

THE PAW PRINT

MAY



In this issue...

**Keep calm,
it's just May-hem.**

Hi. This is a school newspaper.

*We know that sounds like
something a teacher told you to
read. But stick with us.*

*Somewhere between the
geopolitics and the book reviews
there's a sentence someone wrote
that was meant specifically for
you. We don't know which one.
Neither do they.*

That's kind of the whole point.

**Do you have something you
want to say?**

Or want to see your name on
this list?

Email pawprint@bbis.de or
stop by 5337 on Wednesday
Lunchtimes!

News

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Vivan Gupta

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Editor's Note — May Edition



May. The word itself sounds like an exhale.

The exams are here, the twelfth grade is preparing to leave us, and the sun has decided that right now — specifically now, when you have the most to do — is the moment to be genuinely beautiful outside. Noted, sun. Very funny.

But before you go lie in the grass (we support this, genuinely), here's what we made for you:

- **News** doesn't look away this month — the Iran conflict's hidden costs, a Pakistan-Afghanistan border war that's been escalating since February, and proof that the world is occasionally wonderful: Finland is the happiest country on earth for the ninth year running.
- **Opinions** goes deep this month — into NATO fractures, the moral weight of war, and the schism between MAGA and the Vatican. The common thread, if you're looking for one: what happens when the people in charge stop listening to anyone but themselves.
- **Culture** has what Culture always has: something for everyone. Books, anime, music, food. A love letter to a Sichuan restaurant on Bleibtreustrasse. A comic that gets progressively more unhinged in the best possible way.
- **Features** covers Mental Health Awareness Month with the kind of honesty this topic deserves, traditional Korean clothing, painted dogs, and why we all care so much about what other people think — Shira's piece on that last one might be the most relatable thing in this edition.

This one took a lot of people a lot of Wednesday lunchtimes. We think it shows.

If you have something you want to say — a story, an opinion, an unusual observation, a comic featuring a demon in a top hat — you know where to find us. Room 5337. We'll leave the door open.

Enjoy the sunshine. You've earned it.

— **Parth Gupta & Liora Krause**

Editors-in-Chief 🐾

Not your average stapled paper

Well, okay, it is stapled. The point is that someone cared enough to write about traditional Korean clothing. They didn't have to. They just had something to say. That's a newspaper.

Positive News Around the World

Vivan Gupta & Henri Bertram | Staff Writers

Poland — major language reform

Poland has seen major developments in the language reform movement. Poland's parliament has recently approved a law to recognise the Silesian language as a regional language, acknowledging the way many people speak in the South-West. The Polish President exercised his veto right on the reform, arguing that Silesian is not a separate language but a dialect.

Finland

The World Happiness Report has just been released and shown that the Nordic country Finland is the winner for the ninth year in a row. The report measures more than 144 countries and shows how people of their country evaluate their own and other people's lives. The key to success for Finland is slowing down and reconnecting with nature.

Switzerland — **World Economic Forum**

Switzerland has recently hosted the 56th World Economic Forum from the 19th-23rd January 2026. This event brought together over 3,000 leaders from governments, businesses, and civil society. In times of tension, global issues were discussed under the theme 'the spirit of dialogue.' The focus lay on respectful listening and exchanging ideas.



Morocco

Morocco is building the world's biggest green hydrogen program, aiming to produce clean fuel using solar and wind energy. The goal is to become a major exporter of renewable hydrogen to Europe and other markets. Green Hydrogen is made by splitting water using renewable electricity. The mega project is estimated to be worth \$30-32 billion dollars.

Saudi Arabia — major solar expansion

Saudi Arabia is accelerating solar power projects as part of its Vision 2030 goal to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels. Recently, the country's solar capacity tripled, and projects like Sakaka and Sudair have set the pace for more expansion.

Estonia

Estonia runs almost everything online: voting, taxes, healthcare, etc. Citizens use a digital ID for almost all services. It saves time, money, and bureaucracy. The government is faster, more transparent, and efficient. Due to this, Estonia invests heavily in digital defense to keep its security safe from any hackers or viruses. This could be a blueprint for how future governments could operate.

India

India's reintroduction project in Kuno National Park has taken place since 2022 and shown results with the population reaching more than 50 individuals. In India, cheetahs were hunted for hundreds of years for their pelt and for sport. The cheetahs had previously been extinct but were reintroduced by the cheetah Jaahla, giving birth to 5 cubs.

**USA**

The number of adults that smoke has sufficiently dropped in the US. This is the first time reaching under 10%. This is happening because of more research showing that smoking can lead to cancer or premature death. Smoking causes about 20% of all cancer and 30% of all cancer in the US, and a study has shown that people who smoke die about ten years sooner than normal.

Chile

Chile is the first country in the Americas to eliminate the disease leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease, which is caused by infectious bacteria primarily affecting her skin and peripheral nerves. Chile is the second country to receive the World Health Organization certificate of defeating leprosy after Jordan achieved this in 2024.

The Hidden Costs of War: Why the Iran Conflict is Bigger than it Looks

Vivan Gupta - Staff Writer

The United States and Israel both launched airstrikes on Iran on 28 February targeting military and government sites. They killed Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei along with other Iranian officials in the airstrikes. Some strikes even hit civilian sites, inflicting civilian casualties. Iran retaliated with strikes on Israel, US bases, and US allies in the surrounding Middle East and closing the vital Strait of Hormuz. While the visible impacts of the war are seen—military actions, political tensions, and rising oil prices—the hidden impacts aren't well covered. To understand the full impact of this war, it is key to look beyond the headlines.

The Impact on International Travel and Tourism

The travel industry has been significantly affected over the last 6 weeks since the war began. Iran began attacking US allies in the Middle East, including the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and others. Iranian drones fell on Dubai's main airport and Doha's airport as well, both of which are major airline hubs. It seemed flying was not safe. Airlines not wanting to take risks were forced to reroute flights across the Middle East or even cancel them. Airlines that choose to reroute flights have to experience higher fuel costs and longer flight times. Countries like the UAE, Turkey, Egypt, and Georgia that rely on tourism experience significant economic losses and lose tourism revenue. War doesn't affect battlefields but global mobility and tourism economies.



Energy Markets and the Fragility of Oil Dependence

Instability in the Middle East region made oil prices spike. Oil prices skyrocketed to \$120 a barrel at their peak, which sparked fears regarding the Strait of Hormuz. Oil is used for fuel production, which powers cars, buses, etc. It's vital for the aviation industry, which needs aviation fuel for planes. In addition, oil is also used for other items such as plastic, chemicals, and medicine. A limited supply of oil impacts numerous industries, which makes it so important. Oil shocks impact the entire economy and not just cars and planes.



The Expanding Human Cost of Conflict

Civilian casualties are not just limited to direct conflict but also indirect factors such as damaged infrastructure, limited or restricted access to healthcare, and displacement. Missile or artillery fire might hit civilian infrastructure with people inside, causing civilian casualties. Due to the widespread casualties throughout the war, hospitals are usually filled up with patients, resulting in limited space for injured people seeking help. Sometimes a hospital is too far away or has been destroyed by a missile strike. Children's lives and education are disrupted by something they have nothing to do with. War does not only cause physical harm... but also mental. People might face long-term trauma or be left with long-term psychological trauma. War isn't just immediate deaths, but rather long-term societal damage.



Rising Food Insecurity and Global Supply Strain

Fuel shortages and high oil prices can disrupt supply chains. But not just any transport, food, or fertilizer transports, which are vital for survival in some countries. But makers of fertilizer and specific foods face production drops after supply chains are disrupted. Unfortunately, fertilizer production depends heavily on energy-rich regions like the Middle East. Food prices rise globally, and poorer countries face food insecurity and political instability. A war in one region can disrupt food security around the globe.

Strategic Chokepoints as Instruments of Power

Strategic locations such as the Suez Canal and the Strait of Hormuz are vital shipping routes for global trade. During the Iran-Iraq War, the Strait of Hormuz was closed by Iran. Shipping was delayed, and insurance costs became high. Trade had to be rerouted, slowing global trade and adding additional costs. Several reports say Iran started towing ships that wanted to transit the Strait of Hormuz. Reports suggest high transit fees for vessels that want to leave the Strait of Hormuz. Geography becomes a tool of power and disruption.



Hidden costs of the war (Continued...)

Lasting Economic Consequences Beyond the Conflict

Even when the war ends, long-term economic effects will remain after the war. Economic scars. Businesses will avoid risky regions, especially those that were involved during the Iran War. Investments could decline in the Middle East, slowing growth in Middle Eastern countries. Supply chains could permanently shift to other locations deemed safe from being disrupted. People and investors might have less economic confidence. The Iran war may have reshaped the global economy in the long term.



The Risk of Economic Collapse and Political Instability

During the war some countries have faced significant economic challenges due to rising fuel costs, inflation, and budget crises caused by the Iran war. Due to these struggles, some countries turn to increasing their debt burdens. Others face political instability and a collapsing government, causing widespread protests and government collapse. Import-dependent countries such as Singapore, Nauru, and Djibouti are also feeling the impacts of the war. A regional war can trigger global instability and even state failure.

The Iran war is not just a regional conflict but one whose effects can be felt across the globe. These impacts can be seen through the travel industry, energy markets, food systems, international trade, economies, and governments, leaving few sectors unaffected. This shows that the Iran war is not just a conflict in one region but something that affects many parts of the world, because what happens in one place can leave effects everywhere else.

Pakistan and Afghanistan Clash

Vivan Gupta - Staff Writer

What happened during the fight between the two countries? Why did Pakistan and Afghanistan clash with each other?

Brief overview

Pakistan and Afghanistan faced off at the Durand Line/border separating the two countries. The border is 2,640 to 2,670 kilometers long, and both sides exchanged fire across the border. The fight started in late February 2026 and is still ongoing with not much end in sight. There were airstrikes, border clashes, drone attacks, and artillery shelling. There was a brief ceasefire during Eid, but soon fighting and violence resumed from both sides.

What happened?

Pakistan started airstrikes inside of Afghanistan trying to target militant camps and groups like the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and ISIS-K. These attacks followed attacks that were being conducted by the TTP inside Pakistan. Because of this, Pakistan claimed that these militants were hiding inside of Afghanistan, which helped support its reason to attack Afghanistan. Afghanistan retaliated with numerous attacks on Pakistani border posts. This escalated into full-on, cross-border fighting with many casualties on both sides. After this, Pakistan officially declared war on Afghanistan and launched a large operation called Operation Ghazab Lil Haq. The operation involved airstrikes across the border, drone strikes, artillery shelling to damage defenses, and targeting of Afghanistani positions.

Why did Pakistan do this?

Pakistan says that the large-scale operation was aimed at stopping militant attacks inside its own country from militant groups like the TTP. The TTP has been targeting Pakistani civilians, soldiers, and police. They have also been carrying out bombings and attacks across government sites, security forces, and sometimes civilian infrastructure. The primary target is the military and the security forces of Pakistan, as Afghanistan is waging a war against the Pakistani state.

Pakistan has blamed Afghanistan for not stopping these groups, this leading to Pakistan having to take matters into its own hands. The operation is a sign of self-defense against attacks.

Why did Afghanistan attack Pakistan?

While the reason Pakistan attacked Afghanistan is due to militant groups hiding in Afghanistan, Afghanistan was also dragged into the war. The military actions Afghanistan took against Pakistan were mainly a form of response to the Pakistani airstrikes, which killed civilians and damaged infrastructure. This caused public anger and pressure on the government to respond to the Pakistani attacks. If the Taliban (who rule over Afghanistan) didn't respond, they would appear weak in front of their citizens and internationally. The Taliban replied to the Pakistani airstrikes by attacking Pakistani border posts and other military installations. From the Afghans' point of view, this was self-defense and retaliation towards the Pakistanis. Afghanistan believes that Pakistan violated its sovereignty, and in international politics, that's a big thing.

What does this help us learn?

The whole war was like a cycle of retaliation: Afghanistan started to attack, then Pakistan responded with airstrikes, Afghanistan retaliated with more attacks, and then Pakistan did the same until it was just a cycle of retaliation. That's how many wars work; all it takes is one attack, and many more follow from both sides in the name of retaliation.



Jesus First or America First?

Vittorio De Cristo

Recently, President Trump and Pope Leo XIV have been sparring online about the ongoing war in Iran. What began as a geopolitical conflict has quickly become something deeper; a moral disagreement about war itself, and how Catholics understand it.

On Palm Sunday 2026, the Pope made a statement that “[God] does not listen to the prayers of those who wage [unjust] war, but rejects them”. He followed this by quoting Isaiah 1:15, where God tells the people of Israel, “Even though you make many prayers, I will not listen: your hands are full of blood”. While Pope Leo has not directly named any US officials, the timing and tone of his remarks have been widely interpreted as a response to statements from Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, who framed the war in Iran as morally justified and necessary for the defense of western civilization. President Trump and his allies have likewise defended the conflict based on the threats posed by the Iranian regime.

The Catholic Church does allow for war that aligns with the framework of ‘Just War Theory’, most famously articulated by St. Augustine of Hippo. Under certain conditions, defense, last resort, and proportionality, military action can be morally justified. I believe that stopping Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and even a regime change, can meet that threshold and be justified to prevent greater misfortunes. However, just because something is “justified”, it doesn’t make it “good.” Christianity demands that we must always treat war as a “necessary evil” and as nothing to celebrate. In 1917, in the midst of World War I, Pope Benedict XV said in a peace initiative that famously demanded; “bringing about, as soon as possible, the cessation of this tremendous struggle, which, with each passing day, appears increasingly

to be a useless slaughter”. Even in the Middle Ages, Pope Nicholas I said that “war is always satanic in its origin and you must always abstain from it. But if it is impossible to avoid it... it is without a doubt lawful to make ready to meet it”.



War is never “good”, in itself. Even when it is necessary, it remains a moral tragedy. That is what Pope Leo XIV is trying to remind us. Yet, this truth becomes hard to maintain when we live in a culture being constantly desensitized by war. When the official White House social media page uploaded a ‘Call of Duty’ gameplay spliced with real combat footage and set to music, they make war look reduced to some kind of game to be won or lost and celebrated. Like this, conflating real war with a video game or a sport erodes the moral weight of human life and the gravity of what it means to send someone to a warzone to fight for their country.

On April 12th, Donald Trump made a post on his 'TruthSocial' account responding to Pope Leo's comments on the war in Iran. Trump called him "weak on crime" and "terrible for foreign policy". Trump claimed that the Pope thought it was acceptable for Iran to have a nuclear weapon, a claim with no basis to refer to what the Pope actually said. Pope Leo has in fact spoken *explicitly* against nuclear weapons, calling for a world free from the nuclear threat, and with the Holy See signing the UN Treaty on 'the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons' in 2017. After exiting Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, President Trump told reporters; "I'm not a fan of Pope Leo. He's a very liberal person", and claimed on 'TruthSocial' that he was "catering to the radical left". However, framing the Pope this way publicly paints a false image, and builds an incorrect basis for the people that believe 'Trump can do no wrong'. Pope Leo holds very conservative positions on abortion, family, and human dignity, and his call for peace in wartime is not a progressive talking point, but a foundational teaching of the Church, rooted in centuries of 'Just War' doctrine in the Magisterium. To call it "liberal" is to confuse Catholic social teaching with partisan politics. Following Trump's attacks on the Pope, recent polls showed that the approval rating for Donald Trump among Catholic voters dropped to 48%. This was the first time Trump's approval rating among Catholics was below 50% in his second term, which was 55% in the election.

We actually have a term for thinking that things like the President's moral authority goes beyond the Pope's moral authority. It is called the heresy of Americanism which manifests in treating America's government and values as if they were more foundational than what we have received in the deposit of faith. In fact, Pope Leo XIII condemned Americanism in 1899, especially the idea that active virtues, like courage, were better than passive virtues like obedience. Here, people would think it's better to 'courageously act' for what you think is America's interests, rather than be 'obedient' to the Church's teachings. It is quite providential that Pope Leo XIII condemned the Americanist heresy that Pope Leo XIV now has to tell Catholics about, specifically that they can't give whatever the President says unquestioning allegiance that we aren't even called to give to the Pope himself.

What this dispute ultimately reveals is a deeper crisis in how some American Christians relate to their faith. When a government can post war footage like a highlight reel, when the Pope can be dismissed as "too liberal" for preaching peace and the Gospel, and when a political leader commands more loyalty than the Church founded by Christ, something has gone seriously wrong. Pope Leo XIV is not picking a political fight, he is preaching morality. He is doing what the Church has always done; calling the world back to sanity. The question now is whether we are still willing to listen.



We're not all friends in NATO

Flavia Luca

Do we realize that every Paw Print edition always contains at least one article that has something to say about Donald Trump? Well, it's true. How come a school all the way in Germany has so much to say about someone so far away? It's because he likes to get involved in all matters involving social politics and business. Interpret this statement as you will, wish, and wonder. One of this month's Trump editorials will open the lens on his recent involvement in the Middle East.

The infamous Iran-Israel conflict. You've heard it on the news, you've heard about it from your fellow friends that could unfortunately be affected by this conflict, and you've probably heard your parents complain about the gas prices. Been there, done that. Why can it be that the world still feels the need to argue with each other? Let's take a trip down memory lane all the way to 1979. No, this isn't about Michael Jackson's massive-hit fresh album, no, no, no; this is about the 1979 Iranian Revolution. Iran and Israel have had tensions for quite some time now, partially because Iran doesn't really want to recognize Israel, and partially because in turn Israel sees Iran as a major threat with regards to their great nuclear weaponry collection and recent uranium enrichment advancements. Long story short, their tensions used to be indirect and passive, but have now taken a toll on direct attacks and strikes since February 2026, initiated by the U.S. and Israel towards Iran. Nuclear facilities, military bases, and top Iranian leaders were targeted in attempts to weaken Iran's political and social power. The conflict spread across the region and even shipping routes, like the Strait of Hormuz, impacting the global economy gravely and also escalating oil, trading, and military risks.

History lesson over. Where does Trump fit into this matrix? I think the most popular approach to this question would be how Trump helped the trigger of the open war. By this I mean that the U.S., under Trump, joined Israel in the major strikes launched against Iran early this year, for the sake of hindering Iran from continuing their nuclear programme. Sounds very aberrant. The diplomatic and moral aspect of this would be the fact Trump completely took this into his own hands, *without* consulting any of the allies. That's right, nobody knew he was doing this. Total surprise. Major European Powers rightfully responded with concern and shock, and openly criticised his decisions, fearing that further involvement would result in extreme escalations and more betrayal. Broadly, there was no real unified European response since some countries aligned with the U.S., while for example Germany and France really aim to push diplomacy further and avoid any possibility of needing to take this conflict to open war.

Adding onto this, once Trump's idea was expressed publicly, he turned to European Powers for military support, generally asking for more ships and weaponry to conflict areas, like for example the Strait of Hormuz. These demands were rejected. Naturally, these rejections are starting to spark an indirect stress between Trump and some European leaders, and other NATO members criticising each other depending on which side they stand behind. Summarizing this, Trump acted ruthlessly and believed in his motives more than he should have, which ultimately caused him to be mostly shut out and ostracised by European Powers and undermined their trust.

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What next? As of right now, there technically is a ceasefire yet it is very fragile and extremely weak. Attacks on ships still continue, military incidents across the region are still on-going, and people still keep dying. Countries are still mobilised and ready for possible counter attacks. Negotiations are ongoing yet tensions remain high. Arrogant decision taking and betrayal has no place in a world that is so technologically powerful and emotionally vulnerable. The cost of that is one that stains hands. Badly.



The new Macbook Neo, is it for you?

Linus Choi– Staff Writer

On March 11th, 2026, Apple released the new Macbook Neo, a budget friendly Apple Macbook. The Neo comes in 4 new color ways, Blush, Citrus, Indigo, and Silver, and comes in at \$599 for the 256GB version, and \$699 for the 512GB version with touch id.

How does it stack up against the Macbook Air?

To start, the Macbook Air comes with the powerful M5 chip, giving lots of performance for heavy tasks such as video editing, photoshop, or coding. The Neo on the other hand, comes with the A18 pro chip, originally an iPhone chip (still powerful). The Air starts at 16GB of ram and 512GB of storage, while the Neo higher end Neo is at 8GB of ram. The Neo also had slower ports, with a USB 3.2 and a slower USB 2 for charging and transfer. The Air comes with mag-safe wireless charging, and two 'Thunder Bolt 4' ports for fast charging. Essentially, the Macbook Air can charge faster and transfer videos faster. On top of that, the main catch is that the base Macbook Neo is \$600 cheaper than the base Macbook Air (13inch).

So who is the Neo for?

The Neo would be great for anyone who needs simple tasks done. I mean writing essays on Google Docs, studying past papers online, sending emails, and the occasional Youtube loophole now and then. It's not necessarily for someone that needs serious video and photo-editing software on their computer. It's also not meant for gamers (although it can get an easy 200+ FPS on minecraft). As a 1st year DP student, the Macbook Neo would be perfect for what I need in the IB diploma. Apple made this laptop for students, alongside a playful colour range, good performance for studying, and 13 hours of battery life. If you're a student in college or high school, consider the Macbook Neo your best fit.



My Opinion on Maomao

Annick Salem- Staff Writer

The apothecary diaries is an anime and manga series about a 17 year old girl, Maomao, who gets kidnapped and sold to the palace to work there. Using her knowledge and skill from her life as an apothecary before she got kidnapped, she solves mysteries around the court for several officials, like the emperor, his concubines or a certain purple haired eunuch who has taken a liking to her. Maomao is my favorite character because of her funny, yet broad personality. She is an apothecary and very smart, so she is serious when required, but she has a tendency to become silly at times. Whenever this happens, she seems to magically get cat ears and a tail. She looks somewhat cute with them, and she is a little cat-like, so it represents her perfectly.

WHICH MAOMAO ARE YOU TODAY?



Another thing about maomao I love is her obsession for poisons and medicines. She has a bandage around her arm because it is extremely wounded. This is due to her time when she lived with her adoptive father, where she ran a lot of experiments on her arm. She gets really excited when she sees any medicinal herbs, or when there's poison. There was one scene where she was doing her job as a taster for one of the concubines, Gyokuyo. People were assuming that the food was just really good based on her reaction, until she revealed the fact that it was poison. Later, when she was told that an official collapsed after eating the poisoned soup, she was practically begging to eat the rest of it. She also once had poisoned and edible algae in front of her to present it to the people who gave her the task of finding out what happened. Once they turned around to discuss what to do, she immediately ate some of the poison. However, she is somewhat immune to most poisons because of her experiments.

The probably most loved thing about maomao across the fandom, however, are her reactions to Jinshi, a eunuch who often interacts with her and often tries to seduce her (although he usually ends up getting ignored). Jinshi has a smile with which he makes all the women in the inner palace go crazy, yet maomao is unaffected by it. She finds him annoying, and often wonders how much free time he has because she often sees him wandering around the inner palace (he doesn't really have free time, he usually just procrastinates his work). She often glares at him, resulting in gaoshun, a chief official and jinshi's bodyguard, to ask her to exercise restraint in doing so.

Sunrise on the reeping- Book Review

Scarlett Morin- Cuture editor

Sunrise on the Reaping is a dystopian novel by Suzanne Collins and a prequel in the *Hunger Games* series. It was published in 2025 and focuses on Haymitch Abernathy, who later becomes Katniss Everdeen's mentor in the original trilogy. The story begins on the morning of Haymitch's sixteenth birthday, which is also the day of the reaping for the 50th Hunger Games, known as the Second Quarter Quell. This is a special type of Games requiring twice as many tributes, the danger is even greater than usual. Haymitch is chosen to compete after the reaping turns chaotic, and he is forced into an arena where survival depends on both strategy and the odds being in his favour.

One major theme is control and power. The Capitol uses the Hunger Games to remind the districts that it has complete control over their lives. Another theme is hope versus despair. Lenore Dove (Haymitch's love interest) believes change can happen, while Haymitch is more skeptical at first. The novel shows how holding onto hope can be difficult, but also necessary. Lastly the third theme is loss and survival. Haymitch survives the Games, but survival comes with painful emotional consequences. The book shows that winning does not mean life goes back to normal.

I think Sunrise on the Reaping is a dive out of five star read because it is so powerful. It manages to explain the background of a character readers already know while also telling a complete and emotional story on its own. The novel is dark and tragic, but that is what makes it meaningful. It shows how injustice can shape a person's entire life.

In conclusion sunrise on the reaping is an intense and important novel about survival, resistance, and the damage caused by oppression. Suzanne Collins uses Haymitch's story to show that the Hunger Games are not just a competition, but a system built on cruelty. I would recommend this book to readers who enjoy dystopian fiction, emotional stories, and books that make them think about power and justice.



Book Review- Percy Jackson

Ara- Staff Writer

"This is the fifth book in the Percy Jackson series with a great blend of myth and modern."

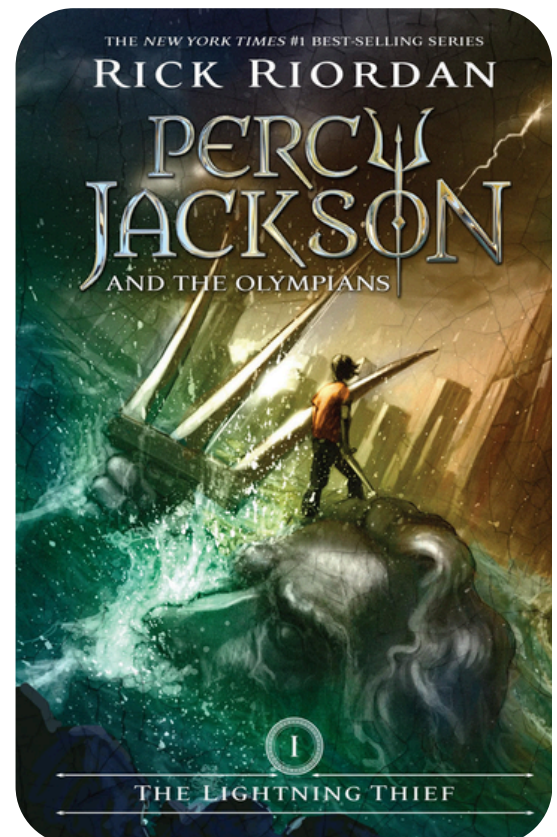
The book is about the titan lord Kronos trying to destroy the thrones in Olympus with father of all monsters Typhon while Percy Jackson and 40 other half-bloods try to stop them

This is my favorite book in the series because there's many amazing plot twists in the final battles. In this book, Rick Riordan narrates from Percy's perspective. After Daedalus sacrifices himself to destroy the labyrinth, Kronos takes over Luke's body and is planning a naval attack on New York. While this is happening, Percy leaves a drive with Rachel to join Beckendorf on a high-stakes mission to destroy the Princess Andromeda, Kronos's cruise ship headquarters.

Though Kronos finds them and tells them there is a spy at camp half-blood, Beckendorf sacrifices his life and detonates the bombs. While this happens, Percy gets launched to Poseidon's underwater palace where he meets up with his cyclops brother Tyson in the middle of an underwater battle with Oceanus the titan of the sea.

Poseidon tells Percy to go back to Camp Half-Blood by water currents. When he arrived, he tells the activity manager Chiron about Beckendorf's death which upsets Beckendorf's girlfriend Silena Beauregard. That night, Percy meets up with Nico di Angelo who has told Percy a dangerous plan to bathe in the river Styx like Achilles did before. Percy decides he has no choice and travels with Nico and a hellhound named Mrs. O'Leary (the former pet of Daedalus) to Luke's mum's house. After they leave, they head towards the underworld where Hades tricked Nico to bring Percy so he can put him in the underworld dungeons.

In conclusion, Percy has to balance his life outside of camp Half-blood with trying to help stop Kronos. In my opinion it makes him feel more mature than the previous books.



GAMESHOW NIGHT

By: Max T.



Wait, where am I?



IN MY GAMESHOW!!!



YOU BRUTE! DON'T
YOU KNOW WHAT
TIME IT IS?!



I MADE THIS WHOLE
THING BY MYSELF!!!



...with algebra



YOU DONT EVEN KNOW
WHAT THAT IS!!!



I DO! ITS A TYPE OF
SOUP!



Here, we cook
memes..



**MY ENGLISH
WHEN WRITING**



**MY ENGLISH
WHEN SPEAKING**

...serve them at my
BRITISH TABLE...



...and tested by the
one and only...

**ROMROM
GRAMSAY**



DEUTSCHE
SPONGEBOB



DEUTSCHE
SPONGEBOB



was it

IT WAS TRASH!!!



I'LL SHOW YOU HOW
TO COOK REAL
MEMES!!!

FINALLY...
BEHOLD!!!!



THATS A BRAIN ROT YOU CHEATER!

SIKE!



YOU'LL NEVER
TAKE ME ALIVE!!!



THE END



Acquiesce



Produced by Oasis themselves along with sound engineer Mark Coyle. Then was released on Oasis's "(What's The Story) Morning Glory?"

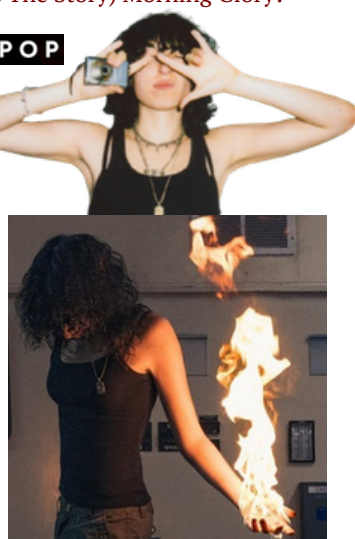
BY OASIS

Fling

C

HYPERPOP

indie



BY JANE REMOVER

Written and entirely self-produced by Jane Remover and released on her sophomore album "Census Designated" in 2023.

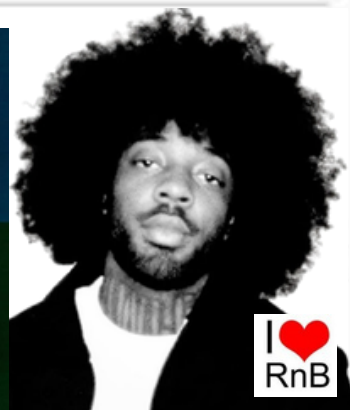
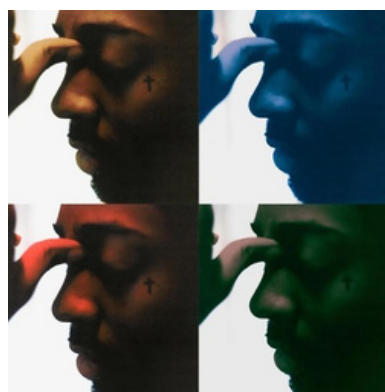
BY MAC MILLER

I Remember You



BY MASAYOSHI TAKANAKA

Written and performed by Masayoshi Takanaka and released in 1976 on various collections. "I Remember You" Blends smooth jazz-fusion guitar with bright tropical arrangements and melodic phrasing, the track reflects Takanaka's move toward a more laid-back, island-influenced sound that would become a signature element of his late-1970s work.



other side.

C



BY BRENT FAIYAZ

Produced by Benny Blanco along with Jonah Roy. The track is part of the album "Icon" released just this year.



HIP HOP

E

Inside Outside

Written and self-produced by Mac Miller and released as the intro track on his 2014 mixtape "Faces", my personal fav Mac Miller Project.



E

Save That Sh*t

BY CHIEF KEEF (feat. Soulja Boy Tell 'Em)

Produced by frequent collaborator "Young Chop", while written and performed by Chief Keef and released on his 2012 mixtape "Back from the Dead". Also includes a questionable feature performance from Soulja Boy. (Usually I skip that part).



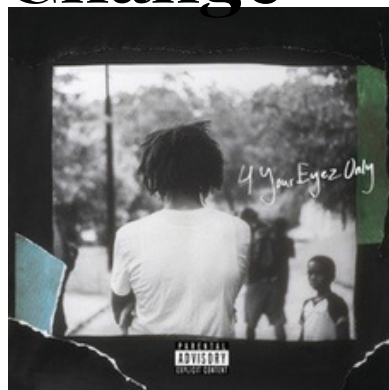
Vivo

I ♥
Alternative Rock

Produced by Gustavo Cerati himself alongside collaborator Daniel Melero. It was later released on his 2002 project Siempre Es Hoy.

BY GUSTAVO CERATI

Change



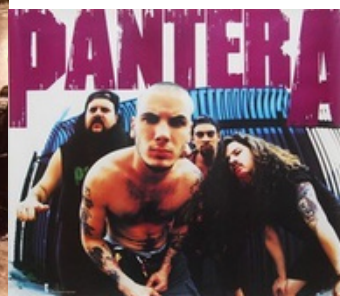
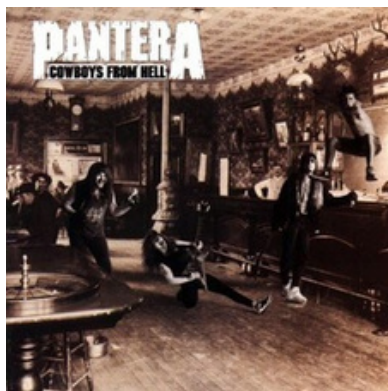
BY JANE REMOVER

Produced by J. Cole himself, Change as released as part of his fourth studio album, 4 Your Eyez Only, on December 9, 2016

Cemetery Gates

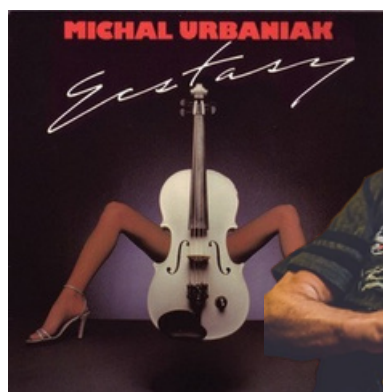


HEAVY METAL



BY SWV (feat. Michael Jackson)

Produced by Terry Date, Cemetery Gates is one of Pantera's most iconic songs, blending melodic passages with powerful vocals and heavy instrumentation. It was released as part of their album Cowboys showcases his signature house-influenced, groove-heavy production style. It was released on June 12, 2020, as part of Kaytranada's album Bubba.



SOUL

A Day In the Park



BY MICHAL URBANIAK

Written, produced and performed by Michal Urbaniak and released on his 1978 jazz-fusion/rnba album "Ecstasy"

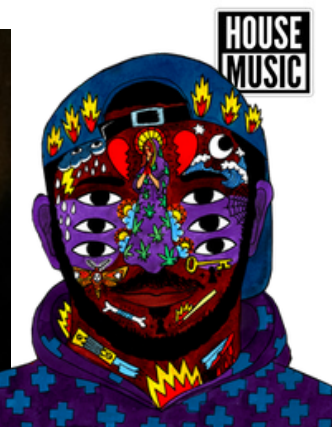
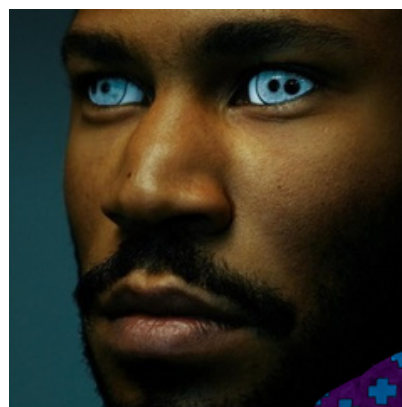


Moscow Mule



BY BAD BUNNY

Produced by Bad Bunny alongside producers MAG, Mick Coogan, and Scott Dittrich. It was released as the lead single from Un Verano Sin Ti on May 6, 2022.



10% (feat. Kali Uchis)



BY KAYTRANADA

Produced by Kaytranada, 10% features vocals from Kali Uchis and showcases his signature house-influenced, groove-heavy production style. It was released on June 12, 2020, as part of Kaytranada's album Bubba.

Why Do We Care So Much About What Others Think?

Shira Ben-Anat - Staff Writer

Imagine walking into school and for once not thinking about how you look, how you sound, or what people might say about you. No second guessing your outfit nor replaying conversations in your head. Just walking around the halls, freely.

Sounds unachievable, right?

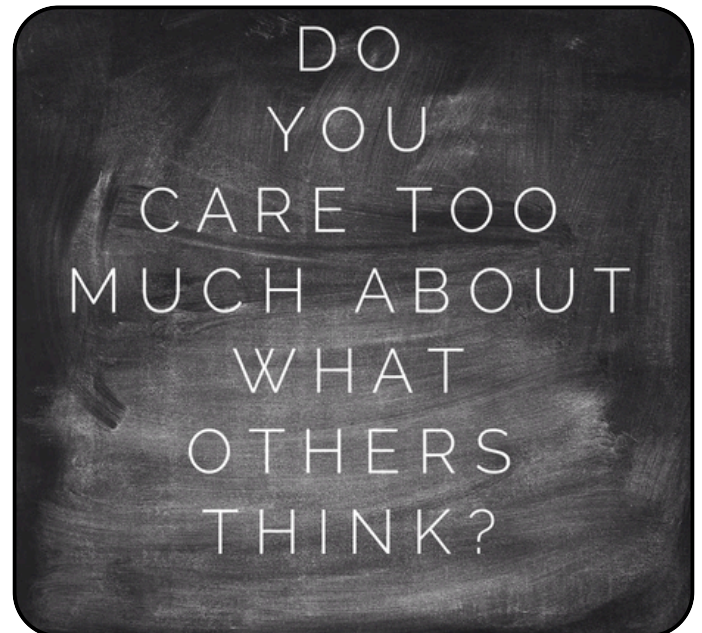
But maybe we should ask ourselves why it feels unrealistic?

Why does the idea of simply being yourself, without overthinking, feel almost impossible?

The answer is not just because we care. It's because we have always been taught to care.

From a young age we learned that being liked by others matters in this society. We notice what gets approval and what doesn't. Certain outfits get compliments, others get silence. One comment makes a crowd laugh, and another doesn't. We slowly, without noticing it, adjust to the so-called standards, not because we are fake, but because we are more aware and overtime that awareness turns into a habit.

You think before you speak, rethink after you speak, and often stay quiet to avoid saying something bad.



Why do we care so much?

Caring about what others think is human. Psychologically, it comes from our need to belong somewhere. Humans have always relied on social groups for survival, therefore feeling accepted is a survival instinct. It feels necessary.

But in today's world, these instincts have turned into something a lot more intense.

We are no longer just being perceived by the people around us, we are perceived constantly, in school, social media, and even silent judgments we assume are constantly happening. A lot of the time, this pressure is made up in our head and even when it's not actually happening.

Is there really an audience?

Have you ever felt like people are constantly watching your every move, even when they are not?

Like when you post something and you start overanalysing who liked it, and who only viewed it?

This is often referred to as the “imaginary audience”.

The idea that people are paying a lot more attention to you than they actually are. In reality, everyone is too focused on themselves to observe the tiny detail you are embarrassed of.

Why does it still affect us?

Because opinions feel powerful. They can shape how we see ourselves. A single comment can stay in your mind longer than 10 whole compliments.

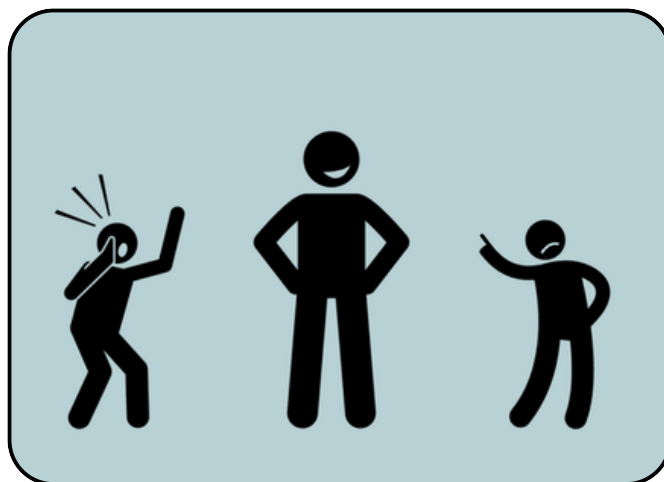
And over time, the small moments build into something bigger, potentially forming an insecurity. Slowly your life becomes less about what you think, and more about what others think.

So how do you stop caring so much?

You cannot stop, but you can switch it off. You can control how much power it has over you. Caring about what others think is not a weakness. It means you are human, but once there is no boundaries to how much it affects you. The goal is to care more about your own voice rather than the noise around you.

Try these techniques:

- Remind yourself everyone is focused on themselves, just like you are right now
- Accept that not everyone will like you, and that you won't like everyone.
- Ask yourself “do I actually know they are thinking that, or am I just assuming this?”
- Compliment yourself on a daily basis, even if it is something very small.



Mental Health Awareness Month

The importance of discussing mental health, and some advice for anyone who may be struggling.

Liora Krause - Features Editor

What is Mental Health Awareness Month?

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a month dedicated to improving mental wellbeing and fighting the stigma and shame often associated with discussing mental health issues. The founding of this awareness campaign began in 1949 in the United States, but has since become internationally recognized. Mental health is defined by the World Health Organization as "A state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn and work well, and contribute to their community." It is something every person must be entitled to, and just as important to care for as physical health.

Mental Health: A Common Struggle

Despite the growing awareness and conversation surrounding emotional and psychological wellbeing, many people still struggle with their mental health. According to the World Health Organization, over one billion people worldwide experience mental health struggles, and an estimated 14.3% of 10-19 year olds struggle as well.

These struggles may include depression, anxiety, various eating disorders (such as anorexia nervosa or bulimia nervosa), psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia, and many more. Not only do these conditions make everyday life incredibly difficult, they can also lead to horrific consequences. Many of those who struggle with mental illnesses like depression may resort to self-harm or even suicide, which has become the third leading cause of death for those aged 15-29. Although we are beginning to talk more about mental health, one thing is still abundantly clear: We need to do better in supporting those who are struggling.



What Can We Do?

Taking care of yourself and others on a local level is the first and most important step, as you can't help others if you haven't helped yourself first. Building healthy relationships with others, engaging in physical activity and hobbies, volunteering, and learning strategies to cope with emotional distress (and stress in general) are good approaches. Education on mental health issues is important as well, as it helps in destigmatizing mental health and encourages empathy and understanding for those who may be struggling. However, mental health action must go beyond this. Ensuring accessible and high-quality mental health services, such as therapy or help hotlines, must be a priority. It is also important to understand the effects that crises, war, and social inequality may have on someone's mental health and that not everyone is able to get the support they need and deserve. Mental health support should not be a privilege, it must be a fundamental right.

Writer's Note: You Are Not Alone

As someone who has struggled a lot with my mental health, there are two things I can say with full conviction: Firstly, I would not wish such struggles upon my worst enemy, and I want people to understand that these matters are not a joke. Conditions like depression or anxiety are truly

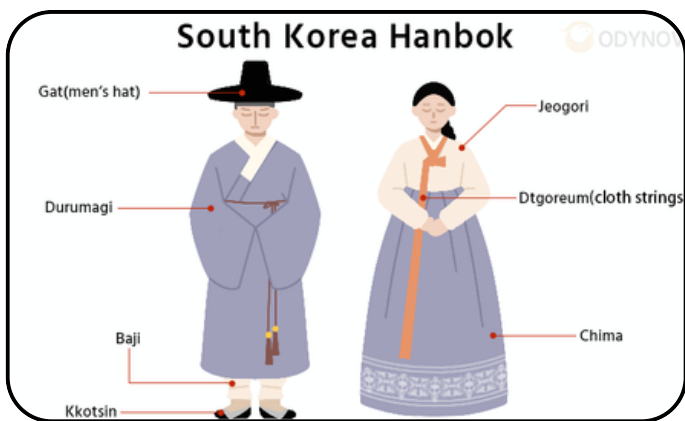
debilitating, and they can ruin lives. Secondly, although I really hope that no one reading this article needs to hear this, I would like to let you know that if you are struggling, you should absolutely get help. I know what it's like to feel hopeless, and I understand how hard it can be to reach out, but really it is crucial that you do so, even if it doesn't feel like it will change anything right now. There is a future you somewhere that will be so thankful you did so. I was reluctant to reach out for help at first, too, but I believe it is one of the bravest things a person can do. Do not worry about being hurt, punished, or ridiculed for getting help. There are many people in this school and elsewhere that can help you. You can talk with a good friend, a trusted adult, or have a chat with one of the school counselors. Or if you want anonymous support, you can call a help hotline. If you speak German, the Telefon Seelsorge is a good choice, or you could call the Berliner Krisendienst if you wish to talk in English. If you or someone you know is in danger of committing suicide, the following website lists emergency hotlines for various countries: <https://blog.opencounseling.com/suicide-hotlines/>. Regardless of how you choose to get support, know that things will get better. You are worthy, you are strong, and you are loved. Please, never give up.

Hanbok: Traditional Korean Clothing

Sejong Yu - Staff Writer

Have you ever seen clothes that flow like a gentle wave and reflect centuries of tradition? In Korea, such clothing exists and is called *hanbok*, a traditional outfit that represents the country's history, culture, and sense of beauty.

Hanbok is known for its vibrant colors, simple lines, and elegant, flowing shape. Unlike many modern clothes, it does not include pockets and is designed to be loose and comfortable. A typical hanbok consists of a jeogori (jacket) and chima (skirt) for women, or baji (pants) for men. Its design focuses on natural movement and balance rather than tight-fitting forms.



Traditionally, hanbok was handmade using natural fabrics such as silk, ramie, and cotton. These materials were often dyed with natural ingredients to create soft yet vivid colors. Instead of complex cutting methods, hanbok uses flat patterns and straight lines. Its volume and beauty come from layering, pleats, and delicate stitching, showing both simplicity and skilled craftsmanship.

These days, hanbok is not commonly worn in daily life, but it still plays an important role in Korean culture. People wear hanbok during major holidays such as Seollal (Lunar New Year) and Chuseok (Harvest Festival), when families gather and honor their traditions. It is also worn for special occasions like weddings and a child's first birthday, known as Dol, where more formal and detailed designs are chosen.

In recent years, hanbok has become popular in more casual settings as well. Many people, especially tourists and young Koreans, wear modernized hanbok when visiting historical places like Gyeongbokgung Palace. These versions are lighter and more comfortable, making them easier to wear while walking or taking photos.

“Daily hanbok,” which combines traditional elements with modern fashion is also gaining popularity.

Hanbok continues to appear in modern Korean culture. It is often featured in films, television dramas, and K-pop performances, sometimes redesigned in creative ways. Through these influences, hanbok remains relevant and continues to evolve. Although it is no longer everyday clothing, hanbok remains a powerful symbol of Korea’s cultural heritage, beautifully connecting the past with the present.



0086- Chinese restaurant

Cecilia Miles



Chinese food has often been manipulated to suit local preferences and to be easy to make. This is not the case on Bleibtreu Strasse 7 in Berlin. 0086, a Chinese restaurant, specialising in Sichuan flavors. It greatly promotes authentic Sichuan food by having no fear to spice up their dishes, serving fresh ingredients, having an outstanding flavour balance, and so much more. 0086 is a new restaurant in Berlin, close to Savignyplatz, Kurfürstendamm, and many other restaurants, but this one stood out in particular.

0086 currently has 4.8 stars based on 810 reviews, and its customer base is growing rapidly. I would agree that this restaurant deserves 4.8 stars because of its incredible dishes and service. There are no reservations; however, it doesn't take long to wait for a seat (maximum 20 minutes), and the table service is great. They are quick to bring out the food, and the servers are very friendly. They speak both English and German.

Sichuan cuisine especially stands out because of its hot, bold tastes. 0086 has many hot and spicy dishes, mild dishes, and plainer dishes. A favourite of mine and my family had to be the sweet house-style eggplant, and the Mapo tofu. The eggplant was fried in a sweet glaze, a combination I could never imagine, but after eating, I couldn't stop thinking about. The Mapo Tofu is spicy and rich in flavour. Both are must-eats when visiting.



All About Painted Dogs

Everything you need to know about the wild dog with a peculiar name.

Ara Ogundiran - Staff Writer

Painted dogs (African wild dogs) are a species of wolf that live in the grasslands of Africa. Their scientific name is *Lycaon pictus* which means "painted wolf". They were sometimes mistaken for Hyenas.

Why are they called "Painted", and what do they look like?

Every painted dog has a coat that is completely unique (like a fingerprint). They have a mix of white, gold, dark brown, black, and beige fur. According to National Geographic, these colors help them hide in the tall grass. They also have big bat-like ears, which help them hear small sounds from far away.

Their relationships with each other

Painted dogs are incredibly social. They usually have packs that go up to 10 to 20 dogs, but sometimes these packs can have up to 40 dogs! Compared to other predators, they are much more sociable. The African Wildlife Foundation says they are very kind to their family members. When they go hunting, the adults come back and split up the food for their pups, and the older dogs stay at the den to protect the pups from leopards, lions, and hyenas.



How they hunt and are being hunted

Painted dogs are some of the most successful hunters in the world. They can run 44 miles per hour. Even though they are good at hunting, they are an endangered species and there are about 6,600 left in the wild. The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) explains that they are endangered because they are losing their homes and getting sick from diseases. People are trying to save them from going extinct.

How can we help?

We can all help save these animals by solving problems that affect them. Scientists are working with local farmers to keep the dogs safe from traps and cars. By learning more about them and sharing what we have learned to help, we can make sure the African wild dogs stay a part of Africa's wildlife so the animals around these hunters are not affected.



You Picked this up.

That means something. Or maybe you were just bored in the library. Either way, here you are, holding a thing that a bunch of students made mostly during their free periods and occasionally at 12am.

We wrote about the MacBook Neo, and Pope Leo, and all about painted dogs (it's genuinely fascinating). We also wrote about mental health, which took more courage than anything else in here.

Anyway. We hope something in these pages made you feel a little less alone, or a little more annoyed, or at least made the next 20 minutes go faster. See you next edition.

– **The Paw Print** 🐾