

THE FACTORY TIMES

February 2022 | Spring Issue One

In this issue...

A CALL FOR IN-PERSON GRADUATION

3D PRINT CLUB PINEWOOD DERBY

THE GAMING INDUSTRY'S FUTURE?

...and more!

THE FACTORY TIMES

pursuing creativity

CONTENTS

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The Importance of In-Person Graduation	4
Event Showcase: 3D Printed Pinewood Derby	6
Scenes From Poly	8
Diwali	12
Business As Usual Comics	14
Does Knowledge Make Us Blind?	16
The Future of the Gaming Industry	18
I Will Not Forget	20
Thoughts on Gratitude	21
Squid Game TV Show Review	24
The Virtue in Finding the Truth	26
Love Your City	28
Broad Range Art Tech Exhibition (Submissions due March 11th!)	30
Earn an Advanced Degree at SUNY Poly	31

- THE IMPORTANCE OF IN-PERSON GRADUATION -



College is by far one of the most difficult, yet rewarding, four years of a person's life. The amount of time and energy that students spend on their coursework and extracurriculars is, in a sense, astronomical. However, all of this hard work is worth it in the end because of the coveted undergraduate degree that comes with it. All the hard work leads to a piece of paper that makes all the sleepless nights worth it. One of the important events that come with receiving a diploma is graduation. Walking on the stage to accept one's college diploma is one of the most gratifying experiences one can have in their life. So, the main point of this article is to explain why having an in-person commencement ceremony in May for SUNY Poly's class of 2022 is irrevocably necessary.

One of the main reasons that an in-person commencement ceremony in May is necessary is because the 2021 commencement ceremony was in person. This ceremony was in-person when COVID cases were surging. This commencement ceremony was a huge success. Additionally, some restrictions ensured the safety of the graduates, SUNY Poly employees, and guests. The fact that this ceremony was still held with these restrictions means that this year's ceremony should follow suit. Regardless of how strict the restrictions are, it is crucial to have this ceremony be in person.

Another reason why an in-person commencement ceremony in May is necessary relates to residential students. There are a lot of residential students that don't live near Utica. If the commencement ceremony was postponed to a later date, there may be some residential students that are unable to attend. This is not fair to them, as they could have attended if the ceremony had been held on its original date.

Yet another reason as to why an in-person commencement ceremony in May is necessary is because of all of the hard work that the soon-to-be graduates have put into their studies. If you have graduated from college, please take some time to look back on your undergraduate career. Do you remember all the hours that you put into what seemed like, at some times, a cornucopia's worth of homework? Do you remember all the friends that you made along the way? Do you remember the connections you made with your professors? Now, take some time to think about your college graduation ceremony. Was spending all of that time on homework finally worth it? Were you able to enjoy the time with your friends and family? Did you take photos with your professors who taught you so much in such a short amount of time? Now, don't you think that every single college graduate deserves that? Most people would probably agree that every college graduate deserves an in-person commencement ceremony. Now that COVID cases are substantially lower, it is evident that an in-person ceremony is on the horizon.

Hopefully, this article sheds some light on why an in-person commencement ceremony in May is necessary. If you are still on the fence about whether this ceremony should be in person, talk to some college students/graduates in your life. How many of them emphasized how beneficial an in-person commencement ceremony is? The number is probably significantly higher than you might think.

To the SUNY Poly administration, I leave you with this: think about what your students want and what they deserve when it comes to their commencement ceremony.

Written By Justin Savoy
Designed By Sai Mahesh Podile

Event Showcase

3D Printed Pinewood Derby

Interview by Justin Savoy

These questions were answered by Trevor Dunn, President of the 3D Print Club at SUNY Poly! The purpose of this article is to inform students of an exciting event that the 3D Print Club has planned. This event is open to all students, regardless of whether you are a member of the club or not. If you are interested in learning more about this event, or learning more about 3D Print Club, feel free to email Trevor at dunnta@sunypoly.edu.

What encouraged you to start 3D Print Club up again here at SUNY Poly?

I decided to revive the 3D Print Club at SUNY Poly because I love the science and mechanics behind additive manufacturing, and I wanted to create a place on campus where people could come to learn and talk about 3D printing. Also running a club has been a fun learning experience for me and I've met and gotten to know a lot more about students and staff around campus.

Can you give us a summary of how 3D printing works?

The easiest way to describe 3D printing is to think of a programmable robotic glue gun. Plastic is fed into the machine which is then heated up and extruded out a small nozzle which is then moved around creating a thin layer of plastic. Once this plastic is cooled the printer then prints on top of the plastic it printed previously. This is repeated over and over eventually constructing the 3D model it was programmed to make.

What is the favorite thing that you have 3D printed?

The best thing I've printed so far must be a fully 3D printer speaker designed by Polymate3D. Everything within the speaker was completely 3D printed with materials that can be found in the lab besides a few magnets, screws, and wires that were required.

How can students go about submitting designs to be 3D printed?

Students can submit their designs either by emailing the 3D print lab at cgam_3dprinting@sunypoly.edu, or they can come into the additive manufacturing lab (G160) during open lab hours and talk to the staff about their design.

Are there any limitations on things that cannot be 3D printed at SUNY Poly?

While the print lab is available to all students for free, there are some limitations to the additive manufacturing lab.

- > Printing any sort of firearms, weapon, or anything intended to cause harm is strictly prohibited.
- > Any model or design that is unreasonably excessive in either time, material, or cost is dismissed. Lab coordinators have the final say in whether a part is considered reasonable.

Can you tell us a little more about the 3D printed pinewood derby event you have planned?

The 3D Printed Pinewood Derby is a design competition where students are tasked with designing and printing their cars to compete against other students to make the fastest car. Cars will compete against each other head-to-head in a bracket-style competition with the fastest car being the winner.

How can students sign up for the 3D printed pinewood derby?

Students can sign up for the printed pinewood event through Engage. All the information for the event can be found there as well as the rules, sign-up sheet, prizes, and a sample car model.

What would you say to somebody who is interested in 3D printing, but isn't sure if they want to commit to joining a club?

You don't have to join the club to start 3D printing. The additive manufacturing lab is open to all students. However, if you're interested in learning, or if you have no experience in 3D printing, then the 3D Print Club is a great place to start. Over the semester, we cover the basics of how to model, slice, and print your designs from start to finish.



SCENES FROM POLY



Adam: 1.9903 2.0313 2.0914	James: 2.1923 2.2260 2.2215	Jeremy: 2.3598 2.3898 2.2499	Rob: 2.0780 2.0363 2.0664	Niko: 2.2858 2.2656 2.1554
Jordan: 2.2355 2.2687 2.2568	David: 2.0028 2.0157 2.0088	Justin: 2.3501 2.2467 2.2146	Luke: 2.3612 2.1692 2.2943	Giovanni: 2.1687 2.1946 2.2941
↳ Adam: 2.1292 2.0368 2.0941	↳ David: 2.0398 2.0022 2.0544	↳ Rob: 2.1023 2.1054 2.0685	↳ Giovanni: 2.2140 2.2805 2.2627	
Haley: 2.1874 2.2134 2.2404	Justin: 2.1854 2.2042 2.2494	Alex: 1.9832 1.9582 1.9725	Michael: 2.2857 2.1885 2.2686	
David avg: 1.9938 s.	↳ Adam: 2.0111 2.0444 2.0294	Alex: 1.9805 1.8748 2.0320	★ 3 rd : Adam 2 nd : David 1 st : Alex ★	
Alex avg: 1.9421 s.	David: 2.0528 2.1992 1.9827	Michael: 2.1932 2.1202 2.0705		
	David: 1.8878 1.9866 2.0073 2.0222 2.0659	Alex: 1.8990 1.9581 1.9415 1.9138 1.9681		

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3D PRINTED PINEWOOD DERBY



SCENES FROM POLY



DIWALI CELEBRATION

Diwali

The following questions are focused on Diwali, a very significant holiday celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs. The questions were answered by Ruthra Deivasigamani, the president of the International Student Association (ISA) of SUNY Poly. The purpose of this interview is to inform people of the significance of Diwali. Hopefully, you'll learn a few things about this holiday. Feel free to share this information with your friends and family, as it is a very important holiday that people should know about.

 *What exactly is Diwali?*

Diwali is celebrated because of defeating a demon called Narakasura by God based on Hindu mythology and since then to symbolize those good deeds win over bad ones, light over dark; people started celebrating by lighting up Diya and firing up crackers to celebrate the same.

 *What are some words that come to your mind when you think of Diwali?*


Home, Family, Happiness, Light, Delicious food, Flowers like Jasmine for aroma, New and Colorful dresses.

 *What kinds of food are eaten during Diwali?*

Traditional Indian traditional handmade sweets and spicy & crispy snacks.

 *What activities take place during Diwali?*

In India, we have dance competitions, tug of war, musical chairs and prayer sessions for God to encourage all the age groups to forget the miserable life they are living to enjoy on this day. At SUNY POLY, we had volunteers perform a dance and all together we had a prayer session, delicious dinner from Indian Restaurant (Minar), Beautiful Rangoli drawings and a DJ dance session.

 *Do you know (approximately) how many students attended the Diwali event?*

I think about 60 to 70 students attended this event including Ms. Cheri Elefante SGU office manager and Mr. Tze Teck Sim Deputy Director of International admissions and student services.

 *What department(s) did you coordinate with to put together this event?*

Celebrating a festival is difficult in times of a pandemic especially having more people gathered in a same place and it is even more complicated to make sure that the safety protocols are followed. I have coordinated with Mr. Sean Clive, Director of environmental health and safety, Ms. Jennifer George, Student Involvement Board, Ms. Cheri Elefante, Mr. Tze Teck Sim, Mr. John Reale (Auxiliary services), Logistics committee, fire department of Utica for fireworks, University Police and Sodexo.


 *What is your favorite part of Diwali?*

In general, in the household of Indian families come together to wish each other well. The festival is one excuse to forget the bitter memories and forgive each other. Every family member focuses on gifting one or the other thing to see their loved ones smile irrespective of the fact that it is expensive or not.

Similar to that, I saw SUNY Poly come together to support each other irrespective of the differences in cultural and national backgrounds. For the international graduate students, the interaction towards the other students in the SUNY POLY community is very minimal and this festival gave us an opportunity to befriend with the other people. We danced together, we ate together and we were all happy together.

This festival was celebrated after lots of efforts and tiredness of those efforts disappeared when I saw everybody smile and enjoying their moment in the festival.

And this was my favorite part of my Diwali at SUNY POLY.

 *Do you have any advice for future students who may coordinate this event?*

I do have a piece of advice that one should be not selfish in keeping happiness to themselves and try to spread it to other people. To do so, we should have more celebrations like this!!! And never wait for anybody to initiate these kinds of celebrations because if one keeps waiting, its just that time passes by and nothing happens.

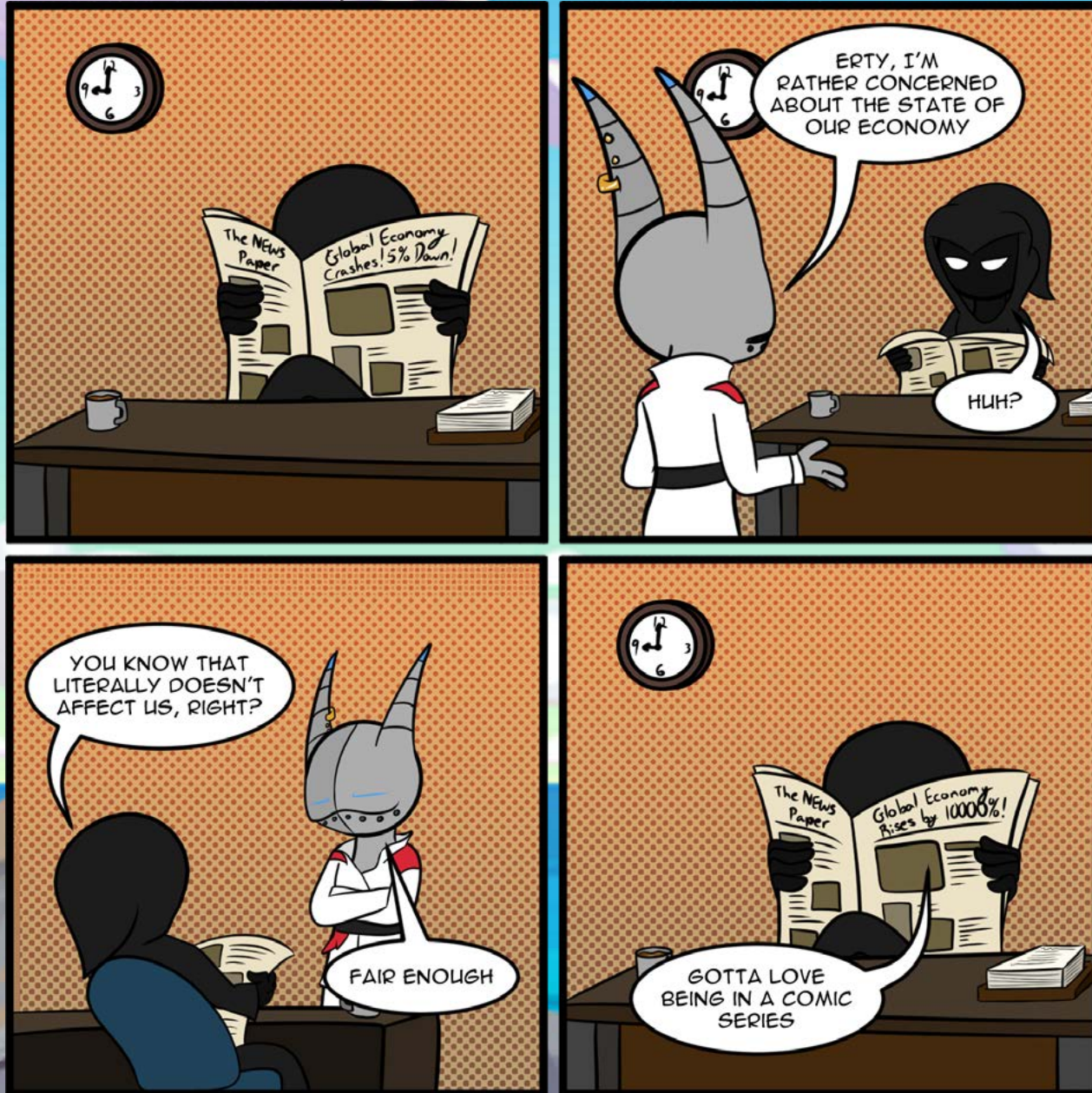
Written by: Justin Savoy
Designed by: Michal Khrapunov

Elijah Williams Dowling Presents:

BAU

BUSINESS AS USUAL

"Global Economy"

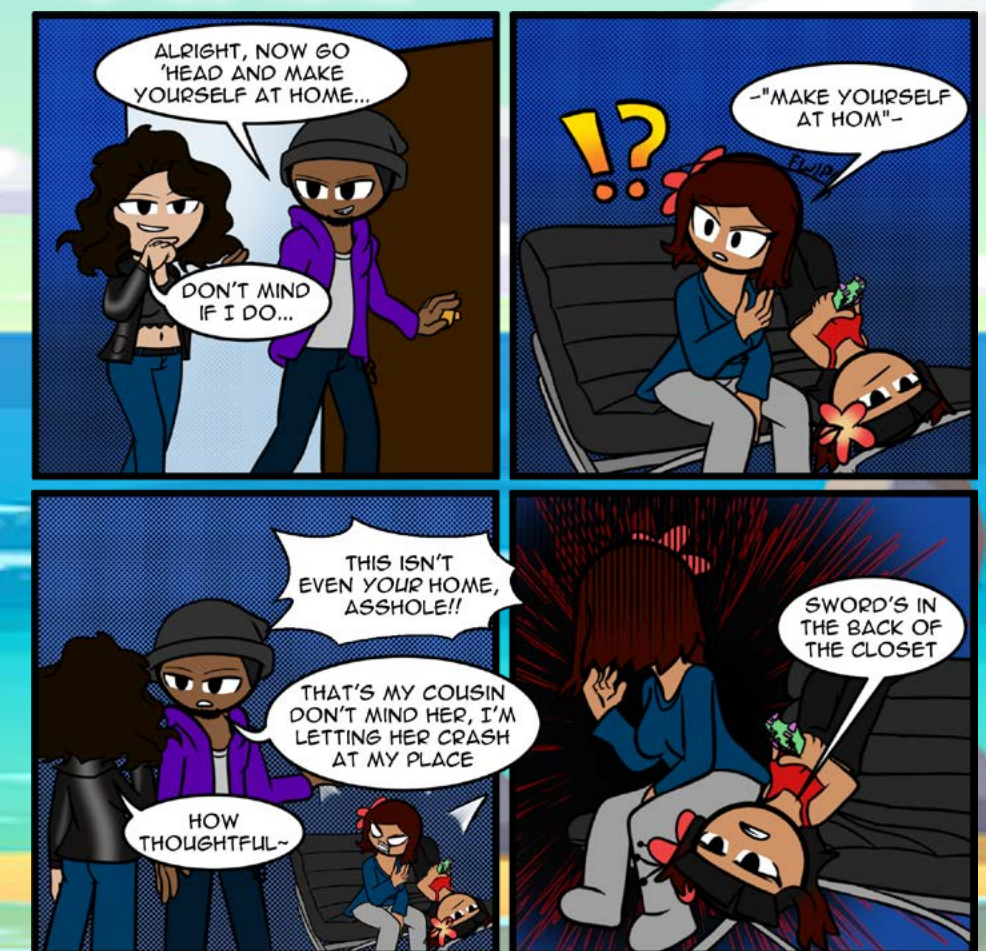


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"I mean..."



"Humble Abode"



DOES KNOWLEDGE MAKE US BLIND ?

Written by *Isabella Carr Perri*

The other day in class, I was asked to reflect on what it was like to at one point be a child and how that had shaped my perspective. While it was not the point of the assignment, my mind began to spiral endlessly until I asked myself, "Do children see the world better than adults?" I began contemplating if we lose the valuable skills accompanying childhood as we age and why we abandon these skills that seem necessary to succeed in the twenty-first century. In my inquiry, I began to question if the answer lies in our quest for knowledge. Maybe it's in our quest for knowledge that we become blind; unable to see the world in our unique way. Surely, this seems like a rather contradictory question and that's because it is.

Insight : As individuals get older they begin to develop a perspective on the world. This perspective is shaped by experiences, knowledge, and other factors that mold the individual. This allows an individual to find their relative place in the world, However, the question of whether or not it sets them on a path that's limited in scope remains. Perhaps children are the key to understanding this dilemma. There are limitations to what knowledge a child can produce, but there is still something there. Children see a bedsheet draped over a chair as this castle fort. They see their room as an ever-expanding universe where the possibilities are endless. Interestingly, children can also see the world for what it is. This is an interesting balancing act. While children's imaginations are beyond measure, they also have this other side to them that allows them to make observations of the world that are more authentic. Young children, as they develop a sense of self in relation to the world around them, make observations that could be useful. In some instances, we need to see the creative avenues before us, and, in other instances, we need to see things for what they are. This is certainly a difficult task, and, unfortunately, one I would argue shapes our world today.

The Lost Skills : As I have moved through my education, one thing has remained constant. Whether applying for jobs, internships, or professional schools there's an underlying emphasis that the desired candidate for these positions is someone who has critical thinking skills. It's easy for any of us to think that we can easily solve problems and think abstractly. But, when it comes down to it, when we need to think critically or see things differently we fail to do so either by seeing too much of something or not seeing enough. Critical thinking has found its place in our society as a scarce resource. Being able to see beyond preconceived notions is equally valuable.

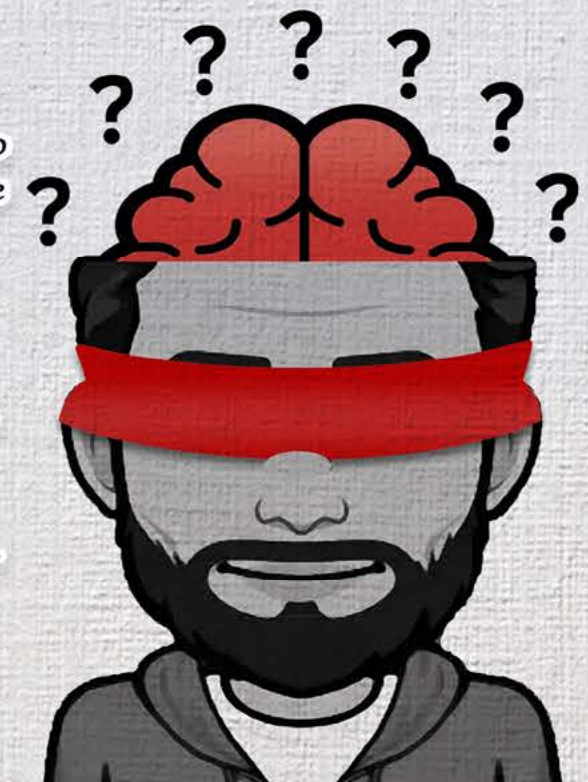
Analogy : To consider this question, think of a child as a coffee cup. I think it's fair to say that most of us are familiar with a Keurig. You fill water in the tank, place the k-cup in the slot, close the compartment and click go. You may be wondering why I am asking you to think about coffee. I promise it has a point! The process of making coffee entails starting with different materials, putting them together, but then filtering them so you get this desired outcome in your cup (the coffee). A child, as they age, becomes more and more affected by the world around them.

This is why family is one of the most important socialization factors. A child begins to understand the world from interacting with the people around them. Children, as they age, become a byproduct of ideas, values and knowledge of others. They begin to learn more through their education and observing others. This is when they begin to abandon the abilities given to them in childhood that would serve them well later on in life. Limitations One of the best examples of children being able to see things that adults can't is in art. Art is interpretational and comes in all forms. Picture a painting hanging up on the wall. It has what looks like a person floating through a space bordered by stars. It can be abstract, dull but colorful and can have meaning or none at all. Is this an existential crisis being mapped out on the canvas? Is it an allegory linked to a deep personal connection? Or, is it just these random things that were thrown on a canvas and labeled "art?" Please understand, this is not an attack on art. Instead, it is just a way to think about how children visualize and interpret things. A child can look at this same painting that I've derived meaning from my philosophy and literature classes, and see that it is nothing. Why is this important?

Significance : While knowledge plays a vital role in shaping our understanding of the world, it also limits us. Knowledge opens society up to bias whether that be on a conscious or unconscious level. While bias is a normal part of life, the danger arises when humans only see through the scope established by that bias. We begin to not see the world for what it is, but rather as a reality that is clouded and drowned out by the supposed ideas of what should be. The question no longer is what it is because, in the search, we end up applying whatever we think about it anyway. Children, arguably because of their unique status, have the ability to, at least for a short amount of time, avoid doing this.

Conclusion : The question then becomes: Does knowledge make us blind? To some extent, I am unsure about the answer to this question. People may find that knowledge is the key to expanding ourselves both intellectually and personally, so it could only be beneficial to shaping our perspective and outlook on the world. That is because knowledge can open your mind up to possibilities, questions, and inquiry. However, on the other hand, people like myself will argue that gaining knowledge places a dense fog over our eyes that we try to see through. Maybe, in trying to gain knowledge, we abandon what could help us succeed in our later life such as the valuable skills needed to succeed in the twenty-first century. Maybe the solution is to inquire more about why children can do what they do, and explore ways in which we can replicate that in our adult life.

Designed by
Sai Mahesh Podile



The Future of the Gaming Industry

Once upon a time, Microsoft bought Activision, the studio behind the Call of Duty franchises. Additionally, SONY bought Bungie, the studio behind Destiny. What is next in the gaming world? Which studio or studios will be bought out next? Activision is having some problems in terms of workers and some sexual misconduct. This is a warning that, in this article, Activision will bring up a lot of controversies.



Call of Duty has been a franchise that has had its ups and downs over the past couple of entries. Some of their games were fantastic like *Call of Duty Modern Warfare*, *Call of Duty Advanced Warfare*, *Call of Duty Black Ops III*, and *Call of Duty Black Ops IV*. As well as some not-so-good ones such as *Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War*, *Call of Duty Vanguard*, and *Call of Duty WWII*. The two recent ones were not that great, particularly Vanguard. At this time, the company was still undergoing serious accusations based on the workers and the owner being accused of sexual allegations.

However, ever since Microsoft acquired Activision, there have already been changes being made toward their management skills to make the company hopefully better for all *Call of Duty* players.

Next up we will discuss SONY. This has been a very successful company in terms of movies, games, and consoles. Of course, we must give credit to the *Spider-Man* movies from Andrew Garfield, Tom Holland and, the man who started it all, Tobey Maguire. The Andrew Garfield movies haven't done as well as everyone hoped they would, but he is a good actor nonetheless. Tom Holland's movies were all good and directed well. Last, but not least, Tobey Maguire's movies were all amazing, except for *Spider-Man 3*. This movie wasn't well-received by critics and audiences alike. Nevertheless, he was a phenomenal actor. When it comes to games, the *Uncharted* series was a huge success. Both *Spider-Man* and *Spider-Man: Miles Morales* were well received and enjoyed by audiences. The *Ratchet and Clank* franchise was another amazing franchise that was well received from the world. Finally, the PS5 has been released by SONY, and sales have gone through the roof. They even had to shut down production for a while just to keep up on demand.



Now that you're caught up with SONY's past, it is now time to talk about the future of their company. Bungie, the studio that made the *Destiny* games, is probably a big step for SONY to make a fresh start into a new franchise or a restart to an old one. *Destiny 2* is out, and I did not like the *Destiny* franchise myself, but I heard it came with a mix of responses. Now it is time to ask, what is the future between these two big franchises? What is next for Microsoft and their Xbox? What is next for SONY and their PlayStations?

Activision is a big-name company that has done well in the past, pleasing fans all over the world by providing awesome games. However, their management needs to be worked on. Other than that, I have a feeling that Activision might bounce back since they are releasing another *Call of Duty* game this year, rumored to be a sequel to *Call of Duty Modern Warfare* and *Warzone 2*, another battle royale game similar to *Fortnite* but without the building. There aren't any recognizable games beyond the *Call of Duty* franchise. SONY buying Bungie could open the door to many new games and franchises in the future.



Ubisoft, TT games, Electronic Arts, Take-Two Interactive, Epic Games, and others like these have all not been claimed by Microsoft or SONY. So now, the question becomes, which company might be bought by the other? Will Microsoft buy EA, or will SONY buy Take-Two Interactive? The possibilities are endless really. No one will know exactly what the gaming companies will do next. Whatever it is, I sure hope it is well worth the money, since some of these companies have made many big products. An example of this is Take-Two Interactive, which is responsible for the *Grand Theft Auto* series and *Red Dead Redemption* series.

Also, Ubisoft with the *Watch Dogs* series, *Assassin's Creed* franchise, and the *Division* franchise. Also, now rumored to release an *Avatar* game and an open-world *Star Wars* game. Anything is possible in gaming if the company wants it as well as the fans.

Written by: Willie Soto
Designed by: Michal Khrapunov

I WILL NOT FORGET



The other night I was imprisoned by a dream. It wasn't the usual type of dream that I am used to. I was there, but not present. I saw everything but was not visible. I wanted to act, but I could not. I appeared. I stood there; silent, motionless, confused. I looked around and saw a familiar face. I saw walls and furniture that all were tightly woven into my memory. It wasn't a classic case of déjà vu because I had been here before.

It was the last time I had seen someone I cared about before they died. While I have thought about this scenario a multitude of times, this was the first instance where I had been stuck replaying it on a continuous loop. I was immensely happy at that moment when I first saw their face. However, as the moments passed, I began to be overcome with sorrow. I realized the moment in time I was encapsulated in was a day I had chosen to forget. The moment seemed to last forever, yet be thrown into a halt by my waking eyes.

I woke up confused as to why my mind transported me to this instance and at this moment in time. As the day pressed on, I asked myself the following questions. I wondered if this was some sort of calling from my deep consciousness telling me that I need to remember those things which I try to forget. I wondered if this replaying of my grief was karma for something I had done. I wondered if this was just a cruel reminder that just because something causes pain doesn't mean it's not beautiful.

To lose someone is to lose an extension of yourself. To lose someone is to develop this gaping hole in this organ they call your "heart." To lose someone is to become blinded in confusion, doubt, and incessant reflection on what could have been done to change the outcome. What could I have done differently? Would it have made a difference? Grief is like a snow globe. Grief traps people within this enclosed space that can be thrown into disarray by force at any given time. At one moment, everything is calm and under control. In the next, a whirlwind of chaos, confusion, a mere pandemonium begins to unfold.

This dream made me realize that grief does not have to play out in this fashion. To lose someone can be the opportunity to see the beauty in missing, recognizing and rekindling the love you feel for those that you have lost. To lose someone is to remember the memories that are tied closely to your heart. To lose someone is to know how much you cared about them; they became a beautiful parasite attached to your heart and that doesn't just go away when they do.

Grief doesn't have to be something that makes you feel empty and incomplete. The fact that you feel abandonment declares how special that person was to you. It does not have to be this ugly and confining force in your life, but something that brings meaning to it. It can open your heart, body, and soul to love. It's not the end, but a blimp to overcome and learn from in the journey. Of course, this is easier said than done, and I tend to forget this more than others. But, it is something we have to keep in mind to overcome grief. It's not a magic cure, but it could be a start.

To those of you I have lost: I will never forget you, even if it is painful. I will keep you close to my heart as that is the place you have remained. I see, in my memories of you, the love, laughter, annoyance, frustration, and awe that defined life. You will forever be with me on this journey we call life. I will not forget all the meaning you have contributed to my life and continue to do so to this day. You may be gone, but you're not lost. You're here with me. I will not forget.

THOUGHTS ON GRATITUDE

The consensus on 2020 and 2021 is that both years have been terrible. I mean, seriously, who can say with a straight face that they've had a good past two years? And if you do, can you tell me what your secret is? Not only have these past two years been terrible, but they've also been unexpectedly chaotic. I think I speak for more than just myself when I say that being grateful for anything these last two years has felt nearly impossible.

A while ago, far before the pandemic even started, I remember my now brother-in-law posting something on his Instagram sharing how each day he'd write three things he was **GRATEFUL** for, and at the end of every month, he'd pull the highlights and make them into a list. It sounds super cheesy, I know. But I was incredibly challenged when I saw that, so I decided to take it on and begin doing that. So for three months at the end of every day, I'd take inventory of what I was **GRATEFUL** for. Naturally, some days it was easy to come up with what I was **GRATEFUL** for, and other days felt like there was nothing ever in the universe to be **GRATEFUL** for. Emo? Maybe a little. Regardless, I persisted.

After a few months of doing this, my life got very busy, and I fell out of the habit of going out of my way to find things to be **GRATEFUL** for. About a year later, I'm trying to get back into the routine of finding things to be grateful for every day, and here's why:

As college students, most of whom I'm assuming is also working in some way as well as trying to maintain friendships, relationships, and physical/mental health,

it's very easy to be caught in the waves of busyness that rush over us, and those waves of busyness generally tend to last a while. **IT'S SO EASY TO GET LOST IN THE CHAOS OF MY WORLD** and make sure I complete all the things on my checklist. As a pretty compartmentalized person, I usually forget to take care of my spirit and body to maintain all my obligations. This pretty much always burns me out and gives me a crappy attitude! **SO GOING OUT OF MY WAY TO FIND THINGS TO BE GRATEFUL FOR GROUNDS ME AND IS A PRACTICAL WAY I CAN ADJUST MY ATTITUDE** so that I'm not living begrudgingly.

I don't want to go on a rant about how social media causes everyone to compare lives, because I get so annoyed hearing that speech all the time, so I'll spare both of us. I will simply say that when we do have access to see almost everyone's lives, being **GRATEFUL** for the little and big things in our own lives helps protect us from jealousy and the like.

There are a lot of other things I can say, but instead of trying to convince you to do something you might not want to do, here are the things I'm **GRATEFUL** for today: **Lafa, Spotify, gel pens, headphones, physical newspapers, Do Not Disturb.**

WRITTEN BY: MARY SIDOREVICH

DESIGNED BY: YELIZAVETA KIUCHUN



SQUID GAME TV SHOW REVIEW

Squid Game (2021), directed by Hwang Dong-hyuk, is a show that depicts how far people are willing to go to get out of crippling debt. The film's namesake comes after a children's game that the main character used to play when he was growing up in Korea. This takes a major role in the show later on that will leave viewers shocked.

The movie tells the story of Seong Gi-Hun, a man struggling with extreme debt. He depends on his mother for support, and, as a divorcee, also has a young child that he has to take care of, which adds to his level of responsibility. The individual that Seong Gi-Hun owes money to is very adamant on getting paid as soon as possible. This leaves a very desperate Seong Gi-Hun to start gambling in an attempt to pay off his creditors. He did win a significant amount of money, but ended up losing it shortly before trying to pay his debt back. His creditors gave him a very simple deal; pay back his debt within a month, or he will face serious consequences.



Some of the other characters that make an appearance in the show are Kang Sae-byeok, Joon-ho, Ji-yeong, Jang Deok-su, and Han Mi-nyeo. Kang Sae-byeok is a young woman who is very independent and struggles to interact with others. Joon-ho is a detective who is looking for his brother who he believes is participating in the games. Ji-yeong is a carefree young woman who cares more about others than she does about herself. Jang Deok-su is an arrogant man who is willing to do anything to win the cash prize. Han Mi-nyeo is the lunatic of the show who gets her sweet revenge on a character later on in the show.

Seong Gi-Hun is taken to an undisclosed location where 455 other contestants are waiting for him. The premise is simple; play six simple games and, if you win, receive a hefty cash prize. This grabs the attention of every single contestant, as they are all struggling with large amounts of debt. Shortly after arriving, Seong Gi-Hun meets one of his childhood friends, Cha Sang-woo, who is also participating in the games.

In the beginning, every single player is excited to participate in the games due to the possibility of getting their debt paid off. However, it doesn't take long for the players to be petrified to continue playing due to a horrifying twist.



After this point, Seong Gi-Hun was desperate for any opportunity to make some money to pay off his debt. As he was waiting at the train station, he ran into a well-dressed gentleman who offered to play a game whose winner would obtain a significant amount of money. Seong Gi-Hun agreed to play the game and lost several times. Alas, the well-dressed gentleman kept offering him the opportunity to play for the cash prize, and he eventually did win one round. This led to Seong Gi-Hun being offered an opportunity to play another game for another cash prize. A desperate Seong Gi-Hun agreed, and this is where the story really begins.

Squid Game is a must-see show this fall that you can view on Netflix. It leaves viewers hanging off of the edge of their seats waiting to see what new twist will come next. The characters are extremely entertaining to watch, and the plot is filled with surprises around every corner. Overall, this show was extremely easy and fun to watch, and I would recommend it to anybody who loves action-packed shows with twists and turns that will leave you speechless.



WRITTEN BY JUSTIN SAVOY
DESIGNED BY YELIZAVETA KIUCHUN

The Virtue in Finding the Truth

There's a famous allegory by Plato known as *The Allegory of the Cave*. It's a fairly short passage in Plato's *Republic*. I highly recommend finding a free PDF of it online and reading it for yourself, and hope that I can inspire you to do so through my paraphrase of the allegory and the lesson I think we can afford to learn from it. Bear with me, I'm no scholar of Plato, but I do have a special place in my heart for this story.

The Gist

In this famous classic, Plato paints an image of a group of people chained facing a wall in a dark cave. They were born and raised in the cave, facing the wall, unable to turn and look around them, so they're forced to stare at a wall, all the time. Far behind this group of people is a fire; in the space between this group (let's call them the Wall Eyes) and the fire is the space where free people walk. The only objects and activities the Wall Eyes ever saw were the shadows created by themselves and the passersby behind them. To the Wall Eyes, the truth can only be the shadows they saw because that's all they've ever known. They don't know people are making the shadows, or a fire lighting up the wall for people to be able to make the shadows. To them, the shadows are stone-cold reality.

After the Wall Eyes, there are the people who we're going to call the Part I Escapees. These Escapees make their journey out of the chains of the shadowlands. They see more than just the shadows now; they see the real people, and their hair, the color of their eyes, and the shape of their noses, not just the shadows of people. They see the real fire with all its blazing heat and glory, not just the shadow of the fire and the shadows created as a byproduct. The fire and the people making the shadows are the newfound truth for the Part I Escapees. They escape the 1-D world and now have a deeper, more real understanding of the world than the Wall Eyes.

So far, we've established the Wall Eyes and the Part I Escapees. After the Part I Escapees are who we're gonna call (and this one might feel like it's coming out of the left-field,) are the Part II Escapees. The Part II Escapees don't just make their way out of their chains into the open cave, they make their way *out* of the cave into the open world where the sun and grass and trees and everything else reside. The life of the real world: the fresh air, the blue sky, the green grass, the colors more than grey, darker grey, orange fire colors, blue fire colors, become reality and truth for the Part II Escapees. They escaped the cave, they have the most accurate perception of the truth of the real world, relative to the Wall Eyes and Part I Escapees at least.

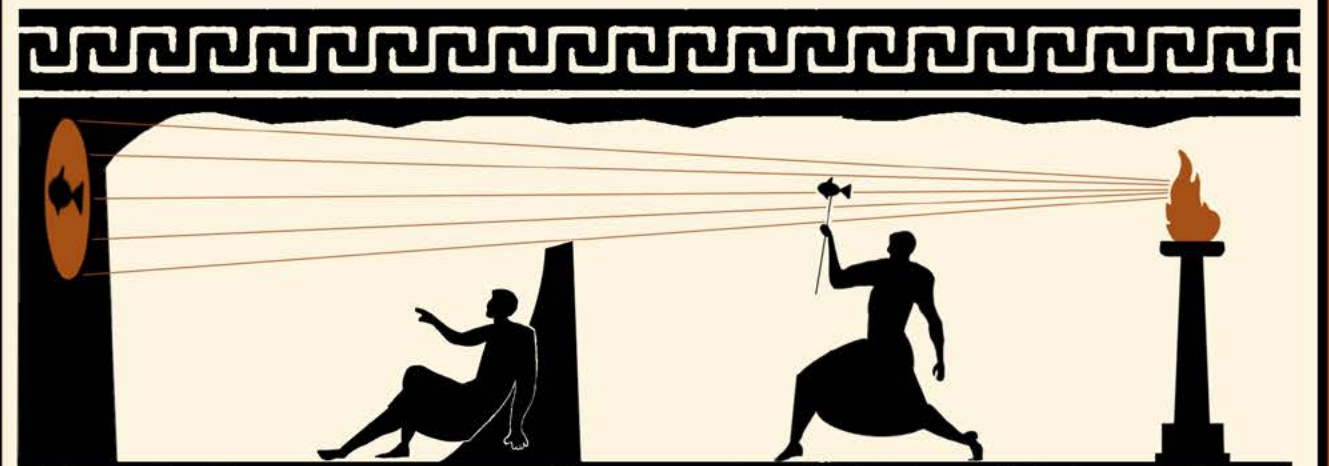
The Reason it Matters

Let's quickly try something with this metaphor: put yourself in the shoes of the Wall Eyes. You're imprisoned and that prison is all you've ever known. You believe what you've been told since you were born by whoever, and part of the reason, maybe the whole reason why you believe it is because it's all you've ever known. You don't know that anything else is out there. You don't know people are making the shadows on the wall, you don't know there's a fire lighting up the wall, to you, the shadows are as real as your flesh and blood. You believe

That truth is a lie, and you have none of the tools to think otherwise. That sounds pretty awful, doesn't it?

Many of us reside in the Part I Escapees camp, and some of us probably live in the Wall Eyes camp. I don't think anybody is truly and wholly a Part II Escapee, though that's the goal, that's a conversation for another day. Escaping the cave is a difficult and painful process, Plato expands on this better than I can. Just imagine, it's like when you're watching a movie in third grade and the lights are out, and without warning, your teacher turns on the lights. That hurts your eyes! Firstly, you didn't see it coming, secondly, the contrast is so jarring it causes pain. Escaping the cave is like that, but even more painful because it's not your physical environment that's changing, it's the ideas and views you hold to be true.

Despite the pain of the process of obtaining Truth, we are without excuse in this. We have endless resources at our fingertips, in the form of books, YouTube videos, and Google, to ask any question we have and do a deep dive search to discover what we without a doubt hold to be True. Nobody has a perfect ideology, nobody has a perfect philosophy, but we all have the tools to discover how we are still living in the cave and the tools to get us out of it. We don't have to stay in the cave. We can research and think for ourselves, and from that, we can find what is wholly True. Let's not shy away from being virtuous, let's fight to find what is true because we have the privilege of being able to.



Author: Mary Sidorevitch

Designer Michal Khrapunov

Love your city.

Written and designed by Mary Sidorevich

Recently, there was a protest in Utica to help bring attention to the injustices currently happening in Myanmar. While attending this protest, one of the organizers said something that struck me: *"We can't fight the military in Burma here in Utica, but we can love our neighbor."* We all want to change the world for the better, and the place we can do that most effectively is our backyard.

Because mainstream news sources have far more resources than local news sources, it's a lot easier to keep up with national/international news than to keep up with local news. While it's important to stay informed on the things going on in the world, national elections, international conflicts, etc. it's far more important to keep up with the things happening in your city. Local elections matter more than national ones because they're closer to home, so they affect you more, and your voice has a true say in the matter, without the taint of the electoral college. Your local representatives are your neighbors, they know you, or want to know, and they, theoretically, have your best interest in mind. It's a lot easier to advocate for your neighbor, for the person you know living in your neighborhood than it is for someone living in D.C. who has never heard your name to advocate for you. What's happening in your city has a larger effect on you than what's happening in D.C.

I've found it helpful to visit my city's website every once in a while to catch any major updates, as well as following Utica on Instagram, in addition to finding the local businesses that are heavily involved in the city. This makes it so much easier to know what is going on that affects me and that I can potentially affect. Get informed on the general happenings of the city! If you're a Utican like me, the Utica Phoenix is a great independent newspaper that'll help you keep up to date with the latest and greatest.

After getting informed on the things happening in the city, get involved in building up the city! It's so tempting to just be a negative citizen, complaining about all the problems of a place, especially if it's your hometown. Fight the urge to speak poorly about your city, or be apathetic towards it. Your city has an incredible amount of impact on you, in ways you can't really protest- the communities within your city, the water in your city, the housing crisis in your city, all of it impacts you whether directly or indirectly. We should do what we can to help our city flourish, because it affects us and the people around us a lot more than we realize! You can have hopes, dreams, even concrete plans to leave the city you live in now, but use the time you do have in the city to serve your city.



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