

The Murray Hill Metropolitan

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2020's Unique Proms and Graduations

By: Sarozini Shrestha

Source: Etsy.com

Many students feel cheated for all the opportunities they lost this year, especially high school seniors, who [lost their proms and graduations due to the pandemic](#). Unfortunately, since schools have been closed for the rest of the year, there doesn't seem to be any chance of making these events up in real life within this year. However, people and businesses online have been finding ways to allow high school graduates to celebrate, creating online events, and activities that mimic the experiences in different ways, trying to uplift the disappointed students.

For example, ABC set up a [virtual ceremony](#) for the seniors, inviting Barack Obama, Malala Yousafzai, LeBron James, and social media superstars like David Dobrik and Charli D'Amelio for a proper send-off into the next chapter of their lives. Social media platforms and influencers have also been putting in their two cents to make up for the unfortunate circumstances.

According to [Lucy Michaeloudis](#) at Upfluence and Sarah Perez at TechCrunch, YouTube is setting up a Dear Class of 2020 on June 6, with commencement speeches from Barack and Michelle Obama, as well as Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google. Some YouTube creators will be speaking in that event as well. Instagram and Facebook released graduation themed filters on May 11, which started off a week of graduation themed activities for graduating students to participate in. There was a throwback [#GradPhotoChallenge](#) and [#MySeniorQuote challenge](#) from Instagram and Facebook began the "Student Spotlight" series to feature the amazing graduates of this year. Students were also invited to do a graduation walk using [#GradWalk2020](#). On May 15, a virtual graduation ceremony was aired, featuring Oprah Winfrey, Awkwafina, Jennifer Garner, Lil Nas X, Simone Biles, and Miley Cyrus as well.

As for proms, social media is helping there too. [Influencers on TikTok](#) shared tips on improving prom outfits, offered different ideas for makeup, and taught teens different dances for at-home proms. Brands such as Axe were also setting up virtual events. Axe created an online version of the "promposal", inviting students to submit their promposals online under [#bemyAXEdatecontest](#) to Rickey Thompson, an Instagram and YouTube personality promoting this activity. Submitting a promposal could win a student a chance for an Instagram Live with him.

Online creators putting in the extra effort to help graduating students celebrate opportunities otherwise lost to them is heartwarming and creates a sense of happiness, connection, and warmth in these troubling times.



Ahmaud Arbery:

Why did arrest take months?

By: Caitlyn Faustin

Picture this: A man is doing his daily jog down a street. As he casually strolls down the street, he takes in the beautiful scenery of Brunswick, Georgia. In an instant, he plummets to the ground with blood splattered on his jogging outfit. This scenario happened 2 months ago to a man named Ahmaud Arbery, a African-American runner. His killers? A caucasian father and son.

For 2 months, this story got little attention because in today's day and age, it is sadly our normal. Until, there was a change. Actor and writer JL Josiah Watts who was Arbery's cousin sent an anguished email to Kim Severson, a food writer for the New York Times. JL explained that his cousin was chased, shot and killed by two white males. Even so, no one was arrested and Arbery's murders walked free.

Once the New York Times, Atlanta Bureau chief went to Brunswick, Georgia with permission of the Times, he gained police reports and interviews. On April 26, Kim Severson published the article "[Two Weapons, A Chase, a Killing and No Charges.](#)" Then, this murder began getting national attention from civil rights leaders to middle schoolers. The week of May 4th, Gregory and Travis McMichael, a father and son were charged for murder. It took national attention for this sloppy investigation by the local police before these murders were arrested. Only when Arbery's famous cousin brought this case to light was Arbery brought to justice.



U.S Women's Soccer Team to appeal judge's dismissal of Equal pay claims

By: Neil Chibber

Source: NBCNews.com

Last year the U.S women's soccer team took the U.S news by storm [winning the World Cup](#) against the Netherlands 2-0. [Megan Rapinoe](#) led the team to a win, as well as, taking home the [MVP trophy](#).

Earlier this year the [USWNT](#) (United States Women's National Team) started a lawsuit against [USSF](#) (United States Soccer Federation) claiming that men were getting paid twice the amount that women were

getting paid even though women had twice the win ratio.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner dismissed the claim. A spokesperson for the team, Molly Levinson [tweeting](#), "Equal pay means paying women players the same rate for winning a game as men get paid," Levinson added. "The argument that women are paid enough if they make close to the same amount as men while winning more than twice as often is not equal pay". This was the first in many tweets that got the attention of the media.

According to CBS Sports, the team wants over 66 million dollars under [Title 7 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#). On May 1st, Klausner said, "he would not allow the equal pay allegations to go forward

because the women's national team previously "rejected an offer to be paid under the same pay-to-play structure as the men's national team."

Levinson responded [writing](#), "The argument that women gave up a right to equal pay by accepting the best collective bargaining agreement possible...in response to the Federation's refusal to put equal pay on the table is not a legitimate reason for continuing to discriminate against them." After this response the USWNT decided to appeal to a higher court. Although the hearing was postponed and set for a later date.

You can view the original decision from Gary Klausner [here](#).



Renewed Outbreaks of COVID-19

By: Olivia Bradley

As of May 10th, there have been renewed outbreaks of COVID-19 in places such as South Korea, China, and Germany. South Korea was one of the first places to deal with a major coronavirus pandemic and seemed to be on track to loosen restrictions, after weeks of social distancing measures and precautions. But dozens of new cases have been confirmed in the last week, nearly all of them linked to nightclubs in the Itaewon district of Seoul. On Wednesday, Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany announced the latest gradual reopening of large shops, schools, nurseries, and even restaurants and bars. After she did so, the number that indicates how many new cases one infected person generates on average grew from 0.65 to 1.1. On Sunday, just a week after China designated all regions in the country as low or medium risk, Chinese authorities reclassified Shulan, a city near the Russian and North Korean borders, as high risk after a new cluster of cases. The U.S is also trying to reopen, but this could have negative effects. Dr. Larry Chang, an infectious-diseases specialist at Johns Hopkins University says: "The vast majority of Americans have not been exposed to the virus, there is not immunity, and the initial conditions that allowed this virus to spread really quickly across America haven't really changed." It is quite possible that reopening could increase our number of outbreaks as well, the same way it did in these other countries.



Murder Hornets. What are they, and should we worry about them?

By: Shreeya Thakre

Source: CNN

A "murder hornet" has been sighted in the US. But what are they? They're called the Asian giant hornets, and only two have been spotted in the US, both in Washington state. They can harm honey bees, but the bees are far more susceptible to other viruses. And while their stings are capable of killing people, it's

relatively rare. Are they the insects we should look out for? "If there are any animals most deserving of fear, it's the mosquitoes," said Lawrence Reeves, assistant research scientist at the University of Florida's Medical Entomology Laboratory. The Asian giant hornet is thought to kill 50 people a year worldwide, mostly due to allergic reactions or multiple stings. More than 700,000 people die from mosquito-borne

illnesses every year, according to the World Health Organization. While those diseases are fairly rare in the US, the risk isn't zero.

"In the US, I would expect that becoming infected with a mosquito-transmitted virus is about as common as winning the lottery," Reeves said. "That said, there are always lottery winners."

In the US, common mosquito-transmitted diseases include West Nile virus and dog heartworm.

But 2019 saw a significant outbreak of eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE. That mosquito-borne illness infected at least 38 people in the northeast and Midwest and killed 15 of them, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

EEE is quite serious: One in three people infected with it die, and those who survive often face neurological damage. So, murder hornets shouldn't be higher up on your worry list, mosquitos should be.



DOJ Drops Case Against Michael Flynn

By: Neel Singh

Source: NPR

Michael Flynn's case may be the most crucial fight in the battle for the soul of our nation in modern history. His case rose to the public eye in 2017 and caused turmoil that our country is still dealing with today. On December 28, 2016, the Obama administration announced sanctions on the

Russian government for [interfering](#) in the 2016 US election in favor of the [Trump campaign](#). In response to this, Flynn, who Trump named as his National Security Advisor, addressed the Russian ambassador, Sergey Kilysak, with guidance (as identified by [CNN](#)) from K.T. McFarland, telling him not to raise tariffs and instead retaliate

equally as the Trump administration would take a stance that would be agreeable to Russian leaders. However this act was illegal due to the Logan Act as US citizens (which Flynn was at the time as the Trump administration was not sworn in yet) can not broker deals on behalf of the US government.

Vice President Mike Pence, on January 15, 2017 denied that Flynn ever negotiated with Sergey Kilysak on *CBS Face The Nation*. 12 days later, Flynn was interviewed by the FBI and he lied about his negotiations with the Sergey Kilysak, a United Nations (UN) Council solution. Sally Yates (the acting Attorney General), on January 26, 2017, alerted the White counsel what Mike Pence was saying publicly was false, as the Department of Justice (DOJ) had intelligence from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which proved that Flynn was lying and that the Russians had similar data which may be used to extort Flynn. The following day, Trump confronted James Comey, the acting FBI director, and asked him for loyalty towards his administration.

Then on Feb 13, 2017, Trump fired Flynn after several press releases revealed that Flynn lied to the FBI. Furthermore, on February 14, 2017, Trump asked Comey to stay after a meeting on counterterrorism and "began by saying, 'I want to talk about Mike Flynn. He then said, 'I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go. ' as Comey said when he testified before Congress on June 8, 2017. Comey concurred that he was a good guy, but did not agree to end his investigation into Michael Flynn. Later on May 9, 2017, Comey was fired from his post as FBI director with Trump calling him a "showboat" and "grandstander" and stating that he was fired because of the "Russia thing." [This may constitute an obstruction of justice as Trump](#)

[fired Comey due to the investigation into him and his associates.](#) Then on November 30, 2017, Flynn signed a plea agreement and agreed to cooperate with Robert Muller’s special counsel.

This all became especially problematic on May 8, 2020, when the DOJ dropped all charges on him. The judge overlooking Flynn’s case, Emmet Silvson, also appointed a retired judge, John Gleeson, to argue against the DOJ dropping these charges. Recently this has caused rising tensions from politicians on either side of the aisle, but what we must remember as the American public in these unprecedented times is that we must advocate for our democracy, consider each sides’ claims and make a decisive decision about [“What We The People of The United States \[must do\] in order to form a more perfect union.](#)



Faster degrading plastic made by chemists

By: Michael Kittredge

Source: LabManager.com

For years, the earth has faced the issue of plastic in the ocean. Due to it taking over 700 years to degrade, many sea creatures have gotten caught in it and died or been injured. The leading cause of this large quantity of plastic in the oceans is

commercial fishing. This is because they use polymer--based nets to catch fish, which get lost and could kill orcas, dolphins, and whales even.

Now, thanks to chemists, there is a better option. This is a commercial fishing net that is obedient to all guidelines. However, if it gets lost it will ”degrade on a realistic time scale,” according to lead researcher for the nets Bryce Lipinski. The nets will, if lost, degrade quickly due to ultraviolet light. This is promising a bright future for sea life and the planet.

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Singing Alligators Logic Puzzle

<p>THE STORY Allie, Agnes, and Art were three alligators who were 26, 20, and 13 year old and were 26, 20, and 13 feet long. They decided they needed more fiber in their diets and started eating 26, 20, and 13 pineapples a day. They began discussing their future homes and each wanted to live somewhere different. They wanted to live in a swamp, a swimming pool, and a zoo. Based on the clues, match the alligators with their ages, lengths, number of pineapples consumed and their future homes.</p>	<p>THE CLUES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In no case did any alligator's number match any of his other numbers. 2. The longest alligator did not want to live in the swamp. 3. The oldest alligator was the shortest alligator. 4. Art ate half as many pineapples as Allie. 5. The youngest alligator wanted to move into the swimming pool.
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ALLIE	AGNES	ART
26 years old 20 years old 13 years old	26 years old 20 years old 13 years old	26 years old 20 years old 13 years old
26 feet long 20 feet long 13 feet long	26 feet long 20 feet long 13 feet long	26 feet long 20 feet long 13 feet long
26 pineapples 20 pineapples 13 pineapples	26 pineapples 20 pineapples 13 pineapples	26 pineapples 20 pineapples 13 pineapples
Swamp Swimming pool Zoo	Swamp Swimming pool Zoo	Swamp Swimming pool Zoo

Shout Out Instructions: Use the clues above to determine the answers to this puzzle. Then, fill out this [Google Form](#) correctly to earn a shout-out of your choice in our next issue.