



# THE VOYAGER

OCTOBER 2021



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A NOTE FROM  
THE  
NEWSPAPER  
STAFF  
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BACK TO SCHOOL!

THIS ISSUE IS LOADED WITH NEW STORIES, RANGING FROM THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MESSY OR CLEAN ROOMS AND VOICE ACTING! PLEASE READ THE ENTIRE ISSUE TO FIND OUT!

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*On the front cover: Marching Band's color guard members waiting for the bus on game day against Mendham H.S.*

## ***I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE... BY AI TAI***

Lethargic students stumble out of their seats and grumble the words, long since memorized, craving nothing but coffee and sleep. Every morning, children from all across America are subject to the Pledge of Allegiance during their daily announcements. Despite its prevalence, few ever truly process what exactly the Pledge of Allegiance is. Where did this strange promise of loyalty come from? Why is it important enough to be part of the American student's routine? And most relevantly, why is it so controversial?

There have always been disputes about the pledge, even in its origin. Most claim it was penned by Francis Bellamy, an ordained priest, while others believe it was the work of a publishing house employee, James Upham. However, it is known that the pledge found its debut in *The Youth's Companion*, a children's magazine from the late 1800's, which is a fact that seems absolutely absurd in today's world. Imagine some random inspirational poem from the latest *Scholastic* issue becoming a hallmark of American culture. On October 21, 1892, it was first included in "The Official Programme for the National Columbian Public School Celebration" to honor the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the new world.

Since the beginning, the Pledge of Allegiance has been about instilling a sense of patriotism in the youth of America. It is said as a show of respect and appreciation for the land of opportunities. However, in many modern-day circles, the pledge has fallen out of favor. Its constant repetition is seen as creepy to some, even being compared to a dystopian indoctrination ploy at the most extreme. Just taking the oath at face value, it often fails to actually inspire any national pride in students because they rarely stop to consider the weight of what they are parroting.

The earliest version of the pledge went as follows: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all." Besides the change from "my Flag" to "the Flag," you may notice a certain phrase is missing. "Under God," was not a part of the original Pledge of Allegiance. In fact, it would

not be included for another six decades! Congress officially added it on Flag Day of 1954, notably, during the Cold War. The Eisenhower administration was trying their best to juxtapose every aspect of American life to Communist culture, which included promoting non-secularity. While the Supreme Court ruled that students cannot be forced to recite the pledge in 1943, many still take issue with the religious interjection. Various cases have been filed against the two-word phrases insertion, as well as the pledge as a whole, even going as far as the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, it appears that the Pledge of Allegiance as we know it is not going anywhere anytime soon.

## ***MESSY OR FUNCTIONAL? BY MEEKA VARDI***

From a very young age, I have preferred to keep my room unorganized. While its roots may lie in my stubbornness and laziness, my room is more often untidy than not. When I get a burst of creative energy and decide to build something, paint something, or even just have fun with different messy materials, I do not want to worry about the cleanup after. When I decide to paint something, I take out all of my paint brushes, paints, and canvases and dive into turning the chaos in my mind into reality, something tangible. The last thing in my head, at that point is the order of my room. Over the years, I have become proficient in coming up with "excuses" (or, in my eyes, valid arguments) as to why my room is not organized. Though my family has yet to understand the reasoning behind my decision to keep my room in such disarray, I have no plan to change my ways.

Upon researching the benefits of having a clean room, my decision to keep it messy has only grown stronger. While yes, there have been numerous studies proving that an organized room leads to better sleep, less distractions, and a less chaotic life, I stand by my decision. The original title of this article was "The Psychological Difference Between Neat Freaks and Hoarders", however, I have decided to take a different route. A lesser known route: Why You Should Have an Unorganized

Room.

To preface my argument, I would like to acknowledge the fact that there is a difference between cleanliness and orderliness. I am completely content with leaving papers and pens on my desk, or even covering my floor. However, never have I or will I promote leaving food, wrappers, or anything that can mold or attract unwanted creatures, and no, I am not referring to your younger sibling.

Enough with the excuses. I am tired of having to argue with my family about the way my room looks, or warn guests before they come in. I am not ashamed of how I keep my room, it is functional and I have a system in place. To be completely honest, I have better things to do with my time. After all, someone needs to make the neat freaks feel better about themselves. I am in no way saying go home and live in your own filth, but I have found that arguing about how my room looks is pointless and unnecessary. Who was the person who determined that clean rooms are better than messy ones? On that note, who is it that decides whether a room is the former or the latter? Each person should be entitled to living how they choose, one person's "clean" might be another's "messy". It is truly all relative, however, if you do need a quick and easy explanation, I suggest "it unleashes my inner creativity", always worked for me.

## **CELEBRITY VOICE ACTING BY SOPHIA POESTA-OLIVIA**

The celebrity voice acting discourse is still an ongoing debate. Celebrities continue to be given a bigger spotlight and role compared to the originators of the craft. Throughout the years, professional voice actors have been pushed aside, as celebrities are given increasing amounts of opportunity to be in movies instead. Particularly, recent movies are often too reliant on live-action film actors and pop stars rather than voice artists.

In 1992, Disney released a movie that received massive critical and audience acclaim, *Aladdin*. *Aladdin* exceeded in its performances, especially with the most memorable, Robin Williams. He was already known notably

for his acting and comedic skills which attracted Disney to him. He had the exact charisma and charm that Disney was looking for to fulfill the role of Genie. Williams agreed to play Genie under one condition: his name would not be used as a marketing device. Regardless, Disney did not follow through with the agreement and advertised his character and his name for product placement. This caused Williams to quit and be replaced by Dan Castellaneta in a lowly rated, second movie. Despite the circumstances, this event is often credited as the prompt for placing celebrities in voice-acting roles and far more.

The casting of film actors started as an authentic attempt to fit a voice with a character. Actors were merely given a role to proceed with and achieve. Now, it seems to be the opposite where roles are being made to fit actors the directors are casting. This is known as celebrification. It's not just the voice of an actor the movie wants to profit from, but the face as well. Animator artists are tasked with designing a character that resembles the actor which surpasses the original attempt of celebrity marketability. For instance, the characters from *Shark Tale* embody Will Smith and Angelina Jolie as human-like fish.

Although these additions do not improve the quality of the movie, it serves the question: is the quality of voice-acting dying in favor of celebrity marketability? The cast of a movie should embody their characters, not the other way around. Even from a celebrity's perspective, it is not an environment they can thrive in, without being dependent on their huge following. Celebrities are loved because of their charm and presence. More often than not, these stars cannot present themselves in a limited way through a voice track. As actors of different disciplines, they are consuming a world meant for professional voice artists. Their addition in this environment implies that their roles are interchangeable when they both offer different skill sets for their specific line of work.

These flaws may pass over people's heads because of the voice actor's unknown names. The fact that an audience can forget there are real people talking into the microphone is a testament to their talent, something that often goes unnoticed and might result in mistreatment within the industry. *Space Jam* is a popular 1996 live-action, animation sports-comedy film that combines both 2D and 3D characters. With its

popularity, what is advertised in the main movie poster? Or rather, what is missing? There is no credit for the voice actors, specifically the voice actor for Bugs Bunny, Billy West. West has spoken about his frustrations working on the project, as well as the dilemma of how Hollywood is ruining the art of voice acting with bland voice tracks from celebrities.

Just as the name implies, voice-acting is acting with one's voice. However, it's not limited to animation as some people assume. It consumes many forms of media, for example, commercials, video games, dubbed movies, etc. Like how sound designers or lighting staff are not the first to be thought of in filmmaking, voice actors tend to be overlooked. If people just listened to a character's voice more closely, there is more to pick up on than expected.

## ***MONEY WELL SPENT* BY TYLER LUTKOWSKI**

The life of the rich and extravagant is often plagued with absurd amounts of money being spent on the most unnecessary desires. The concept of being broke is a fictitious fantasy that the upper class has never had to worry about in their day to day lives, which is filled with lavish and excessive spending. For one man however, wealth is looked at through a lens of prosperity, as his money is being used to help others rather than accommodations for himself. A man that has sworn to give away more than 99% of his fortune has paved a path for others to follow in making this world a better place. This man of course is Warren Buffet, a perfect example of what money can do.

Just this June, a donation topping 4.1 billion dollars was given to the Gates Foundation to help put millions of people in poverty on a path to a happy and successful life fueled by his kindness. A pledge made in 2006 by Mr. Buffet stated how he wished to donate all 474,998 of his Berkshire Hathaway shares, and he just reached a donation total of 41 billion dollars in the past years marking the halfway point. The Gates Foundation isn't the only place for donations as he is also a heavy contributor in the Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation, the Sherwood Foundation, the Howard G.

Buffett Foundation, and the Novo Foundation. Warren Buffet is a shining example of how money can have a positive impact on the world compared to a singular person that chooses to spend it. His ability to think for others changes the lives of the less fortunate regularly, and he truly puts good into a world known for it's evil.

## ***SONG RECOMMENDATIONS***

Headless Horseman - The Microphones

Alison - Slowdive

Scott Street - Phoebe Bridgers

Sober to Death - Car Seat Headrest

Be Quiet and Drive(Far Away) - Deftones

# CROSSWORD

**OCTOBER**

## Types of Dogs

B W Y Z K O X P B K S W  
C U K G Z A T O C T X N  
H X L C L Z O O A M D R  
R H C L T G Y D T C C R  
E P M P D O N L I P H N  
L E X A Z O R E O Z A Z  
I B L B L W G M F I R J  
E P G G K T E I T A R R  
W V A Q A R E A Z T I A  
T S S E A E M S W X E P  
T X E N I L B K E R R X  
O W I Q A F F I T S A M  
R A R D A I A D Y Z X I  
N C H I H U A H U A E H  
D N A L D N U O F W E N

Beagle  
Dalmatian  
Mastiff  
Poodle

Bulldog  
Harrier  
Newfoundland  
Rottweiler

Chihuahua  
Maltese  
Pomeranian

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GO VIKES!!!!