



MILLENNIUM PHOENIX

NEWSPAPER

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Interested in Joining the Millennium Phoenix? We are always looking for new members! Drop by after school on Mondays in room 1113 to discuss your preferred section of interest.

The Phoenix Talks! Introduction to Our New Advice Column

Lola Duek



Hello readers! Welcome to the introduction of The Phoenix's advice column. We have decided to start this advice column so that you, the readers, can interact with us, the writers. It basically works like this: Several advice/comment folders will be placed around the 11,12, and 13th floors of the school. Papers and writing utensils will be provided in another folder, so all you need to do is scribble on a slip of paper, fold it in half, and drop it into the specified folder. In case you were wondering, anyone is welcomed to put something in, both students and Millennium staff. We would love to hear from anyone, about anything. All questions/comments may be answered by anyone from the newspaper staff, so please refrain from addressing a specific writer. Make sure to specify whether you want your comment to be anonymous or not.

There are a couple of aspects to the advice folders that we need you to know about and to remember when using them. Respect the folders and the advice column. We want this to be a fun, helpful place for readers. And don't forget, the more, the merrier. If we receive many comments/questions, the advice column will grow! One person is welcome to write more than one comment. Make sure to be free but respectful with what you write. If you are unsure of what to comment, examples of what one may write include, but are not limited to,

- Questions about homework and studying

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- Questions about social situations and making/being with friends
- Questions about world or US news
- Questions/comments about the newspaper and the newspaper articles
- Specific topics/ideas for articles you would like to read about
- Questions on how to join the newspaper club
- Anything else that you can think of

We really hope that readers will participate in the advice column. We want to make it permanent in our future issues. Look out for the folders!

Math Homework Quizzes - An Opinion

[Jessica Levin & Piper Krause](#)

We all get it, people copy others' homework, and we all know that teachers want to stop that. Teachers really do have your best interests at heart, but the new homework quiz that has been introduced to stop all of the kids from copying homework is adding stress to the students who do their own work.

The homework quizzes are a new strategy designed by the math department that allows the teachers to see what homework concepts you're really understanding and grasping. These homework quizzes can also tell the teachers what topics you're confused about and what you need to go over again. The quiz will focus on questions that were on the previous night. Starting this quarter, they will be their own separate category on Jupiter.

While the reasoning behind the homework quizzes is just, the homework quizzes can lead students to more stress. The idea is that it will stop students from cheating benefit them in the long run, by holding them accountable for the work they do. As a student in the 9th grader commented, "This will definitely help stop cheating, but for the students who have a lot of stress on their grades, being shy, and not understanding the material, can put down your grade." This can end up lowering many students' grades because many overthink the quizzes' importance. These new tests seem more daunting than they really are because they are new and considered as quizzes. Just calling it a quiz makes it feel like a much bigger deal than it really is. The quizzes will be periodic, and, over time, missing or getting wrong one problem will barely impact your grade. If you meet with teachers for after-school homework help, you can start off with a good grade in your math class.

Worsening the stress of taking tests, students can get paranoid if they feel that they might be suspected of cheating. With the idea that the quizzes are to check if people are really doing their work, people get worried that with one wrong answer, they will be suspected of copying, even if they didn't. This is not the teachers' intent because, in actuality, the whole point of the quizzes is to discourage kids from cheating, not to catch the cheaters. This common misconception adds unneeded stress due to the wrong perception of these math quizzes.

NATIONAL NEWS

Snow All Across the U.S.

Elaine Ng

The East coast of America was hit by flurries of snow one Monday morning last month, traveling from D.C. to Missouri and Kansas, causing threatening conditions to lives and vehicles. Some casualties of the storm were found in Missouri and Kansas. Washington D.C. uninvited the storm by closing off surrounding areas, such as highways. A dangerous snowy cover of snow warns drivers of high winds and low temperatures. Slippery sidewalks led to some clumsy falls on the ground. A warning for the weather went up until 6 am Monday in Washington D.C.



Every single of one the District of Columbia Public Schools closed down on Monday. On Sunday night, the buses decided to not run after 7 pm, so the citizens were advised to go and take the MetroRail as another form of transportation. The Metro Buses began to run on a limited service, which is called the “Severe Snow Plan.” Icy roads would lead to dangerous crashes, so they decided to follow the plan.

This snowstorm brought more than 6 inches of snow to the ground in DC.

Missouri highway patrol answered around 4,000 calls for service and 1,700 calls from motorcyclists around the time that the snow settled about 20 inches. Surrounding states, such as Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado received more than a foot of snow on Saturday and Sunday. Plane flights and landings, such as the Delta plane at Cincinnati International Airport in Kentucky that slid off of the platform, were disastrous. The platform was covered with dampening snow, leading to some slides.

California mountains received a foot of snow, leading to sleet on mountains. This snow is around 5,000 feet up in the sky and it can fall into roads. This can create threatening situations for vehicles that are driving through.

In the case of a snowstorm, dress warmly and avoid going outside. Only use vehicles if it is very urgent and you have to do it. If you are trapped in a sandstorm, go for shelter and if you are in a vehicle, do not get out. Call for help, like a tow truck company, by using a phone.

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NATIONAL NEWS

All About Chinese New Year

Yan Ye, Kristina Moore, Mandy Cheng, Olivia Hom, and Jia Yee Ong



Chinese New Year, also called Lunar New Year, is one of the most important holidays in China and other east and southeast Asian countries. In 2019, Chinese New Year begins on February 5th and marks the beginning of the year of the pig. This is a holiday in where Asians celebrate and honor their ancestors and the elderly by preparing feasts and following traditional rituals. It's a great time to spend time with your family and friends!

Another important aspect of Chinese New Year is the Chinese zodiac, a cycle of twelve animals based on its path around the sun. The twelve zodiacs include the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig. Each year corresponds to a different animal in a repeating cycle. Instead of the

Gregorian calendar which is based on the position of the sun, another unique aspect of the Chinese culture is that it adapts the lunar calendar which is based on the phases of the moon.

On the day of the official holiday, Chinese people wear all red to symbolize luck. The color black is avoided as it represents the devil and misfortune. Door Couplets, known as (*duilián*), are pasted on front doors to express good wishes for the new year. Red envelopes (*hóng bāo*) in Mandarin and *lai see* in Cantonese, are also given out to wish others fortune and wealth. To elders, we wish them (*shēn tǐ jiàn kāng*) which means to have a healthy body.

Annually in Chinatown, a wide variety of festivals are held; among the most common are lion dances, lantern festivals, and fireworks used to scare off monsters. Such traditions are intended to bring luck and prosperity to all in the new year. In addition to cleaning around the house, Chinese people typically make many different delicacies special to the Asian culture including Nian Gao, Tangyuan, and spring rolls; all of which are known as lucky foods to eat for the new year. Nian Gao symbolizes an increase in income or status whereas Tangyuan represents family unity and spring rolls represent wealth (Tang).

While in past years, Chinese New Year hasn't been considered as a national holiday, it has recently been deemed as an official day for no school in New York City in celebration of the diversity of the Chinese culture. Millennium High School also holds an annual Chinese New Year dinner open to all parents, staff, and students, though the official date is to be announced later on. So keep on a look out if you like to join the Millennium community in celebration of this festive holiday!

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NATIONAL NEWS

Democratic Switch in the House and the Government Shutdown that Followed

Zoe Woolrich



November 6th marked the 2018 midterm elections. Democrats won many important House congressional races while the Republicans were able to strengthen their majority in the Senate. On Thursday, Jan, 3rd, 2018 Democrats claimed power in the house and Nancy Pelosi returned to her position as Speaker of the House. Previously, following the 2016 election, the house had a majority of Republican representatives, meaning that anytime a bill was passed or a decision was made, the Republicans had the final say. Now, two years later, this majority has switched. How will this immediately affect the government?

Well, there are two main events that will happen almost immediately. First being that the party will begin to thoroughly investigate the President, the 2016 election, and his campaign and anyone affiliated with it. Secondly, this switch may enable

the Democratic party to block many of the things on Trump's agenda, the first being Trump's federal funding of the wall. The deadline for federal funding bills is fast approaching and only 75% have been approved, with 25% of the funding budget not agreed upon over Trump's request to fund his over five billion dollar wall. This has created a standoff between Trump and the Democrats. Congress extended the deadline to December 21st in hopes of being able to come to a decision and avoid a partial shutdown. Days later and still no agreement, forcing the government to partially shut down forcing roughly a quarter of the federal government to close, affecting 800,000 employees, many who will be asked to work without pay. The only comments Trump had for these 800,000 people was that he was "proud" to shutdown the government to secure funding to build the wall. On January 11th, the partial shutdown marked its 21st day tying the record for the longest shutdown, and as of January 3rd, the shutdown has surpassed the previous longest shutdown of twenty-one days in 1995–1996. On Tuesday, January 8th, Trump delivered his first televised Oval Office address, an attempt to convince Congress to fund his wall. Trump said he would compromise with Democrats and instead of building a concrete wall he would be willing to construct a steel barrier, the difference between the two is not very clear. Following his address, the opposition party delivered their response something that is very rare in government history. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer responded, making it clear that they are in fact in favor of border security, but more focused on ending this partial shutdown. The last attempt to negotiate ended with Trump walking out saying "bye bye," after Pelosi said she would not provide funding for the wall even if Trump were to reopen the government. Negotiations are currently at a standstill with neither side willing to compromise any further, but who knows what's to come in the future.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Cyntoia Brown Finally Free

Zoe Woolrich

In 2004, Johnny Mitchell Allen, 43, solicited Cyntoia Brown, 16, for sex, and brought her to his home. Brown, forced into prostitution at a young age, shot Allen in the head while he was sleeping and prosecutors claimed it was a robbery because she stole his money, guns, and truck before fleeing. Brown defended herself, saying that she was scared for her life, and took the money in fear that her pimp would hurt her if she returned empty-handed. This justification did not prove her innocence in the eyes of the jury, and after being declared “complement to be tried as an adult” by a juvenile court, Brown was sentenced to life in prison for first degree murder at the age of sixteen.

Today, fifteen years later, 30 year old Brown has been granted clemency by Tennessee governor Bill Haslam. On December 4th, the state Supreme Court determined that any person sentenced to life in prison for first degree murder on or after July 1, 1995 will become eligible for release after serving a minimum of 51 years. This statement gave Brown reason to appeal her case. Her legal team fought for her release, saying that in 2012 the US Supreme Court decided that giving juveniles life sentences without parole was cruel and unusual punishment. The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals that was reviewing her claim said that the Tennessee sentencing laws are very unclear. However, they did say that if Brown was never eligible for appeal under state law, her case could potentially be overturned.

In 2017, Brown’s story caught the eye of some A-list celebrities. Celebrities like Rihanna, Kim Kardashian, and Cara Delevingne took to social media, and several posts later, the hashtag free Cyntoia Brown went viral. On March 1, 2011, with the release of a documentary entitled “Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story” on PBS, filmmaker Daniel Birman decided it was time for the public to hear Brown’s story, and that is exactly what he did. Laws in Tennessee regarding juvenile sentencings have greatly changed since Brown’s indictment. CNN affiliate Stacy Case had been investigating many sex trafficking cases and came across Brown’s. She told CNN that “If Cyntoia Brown were tried today, legal experts say she wouldn't have been tried the same way. Our courts today would view her as a child sex slave... she would be viewed as a victim.” Brown's case forced officials to change the way they handled sex trafficking crimes entirely, especially for juveniles. Derri Smith, founder and CEO of a non-profit called End Slavery Tennessee said, “If you look at Cyntoia's original transcript, they are peppered with the phrase ‘teen prostitute.’ Well we know today there's no such thing as a teen prostitute... because this teen may think that she decided this was her idea to be raped multiple times a day and give money to someone else, it's pretty clear there's an adult behind that who's manipulating and exploiting her.”

With all of these new ways of viewing teen prostitution and juvenile sentencing, Governor Bill Haslam has decided that enough is enough. In making his decision, Haslam said, “This decision comes after careful consideration of what is a tragic and complex case.” Brown will be released on parole on August 7th after serving fifteen unjust years in prison.

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WORLD NEWS

A Tribute to 2018

Oona Gillespie & Zellie Lipman



Over the course of 2018, the world witnessed spectacular sporting events, groundbreaking new movies, previously undiscovered artists rising to fame, and a sumptuous royal wedding. Of course, 2018 also came with its trials and tribulations, such as destructive hurricanes, mass shootings, and the deaths of many beloved celebrities and public figures. Nevertheless, the more negative aspects of 2018 should not cause us to lose hope for the new year, nor overlook what we've been through, rather we should mourn these tragedies and learn from them. The bad and the good were equally important in shaping 2018.

The most googled topic globally of 2018 was “World Cup,” an international soccer tournament held every four years, much like the Olympics. It is a global phenomenon, with over 3 billion people tuning in to watch it in 2014, and fans from all over the world traveling to watch it. Last year, the World Cup took place in Russia. The Winter Olympics also took place this year in PyeongChang, South Korea. 2018's Olympics proved to be more than a mere sporting event, as both North and South Korea marched together in the opening ceremony under one flag for the first time since 2004, and even had a unified women's ice hockey team. This display of friendship between the two countries was welcome after the tensions surrounding nuclear warfare seemed to escalate between the Koreans, as well as between the United States and Russia.

2018 was a great year for representation in film, such as Marvel's *Black Panther*, featuring a nearly all-black cast and a compelling storyline, with a mixture of both action-packed and emotional scenes. *Black Panther* received a 97% on Rotten Tomatoes and is the world's 9th highest grossing film of all time. 2018 also had the release of the movie *Crazy Rich Asians*, which featured an all-Asian cast (if the title didn't already give that away) and a Chinese director. The film was based on a book by a Singaporean author. It got a 91% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

The most googled person of 2018 was Meghan Markle, and the fourth-most searched news topic, accordingly, was “Royal Wedding.” Markle made a name for herself as an American actor, though she retired in 2018. She married Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, who is the younger son of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Her new title is Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, and she is now adapting to her new royal life. Her wedding to the Prince took place on May 19th, after around 15 months of dating and 6 months of engagement.

Although many incredible occurrences happened in the year 2018, we suffered many hardships as well. In February, 17 people were murdered in the Marjory Douglas Stoneman High School. Unfortunately, this appeared to be a precursor of mass shootings in the United States, as 333 mass shootings followed the Parkland shooting in 2018. That is a mass shooting for every single day of the year after the Parkland shooting, with 13 leftovers. While many innocent people have died unjustly and too young, it has given our generation a chance to rise up and come together to argue for causes that we believe

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A Tribute to 2018 Con't

in. March 14, exactly one month after the Parkland shooting, there was a national school walkout in protest. Additionally, "How to vote" was the most searched term in America in 2018 that started with "how to," peaking around November.

While the term "World Cup" was the most searched topic of 2018, "Hurricane Florence" was the second. In September of 2018, Hurricane Florence hit the Carolinas and caused severe damage, mainly through freshwater flooding. It was the wettest tropical cyclone ever known to hit the Carolinas. By September 7, the governors of both the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland, and the mayor of Washington D.C. declared an official state of emergency, even instating evacuation orders on September 10 and 11 in the Carolinas and Virginia. Hurricane Florence cost up to \$50 billion in damages and the lives of 53 people.

Overall, 2018 had its ups and downs, as all years do. What is important is that we learn from those downs, and teach about those downs, so that history does not repeat itself. It is also important to learn from the ups and teach about the good, so we can improve for the years to come. Though we must live in the present and enjoy what we have, we must remember the year 2018.

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China's Breakthrough in Space Exploration

[Ava Hoksing](#), [Alexandra Tiger](#), and [Liana Krasnoff](#)



Looking at the moon at night, I see only a white circle, part of the huge sphere that makes up Earth's moon. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the U.S. battled for power in the world and in outer space. However, the arrival of China in outer space threatens to disrupt the fragile truce between the national superpowers.

China has recently marked a historical event: they have landed on the far side of the moon. The far side is the face of the moon we cannot see with our own eyes. The moon revolves and rotates around the Earth at the same pace, meaning that one side of the moon never faces

the Earth. Therefore, a satellite is needed to land the rover on the far side. The satellite, which has been orbiting this region since June 2018, is named Queqiao, a name derived from Chinese mythology.

On December 8, 2019, Chang'e 4 lifted off from the Xichang Satellite Center in Sichuan province. Four days later, it entered the moon's orbit. On January 2nd, 2019, at 9:26 pm EST, China landed its Chang'e 4 rover on the Von Kármán crater. This

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crater is the largest and oldest impact crater. The rover is also part lander, allowing it to touch down on the far side of the moon. The name of the rover, "Yu-Tu-2" comes from the name of the white rabbit of the mythical Chinese goddess who supposedly lives on the moon. Since the rover landed on the far side of the moon, farther away from Earth, there are no radio frequencies, making it much harder for ground control to communicate. To improve communication there is also a satellite which sends images down to ground control.

The main purpose of the exploration is to discover information about the origins of the moon, observe plant growths, and try to discover water at the poles. Many new discoveries and advancements depend on this. This exploration will hopefully conduct the first lunar low-frequency radio astronomy experiment in history, as well as observe plant growth and explore the area to see available resources. The mission will also hopefully reveal the interconnection between solar winds and the moon surface.

While these scientific curiosities contributed to why China wanted to explore the moon, political reasons were also at play. China is only the third country to soft land on the moon (after the U.S. and Soviet Union) as opposed to crash onto it. China plans to become one of the leading countries in space exploration. Before this, the US and Russia were the only countries that had the most advanced steps in space.

China already has plans for the future. In 2020, they are planning to send an orbiter and lander to mars, and are striving to be the world leader of space exploration. China is quickly catching up to other leading countries in space exploration and paving the way for future research.

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SPORTS

Kyler Murray's Next Step

Greg Henrici

On December 29th, the college football team, the Oklahoma Sooners fell to the Alabama Crimson Tide with a score of 34-45. Kyler Murray, Oklahoma's star quarterback, led his team to a late comeback with his 417 yards (308 through the air and 109 on the ground) as well as 3 touchdowns. This was not the only game in which Murray impressed viewers, as Oklahoma won by a score of 12-2, made the College Football Playoff, and Murray won the Heisman trophy, awarded to the best collegiate player each year.



However, Murray is no traditional Heisman winner, as, on June 4th of 2018, he was selected 9th overall in the MLB draft by the Oakland Athletics. In Kyler's career as a student-athlete, he has been playing both football and baseball, and his sophomore season at Oklahoma was enough to impress MLB scouts.

Kyler signed a deal with the A's that allowed him to play out this season with Oklahoma, but required him to report to Spring Training in 2019. Upon signing the deal, Kyler received a five million dollar signing bonus. Throughout late December and early January, NFL media buzzed with the news that Murray could be a first-round pick. The excitement of quarterback-deficient teams increased as the days counted down to January 14th, the draft declaration date for Murray and all other collegiate athletes.

The day before the deadline, the Oakland A's held a meeting with Kyler, where he reportedly requested a \$15 million dollar major league contract to commit to baseball and ensure his future with the A's. This would require the MLB to waive a rule that prevents teams from giving such contracts to recently drafted players like Kyler. The A's would have to add Murray to their 40 man roster, which would mean that if he didn't reach the major leagues by 2022, they would lose their rights to him. Overall, the situation is unprecedented because the player is not usually in the position of power and the fact that teams are waiting on his decision is not something anybody is used to.

When deadline day came, Kyler broke the hearts of all A's fans as he declared for the NFL draft. He could be drafted and then still decide to go back and play baseball, but those odds are slim. If it was worth at least \$15 million for Murray to stick to baseball, then speculation says he will be playing football come next September, because if he is picked in the top ten, Murray would be making upwards of that money. Once drafted and signed, Kyler will have to pay back the A's for his signing bonus, and the A's will receive a compensatory pick from the MLB to help make up for Kyler not joining the team.

Athletes such as Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders have completed the feat of playing professionally at both levels (NFL and MLB), but if Kyler's motivation is monetary, then he will likely stick to one sport. Nevertheless, fans of both sports are excited to see where this next step takes Kyler Murray, as well as every other choice he makes along the way.

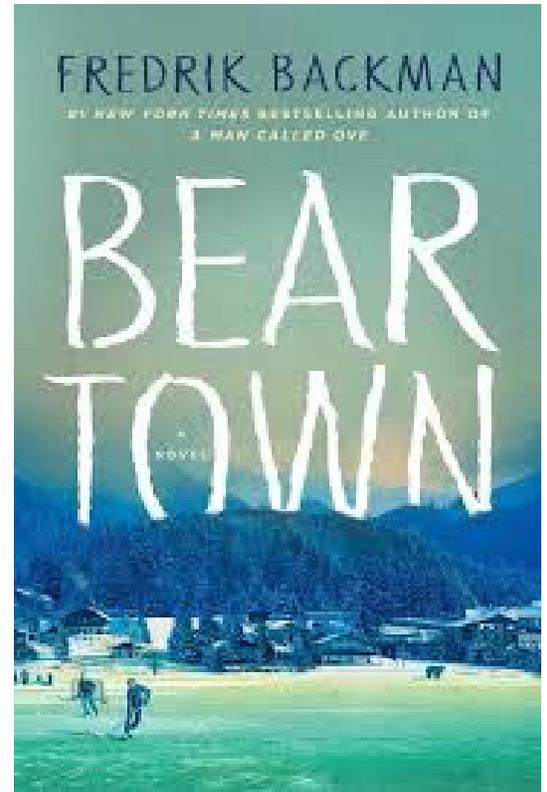
Reviews

Beartown: How One Small Town Captures the Whole World

Hannah Ehrlich

The captivating novel, *Beartown*, by Fredrik Backman takes place in a rural town deep in Sweden, but discusses issues occurring all around the world. Beartown is a remote town hidden in the woods that is only known for one thing: hockey. All of the people in the town thrive off this sport in their own way. Some of them need hockey to pay their bills, some participate because they feel they must engage in the town's traditions, and the players themselves need the satisfaction of competition to be able to wake up in the morning. No matter how hockey affects the characters' personal lives, it brings together a community of people that otherwise have nothing else in common.

At the beginning of the story, their junior hockey team is becoming the most successful it has been in years, and the whole town is anticipating the team bringing home the win of the final game. While each boy on the hockey team has a distinct background, they must learn how to come together to accomplish their goal and make the town proud. Meanwhile, the hockey staff has to debate whether the old school methods of coaching still hold up and how they can get the boys to earn the highest championship. Up until this point in the story, the town itself is running as it typically does, until an incident occurs that turns the whole town upside-down. Secrets that have been buried resurface, friendships are tested, violence breaks out, and the town faces the challenge of being divided. The people of Beartown lose belief in the people they once relied on, and the values they once held so close start slipping away. It turns out that hockey may not be strong enough to hold a whole town together.



Beartown will keep you in suspense, while also taking place in a location you would never expect such tragedy to occur. Throughout the story, the author incorporates the perspective of every character, allowing you to see how each character changes as they live through the traumatizing event. Fredrik Backman uses his engaging storytelling to get you so attached to the large cast of diverse characters that you will not be able to put the book down. *Beartown* explores the universal challenge of holding onto the trust you have in the people you love while also being in conflict with them.

Aquaman: The Movie, like Atlantis, Should've Stayed Under Water

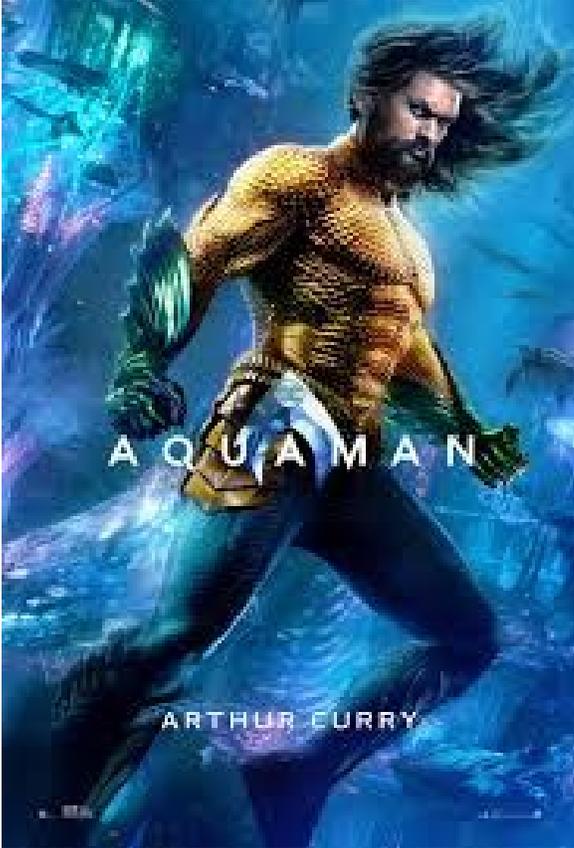
Adriana Guirguis

Have you seen the "Little Mermaid"? Maybe you've seen Disney's "Atlantis"? Or perhaps you've seen the 1980's Tom Hanks film "Splash"? All these movies take place near or in the ocean and you should watch all of these movies instead of Aquaman. While "Aquaman" makes a valiant effort at reviving the dorky superhero who is typically thought of as the odd cousin of the justice league, it, like most DC movies, falls short.

Our movie begins with Nicole Kidman's character, the queen of Atlantis fittingly named Atlanna, washing up on the shores of Maine wounded and battered. There she meets Tom Curry, the charming and down to earth lighthouse keeper, and they fall in love. From their forbidden romance, the hero of our film, Arthur Curry is born. All is well in their quaint little lighthouse but not for long. Danger quite literally crashes through the wall as Atlanna is dragged back to her underwater kingdom to be punished for having a child with a human. It is this event that will cause adult Arthur to be the vengeful, binge drinking, defensive man we see throughout the film.

OP-ED

Aquaman: The Movie, like Atlantis, Should've Stayed Under Water Con't



What happens next is not a surprise, Arthur is called back to the kingdom that we are lead to believe killed his mother. His old mentor urges him to take his rightful place as “Oceanmaster”, yes it's as stupid as it sounds, and stop his ridiculously power hungry and ridiculously blonde half brother from taking power. When his old mentor is not compelling enough the movie throws in what appears to be a warrior version of Ariel, red hair and all, named Mera to persuade him some more. It works and they go on some contrived quest to get a uber powerful trident to prove Arthur's the true “Oceanmaster”.

But wait! There's more! Because if tridents and power hungry royals weren't enough for you, this two and a half hour long movie also has a poorly executed pirate aspect as well! There's a brooding pirate with high tech gadgets who's mad at Aquaman for letting his dad die after they murdered a ship full of people. While he's supposed to add another villain for the audience to love to hate, he ends up being nothing more than a nuisance.

If you're thinking this all sounds awfully familiar I'm right there with you. The plot of “Aquaman” is nothing new and mimics every superhero movie that's been released in the past 10 years. The only difference is that this one takes place in the ocean, so, yay? There are far too many plots that are underdeveloped and just plain old uninteresting. For a movie with that long of a runtime I was expecting far more than what was delivered. Had they developed one of the plots instead of delving into three others and keeping them all ambiguous, the movie may have

resonated better.

Jason Momoa certainly adds an appeal to the Aquaman character. It's refreshing to see a biracial hero be the center of a huge blockbuster, but besides Momoa's pretty face, Arthur Curry brings very little to the table. We know very little about him except that he can talk to whales, he likes his dad, he likes to drink, and he hates the ocean while also simultaneously wanting to be it's master. Needless to say it's not enough to make a compelling lead. And the supporting characters are even less developed. Mera, while able to hold her own in a fight, is a disheartening female lead. We know even less about her than we do about Arthur. We know she has a very strong sense of duty to her kingdom because of her father, and that she breaks off an engagement with the blonde half brother to save Arthur. And while her decision to leave her forced engagement is commendable, she falls right back into the arms of our Aquaman at the end of the film. She practically serves only to encourage our male lead and provide the necessary half assed romance we see in most of these superhero movies.

The CGI use in the film is particularly good, though. It's well done and adds to the atmosphere of the movie and is definitely a plus. But you can't carry a film on CGI alone, lets not forget “Pacific Rim”, a fact the creators of “Aquaman” seem to have forgotten.

From boring characters to boring plots “Aquaman” is just a plain old let down. I longed for so much more from Arthur and his friends and the plot did very little to redeem them. As excited as I was to see what promised to be a new, exciting, and attractive twist on the the classic “Aquaman” tale, the movie simply just didn't deliver. For the sake of the viewers, “Aquaman” should take its rightful place next to Arthur, hidden in the deep deep sea.

OP-ED

I have Eight Pets in NYC

Catalina Ferrari-Million

As you can tell from the title of this article, I have 8 pets in NYC. I have 3 fish, 1 sea snail, 2 hamsters, and 2 parakeets. Many people ask me why I choose to have so many pets. My response is that having animals in my house makes me happy. I plan to get a career in the zoology spectrum and work with and study animals in my future career so to be around some now is very important to me so even though I get very busy, It is always a priority to me to keep my animals alive and healthy. Although it is easy to get held up by the tremendous amount of Millennium workload, I try to balance my time and also focus on my pets as best as I can.



As I said before, it is hard to balance the responsibility of care for my pets and school work.

Even though I usually end up doing my homework and tending to my pets on any given night, I constantly feel the pressure to choose between them. A way I find to easily attend to both needs is to create ways where I can do both my work and get my pets the exercise they need out of their cage at the same time. A way I can do this is by doing things like putting my hamster in a hamster ball or setting up perches in my room that my birds can stand on while I work. I also make sure not to get pets that I know I will be a struggle to take care of at this point in my life. Having a pet that is too high maintenance for you can be really hard and something you should avoid.

I believe that having pets is something that can really bring joy to your life as long as you learn what is good and not good for you as an owner and how much you can handle at this point of your life. Keep in mind that some pets have really long lifespans and will probably still be around by the time college rolls around. I advise you not to push your boundaries because not only will it affect you negatively but also your animal. I hope by reading this article you learned more about being a student and managing pets and how you can do that in the best way for you, and your animals. Even if you are not interested in animals or owning pets I hope you enjoyed hearing a bit about my experience.

Millennium Phoenix Staff

Editors: Lillian Brown, Oliver Cope, Adele Lehman, Wenjing Lin, Gordon Powers, Nate Powers, Mahmuda Rakib, Lucas Tedone

Layout Editors: Jing Chen, Grace Zhang

Faculty Supervisor: Holly Barton



Millennium Phoenix
75 Broad Street, Rm 1113
New York, NY 10004
mhsphoenix1@gmail.com