



Brooke Depelteau Hired as Head of Upper School for the 2025-2026 School Year



BY CHARLOTTE FRITZ

On July 1, Holton will welcome Brooke Depelteau as the new head of the Upper School.

According to the official announcement of the appointment, Depelteau has dedicated over 20 years of her career to independent school education and leadership positions. Currently, Depelteau is the dean of academics at the Berkshire School in Massachusetts.

In an interview with *Scribbler*, Depelteau shared more about her path to education and affinity for Holton.

Depelteau has always been involved in the world of education. As a child, she grew up on the campus of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in Georgia, where both of her parents were teachers.

Eventually, Depelteau taught at Rabun-Gap herself and met her husband Jeff there. Now, Depelteau has two sons, Maxwell and Bryson. With a passion for dancing, Depelteau began college as a dance major. Although she no longer dances, she still carries a love for the performing arts. Many of Depelteau's favorite activities, including mountain biking

and camping with her family, are spent outdoors. Additionally, "each year [her] children humor [her] by going on a hike with [her] for Mother's Day." Addressing other favorites, Depelteau shared, "I love a latte from Tatte or Ralph's, sushi from Sugarfish and my water with bubbles."

Depelteau has a range of experience as both a teacher and a leader in her school communities. She has taught English and History and has worked in college counseling, administration, admissions and more, including honor council.

Depelteau shared that she was "drawn" to Holton's "focus on growing excellence through both challenge and joy and the community's clear support and care for each other."

Depelteau's notion of the school community was affirmed during her visit last January. Depelteau is "a big believer that places and programs are important, but it's people who give those places and programs light and life." To that end, Depelteau expressed her excitement "about building relationships and getting to know the people who make Holton special." Additionally, she "look[s] forward to...discovering [the school's] nuances and traditions."

Liv Hoffman '26 shared that she "can't wait to get to know Depelteau during [her] last year of Holton" and "hope[s] that [Depelteau] is someone [she] can talk to about serious and funny things." Similarly, Caroline Peterson '26 said, "[Depelteau] has big shoes to fill...but I hope that she can make a positive impact on my last year at Holton."

As the day of Depelteau's arrival approaches, she and current Upper School Director Chris Lynch will work together to ensure an easy transition for the community.

After the Potomac River Airborne Collision, How is D.C. Recovering?

BY TALIA WISSMAN

On January 30th, an American Airlines jet coming from Wichita, Kansas and a Blackhawk military helicopter collided just outside of the Ronald Reagan National Airport in Arlington, VA.

"CBS News" reported that the plane and helicopter crashed and both fell into the Potomac River. Tragically, all 60 passengers aboard the plane along with four members of the plane crew and three soldiers on the military helicopter's crew died.

"CNN" reported that the crash took place approximately 325 feet in the air even though the helicopter had a 200-ft maximum restriction when flying in the area.

Due to the word "circling" being heard on the recording of the air traffic control center, experts believe that the helicopter may have missed important information since no such recording was heard inside the helicopter.

Immediately following the collision, there was little hope of saving the passengers and crew. Afterward, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy placed a restriction suspending helicopters flying around the airport area.

Despite efforts, a large amount of jet fuel landed in the Potomac River.

According to "CNN," D.C Firefighters Local 36 President explained, "You know when you're at a gas station in the summertime, and you see the vapor of the fuel coming off of the gas pump? Just picture that all across [cont. on pg. 2]"

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the river, just this vapor coming out of the water; everyone was just coated with jet fuel.” The extremely frigid temperatures of the Potomac River only furthered the difficulty of the situation as there were great amounts of ice on the surface of the water.

The morning after the collision, according to “Fox 5 D.C.,” D.C. mayor Muriel Bowser expressed, “This morning, we all share a profound sense of grief.”

Aboard the flight were 14 young, talented figure skaters coming from the 2025 National Figure Skating Developmental Camp in Wichita.

Among them were children, parents and coaches.

The U.S Figure Skating community remembers these talented young athletes through tributes held by skating clubs.

Charlotte Mount '27, who knew skaters on board, said, “It’s amazing to see community support at local rinks, even from strangers, and it gives me hope that the skaters’ lives will be remembered for the amazing people they were.”

Katie Feder '26, who also skated with victims of the crash, said, “Figure skating takes so much time and dedication, and my friends were the most hardworking people I have ever met.”

Feder further remarked, “I would see Brielle, Eddie and Cory every day for hours and Franco twice a week when he came to my rink. Figure skating isn’t a team sport, but you become very close with the people you train with. I loved them so much, and we as a rink will always honor and remember them.”

Lizzie Feder '26 added, “The rink just isn’t the same without them. We would always support each other both at practice and competitions and help each other with school-work.” Feder continued, “It feels so strange to have gone from seeing them every single day to them just being gone.”

To honor the lives lost and extend sympathies to those affected by the tragedy, Holton students observed a moment of silence when exiting the morning assembly last month.

What Does the Addition of DOGE Mean for the Future of Government Agencies?

BY FRANCESCA DENNIS

The official announcement about the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by billionaire Elon Musk, came just a week after Election Day in November of 2024 and was established by the first day of President Trump’s second presidency, January 21.

According to BBC, DOGE’s stated goal is to promote efficiency across federal agencies and reduce wasteful government spending.

President Trump stated, “The Department of Government Efficiency will provide advice and guidance from outside of government.” To date, DOGE’s focus has been on a reduction to the national federal workforce, which consists of 2,400,000 federal employees.

As of February 28th, “USA Today” estimates that over 100,000 federal employees have lost their jobs or taken buyouts, due to DOGE.

According to CNN, over 80% of federal employees live in the D.C. metropolitan area, so the issue is close to the Holton-Arms community. Parent Melissa Dennis has worked in federal civil services for over 20 years. She has served under five Presidential administrations regardless of political party.

Like many other federal employees, she feels professional uncertainty. Dennis stated, “Of 23 lawyers in my immediate office, about half are double-federal families, which has caused increased stress at home. So far, probationary employees and the head of one of our agency’s divisions have been fired. We have been instructed by DOGE to look at ways to further reduce the number of employees and reorganize our agency.”

Because today’s job market doesn’t leave room to move

around, fired federal employees will likely face challenges acquiring new jobs, according to the “New York Times.”

CNBC predicts that “federal workers may struggle financially. Local economies such as Washington, D.C., may suffer a recession, though the impact on the broader U.S. economy may be minimal.”

While Musk and DOGE’s priority of reducing unnecessary government spending has a clear focus, Advanced Topics in U.S. Government teacher Dr. Louisa Nill noted that “it is unclear whether the Department can create significant change considering that its recommendations ultimately depend on congressional approval.”

On February 19th, DOGE posted its “Wall of Receipts,” an account of all the money it claims it has saved for the U.S. government.

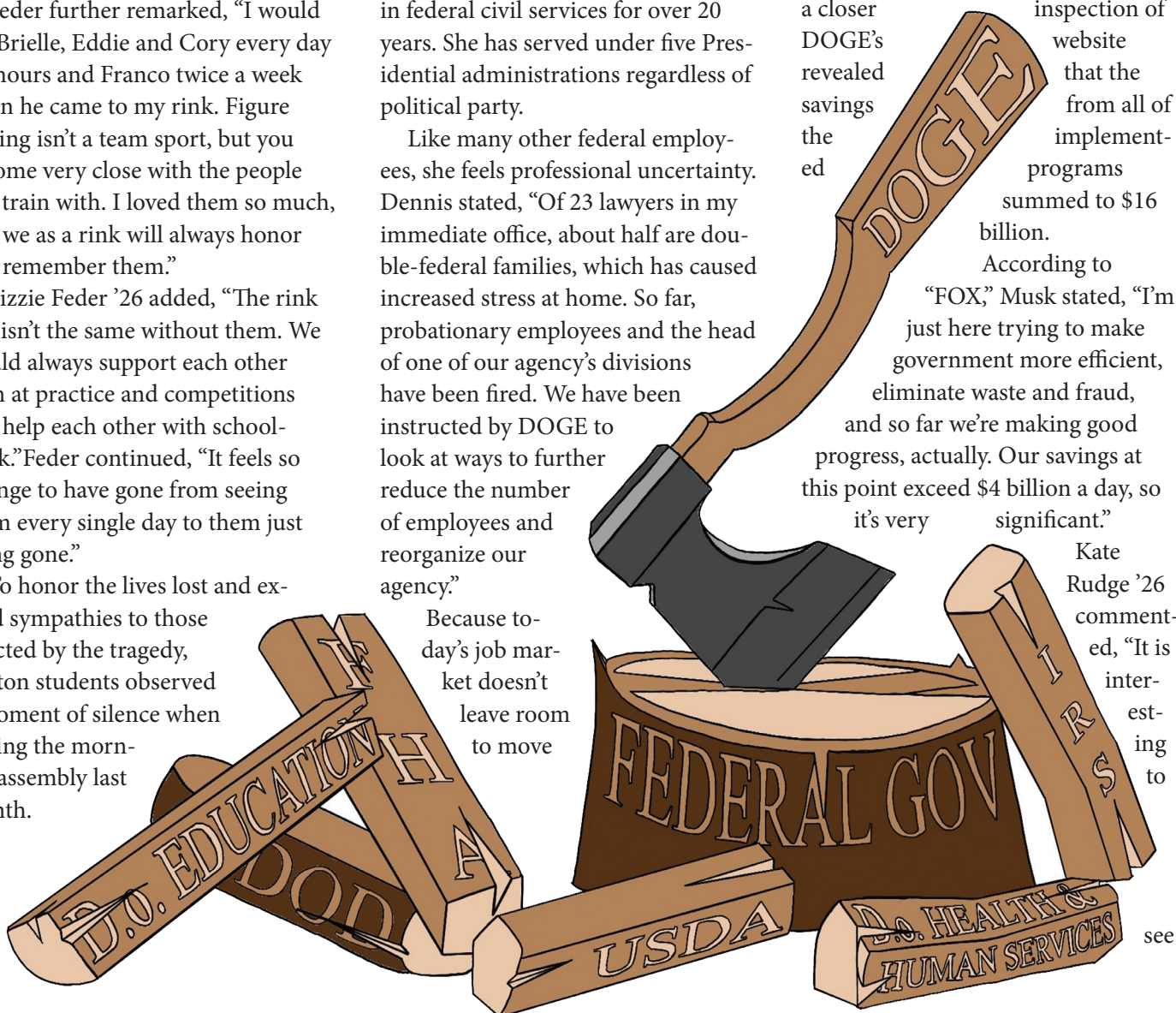
In this account, DOGE mentioned canceling new subscriptions, real estate contracts and DEI programs.

In total, DOGE identified responsibility for over \$55 billion in government savings.

According to “NPR,” however, a closer inspection of DOGE’s website revealed that the savings from all of the implemented programs summed to \$16 billion.

According to “FOX,” Musk stated, “I’m just here trying to make government more efficient, eliminate waste and fraud, and so far we’re making good progress, actually. Our savings at this point exceed \$4 billion a day, so it’s very significant.”

Kate Rudge '26 commented, “It is interesting to see



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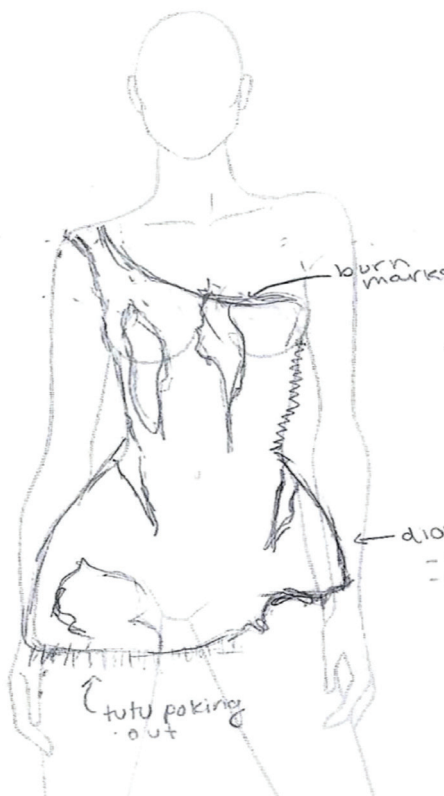
how fast DOGE is working to become involved in other government agencies.”

While the department can identify inefficiencies and suggest cuts, Congress possesses the ultimate power to decide where and how federal funds are spent. Thus, Congress’s actions or ensuing could slow down the process of enacting DOGE’s recommendations.

In the coming weeks, Americans will be watching DOGE’s actions carefully. Musk said, “The people voted for major government reform, and that’s what the people are going to get. They’re going to get what they voted for.”

Previewing PUNCH: Here's What to Expect

Previewed PUNCH designs (from left to right): Vivienne Craig '27, Keira Oostburg '25, Craig, Craig



Owalas are More Popular than Stanleys Among Students

BY CHLOE SPIEGEL

Stanley and Owala water bottles have become extremely sought-after among teenagers worldwide as well as at school. Both companies became famous for their insulated, reusable water bottles as a cute way to stay hydrated. The popularity of both brands, however, poses the question: Which is the superior water bottle?

According to its website, Stanley was established in 1913 with the mission of creating new technology to insulate drinks for long periods of time. Throughout its more than 100-year history, Stanley water bottles have maintained their reputation as a sustainable option as their water bottles are “built for life.” Although the company has had a long history, Stanleys became popular in the media in 2022 after the Quencher Tumbler went viral on TikTok.

Lauren Hemann '27 said that she enjoys that the Stanley is “easy to clean” and “has a lot of variety, so it can be more unique.” Noor Poshni '27 agreed and commented, “I love my Stanley because the handle makes it easy to carry, and the size is perfect for the amount of water I want to drink.”

The Stanley, however, has its weaknesses as well. Many recognize its vulnerability to spilling, and others note that its size is not always convenient. Poshni stated, “I don't like

using it for sports because the straw gets annoying.”

Owala's FreeSip bottle became desired in 2023 because of the spout, which gives users the option of either sipping through a straw or chugging the water bottle. In fact, according to the Owala website, the style was named one of TIME's best inventions of 2023.

Upper school science teacher Jeff Bryant received an Owala as a gift, and he enjoys the “option of using a straw or just pouring” and said “the fun color combinations are a plus.” Paige Wallenhaupt '27 shared that her Owala “gives [her] more comfort than [her] Stanley because [she] can hold it easier and trust it not to spill.”

The Owala, however, does not come without some drawbacks. The water bottle is notably harder to clean as it has small parts around the spout. Bryant noted that his Owala is “getting stains on the soft parts,” and Hemann dislikes how “Owalas make [her] feel like [she is] drinking out of a sippy cup.”

The community has found benefits and drawbacks to both options, yet the Owala is currently the more popular water bottle in the halls. According to an upper school survey of 170 students, 70% said that they prefer Owalas. Nonetheless, although they may have had a recent decline in popularity, Stanleys are still a very close second.

OPINION: Landon Collabs “Could be Improved With More Diversity, Freedom and Progression”

BY MARTHA LAUREN NICHOLS

The Holton-Landon collabs are always a topic of discussion in the halls. From excitement to uneasiness, they spark a wide range of emotions, reflecting the diverse perspectives and experiences of students.

Although the two schools are brother-sister schools, I don't believe we spend enough time together during the collabs for me to truly consider any of those boys my brothers.

Typically, the collabs include various activities around Holton and Landon.

We usually run through a predictable mix of ice breakers, minute-to-win-its, pictionary and relay races. However, sometimes things can get interesting, and cooler activities can occur.

One of my favorite collabs was wandering around the National Zoo with friends in tenth grade. I think that this freedom turned the day into a fun and more flexible experience.

The main thing that decides the amount of fun I have at a collab is our predetermined groups.

I have had both comfortable and less comfortable groups, and I can pretty confidently say the people in your group can really make or break

the day.

For example, I felt successful at the recent discussion collab about protests on college campuses because I had a few familiar faces in my group.

I knew they recognized me too when the first thing they said was “Oh, I remember you—weren't you the girl with the black eye?” Indeed, I was. For those who recall, I ended up with a scarily large black eye the day before the Landon collab last spring.

Though an unexpected conversation starter, this moment helped us open up, work together and fully engage in the discussion.

Realizing that familiarity plays a crucial role in these interactions, I left the collab in good spirits. Holton should consider repeat groups when structuring future collabs.

If we only meet twice a year and are placed in entirely new groups each time, forming meaningful connections between our schools becomes nearly impossible. Maintaining some continuity could create a more engaging and productive experience.

Overall, I can see the benefits of the Landon collabs as an opportunity to engage with different experiences and perspectives. However, the meet-ups could be improved with more diversity, freedom and progression. And please no icebreakers!

OPINION: AI Should be Allowed in School Settings as it Gives Students “a Head Start in an Increasingly Digital World”

BY UMA GHOSAL

AI allows machines to mimic human abilities. It can learn, reason, problem-solve and even understand languages or recognize patterns.

Essentially, AI refers to when computers or software can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

I believe that AI should be allowed in school settings because of its inevitable permanence and positive impact.

Serving both teachers and students, different forms of AI are already implemented in our school system today, and more could follow.

For teachers, AI can assist with

grading and save time by automatically assessing assignments and quizzes. Grading softwares can also analyze student performance to identify areas requiring more help. AI can help teachers organize their curriculum or lesson plans.

For students, AI-powered apps like language-learning tools or math tutors can provide personalized learning experiences and offer extra practice based on individual needs.

Even tools such as virtual assistants can aid in answering questions or organizing schedules. AI proves very helpful when making work more efficient and tailored to personalized needs.

Despite these benefits, there are

downsides to AI usage in schools. Relying too much on AI may worsen students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills as people may depend on technology too much.

Additionally, not every school has equal access to AI resources, a problem that can create gaps in education between well-funded and underfunded schools.

So, while AI has great potential, it's essential to approach it carefully and responsibly.

An important distinction to make is between using AI to supplement your thinking and using it to give yourself a starting point.

In schools, it's crucial to set boundaries that ensure students don't

become too reliant on AI to do their work.

While AI can help make learning more efficient, it shouldn't replace critical thinking or creativity.

Teachers should also guide their students to use AI as a tool, not as a shortcut, to ensure they develop important problem-solving and analytical abilities.

AI is becoming a part of almost every industry, from healthcare to business, and it's clearly not going away anytime soon.

In schools, using AI can help students become familiar with the technology they'll encounter in their careers and provide them with a head start in an increasingly digital world.

OPINION: An Increase in AI Usage “Risk[s] the Independence of our Young Students”

BY CINDY MIAO

“Hey Chat, can you write an engaging hook for my school newspaper's article arguing against AI in school settings,” I type furiously into the “ask anything” prompt.

Chat GPT spits out an answer without a second of hesitation. “Sure! Here's a strong, engaging hook for your article: Imagine a world where students rely on AI for every assignment—essays written in seconds, math problems solved instantly. If schools embrace AI, are we enhancing education or replacing real learning? Should AI have a place in the classroom, or is it doing more harm than good?”

Whether we like it or not, AI has cemented itself as an integral part of the future human experience.

Although the scientific world initially began exploring machine learning in the 1950s, the AI world has exploded in recent years with popular models such as ChatGPT, DeepSeek and Gemini.

National University, a San-Francisco non-profit, reports that the global AI market was projected to grow 33% year over year.

As a high school student at Holton, I have watched AI seemingly enter my everyday academic and social life, whether I'm studying Spanish vocabulary with Quizlet's AI tutor or seeing Snapchat's MyAI feature.

At school, I've witnessed students

using AI in many ways, from effectively transforming their notes into a cohesive study guide to more morally gray requests like helping write their English essays.

Although AI can certainly aid us in organizing and sorting our information rapidly, I think the risk of accidental plagiarism runs too high for it to be a reliable academic tool.

In addition, the dependence on AI from young students is also a concern.

Lower and middle school students should focus on developing problem-solving, writing and analytical skills rather than learning how to phrase requests for ChatGPT.

In fact, there's a massive overreliance on technology in our modern society right now. Think of the prevalence of social media addiction in teens. Disrupting our education, the basis of

our social and academic values, would only worsen the situation. In the larger picture, AI would hinder students' creativity, social skills and critical

thinking skills.

Eventually, a repetitive regurgitation of the Internet could replace unique human thought.

These concerns are shared across the U.S. as well. The Pew Research Center says that “52% of Americans say they feel more concerned than excited about the increased use of

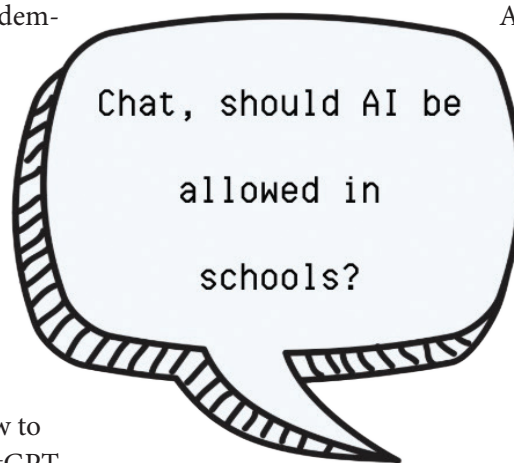
Artificial Intelligence” and “a

good in K-12 education.”

Additionally “Frontiers” reports, “83.1% of [555 AI models tested] had a high risk of bias,” a primary disadvantage of AI in education.

All in all, I agree that AI is part of the impending future and its general use should not be banned. However, in the present-day classroom, where teachers lack safeguards for

AI overreliance, we should think twice before risking the independence of our young students.



Does AI Serve the Classroom?

BY BLAIR GREENSPAN

Recently, an innovation has both helped and hurt the school community: Artificial Intelligence (AI).

In learning environments, AI can either assist students in studying ethically, such as creating study schedules, or hinder the learning process by doing work for students, such as writing essays.

In January 2024, students were surveyed by Holton's AI Committee about their AI usage. 61.4% of students responded that they have used AI for "personal work or curiosity."

In the handbook, there are rules regarding technology at school. The handbook states, "Students are prohibited from any activity that ... uses system resources for purposes

unrelated to legitimate learning in a school setting."

Teachers at Holton shared their thoughts on the role of AI in their particular classrooms.

Computer Science teacher Joseph Rivera finds that students must "learn the fundamentals of programming" before using AI.

He explained that knowing when to use AI is similar to mathematics since students need to understand the basics of mathematics before trying out harder math problems, a correlation to how computer science students must understand the basics of programming before they can utilize AI.

Rivera further stated, "If I am teaching fundamentals of program-

ming, I do not want students using AI. The real learning happens through the mental effort made by students."

In his class, students are able to use AI if it helps them understand a topic, but students are not allowed to use AI if the motivation is for the computer to do the work for the student.

Louisa Nill, history and social sciences department chair, shared that she permits students to use AI if it does not "take away from their overall learning experience."

For example, in her government class's creative project, Nill let students use AI when devising their final products, which ranged from podcasts to children's books.

As a caveat, students were required

to explain how they took advantage of the platform in an additional project component.

Pat McCullough, an upper school history teacher, believes that teachers restrict student usage of AI "to allow space for students to build the skills themselves first, before just letting AI do it for them."

McCullough explained that students can use AI to assist their critical thinking, but the resource should not be a replacement for completing assignments.

AI continues to develop and holds an increasingly prominent role in education. Nill hopes that the Holton community can find a way to "integrate AI into the classroom for effective learning in the future."

"When We Don't Know the Impacts [of AI Platforms], it's Easy to Use their Technologies, Unaware of their Cost"

BY TAYLOR GAINES

Generative AI, a technology that powers systems like ChatGPT and Gemini, has rapidly transformed industries from customer service to content creation.

As the use of AI continues to rise, however, many are beginning to ponder the program's environmental impacts.

The increased energy needed to operate AI models and their supporting data centers highlights concerns regarding the sustainability of these innovations.

According to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme, the energy consumption of AI models is staggering.

The computing power required to operate these systems demands significant electricity from fossil fuels like coal, oil and natural gas.

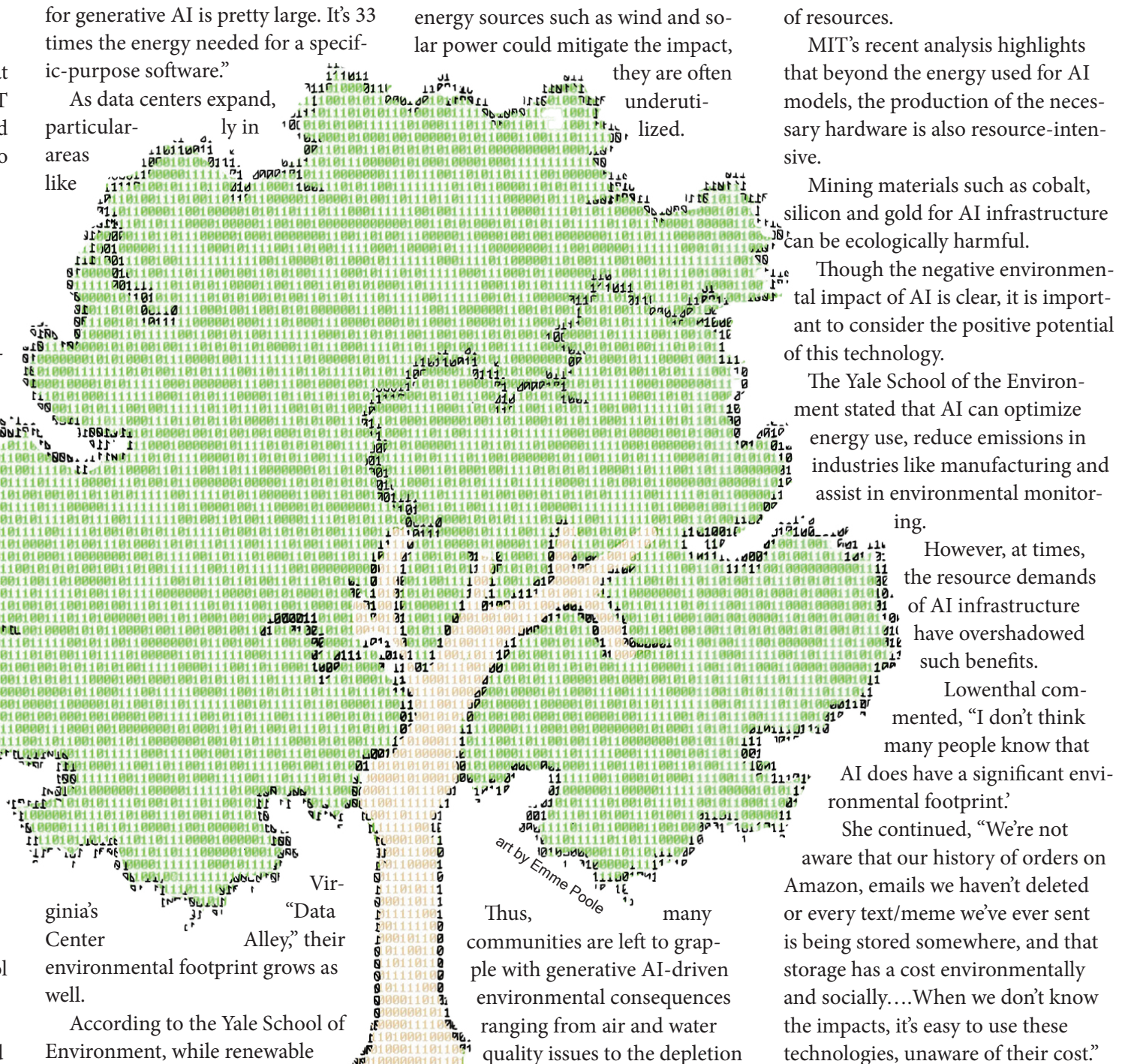
This usage of fossil fuels results in the release of potent greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere; such emissions significantly contribute to climate change.

Rachel Lowenthal, an upper school Biology teacher, explained the magnitude of the environmental toll and said, "The computing power required

for generative AI is pretty large. It's 33 times the energy needed for a specific-purpose software."

As data centers expand, particular areas like

energy sources such as wind and solar power could mitigate the impact, they are often underutilized.



Virginia's Center for Environmental Footprint grows as well. According to the Yale School of Environment, while renewable

Thus, many communities are left to grapple with generative AI-driven environmental consequences ranging from air and water quality issues to the depletion

of resources. MIT's recent analysis highlights that beyond the energy used for AI models, the production of the necessary hardware is also resource-intensive.

Mining materials such as cobalt, silicon and gold for AI infrastructure can be ecologically harmful. Though the negative environmental impact of AI is clear, it is important to consider the positive potential of this technology.

The Yale School of the Environment stated that AI can optimize energy use, reduce emissions in industries like manufacturing and assist in environmental monitoring.

However, at times, the resource demands of AI infrastructure have overshadowed such benefits.

Lowenthal commented, "I don't think many people know that AI does have a significant environmental footprint."

She continued, "We're not aware that our history of orders on Amazon, emails we haven't deleted or every text/meme we've ever sent is being stored somewhere, and that storage has a cost environmentally and socially....When we don't know the impacts, it's easy to use these technologies, unaware of their cost."

A Recap of Super Bowl LIX: The Eagles Take the Trophy and Kendrick Lamar Disses Drake

BY CAROLINE PETERSON

Super Bowl LIX featured a matchup between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles. The Chiefs went into the game with a 15-2 record, with the Eagles not too far behind with a 14-3 record.

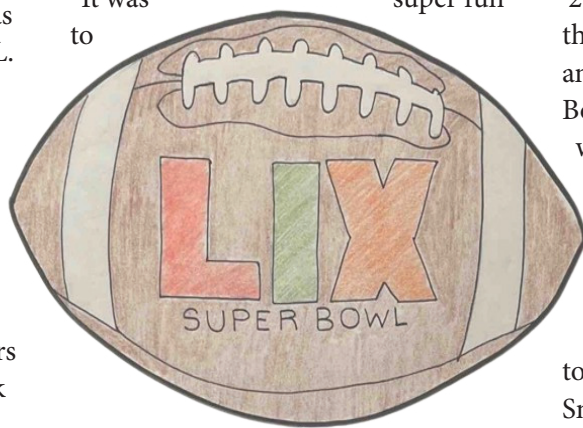
After having won the last two Super Bowls, the Chiefs were going for a “three-peat,” something that has never been accomplished in the NFL.

The game started off with Eagles Quarterback Jalen Hurts scoring a touchdown in the first quarter. Thanks to the Eagles’ defense and its ability to stop any potential plays for the Chiefs, the quarter ended with a score of 7-0 for the Eagles. In the second quarter, viewers could see Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes getting repeatedly sacked over and over again. Mahomes’ inability to complete a play resulted in him making a risky pass that Eagles rookie Cooper DeJean picked off.

DeJean was able to make his first big play of the season, a pick-six, resulting in his interception of

Mahomes’s throw and running of 38 yards down to the end zone to score the Eagles’s second touchdown. DeJean’s fans across the country were excited by his first touchdown, which occurred on his birthday. The half ended with a score of 24-0 for the Eagles.

Annalise Ahmed ’25 commented, “It was super fun to



watch. It’s always so fun to see such a big play in the Super Bowl coming from a young player.”

As for the halftime show, according to “The Hill,” in the days following the Super Bowl, Kendrick Lamar’s performance gained 11 mil-

lion viewers. “The Hill” reported that there were six secret messages hidden in Lamar’s performance that varied from “political references” to “Black history.”

Football fan Lilly Fromer ’26 mentioned how Lamar’s performance “not only was entertaining to listen to but also eye-opening.” Gabi Berman ’25 agreed and particularly noted that she was in awe of “the set design and dancers.” Many other Super Bowl viewers took to social media with similar sentiments applauding Lamar for creating an interesting performance with eye-catching choreography.

In the third quarter of the game, the Chiefs were finally able to score, and Eagles player DeVonta Smith made a 46-yard touchdown. The third quarter ended with a score of 34-6 for the Eagles.

In the final quarter of the game, both teams scored a few more times to result in the final number of 40-22 for the Eagles and the team’s second Super Bowl victory.

art by Laila Clarke

Following a Successful Season, Ice Hockey Team Will Move to the AA Division

BY HARPER LANPHER

The varsity hockey team’s win on February 10th marked Holton’s second straight victory in the MAGHL A Varsity division. Over the last few years, students’ participation in the program has grown along with the quickly rising level of competition in the area. Rather than frequently traveling to New York and New Jersey as it previously did, the team can now face local opponents such as Holy Cross and St. Mary’s.

Beyond its undefeated record and championship victory, the varsity hockey team spent the season forming teammate bonds across grades. Due to long hours and road trips, players spent countless hours together throughout the season.

Students participated in games and many team-bonding experiences such as Washington Capitals games and the annual Princeton trip. Dasha Churmasov ’24 stated that her favorite memory of the season was the Princeton trip because the team “won both of our games but also shared lots of laughs and stories during our free time.”

Varsity coach Emily Wilde ’09 has been instrumental in leading the team to back-to-back successes. During the 2023-2024 season, she received the honor of All-Met Coach of the Year.

As an alum and former varsity player, she brings a positive and motivational attitude to the job. Wilde stated, “My favorite thing about Holton hockey is watching the players evolve over the years. Some of them started in seventh grade, and I’ve seen them play all six years.”

With its undefeated record, the varsity team established dominance over the MAGHL A division and will move into the AA division next season to face new and more challenging opponents such as St John’s, Stone Ridge and Georgetown Visitation. Mia Estevez-Breton ’27 stated that she is “looking forward to strengthening the bonds with [her] teammates and to playing more challenging games in the new league.”

Sports Editor Review: Here’s What You Missed During the Winter Sports Season

BY SOPHIE FAMILI

The winter sports season was filled with many exciting victories, new records and team bonding. The Games of the Season, Senior Nights and fan buses brought the community together to support one another and showcased the athletic community’s spirit and unity.

Varsity swim and dive, led by captains Palmer Holley, Eliza Dorton and Sedona Hawkins, had a memorable season. The team placed second in ISLs against Stone Ridge and brought home the WMPSSDL Championship at the University of Maryland. Winning WMPSSDLs and defeating Stone Ridge after previously losing to the Gators at ISLs was a special moment for the team.

Dressing up as minions and crocodiles for meets made swimming special this year, and Abigail Boerstling ’25 shared, “As a new member of the team, I loved the team’s traditions and making new friends with the underclassmen.”

Indoor track and field, led by captains Elise Attiogbe and Leela Co-

hen, had a season full of fun but also endured some practices and meets in freezing temperatures. The team placed second in the Montgomery County Championship at Georgetown Prep.

Practices were filled with excitement in preparation for the track season in the spring. Captain Elise Attiogbe shared, “My favorite part of leading the team is definitely warm-ups every day because I get to really bond with my teammates; we talk about our days and just have fun!”

The hockey team, led by captains Elizabeth Farland, Dasha Churmasov and Janie Sargent, had a season full of team meals, carpools and the team’s favorite: the overnight trip to Princeton University.

While the Panthers had an undefeated season and won the MAGHL championship, its biggest success was becoming a more close-knit team. Dasha Churmasov ’25 shared, “My favorite memory of the season was a team breakfast after our 5:50 am practice because we all shared embarrassing stories and it was the

first moment I felt like our team was becoming a family.”

Varsity basketball played a season of exciting games and challenging opponents. The team advanced to the ISL semi-finals after defeating Saint Stephen’s and Saint Agnes 55-30 at home in the quarterfinals.

Aside from success on the court, the team bonded greatly. In particular, player Reaves Jesmer ’27 shared, “Senior Night was so special this year because it was so fun to celebrate our seniors, whom I’ve grown so close to, and have our friends come out to watch us.”

When asked about wrapping up the winter season, Athletic Director Graham Westerberg said, “I feel really good about the accomplishments our teams made this past winter. Building on our three goals—inspiring excellence, building connections and creating community—both our coaches and student-athletes have done a fantastic job embodying these values.” Athletes are ready and excited for the spring season, which is already underway.

Upper School Performs “Grease” With Landon

BY KATE RUDGE

With classic rock ‘n’ roll music, teen romance, rivalries and so much more, what’s not to love about the musical “Grease?”

This winter, Holton and Landon students collaborated to put on a rendition of the beloved musical on February 28 and March 1.

Preparing for a musical is time-consuming. Auditions for the show took place in early December, and ever since, actors have been in rehearsals four days a week.

Among a number of musical ballads and dances, a few particular songs stood out to the cast.

“Summer Nights,” a classic number in which Danny and Sandy detail their summer romance to their friends with comedic differences between their tellings, kicked off the production.

Another hit was the song “Greased Lightnin.” Elaborate stage designs ac-

companied the number as the character Kenickie and other Burger Palace Boys fantasized about transforming a beat-up car into a dream car.

El Barrett Toman ’26 played the role of Jan, an enthusiastic member of the Pink Ladies. In advance of the production, they commented, “My favorite part of the musical is how high-spirited it is, especially since it’s about high schoolers. It feels like we’re all just friends hanging out on-stage, and we can add real life experience to our characters.

Barrett Toman continued, “Any version of ‘Grease’ you see is a little different from each other, but I think the biggest difference that the Holton/Landon team has brought on [compared to other Grease renditions] is establishing the changes in character.

“You can clearly see how both Sandy and Danny grow throughout the show, and we are attempting to physically represent that with clothing and aesthetics.”

Journey Stenerson ’27, who attend-

ed Saturday night’s show, said that it “felt like [she] was watching the real

mov-

ie.” She added, “I am so glad I could support the students who

participated in ‘Grease’ and applaud their hard work.”



photo courtesy of Holton communications

Music’s Biggest Night Included Controversial Winners, Big Performances and Powerful Acceptance Speeches

BY LILY HIBEY

The annual Grammy Awards brings together the best singers, songwriters and producers to recognize their work in the music industry. Each year, viewers are eager to see who will take home the gold, shiny gramophone for each of the 94 categories. This year, the 67th Annual Grammy Awards were no different; they were filled with thrilling performances, one-of-a-kind outfits and history-making moments that captivated fans.

The award show took place on February 2nd, and comedian Trevor Noah hosted for the fifth straight time.

This year’s telecast raised nine million dollars for MusiCares Fire Relief, a campaign dedicated to providing aid to those affected by the recent wildfires in Los Angeles, according to CNN.

As for awards, Kendrick Lamar completed a clean sweep of all four of his nominations for “Not Like Us,” including Song of the Year and Record of the Year. Beyoncé, who is the most-awarded and most-nominated

artist in Grammy history, also won big for her album “Cowboy Carter.” After six nominations in the category, she finally took home the award for Album of the Year, which was possibly the most controversial win of the night.

Some viewers, including sophomores Merritt Feldner and Tabitha Cutler, believe that Billie Eilish should have won the award instead.

Beyoncé also became the first Black woman in Grammy history to win Best Country Album. Chappell Roan won Best New Artist, and Becca Bash ’27 said she was “very happy to see Roan using her power to advocate for less fortunate artists in her acceptance speech.”

Like Roan, many artists were first-time winners, including Carpenter, Charli XCX and Doechii, who became the third female artist to win Best Rap Album.

Doechii also took the stage for a performance, followed by many others like Shakira and Cynthia Erivo. Heidi Klum and Nikki Glaser helped Benson Boone tear off his clothes to reveal a sparkly bodysuit before he sang his smash hit “Beautiful Things.”

OPINION: It’s Time That Orchesis is Recognized as Not Only an Art but also a Sport

BY KEIRA OOSTBURG

Gasp for breath and with my heart erratically shuddering against my chest, I exit the stage, instantly cooler as the glare of the blinding lights slides off my back and trickles off my arms. A tornado of sequins, sparkles and fringe zips past. Maneuvering through stretching dancers and anxious choreographers, I slip into the hallway embracing the quiet. Stinging with each new gasp, my throat pushes against my skin, exacerbating an itch that can only be remedied with water and a break, a break I won’t be afforded.

Orchesis is always like this: half a year of abs, jumping jacks and constant rehearsals, just to be left breathless, aching and bruised by the time the lights dim on our final show.

Unlike in more “traditional” sports, dance provides the opportunity to tell a story with your body. The story can be about love, women’s rights, feelings of alienation, gun violence or even a cult.

Dance is art, but dance is also a sport. Orchesis, however, has been left dangling between the two worlds of Holton: the athletics and the arts.

Dancing for the ensemble, in some capacity, for the last six years, I’ve felt Orchesis has received, either intentionally or unintentionally, the short end of the stick.

While we can choose to gain sports credits for our two-trimester season, the group doesn’t receive an invitation to the annual sports banquet or the opportunity to promote a Panther of the Week, get included in HAA, receive a shoutout in any of the athletic emails or gain social media support.

These actions matter to the mem-

bers of Orchesis. Often, the studio, usually a place of laughter and joy, can feel suffocated with the dancers’ feelings of being diminished or “othered” and isolated from the sports community.

These public displays of support not only bring awareness of upcoming events but also display what the school values as part of the community. Orchesis wants to be a part of that community.

I will admit that the arts program, with its increased invitations to perform and the creation of the Artist Spotlight, has helped foster a stronger sense of recognition and appreciation for creativity within our community.

I was particularly excited for our concert. However, my excitement faded when I learned that the BSU mixer and the Orchesis concert fell on the same day.

I did not think it reasonable to assume that the bustling and busy Holton students would stay for both events, encompassing a total of five hours, on their Friday night. I had been hopeful, but in that moment, reality set in.

I believe that Orchesis deserved its own day. I spent six months watching the dancers dedicate their bodies, minds, stories and time to our ensemble and our show. Day in and day out, its dancers show up for one another.

I think it’s beautiful that we toe the line between athletics and the arts. It makes us distinctive and exciting.

I just hope that one day Orchesis can fully reap the benefits of both departments and act as a true bridge builder for the school.

Across

1. Essential oils
6. Famous Austin, TX newspaper, for short
15. Visored military hat
16. From a country in South Asia with the second-largest world Muslim population
17. Scientific name for the European Herring Gull
19. Consumed
20. Resembling bees
21. To eliminate from the body
22. Highest level to play in the USPHL
24. Enlist (abbr.)
25. Anger, rage
26. Harry or Marv, in "Home Alone"
27. On the periodic table, it's denoted as Au
30. Matthew Stafford is the QB for this team
34. Upper-arm muscles, casually
36. Popular show-choir-based television series
38. Mathematician Terence
39. Maine's capital
43. March _____, popular sports competition that's happening this month!
45. High-stress department of the hospital
46. A god in Norse mythology
49. Fashion brand ____ Jacobs, known for its "Daisy" perfume
51. The ____ of March
53. Beat
57. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!
59. Initial-sharers of the star of "Forrest Gump"
61. Owner of M&Ms, Snickers and Twix
62. Ancient silver coin of Turkey or Egypt
65. Wearing footwear
67. Mesh divider in volleyball
68. Tree native to the Philippines
71. She-oak
72. Battle of 1346
73. Lucky signs on St. Patrick's Day
74. High rank in the Ottoman political system

Down

1. Not symmetrical
2. A roof covering made of straw
3. Branch of Orthodox Judaism
4. Skipjack tuna
5. Civil Rights activist Parks
6. ____ forward, fall back – Day light Savings saying
7. Join in on
8. God, in Ancient Egyptian religion
9. The ____ Man, character in "The Wizard of Oz"
10. Perfume compound
11. Actor/someone who fakes a performance
12. Pal, in Australia

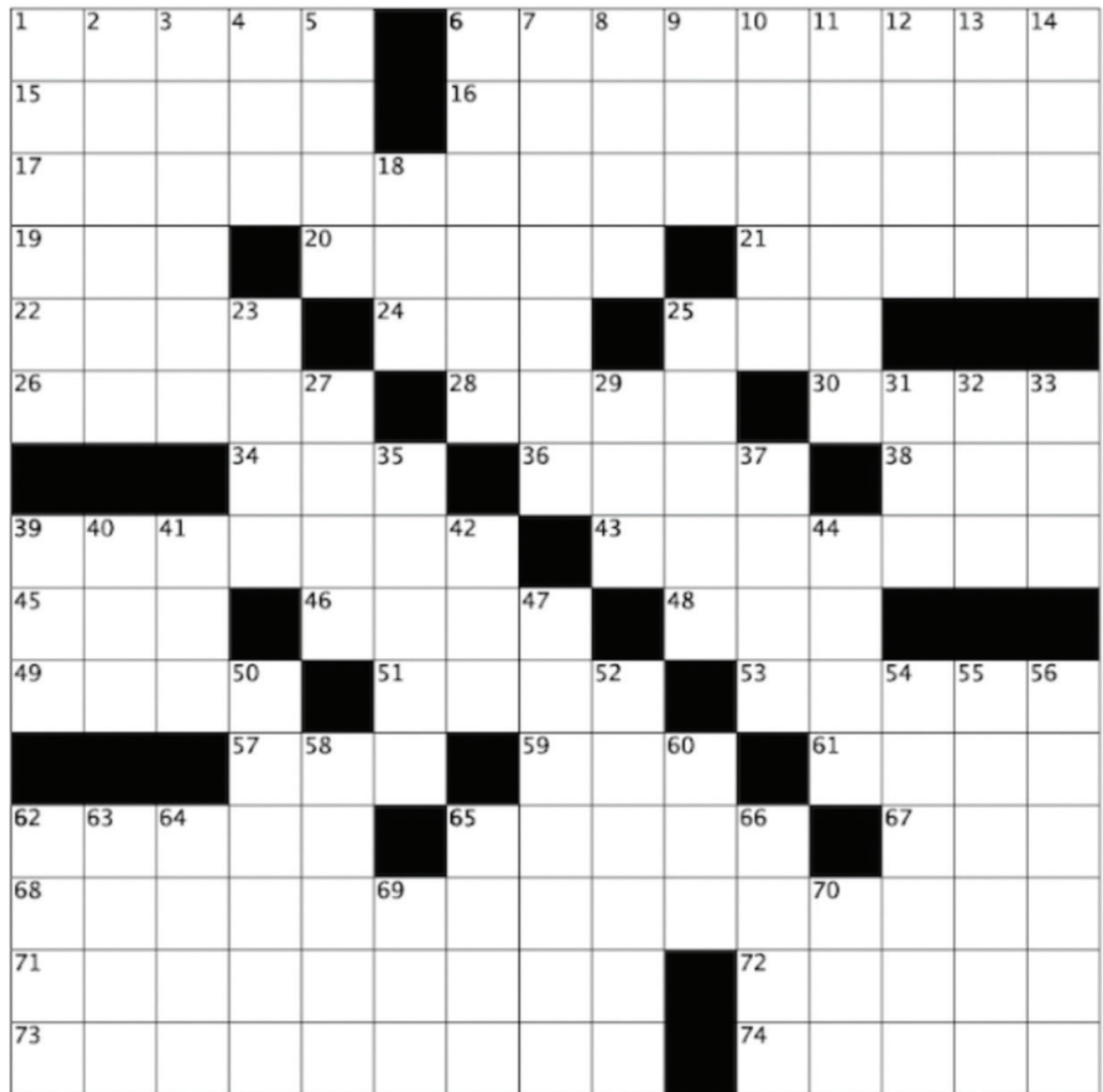
13. Rectum
14. Acronym for National Institutes of Standards and Technology
18. Chimpanzee or gorilla
23. Philippine island
25. Best case scenario
27. Go _____, popular card game
29. Legal degree, abbr.
31. "You ____ and left no crumbs!"
32. More, in Spanish
33. "Help!" (but said at sea)
35. Unemotional
37. Revise, as an essay
39. Goal

40. Fiddler crab
41. Indian unrefined sugar
44. The quiet/restful phase of sleep, abbr.
47. Have second thoughts about
50. Constellation close to Eridanus
52. People from the Bantu ethnic group native to South Africa
54. Language of West Africa
55. "Practice what you ____!"
56. Genus of small trees belonging to the birch family
58. Wild rosebush
60. "Psst! I ____ you!"

62. Difficult coding class, for short
63. Ruler of Iran
64. Where you may see a leaning tower
65. Partner of span
66. Crime prevention agency of the U.N., abbr.
69. Someone who does something for a living, for short
70. What you may say to someone at a Taylor Swift concert: "Which ____ are you dressed as?"



CREATED BY CARLISLE WINN



ANSWERS	Across	Down
19. Ate	1. Athar	1. Aslant
20. Aptian	21. Egest	2. Thatch
34. Bis	22. NCDC	3. Haredi
36. Glee	24. Enl	4. Aku
39. August	25. Ire	5. Rosa
43. Madness	26. Thief	6. Spring
49. Marc	27. Gold	7. Tag along
51. Ides	28. Rams	8. Aken
53. Tempo	29. Augustus	9. Tim
57. ABC	30. Rams	10. Ester
59. Tls	31. Ate	11. Ester
61. Mars	32. TLM	12. Mate
62. Asper	33. SOS	13. Anus
65. Shood	34. Mas	14. NIST
66. Asher	35. Stoic	15. Ideal
67. Net	36. Spic	16. Fish
68. Philippine	37. Preach	17. See
69. Cedar	38. Tao	18. Gur
70. Era	39. Aim	19. Uca
	40. Ostrya	20. Uca
	41. Pro	21. Cebu
	42. DCCP	22. Ape
	43. Shonas	23. Stoic
	44. PISA	24. Edit
	45. Rethink	25. Aim
	46. NREM	26. Edit
	47. APCS	27. Gur
	48. See	28. Uca
	49. Briar	29. Cebu
	50. Era	30. Ape
		31. Stoic
		32. Edit
		33. Aim
		34. Uca
		35. Cebu
		36. Ape
		37. Stoic
		38. Edit
		39. Aim
		40. Uca
		41. Cebu
		42. Ape
		43. Stoic
		44. Edit
		45. Aim
		46. Uca
		47. Cebu
		48. Ape
		49. Stoic
		50. Edit
		51. Aim
		52. Uca
		53. Cebu
		54. Ape
		55. Stoic
		56. Edit
		57. Aim
		58. Uca
		59. Cebu
		60. Ape
		61. Stoic
		62. Edit
		63. Aim
		64. Uca
		65. Cebu
		66. Ape
		67. Stoic
		68. Edit
		69. Aim
		70. Uca
		71. Cebu
		72. Ape
		73. Stoic
		74. Edit