience.

For many of us, the boarding community has become a second family, in small and big ways: from your weekly boba group order (so you can save on delivery fees, of course) to the inventive dodgeball chants every winter. These are the aspects of boarding which make Milton somewhere we want to come back to at the end of the night: love and support. Next year, it’s up to us to make sure this care for one another extends to all areas of the boarding community.

## TMP 40’s Go-To Summer Songs

Savanna: **Remember When** by Wallows

Coby: **Magic in the Hamptons** by Social House

Elizabeth: **Love Songs** by Lola Coca

Ryan: **Mr. Carter** by Lil Wayne

Phuc: **Cho** by Ngot

Yaman: **Here Comes The Sun** by The Beatles

Victor: **Outside** by Calvin Harris

Nina: **The Less I Know The Better** by Tame Impala

Aria: **Fit N Full** by Samia

Caroline: **Gotta Get Away** by Vista Kicks

Isabelle: **Lost in the Summer** by Carly Bearden

Louis: **Paris 1919** by John Cale

Alden: **Every Morning** by Sugar Ray

Henry: **Fire For You** by Cannons

# Covid, Again?

MAX DONOVAN '25



WorldHealthOrganization

Over the past two months, Covid cases have dramatically risen and fallen. In the last two weeks of May, an outbreak that was largely confined to the Northeastern states of the U.S spread to other regions, causing the seven day U.S average of COVID cases to rise above 100,000 for the first time since mid-February. As of the week of June 6th, the daily average cases in Massachusetts is about 2,196 according to the New York Times—a relatively low average. While this number is nowhere close to the peak of the Omicron surge, when 28,000 cases were being reported daily, cases are increasing in select regions. However, reported cases as a whole in the United States have begun to decrease.

The select regions in which cases are rising are the same regions in which wastewater levels are high. Wastewater indicates the amount of Covid present in the community; it is the water from metropolitan sewers and other drainage systems that is routinely tested for Covid content. Wastewater can reveal accurate results and also predict the incoming cases. Confirmed cases usually lag several days after Covid wastewater levels increase or decrease, depicting a more accurate indication of the true infection rates. While Covid concentration in wastewater decreased slightly during school

vacation week in late April, likely due to the influx of families going on vacation, it quickly increased again days later.

This increase in Covid hit Milton Academy hard, too. The virus has now dug deep into our community so that most people have infected friends or loved ones. In fact, the cases rose so high in our community that the Health and Safety Board issued a strong recommendation for the use of masks in indoor areas.

The rising cases are fueled by a new Omicron sub-variant, as well as by the growing complacency of the general public. According to the CDC data released on the week of May 23rd, the BA.2.12.1 variant now accounts for the majority of cases in New England and is 27% more contagious than the previous sub-variant, BA.2. Complacency amongst the public also contributes to this large uptick in cases, as most people do not view Covid as a substantial threat anymore. In an April 2022 Gallup poll on what voters think of as the greatest issues, only 4% answered Covid and diseases. Mask wearing is down to almost an all-time low, and the last standing federal mask mandate on public transit was struck down by a federal judge on April 18.

Nevertheless, the latest surge within certain areas also carries some

positive news: hospitalizations and deaths are not up by nearly as much as they were in previous waves, likely due to the large amount of previous immunity acquired by the population during the first Omicron surge. According to The New York Times, in Massachusetts, 99% of eligible people have gotten at least one dose of a Covid vaccine. This high rate greatly slows the threat of severe disease and death from Covid. With vaccines and treatments such as the Pfizer pill and Paxlovid, oral medicines which can decrease a patient's symptoms and eliminate the need for hospitalization, Covid is slowly starting to become a common virus, such as the flu, which transmits through the population without notoriety. In fact, even though cases are rising in the U.S, deaths have remained near a pandemic low. Additionally, over the last couple of days, wastewater Covid levels have begun to plateau in the Boston area and cases have decreased by 25% over the past week.

Though developing medicines decrease Covid's threat, no one should be encouraged to contract the virus in order to gain short-term immunity. Long covid, a condition caused by the lingering effects of Covid in the body, has affected 1 in 4 older adults and up to 1 in 5 younger adults, according to the CDC. Symptoms of long covid "can affect all parts of the body and may include fatigue, shortness of breath, brain fog and blood clots." Another study published by UCLA predicts that around a third of the nation suffers from long Covid up to a year after the initial infection. Vaccines also seem to have little to no effect against this chronic condition. So, while Covid will likely become another common seasonal virus, it will have more long term consequences on the population than the common cold or influenza.

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# The End of Titles: Cum Laude

SONYA MARTIN '24



Milton.edu

The Cum Laude society is a system designed to honor students for their academic achievements. The term 'cum laude' is derived from Latin, meaning "with praise" or "with honor." Typically, educational institutions use the phrase to signify a degree awarded to students with demonstrated academic excellence. The criteria for receiving the distinction usually consists of a minimum GPA and other miscellaneous factors like rigor of courses, standardized test scores, etc. Up until 2022, Milton has had a Cum Laude society. In Cox library, one can observe the large wooden plaques hung on the walls with the words Cum Laude Society inscribed in gold ink. Generations of Cum Laude graduates are listed with rows and rows of names encompassing the entire wall. However, this year, Milton made the decision to abolish the Cum Laude Society, bringing an end to an almost century-long tradition.

During an interview, Mr. Ball elaborated on exactly how Cum Laude had previously operated at Milton and the reasons behind the faculty's decision to remove it. Milton's Cum Laude society was regulated under a chapter of a national Cum Laude

organization that gave schools some discretion in the ways members were inducted. Last year, 34 seniors were inducted, with no juniors. In the years prior, a few juniors would too be honorarily inducted. The ultimate downside, he explained, was the inflexibility that Milton was given, such as the number of students who were allowed to be admitted, the ways in which they were admitted, etc. He said, "fundamentally, what [the school] decided this year, is that [Milton] remains committed to honoring students who have distinctive academic records, and we believe that we would be better served without particular limits on how we made those determinations." When prodded on how Milton used to decide who was admitted to the Cum Laude society, Mr. Ball answered ambiguously. He denied the calculation of a formal GPA, claiming, rather, that the school simply relied on "objective metrics of criteria" that the departments came up with.

Evidently, Milton, as a school that has already diverged from a number of high school norms, has a number of unusual academic policies. As one may recall, Milton Academy does not calculate

GPA or class rank. Nor does the school offer AP courses. Nor does the school show freshman grades on transcripts. Getting rid of the Cum Laude society follows a pattern of decisions that differentiates Milton from a typical high school. From asking a number of seniors, the general consensus seems to be that although the graduating class doesn't seem too bothered, those who are particularly high achievers wished they still had the opportunity to receive the title. One explained that "Milton's school awards just don't carry the same amount of prestige or name recognition as being in the Cum Laude society." Overall, most students acknowledge that being part of Cum Laude society is simply a title—one that feels encouraging to have, but not one that profoundly impacts anything.

This year, students who possess those academic records will be recognized at the Prize Assembly. Some prizes include the Head of School award, The Science Prize, The Wales Prize, etc. Regardless of whether or not Milton has a Cum Laude society, the school still continues its tradition of honoring students for their exceptional academic achievements.

## Milton's Existential Club Crisis

JUBI OLADIPO '24

Picture this. You're winding down after a long day of school, sports, and homework, ready to finally relax. You situate yourself most comfortably on your couch to take a nap. As moments pass, you find yourself falling into a deep slumber when you suddenly hear it: BZZZZ. You've received an email. You contemplate whether or not to check this email, but reluctantly unlock your phone anyways. You read the heading: NEW CLUB ALERT! You groan in agony, shut down your phone, and desperately try (and fail) to cling onto the moments of rest you've now just sacrificed for nothing.

For many of us, this experience is all too familiar and perhaps even triggering. It feels as though there's a new club on this campus every single week. And while some new clubs provide exciting spaces for students to share their interests, the vast majority of these groups merely piggyback upon one another. The allure of these clubs is ever-fleeting, as is our ability to even attend them; the club block system has made it nearly impossible for the number of clubs we have to function. This influx of new student groups and scheduling issues has left us with an oversaturated market of unsubstantiated clubs.

Say, for instance, that you are interested in investing and economics. At Milton, there are many ways that one could get involved in this interest. In fact, the Investment Club meets every Thursday in Greeley. There is also Invest in Girls which meets on Thursdays or Microfinance Club on Tuesdays. But if none of these options are captivating enough, there is also the Centre Street Journal and Econ Club. These five clubs are not all the same, and I don't seek to minimize or pigeon-hole them all together; nevertheless, there is a clear overlap in these clubs that could perhaps be strengthened by conjoining them together. Another instance of this overlap is reflected in the number of writing organizations we have here at Milton: The Milton Paper (the most superior student newspaper, of course), The (less popular) Milton Measure, The Patriot, Magus Mabus, Piece of Mind, Azaad, The Tavern, the F Word, GAIA, FTS, etc. By now, the number of clubs for students interested in writing far outnumbers the number

of students who are even interested in writing. Here too, there are multiple overlaps between the core ideas of these clubs. If Milton was to encourage students to join pre-existing clubs instead of starting their own ones, the club market would not be so saturated. We, as students, would not have to spread ourselves so thin or struggle to discern which clubs are best from us. The rate in which new clubs are appearing on campus would suggest that perhaps the purpose of these clubs is not to create new spaces at all.

Whether we admit it or not, Milton's culture feeds into a desperate, sometimes unhealthy obsession with college. In the rat race that is college admissions, students need to do whatever they can to set themselves apart from thousands of other applicants. And yet, I don't believe that Milton should actively tolerate this culture even if it actively perpetuates it. We need stricter guidelines on new clubs at this school; an idea and an application should not be enough. New clubs should require proof of interest, originality, and genuine passion from their heads.

The influx of new clubs we've experienced in the past year is not sustainable under the current club block system. In any given club block, roughly five to ten clubs meet at once, and if you're interested in more than one of these, you have no choice but to sacrifice one for the other. Six club blocks simply cannot support 60+ clubs. Because of these scheduling conflicts, attendance has decreased across nearly all clubs. People cannot be in multiple places at once as our current system demands. Either scheduling changes need to be made or clubs need to be limited.

Clubs and student organizations are what make Milton special. They're what allows us to connect with one another across grades and friend-groups. These spaces are valuable and important, but not in excess. The current club system threatens these spaces, limiting our community's ability to unite productively. We need to not feed into the "whatever-it-takes" mindset that college and private school in general promotes; it does us only more harm than good. Instead, Milton should promote the clubs it already has and expand these clubs so that they can encompass a wider variety of interests.



SimplyRecipes

## Does pineapple belong on pizza? Yes.

JULIE SULLIVAN '23

In a culinary world inundated with discourse of all kinds, everyone has their own heated opinions to throw around. Personal tastes vary from each person to the next, and every hot take is valid in its own way. One debate, however, has continued to find its way into every kitchen and family dinner for decades, and no resolution seems to have been made: does pineapple really belong on pizza? In the name of artistic freedom and inclusivity, I am a firm believer that it does.

Despite its name, Hawaiian pizza was not, in fact, invented in Hawaii. Its creation should instead be attributed to a wonderful Canadian man in 1962, an innovative genius who can be considered nothing less than a hero of his time. Before that stroke of brilliance, innovations in the pizza world had been far too slow, with the traditional pepperoni and cheese pizzas having dom-

inated the scene for centuries too long. There's nothing wrong with a good old fashioned cheese pizza, of course. But the world needed a change in scenery, and this new, most controversial topping managed to grab the attention of every pizza aficionado in the world.

When one experiences a Hawaiian pizza, it's absolutely critical to get a bit of pineapple in every bite. The fruit hangs sweet against one's taste buds with the sugar of invention and the acidity of innovation. It's a delicacy, and it must be treated as such. The flavors swirl together, a whirlwind of shapes and colors that are best experienced with one's eyes closed. The pineapple itself is undeniably sweet, its texture grainy and slippery and incredibly satisfying beneath one's teeth. The sauce compliments it perfectly, and the savory blanket of cheese serves to add a certain traditionality that balances the more exotic pineapple in a marvelous way. The honeyed ham that often accompanies the fruit matches its sweetness with an almost comforting taste, without drawing the attention away from the true star of the show.

This juicy combination of sweet and savory might not sit well with every palate, and it would be unfair to insist that everybody needs to enjoy pineapple on pizza. If we were to take every person's personal tastes as an attack towards the integrity and artistic freedom of the pizza world, we would be just as bad, if not, worse, than even the most traditional pizza purists. This crowd of pizza enjoyers who refuse to acknowledge the genius of topping creativity, is one of our greatest opponents in this decades-long-debate. They maintain the firm belief that there's no place for pineapple in the pizza world, and, despite the success of the flavor, consider it the greatest abomination to tradition. Change is difficult for many to come to terms with, but it's now been 60 years since the joyful first union of pineapple and pizza. The classic cheese-and-sauce base remains as a tribute to tradition, while the pineapple and ham push it to a completely new level. Pizza purists are a conservative crowd, and their closed minds towards the greater scene of toppings does nothing but harm their own personal experiences with culinary discovery. The same debates aren't spouted about buffalo chicken pizza (ranch?? blue cheese??) or spinach pizza or any other recent flavor creations. So why are people so adamant that pineapple does not belong on pizza? It's time to leave

behind those closed minds and—at long last—embrace inclusivity, accepting that pineapple deserves a spot in our hearts as a valid pizza topping.

## Why We Should All Work on a Farm...At Least Once

CAROLINE CANNATA '22

I surprised myself by committing my month of rest and relaxation to farming, in solitude, on a 70 acre plot of land at the base of Blue Hills. Some were worried. Many were confused. I have never, not once, expressed an interest in farming to anyone. Yet I found myself, with dirt under my fingernails, cursing the tick I'd find on my ankle, most May mornings at Brookwood Community Farm. It was consuming and it was beautiful. Above all, it felt right. I worked alongside a few others, Tori, Lazuli, Deven, and Hannah. We'd weed, plant, claw, and scrape through rough melanges of dirt, bits of conversation strung between the germinating and the dying.

My relationship to work shifted, gradually. In the field, conscious of the cold soreness directing my body, I craned my curiosity downwards, to time, dirt, water, and patient life. From this work, nourishment bloomed for my immediate community. So often the illnesses of our planet are fended off by walls, controlled temperatures, shelter, and structure. In that field, these borders were null. The introspection of farming equally stimulated extrospection, an attentiveness to the environment.

Of my four weeks working at the farm, it rained maybe three times. People would remark that it was absolutely fantastic, even thrilling, timing for me to begin farming: no rain, no clouds, just sunshine to saunter beneath. In actuality, the lack of rain was a plaguing worry of Brookwood. "It's all I can think about," Hannah would mutter. I'd turn to the blue above, dry as bones and harnessing an

unrelenting emptiness. Moderate to severe droughts have consumed nearly 50% of the United States, according to NIDIS, including the farm I worked on. When I'd tell people our environment was experiencing a moderate drought, they'd react with surprise or denial.

I can't look down on that surprise, as I was a part of it before. Often, our understanding of climate change is conditional to states or borders. Florida's marshland is dying, California's forests are on fire, Antarctica is doomed, etc. and yatta yatta. This process of compartmentalization both minimizes the threat and elongates the fictitious countdown to the day we've finally done ourselves over. Not to be cynical, though I'd argue a pressure of cynicism is necessary here, most of us do ourselves over everyday: our decisions hour by hour parallel the health of Earth. To understand climate change outside of established borders would instate a more intuitive, holistic understanding of climate change. We'd directly challenge the fabric of our geopolitical relations and the passive solutions we've rafted ourselves to.

Extreme turbulence within geopolitical relations, Ukraine most notably, reflects our current relation to food. Borders are reshaped, our fabric rips, and our dependence on the conditional reveals to be no better than mosquito netting. How we value, or rather perceive the value of, local produce is not dramatized by supply chain failures; instead, these failures reveal the deafening reality of how much value local sustainable initiatives harbor.

The most upsetting aspect of this whole nightmare, for me, is that the solution lies within a mile radius of all of us: our communities. But the Western initiatives to globalize, take, plunder, extricate, abuse, and rely on the labor of others have seriously damaged the local levels. Most small towns don't even have a local newspaper, nevermind the mobilization of sustainable initiatives. We are strangers to one another, so what do we do? Well, support those already operating. There's more in the Boston area than you think. Above all, use your time intentionally, and not always directly for the benefit of yourself. And if you're feeling super bold, try reading a little about climate change and sustainability, and please, please find out why Greta is more sane than us students ever will be.

**TMP 39's Year In Review:****ALEC HAMBLET**

I came into the high school with very few plans. The Milton bucket list my friends and I made freshman year was comprised of sophisticated goals like “climb the lockers in the wigg hallway” and “put froyo on pizza and eat it...and eat froyo out of the machine (like put your mouth under it like skyng sorta)”. You’ll be surprised to know that I have yet to complete this bucket list. (And I’m now realizing that I have only a few short weeks to do so, so if you see me eating froyo straight out of the machine in Forbes... mind your business. )

But in all seriousness, I did have some goals for myself. There were clubs I wanted to join, positions I wanted to hold, relationships I wanted to have, friends I wanted to make, etc. However, nothing was completely concrete. I didn’t make grand plans or serious bucket lists, and I didn’t really have an idea of the future. I had no clear path through Milton, and yet, I feel like I’ve come out all right. I don’t think even a year ago I could have guessed what my life would be like right now, and two years ago, I’d probably be mildly horrified. However, that’s what happens when you guide yourself mostly by doing things you enjoy. At age 14, you really don’t know what you’re going to want at age 17, so I think there’s a lot to be said for leaving room for yourself to grow and change by doing what you enjoy most for the present.

Although people don’t know me as a huge procrastinator, I’ve actually made a lot of important decisions last minute. I decided to write my TMP editorial board application only a few days before it was due, after originally deciding I didn’t want to apply. I honestly cannot remember what made me change my mind. The college I ended up committing to is one that I decided to apply to only 10 days before their deadline. I joined tech crew spontaneously in 7th grade and it’s been one of the biggest, most fun parts of my Milton experience. I’ve often changed the thesis of my English papers right before they’re due (with varying degrees of success). I’m not saying that making a plan is a bad thing. In fact, it’s always good to have something to fall back on. However, keeping yourself open to the idea of scrapping plans when something better or different comes along is equally important.

Most of what my life looks like today was not according to plan, because I never really made a plan, and even if I had planned to get to this exact spot, I don’t think I could have gotten here. Do you ever do something that looks really good completely by accident and then realize that you never could have done it on purpose? That’s how my life feels. Milton has so many opportunities that each and every one of us is going to miss out on some things. There are many things I wish I could have done at Milton, but I’m not sure I’d be willing to give other things up to do them.

Perhaps this is all to say that I shouldn’t be giving advice. Most of you probably don’t want your lives to look exactly like mine because we’re all different people with different desires, and if you do want your life to look exactly like mine, I’m not sure what advice I could give you in that vein either. But I’m going to try to give some advice anyways: Things have a habit of working themselves out, or at least we humans have an enormous capacity to make the best of situations. There are a lot of parts of my Milton experience that, had 9th grade me seen the future, I would have done my absolute best to avoid. Missed questions on tests, rejections in all forms, slow cross country times, embarrassing social situations, COVID: the list of things that would have scared the hell out of me 3 years ago goes on and on. But you know what? Looking back, none of them seem that bad. I’ve generally found that the anticipation of something bad is often way, way worse than the bad thing itself. For instance, I often spend hours stressing about and dreading a cross country race, only to find that it’s inevitably not as bad as I’d feared. The same holds true for tests, awkward conversations, and pretty much every other difficult situation I encounter.

I warn you all: there are going to be some bumps in the road ahead. If I could tell you your future, you’d probably dread some parts of it. There are some things I’ve done at Milton that I’m very glad I’ll never have to do again, but I’m going to miss a lot of things as well.

I urge you not to plan your Milton experience too strictly. The things that seem right for you now may not be right for you in a year, or even in a week, or the next 10 minutes. Don’t miss out on opportunities just because you don’t think you have enough time to apply or because you’d never considered them before. Life tends to work itself out. And, that said, don’t mourn missed opportunities, because you truly don’t have time to do everything.

I’ll likely find myself starting college with a similar lack of long term plans. I’m not yet sure what I want to major in or eventually devote my life to, but I’m confident that I’ll find it eventually. There’s a lot of time ahead for each of us to make and break plans, and a lot of things that will hit us that we can’t even imagine right now and therefore won’t be factored into plans, no matter how carefully they’re made.

I’m not saying that you shouldn’t think about your future at all, and I’m not saying that what you do in high school doesn’t matter. Your future is important, and you stand to benefit from getting the most out of your Milton experience that you can. But please, try to be happy, because happiness too is an integral part of a worthwhile Milton experience. Milton is here to challenge you, and I urge you all to let yourself be challenged, but Milton is also here to give you an enjoyable experience. So, if you’re not enjoying your experience, don’t just wait for things to get better, try to make some changes.

And, now that my I’ve given my deep wisdom, here’s some random but more easily applicable wisdom:

- Chocolate chip cookies taste 10x better if you heat them up in the panini maker
- Lunch is 40 minutes, so if you go 15 minutes after class ends, you still have 25 minutes (aka plenty of time) to eat and the lines probably will have died down
- Almost any teacher will grant you a 1-day extension even if you ask right before something’s due (unless it’s a huge project). Teachers don’t want to read something you wrote between 3 am and 5 am. Just get the extension and go to bed.
- Honors Bio is easier as a senior
- “Reply” and “Reply All” are two similar looking buttons with very different functions. Learn the difference.

I hope that some of you made it to the end of this reflection and found something helpful along the way. I’m incredibly happy with the experience I’ve had at Milton, and I’m thankful for all the people who made it possible. I’ll miss this place.

**EMMA TUNG**

To think I have dedicated all four years to the toughest job I've ever accepted. Layout manager has indeed had its ups and downs: I've hated it so much I've wanted to throw my computer against a wall. I've been able to go up to students and faculty to brag that it's "my layout" this week. Now that it is time to pass the baton to the next set of layout editors, here are my 5 tips from Emma for TMP 40's editorial team and for others to enjoy.

The first is to not overwhelm yourself with positions on every single club board. Choose the ones you are willing to dedicate yourself to, otherwise you will find yourself working on layout until 2 am in the morning amidst a fine layer of pirate booty on your bed cover. Show the student body your interests in the most creative ways. My second tip is to find people who will support you through your ups and downs. Challenges in your life shouldn't give someone the right to not be a cheerleader. Build relationships with the right kids from the start. I have time and again given energy to those who would not do the same for me. I made a promise to myself to find people who will support me despite any obstacle I may face. Next, your health always comes first. Physical or mental health ought to be everyone's priority, especially driving down Milton's slick roads. If a team, a friend, or an assignment stresses you in any way, take a step back. Distract yourself with some scary Criminal Minds or go on a walk on our beautiful campus (cough cough Turner's Pond). This lesson is my favorite: BE FRIENDS WITH YOUR TEACHERS. Some of the coolest people I've ever had conversations with stem from my idols. From Ms Debuhr speaking on COVID to Ms Lockwood's boob mugs and finally who's going to win the super bowl with Mr Peth, I cannot thank every teacher who has supported me. We are so lucky to have a faculty group that actually takes time to care and love every student. Finally, don't be afraid to speak up for something you believe in. An issue as simple as advocating for more dorm snacks can go a long way for the rest of the sisters. If a friend bothers you, speak up. And to my TMP layout team, yell if someone doesn't get his/her article in time/ if there are no photos in the document. It's been a wild ride, TMP :) thank you for giving me the hardest job I'll ever have to take in my life.

## TMP's Decision to Publish Matriculations: For and Against

Firstly, we would like to congratulate the senior class of '22. Four whole years of English papers, Math problem sets, and lab reports later, you've made it to the finish line! But as the month of May comes and goes, and June approaches, eager members of the Milton community wait for the matriculation list. This year, the 40th editorial board of The Milton Paper voted to publish matriculations for students who wished to share their college decisions. However, despite our board-wide vote, the decision—to publish or not to publish—ultimately depended on the consensus of the senior class. We sent out a google form to the Class of 2022, and of these 73 responses, over 85% (at the time of writing) believed that school newspapers should publish the list.

Plagued with unfamiliar circumstances such as Covid and online classes, this year's seniors faced one of the hardest, if not the hardest, years to get into college. Thus, understandably, seniors and faculty members gave strong arguments for publishing and for omitting the list, sparking quality discussions within our board. Yet, following the 85% approval rate, our decision to publish matriculations comes with ways to mitigate the commotion. This year, the back page will comprise a list of our fellow seniors and their shoutouts of teachers who have deeply impacted their time at Milton. Moreover, our survey was entirely optional, with our board coming to the agreement that we had to reach at least a 70% approval rate to publish. Seniors had and still have the right to choose not to report their college decisions, and ultimately those who chose not to had their names entirely omitted as opposed to the "unreported" label.

On the following page is the matriculation list accompanied by an argument listing the pros and cons by EICs Coby Mulliken and Savanna Leung that reflects the opinions of our board. We hope that everyone will respect each other's perspectives and that ultimately, The Milton Paper remains committed to engaging with our readers and staff members and to publishing independently.

### PROS:

Let's begin with the impact matriculations have on the non-senior class. The list allows those of us who will start the college process shortly to form connections with Milton alumni. It can pose as a useful tool for students to reach out and to get a better understanding of current student perspectives. Moreover, the matriculation list sparks connections not only with Juniors and underclassmen but also among the seniors who wish to reach out to their peers. And of course, non-senior students are generally curious as to where their senior friends are going for the next four years.

Furthermore, for a non-senior audience, the matriculation list normalizes going to non-brand-name schools. Not publishing matriculations would ultimately create a stigma around not going to the top ten schools in the country, and more importantly, the list eliminates any rumors surrounding a senior's future plans.

Finally, though this list takes up only a page of this publication, it allows students to celebrate the Class of 2022's incredible accomplishments instead of meticulously scrolling through Instagram bios. To our readers, we hope that publishing this list ultimately instills a sense of pride and celebration for the beloved senior class.

### CONS:

However, as much as the list can prove to have advantages, we mustn't forget the disadvantages of publishing the matriculation list. It's also important to highlight the harsh disparity in the college admissions process whether it's due to gender, financial security, academic resources, etcetera. And certainly, the matriculation list can perpetuate the toxic, comparative environment that is a forever part of the Milton college culture. We feed into this said culture by idolizing college rankings, not only creating an unrealistic model for incoming seniors but also giving into the unhealthy obsession with college results.

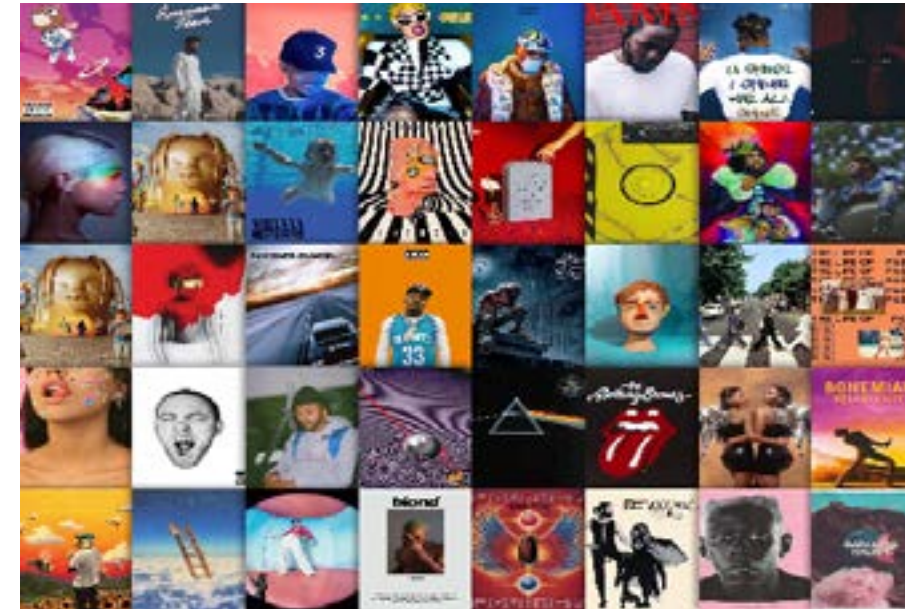
Moreover, getting into college is a monumental step of a senior's life, meaning that they have the full right in choosing whom they should share their results with, whether that's to the whole school or to close friends and family.

Of course, the list of matriculations is published on the Milton website itself. It takes a few seconds of nimble-finger-typing to plug in [www.milton.edu/college-matriculations](http://www.milton.edu/college-matriculations)—a page that publishes a "by the numbers" list and that disregards any student opinion. So, then, the question of "where is my senior friend going?" and the actual list with specific names don't really matter all that much.

Ben Kim: Northwestern University  
 Caroline Cannata: St Andrews Scotland  
 Talia Sherman: Scripps College  
 Tilde Jaques: Georgetown  
 Sophia Mack: Wesleyan University  
 Teddy Sunshine: Harvard University  
 Nancy Jiang: Stanford  
 Michelle Chen: Dual BA Program at Columbia University and Sciences Po  
 Daniel Siegel: Yale  
 Lily Creem: WashU  
 Griffin MacGillivray: Phillips Exeter  
 Matthew Baron: Emory  
 Elodie Root: George Washington  
 Lucy Leness: Hamilton College  
 Zoe Shleifer: Harvard University  
 Alec Hamblet: Georgetown  
 James Good: Gap Year  
 John Kulow: Harvard University  
 Julianne Woodward: Amers College  
 Abby Buonato: WashU  
 Ingrid Krishnan: Bowdoin College  
 Greg Yau: UPenn  
 Zachary Stayn: Harvard University  
 Aoidin Salmon: Colby College  
 Zahra Tshai: Smith College  
 Alison Blake: Dartmouth College  
 Anthony Zhao: Duke University  
 Karol Querido: Harvard University  
 Jack Burton: Harvard University  
 Elliot Smith: Brown University  
 Jillian Taveira: Purdue University  
 Hannah Kotler: Yale  
 Ava Scheibler: UVA  
 Doan Tran: University of Chicago  
 Conrad Brown: UPenn  
 Tamsin Connerly: Duke University  
 Zachary Pool: Rice University  
 Calvin Lareau: Umass Amherst  
 Andy Zhang: USC  
 Laëtitia Maybank: Gap year, Tufts  
 Jessica Ding: Stanford  
 Dina Sara Custo: Vassar  
 Annie Winter: Parsons  
 Evelyn Cao: RISD  
 Victoria Fawcett: Middlebury College  
 Audrey Volpe: Boston College  
 Victoria Cheng: Georgetown  
 Ian Terell: Occidental College  
 Yavuz Shahzad: McGill University  
 Katherine Shih: University of Michigan - Ann Arbor  
 Brad Holcomb: Hamilton College  
 John Hull: Bates College  
 Henri Richter: Northwestern University  
 Ann O'Malley: Holy Cross  
 Carly Bell: Lafayette College  
 Katia Mikhailova: Connecticut College  
 Sophia Putnam: UNH  
 Emmy Cobb: University of Richmond  
 Zoe Garrett: Villanova University  
 Emma Tung: UChicago  
 Piper Marshall: George Washington  
 Duncan MacDonald: Vanderbilt  
 Dylan Arevian: Johns Hopkins  
 Jake Cardonick: UChicago  
 Will Taaffe: Vassar College  
 Grace Panarese: Tulane university  
 Mya Lampley: Wellesley College  
 Amelia Lee: Northeastern University  
 Ryan Wei: WashU  
 Rhea Anand: Harvard University  
 Catie McNulty: Colby College  
 Shiloh Liu: Harvard University

# The Essential Summer Playlist Recipe!

HENRY DARLING '23



Pinterest

It's official! Summer! Is! Here! As the school year finally comes to a close, it's time to apply the sunscreen, throw on the shades, toss a copy of the Milton Measure in the trash, and head on out to see what songs will help shape your summer to be one to remember! Luckily, thanks to the generous releases of some of today's biggest artists including Harry Styles, Bad Bunny, and Lizzo, you already have a set of songs that easily blend in with whatever summer aesthetic you're trying to accomplish. I mean, it's "About Damn Time" that we get to blast whatever music we want without the constant approval of teachers and coaches, so here are a few ways you can start to create your essential summer playlist.

With every great playlist comes an even greater intro. I believe that the first song should encapsulate the awakening of summer and remind you of all of your personal reasons for why you're excited for the warm weather. Nostalgic songs are quintessential. This route could lead you to revolutionary summer anthems of the 2010s, such as the worldwide hit "California Gurls" by Katy Perry fea-

turing Snoop Dogg. As Snoop Dogg opens the song with the iconic line, "Greetings, loved ones. Let's take a journey", the kicking in of the bubbly production will easily transport you to an environment "where the grass is really greener". I mean, "you could travel the world" and try to find other distinguishable hits like "Wild Ones" by Flo Rida and Sia or "One Kiss" by Calvin Harris and Dua Lipa, but "nothing comes close to the golden coast". So, with this lyric-induced explanation complete, I strongly believe that "California Gurls"—with its solid vocal performances and sweet charisma—will have you "falling in love" with summer all over again!

Now, creating the bulk of this playlist will probably be a place where I can't necessarily tell you which direction to go. I can't predict your aesthetic since no aesthetics are really the same when compared to each other, and yours will most likely relate to just who you are as a person. Nonetheless, I can provide you with some music-based pathways depending on what you're trying to accomplish. For example, if you're trying to accomplish a

playlist where your mood throughout the summer is up and down, then I suggest that your second song be a little less happy than "California Gurls" without necessarily striking down the vibe that the song accomplished. You could incorporate a mellow yet fast-tempo Drake song, such as "Time Flies" where the delivery is slightly sad but the bass keeps your head nodding. Again, this song is just one of many examples that you could incorporate into your mix, so with whatever aesthetic you're trying to please, make sure you find those songs that fully bring out that aesthetic in all sorts of emotions, beats, lyrics, rhythms, and colors (if this last aspect makes sense). However, as you start to head into the end of your bulk, maybe it's best to bring out one final banger before you reach the final song of your playlist. I mean, going back to Katy isn't a bad idea, especially when "Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F)" exists, but you could also just find any other song that gets the feet moving, the heart pumping, and the arms whippin'.

Alas, we have reached the conclusion of your soon-to-be totally tubular summer playlist. In other words, it is now time to give you all one final piece advice for the song to end your playlist. Personally, when I think of the final song of my playlist, I want it to capture many feelings—such as the pit in my stomach that I get knowing that school is around the corner, the rush for completing any final summer goals, and the overall "recovery period" where I take deep breaths and prepare for the fall that unfortunately lies ahead. Therefore, I think everyone's final song, although it's totally up to you, should be "Brand New" by Ben Rector. Altogether, this song defines the trait "a breath of fresh air" as it takes you through a high-speed ride that truly makes you feel "brand new", which I believe is the feeling that you should have when summer ends. You should feel brand new in the fact that you hopefully tried out new experiences, made new memories, and recovered enough to feel like a better version of yourself heading into the next academic year! Overall, while it's never a bad idea to take my advice, as long as the playlist stays true to you in your full musical form, then you should be all set! There I say, "Dare to be true"?



# Racing's Redemption: Rich Strike Takes Home the Crown in a Jaw-Dropping Run

ALDEN SMITH '23



CNN

In a dramatic upset that sent over 150,000 fans at Churchill Downs roaring, Rich Strike won the 148th Kentucky Derby Saturday, May 7, giving horse racing a welcome reboot in the process.

The increasingly controversial sport that is thoroughbred horse racing has suffered some serious blows to its reputation recently. In March 2021, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals released its findings from an investigation into the sport, highlighting the misery and pain, dulled by a myriad of pain-killing and performance-enhancing drugs, that many of these young horses experience in their racing careers. Written off by many in the sports world, horse racing needed redemption or at least a respite from these controversies, and, though its problems cannot be ignored, it just may have found both. A sport plagued by elitism, horse racing occasionally bucks the conventional wisdom and elevates winners that one would never expect. And, to be sure, almost no one saw Rich Strike coming.

At the start of the Derby Week, Rich Strike was not in the field for the race but was the first replace-

ment to enter should another horse scratch. That Friday morning, Ethereal Road, who was set to race from the 20th gate, withdrew from the competition, giving Rich Strike an unexpected chance at the crown. "We came here on a prayer," said Rich Strike's trainer, Eric Reed, during an interview after the race. The horse entered the race at 80-1 odds, which, in the world of horse racing, is the longest-shot wager. Prior to Saturday, Rich Strike had won exactly one race in his life, and most racing fans did not know his name until that morning. Nevertheless, at 6:57 p.m. on Saturday evening, a blank was fired, the gates opened, and the Kentucky Derby began, with Rich Strike coming out of the 20th gate.

For most of the race, all eyes focused on the battle for first between betting favorites Epicenter and Zandon. According to Sports Illustrated, it was not until the very end, when Rich Strike, a "nobody of a horse, with a nobody trainer and nobody jockey and nobody owner," escaped the middle of the pack and surged along the rail only a few strides before the finish line, edging past the front-runners. Epicenter and Zandon

finished in second and third place, respectively, while Rich Strike claimed the crown. "I couldn't even breathe," Reed said in an interview the next day. "This is the reason everybody does this. We weren't even supposed to be here."

Epicenter trainer Steve Asmussen, one of the most accomplished in the nation, shared this sentiment of awe, and lauded the success of Rich Strike in an interview this past Sunday. After the race, it seemed Asmussen could only laugh about the result; "it's as improbable as any scenario any of us ever imagined," Asmussen said. "As they were loading into the gates, I was thinking how much goes into this exact moment and all of the buildup. And all the scenarios my rambling mind can come up with? That wasn't one of them. At the head of the stretch, this is what you're dreaming about. Oh, and by the way, you're about to get run down by a claimer. And I don't mean that as any disrespect to the winner. What a beautiful story."

It is a beautiful story, indeed; such a win will go down in history. Only ever so often are the big-name jockeys and owners outshone by a group of racing no-names. The 2022 Kentucky Derby shed a positive light on thoroughbred racing as a whole, and it reminded the sports world of what an exhilarating and elegant sport it can be despite its flaws.



# MAGVT: The Most Underrated Sports Team at Milton?

CHRISTINA GU '24



@miltongirlstennis

If you are a student or teacher who checks their email, you might recall the long all-school email chain concerning the Milton Girls' Varsity Tennis Team's court assignments for Nobles day. This conflict can be traced to the longstanding inequality among Milton's sports teams. MAGVT is one of the strongest athletic programs here at Milton, yet its achievements are often overlooked. The team's Head Coach, Troy Crichlow, states that "we've had the most successful team at Milton since I started over the last 12 years and we get the least [publicity]." MAGVT's impressive statistics deserve more than the minimal recognition they receive.

In the last 12 years, MAGVT has secured three New England Championships, eight ISL titles (six of which were consecutive), and eight league MVP awards, not to mention their countless number of all-ISL players. Last year, the team was only one set away from a 'clean sweep' season. Coach Crichlow believes that GVT is "by far the most successful team at the school" at this time. Despite their many accolades and achievements, the

team is overshadowed by other sports.

The girls have received insufficient appreciation for their recent ISL co-championship title. Many of Milton's community members showed up in support of MAGVT's ISL championship, yet other issues attempted to undermine their final match. Though the girls' team was fighting for the ISL title, Milton them on the South Courts, allowing the boys' team—who were fighting for fourth place—use of the North Courts. While accounts on social media—Milton's official Instagram account included—celebrated other sports teams for winning games, MAGVT only received publicity for their ISL championship after requesting a post.

Meanwhile, during everyday practices, the boys' team would take the four upper courts, leaving the girls' team of twelve players to squeeze into the two lower courts. According to a member of the girls' team, all four wheels of their ball cart fell off, yet the athletic department provided no funding to replace it. Upon requesting a new ball cart, the school dismissed the team on the premise that "there were more carts in the cage" when there were not. Additionally, co-captain Riya Singh comments that "the banner showcasing our wins has been 'being fixed' for ages."

It is no big secret that athletics at Milton are biased against girls' sports, but it is important that the Milton community acknowledges the hard work of all athletes, regardless of gender or sport. By increasing publicity and balancing funding for underrecognized, underfunded teams, Milton Academy can create a more supportive and healthy athletic culture. We as a student body can help out too, by coming out and supporting the girls' tennis team! Though half the team will be leaving to pursue successful college careers, we can look forward to MAGVT's further achievements next season.

# SENIOR M-CLUB AWARDS RECIPIENTS

## 3 Sport Senior Varsity Athletes

Caroline Baldwin - Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse

Zoe Garrett - Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse  
Catie McNulty - Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Track

## ISL Award of excellence

Zoe Garrett  
Catie McNulty  
Aston Chan

## Dorothy J. Sullivan Award

Lilly Stoller

## Alfred Elliott Memorial Trophy

Sam Dunn

## Priscilla Bailey Award

Jayne Feeney

## Robert Saltonstall Medal

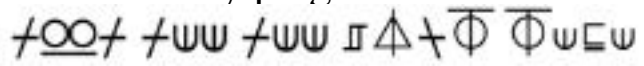
Alex Godwin

## All NEPSAC

Jayne Feeney  
Lilly Stoller

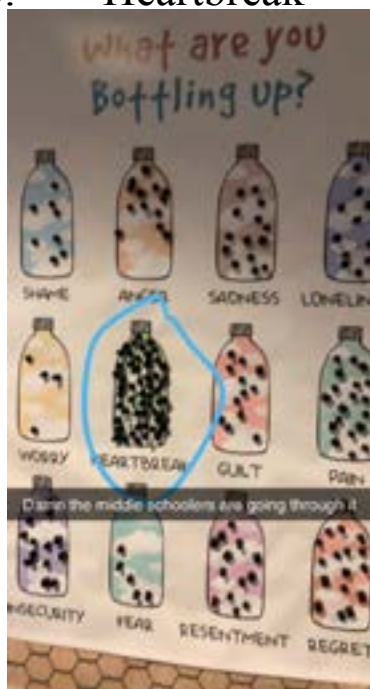


## Top ten things that happen in Freshman Cave:

1. Pregnancy scares
2. Black market of fake IAs
3. Dreaming like a little child
4. Plotting a second insurrection
5. Shlime Ruiz hittin' a ghost
6. Heavy, labored breathing
7. Critical essay plagiarism
8. 



- 9.
10. Heartbreak



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It costs about \$200 to print every Friday, and additionally, we understand the ecological implications of our print publication, and thus, for the first time in TMP history, we offset our carbon emissions through donations to carbon reduction charities.

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Thank you in advance for allowing us to have another terrific year.

Sincerely,  
The 40th Editorial Board

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Duncan MacDonald: Mr. Reilly, Ms. Latham  
Dylan Arevian: Mr. Tyler  
Jake Cardonick: Mr. Moore  
Will Taaffe: Ms. Bond  
Amelia Lee: Ms. Otenti  
Rhea Anand: Mr. Kernohan  
Shiloh Liu: Mr. Kane, Mr. Emmott  
Conrad Brown: Ms. Swain