



"Pop Smoke" by Bryce Baum

Dress to Impress

BY ABIGAIL DOPERAK

Children are powered by creativity. A cardboard box isn't just a box, but a rocket ship to take it's passengers to the moon. A dog isn't just a dog, but a dragon that is preventing the prince from reaching his princess in the far away tower.

Society encourages imagination from children, but at what age does that start to fade? At what age do we start to expect more time for work than play?

When does creativity stop?

Today's culture appears to allow so much room for self-expression in society and on the internet, yet teenagers do not feel the same level of creativity and expression as they did when they were younger. These young adults are being faced with stricter rules and expectations nowadays that the pressure is on.

Things are being stripped away to demote the process of creativity. The joy of playing in the snow on snow days is now gone with the solidation of online schooling resources for every student. More uniform writing

prompts are being given in classes rather than letting students pick and choose how to express their thoughts.

Most of all, students are struggling to properly express themselves and feel their best due to the demanding constraints of modern day dress codes.

According to the Derry Area School District handbook "Derry Area administration reserves the right to question any mode of dress/jewelry/hair style that is beyond current community/school accepted standards or that jeopardizes the health, welfare or safety of the student or other students." These rules are implemented to keep a modest environment in the classrooms. They will keep from any distractions pertaining to revealing clothing and inappropriate dress. Students need to stay focused on academic work rather than clothing and appearance.

Derry Area student Ashley Baker thinks "why not both?"

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THIS WEEK'S POLL **Are you happy to be back for in-person learning?**

YES or NO

To place your vote, please visit The Station.

Glad To Be Back

By CYDNEY WIERZBOWSKI

As we enter the 2021-2022 there is one noticeable change compared to last year, our students are back. During last school year, the halls felt empty. While we were in hybrid mode classes had as little as three students in the classroom. Then when we switched to fully online classes, they were filled with tiny icons and muted mics.

Personally I am glad to be back in person, but I wanted to know how other students and teachers felt too.

When we started off last school year, I

felt isolated from my teachers, and friends. Staring at a screen all day often led me to get distracted or bored although the teachers tried their best.

Attending school in my own room contributed to those distractions; I had the freedom to go on my phone without the teacher seeing or could be interrupted by my cat trying to walk over my computer.

With virtual schooling, the change of scenery was refreshing but then my bedroom became my classroom. I no longer had a separate space for homework and the days felt long like the work was endless in

a space that no longer was mine. I had not realized how much I had missed school, this being one thing I never thought I would say.

When talking to teachers last year, most described remote learning as "difficult" and "sad." One noticeable thing last year was the struggle with technology, between the WIFI/computer issues and lack of technological knowledge.

"Although I have a technology background", Mr. Curcio expressed, "nothing can replace in person learning."

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Bishop Sycamore: The Horror Behind the Comedy

By **BRANDON UNCAPHER**

On August 29th, 2021, the night before the first day of school, if you turned on ESPN, you saw Bishop Sycamore play IMG Academy. This turned out to be a blowout, with IMG winning 58-0. However, that was only the beginning. What followed was the uncovering of one of the biggest high school sports scandals in history; a tale of deception, greed, and broken promises.

The story does not begin with Bishop Sycamore, but with Christians of Faith (CoF), led by 2 of the 3 guys who run

Bishop Sycamore: Roy Johnson and Jay Richardson (Andre Peterson, the Bishop Sycamore school director, was not a staff member but had his son playing there), and overall 5 of 8 staff members on Bishop Sycamore were on CoF.

In 2018, they created what they called an "Elite" private online charter school.. Most players were from 18-21, 5th year Seniors or graduates looking for one last chance, and they were promised exposure to D1 colleges, great education, and playing great football while furthering their journey with God.

It turned out to be a disaster of epic proportion. The students were promised a dorm was going to be built and in the interim, they would be staying in a hotel. Instead, it never was built and they were not given money or food, and many had to resort to stealing food and then they got evicted due to unpaid bills. They then had to stay in a coach's house, and most had to sleep on floors. There were no classes, and they had their academic rights revoked by October.

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3 things

PSAT

This year's PSAT will be on Wednesday, October 13. Students interested in participating should register by Friday, September 24. Students should review their emails and Google Classrooms for registration information or see the high school Counseling Office. The test is free.

Student Council

Student Council applications are available outside Mrs. Prato's (E307) and Mrs. Dorazio's (G403) rooms, freshmen are encouraged to apply if they are interested in joining student government. Applications must be completed and returned by October 7, 2021.

Homecoming Tickets

Tickets for the Homecoming Dance will be on sale starting Tuesday, September 28th in Mrs. Prato's room, E307. Tickets are \$5 and will only be sold during homeroom. CASH ONLY, no checks. The Homecoming Dance is on Saturday, October 9 in the Middle School Parking Lot 7pm to 10 pm.

For *DAILY 3 Things*, visit *The Station*.

The Moon by Kathryn McChesney

The Moon can listen,
It will be there whenever you can't sleep,
It adds light to the darkest nights,
I admire it so much.
The moon is incomplete sometimes but is always there.
I hope to be like that,
No matter how bad of a mess I am,
I hope to be there for people
In their darkest nights,
I hope to be other's moon.

Steps to Success

BY **JANE HUSS** and **REBECCA HUSS**

On September 2nd, I broke the home course record as a freshman against River Valley with a time of 21:34.

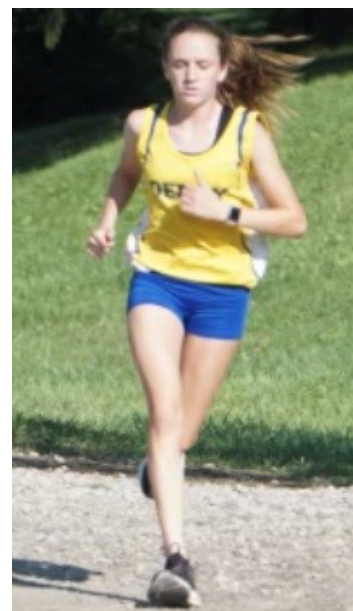
I have been running track since I was around 4 years old in track club, and I joined the middle school track team in 7th grade. I looked up to my older brothers, Justin Huss and William Huss, a lot. They inspired me to push to improve every day. Because I know how much I looked up to Justin and William in elementary school, I want to be a good role model for my younger brother, Wade Huss.

Entering high school, long distance was always my favorite, so I knew joining the cross country team was the right decision for me.

Competition motivates me to improve, so I enjoy running with athletes who are more experienced than me during practices and meets. They help me by motivating me to reach my goals and improve myself as an athlete.

My objectives for the future of my cross country career are to be a good leader, unite the team, and encourage others like my family and coaches encourage me. I desire to make my family, coaches, team, and myself proud. I intend to attend college for track, cross country, or both. I also want to carry on the good reputation for my family set by my brothers before me.

The course against River Valley was a total of 3.1 miles, consisting of long stretches and a minimal amount of hills. I was challenged to start off with running a lap around the track, then going past the practice football field on the trail and making my way up pine tree hill, running on the other side of the practice football field and behind the press box, making a lap around the band field, going past the tennis courts on the trail and behind the soccer fields in the direction of Grandview, running up the hill by the One



Room Schoolhouse, and down "pine tree hill." After completing that, I had to do that same course again and finish off with a lap around the track.

When I first stepped on the 100 meter starting point on the track was when I first felt the butterflies.

Looking at my fellow competitors, I felt very nervous because I was a freshman and had never competed with them before. Although I had some nerves, I felt confident in myself.

Making my way around the course, I kept a steady pace. Hills usually make me anxious during races because they're tiring, but they weren't as challenging on this course compared to other ones. I was the most tired coming down pine tree hill by the practice football field; this is where I gave my very best effort and sprinted because I knew that I would feel great once I finished the race.

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