

*Willowbrook High School*

# *Skyline*

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cartoon by Kelly Franco

"All I wanted was a few more days of Springbreak."



# The Equality Act faces opposition

LILY MORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

On February 25th, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives convened to pass a landmark LGBTQ rights bill. The bill in question, The Equality Act, prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in various areas where protections were not previously afforded. The House vote, 244-206, was largely along party lines with a mere three Republicans putting their support behind it. LGBTQ people and activists across the country have begun celebrating, but also preparing for the fight to come. Now that this bill has passed in the House, it moves on to the Senate where its fate is still unclear.

In order to fully understand what the Equality Act would accomplish if it were to pass the Senate, we have to look back to The Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Act is widely known as one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in our history, prohibiting discrimination against people because of their race, ethnicity, or sex. Then, last June, the Supreme Court ruled that the protections on the basis of sex in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would expand to include protections based on gender identity and sexual orientation as well.

While this was a monumental step in securing equal protections for queer people everywhere, it was more of a half step. The Civil Rights Act only covered discrimination in certain areas like employment and housing, leaving

LGBTQ people to fend for themselves in all other areas of daily life. This is where the Equality Act comes into play. If passed, this act would amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and create discrimination protections explicitly for people based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, rather than just grouping their protections under the umbrella of "sex."

Not only would queer people finally have their own category of protections; those same protections would also expand to several areas not originally covered in the Civil Rights Act, like federally funded programs and public accommodations (which includes things like online retailers and transportation services).

Most importantly, if passed the act would cover protections across the nation, even in the 27 states that don't already have pre-existing LGBTQ anti-discrimination laws. The passage of this bill would be a major victory for activists, LGBTQ people and allies everywhere.

But why is an act that ensures protections for a marginalized group facing so much backlash? While it has broad support among Democrats, many Republicans oppose it on the grounds that the bill will put religious protections and liberties at risk. The main opposition comes from those who believe the act should not grant LGBTQ people discrimination protections against public accommodations, as mentioned earlier.

Perhaps the best way to describe the opposition is to look back to June 2018, when the Supreme Court ruled on a case regarding

a bakery that refused to make a wedding cake for a gay couple. In the case, Masterpiece Bakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission, the owner of the bakery argued that turning away the couple was not discrimination but was simply a matter of expressing his freedom of speech and religion, which all public accommodations (businesses) have the right to do.

Masterpiece Bakeshop narrowly won the case, and while the ruling was extremely disappointing for many, it solidified the right to freedom of religion and speech for public accommodations.

If that case, or one similar, was heard by the Supreme Court while the Equality Act was in place, the ruling might have turned out much differently. Not only does the Equality Act expand discrimination protections to cover all public accommodations, it also explicitly states that the bill trumps the RFRA (the Religious Freedom Restoration Act), which has previously been used to challenge laws that infringe upon religious freedoms. If the Equality Act is passed with the same provisions it has now, a person could not use the RFRA to challenge the act itself, or use it as a defense against discrimination charges.

In this case, the opposition is correct to be concerned. If they rely on their religious beliefs to run a business that allows them to actively discriminate against a group of people, this act certainly will create some problems for them.

Those who support the act see the positives of the legislation and are not concerned with the po-

tential loss of religious liberties, rather they are eager to establish explicit protections for LGBTQ people, protections that should have long been established.

In an article on NPR the stance of proponents is stated quite simply: "Just as [a business] would not be able to turn away somebody for any other prohibited reason in the law, they would not be able to do that for LGBTQ people either. And we think that's a really important principle to maintain," said Ian Thompson, senior legislative representative at the ACLU.

The remaining question now is, will the Equality Act be passed? And the answer to that is uncertain. Before the vote to pass or reject even takes place, the act will have to clear 60 votes in order to avoid filibuster in the Senate. If filibuster is avoided, the bill will then move to a vote, and whether or not it can gain the support it needs is nearly impossible to predict.

Even the most moderate of Republicans believe in the idea of religious freedom over most everything else, meaning the few Senators that have strayed from party lines in the past will be firmly planted in place. Losing a few spare votes from moderate Republicans might not make or break the issue, however, as Democrats are the majority in the Senate with 50 members and a tie-breaking vote from Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris.

Only time will tell whether or not the Equality Act will gain the support of the Senate, and until then both sides will have to wait and see if their prospective protections prevail.

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# Illinois keeps mask mandate while others don't

MARITZA ELENA  
STAFF WRITER

The governors of Texas and Mississippi both announced after Tuesday, March 2nd that they would be lifting their mask mandates and rolling back many of their Covid-19 health mandates. They were followed Thursday by Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey, who announced she would extend the mask mandate until April 9th, but allow it to expire after that date and instead make the mask optional, according to USA Today.

In early February, governors in Iowa and Montana announced they, too, were rescinding mandates on wearing masks. The five states join 12 others that either never had mask mandates or have since rescinded such policies, according to USA Today.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott gave a brief news conference at Montelongo's Mexican Restaurant in Lubbock.

"It is now time to open Texas 100 percent. Covid has not suddenly disappeared," said Abbott. "But state mandates are no longer needed."

Shortly after Abbott's announcement, Gov. Tate Reeves announced that he would end Mississippi's statewide mask mandate, effective after Wednesday March 3rd, according to NBC News.

"Our hospitalizations and case

numbers have plummeted, and the vaccine is being rapidly distributed," Reeves tweeted. "It is time!"

"We now have vaccines," Abbott said, adding that Texas set a one-day record of vaccine administration on Tuesday and is now averaging one million vaccine dose administrations per week.

Abbott also claimed that the millions of Texans who caught and recovered from COVID mean that millions "have the proven ability to beat this disease."

"However, under no circumstance can a county judge put anybody in jail for not following COVID orders and no penalties can be imposed for failing to wear a face mask. And also, if restrictions are imposed at the county level, all entities must be allowed to operate at least a 50% capacity."

Moreover, the CDC has come out and stated since fully vaccinated people are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others, they are allowed to gather privately in small groups without masks, as reported by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The CDC also states that people who are fully vaccinated against the virus can visit unvaccinated members of a single household without wearing masks or maintaining social distancing as long as everyone in that household is at low risk for severe cases of

Covid-19.

President Joe Biden expressed concern that day, even as he announced the U.S. will have enough Covid-19 vaccine doses for every adult by the end of May. Biden said that the United States was "on track" to have enough coronavirus vaccines "for every adult in America by the end of May," as reported by *The New York Times*.

"This fight is far from over," Biden said. "Though we celebrate the news ... I urge all Americans, please keep washing your hands, stay socially distanced, wear masks."

With a bigger vaccine supply, Biden also announced he would be using the powers of the federal government to direct all states to prioritize vaccinating teachers. He challenged states to administer at least one dose of the vaccine to all educators by the end of March as part of his administration's efforts to reopen more schools across the nation, according to *The Guardian*.

Subsequently, Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's leading infectious disease expert has previously raised alarm about new variants of the virus and pleaded against any relaxation of virus-related restrictions until more Americans receive a vaccine. Fauci has said the nation must achieve a vaccination rate of about 80% to reach "herd immunity".

On March 15th Gov. JB Pritz-

ker sat down for a one-on-one interview to talk about the pandemic.

"As things get better, we've loosened up the mitigations that we've put on businesses and on people across the state. Masks though, that will stay in place for some time now," Pritzker stated, according to ABC7Chicago.

"You know, I listen to the experts when I try to make a judgment about that and what they're telling me is that we need to get close to herd immunity for us to really be normal," Pritzker said.

He said normal will be whenever we get about 80% of the state vaccinated. Right now, we're at 12%, according to ABC7Chicago.

IDPH guidance has been updated to be consistent with the CDC's mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS CoV-2 in schools, as updated on February 12th, 2021.

Regardless of the level of community transmission, all schools, including Willowbrook, must use and layer the following essential mitigation strategies that are key to safely delivering in-person instruction and mitigating COVID-19 transmission in schools: Require universal and correct use of appropriate personal protective equipment, including face masks, and require social distancing be observed as much as possible.

## Hybrid learning opens Willowbrook to more students

ALEXANDER HIRSCH  
STAFF WRITER

After over one year of Willowbrook being shut down, the doors have finally opened for students to be back learning in school.

Although welcoming all staff and students back in the building didn't happen immediately, the new hybrid model is a safe way for Willowbrook to open.

Students chose whether they want to stay online or go back into school.

A "Remote-Plus" format has been running in Willowbrook since March 8th. Students in the music programs were given the opportunity to be in school early because the music classes were

some of the hardest to do online. Band and choir participant Tessa Goodman has been in school for hybrid learning six days so far. [Full disclosure: Goodman is a Skyline staff member.]

"The schedules are the same as they were while online. Depending on your teacher, zoom is running while you're in the classroom. The halls are low traffic and easy to navigate," said Goodman. "It's been a great experience so far. Participating in class is much more interactive and focusing is way easier."

While some of the Willowbrook students have been in school since the 8th, all of the staff have been in school since March 15th. Freshman English teacher Tara Murphy explained how being in Willow-

brook has been different for her.

"It's refreshing to be back with my colleagues in a safe environment," said Murphy. "I miss the interactions you can have with students in the classroom. It's much harder to connect with students over zoom, so I'm very excited to be back in the building with students."

It will take a lot of time to adjust to hybrid learning. For the students in class, learning will be very similar to before the COVID-19 pandemic. To prevent any outbreaks in school, students will be monitored in the halls and will need to clean their desks every day.

Before entering Willowbrook, there is a required health survey everybody must pass to make sure the school remains a healthy

place. All people inside the school need to remain at least 3 feet apart. Staff and student temperatures will be taken whenever they enter the building, and masks must be worn at all times.

For the students staying at home, teachers are no longer right in front of their computer. The teachers wear headsets so they can communicate with the students at home and teach the students going back into the building.

Students started hybrid learning in the building two days per week on March 22nd. It will become full four-day school after Spring Break. Wednesdays will be a stay-at-home day for all staff and students.

# WB student goes green and viral on TikTok

NICEA SCHEELER  
STAFF WRITER

Never in a million years did Willowbrook sophomore Bobby Ernst think he would have the same skin color as Shrek, but Taylor Swift proved him wrong.

After wearing Swift's "life was a willow" tee from her new album's merchandise line, Ernst shared photos of his green skin to his online friend group of "Swifties."

"I thought they would get a kick out of me turning green, and they encouraged me to post it on TikTok because they thought it would be funny," said Ernst.

Ernst's video from February 22nd instantly gained popularity on TikTok.

"It got 10 to 15 thousand views in around 10 minutes, and by the end of the day I had around 130 thousand views and around 20 thousand likes," said Ernst.

Six of his videos on the platform have over 15 thousand views, with three videos (including this one) being about Taylor Swift.

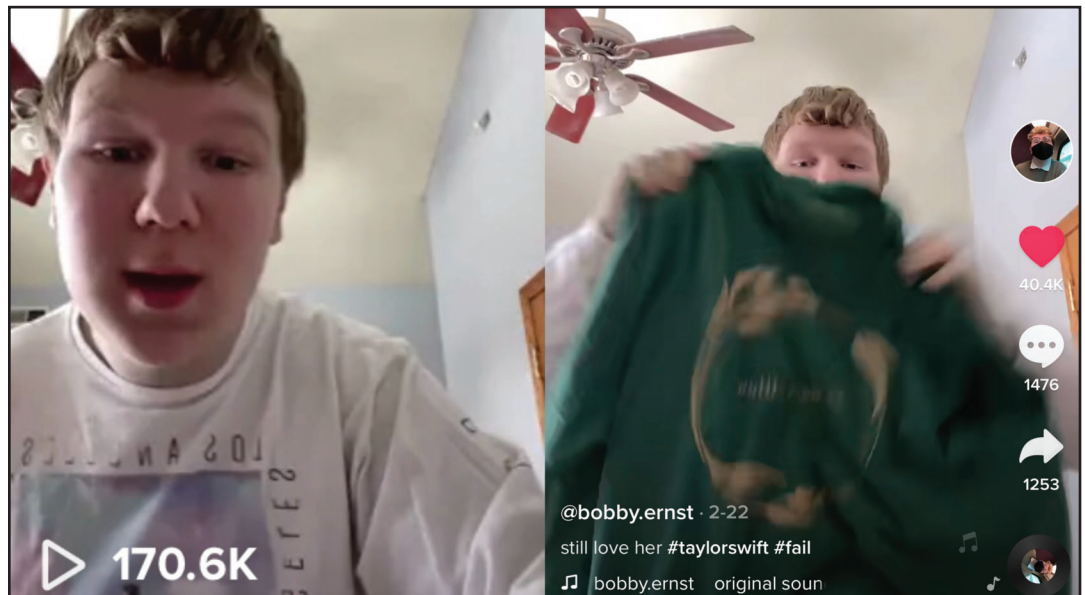
Ernst has been ordering merchandise from Taylor Swift since 2019, and this is the first time he has experienced an issue. He was not deterred at all by the experience, and he received another green tee in the mail two days after his TikTok. This shirt did not bleed color, and he ordered another one a few weeks later.

"She is still my favorite artist, and this does not change any of my opinions about her," said Ernst.

His video also managed to make it to Twitter and go viral there. Twitter user @nextlevelsteph saw the video and posted it with the caption, "not the evermore merch turning this kid green." The tweet currently has 137 thousand views on the platform. Ernst says it was just a lucky coincidence.

"This girl saw my TikTok, and she already had over a thousand followers and a strong base of Taylor Swift fans on her account, so after she tweeted it, the Taylor Swift Twitter fans just blew it up," said Ernst.

In addition to his video going viral on two social media platforms, it also ended up reaching media company PopBuzz. Ernst says that their team deciding to write about



WB sophomore Bobby Ernst with the inky merch.

photo of Tik Tok by Nicea Scheeler

it was also "pure luck."

"PopBuzz saw my video and commented asking if they could write an article about it on their site. I told them it was fine as long as they credited my TikTok username," said Ernst. "Yahoo News also picked it up and wrote about it, I'm guessing because the PopBuzz article kind of broke through, and they did not contact me previously, but I don't mind."

Generally, if a merchandise item is dyeing someone's skin a different color, they're going to want a refund. Ernst wrote them, telling them his skin was green.

Swift's team responded, giving

Ernst a full refund of his purchase. He contacted them prior to posting the TikTok, and he noticed that he received a response after it had already blown up.

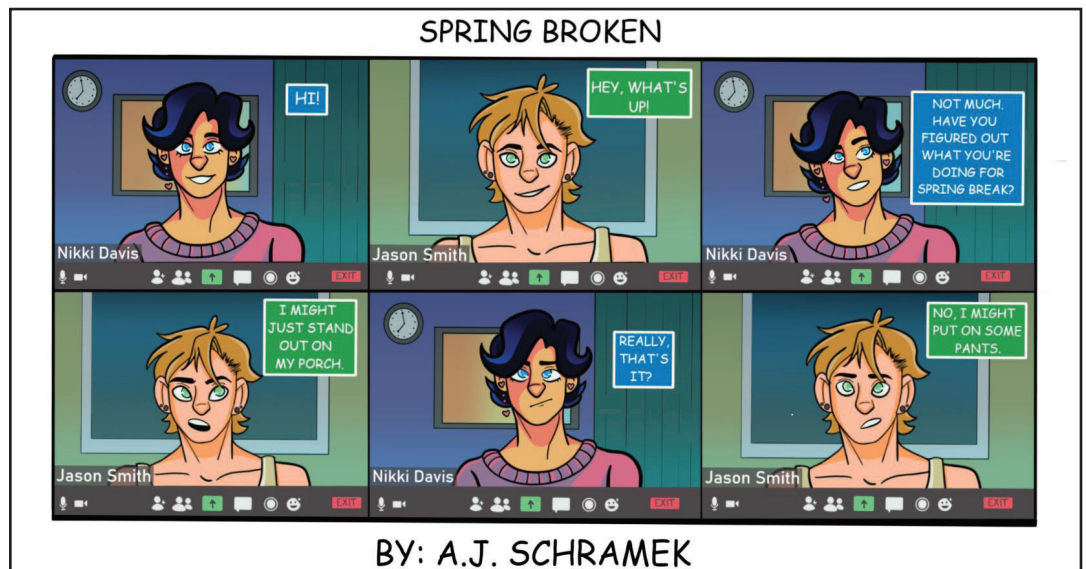
"When asked for picture evidence, I linked the PopBuzz article," said Ernst.

Regarding his green-toned skin, Ernst said that it took him about two weeks of showering every day, sometimes twice a day, to remove the coloring.

Ernst also said that his older brother shared the TikTok and article on Facebook, and a few teachers at both Willowbrook and Jackson Middle School commented on

the post.

Swift has broken the record for the most Album of the Year GRAMMY Awards won for any female artist, as her win for album *folklore* on Sunday marked the artist's third win. She also performed a medley including two songs from *folklore* ("cardigan" and "august") and one song from *evermore* ("willow"). Swift is set to release a re-recorded version of her second studio album *Fearless* on Friday, April 9th, which launches her re-releasing of her first six albums.



BY: A.J. SCHramek



# Women's Month reminds us of some greats

MAHIRA SHUJATHULLAH  
FEATURES EDITOR

March is Women's History Month. As mentioned by Womenhistorymonth.org, this has been an established tradition in the United States since 1995. To commemorate this month, Skyline brings to you some famous women from around the world from various backgrounds and time periods that have brought about important achievements and impacts. Although there are millions and billions of women who have created a positive impact on the world throughout history, we've picked out several women with big achievements whom you may or may not have heard of.

## **Malala Yousafzai, 1997-Present (Activist and author)**

She is a modern activist from Pakistan widely known for speaking out against the Taliban's prevention of women's education. Even after being shot in the face by them, she survived and avidly continued her work by speaking out worldwide about the importance of education.

According to Biography.com, her efforts were rewarded when she became the youngest person to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014. Malala has even become a writer with her book, *I Am Malala*. **Eleanor Roosevelt, 1884-1962 (First Lady, Diplomat, Activist)**

Her fame first arose during her time as Franklin Roosevelt's First Lady. Roosevelt partook in volunteer work, including with the Red Cross. As described by Britannica, she joined the Women's Trade Union, the League of Women Voters, became active in the Democratic Party politics, and supported African Americans' rights; she even taught young girls and reached out to the public through the active use of the media. Later on, she became a diplomat for the United Nations and helped to develop the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Overall, she held a lot of power and influence during her time and became a source of inspiration for many women.

## **Nellie Bly, 1864-1922 (Journalist)**

A multitasking American woman who was most known for her contribution to journalism, her

fame rose after she went undercover posing as a mentally ill patient in one of New York's infamous mental hospitals and published the account of her ten days there, as told by Womenshistory.org. This was an early example of what we now call investigative journalism. She wrote about and uncovered other crimes and corruption at various institutions. The site also includes how Bly's fame grew with her 72 day trip around the world. Her writing continued with the Women's Suffrage Movement and World War I.

## **Joan of Arc, 1412-1431 (Military Commander)**

This French girl rescued France during the Siege of Orleans in the Hundred Years' War. After claiming to hear the voice of God telling her to save France against England, Joan of Arc got the permission of King Charles VII, who was then a Crown Prince, to fight against the British. She won and saved France, but was later captured by the English and burned at the stake at the mere age of 19 for witchcraft and heresy. As History.com mentions, France has always

regarded her as a savior and made her into a symbol of national pride.

## **Sacagawea, 1788-1812 (Explorer/Shoshone Interpreter)**

Sacagawea was a Native American woman who led the famous explorers Lewis and Clark on their expedition from the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains, as written by History.com. They were able to successfully complete their journey and avoid major conflicts with other tribes thanks to her translation skills and knowledge of the land. During this journey, she also took care of her newborn son alone. Sacagawea was both a talented explorer and mother.

## **Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910 (Nurse)**

This British Crimean War nurse, better known as "The Lady with the Lamp," helped reduce the death toll of British soldiers by about 2/3 through improvements in the poor sanitation and medical care given to soldiers. Her work increased nursing's influence and inspired sanitation changes back in her home country as well.

# Promising Possibilities for Senior Activities

LOGAN FAULK  
STAFF WRITER

This past year has been quite difficult for many. The majority of Willowbrook's students haven't been in the physical classroom since March of last year, and many can agree that E-Learning has been an egregious transition for both the students and the faculty. Because of this, many senior students have deemed this to be the "forgotten year."

However, with vaccines from Moderna, Pfizer and Johnson and Johnson being administered at a much higher rate than previously to the senior-citizen population, as well as the first responders, there is a glimmer of hope that rests in the remaining two months of school.

Many students will return to a hybrid-style of school during the week prior to spring break, maintaining two, in-person days a week. The district plans to go even further after spring break, with a four-day schedule for students who elect to return to the classroom.

Yet, even with the chances to return to school, many questions about gatherings with graduation and prom linger. There has been talk about the possibility of holding graduation ceremonies outside in the football stadium, as well as other sources pointing to the idea of holding graduation in the gym with divided groups that would be decided alphabetically by last name.

From many different accounts, people simply want to return to

normalcy with this year's graduation. There is a lot of support to have a full ceremony from many senior parents, many of whom have suggested options as to how a full graduation may continue with a socially distanced crowd. Because of this, many support having graduation on the football field because of the open air, the large number of occupancy, and the amount of space people would be able to social distance.

But aside from graduation, the question of prom has also been cast into the wind of conversation. There have been ideas from the Willowbrook staff and students to hold a prom-style picnic outside at a gazebo, have a prom on the football field and in the field house, or to simply not have a prom and to have a socially distanced picnic in

the courtyard.

"I think as long as everyone is willing to attend an event, then it should be left up to seniors to decide what we want to do," said WB senior Nathan Nichols. "I understand that many people at our school could be at risk or live with people at risk, but I just want to go back to as much normalcy as possible."

At this point, there still isn't a lot of concrete information on what activities seniors, among other students, will get to enjoy in the few remaining months of class. It seems returning to class could signal a pivotal point in this year. Even if the past is lost, the remaining future of this viral year could be salvaged.

# Best Buddies members develop friendships

NEERAJA KUMAR  
STAFF WRITER

Best Buddies is the world's largest organization whose mission is to end the stigma and isolation of the millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

It is hard enough in the teenage years to make and hold onto friendships, but it is extremely important. According to Pschy4Schools, "Having friends improves wellbeing, attitudes to learning and academic performance. Having close friends is related to success at school and in later life. Hence, developing and maintaining friendships is important for a child's social, emotional, psychological and moral development."

According to the Therapeu-

tic Recreation Directory, making friendships for those with a disability is extremely difficult since they generally interact only with family members and caregivers.

Individuals with disabilities can have little or no interaction with other people. This is why Best Buddies focus on friendship is crucial.

Willowbrook is very lucky to have the opportunity to be a part of the Best Buddies effort. According to twelve-year faculty sponsor Ms. Tiffany Linwood, the Willowbrook program empowers the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers and feel valued by society.

They meet once a month after school for special events and activities with their friends and also participate in WB's very own Best

Buddies Prom and annual Friendship walk. Linwood's favorite part about Best Buddies is watching all the new friendships develop, creating a more inclusive school community, and being a part of something that brings so much joy and excitement to all the students that are involved.

Best Buddies also educates and empowers people with and without IDD to become leaders, public speakers and advocates. One such advocate at WB is the school chapter's president, Cristian Lager. He has been a part of Best Buddies since 7th grade. Lager takes an active role in Best Buddies by serving as the chapter leader, being a role model for the club, regularly planning meetings, communicating goals and challenges, and organizing events.

"It's a great experience for ev-

eryone of all ages," said Lager.

Even during the pandemic, the club continued, though certain activities, such as the Best Buddies Prom, had to be cancelled. For their main March event, Best Buddies did virtual musical chairs, learned an Irish Dance and played a March-themed scavenger hunt. They are planning a spring-themed event.

Lager strongly encourages everyone to go out for Best Buddies no matter what grade they are in.

"If you are on the fence about joining, I encourage you to attend just one meeting to see what the club is all about," said Lager.

For more information on Best Buddies, email Ms. Linwood at [tlinwood@dupage88.org](mailto:tlinwood@dupage88.org) or Cristian Lager at [2222760@dupage88.org](mailto:2222760@dupage88.org).

# Scholastic Bowl team ends season at Regionals

LILY MORGAN  
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Scholastic Bowl team has had a successful season. Despite being pushed into virtual practices, as many clubs and activities have, the team did not let any distance stop them from dominating much of the competition this year.

With a final record of 11-7, the team took 4th place out of 13 schools in the West Suburban Conference, ending their season on a high note, despite falling a little short at their Regionals competition. According to Head Coach Ben Fenske, the team fought valiantly to reclaim their lead after having a slow start, but ultimately weren't able to pull through with the win.

"I know they were not proud of the results," said Fenske about the team's loss, "but I'm proud of them."

The Scholastic Bowl team meets to compete in Jeopardy-style competitions and answer questions on various topics, such

as math, literature, science, and history. In a normal, non-pandemic year, the team would be meeting in person for weekly practices where they would operate on a buzzer system to ring in their answers. Over Zoom however, the practices looked a little different.

Instead of having buzzers to ring in, the competitors would have to type into Zoom chats in order to ring in, relying on their fast-typing skills and their fast-thinking skills. Despite some changes, the team was still able to compete in every match they had scheduled, and completed the full season.

"It was as realistic or traditional as anything else could've been," said Fenske.

The team is looking forward to competing again next year and is searching for other competitors to join them.

"A lot of times we're reaching into the same kids as the math team, speech team, theater and band," said Fenske. "If you're also in these activities, we can still use you."

Fenske emphasized that inter-

ested students can attend practices that match their schedules, without fear of being kicked off for missing a practice. He emphasized that the team is looking for students to compete next year who might specialize in a certain subject, whether it be history, literature, math, or science—but he notes that students don't need to be great in ev-

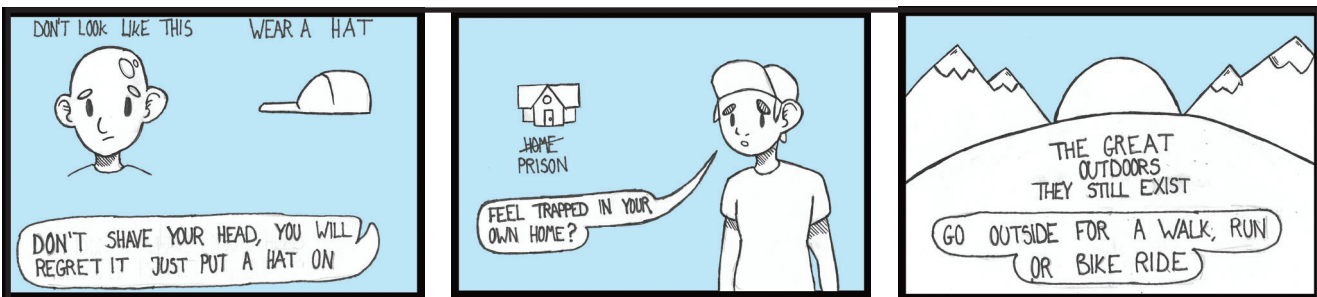
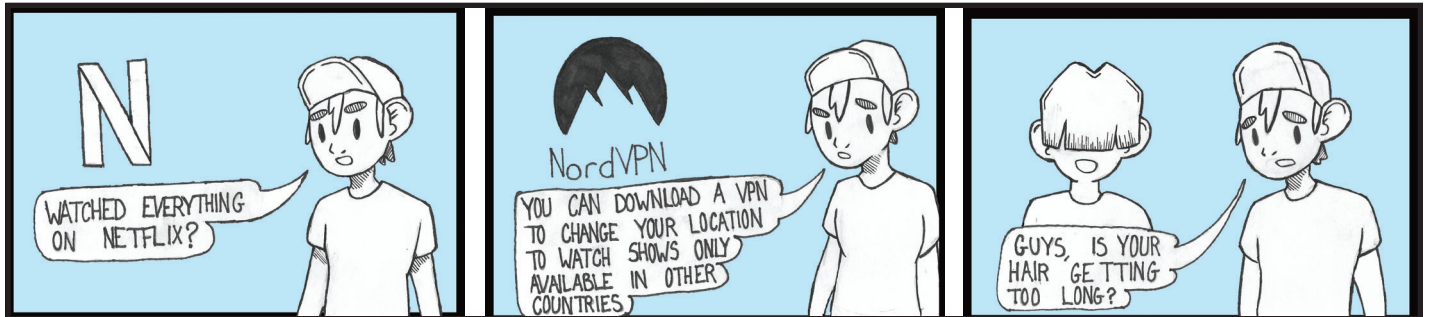
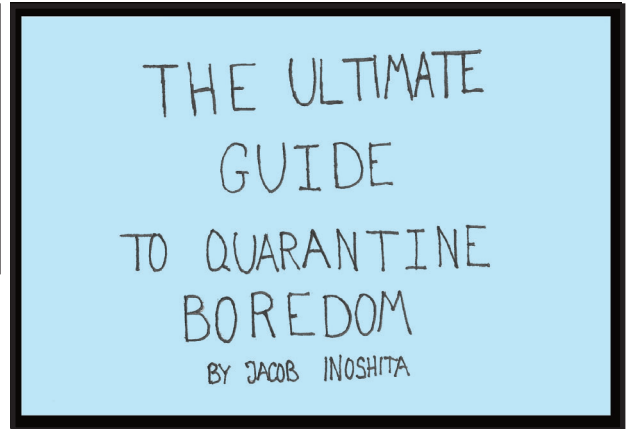
ery subject. Just being interested is most important.

If students are interested in joining the team next year, they can look out for information from Mr. Fenske.

"If you like trivia, if you enjoy watching game shows, Scholastic Bowl is the event for you," said Fenske.



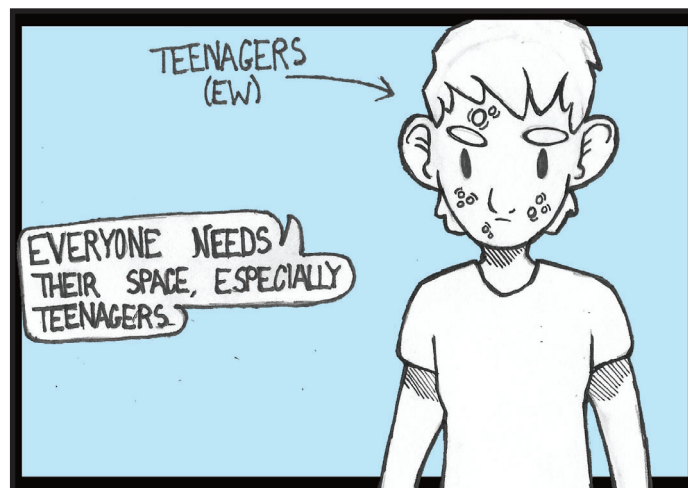
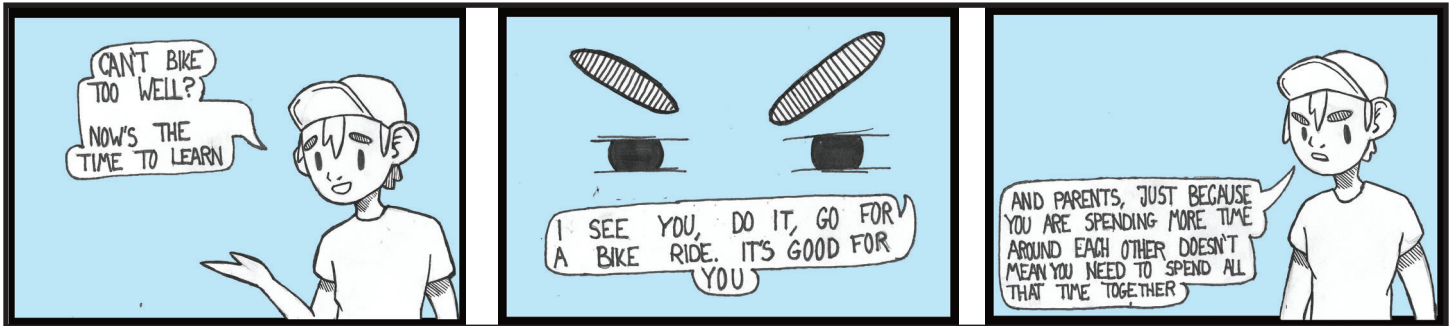
cartoon by Mia Craft



(continued on page 8)



(continued from page 7: "The Ultimate Guide to Quarantine Boredom," by Jacob Inoshita)





# Girls hoops ends their season on a high

ERIKA RICH  
SPORTS EDITOR

As of March 13th, the Lady Warriors have officially ended the 2020-2021 basketball season with triumphant success. With an unprecedentedly short season and a record of 13-2, the girls basketball team has shown that time was not an obstacle for them.

Given talent from each grade level, the team not only showed compatibility, but a passionate drive and strong skills. Junior Sophia Sullivan shares that hard work results in great achievements.

"During the off-season, I trained usually six days out of the week and focused on multiple aspects of my game," shared Sullivan. "I have worked on speed and strength training, finishing around the basket, keeping consistency, and even focused on my mindset and the mental aspect of the game."

Not only did the players individually train and focus on their personal skills, but they also frequently held zoom meeting workouts and team dinners. That way, the team was comfortable with each other and developed a natural chemistry on the court.

Another key to the Lady Warriors' success is their ability to play



photo courtesy of LBVP Sports

## #35 Calli Kenny at the free throw line in game against Lyons.

their individual roles on the court yet also stay on the same page throughout the game. Senior and team captain for the second year, Stephanie Dasbach made sure to perform her role on the court the best she could.

"I am a forward/center so my main role is to rebound, screen, have good passes, help on defense, and finish layups," said Dasbach. "I think I performed my role this season and am very pleased with how everything went."

The Warriors' showed their dynamic teamwork in action at the West Suburban Conference tournament hosted by Morton on March 13th. Calli Kenny, a freshman, has already made a name for

herself for her incredible athleticism. As number 35 on the court, Kenny was always at the right spot at the right time. In the final game of the tournament playing against Lyons Township, Kenny put up 21 points and had 10 rebounds.

The game against Lyons ended the season with a 52-46 win, and granted the team the title of WSC champions. Due to the shortened season and pandemic restrictions, there will be no state tournament.

The match was neck and neck up until the last few minutes of the fourth quarter. With a little over 2 minutes left of the game, Dasbach helped the Warriors keep the lead with a three-point play making the score 44-41. After another foul on

WB, the girls knew that they won. With confidence and aggression, they went to a full court press down the stretch and prevented Lyons from performing any major plays.

A successful take-away from not only this game but the whole season is the sharp ability for every player on the court to read the opposing team's defence and adjust accordingly. Head Coach Harrell recognizes the importance of this skill and made sure to include it during practice.

"The coaches got creative and had us do drills with a lot of repetition," said Dasbach. "This way we improved as quickly as we could with a short season. Coach Harrell's playing style is having us focus on defense and pressing, then giving us plays to run on the offensive end."

These techniques and plans have been put into action and are proven to be effective since 11 out of the 15 games played, the Warriors had a leading gap of 20 or more points.

"We can achieve all of this from playing solid defense, finishing on offense, and good teamwork," shared Dasbach.

Congrats to the girls basketball team on a strong season and great accomplishments.

# Boys basketball team focuses on their technique

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Though the boys basketball team didn't have the season record they hoped for (3-10), they used this time to focus on technique and teamwork. With a group consisting of mainly juniors, there was a lack of experience at the varsity level. They took this season as a building block for stronger and more successful future seasons, for there is lots of potential among the juniors.

From start to finish, the WB boys team focused on their technical skills to work up to a competitive level. This tactic led to an exciting last game of the season, an 84-68 win against Leyden.

Haven Pryor, senior, reflects on his mindset throughout the season.

"If we are not winning games, then are we at least getting better," shared Pryor. "By fixing the little mistakes and working on consistency in practice definitely led to better overall game play and performance."

The skills and talent of players are important, but if the team is on different pages, the success will not follow through. Tyler King, senior, shares that there was barely any contact and team bonding before the season started.

"I knew it would be a short season, our first game was just over a week after the first practice," shared King. "Every guy on the team adjusted and learned to play with one another and build the team chemistry that was needed right away."

As the season went on, the team found themselves and started finding their groove.

"By the last week of the season, our team chemistry, energy, support for one another, and our defense was very impressive," shared King.

Juniors Alexander Simmons, Marquel Saleek, and Terrell Walker along with sophomore Noah Campbell stood out this season and showed the true Warrior spirit. In the final game against Leyden, Walker had 19 points and four rebounds, Campbell put up 17 points with 6 rebounds and 4 steals, and Saleek had 14 points and 4 steals.

Though a little bumpy in the beginning of the season, the Warriors picked up their pace and ended the season with a win.



photo courtesy of LBVP Sports

#11 Alex Simmons drives to the basket in game against DGS.