

The Scroll



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VOLUME XLIV ISSUE IV

OAKLAND MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

APRIL 02, 2019

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HEADLINES...



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The History of April Fools’ *What’s up with the funniest day of the year?*



Photo Credit: Wikimedia Commons

David Land
Staff Writer

Every year, cultures all around the world celebrate a spring tradition where friends, neighbors, classmates, and anyone else who wants to can play pranks and tell jokes to their heart’s delight. The origins of April Fools’ Day, sometimes referred to as “All Fools Day” can be a little blurry, but most historians point to the Greco-Roman festival known as

Hilaria where people celebrated the mother of gods, Cybele. The people would celebrate on March 25 by dressing up, throwing parades, and telling jokes. They would celebrate on this day because the Julian calendar recognized it as the beginning of the year, marking a sort of New Year’s celebration until the Gregorian calendar changed New Year’s to January. Aside from a historical perspective, others believe that the day celebrating craziness and hilarity

may just point to the crazy nature of spring weather and the celebration of the harsh winter coming to and end. Some of the more local traditions can vary from place to place. In Ireland and Scotland it was traditional to entrust the victim with an “important letter” to be given to a person of the pranksters choice. That person would then ask the victim to take it to someone else, and so on until the messenger got too curious to resist. The letter, when finally opened contained

the words “send the fool further.” In Italy, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, and French-speaking areas of Switzerland and Canada, the April 1 tradition is often known as “April fish”. This entails attempting to attach a paper fish to the victim’s back without being noticed.

As well as people playing pranks on one another on April Fools’ Day, elaborate hoaxes have appeared on radio and TV stations,

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21 Savage: The...U.K. Native? *Is he a fraud, or a hero?*



Sjean-Israel Howard
Staff Writer

In early February, a rapper popularly known as 21 Savage was discovered to actually be a native of the United Kingdom. The world wasn’t necessarily expecting to hear that the “Atlanta based” rapper was an immigrant who overstayed his visa. Most published articles discuss the situation and don’t go beyond

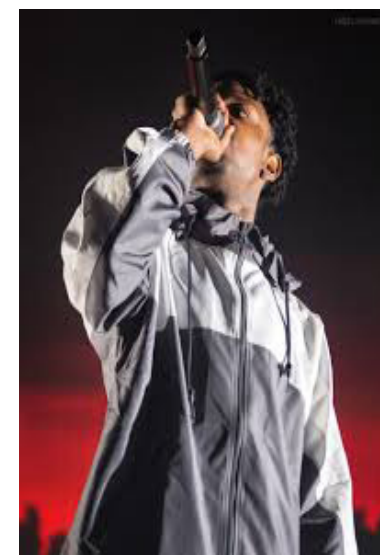


the rapper’s dilemma, but let’s dig deeper into this controversy. Imagine surfacing as an urban rapper, coming out with smash records and becoming a millionaire... in a place you weren’t even born in. Although several memes have emerged poking fun at the rapper, the situation is somewhat inspiring and takes chasing and making your dreams a reality, to a brand new level.

The rapper first came to America as a kid and ended up staying

for the duration of his childhood.

As a kid, growing up in a certain environment for a long period of time can shape you to be a product of that environment. So being in the U.S. longer than his time in the U.K. doesn’t make him a fraud, it just makes him a product of his area, an area that he’s been in much longer than his native land. In his time here, he’s been able to rise to the top of the rap game and thrive doing something that most American citizens



Photos: Wikimedia Commons
never get to do.

Although this story is a shock to us, it is apparent that it wasn’t a secret within the music industry. Offset, from the rap trio Migos, spoke on a popular radio show known as the Breakfast Club where he admitted that he had already known about 21 Savage’s unique roots.

It doesn’t matter where you’re
Savage continued
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Top 5 April Fools’ Pranks Gone Wrong

It’s all fun and games...until it’s not

1) Minion Mic Drop

Google, the website everyone knows and loves, wanted to partake in April Fools by playing a prank on its users. Users found a new feature added to Google Mail on the occasion and received the option to select an icon with the phrase “send +” and a tiny picture of a falling microphone when composing an email. Once selecting the icon, a gif of a minion, a cartoon character, doing a mic drop was sent to the listed receiver and the email thread was automatically muted. Unfortunately, the “send + [mic drop]” icon replaced Google’s usual “send + archive” button. Regular users of the original icon would click the new icon with the intention of sending and email and archiving it, but users wound up attaching mic drop gifs where they shouldn’t have been. There was one case where a writer lost his job all because he fell victim to Google’s April Fools prank. After multiple complaints, the company issued an apology saying, “Well, it looks like we pranked ourselves this year. Due to a bug, the Mic Drop feature inadvertently caused more headaches than laughs. We’re truly sorry. The feature has been turned off.”

2) April Fools News

In 1980, Homer Cilley, a Boston, Massachusetts news producer, decided to take part in April Fools’ Day by broadcasting a special announcement. The station claimed that in Milton, Massachusetts, the Great Blue Hill was on the verge of eruption. They described the “volcano” releasing lava and flames, and one can imagine how this fake warning stirred nerves and panic in locals. The station even went as far as to add fake warning quotes from then-President Jimmy Carter. They also displayed video footage of Mount Saint Helens, which was a real erupting volcano, claiming it was the hill. The broadcast closed out with a card that said, “April Fool.” However, Cilley’s bosses weren’t amused and decided to fire him immediately after the broadcast.

3) Everyone’s Favorite Prisoner

On April 1, 2015, the Manchester police department in the United Kingdom put out a tweet to participate in the April Fools spirit. The tweet states, “Know someone in prison? You can get them released early by voting for them on here. The prisoners with the most votes also wins a holiday.” Not everyone found it to be funny. In response to public feedback, the police department also tweeted that the act was “a goodwill gesture from the politicians.” The tweets received mixed emotions all over social media. For the most part, parents of victims and prisoners were offended for such a serious situation to have been taken as a joke.

4) Retail Robbery

In 2003, an employee of a retail store in Ohio played an April Fools prank on her boss. The employee was working a shift on the infamous day and gave her boss a call. She told him that the store was being robbed at gunpoint. However, it all went wrong when the police showed up. The boss had immediately called the cops, who not too long later appeared at the store. Apparently, the woman planned to call her boss back and reveal the prank, but she never got the chance. Police found out about the prank and arrested to employee for illegally prompting panic. She was also fired from her job. Let this teach us all a lesson to leave the pranks outside of the job.

5) Pregnant Pranks

An Oklahoma resident, Tori Wheeler, planned to prank her boyfriend for April Fools. She set up the prank by pretending she was pregnant. Her boyfriend, Derek Bauer, didn’t find the news to be too exciting. Wheeler, angry with her boyfriend’s reaction, pulled out a knife on him. The situation escalated and the police were brought into the matter. Wheeler tried to laugh it off claiming pulling out the knife was a part of the prank.

Written by Genesis Houston

Fools continued from page 1

...newspapers, websites, and have been performed by large corporations. In one famous prank from 1957, the BBC broadcast a film in their current affairs series claiming to show Swiss farmers picking freshly-grown spaghetti, in what they called the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest. The BBC was later flooded with requests to purchase a spaghetti plant, forcing them to declare the film a hoax on the news the next day. Regardless of origins, race, religion, nationality, or creed, people all around the world take this opportunity to let loose and go crazy for a day without the judging gaze of others, making it truly the funniest day of the year.

Savage continued from page 1

...talent and work ethic, you deserve just as equal as an opportunity as anyone else. This story is inspirational to me and shows that despite your upbringing you can accomplish whatever you put your mind to. So with this, I encourage you to pursue whatever it is you choose to pursue, no matter what . Don’t let your upbringing or past stop you from creating your ideal future.

Senior Spotlight

Ben Looper leads OM on their quest for success

Meet senior Ben Looper, who is the captain of the Oakland Mills baseball team. As the team captain, Ben brings a strong work ethic and also likes to lead by example. Looper is a four year varsity player on the baseball team and has been playing his whole life, starting when he was 5 years old. In his freshman year, Ben played basketball in the winter but decided that he would



only play baseball. Ben will be attending Wilson College in Pennsylvania,

which is a division 3(D-3) school, on scholarship. The baseball season

has started and the team has big goals this year, “Our goals are to stay healthy, be competitive, and finish with a record above .500.” Off the field, Ben enjoys playing ping pong, but on the field you can see him wearing number 9 and playing first baseman or pitching in the next game today against Glenelg here at Oakland Mills.

Written by Maya Vereen

Humor’s Hysterical History

A retrospective on society’s funny bone



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Ayat Chapman
Staff Writer

Society created a holiday on the first of April dedicated to playing practical jokes on one another. From small, foreign scriptures to a whole dedicated genre in entertainment known as comedy, humor has been a fixture in society for centuries. Many have used it as a means of getting a smile on their face or on someone else’s. However, not many may know how society grew to be so funny. The earliest form taught in school would be some of the comedic work of Shakespeare back in the 16th century such as Much Ado About Nothing and A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Despite this, humor isn’t one of those things that just happened within society. Like many things back then, such as farming, comedy has a long, complex, and world changing history. To truly figure out where and when humor was born, one would have to go back to 1900 B.C. Certain types of humor have been around for a long time, but the longest standing type just so happens to be toilet humor. Toilet humor is a type of comedy that often refers to bodily functions such as farting, and often mixed reputation. Despite this, one could say that comedy was built around such toilet humor. The world’s oldest joke originated within Sumer, Mesopotamia, modern-day Southern Iraq. According to Oldest.org, it was found within the Sumerian Proverb Collection in Verse 1.12-1.13. The joke states the following: “Something which has never occurred since time immemorial: a young woman did not fart in her husband’s lap.” The Sumerian Proverb Collection was also known as the Instructions of Shuruppak, and it was a book full of advice given to his son, Ziusudra. Whether this joke was just a misguided form of advice or a genuine attempt at humor is unclear. Moving forward in history, although the aforementioned Shakespeare cannot be credited for the invention of the joke, he can be credited by many for one certain type of joke: the knock-knock joke. The knock-knock joke is a very popular joke with a simple

premise of a person walking towards a door, knocking on said door, and another person inside the premises answers by asking who showed up. The formula varies from there, but these components are the basis, and it is said that these components originated within Macbeth. In Act 2, Scene 3 of Macbeth, a porter wakes up from being drunk to someone knocking at the door of Macbeth and his wife. The porter responds to this by saying “Knock, knock, knock! Who’s there, i’ th’ name of Beelzebub?” The joke would not reach popularity until the year 1936, three hundred and thirty years after Shakespeare wrote Macbeth. Enotes.com stated that on the day of August 19th, Variety reported on a “knock knock craze.” On November 14th, “a radio performer named Wee Georgie Wood set England afire with ‘Knock Knock’ jokes.” The joke was not received well at first, but it would eventually catch on and give prominence to a fresh type of joke. The rest, as humanity knows it, is history. Some jokes are just objectively too funny not to be told multiple times. These type of jokes get inducted into a collection of jokes appropriately named the joke book. Philogelos, a collection of some of the world’s oldest jokes, was published in 1965. From Greek to English, the title roughly means “The Laughter Lover.” The collection has jokes that were made and assembled centuries older than the publication date. John T. Quinn of Diotima established that the 265 joke collection was “likely made in the fourth or fifth century CE,” around 1600 years before publication in the twentieth century, and this would make sense because the jokes had been written in Greek and translated to English. The jokes had also been split into multiple different categories ranging from one about intellectuals to one about people that are incompetent. One of the 265 jokes in the collection goes as follows: “An intellectual came to check in on a friend who was seriously ill. When the man’s wife said that he had ‘departed,’ the intellectual replied: ‘When he arrives back, will you tell him that I stopped by?’” Philogelos was the found-

ing father to multiple other joke books used to spread smiles to people around the globe. In the modern day, comedy can be described as a professional entertainment program of some sort that has the goal of making people laugh. The original conception of comedy came from Aristotle, a great intellectual figure within history. According to Cyrus Henry Hoy of Britannica.com, “the comic artist’s purpose is to hold a mirror up to society to reflect its follies and vices.” A French philosopher, Henri Bergson, added onto this theory by noting how laughter returns the main character “into conformity with his society.” In short, a comedy in the modern day is a lighthearted form of social commentary that can also be used to entertain an audience rather than frighten the audience about the future. At first, comedy was expressed through plays and literature, but throughout the years, stand up comedy and movies have evolved the term. Both of these things originated within the 1800s. Eddie Tafoya stated in his book, The Legacy of the Wisecrack that a vaudeville performer named Charley Case was the first person within the time of the 1880s or 1890s to perform comedic monologues on the vaudeville stage without anything extra. This means he had no props or costumes. Charley Case only had his humor and his comedic timing, and it worked out for his career. As for the first comedic film, that accolade goes to the French film by Lumière named L’Arroseur Arrosé, otherwise known as The Sprinkler Sprinkled in English. The plot revolves around a gardener watering his flowers and a mischievous boy messing with his water hose. When the same boy splashed water from the hose at the man’s face, the man chased the boy down in order to punish him. The boy then ran off and the gardener went about his business as usual. This short film could be considered as the grandfather of slapstick. Had comedy films never caught on in 1895, the world would have possibly never had comedy films such as Shaun of the Dead, Dumb and Dumber, or anything from the Monty Python franchise of films. Laughter is one of the most positively contagious concepts in this world. There’s nothing like a good joke to help make a frown go upside down. The world is an often serious place, and humor helps build the balance between seriousness and silliness. Spend this April 1st putting a harmless smile on someone’s face. It will make their life better in the long run.

School Calendar

4/4 - 4/7: Mary Poppins Musical @

OM

4/5: Professional Work Day - Schools

close 3 hours early

4/11: King of The Mill (7 p.m.)

4/15 - 4/22: Spring Break - No School

4/24: Report Cards Issued

4/25: Food Pantry (3 p.m.)

4/26: HoCo Film Fest (7 p.m.)

4/27: Prom! Maryland Science Center

(8 p.m.)

5/1: Spring Music Concert (7 p.m.)

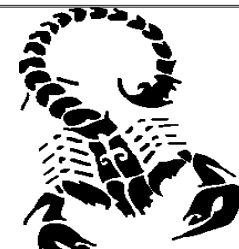
5/2: Spring Music Concert (7 p.m.)

5/10: Spring Dance Concert (7 p.m.)

5/21 & 22: Orchestra & Band Banquets

(5 p.m.)

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Being Black in America

First-hand experiences



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Roshnee Roberts
Staff Writer

Racism is a sensitive topic that has been a part of conversation for centuries. Racism has become a hot topic again in the United States, especially among people of color. There have been many protests and marches, especially by the black community, asking for people to understand them, as well as treat them the same as everyone else. The problem is that a lot of people, especially white people, do not completely understand discrimination based on one's race, which can make it hard to empathize with black people and all other people of color. Without first-hand experience, people cannot put themselves in a place to fully comprehend the severity of the situation.

Hearing and reading about this issue everywhere I go has left me thinking about my own experiences as a black woman in America. I found that I could not relate or empathize as much with my fellow black American peers because I did not fit into the bubble of being "African American." Let me explain.

Coming from Jamaica, which is predominantly black, all you can do is hear about racism because it is not an issue that many Jamaicans are exposed to or even witness in their own country. Even with the non-black people in Jamaica, race was just never a thing that was an issue amongst Caribbean people. But sometimes, the lack of experience brings ignorance, which can create a lack of sensitivity to the issue. Don't get me wrong though, I've always been able to understand that the

issues people face because of their race/skin color is appalling, especially for the times we live in, but I was just never able to fully grasp what that really meant. Well, that was until I left out of the comfort of my little Columbia neighborhood to an entirely new state.

It was the summer of 2016 and I decided to go on a mission trip with my church. I had been anticipating that trip for a whole year, and it had finally arrived. We decided to drive all the way to Michigan, and driving usually calls for a lot of quick stops. One stop in particular that I remember to this day was when we finally arrived in Michigan. We were an hour away from our destination and my pastor took my group of black friends and I to the side in order to warn us that racism was still very prevalent in that part of town. He made sure that we were aware that we needed to pay attention to our surroundings at all times. I remember being absolutely horrified and scared after speaking with him. Thankfully, we were able to do what we needed to, and leave, all while being unharmed.

After arriving at our destination, we met another youth group, coming from central Michigan, who stated that their town was a headquarter for the Ku Klux Klan (KKK). I'm not sure if they were still an active group, but just the mere thought that it was a commonly known fact that the town held a group that promoted racism, was very shocking to me. Overall, the trip was a success even though these events took place.

The severity of the issue of racism hadn't really fully dawned on me until I was put in a position

that compromised my safety. That trip was definitely a wake up call for me because it strengthened my understanding of the subject as a whole. Now, I definitely don't believe that having to experience situations like these is something that everyone should undergo, but it was definitely something that made me less ignorant to the subject as whole. Even though this isn't a competition, I realize that my slight experience could not even compare to what other black people have experienced or gone through in their lives. That being said, there is value to what I endured because learning and understanding racism is a great way to allow the world to progress as a whole.

Coming back from my trip, I was enlightened because I finally got an understanding of what my peers were searching/asking for: someone to understand their perspective. It was not just about reading posts on the internet or listening to the news about the situation, I was now able to have a larger connection to the protesters and marchers. Even though the way in which I was able to gauge an understanding of the topic was not the best, it allowed me to empathize more with my peers for that reason. Sometimes, the reason others may not understand where you are coming from is because they have not been in a situation to fully comprehend the complexity of your situation. And sometimes, being placed in a situation is the only way for someone to really understand how you are feeling. This does not mean that others should not try to sympathize with you as best as they can because that's where the line between ignorance and arrogance is drawn.

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A Bitter Pill

Why body shaming does not help people



Photo Credit: flickr.com

Hareem Qureshi
Editorials Editor

Body shaming has been a hot topic in recent years, with many high fashion brands and clothing stores beginning to use plus size models in their promotion, selling wider varieties of sizes, and including messages about self acceptance and diversity in their advertisements and campaigns. This shift in marketing and business has been met with positivity and praise. Body shaming is when someone makes negative comments or actions towards you for your appearance. It can be anything from calling your classmate ugly to denying your child a snack. It happens to people daily at home, school, work, and even when you're simply crossing the street. Recently many people have come out of the woodwork to criticize the anti-body shaming movement. Why? Well, many people feel that things like body shaming is deserved by people of certain body types, and that it helps people become healthier. People feel that bullying 'fat'

people will motivate them to lose weight, thus making them healthier. Does this theory hold up? Spoiler alert: The answer's no. The theory has one very obvious, glaring problem. How can one even truly tell when someone is fat? How can one tell if someone is unhealthy? People often like to point at images of morbidly obese people, but forget that the standard healthy body changes depending on who you ask. A morbidly obese person is the extreme most people can agree on, but look at the standards of beauty we have now and how they've changed overtime. Nowadays, even a shred of stomach fat is undesirable, and yet look at women of the past like Marilyn Monroe. Yes, she was considered beautiful by many, but she didn't have a flat stomach. Would she have been considered unhealthy if she lived in the modern era? I'm not bringing this up to make the standard 'plus size people are good looking too' argument. I'm bringing it up to illustrate a point. The guy who stares at you across the street, or that one rude classmate in school, or the least favorite aunt are not

doctors. You can rarely tell just by looking at someone if they're overweight or not. You'd need to look at their genetics, see if they have any conditions, and even calculate their body mass index (Even then, previous phys ed teachers of mine have said the BMI system is outdated). How can you tell if someone is fat? This leads to people who aren't anywhere near overweight thinking that they're obese. When someone of a normal weight begins to rapidly lose weight they put themselves in danger. This is one way that body shaming can negatively affect one's health. Someone who is healthy but is considered to be fat by a narrow minded person could end up becoming underweight as a result. The truth of the matter is that even if someone was overweight, body shaming is not going to help them get healthier. Often times, it even causes them to gain weight. But wait! Some say if these people were truly hurt at all by what people said about them, they'd just lose the weight! Clearly body shaming doesn't really affect them that much! Well, hypothetical opposition, body

shaming actually can make people gain weight. Eliza Kingsford, a psychotherapist who focuses on body image, says that body shaming doesn't cause people to become healthier as much as it makes them less healthy. Imagine you're working really hard at a diet/exercise program, but your body just isn't changing shape fast enough. "How frustrating and hopeless that might feel," Kingsford says. "Add to that the pressure you feel because people are commenting about your shape. This can lead to all kinds of detrimental feelings and actions, everything from giving up on your program to turning to unhealthy behaviors." The aforementioned unhealthy behaviors could include things like binge eating, eating more, unhealthy behaviors, or shutting down and avoiding exercise altogether. Body shaming can also cause starvation and anorexia, but people usually don't notice or mind when someone loses weight in an unhealthy fashion. Why is this? Body shaming isn't about health, it's about attractiveness. What's considered beautiful depends on time period, location, personal preference, etc. But right now being on the heavier side makes you unattractive, especially if you have more weight in the stomach region. You can be skinny and still be considered beautiful, but being heavier instantly makes a lot of people unattracted to you. You don't have to be attracted to every type of person, but there's a problem when you ridicule, and bully people who don't match your 'looking for' description on OKCupid. You don't get to demand someone to change themselves to fit into your idea of good looking, especially in situations where you don't know if they're unhealthy or not. This is why body shaming

affects women more than it does men. According Dr. Rebecca Puhl of the University of Connecticut, women can start experiencing fat shaming when they just start to become overweight, while men in general don't face criticism until they start to become obese. Even among obese people, obese women experience three times more shaming than men. It's almost as if women are being punished simply because they aren't attractive enough, and that they owe it to society to look as beautiful as possible. Here's another wild reason not to body shame that's totally out of this world: body shaming isn't a nice thing to do. Put yourself in the shoes of a high schooler out there who, for whatever reason, is 'chubby.' Imagine them getting stared at in the hallway, getting teased by their P.E. teacher, getting rude comments and messages online, coming home and getting lectured by family about how their appearance is going to make their life miserable if they don't change it in time, all while having to deal with school stress, maybe even a job too. Then, you come in. Maybe you're a stranger on the street or someone on their bus, or maybe you're even their friend. Whatever you're about to say, they've heard it before, and they'll probably hear it again tomorrow. What you say might not give them an eating disorder or depression, but it can still seriously hurt their feelings, which is wrong. Even with all of the naysayers, people are waking up and realizing that body shaming isn't okay, which is good. More and more people are joining the conversation and more people are showing compassion towards people who have been affected by it.

Selma, Lord, Selma

A movie starring the sister of an infamous name



Photo Credit: wikipedia.org

David Afforo
Staff Writer

So, Empire star Jussie Smollett has been arrested for getting beaten up and, wait, what's that? Oh, never mind, because it looks like he staged the beating and

won't be on Empire anymore. Meanwhile, all this big talk about Jussie made me reignite my spark for a film Jussie's little sister, Jurnee Smollett-Bell, started in. It's called Selma, Lord, Selma and it premiered in 1999 on ABC as part of the "Wonderful World of Disney," retelling the

Bloody Sunday incident of 1965. During Bloody Sunday, a group of protesters tried to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge to protest discrimination at the State Capitol of Alabama. In the end, protesters were sprayed with tear gas and water cannons. Anyway, the movie follows a girl named Sheyann Webb (Smollett-Bell) as she journeys to freedom with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Jonathan Daniels, as well as her friends and family by her side. I first saw this film when I was in the 7th grade. While watching, we had to answer questions about notable points in the film. At the time, I enjoyed the film and the actress' performance. I also remember how my obsession led me to another Disney telemovie of a similar theme, called Ruby Bridges. Of course, you also have

the big budget adaptation of 2014, but that's all for another time, or in this case, editor. Now for the actual review, which may contain spoilers. First off, the acting is pretty decent, but there were moments that made pretty good memes. For example, the scene where everyone is mourning a friend of Sheyann after he was killed was supposed to be serious, and I'm not saying this to be rude, but the fact that everyone felt like fish out of water ended up doing the opposite of its job. There are also times when the movie tries to be over the top and ends up flopping, and the most notable example is the scene that sparked this movie. What is it, you ask? You guessed it, the Bloody Sunday incident. The verdict? The movie was okay, but if you want to watch

it because you enjoyed the 2014 film, or because you're fascinated by all the controversy surrounding Sheyann's brother in real life, or maybe because you're just bored, be my guest. Hold your horses, though. While you can watch the first half and other clips on YouTube, you're going to need to get the DVD to watch it, and according to Worldcat, copies of the DVD are available here in Columbia at the Central, ElkrIDGE, Glenwood, Miller and Savage branches of the Howard County Library. You can also order your own copy on Amazon. Oh, and P.S., if Youtube videos tell you that they have the whole movie, don't believe them. They're just clickbaiters who want your credit card information.

The Spring 2019 Roadmap for Gaming

What is Spring looking like for gamers?

A new year has begun and it means new things for all kinds of people and groups! New movies, new car models, new technology, new opportunities, and much more. But among these new things, the video game industry is far from excluded. 2019 has a lot to offer gamers, so here's a list of six of the most anticipated titles, including some you may not have heard of before!

Devil May Cry 5

Devil May Cry 5 is an upcoming action-adventure hack and slash for the Playstation 4 (PS4), PC, and Xbox One. It is the fifth installment of this Capcom series and is certainly something to keep an eye on if you enjoyed its previous installments. In Devil May Cry 5, play as the returning Dante, Nero, and mysterious newcomer V to kick off spring with Capcom's highly anticipated demon-slaying adventure. Pick it up after it launches on March 8, 2019.

Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice

On March 22, 2019, play and explore Sengoku Japan in the late 1500s as a disfigured warrior determined to regain his honor after his young lord is captured in FromSoftware's latest project, Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice. You may have heard of FromSoftware, as they are the creators of Bloodborne and the Dark Souls series, both famous for their difficulty. Both of these titles and series have become staples to FromSoftware's image, and while Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice may share similarities in combat and gameplay, it is far from another Dark Souls, or in other words, a "souls clone." If a deep and interesting narrative set in medieval Japan with an allegedly difficult and challenging experience is what you're looking for, keep an eye out for this release!

Mortal Kombat 11

On April 23, 2019, end the month with Mortal Kombat 11 which is set to launch on the PS4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, and PC. This fighting game is from NetherRealm Studios, which you may have heard of through their leading development of the Injustice and Mortal Kombat series.

Only ten confirmed playable characters have currently been announced, including the iconic Scorpion from previous installments and newcomers like Kronika and Geras. But be sure to expect even more characters to be added to the roster before the game launches and through future DLC (downloadable content).

Days Gone

If you're looking to kick your spring off with some horror, Days Gone, an action-adventure survival horror, may be for you. In this title developed by SIE Bend Studio, which also developed titles like Uncharted: Fight for Fortune and Uncharted: Golden Abyss for the Playstation Vita, you play as Deacon St. John as you explore an open post-apocalyptic world two years after a global pandemic killed and transformed millions of humans into "freakers," the zombies of this title. Days Gone features weather, night-day cycles that can change the gameplay experience, and offers a variety of weaponry to use. Pick up this title on April 26, 2019 to experience it entirely!

Rage 2

On May 14, 2019, survive in a world littered with dangerous mutants after it was hit by an asteroid as the last ranger, Walker, in Rage 2. This open-world first person shooter is Avalanche Studio and id Software's latest upcoming title in development, but you may have known or even played their other titles such as their 2018 release of Just Cause 4, Doom, and their 2015 release of Mad Max, all rated highly among many critics. With most of mankind dead, only a wasteland is left behind and many settlements emerge among it. Thirty years after the original game, Rage, this installment will feature both existing and new characters. Make sure to check this title out as spring comes to an end!

Team Sonic Racing

For fans of racing games and the iconic blue hedgehog, Sonic, ending spring with Team Sonic Racing may be the right choice. On May 21, 2019, enjoy this upcoming kart-racing spinoff of Sega's "Sonic The Hedgehog" series and choose from the current roster of fifteen different characters, each with unique vehicles. This third-person perspective racing game might be for those looking for a fun and family-friendly kart-racing experience!

This spring is full of new games and has something for just about anyone. While this list may have highlighted some upcoming underdogs and titles gaming communities are excited for, there are several other upcoming titles this spring. Unless you're busy playing these other titles, check them out and keep your spring days busy!

Journey to SELF LOVE by Sjean-Isreal



One of the most powerful memories I have starting school was an incident on the playground. I was four years old and one of the only black kids in my class. I was attending a private school at the time. I've always been an extremely friendly, welcoming person so any behavior I witnessed beyond that surprised me. Being four, I figured everyone was like me. It was a pretty fun day out in the sun so all of us were running around. I remember approaching the slide trying to have fun just like the other kids, but a little blond haired, blue-eyed girl stopped me saying only kids with her color eyes and hair could go down the slide. Oddly enough, the girl who stood by her nodding at her every word was a girl with red hair and green eyes. And after that, a girl with brown hair and brown eyes slid down the slide. I, the only kid of color, was the only one stopped and turned away. My feelings were hurt, and I believe I told the teacher. I remember feeling down about myself and the way I looked... I was different from the other kids and wanted to fit in. As I grew older, I had noticed the difference in treatment between black kids and non-black kids. I remember wanting to be lighter, wanting to have lighter eyes, lighter hair. For the longest time I had straightened my hair so much; I had no idea what my natural curl pattern looked like beyond the pictures of me when I was very young. Being of darker skin, I was always the butt of the jokes, being told I looked "burnt," or I was darker than whatever black object was beside them. But with inspiring words, seeing the beautiful and prideful black people that were around me, I learned to love what I am. I learned to love the natural coils of my hair, and with that, I big chopped my hair and let my gorgeous curls grow and spiral. When a joke would spring about my skin, nose or hair, I'd laugh and say "And what about it?"... Because I know that I am beautiful, I know that my people are beautiful, Despite the countless, constant efforts of those around me that try to convince me I'm not, I see myself for what I am. Someone who is strong, unique and now, enlightened. Learning to love yourself may be a journey for you, it may be difficult and you may face obstacles, but once you reach that realization of your beauty and how pulchritudinous you truly are... you'll realize the struggle was worth that reward of endless self-love. With this, I leave you a quote from 'Princess Latifah.' "That bubble of doubt within? It's time to stick a pin in it. And wear your dark and lovely face with a grin on it."

Varsity
Baseball
Schedule

Apr. 3 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Hammond

Apr. 5 at 4:15 pm
Centennial at Oakland Mills

Apr. 8 at 4:15 pm *
Oakland Mills at Reservoir

Apr. 10 at 4:15 pm
Mount Hebron at Oakland Mills

Apr. 12 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Wilde Lake

Apr. 15 (Time TBD) #
Multi-team Tournament

Apr. 16 at 4:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Wilde Lake

Apr. 23 at 4:15 pm
Howard at Oakland Mills

Apr. 24 at 4:15 pm
Atholton at Oakland Mills

Apr. 25 at 4:15 pm
River Hill at Oakland Mills

Apr. 29 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Long Reach

May 1 at 4:15 pm
Marriotts Ridge at Oakland Mills

May 3 at 4:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Glenelg

* - at Towson University # at River Hill High School

Standings as of March 27:

Varsity Baseball: 1-2 (0-2 County)

Varsity Softball: 0-2 (0-2 County)

Varsity Lacrosse (Boys): 2-1 (0-1 County)

Varsity Lacrosse (Girls): 0-2 (0-1 County)

Varsity
Lacrosse
Schedule

Boys:

Apr. 3 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at North County

Apr. 5 at 5:00 pm
Atholton at Oakland Mills

Apr. 9 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Glen Burnie

Apr. 12 at 7:00 pm
Long Reach at Oakland Mills

Apr. 15 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Catonsville

Apr. 18 at 6:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Loch Raven

Apr. 26 at 7:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Wilde Lake

Apr. 29 at 5:30 pm
Lansdowne at Oakland Mills

May 2 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Hammond

Girls:

Apr. 3 at 5:30 pm
North County at Oakland Mills

Apr. 5 at 5:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Atholton

Apr. 9 at 5:30 pm
Glen Burnie at Oakland Mills

Apr. 12 at 7:00 pm
Oakland Mills at Long Reach

Apr. 15 at 5:30 pm
Western Tech at Oakland Mills

Apr. 23 at 5:30 pm
Oakland Mills at Parkville

Apr. 26 at 7:00 pm
Wilde Lake at Oakland Mills

Apr. 29 at 5:15 pm
Oakland Mills at Lansdowne

May 2 at 5:30 pm
Hammond at Oakland Mills