



REED *all* ABOUT IT

May 20, 2021

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SENIOR SIGNINGS

Ethan Spry & Victoria Gerdes
STAFF WRITER

Congratulations to five seniors for signing their commitments to colleges.

Connor Evenson, Gil Weston and Marco Pennelli all signed for tennis; Grant Masterson signed for swimming and Ty Patterson signed for golf.

Editor's note: Not all of them answered our e-mails, so this profile is a bit incomplete, but we know they are busy guys these days!

Here is a little of what we were able to learn about some of them and their exciting future plans.

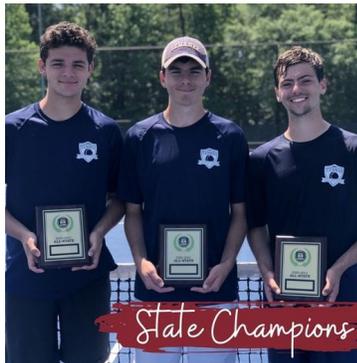
We are super excited for you all!

Grant Masterson, who will be at Rollins College, has been swimming competitively at Swim Atlanta for the past three years and previously swam at The Dynamo Swim Club for seven years.

He first swam on his neighborhood's summer league swim



team at the age of four. His favorite and best event to swim is in the 100 backstroke. In this race, he has a time of 57.10 seconds. (This is a competitive time, and it placed him 87th out of all



of Georgia!)

With all his swim experience after college, Masterson dreams to be a swim coach for other college swimmers.

Gil Weston is going to Sewanee: The University of the South for tennis. He has played in many tournaments and even won three. In 2019, he got first place in the Georgia State Junior Fall Open Doubles Championship.

Weston's favorite player is Dominic Thiem, an Austrian professional tennis player. Weston often uses a Wilson racket with Solinco stringing—which are great for power and spin, fitting Weston's play style perfectly.

Marco Pennelli committed to Xavier University. He is a very skilled tennis player, he even played in the National Junior Championships, which is the largest tournament for junior players in the entire country. Participating in this tournament was one of his favorite moments of his tennis career.

Pennelli chose Xavier because he loves the size of the school, and he is interested in their business program. He has been inspired by Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer for a very long time.

Ty Patterson committed to Shorter University on May 10. He'll be joining their Men's Golf Team.

Last but not least, **Connor**



Evenson will be playing tennis for the University of North Georgia.

Congratulations, gentlemen! We are incredibly proud of you and wish you all well!





Guess Who?

Grayce Darko
GUEST WRITER

Hey, Warriors! "Guess Who" is a fun, quick guessing game, where you read the answers to the following questions and guess which teacher or staff member it might be.

Here is this edition's installment:

What is your favorite hobby?

Walking.

What is your favorite color?

Coral.

What is your favorite school subject?

Science.

What college did you attend?

The University of North Georgia.

What did you do over quarantine?

Watch Netflix and do house projects.

What is your favorite season of the year?

Fall.



What is your favorite movie?

Steel Magnolias.

What is your favorite jewelry brand?

Kate Spade.

What is your favorite type of food?

Mexican food.

What is your favorite dessert:

Pumpkin cake.



*Which teacher—
or staff member—do you
think it is?**

*SEE BACK COVER FOR THE ANSWER

Editorial: Quirky Culture

Caroline Warner
STAFF WRITER

The phrase "I'm not like other girls" has been said for a while now. Not only does the phrase put down other females and in most cases is not even true, it's a perfect example of how "quirky culture" has gone too far. In today's world, being "quirky" and "different" is the main goal of many girls. Instead of being their actual selves, many girls are focused on changing themselves to make themselves seem to others "quirky" or a word that is used all the time now: "alt."

In no way am I saying things that the media perceives as "alt" are bad. I think that the hair styles and clothes styles look amazing and are really interesting, but when people put down girls for loving "basic" (a term that seems to change in its definition each year) things such as scrunchies, stores like American Eagle and artists like Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and Dua Lipa, the whole attitude toward the appearance of being "alt" and "quirky" becomes toxic.

BASIC

I believe that people do not need to be one thing. There seems to be this myth that girls can either be completely "alt" or completely "basic." Why as a society are we limiting ourselves and our personal expression? Why can't we listen to Lana Del Rey and Tame Impala but also listen to Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande and The Weeknd? Why can't young women dye the front strands of their hair but also wear scrunchies and white Air Force Ones?

The point I am getting at, why is classifying everyone as either "basic" or "alt" or the stereotypical and one dimensional trend of

defining every girl as either a "hey girly" or "bruh" girl necessary? Isn't the human condition that every person has multiple layers and things they enjoy? If that's the case, why would we define girls as a set "vibe" or "aesthetic" or make being "quirky" seem the most desirable thing in a girl, when we could simply let everyone live how they want?

I think instead of shaming young girls for being "basic," we should allow girls to be as "alt" or as "basic" as they want. I think a better message than the one of "quirky and different from other girls makes you better and more desirable," is the message of exploring and loving things you want, no matter the "aesthetic" or "vibe" our society has assigned those things.

You know what I think is quirky? Letting people love what they want, no matter how popular or discreet that thing may be.





The Five Stripe Freakwent

Dominic Yeremian
STAFF WRITER

Soccer is back! Atlanta United has been very busy in the transfer market, beefing up their team for this redemption season. Atlanta has acquired players such as young midfielders Santiago Sosa, Franco Ibarra, Erik Lopez and veteran striker Lisandro Lopez.

Atlanta started its season off with a win for the first time in club history. The win came against Costa Rican league champions L.D. Alajuelense in the CONCACAF Champions League.

The game started off rocky with goalkeeper Brad Guzan getting a red card after a dicey challenge. Winger Jack Mulraney was subbed off for recently loaned in Rocco Rios Novo from the Argentine club Lanús.

Rios Novo, 18, made a spectacular performance, not allowing a single goal in, giving a 10-man Atlanta United the win, and himself a dream debut. Ezequiel Barco scored the game winning goal with a penalty kick. Atlanta also won the second leg, beating L.D. Alajuelense with Jurgen Damm scoring the decider, making it 2-0 on aggregate.

On April 17, Atlanta played their first MLS game against rival Orlando City. The game ended in a 0-0 draw continuing Atlanta's unbeaten run.

On April 24, Atlanta played their home opener against Chicago Fire. Barco scored a beautiful volley after his attempt at a freekick was blocked, giving Atlanta a goal in the first half for the first time this season.

Emerson Hyndman and Chicago's own Johan Kappelhof also scored for Atlanta giving a comfortable 3-1 victory at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

In the quarter-final of the CONCACAF Champions League, Atlanta faced off against Philadelphia Union. Atlanta United lost 0-3 in the first leg and drew 1-1 in the second.

It turned into a very heated battle after many of the Philadelphia players were faking injuries to waste time or draw fouls. The referee in charge, Jair Marrufo, did not show a single card for any of these instances, which is controversial since simulation is a punishable offense.

Atlanta lost their third MLS game of the season against the New England Revolution. Atlanta looked lousy in the first half despite tying it up just before the second



half, thanks to a well taken PK from Marcelino Moreno.

In the second half Atlanta looked menacing until a PK was called in favor of New England. It was a dicey decision that could have been called either way, and in this case it was called in favor of the Revs after a VAR check. Atlanta lost the game 2-1.

Atlanta then faced off against Inter Miami FC. The game ended in a 1-1 draw. This game was a big deal for one in particular. Josef Martinez scored for the first time since coming back from his ACL injury. Sadly in the later minutes of the game Atlanta fell asleep and Miami was able to pull level.

After that result, Atlanta has not won in four games. These recent results are making some fans disappointed in the way Atlanta is performing so far this season and expect another horrible season like the last. When asked his opinion on the thoughts of these fans, senior Matt Meek said, "I agree with the fans, it's not that impossible to try and think outside of a European style of play. Tata Martino was aggressive and played unlike the rest of the league, and that's why we were so good, because we were different."

Junior Alexander Monks was asked if fans who expect a title this season were thinking unrealistically, in which he replied, "If the only thing you value in sports is a championship, then you're going to be disappointed almost every year. Fans should never expect a championship no matter the team's talent,

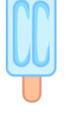
but there's nothing wrong in hoping."

In my opinion, which I rarely give on this paper, people should not expect Atlanta to perform anything like Tata's 2018 or even 2017 team. Last season the team had to deal with their coach, Frank De Boer leaving, their star striker getting injured, Covid-19, and many other problems within the front office.

Atlanta United was in a coma in 2020. Players were unable to grow because they did not have any guidance across the whole season. No veteran striker. No world renowned coach. No fans in the stadium to back them. It is going to be a while before those players are able to compete with the team we had under Tata.

It is crucial that we stand behind not only our team but our new coach Gabriel Heinze. Atlanta is rebuilding and rebuilds take time.

Atlanta is playing CF Montreal on May 15 at home. This will not be written about due to the editing deadline of this paper. Montreal is in similar form as Atlanta so it should be an even match.





Atlanta Hawks, Flying High

Clayton Couey
STAFF WRITER

Hotlanta is here but it is not just the weather that is warming up. The Hawks came out hot after their first five games going 4-1 but went very downhill from there. They had only had ten more wins in their next twenty-nine games and change was needed for the team. The coach Llyod Pierce could not turn them around and fans were not happy with the wasted talent of the team. So Llyod was fired and he was replaced by the assistant coach, Nate McMillan and with still many games to play, fans hoped for a turn-around. If the Hawks could get hot they could fly up the rankings due to the Eastern Conference's weak records.



have a record of 34-27. This did not all come from the changing of the coach, however. Trae Young has always been able to score many points but basketball is not a one-person sport. John Collins has been solid all season getting many points, rebounds, and assists. Bogdan Bogdanovic, who was traded to the Hawks this year as been very good recently having multiple games over 25 points. Last but not least Danilo Gallinari, Kevin Huerter, and Clint Capela are crucial players who consistently put up many points and when they get hot can be unstoppable.

Then things changed. With a 14-20 record the Hawks would need to play very well for the next few weeks to be in contention for the playoffs. That's exactly what they did. They beat the Miami Heat on March 2 and then Orlando on the third. Then they had seven days to rest until their next game at Toronto. The Hawks were losing going into the fourth quarter but they managed to out-score Toronto by 11 points in the fourth quarter with a buzzer-beater three-pointer

by Tony Snell to win the game by one. They cruised through their next four games and had a game agaisnt last year's champions, The LA Lakers. They won defensively and held off the Lebron-led Lakers to set an NBA record of eight consecutive wins. Junior McCord Grice says, "What the Hawk are doing is very impressive. Trae Young's flamboyant play style, passion, and leadership has been a huge reason for their success. Their front court has shined as well with Capela and Collins."

Currently being a four seed in the Eastern Conference (written on April 26) the Hawks have a very good chance to make the playoffs and not have to participate in the play-in games. They are finally doing what Llyod Pierce wanted for the team it just needed a slight change to make a big difference. Clayton Couey says, "It feels great to have a team in contention, it's exciting to know that the Hawks could make the playoffs and maybe win it all if they get hot again."

Most recently, the Hawks beat the Houston Rockets 124-55 on May 16.

Go-Go-Go Golfer: McCord Grice Third in State

Clayton Couey
STAFF WRITER

The GISA State Championship took place in Brunswick on April 26. The weather was sunny with midwinds and opportunities for success. The golf course was Brunswick Country Club that had tight fairways and fast greens, it was no walk in the park. After playing the golf course the day before, the team of Ty Patterson, Madi Owens, Clayton Couey, McCord Grice and Justin "Jelly" Mikels, were looking forward to the next day.

ten on the hole ten. After hitting his tee shot in the water on his first hole he stayed positive and focused. This helped him hit good shots and putts to set up two birdies on his front nine. He played pretty well on the back nine to finish with a great score of 73. This let him finish in a tie for third place in his first State Championship as a Warrior. He said afterward after being asked how he felt to place in the tournament, "Feels pretty good. Left some shots out there for sure, but I'm definitely happy to place!"



After driving over eight hours the night before from a golf tournament in Alabama, Grice arrived at his hotel after midnight. He arrived at Brunswick Country Club the next day with his fellow teammates. He warmed up by hitting on the range and hitting some putts. His teammates that did not already tee off talked and then said bye. After that he headed to his first hole which took place

Fellow teammates Ty Patterson and Clayton Couey both had good rounds that day also. The senior, Patterson, played in his last state championship shooting seventy-eight and is looking forward to playing collegiate golf at Shorter College. The frosh, Couey, also shot 78 after a poor start but battled

back with a total of four birdies on the day. He said, "Yeah it was a tough start and I just made some mental errors, but once when I got a full plan on what to do, good things started to come."

The team as a whole did not have their best day but most players still have the next year or years to compete for the title.





Apple of My iMac: Review

Kishan Patel
STAFF WRITER

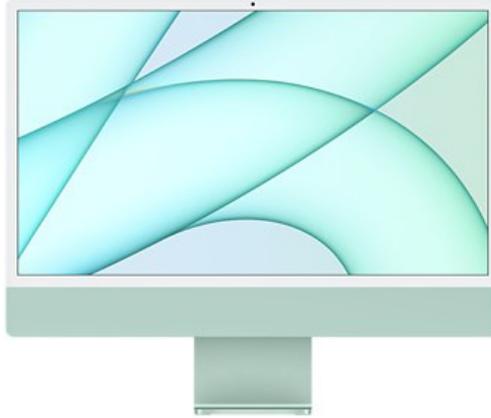
The way Apple presents its computers these days is stranger and stranger. Apple is known for its many ingenious ways of wringing out its clients for every last drop of their money, and I applaud them for that. Using these strategies, Apple is the first company to amass a net worth of more than \$2 trillion. Whether it's in accessories or adapters, Apple knows how to get its clients to pay for things that they should just provide standardly.

The new iMac is a great example of this.

I briefly owned a hand-me-down iMac from 2011 that I received from my uncle. Owning it instantly made me nostalgic for the Steve Jobs era of Apple. Current Apple C.E.O. Tim Cook has a different philosophy from Jobs on how to make money for the company. Jobs believed in creating a great product selling it cheap with everything you need already in the box while Cook believes in selling a great product but including nothing "standard," meaning you have to buy everything as an additional add on.

My 2011 iMac I had every kind of connection port you could have wanted from that era: HDMI, multiple USB ports, a printer/heavy duty port--and, of course, its power adapter. Apple has changed this in 2021.

Of course the iMac is still the iMac, but it is very much from the Cook-era of Apple. You see, now the iMac offers multiple USB-C ports, which are great because they



are adaptable for any kind of connection but bad because they only have one shape. This means you have to buy expensive Apple adapters just to plug something into your computer, which can add up to more than \$300.

But that's not all.

Another problem with the iMac doesn't have to do with money at all--only the design. It's ugly! There's no getting around it! Apple tried to mix old with the new, but they would have been better off going 100% new or old. As it stands, the new iMac just isn't good looking.

Apple fans may also notice an absence of one popular color that has stayed constant on all Mac models until now. Space gray, a popular alternative to the standard white, is unavailable on the new Mac models. I think this is because Apple is waiting to launch this color on the iMac Pro models instead, as the pro models notoriously cost upwards of \$400 more than the standard Mac.

All that said, it's not all bad. Apple has released the new iMac in multiple colors--they just don't space gray.

Ninth grader Sydney Sessions comments, "I like them all," while fellow ninth grader Drew Yuhas takes a hard left.

"The colors are okay, but boring. I would want to have brighter colors."

Yuhas would be happy to

learn that those brighter colors are available, for \$200 more, in the high-end models.

It seems that Tim Cook just can't help himself.

Now, let's talk about why I like this.

Coming from a family of business owners on both sides, I can say honestly, that this is a good way to run a business. Prompting your consumers with more glamorous, name-brand options just makes it feel

more special, and Apple's customers can afford to pay up big for some of the more expensive add-ons. Apple was the first company to hit one and two trillion dollars in net worth; and, with its current projections, that number could nearly double in the coming decades.





iPad Pro—or Maybe Con?

Kishan Patel
STAFF WRITER

Tech giant Apple held their first of what may be many events in 2021, Spring Loaded, which covered new product launches and jam-packed innovation. To summarize, we see a new phone color with iPhone 12—and, speaking of colors, we got a new iMac model. Both of these launched alongside a new iPad Pro and a tracking device, much like those from the popular company Tile.

With the end of spring near, Apple has decided to launch a spring-themed product. The iPhone 12, which came out last October, is currently Apple’s most popular phone. From its launch, it has been available in a variety of colors. At this event, it was revealed that the popular phone gained a color for its expansive pallet—now, it is sold in purple, alongside white, black, red, blue and green.

iMac also made technology headlines, with the first major upgrade since 2006 (refreshed models came in 2010 and 2012). The Mac retains the same general shape and screen position, but changes in its thickness and technology are what make it a big deal in the tech world.

For the first time ever, the iMac models feature Apple’s own M1 Processor chip. A new, yet worthy, competitor to more popular companies like Intel, IBM, and AMD, the Apple M1 chip delivers shockingly fast performance for its size. The M1 chip allows the iMac to be far thinner—so much thinner that the original iPhone was actually thicker than the computer.

But iMac news doesn’t stop there. The iMac once again offers colors, which haven’t been readily available for almost 20 years. The base model Mac offers blue,



green, pink and Apple’s classic white. Higher trim levels offer all of those, plus yellow, orange and purple.

Eighth grader Sydney Sessions calls these colors “so pretty,” but some have criticized them for being too childish or not modern enough.

A new iPad Pro also made its debut at the event—and I have a lot to say about it.

Apple has always marketed the iPad Pro as a “computer that’s not a computer,” essentially a replacement for the everyday laptop. In my opinion, this isn’t a good way to sell it. Yes, that’s what most people use it for, but then they don’t have sales with the (more profitable) MacBook Air and Pro models. However, this year nothing has changed with that marketing, and Apple continues to sell the iPad Pro as a “computer.”

Here’s my problem with that. Previously, Apple has just used a faster version of the same iPhone processors in the iPad Pro but with the bionic name (e.g. A12, A12 Bionic). This year, though, they have completely kicked the iPad Pro off the A-Series platform. The new iPad Pro models are now

using the same processors we see in the new iMac, MacBook and Mac Mini models.

This means you get the same performance as a 24” desktop computer in your tablet. I suspect that soon the iPad Pro will be canceled as a tablet, and will be added on as a touchscreen Mac model in the coming years.

Finally, the last new product released in April is AirTags. These are compact tracking devices that allow you to precisely narrow down a location for any of your items. AirTags are great—you can attach them to anything and track them, inch by inch, in the Find My app. They come in a value pack of four or in just a pack of one but proved to be a worthy competitor to the slightly less expensive Tile.

Apple markets these as an “easy way to keep track of your keys, wallet, backpack, and more.” AirTags are sold with a leather loop to attach to things and are available in an Hermes edition starting at \$300.

That’s everything that Apple released and announced at its 2021 “Spring Loaded” event. Look out for my other article in this issue, which discusses my take on the new iMac models and sees them in a closer perspective.

Overall, Apple launched a plethora of great products, even if I don’t agree with some.

coughs at the iPad Pro, which runs faster than my laptop





Album Review: Quadeca's "From Me to You"

Dominic Yeremian
STAFF WRITER



Benjamin Lasky, more commonly known as Quadeca, is a musician that originated from YouTube. In 2019 Quadeca released his debut album *Voice Memos*, which received positive feedback from fans and newcomers to his music.



On March 30, *From Me to You* was released and, once again, Quadeca received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback.



When asked his opinion on the album, senior Gabe Secen said, "It's not an album. It's a symphony." Without further ado, here is my review.

Track 2: "Sisyphus"



Sisyphus was the king of Corinth who was eternally damned to Hades. There he rolled a heavy rock up hill that would always fall when nearing the top. That being the song's name, this has a metaphorical meaning throughout the song, as well as the album.



Quadeca relates to Sisyphus, always striving to get to the peak of the hill but never reaching it—even though it is so close to him. Whether it be with relationships with others or his progression with music, he cannot reach that point that evades him.



The production on this song is stunning and reminds me of Tyler the Creator's *IGOR*. This song has potential to be one of the best songs of 2021.

9/10

Track 8: "Maybe Another Day..."



On "Maybe Another Day..." Quadeca really shows his amazing use of percussion. With digital and real drums intertwined, the snap of the drums hit well. The percussion is likewise well produced and serves as a great base for the rest of the song. He rides the beat from start to finish with a nice intensity, never being an overpowered force in a song that has a lot going on.



Quadeca plays with his vocals on this track, and it works really well. It leaves zero dull moments throughout. The song is four and a half minutes long, but it does not overstay its welcome. Its placement in the album works really well, being a huge energy shift after a slow song and a calming interlude.



This song deals with how persistence can make someone physically and mentally strained and have them sinking into procrastination and laziness. This song asks the questions "Do I really need to get out of bed today?" or "Do I really need to roll this rock up the hill today?" relating back to "Sisyphus." Why do these tasks when doing them another day will not change the outcome and the peak will still evade him?

8/10

Track 16: "Where'd You Go?"

This track is in your face, fast and intense. This song is a braggadocious rap song, but it is so entertaining. No metaphors and no loopy loop ways of saying, "Look at me now."

This song gives new meaning to the peak that keeps evading Quadeca. He realizes that this peak is not something to obtain or arrive at.

The peak has been made up by other people's expectations of him and his music. Due to his past of not being accepted by his peers, it's gotten him to a point where they can never reach. Now noticing he doesn't need to reach a peak he can find his own summit (hence, the next two songs are "Summit, Pt. 1" and "Summit, Pt. 2").

The production of this song is disgusting—and I mean that in a good way. As soon as the song begins, you already know you are in for a hard-hitting song with no remorse.

7/10

This album is such a drastic step forward for Quadeca. It's almost as if he is a completely new artist compared to *Voice Memos*.

From Me to You is inspiring for artists who are just starting their careers. Quadeca has come a long way from "Wii Music Fire," and this project shows that anyone can come from anything.

This album is an 8/10. There are some songs that don't do too much harm being in there but would be better if taken out, such as "Can't You See?" and "It's All a Game." Other than that, this album is absolutely astonishing and needs to be listened to.

I can't wait for what is coming next



Taylor Swift's Albums: Ranked

Caroline Warner
STAFF WRITER

As an established Taylor Swift stan, I have many opinions on her work (both positive and negative). In the Taylor Swift stan community, the ranking of her albums from “best” to “worst” is very controversial and the center of many twitter fights. With Swift’s albums being so powerful she was the first woman to win album of the year twice and three times at the Grammys, it’s no surprise her albums are analyzed down to extreme detail. Here is my (unpopular) Taylor Swift Album ranking in order from my favorite to least favorite. Of course, no work of Ms. Swift is “bad,” but I do like some albums more than others.

1. *Folklore*

Folklore is hands down my favorite Taylor Swift album. The latest of her three albums that have won album of the year, *Folklore* shows the mastery of Swift’s songwriting. Rob Sheffield from *Rolling Stone Magazine* says that *Folklore* contains the “most head-spinning, heartbreaking, emotionally ambitious songs of her life” (rollingstone.com).

Within the album itself, Swift sings about historical events and even created a fictional love triangle represented by three songs. It is no wonder that *Folklore* won album of the year at the grammys in 2021.

Favorite songs: “August” and “My Tears Ricochet”

2. *Evermore*

Folklore’s sister album *Evermore* continues with the vibes of tripped down folk songs given on the *Folklore* album. Similar to its sister album, *Evermore* also contains fictional stories and non-autobiographical songs. Although the album as a whole is not as “good” of an album as I view *Folklore*, *Evermore* contains amazing songwriting and with the sad style of the songs, it showcases Swift’s ability to make her listeners emotional.

Favorite Songs: “Ivy and “Cowboy Like Me”

3. *1989*



Containing 5 billboard top 100 #1 hits (a record for the most #1 hits off a single album in music history) and winning Swift’s second album of the year at the Grammys, even if you don’t like Swift, you have to admit *1989* was an iconic album. *1989* was and probably will be her most popular and successful album, with *1989* setting multiple new records in music. *1989* is Swift’s first album where she sounds “grown up” and instead of pure love songs she had written previously to this album, *1989* takes a more “fun” approach to relationships. *1989* shows Swift moving on, holding grudges (“Bad Blood”), creating crazy characters of herself (with her hit “Blank Space”) and reflecting on her emotional needs (like in the song “Clean”), *1989* is truly an incredible album.

Music critic Vrinda Jagota from *Pitchfork*



says about the album *1989*, “You can almost hear her winking on every track.”

Favorite songs: “Clean” and “Wildest Dreams”

4. *Lover*

Although some of her stans try to criticize

her 7th studio album *Lover*, I think it’s better than most of her albums. On the album as a whole, *Lover* may appear a little “messier” than her other albums such as *1989* and *Fearless*, and I think the singles she chose for the album do not represent the album well; but what draws me to *Lover* is that it’s a very healing album and reflects what is truly important to Swift.

The album covers subjects such as anxiety, her mom’s cancer, and her longtime boyfriend Joe Alywn, but with songs like “The Man” and “You Need To Calm Down,” Swift speaks her mind on society’s sexism, homophobia and transphobia. The song “You Need To Calm Down” got thousands of people to sign the Equality Act, which Swift endorsed.

Favorite Songs: “Cruel Summer” and “The Archer”

5. *Reputation*

In 2016, at the height of Swift’s success after *1989*, Kanye West accused Swift of lying about giving West permission to include vulgar lyrics about her in one of his songs “Famous.” Even though four years after this drama, in 2020 a full unedited video would come out showing Swift’s innocence and that West was in fact the one who lied, Swift saw her reputation plummet over night. She faced death threats from Kanye Stans and disappeared for a year (literally no one physically saw her for a year).





Swift: Ranked *(continued)*

Eventually, after a three-year break in music, Swift returned with a “clap-back” to Kanye West, releasing *Reputation*. The album was Taylor Swift as no one had ever seen her before, with her making it clear she did not care what people thought about her and that she was not going to let another artist ruin her life. The album’s



strength doesn’t come from Swift’s amazing “clap-back” at West. It comes from songs such as “Call It What You Want,” showing that she had developed the confidence to ignore hate and focus on her relationship and self-love. After *Reputation*, she became the first woman to ever have an all stadium tour and The *Reputation* Stadium tour became the highest grossing tour in American history. I would say she won that feud.

Favorite Songs: “Don’t Blame Me” and “Getaway Car”.

6. *Speak Now*

In my opinion, *Speak Now* is Swift’s best country album and the album itself showcases Swift’s talent, with every single song on the album being written by Swift alone. *Speak Now* shows Swift’s brilliant song writing ability and shows the struggles of being a young adult. Junior Michelle Laury says that *Speak Now* is her favorite album because “it’s the most nostalgic for [her].” Even though many critics like to focus on *Fearless* out of all of her country albums,



Speak Now is an amazing country album and is extremely underrated.

Favorite Songs: “Dear John” and “Haunted”.

7. *Red*

Although I view *Red* overall as one of her messier albums, *Red* is an extremely important album to Swift’s career, as it was the first album she experimented

with pop music on. *Red* offers an amazing fusion of country and pop music. Her song “22” was so popular, it’s almost impossible to escape a 22nd birthday party without hearing the hit. *Red* did not just possess some of Swift’s more fun songs, it also contains the heart breaking song “All Too Well”, which most critics agree is one of her most impressive songs ever.

Favorite Songs: “All Too Well” and “Begin Again.”

8. *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)*

In 2021, Taylor Swift re-recorded her 2008 groundbreaking country album *Fearless*, so she could own her own music (In 2019, the music rights to her first six albums were sold to Scooter Braun without Swift’s knowledge). *Fearless* and *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)* are interchangeable, except Taylor’s Version has some new bonus songs on it. *Fearless* was her breakthrough album, with country smash hits like “Love Story” and “You Belong With Me” being on the album. *Fearless* was Swift’s first album of the year win at the Grammys. At the time, she was the youngest person to ever win album of the year and the song “White Horse” from the album won song of the year as well. To this date, *Fearless*, is the most awarded country music album ever.

Do I think *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)* is as good as her other albums? No. Do I think even if Swift only had *Fearless* out as a singular album she would still be considered one of her generation’s best songwriters? Yes.

Favorite Songs: “White Horse” and “Forever and Always”

9. *Debut: Taylor Swift*

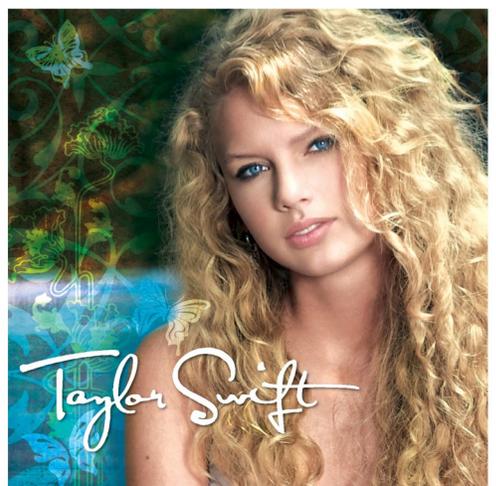
Swift’s first self-titled debut album *Taylor Swift* contained many good country songs, and as a 16 year old, Swift controlled the country charts during the summer of 2006. Her first single ever “Tim McGraw” and the country hit “Our Song” are featured on the album. Swift’s debut album is my least favorite album of hers, but I think it shows her strength as an artist that with each al-



bum released, her albums got better and better.

Favorite Song: “Teardrops On My Guitar”

In conclusion, the following is all of Taylor Swift’s music ranked from in my opinion, best to worst. Although some professional music critics may disagree with me on my ranking of Swift’s albums, it’s hard to argue with a sixteen year old superfan.



Cryptocurrencies on the Rise

Ethan Spry
STAFF WRITER

Nowadays, it seems like everyone is talking about virtual stocks and virtual currencies, but most people get overwhelmed by it all and give up on trying to understand it all. Many people don't even know the difference between a BitCoin and a DogeCoin, one is worth around 60,000 dollars, and the other one is worth around 30 cents. This doesn't necessarily mean that you should try to only buy the expensive one, but you should try to take into consideration what advantages each one has. I am going to show you some popular cryptocurrencies and stocks that will likely increase this summer.

A cryptocurrency is basically money online, or virtual money that you can purchase and the price can go up or down. The more people buy a cryptocurrency, the higher the price will go. The more people who sell that cryptocurrency, the lower the price will go. This means that if you pick the right cryptocurrency, you can make a lot of money off of it. Cryptocurrencies vary in price. Some can be less than a cent, while others can be over \$60,000. Each cryptocurrency has its own benefits that will attract people to buy it.

The first crypto I think will increase in the summer is Ethereum. Ethereum is special because it has a network where you can build your own transaction tools. This network is called Eth. Build, and you can assist you in learning more about Ethereum. One Ethereum costs around \$3,500, as of right



now, and it has been heavily increasing in the past couple of months.

Another cryptocurrency you should consider is BitCoin. BitCoin is the most popular cryptocurrency as of right now, it stands at around \$60,000 for one BitCoin. This does not mean that you would have to spend \$60,000 to buy any BitCoin. You can buy very small amounts of BitCoin if you like. If you wish, you could buy 0.000 000 01 BitCoin. Being the most popular, it is likely to get more and more popular, which is why many people are investing in it. It also makes transactions easy and hard to trace.

This is more of a broad topic, but cryptocurrencies that are very small can make you lots of money. For example, recently a cryptocurrency went from 9 cents, all the way to \$3,000. This means that if you put one singular dollar into that cryptocurrency, now you would have around \$33,333. All of

this happened in one day; so, if you get lucky with the right crypto, you can make lots of money. Another example of this could be DogeCoin, it used to be around 0.002 dollars, but now it is around 0.3 dollars, and its peak was around 0.8 dollars. If you put money into DogeCoin when it was around 0.002 dollars, you would make a lot of money when it went up to 0.8 dollars.

Also, something like BitCoin can't just surge to twice its price, but these smaller coins can. This means if you put \$10 into BitCoin, it would have to go to \$120,000 in order for your money to double, which is not going to happen overnight. If you put \$10 into a much smaller cryptocurrency, it would not be that groundbreaking if it doubled in a day.

After all of this, never invest what you are not comfortable with losing. The stock market and cryptocurrencies can be very confusing, and at times its best to not risk a lot.

This is just a list of popular cryptocurrencies that I think will keep growing over time, not investment advice.

Do not go thinking you can become a millionaire in one day and invest all your savings into some random cryptocurrency. Be careful with your money!

Eighth grader, Drew Yuhas says, "Cryptocurrencies can be a very powerful tool, but you should be careful when investing."

I Know What You Did Last Summer (Nothing)—Ideas for This Year

Andrew Couey
STAFF WRITER

There are a number of things you can do this summer that you could not do last summer, and here are a few!

A lot of theme parks are opening up, which would be a fun family bonding experience. If you want your mind off things and want to have the wind in your hair and overpriced food and drinks, a theme park is



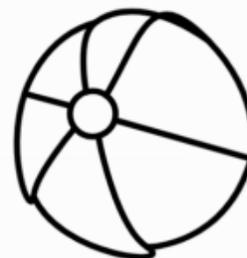
place for you.

If you are still concerned with the coronavirus, national parks are still there ready to be seen. This would be camping trips, breathtaking sights, fun activities like canoeing -, hiking, sightseeing, wildlife observing and many more. This would be a good deep

breath break from all the crazy things in the world.

Sporting events are different in person. You don't get the same experience through glowing rectangles, so go cheer on your favorite sports team, eat some unhealthy food and have a good time.





HELLO SUMMER!

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BARBECUE
 BEACH
 BIKES
 CAMPING
 FIREWORKS
 FLIPFLOPS
 FLOWERS
 FRIENDS

FRUIT
 FUN
 HOT
 LEMONADE
 MEMORIES
 POOL
 POPSICLES
 RELAX

SANDCASTLES
 SUNSHINE
 SWIMMING
 SWIMSUITS
 VACATION





“GUESS WHO” ANSWER: MS. TAYLOR!