

Camden Hills Gazette

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MIDCOAST EDITION

MEET THE CAMDEN HILLS GAZETTE STAFF

The faces behind the paper

By the Camden Hills Gazette Editorial Team
pgs. 4 and 5

EVERYTHING COMPOSTABLE

The composting efforts at CHRHS and why we need to support it.

By Iris Luce
pg. 3

GAME OF THRONES IS CONQUERING DUBROVNIK

How the South Croatia city is handling rising tourism and why it matters.

By Gail Curtis
pgs. 2 and 7

DO GRADES REALLY MATTER?

“For many of us, grades are a primary concern. Striving to achieve a good academic standing is a source of stress that can take away from the learning process.”

By Chloe Cognard

A student is taking a math test. They sit at a wobbly desk and stay stuck on question thirteen. The clock is ticking; they need to move on. The girl next to them frantically scribbles down what looks like an equation. The student struggles to remember what they've learned this unit when they hear a squeak. Behind them, a classmate is crying. They're trying to be quiet, but the entire class can hear.

We have all heard that person. We might have even been that person...

We assign a lot of importance to our grades. Perhaps it's a built-in belief that we must excel academically in order to do well later on. Maybe it's because of exterior pressures (AKA parents and harsh expectations). Regardless, for many of us, grades are a primary concern. Striving to achieve a good academic standing is a source of stress that can take away from the learning process.

Yet, studies looking at grades and financial success suggest that they are in no way related. Seven hundred American millionaires revealed that their average college GPA was 2.9. So why do grades matter so much to us?

In another study, Karen Arnold, a researcher from Boston College, followed eighty-one high school valedictorians

and salutatorians post-graduation. The study aimed to examine the trajectories of the most successful students. Indeed, of the 81 top students, nearly 90% had settled into stable careers. Yet, none of them had gone on to accomplish remarkable things. Instead, they had adjusted to the adult world. In response to inquiries about the study, Karen Arnold said, “Even though most are strong occupational achievers, the great majority of former high school valedictorians do not appear headed for the very top of adult achievement arenas.” In another interview, Arnold declared that “Valedictorians aren't likely to be the future's visionaries . . . they typically settle into the system instead of shaking it up.”

A student who “does well” in school means they have all A's, but they may be devoting more and more time and effort in every subject to maintain those good grades. This can prevent them from exploring their passions. School and the grading system encourages a healthy, well-balanced education, but that also discourages students from specializing in one subject. The focus on mastering everything instead of gaining expertise in one area can actually serve a disadvantage to students as jobs often require only a few key skills.

While a high school GPA tends to be an accurate predictor of college success, it does not predict how well that student will do later on, neither does it reflect intellectual capacity. In fact, grades correlate very loosely with one's IQ.

So what do grades mean? According to Karen Arnold, grades were found to be an excellent predictor of a student's self discipline and their ability to comply with rules. When asked, many of the valedictorians admitted that they weren't the smartest students in the class but simply the hardest workers. Others said that grades were more about giving teachers the answers they wanted rather than knowing the material.

Too often, academic intelligence is rewarded over other forms of intelligence. In a random poll sent to all students at Camden Hills, 93.1 % of students said they believed school inadequately captures all forms of intelligence. When asked to self-identify their type of intelligence, most students reported having either a logical-mathematical intelligence or intrapersonal intelligence (the ability to understand others and their emotions). 13.8% of students reported having linguistic intelligence, 10.3%

continued on page 6

HOMELESSNESS IN KNOX COUNTY

By Kathryn Gildred

Homelessness in this area is not often discussed. There's a lot of stigma around it and it's not a comfortable topic to bring up at the dinner table. The issue of homelessness in general creates an atmosphere of sympathy, but lacks understanding. Most people do not comprehend the severity of this epidemic and how close to them this issue is.

Because of this lack of awareness, those in are unable to get the resources they need. There are agencies that exist in this area, but they don't receive nearly enough recognition as they should have. But places like the Knox County Homeless are aiming to change this lack of awareness.

Rebecca Gildred, Director of Development at KCHC, says that the coalition “provides holistic wrap around services for people experiencing homelessness, both pre and post housing.” Their focus is mostly with families with children, rather than just individuals. *Full disclosure, Rebecca Gildred is the reporter's mother.*

“About 50% of the people we serve are kids at any one time. And our holistic and multi-generational approach means that we work with all members of the family. Little children, and their parents, as well as high risk teens at our youth program, the landing place in Rockland. We found that many of the kids that have high

continued on page 6

GAME OF THRONES IS CONQUERING DUBROVNIK

How the South Croatia city is handling rising tourism- and why it matters.

By Gail Curtis



“Game of Thrones” is a fantasy-drama television series created in 2011, and over the course of eight seasons, it has become a worldwide phenomenon. Currently, the show is the most awarded series in Emmy Awards history and has won 308 awards out of 628 nominations. It is one of the most-watched TV shows in the world, with millions of devoted fans from all around the globe. Some of the fans have taken their love for GOT to the next level and traveled overseas to visit the locations where it was filmed.

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One of these popular destinations is Dubrovnik, a city in Southern Croatia that has become a magnet for tourists and “Game of Thrones” fans in recent years. Dubrovnik Old Town is widely accepted as one of the world’s finest and most perfectly preserved medieval cities in the world, with massive stone walls encircling the town, built between the 11th and 17th centuries. It is also the primary filming location for King’s Landing, a fictional city in “Game of Thrones.”

Tour guides and store owners have taken advantage of this insanely popular franchise. While walking through Dubrovnik’s limestone streets, it is nearly impossible to find a tourist shop that doesn’t sell GOT merchandise. There are thousands of GOT-related sight-seeing tours and themed walks around the city that allow fans to see acclaimed locations, such as the narrow streets where Cersei Lannister’s infamous ‘walk of shame’ took place. You can even get shame cocktails, shame mojitos, and shame burgers at

the very same site where ‘the walk’ was filmed.

The beloved franchise is both a blessing and a curse for Croatia. It has rapidly boosted the overall economy through tourism. Still, the sheer amount of tourists has led Dubrovnik to make limitations in tourist numbers to prevent overcrowding, which has become more and more problematic in recent years. The city has taken action to suppress the worst of the consequences from the soar in tourism by reducing the number of cruise ships and tour buses that are permitted to be in the city at one time, banning loud music after 11:30 PM, and cutting the number of souvenir stands by 80%. Dubrovnik has even decreased the number of outdoor tables and chairs that are allowed at restaurants by 30 percent. Officials hope that the measures being taken will ease the tremendous disruption caused by tourists. An example of this disruption is revealed on the website Winteriscoming.net. The author discusses some issues that a Tour Guide in Dubrovnik has dealt with.

“Tour guide Katja Seref says a constant question she gets asked is how long it took HBO to build Dubrovnik’s city walls.” The city walls were built in the 13th century. Also, “Seref also revealed that once, during filming, an unnamed actress asked that ‘all the pretty Croatian girls be replaced with uglier ones,’ so she wouldn’t be upstaged.” While most GOT actors and fans that visit Dubrovnik are decent, some can be completely disrespectful.

Additionally,

due to the crowds and the noise caused by tourists, and with homes being converted into vacation rentals, the number of people living in Old Town has decreased from 3,000 to 1,000. One of the most fascinating things about Dubrovnik is how alive it is. While taking a tour of centuries-old buildings, people can find locals stringing up their clothes to dry. But now, those locals are worried that everyone who lives in Dubrovnik will eventually move away, and the city will lose everything that makes it unique.

Another concern is that people are visiting Dubrovnik for the wrong reasons. Dubrovnik is a breathtaking city with an impressive heritage of European culture and history, and people are worried that it’s being reduced to a nice backdrop of a TV show. There are so many reasons to visit Dubrovnik, from its grand palaces and postcard-perfect panoramic views to its music festivals and architectural wonders. It’s described as the Pearl of the Adriatic, and one of the best quotes about Dubrovnik is from the Irish Playwright George Bernard Shaw, who said, “Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik.” Some of the most popular activities in Dubrovnik include sea kayaking, boat trips, going on cable cars, wine tasting, and of course, “Game of Thrones” tours. Nearly

continued on page 7


Tomi sushi and noodle bar

EVERYTHING COMPOSTABLE

The composting efforts at CHRHS and why we need to support it.

By Iris Luce

All of the food waste was put through the shredder until it formed an unrecognizable blob filled with flecks of color from the wrappers and paper scraps. It wasn't until weeks later that we realized what we had created was not the actual compost itself, but was actually just the beginning. We knew we were creating compost, but knew nothing about the actual process that started from shredded food. All composting begins with waste. Whether it is food waste, paper waste, or animal waste, these materials are the building blocks that are transformed into the compost we use as fertilizer.

My team worked twice a week from September until January when our hands became raw from the cold. The key to survival was an insulating glove layer under the thick rubber gloves we wore to sort through the piles of food mush that were often covered in a layer of frost. Sadly, I did not discover this hack until December.

Before I became a 'compost manager,' as we called ourselves, I had no idea about how compost was transformed from food scraps into the fertilizer we use in agricultural practices. My job was to be a 'sorter.' The job of the sorters was to locate the small pieces of plastic hiding

amongst the kitchen debris and sort it into separate bins. Another team member had the job of scooping the sorted compost into the shredder itself. And lastly, someone was tasked with the somewhat dangerous job of shoving the waste into the shredder. This job required a long wooden stick as a tool, which was often partially shredded.

Eleanor Greer, another compost manager, emphasized this point. that "It's a bit of a thankless job...I don't think many people realize the amount of work that the composting operation is." What may seem like miserable work was indeed miserable some of the time, but became unexpectedly fun and truly revealed the numerous benefits of the practice.

Composting is one way our school is working to be environmentally friendly. The program was started by the school's environmental science teacher, Margo Murphy, who has worked to significantly reduce our carbon footprint. She feels strongly about the impact of compost. "Composting is part of the solution to our solid waste problems. All schools should be composting."

The alternative to composting is throwing all biodegradable waste into the plastic waste bin.

The plastic waste then gets driven to a plant in southern Maine, where it is burned and released as carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. When compostable food waste is thrown away, it decomposes in a landfill and releases methane gas. Most landfills have the technology to capture a lot of this methane, but eliminating the gas at its source through composting works more effectively to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. By composting, we are reducing these harmful emissions that would otherwise be released from landfills. Composting is also beneficial from an economic standpoint because it helps our school save money on the cost of things like chemical fertilizers. In fact, the composting initiatives even brought a profit to the school's gardening programs last May when it was sold during the plant sale.

Despite the gross nature of the work itself and the sometimes less-than-ideal working conditions, the compost operation at CHRHS was a memorable time in my high school experience. Eleanor said it best when talking about her experience: "the most fulfilling part about the experience, though, was seeing something as simple as shredded food waste turn into something that can sustain life."

you can see images of beautiful boats from a bygone era. The sandwiches there are named after boats in the harbor (my personal favorite is the Surprise). The staff was welcoming and kept everything in order.

A few weekends ago, I went with a few friends to try some of their options. We each got a different panini sandwich along with drinks and shared a bowl of soup. I had the tuna melt. This is a great alternative for somebody that is a pescatarian: it had great flavor for a meatless option. It was a bit hard to keep the tuna from falling out due to the stiffness of the bread. However, its crunch went well with the tuna. The part that makes a sandwich is the small detail included. The tuna melt was brought from a five-minute homemade lunch into something special with its fine use of celery in the sandwich.

My friend tried the Pressed Cubana. The sandwich is a grilled cheese with ham, bacon, and pickles. The bread went well with the sandwich. My friend said that "It was so good and the bread was like perfection."

The Grilled Tuscan was the last sandwich ordered. The tomato kept falling out of it, again because of the crunchy bread. Overall, though, it was great and definitely worth a trip back for.

We also ordered a bowl of Tomato Basil Soup, along with our sandwiches. I would suggest letting it cool down a bit before eating as it was piping hot. The taste, on the other hand, was to die for, and the texture was a perfect consistency.

The Camden Deli is no doubt a wonderful place to eat out, especially with wonderful company, no matter what time of the year. During the summer you can sit out on the patio and enjoy the warmth of the sunshine. During the winter you can admire the water from the window in the warmth of the cozy building. I would definitely recommend it to anyone that wants a delicious lunch in the beautiful town of Camden.



REVIEW CAMDEN DELI

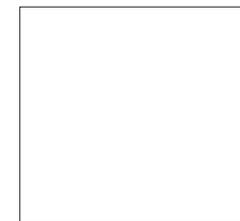
By Bella Gardner

Camden Deli is a sandwich shop in downtown Camden, known for its waterside view and harbor theme. It is a two-story building with patio seating, and along the walls,

MEET THE CAMDEN HILLS GAZETTE STAFF

The faces behind the paper.

By CHG Editorial Staff



MEET THE CHG STAFF

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By Alice Moskovitz

Are you the type to sit down in December and make a list of goals you want to achieve this coming year? Maybe you just think about the wonderful new person you're going to become. Either way, New Year's resolutions have always been something people strive for but often forget about after a few months. For example, have you really been going to the gym every day you've said? Have you done that juice cleanse you've been wanting to do? Have your grades really been soaring because you're not procrastinating at all? The new year is a time to start over and become a better version of yourself from last year, and most people will take any chance at a new beginning.

I was curious to see if most people had similar goals, and what the most popular ones were for the start of our new decade. So I created a poll, and with one hundred and three people responses, the results were dispersed. The most common theme for New Year's goals was health, with 48% of the responses. The category included eating healthier, exercise, more sleep, and less stress. This was not surprising, as the thing people often want most is a "perfect body" or a stress-free life.

The second most voted upon category with 22% of the surveyors choosing it was keeping a Positive Attitude. This is something that everyone should want. With school, work, activities, politics, and so many other chaotic and stressful activities happening in our lives

(particularly in the winter) it can be hard to stay in a good mood. This is why it is a common goal for many to stay happy with everything going on in their lives.

The people's third choice was Other at 17%. When those who took the test chose this one, it meant they had made an individual goal relating more personally to themselves. It was surprising to see so few people choose this one as the possibilities for it are endless.

Getting better grades and keeping them up was the last ranked category, with 13% of responses. I am sure that schools, teachers, and parents are all thrilled about the placement. A reason why this was not further up on the list was that not everyone who took the poll was in school. If I were to ask this question to only students, it would perhaps be higher.

Recently I was in French class when I was given the opportunity to see what students our age in France had chosen for their New Year's resolution. I noticed that it was very similar to the goals we had set. Most were about health, and more specifically about food. Some said things like to eat less chocolate and red meats. Others said they wanted to get more exercise and stay in a positive mindset. Sound familiar? Overall, it was interesting to see that most everyone has similar New Year's resolutions around the world.

It can be comforting to see how you may relate to others about your goals, whether they go to school with you, or live across the world. Whether we stick to them or not, it is always nice to fantasize about improving yourself to become the best you possible.

Invested in our neighbors.



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HOME-LESSNES IN KNOX COUNTY

By Kathryn Gildred
continued from page 1

risk behaviors are experiencing many of the circumstances we find in the histories of the adults we work with. So if we can intervene in the lives of those kids in that teen, pre-teen span where they are at high risk but are not yet homeless, we have a good chance of helping to break the systemic cycles, and have more community wide impact.”

She also pointed out how KCHC is the “only dedicated homeless services provider for the entire Midcoast region.” They cover not only Knox county, but also parts of Waldo and Lincoln. She goes on to explain how the coalition has developed over time since its beginnings

in 2014, and how the Hospitality house in Rockland (a significant piece of the work they manage at KCHC) has evolved since its opening in the 80’s from a hostel

for families visiting inmates at the state prison, then later becoming an emergency drop in shelter where people came at night and had to leave in the morning. It didn’t have the type of services they have now. That version of the house went under in 2012. However in 2014, the coalition bought the house from foreclosure and opened it up as a family shelter. “At any given time it only has 22 beds maximum and with 160 some old people looking for housing tonight, that’s not nearly enough.” KCHC has high hopes for 2020 though to expand their housing availability, with the help of charitable donations.

Jen Curtis, Assistant Principal at Camden Hills, has had the opportunity to help those in the Knox area as well. She previously worked at Oceanside in Rockland and touched on both experiences .She too recognizes that homelessness isn’t something people think about often enough, especially at Camden Hills. That makes it even more difficult for families going through homelessness because there is that lack of awareness and potential for stigma.

“Families I’ve worked with at different school districts, there’s fewer barriers to them asking for help. The first family I worked with, it opened up this whole world of informality in terms of how they address homelessness. ‘Couch surfing’, ‘In-between-homes’, these informal ways of explaining their homelessness was eye-opening and made me more aware of how much more common this is.” Here at Camden Hills, Camden for Community helped create what they call “crisis kits” that include pre prepared foods, hygiene products, and other basic necessities that those experiencing homelessness are able to use without needing the things we don’t think twice about, like our stoves or private bathrooms.

“We’ve found that people are much more willing to accept help when it’s simply offered to them. They don’t feel obligated to ask for the help but when it’s offered I think it makes it a little easier to take that helping hand. Also in terms of working with families as a whole—once you’ve established that we’re here for the child’s wellbeing, the rest of the family will open up to accepting more help. We helped five families last year, and no one would have known that. There’s a tremendous level of confidentiality here I haven’t seen at other schools, which is great in the sense that it doesn’t make the kids feel different, they feel treated like everyone else, but also it makes it challenging because they hide it so well. You really have to be looking and listening for it. The teachers here I feel do a great job at looking for those subtle hints.” She explained that “teenagers are very self aware” and it’s because of the fear of standing out that “they will go out of their way to not stand out. [Teens] are very aware of their differences, and this makes things difficult because you really have to be observant.”

Jen pointed out how, although she doesn’t have a social work background (she was a science teacher when she started out in education), she feels extremely fortunate to be in this position. She says that the more you talk about this issue, the more awareness you bring, and people want to help. “There were a few kids last year who were in a very difficult place, who are now in a really good place this year, and it feels amazing to have been able to provide that stability and help to those students. It’s really making a difference what we do. This community is amazing, and people really do come together...We all need a buoy every now and then.”

DO GRADES REALLY MATTER? “For many of us, grades are a primary concern.”

By Chloe Cognard
continued from page 1

reported having musical intelligence and 7% reported having bodily-kinesthetic intelligence. People are gifted in different ways: some have the ability to remember tunes perfectly, to solve math problems in the blink of an eye, to fix broken appliances, to orient themselves and find their way.

However, grades are frequently rewarded over intelligence or skill. Consider, for instance, all the merit scholarships that reward good academic standing and not true potential. Or, consider the internship system many colleges adopt: top students are awarded the job, regardless of competence.

Ultimately, grades don’t reflect a student’s abilities, they don’t reflect their success later on in life, and they don’t reflect their intelligence. When that student gets their math test back, they should remember that it’s okay if question thirteen is marked wrong. Overachievers should start cutting themselves some slack when it comes to grades and maybe find time to focus on something they’re genuinely curious about, because that’s what will matter in the decades of adulthood after them.

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GAME OF THRONES IS CONQUERING DUBROVNIK

By Gail Curtis

continued from page 2

every single website dedicated to tourism in Dubrovnik mentions “Game of Thrones” as one of the primary reasons to visit the city. When searching “reasons to visit Dubrovnik” into Google search, nine out of the eleven websites that come up on the first page acknowledge GOT. One site called Thetravel.com listed Dubrovnik’s “exciting TV and film locations” as number two on its “10 Amazing Reasons Why Dubrovnik, Croatia Needs To Be On Your Bucket List.” The website claimed that “There’s one main reason why many travelers have added Dubrovnik to their bucket lists in recent years: Game of Thrones.”

Many people believe that Dubrovnik has lost its interest as a town, and rather than caring about its rich history as a Mediterranean trading port, people are only visiting due to its role as King’s Landing. No one denies that Game of Thrones has helped bring more people and more money into the country, but it is nearing the point of overcrowding. The locals are moving away by the thousands, and there is a concern that Dubrovnik is losing its authenticity. In the future, Dubrovnik needs to continue living vibrantly, so that someday, it won’t just be a museum.



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DEBUT REVIEWS

DEAD CELLS

By Jesse Bifulco

Indie-game development studio Motion Twin has revealed in niche popularity since its inception in 2001, and has only recently broken into the limelight with their small success Dead Cells. Set in the pixelated ruins of a stylistically beautiful castle ravaged by plague, Dead Cells gives the player a simple mission: escape. The gameplay pays its dues to classic side scrollers and action games—the player starts off with the most shoddy of gear and progresses through mazes of progressively emboldened enemies, all the while providing more unique and powerful weapons and tools. Where Dead Cells sets itself apart—and where it shines—is in an unforgiving system that sends the player back to the beginning on death. This isn’t a typical “Game Over”, however. Progress towards upgrades continues, and the entire dungeon resets itself into an entirely new layout. This feature encourages players to try new strategies and explore questions like, “Would things have gone differently if I’d taken the frying pan instead of my sword?”

The Good:

Combat and movement are the bread and butter of any action-based game, and Dead Cells keeps this fact first and foremost. The basics are simple enough—jump, double jump, roll, and slice. As the exploration becomes second nature, new mechanics are implemented over time to keep things fresh: parries for shields, different buttons for tools, and new abilities to interact with the dungeon. None of these mechanics are shoved down the player’s throat like in many modern games that try to be accessible to the largest crowd possible. In fact, Dead Cells solidifies the feeling of independence by tossing the player out into the world as soon as the movement tutorial is over and leaving them to figure out everything else. The combat is

intuitive, and despite taking up a large portion of the gameplay loop, stays engaging by ensuring that enemies are always strong enough to be a threat, but never so strong that it becomes a grind to take down waves. Dead Cells finds the perfect balance between many of its core gameplay elements. Exploration and character management pair perfectly: currency gained from exploring is used to buy stronger tools, and frequent upgrade stations allow you to build an arsenal that perfectly fits your playstyle in order to explore even more. Somehow, Dead Cells creates a niche that is casual and hardcore at the same time. Platforming and fighting waves of enemies becomes rhythmic and satisfying, but one misstep and it’s back to square one. Beautiful visuals, a dynamic soundtrack, and occasional tongue-in-cheek humor serve as icing on the cake for this masterful throwback to classical gaming.

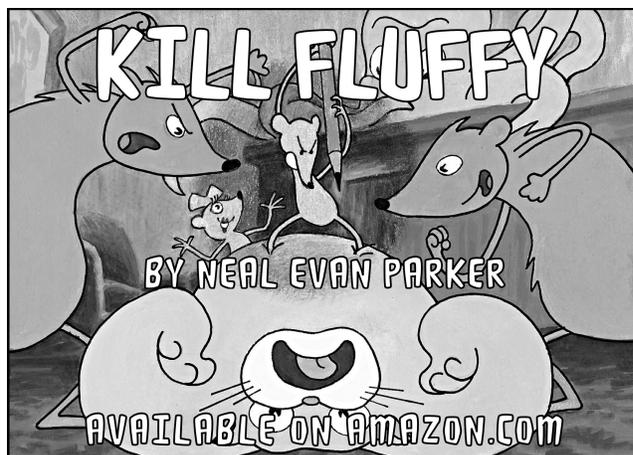
The Bad:

The gameplay can only carry this game so far, however. Dead Cells’ plot—entirely exposition pieced together through exploration—is spread too thinly to offer the same engagement that most Triple A games bring by default, except in the case of Pokemon (see Debut Reviews, issue 12). As a result, the relatively simple gameplay, despite being fun, can feel shallow at times. Though

progressing through Dead Cells’ dungeons is rewarding, this game does not pull any punches. It can feel heart-wrenching to be hurled back to the start with no consolation but your small investment in the game’s permanent upgrades system and a sardonic quip from one of the characters you pass in every run. Often times, a death at the end of an especially arduous run can be so discouraging that I have to turn the game off. Dead Cells always gets the last laugh, though, because its enticing gameplay keeps me coming back just to fight my way further and further. The game, like its developer, hardly tries to appeal to everyone. It does what it does well, and people will like it.

The Conclusion:

Dead Cells is far from technologically groundbreaking in terms of gameplay, but as a small indie game it is still able to capture that charm of an adventure without a clearly defined path. You are alone in a harsh world, and you master that world through trial and error; a testament to determination. Though gameplay can feel like a grind sometimes, the music and visuals pick up the slack where the pacing becomes slow. Dead Cells is a perfect example of what the gaming industry needs—solid gameplay that innovates without trying to reinvent its genre. Indie games may not be as eye catching as the big titles, but this one is twice as reliable.



THE VISUAL ARTS

— ILIANNA KAHN —



“HYPERBOLIC PARABOLOIDS”

These are three hyperbolic paraboloids that I created as exercises during my apprenticeship with the local jeweler Michael Good. I have been interested in the idea of “wearable art,” pieces that aren’t necessarily practical but are individually designed, expressive, and unique. With this in mind, I changed these exercises into rings. They are made out of flat sheets of copper metal which I hammered into the shapes you see by using anticlastic raising techniques.

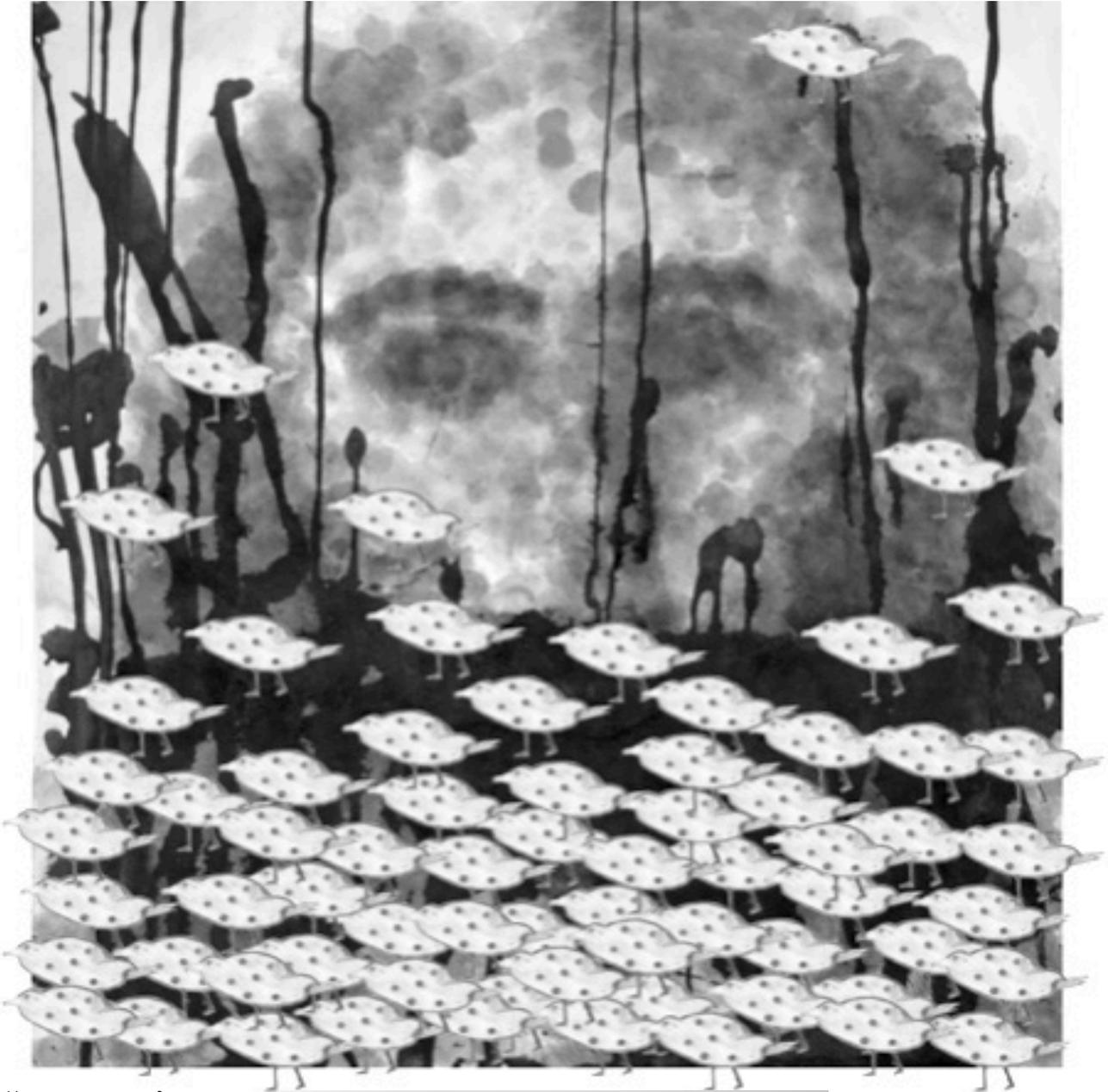
ILIANNA KAHN-

Ilianna Kahn is a senior at Camden Hills Regional High school. She has had an apprenticeship with Michael Good since sophomore year and has worked for other jewelers, such as Emily Shaffer, in the community. She is planning on pressuring art in college with a major in metalsmithing and jewelry.



THE VISUAL ARTS

AMY KUNZINGER



“I WON’T BE SILENCED”

I won't be Silenced is an identity piece that started as a blind portrait created with a tennis ball and india ink. The spilled black ink sparks new meaning as awareness of current societal issues rise in the world today.



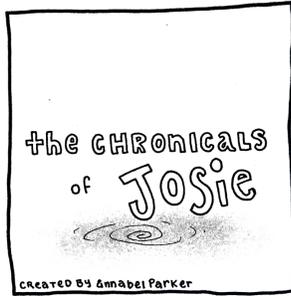
AMY KUNZINGER-

Amy Kunzinger is a senior this year at Camden Hills Regional High School. Art has always been an outlet for her to express herself and relieve stress. She plans to study architecture in college and will incorporate her love of art into her architectural work throughout college and into her adult life.

THE COMIC SECTION

THE CHRONICLES OF JOSIE

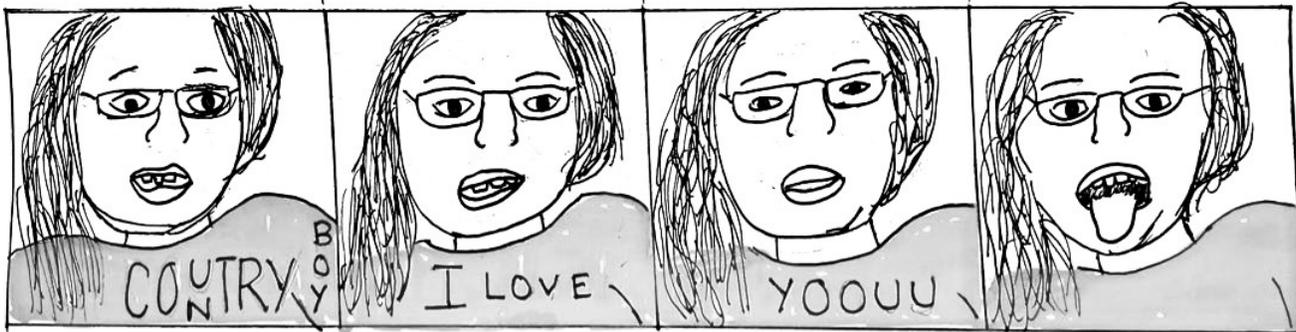
By Annabel Parker



MONTHLY VINES: TIKTOK EDITION

By Martha Aramthip

“Country Boy, I love youuuu”



HOROSCOPES

FEBRUARY

By Nora Finck

Aries: Pluto is in Aries this month. Aries is a fire sign, so typically they are very upfront and a confrontational. A key word for Pluto is 'transform'. So if you are feeling stuck in a rut of confrontation, this is the perfect time to step back and reflect on yourself and your actions.

Taurus: This month, the Moon and Uranus are in Taurus. Taurus natives are generally very romantic. Their affections are strong, deep, and unwavering. They are sentimental and warm. Since Taurus is a practical earth sign, the placement of the Moon in this sign suggests an ability

to protect themselves and their interests. Though it is good to protect oneself, make sure you are not too grounded. Don't be afraid to let people in!

Gemini: This month, there are no planets in Gemini. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected

things coming your way during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Cancer: This month, the north node is the only thing in cancer. For those who don't know, the north node represents the kinds of experiences that we *continued on page 12*

THE SHORT STORY SECTION

254 MILES ABOVE EARTH

By Nicole Pendleton

True beauty is something many people are unable to witness in their life. True, honest beauty, is seeing Earth from space. It is seeing the clouds surging over the land, or seeing the dark blue waters of the ocean covering its expansive form.

It is a beauty incomparable to any other, and with it is an indescribable terror. A true form of terror is one that is unable to be found anywhere but 254 miles above the Earth.

“It is a beauty incomparable to any other, and with it is an indescribable terror.”

That is what I thought to myself as someone once again knocked on the space station door from the outside. My crew and I exchanged nervous glances, all of us trembling with fear. Asher Ortiz, Andrea Dunn, Travis Reilly, and I. There was no one missing, and yet, Asher was knocking on the door from the outside.

Asher was sitting next to me, begging me not to open the door, not to let it in. Meanwhile,

Asher was also begging me to let him in, saying he was starting to run out of oxygen now that he has finished his repair mission. No repair mission had been scheduled or monitored. Looking through the porthole I could see an astronaut, but not their face. Using the radio I informed the man outside that Asher is inside the shuttle right next to me. He starts banging on the door louder and harder, saying that he is the real Asher, begging me to let him in.

Everyone inside is begging me to keep the airlock shut, to not let him in no matter what he says. Then, the knocking stops, and the comm falls silent once more.

Cautiously, I move toward the porthole once again. There was no astronaut-- nothing but empty space and the Earth. Over the next hour, we all slowly and very cautiously return to our work. Asher, who is pale and shaking, goes to calm down in his sleeping quarters. I forced my lingering fear to the side, keeping calm and in control for the benefit of my crew.

It did not matter that I was still trembling on the inside. A few hours later, after everybody had calmed down, I went to retrieve Asher. Wanting to ask him some questions, I immediately headed for his quarters. It took me all

of two seconds after turning the corner to realize that it was empty.

Turning around, I started rapidly pulling myself through the station, heading straight towards the control room. Turning on my comm I asked if anyone had seen Ortiz. My only answer was static. Flying through the station, I came to an abrupt halt near one of the airlocks. There was Andrea, standing before it, looking nervous. No Asher was beside her, and no Travis. The moment I stopped in front of her she blurted out a stream of words that I could hardly understand. I could only make out, ‘Travis,’ ‘panel,’ ‘problem,’ ‘outside.’

As dread filled my entire being, I darted to the porthole and looked outside. No Travis, just the empty abyss of space and the colossal Earth down below.

By the time that I had pulled back, Andrea had mastered herself enough to be able to form a full sentence. Travis had gone outside after seeing something covering one of the solar panels. He suited up and said it would just be a quick fix. He said he wouldn’t need a tether because it would be quick. That man, that idiot of a man would go outside without my approval, without a tether, after the earlier events of

the day.

I made the rest of my way to the control room. Activating all of the sensors, I scanned for any nearby life. The only thing that showed up was Andrea and I. I tried the comms again, but only heard static. I informed Andrea that Asher was missing as well and that we were to lock down all airlocks and radio into Earth an SOS-- if such a thing was possible.

There came a hiss from the end of the hallway, which could only be air leaking. I realized this milliseconds before the emergency airlock doors slammed shut in front of us. And with hardly a sound, our section detached from the main station. We watched in horror as we slowly started to drift away. Frantically I tried to contact home base. Nothing. Nothing but death awaited us. Andrea had backed herself into a corner, hands over her ears, nothing but pure terror in her eyes. With a jarring thud, something landed on the top of our lonely pod. The screeching of bent metal was the only sound as it started to dig through the ceiling. Andrea had started sobbing. Somewhere along the way, so had I. But there was nothing I could do now. Nothing, as with hardly a sound, the air was sucked out of the pod, and out of our lungs.



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SLIGHTLY SAGE

ADVICE

Need a witty answer to your problems? Ask Sage at camdenhillsgazette.com

Dear Sage,

Midterms are just around the corner and I am terrified. I'm basically failing math and I need at least a 90% on my midterm. Do you have any study tips?

Thanks,
Not-Mathematical Molly

Dear Not-Mathematical Molly,

SOH-CAH-TOA. That's it. That's all you need. Now go do math, my young Padawan.

May you murder your math test like Kylo murdered Han,
Sage

Dear Sage,

AUSTRALIA IS ON FIRE!!!!
WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GOING TO DO?!

HELP,

Environmental Emily

Dear Environmental Emily,

In these situations I really wish the Avatar the Last Airbender was a real thing. Oh, Australia is on fire? Have fire benders just put it out. Oh, the icebergs are melting? Have the water benders freeze them. It would be really nice. However, they are not real, so we're just screwed.

Yayyy death,
Sage

Dear Sage,

Tell me the truth: do you just make up all these questions or do people actually send them in?

Curious,
Suspicious Sam

Dear Suspicious Sam,

That's a secret I'll never tell.

Xoxo,
Sage

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Find out more on our website: camdenhillsgazette.com

Or contact the head of our sales department, Sam Maltese, at camdenhillsgazette@gmail.com or (207)701-9967

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HOROSCOPES

By Nora Finck

continued from page 10

must go through to grow spiritually. This being in Cancer can mean a few things. This month you may have new opportunities that you usually don't have. Take advantage of this! It is not very often that you get chances that you may be getting during this period.

Leo: This month, there are no planets in Leo. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected things coming your way during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Virgo: This month, there are no planets in Virgo. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected things coming your way during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Libra: This month, there are no planets in Libra. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected things coming your way during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Scorpio: This month, there are no planets in Scorpio. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected things coming your way during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Sagittarius: This month, there are no planets in Sagittarius. This is a time for reflection and growth. There may be some unexpected things coming your way

during this month, which could be good or bad. Get ready!

Capricorn: This month, Jupiter, Saturn, and Venus are in Capricorn. Jupiter rules the sign Sagittarius, and this planet shows the way to prosperity and growth. With Jupiter being in your sign, this means that your likes and dislikes will be brought out this month, and it will be revealed how you bring in good luck and good fortune.

Aquarius: It's your season! The sun sits in your sign until the 19th when it will change over to Pisces. This is the time to take command and take opportunities you may usually avoid or be too timid to try. Mercury is also in Aquarius this month, which is the planet of intellect and communication, so this month you may have opportunities to channel your inner wisdom and extrovert.

Pisces: On the 19th, the sun will enter your sign. Take chances! Take risks! This is your time to shine, baby. Neptune is also in Pisces this month, and it happens to rule Pisces. This month is truly the time for you to be you! Take advantage of opportunities that highlight your strengths.



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