

Holocaust Remembrance Day

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EDITOR

January 27th, 1945, the day Auschwitz was liberated by the Red Army, now known as International Holocaust Remembrance Day. On the 60th anniversary of the Holocaust, the United Nations came together to commemorate a day for international remembrance, some choosing to follow the January 27th tradition or other dates more meaningful to the nation, as with Israel's Yom HaShoah observed on the 27th of May or April depending on the Jewish calendar.

Many are unaware there is such a thing as a Holocaust Remembrance Day since it is not widely reported on new outlets or practiced on social media. This goes hand in hand with the upsetting growth of Anti-Semitism and Holocaust denials across the globe. Only 16 out of the 50 states have a curriculum that require teachings of the genocide of 6 million Jews and 11 million others. The remaining states are often hot spots for Anti-Semitism and naivete to the reality of the Holocaust because they are uneducated. Even if they are taught some of the events, there is reason to believe that their lessons are neither extensive nor thought-provoking for

the students. Some teachers feel it is too graphic of a topic or something of the past that will not be repeated, so why bother teaching the students and reminding the teachers of something that simply could not happen again?

Some educators do not even believe the Holocaust was a real event in history. This horrifying fact was proven in 2018, when a Floridian Principal exchanged emails with a parent regarding their student's education on the Holocaust. The principal went on to say, "I can't say the Holocaust is a factual, historical event because I am not in a position to do so as a school district employee. You have your thoughts, but we are a public school, and not all of our parents have the same beliefs," according to USA Today.

This occurred over three years ago. Since then, various surveys have been conducted to record how many people are actually familiar with the events of the Holocaust, even just familiar with the name Auschwitz. More than half of Austrians surveyed didn't know six million Jewish people were killed in the Holocaust, with nearly 60% of millennials and Generation Z not knowing the death toll, either. Furthermore, a quarter of Austrians and almost

a third of its millennials and Gen Z-ers thought one million or fewer Jews were killed.

All of this comes down to education. By not implementing rigorous and extensive lessons in the curriculum, not only in America but across the globe, has shown that people are forgetting or not even being aware of the atrocities that occurred during the Holocaust. It is even sadder to hear that people within the countries were not only victims to Hitler's regime, but took part in its actions, do not know nor believe that they actually transpired. It is safe to say that there is a large amount of work to be done to ensure future generations are educated on the past, as it slips further and further into history, so that it may stay just that: in the past.

As technology advances, it is critical that we find more ways to engage the younger generations in self-education if they are not receiving one from their schools, utilizing the platforms that are often taken advantage of. In honor of this Remembrance Day, please take some time to educate yourself so that you can take part in the betterment of society to guarantee history does not repeat itself.



The Zone of Death

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The purge, 24 hours of pure freedom, the dystopian fictional story that could only exist in a horror film; but what if it existed in America? Known as the Death Zone, this portion of

inhabitants or courthouses) that it would be impossible to form a jury, no matter the crime.

Once Kalt discovered this Death Zone, he focused his essay on fixing the loophole. One would assume a horrifying discovery like Kalt's would draw the govern-



Yellowstone National Park is theoretically lawless.

ment's attention, but shockingly it was ignored.

The 50 square miles of Yellowstone National Park in Idaho was the topic of interest in Michigan State Law Professor Brian C. Kalt's essay, "The Perfect Crime". Published in 2005, it revealed his discovery of the constitutional loophole that would make this portion of America a criminal's heaven.

While researching the technicalities of the sixth amendment, Kalt attempted to find a location that did not have enough eligible citizens to form a jury. To try someone for a federal crime, the jury would need to consist of people from the same district and state where the crime took place. Kalt was shocked to find that such a place existed, the Idaho portion of Yellowstone National Park fits perfectly. This part of Yellowstone is so remote (there are no

In 2007 another piece was published to help gain attention from lawmakers, author C.J. Box wrote *Free Fire*, a novel that featured the Death Zone. This novel sparked the interest of Mike Enzi, a senator in Wyoming who attempted to convince congress to discuss it, but the issue was left unresolved. One would expect such an area to have skyrocketing crime rates because of this loophole. Shockingly the only known crime to have been committed was the illegal killing of an elk. Lawmakers have failed to address this issue and this section of Yellowstone remains "lawless". Because of the government's neglect on this issue, it continues to remain the Death Zone, with the inability to try someone in front of a jury these 50 square miles are America's own patch of the purge.



Spring Break Day Trips

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For Malibu High students, this will be the second Spring Break during a pandemic, but this time we are not confined to the borders of our own home. On January 25th, California Governor Gavin Newsom lifted the Stay At Home Order, which allowed popular travel destinations to reopen under strict safety protocols. Here are a few COVID-compliant day trips to get you off your computer and outdoors this Spring Break.

Under normal circumstances, Malibu High's marine biology classes would take a field trip to one of the Channel Islands to apply their studies. Last year, the trip was postponed, and then canceled. Unfortunately, this year looks no different for marine biology students. Spring Break is the perfect opportunity to take your newfound knowledge to the field. The Island Packers that transport you to and from the islands are now operating with strict safety protocols; masks are required, capacity is limited, sanitation is enforced, and eating or drinking is prohibited. Tickets are available for reservation on <https://islandpackers.com/>, where you will find more information about the available tours.

Located 22 miles off Long Be

ach, Catalina Island is a popular tourist destination, welcoming over 1,000,000 visitors a year - prior to the pandemic. Catalina Island Company has announced that most hotels, tours, and restaurants are back in business after the Stay at Home Order was lifted. Health requirements and travel restrictions can change, but



for now, the Catalina Island Company is accepting reservations starting February 10th, 2021. Boats leave from Dana Point and San Pedro to the island. For more information regarding the reopening, visit <https://www.lovecatalina.com/covid-19/whats-open/>.

If you're prone to sea-sickness and prefer a quick road trip, Ojai, a quaint town with organic farmers markets, outdoor trails, and farm-to-table cuisine, is just an hour's drive north of Malibu. The landmark, Ojai Valley Inn, a luxury resort is a five-minute drive from Nordhoff High School, one of Malibu High's ri-

vals in the Citrus Coast League. Ojai is home to some of the best hiking trails in California, with levels ranging from easy to extreme, you're bound to find a perfect trail to immerse yourself in nature during Spring Break.

If traveling is not an option, or you just want to stay home and study for the AP Tests, there are lots to do in your own backyard. Malibu is a popular vacation destination to people across the globe as evident by the beachgoers and traffic galore. If you want to join the crowd, the beach is a free and socially distant

option. If you need some relaxation amidst this crazy time, start your day with a socially distant meditation class at the Mindry in the Malibu Country Mart. Grab lunch at one of your favorite restaurants, and then watch the sun go down at the beach.

Traveling may look a little different during a pandemic, but there are still ways to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Be mindful and stay up to date with the various health protocols when traveling. All you need is a mask and gas in your car to take a socially distant day trip this Spring Break.

CGI Controversy in Anime

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Recently, there has been a lot of talk about CGI (computer-generated imagery) in anime. This topic has arisen once again because of the anime *Attack on Titan* which, after getting a new animation studio, now uses CGI instead of hand-drawn "stop motion".

Now what exactly is CGI? CGI or CG is where computers are used to render 3D models onto the screen. In contrast, normal animation is a series of hand drawn images that are strung together, like stop motion, to create the illusion of motion. For some reason, when anime watchers hear that a show has or uses CGI, they seem to shy away from watching it or make the assumption that it's bad.

But why do anime watchers, including myself, tend to stay away from CGI shows? Well, the answer is simple, animation studios that use CGI rarely get it right. As popular anime YouTuber Gigguk said, "Bad CG is bad CG because you notice bad CG". For the majority of watchers, bad CG takes the watcher out of the experience because things just don't look right. Also, most anime are either all CG or no CG. There are few anime that take advantage of both, purely for budget reasons. There would be a need to pay artists for both hand-drawn animation and animators for CG animation.

When an anime is purely reliant on CG for its animation, it has to nail the CG to get good reviews, despite if it's a perfect story. For example, *Berserk* was one of the most popular manga in Japan and got an animation in 1997 and was well received. In 2016, the show was redone with CG and fans were not happy. I have not watched the show, but from what I've seen, the CG animation was very bad and I couldn't tell whether I was watching a western cartoon or a Japanese animation. From weird facial expressions to awkward body movements, CG did not help the show gain popularity, but more so ruined the reputation of CG anime.

Berserk set the bar very low for anime fans, low enough for people to avoid CG shows altogether. The next best thing would be to combine CG and normal animation, which many anime studios are beginning to do. However, the problem people still have is that the two animations tend to clash with each other if not used properly. For example, in *Golden Kamuy*, the characters are all animated normally but there is a CGI bear that they interact with and fight. The difference in animation makes the bear seem chunky and out of place, ruining the immersion for the watcher.

However, Wit Studio, the ani-

maters of *Attack on Titan* seasons one through three, have cleverly used CG to enhance the show. Wit Studio took advantage of the fast-paced action scenes to create a CGI background in which normally animated characters move through. Because the background is moving at such a fast pace, the watcher doesn't have time to recognize that there is even CG. I never even realized there was so much CG until I went back and watched certain scenes and focused on the background. This is an example of good CG in anime because you would never notice it.

Moving on to the controversy. After *Attack on Titan* season three ended, the director announced that they would be hiring a new studio: MAPPA Studio (Maruyama Animation Produce Project Association). For almost all fans, this was a good sign because the studio had already animated two hit anime in 2020: *Jujutsu Kaisen* and *The God of High School*. However, after the first episode of season four aired, fans noticed that the titans were animated with CG, instead of normal methods. For many fans, this meant the end of the world because they believe that all CG is bad. Most of the other comments I've seen have been indifferent to the new animation.

In my opinion, the use of CG in *Attack on Titan* does not ruin the show, like many fans would like you to believe. I prefer this new animation by MAPPA over Wit Studio. I feel as if the CG movements of the characters match with the creepy and evil sort of feel that season four has adopted. To all the people who think CG ruins all anime, I used to feel the same way until I watched season four of *Attack on Titan*, which was the first time I favored CG animation. To all the *Attack on Titan* fans who dislike MAPPA Studio for using CG and cling on to Wit Studio for its traditional animation, Wit Studio actually used lots of CG but because it was used masterfully, fans never noticed. My stance on the controversy is this; Wit Studio had good CG because no one noticed the good CG and MAPPA Studio uses good CG. After all, it does not ruin the immersion for the watcher. As long as watchers are not complaining every second about the use of CG, people would soon realize the masterpiece that is the animation of *Attack on Titan*.



Grades Slipping?

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With the current COVID-19 pandemic and distance learning, it makes sense if your grades are slipping. Your grades are important and need to be maintained. This is why there are a lot of different ways to improve your grades, even in distance-learning.

Completing your work on time is a really easy way to improve your grade. Each time you forget an assignment and turn it in late you lose points. Although, the current school policy allows you to not lose points for late work as long as you turn it within 5 days after the assignment was due, you should still try to turn it in on time. If you have a busy life and have a hard time keeping track of these assignments, turn on your Google Classroom notifications or check your phone every few hours for new assignments. Also, check your email regularly for communication from your teacher. If not your assignments, you need to study for your tests in order to improve your grade. The idea of reading after a long day of staring at the screen sounds very boring, which is why channels like Crash Course and Vox were created. Crash Course states that "Crash Course is one of the best ways to educate yourself, your

classmates, and your family on YouTube". Those channels have lots of accurate study material for most subjects. Khan Academy and TED talks have great information for science and math. Khan Academy helps improve grades to the point where "studying for the SAT for 20 hours on Khan Academy's free Official SAT Practice is associated with an average score gain of 115 points. That's nearly double the average score gain compared to students who don't use our free test prep". Quizlet also helps with most subjects, especially because of its flashcards and practice test options. If you don't want to look at the screen, crack open your textbooks. Read, make flashcards, take handwritten notes, and repeat until your grade improves. You could also try writing about your subject. For example, if you were learning about WWI write a letter from the perspective of a German soldier or if you're learning about chemistry write a paragraph on how ammonia is made. You might not know this but your environment plays a big role when it comes to improving your grades. For example, if your daily life is busy (lucky you) but unorganized you will forget about that chemistry assignment. With that in mind, manage your day and allow yourself at least two hours in the afternoon to do your homework. Now, make sure

you sit down in a place where there isn't much sound. Your brain can only focus on so many things at once. Your own room or your outside patio would work, if you can put your devices in a different area. This will allow you to be fully focused on your work. Lastly, consider chewing some gum and use blue ink when writing notes. This helps you remember the material better.

Last but not least, ask your teachers for help if needed. Utilizing resources such as office hours allows you to ask questions that will help you boost your GPA. It's also a good idea to ask if any tests or quizzes are open notes. It may feel weird to ask your teachers for help but if you don't understand something it's necessary, plus teachers love when you come to them for help. Your teachers are certified to educate you and that means that any questions you have should be answered by your teacher.

Your education is key for future success. Whether you want to go to college or not, education will help you properly communicate your ideas to others. That's why checking Google Classroom, turning in work on time, and studying is key to achieving a high GPA. Remember, your education is your freedom.