



## The Reasons Behind Biden’s Withdrawal: What’s Next for the 2024 Presidential Race?

By: Mia Yang

Former President Donald Trump of the Republican Party and current President Joe Biden were nominated as the presidential candidates for the 2024 elections, with Biden’s current presidential term nearing its end. After Biden made the historic decision to withdraw from the race, Vice President Kamala Harris was nominated as the new Democratic candidate. What caused Biden to forgo the opportunity for a second term, something no president has done since 1968? Election polls in July 2024 indicated that Trump had support from 52% of the voters while Biden only had 47%. Other Democratic members had been calling for Biden to drop out of the race, feeling that he was inadequate as a presidential candidate. Following the lead of these politicians, many donors discontinued their support for the party.

With rising pressure from prospective voters and fellow party members, Biden performed disastrously at the June 27 presidential debate hosted by CNN. The current president was seen on

national television trailing off at the end of his sentences and missing many opportunities for rebuttal. He provided weak responses to Trump’s arguments and was on defense during most of the debate. In addition, Biden failed to address the misinformation presented by Trump. When asked about the Democratic stance on the controversial topic of abortion, Biden stumbled over his explanation and eventually gave Trump an opening to mention migrant crimes against Americans. Polls revealed a further decrease in Democratic support after Biden’s discouraging performance, leading to his withdrawal from the race on July 21st.

Another significant reason for Biden’s withdrawal may have been that part of Trump’s strategy was centered around Biden’s senility. Trump often pointed out Biden’s mumbling during speeches, and his case was further worsened after testing positive for COVID in July. Biden’s choice to leave the race disrupted a major component of Trump’s efforts, allotting Harris time to solidify her plans for campaigning.

After announcing his decision, Biden stated that “nothing [could] come in the way of saving...democracy,” and Representative Nancy Pelosi applauded Biden for being on the “right side of both history and the future.”

Immediately, Biden’s withdrawal from the race— followed by Harris’s nomination— leveled out the race between the two candidates. Heading into the September 10 debate hosted by ABC News, Trump and Harris were neck and neck in the polls. Surveys revealed that nearly a third of voters were interested in learning more about the campaign of the first Black woman and South Asian to run for president. During the debate, Harris promised to relieve financial burdens by providing aid for groceries and housing for the middle class. She also voiced her support for women’s reproductive rights, saying that Trump’s beliefs on abortion were “insulting to the women of America”. On the contrary, Trump was provoked into angry outbursts, making racist and salacious comments that suggested he was “unfit for a new

term.”

In the end, Biden’s decision to leave the election race was a strategic one. Before his withdrawal, there was little chance for the Democratic party to pull off a victory in the upcoming election. His choice to withdraw slowed down the Republicans’ momentum in the election while providing an opportunity for his party to regain the votes of several swing states. Biden’s withdrawal from the presidential race changed the tide in the Democrats’ favor, giving them a chance to take the victory as election day approaches.

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## Kamala Harris: Who is She?

By: Euri Beja

Kamala Harris, a Presidential Candidate for the 2024 U.S. Elections... who is she? Current Vice President of the United States Kamala Harris took over current President Joe Biden’s spot in the election, putting her against another Presidential Candidate, Donald Trump.

Rachel Looker and Holly Hondrich, authors of “Who is Kamala Harris?” on the BBC News, covered her origins. Born in the United States, Kamala is the daughter of two immigrant parents; her Indian-born mother Shyamala Gopalan Harris raised Harris alone after her Jamaican-born father and mother divorced. Her biracial identity would soon become important to her official government identity, especially as she would become the first female, African Asian-American vice president. Looker and Hondrich also wrote about her political journey. Her rise as a government official began in court, when she became district attorney in Alameda County and soon for the city of San Francisco from 2004 to 2011. In 2016, she ran for a senate position, after she became

California’s first black female attorney-general. Kevin Breuninger and Brian Schwartz, authors of “Kamala Harris Drops out of Presidential Race after Plummeting from Top Tier of Democratic Candidates” on CNBC News covered her career from 2019 to 2020, in which she tried to run for president alongside Biden and Trump but her campaign quickly died in under a year due to the supposed lack of campaign funds. In 2020, President Joe Biden took Harris under his wing, making her vice president with the Democratic party when they won the 2020 Presidential Election.

Along with her running mate Jim Walz, Harris released an official list of key issues and her own policies about them. Phil McCausland, author of “Where Kamala Stands on 10 Key Issues” on BBC News revealed promises she makes to the U.S. economy. These promises include mortgage assistance to those who are buying homes for the first time, tax credit for parents of newborn children, and bans on grocery price overcharges to help with inflation. She also give specific tax percentages

and prices for groups if she were to be elected president. In 2019, her first time running for president, she supported a tax increase of 35% compared to her supporting a 28% lower tax increase in her time under Biden. Along with the 28%, she also stands with Biden on not inducing any tax increase on people earning less than \$400,000. McCausland further explained that Harris announced that, as president, she would cut taxes for the middle class called the “Child Tax Credit” and the “Earned Income Tax Credit.” These would give a \$6,000 tax cut for parents with newborns and enable Americans to keep more of their income respectively.

One of the most unique things about Harris’ campaign is it aims to interact with younger generations more than previous campaigns. Her campaign team consists of considerably younger adults led by Parker Butler, 24, and Lauren Kapp, 25, who bring in views and an online audience more consistently than Biden’s earlier campaign. Betsy Klein, et al, authors of “Inside the Gen-Z Operation Powering Harris”

on CNN, comment that her approach to generating more fun content makes her more “relatable” with the youth. Klein, et al, interviewed Sohali Vaddula, national director of communications for the College Democrats of America, the youth arm of the Democratic National Committee, about Harris’ campaign, she said, “It just makes people feel like she’s one of us, like we’re not too far off from her. And it also just resonates with us better.” One of the biggest signs Harris’ campaign could be working is the increase in voter registrations across the country since it was announced that Biden would step down from running. Klein, et al, recorded over 230,000 new voters registered with 18% being just 18 years old and 81% being citizens from 18 to 34 years old.

As soon as Biden’s online campaign accounts were renamed under Harris’ campaign, the account’s following nearly doubled from the original number on the same night, showcasing the buzz and excitement for Kamala Harris’ new rise to candidacy.



Introducing Mr. Doug Taylor

By: Nina Chou  
*What is your name and what do you teach here at MAK?*

My name is Doug Taylor and I teach Geometry, Precalc, and Physics.

*What made you want to become a teacher at MAK?*

I enjoy working with students the most.

*What is your hidden talent if you have one?*

I can't think of anything off the top of my head. If I think of anything, I'll be sure to pass it along.

*What would the students be surprised to find out about you?*

I share pretty openly, so I can't think of something students might be surprised about. I almost failed Calculus twice. I didn't like school, but I became a teacher which might come across as a surprise. I got in trouble a lot in school, to the point where I had to go to court. It scared me. I remember talking to a bigger guy next to me and he asked me if I was going to juvi. It scared me so much. I never stole again. I was a pastor's kid before my dad became a teacher.

*A lot of students say that some things that you learn in math like the quadratic formula aren't used in everyday life. They might say that they don't need to be tested on it in class. How would you respond to that?*

That's a good question. The best answer is 1) colleges require it. To get into college, they expect a certain standard. Colleges have set that bar minimally so to get into college, you should study those things. 2) I've discovered that math helps me think outside the box. I've been able to troubleshoot problems really well, especially when I became an engineer. While the training you get in math might not be direct, it certainly applies with changing how you think. Also, you'd be surprised how many math lessons come up often, even something like calculating the mileage that you have left in a car while driving.

*What is one funny memory during your teaching experience?*

A fun memory? Well, a quick one: I was a teacher at MAC when Paul Liao was a sophomore on a basketball trip up in Taipei. We were headed up there to spend the night. He had his window open and said, "Wow! This is

like 3D! It's like a game!" Looking out the window. I thought that was funny. Paul still hasn't changed. I love that guy.

*What current trends that students currently follow are baffling to you?*

I'm not familiar with those terms (interviewers offered "Skibidy" and "Ohio"). Back when I left teaching last, students were calling me Boomer. Yeah, just the terms in general, I guess. I play a lot of video games so I hear them. Sussy is one for the little guys. The one that got me was mewing. I had to look it up. By the way, it was made by Dr. Mew. He believes if you put the top of your tongue against the roof of your mouth is that you'll straighten your jawline. So yeah, I guess some of the terms are a little confusing. It's nice knowing what they are so I can kinda relate."

*Is there a quote or saying that you live your life by?*

It's from a lyric: "Sometimes you're the windshield and sometimes you're the bug." \*laughs\* but I do believe strongly in putting others first. I try to live by that principle; that's probably the biggest one. Everyone comes from a different perspective. Once, I had a kid in class with strong OCD who was highly intelligent. He would wear gloves to touch things. He was sleeping one day and I tried to wake him up but I let it go because he seemed like he was working through something. Turns out his mom had died and he had come back to school. We don't know why people act the way they do. Let's not be too judgmental. I try not to be too hard on kids; I try to understand them.

*As a teacher, what would you say is your greatest strength and/or greatest weakness?*

They're the same: I can be funny. I can be entertaining but sometimes at the expense of what we're doing or the lesson. It's a liability as well as an asset. Sometimes I try too hard and it backfires.

*I hear that a lot of the time, teacher planning and grading can be just as stressful as the workload the students have. How do you manage your time to ensure everything is on time? What advice would you give to students who are bombarded with the current workload?*

I'm probably not a good example. I've done much better over the years but I did a horrible job managing my time in high school or college.



Now, I keep a physical or mental list and prioritize... whatever is burning the brightest is where I aim my hose, basically. For example, Pre-calc is now a priority over my other classes because my lesson isn't ready yet for the next period. I try to be two weeks ahead. \*laughs\* At the moment, I'm learning a lot of the material such as Physics, Geometry, and Precalc. For example, I never learned synthetic division, so now I have to learn that stuff as I teach it. I essentially am taking those classes and teaching them at the same time.

*If you could have one wish that would impact your immediate community, what would it be?*

Um, my one wish- I'll be honest, I believe God has a reason for making things happen the way they are. I am afraid to wish for what I want. I don't know where I'm going. I often think "What is successful?" but I don't think that's God's agenda. His is to make me more like Him. That might mean to go through difficult times, and that's what I want. I want to ultimately do what he wants. The physical is important, but what's inside of me lives on and I wanna make sure to prepare for what lies ahead. He knows and I don't. My wish? I wish I could take me out of the equation more and more recognizing what is the right thing and seeing God at work in the people around me and working in me. I used to wish to turn back time or be rich; I don't wish for those things anymore. I wanna be obedient because if I do those things I'll be there for other people. You don't

try to be good; you do good to others. Your motive is everything.

*What's your go-to tea order?*

I usually do almost any tea but I like a strawberry lemonade. Lingmon lucha. Used to like yeguo, but if I eat too much of them, I'll get headaches. Plus, yeguo used to be much cheaper [along with] teas in general. I like milk tea with boba. [Boba] make great spitballs!

*What are your favorite parts of MAK so far?*

The people! The kids! I enjoy the teachers, too; they're very nice. I love the culture here! The whole "living overseas" thing... I missed it so much. It's nice to be back overseas. It's a little more laid back. You don't have to impress people. You just get to be yourself... I like that. People around here are just trying to serve God.

*Anyone you'd love to learn more from this year?*

There are so many good teachers them all. For instance, Mier with 6th grade class-- I'm entertaining, but she got down to their level. I'm very fact-oriented but she's got so many built-in formative things and procedures. I learned alot watching her. I'd love to sit in Dr. Tsai's class or Mr. Gillette's class. I think people don't always match your style but you pick up nuances that help a lot.

Sports Recap: Season 1 Morrison Exchange

By: Nina Chou

Sharks, supreme ruthless apex predators, will tear apart anything with unrelenting power and lethal precision, shredding anything that dares challenge them. They have been doing just that at MAK.

On September 21, 2024, the MAK varsity sharks headed out to challenge our fellow Morrison brothers and sisters. Their strength and determination exceeded our expectations with their spectacular show of dominance.

Our Varsity Girls Volleyball team overwhelmed the Broncos with a 3-0 victory, sending them back to the stables where they belong! They displayed incredible resilience in a close match against MAC in a 2-3 battle. Despite going into the exchange with 4 separate injuries, the Varsity team's less experienced players rose to the occasion, making significant contributions and developments across the games. The whole team adapted swiftly to their new positions,

supporting the injured and delivering an exceptional performance showcasing the power of the SHARK! Their resilience and teamwork were nothing short of impressive, with a swift and excellent ability to adapt under pressure, highlighting the squad's depth and determination. Captain Tabitha Dang delivered an outstanding performance against MAC, with over 80% precision passes landing perfectly in the setter's hands. Jackie Lin dazzled everyone with her stellar attacking game, while Nicole Rodriguez showcased her all-around performance against MAT, with her key kills, blocks, and receives, dominating the two-way game.

Soccer has always tested the limits of physical endurance and athleticism, but the Sharks didn't just meet that challenge - they obliterated it. With unrivaled strength, speed, and agility, they took control of the field like true predators. On the boys' team, Captain Javier Chen transformed the team's mentality



and pushed them to become top-tier players. His relentless leadership along with the team's dedication fueled intense fitness sessions. All those long runs and hard training paid off in their recent match against MAT, unstoppable performance, and sealed a dominant 3-0 Victory. Derek Lee, the varsity squad's fearless shot-stopper, locked down the goal against the Broncos, earning Man of the Match with show-stopping saves that kept the team rock solid under pressure. His dominance between the goal posts gave the dynamic attacking trio- Joshua Andrews, Tomoki Miyazono, and Sean Yang - freedom to

tear through the opponent's defense, racking up the points and owning the field. Meanwhile, Javier Chen, the heart and soul of the midfield, proved why he was captain in the MAC game. Despite the unfortunate odds, he was the driving force, controlling the tempo, and orchestrating every sharp move - no wonder he was nominated MVP. Even though Chen sustained injuries in a later game, the MAK team continues to mature a positive and healthy team culture, making sure every player is improving, having fun, and working together to earn back points!





# Pineapples and their Place on Pizzas

By: Sharon Liu

Pineapples belong on pizzas. The sweet and slightly acidic fruit is the perfect way to balance a savory slice of pizza. Perhaps the combination may seem a little strange, but I’ve found that odd combinations often become the tastiest of foods (try spam musubi before you tell me I’m wrong).

Just think about it: after a couple of bites of your average pepperoni pizza, the whole slice starts to taste boring, bland, and very, very greasy. Enter pineapples, the sweetness, juiciness, and texture of a piece of canned (or caramelized) pineapple instantly elevates the entire pizza. The variation of texture and taste from bite to bite enhances the otherwise uninteresting slice. This delectable dish has sparked controversy over the internet with its unorthodox recipe.

The Hawaiian pizza was first created by the late Sam Panopoulos, a Greek Canadian who owned a restaurant in Ontario during the ‘60s. He’d been trying out new recipes ‘just for the fun of it,’ and one of these creations was the Hawaiian pizza. Panopoulos told BBC that his patrons were ‘going crazy about it,’ so the Hawaiian pizza was officially added to their menu. He also stated that he didn’t understand the opposition to pineapples on pizza, which he believed adds a ‘refreshing’ bite to the dish. I know many of you readers are about to give me a huge side-eye, and you’re not alone.

## Happy Socks

By: Audrey Wang

I can be a tiny bit weird sometimes. Most times I look normal, but underneath my super long and flared pants are usually a pair of wacky yet cute socks. Allow me to explain.

This past summer, I had the opportunity to visit Stockholm—that’s the capital city of Sweden, where Ikea and H&M originated from—with my brother and his friends. He was there for an actual purpose, but I mostly enjoyed shopping in Stockholm. It wasn’t long before I discovered an amazing socks brand—a holy grail for socks, if you will—named HAPPY SOCKS. As the name suggests, HAPPY SOCKS instantly make you HAPPY the second you put them on. (I tested this out on days when I had my AP Chemistry tests.) No matter what you’re feeling in the moment, HAPPY SOCKS are guaranteed to make you HAPPY.

Many gourmet critics and chefs are less enthusiastic about the innovation. A world-renowned celebrity chef, Gordon Ramsay, declared: “Pineapple does not go on top of pizza.....” Even the president of Iceland, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, proclaimed he was “fundamentally opposed” to pineapples on pizzas. The president went as far as to say that he’d have passed a law to ban such practice if he could! Many Italians, it seems, also criticize the consumption of pineapples with pizza as an inauthentic and fundamentally un-Italian way of eating. A pizzeria owner in Naples passionately stated that “pizza with pineapples suck.”

But no, you cannot convince me that pickles and peanut butter will ever go together.

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Your body and your brain are connected in a way that makes the placebo effect work under certain conditions. Think of it this way—as a child, have you ever skinned your knee on the playground? Did your mom or dad kiss your tiny scratch to make you feel better? Did you feel better? If so, that was the placebo effect working its magic! As long as you believe in the effectiveness of a treatment, whether real or fake, it will make you feel better through psychological means.

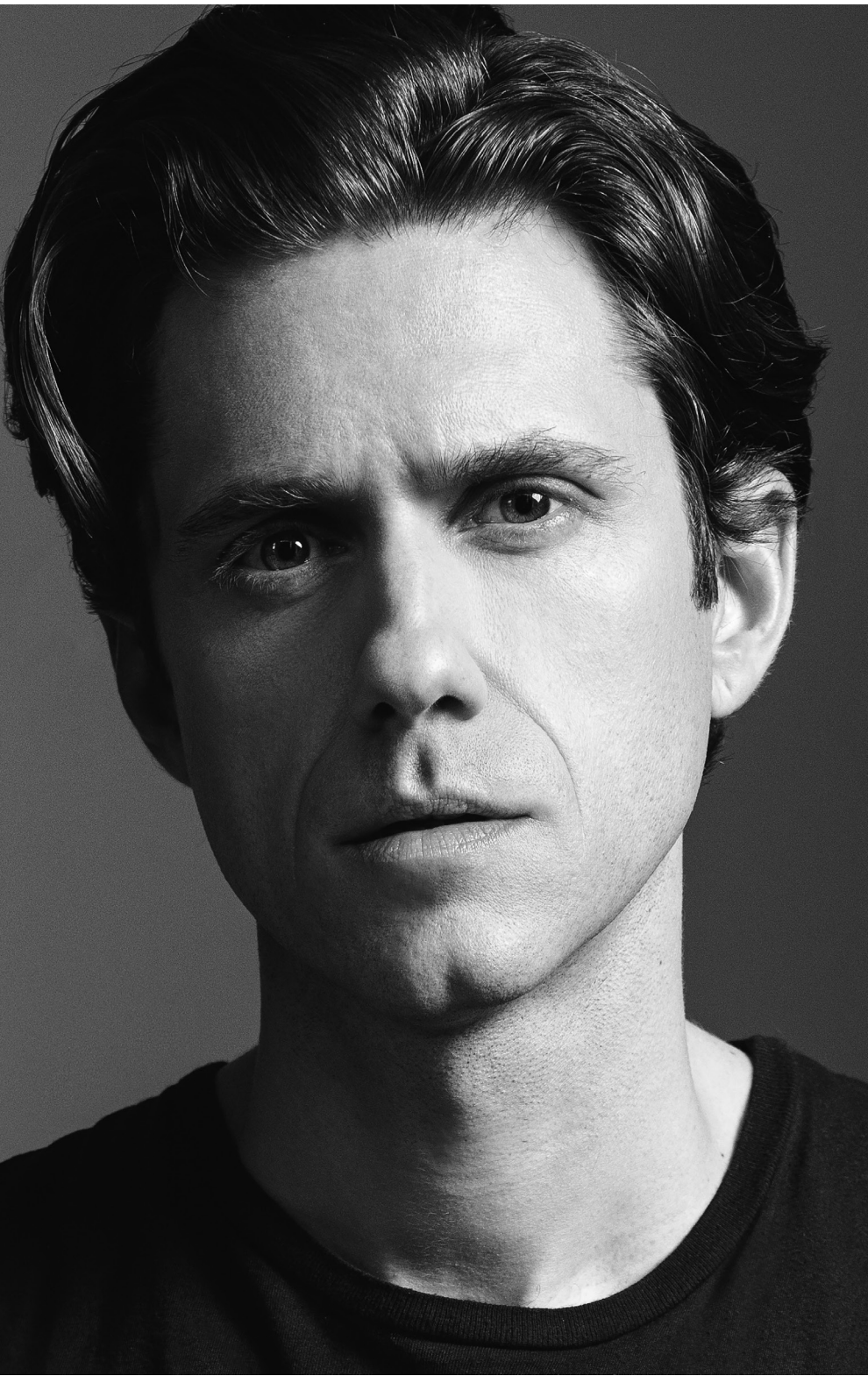
Putting on HAPPY SOCKS is my version of a placebo effect. It may sound a teensy bit dumb, but

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# Aaron Tveit, Chill Out

By: Anna Shaffner



Since opening in 2019, Moulin Rouge has become acclaimed for its over-the-top energy and overwhelming set, costume, and stage design. Based on the 2001 movie starring Ewan McGregor and Nicole Kidman, the “jukebox” musical (a musical composed of already-released music that is re-contextualized to a story) has won many awards for its direction, choreography, scene, costume, lighting, and sound design, and maybe most notably, its actors.

Aaron Tveit, an experienced Broadway, TV, and film actor, played the main character Christian in the workshop, pre-Broadway run, and Broadway opening from 2017-2018. Since originating the role, Tveit has returned to the cast four times. Returning to reprise a role is not uncommon on Broadway, but Tveit stands out based on the popularity of his role and sheer number of times he’s ‘left’ the production.

The timeline of Aaron Tveit’s involvement in Moulin Rouge

so did Tveit. He stayed until May of 2022 when he was replaced by Derek Klena. However, he didn’t stay away for long before returning in January of 2023. This time he stayed for five months, leaving alongside longtime cast member Ricky Rojas in early May. The next time Tveit returned to the show, it was advertised as a “limited run” from January to July. He left on time and was once again replaced by Derek Klena. Most recently, he announced he was returning in July of 2024 and is now set to stay until October.

While Tveit’s massive fanbase has received news of his return very positively, there has also been criticism of him keeping the role from other actors, as well as theories that the show capitalizes on Tveit’s popularity to keep selling tickets. Many fans have also expressed regret that Tveit’s loyalty to the production has kept him from branching out. Opinions on his return are subjective and varied, but there are valid reasons to criticize this casting choice. While I myself am a fan of Tveit’s Christian, I see how this casting prevents other actors from taking an attempt at the character; I also see how it is a financial decision made by the production team.

Putting aside the decisions of the creative team, what is it about this production that motivates Tveit to return time and time again? I have two theories, both of which I think are feasible. The first is that Tveit’s repeated returns to the show are a marketing ploy to convince fans of his and of the show to see it out of fear of missing out on his last performances. According to The Broadway League’s weekly gross reports Moulin Rouge was running at 91-97% capacity and just under \$1 million weekly gross throughout the month before Tveit’s most recent return. During the week of his return, sales jumped to 100% capacity with \$1,368,068 in weekly grosses. Since then, the show has been running at 98-100% capacity with an average of \$1,249,494. Whether this marketing strategy was intentional or not, it’s evident that Tveit’s presence has boosted sales significantly.

My second theory is that Tveit simply enjoys this show, as he has repeatedly chosen to return to the production over many other options. As an acclaimed stage, film, and television actor, he’s hardly limited to this one show. However, since joining Moulin Rouge in 2018, he has only been involved in two other Broadway productions (one of which being a one-night cameo in Gutenberg!

The Musical!). Compared to his historically packed lineup of stage productions and TV projects, this is a large difference.

Whether this casting choice is a cash grab or to do with Tveit’s emotional connection to the show and cast, this topic still serves as an interesting opening for theories and analysis of how casting works on Broadway. It’s also heartening for those (ahem, me) who have yet to see Tveit perform in this show, as evidence suggests the FOMO-induced rush to buy tickets during his limited run is unnecessary; afterall, he may be returning to the show yet again at some point in the future.

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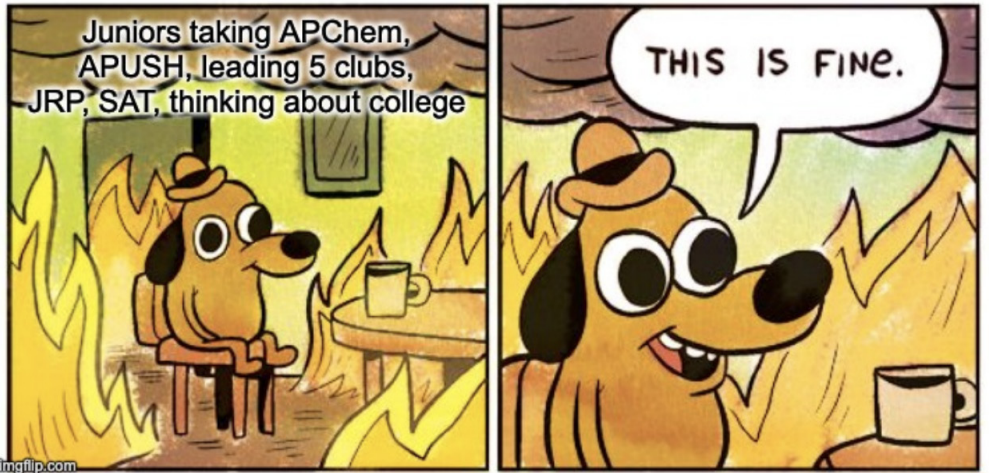
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So we have two giant fans in the air conditioned gym  
But no shade outside...



MAK HS Sports Culture Now:



Team Captain-led fitness during lunch!!

MAK HS Sports Culture 10 years ago:



Runny-runs makes me muskles hurt-ikins!



Go to the bathroom during study hall



Go to the bathroom at the start of your next class

Which Superhero Are You?

By: Faith Hsu

1. If you could have any superpower, which would it be?

- A. Invisibility
- B. Flying
- C. Telekinesis
- D. Teleportation

2. What is a word you would use to describe yourself?

- A. Introverted
- B. Caring
- C. Hardworking
- D. Passionate

3. What is a unique hobby you would like to have?

- A. Collecting stamps
- B. Scrapbooking
- C. Whittling wood
- D. Debating

4. Which character would you be in a high school movie?

- A. Emo
- B. Jock
- C. Nerd
- D. Cheerleader

5. What is your favorite subject?

- A. Biology/Chemistry/Physics
- B. English/Chinese/Spanish
- C. Lunch/Study Hall
- D. History

6. What ice cream toppings do you like?

- A. Chocolate and oreos
- B. Fruits and sprinkles
- C. Gummy bears and whipped cream
- D. Caramel sauce and nuts

7. What's your favorite color?

- A. Black
- B. Pink
- C. Red
- D. Blue

8. What's your go-to drink?

- A. Water
- B. Soda
- C. Tea
- D. Milk

If you got mostly c's, you're Spider Man! You're the type of person who anyone can feel comfortable around and defend those in need of help even when you're afraid.

If you got mostly d's you're Wonder Woman! You're passionate about things you care about and always ready to fight for what you believe in!

If you got mostly a's, you're Batman! You mostly keep to yourself but you have a strong sense of justice and aren't afraid to fight for what's right!

If you got mostly b's you're Superman! You are a very caring and lively person who never hesitates to help those who need it!

Happy 10th Anniversary to MAK High School!



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Audrey Wang

ADVISOR

Candace Brown

STAFF WRITERS

Anna Shaffner

Euri Beja

Faith Hsu

Mia Yang

Nina Chou

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