



Musical End of Semester

By Eva Brooks
Staff Writer

When the holidays are around the corner, the spirit seems to affect everyone around us. There's a cheery energy about starting a new year and a clean slate that gets everyone merry. Of course, with the Holiday Concert having come and gone on December 6th, it has been more or less proven that no one can party for the holidays like the GE Music Department. The Holiday Concert is a staple of both the music program, the school, and the community, and for good reason. Decorated with lights and pine trees, Biester is always dressed to impress for this concert in particular. Tickets sell quickly; this year, it's said that they sold out Biester the Tuesday before. The bands, orchestras, and choirs work as hard as ever before, with groups performing winter and holiday-themed songs. All were lauded with applause. The band performed classics like "Sleigh Bells" and excerpts from the Nutcracker with skill and flair, as well as newer, dynamic arrangements like "Carol of the Night". The percussion programs also kept a holiday beat like never before. The choir programs performed with their signature intensity and style, the collective baritone choir belting out "You're a Mean

One, Mr. Grinch" before the collective treble choir sang out "Gaudete" like an anthem. The orchestra played several pieces throughout the night with their honor strings program (flexing their musical muscles). Combined with symphony winds, they performed "Los Peces en el Rio" and "Wizards in Winter", throwing fun takes on the winter mood. The show ended with its signature bang, with orchestra and choir performing Hallelujah (as they do every other year) and band joining in (with some other special guests...) for the Holiday Sing-A-Long. However, the night wasn't just composed of the bigger groups all together. Individual interludes placed in between lulls in the program helped to both keep the show running smoothly and to wow the crowd. One rock quarter belted out a heavy rock ballad with "Magestarium", wowing the crowds. Serena Patel also stunned the audience as she performed her own song, "Sound of Falling Snow" on center stage, belting out every line with heart and passion. The Hip Hop program also gave the crowd a taste of their incredible composing skills,

remixing holiday classics. This isn't even counting the numerous performers that played both before and after the concert at the doors, letting people walk out with even more merry music, and the wonderful interlude works of piano accompanist Mr. Uhl and student choir teacher Mr. Kohring on piano and sometimes even organ! It's clear to see that mounds of individual talent lay in the music department here at East. The Holiday Concert was a wonderful tribute to the upcoming celebrations surrounding the winter and the New Year. Packed to the brim with simply brilliant musical work, it shows the sheer incredibility of the programs here at East. However, even if you miss this Concert, there are still plenty of opportunities to support the department! Cookies and Carols performs December 14 (it's cookies and songs- just like it sounds). The individual concerts for choir, band, and orchestra are also coming up!. Choir's Storybook Concert is February 1, Band's Winter Concert is on February 21 and the Orchestra Invitational Concert falls on March 6.

A Prelude to Christmas

By Sofia Logacho
Staff Writer

It seems that from the very moment Halloween ends, Christmas is everywhere. We hear it on the radio; see it in premature, glitzy decorations in stores; and can spot with no effort the promotions in newspaper and video ads, clamoring for our attention. Over time, commercialism has become more important than the heartfelt season of giving that is at the basis of this holiday. But while big cities hold concerts and huge sales in the days and weeks leading up to Christmas, one can't find a better example of the more traditional side than with Lombard's Jingle Bell Jubilee. With events all over downtown Lombard, December 1st opened the holiday season officially and with charm. The event incor-

porated some of our most treasured Christmas traditions, appealing to all ages and personalities. To begin with, dancers from the Dance Centre performed scenes from the Nutcracker in downtown shop windows. From little ballerinas disguised as shimmering snowflakes to the magnificent Sugar Plum Fairy herself, a truly magical scene lit up the chilly December night. A few blocks away, visitors were led through the Victorian Cottage, built in 1882, by the glow of only candles. Additionally, a sing-a-long was held at the First Church of Lombard. But if you thought that was it, then you'd be astonished to find that two musical groups from East also performed! Adjacent to the train tracks at Lombard Bible Church, Honors Strings played a variety of holiday

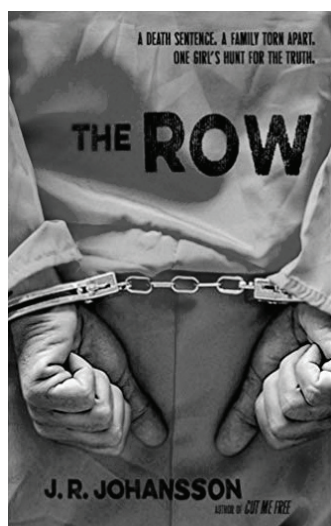
and just all-around favorites, such as "Frosty the Snowman" and "Favorite Things." Across the street, the spectacular Madrigals touched many a cold, wintry heart with renditions of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and "Silent Night." Both of these groups were amazing, and they represented East exceedingly well at the Jubilee. And finally, the most exciting event of them all: the lighting in Liliac Park. Where before there had only been the shivering skeletons of fall trees, now Santas and snowflakes and jolly penguins danced in the night, spreading holiday cheer. Passersby walked the paths and welcomed in the season, a breath of fresh air from the commercialism that has come to be associated with one of our most beloved holidays.



Top, middle: Glenbard choirs perform as students enjoy hot chocolate in the early morning before finals.. Bottom: At the Jingle Bell Jubilee, East's very own Honors Strings played a variety of holiday favorites. Photo by Danielle Logacho

By: Minza Mateen
Staff writer

For almost all of Riley's life, she's only the known the justice system to be broken and everyone untrustworthy. In *The Row* by J.R. Johansson, seventeen year old Riley has grown up by visiting her father every week in the Polunsky Unit, where her father is on the death row. He was arrested when Riley was only six years years old, and charged for multiple murders. However, for all these years, he's always upheld his claim on being innocent. That is, until his last appeal where he's found guilty once more, and his execution date is finalized for one month later. During the next visit, he confesses to Riley that he's actually guilty. Everything she's ever known starts to fall apart as she tries to find out the truth and piece it all together: to figure out if her father has been lying for eleven years straight, or that he's finally told the truth and guilty. Riley spends a month of what seems to be her most nerve-wracking summer, figuring out if she's finally found a friend who doesn't see her as the daughter of a serial killer, who wants to help her on this adventure of whether her father's conscience really is clear.

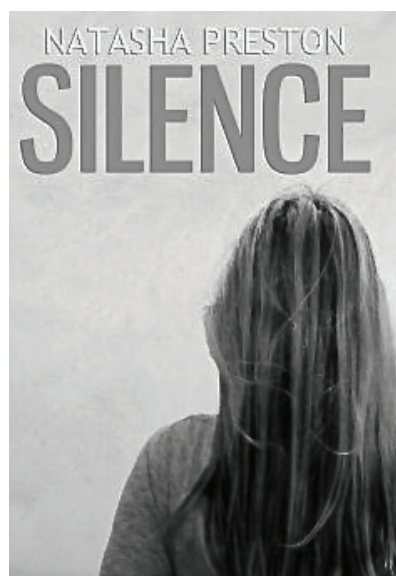


The most heartbreaking part of the book for me was when Riley and her newly found friend, and even more newly found boyfriend, Jordan, split up because the whole time while he's been helping Riley find answers, he believed that her father was guilty, and Riley wouldn't let go of her belief that he was innocent. The actual heart-wrenching part for me though, it's that at this point I sided with Jordan and really did agree with all the points he brought up against him. It hurt to see the pain that Riley felt after finally finding someone she trusted, only for them to not to truly have faith in her. My favorite part is when Jordan and Riley meet up even after they've broken up to find where her father has taken her mother for "shopping," because at this point Riley also has strong arguments to declare him guilty. I appreciate their willingness to work together to save some-

The Other Einstein

By: Marica Szczybura
Staff Writer

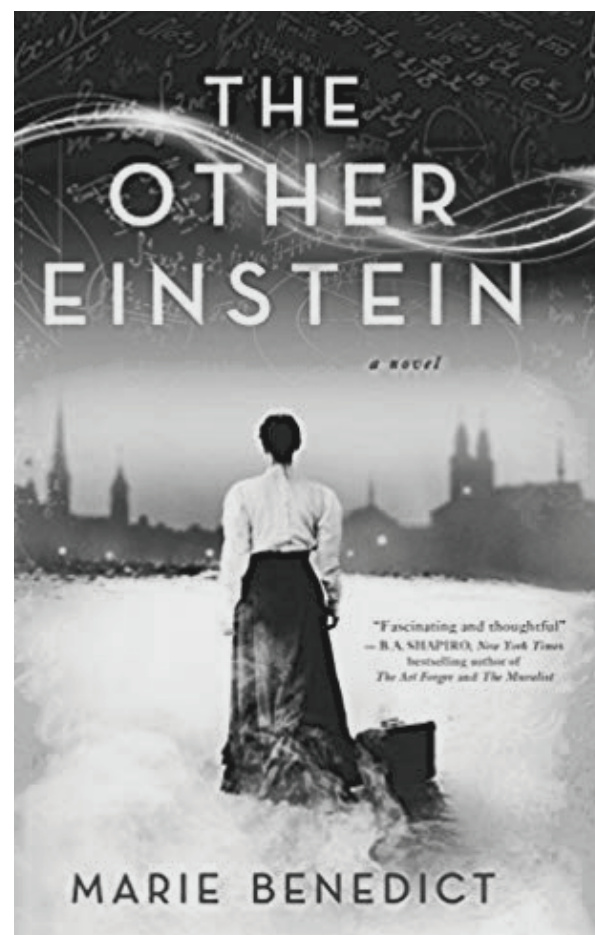
In the never ending shadow of Albert Einstein's fame lies his brilliant first wife, Mileva Maric, an inspiring woman that was shamefully lost to history. Growing up in the late 1880's as a woman already left her with few options for the future, but even these limited choices were unavailable to her. She was born with a malformed hip, resulting in a permanent and noticeable limp. After being deemed "unsuitable for marriage" by society, her parents decided that if she couldn't find a husband, then she'd have to excel in academics, something she already loved. Ever since she was a child, she had a passion for physics. Others teased her fondness of learning, and she was isolated from her peers due to her physical disability. Nevertheless, she ends up making it into a university in Switzerland where she was allowed to truly cultivate her knowledge. Success was in her grasp until she meets Albert Einstein, a fellow student, and they start a relationship. He was one of the very few men who promised to treat her as an equal, but promises are not always kept. A series of incidents skews her future in ways she never expected. With her world now crumbling around her at every turn, she must learn how to put it back together. I can say with certainty that *The Other Einstein* is one of the best books I have read in awhile. Vivid imagery allows readers to step back in 1880s and hooks readers into the story. Specified chronology helped the historical genre flow easily. Also, so much attention to detail went into writing Mileva's life story. We get to know her as we know our best friend, following her every step of the way. Had I not read this book, I would have never known about Mileva and her accomplishments. Someone who I now look at as a role model would have been lost to the sands of time. The book also touches on critical topics such as the importance of self-esteem and dealing with abusive relationships. But the most crucial message the book teaches us is that as humans we tend to place the people we deem "famous" on pedestals so high we fail to see that they are humans, and that they have flaws just as we do. We think of Einstein as a great physicist that we should look up to and learn from. However, *The Other Einstein* opens our eyes to see a different, more human side to him. While the book has been one of my favorites, it might not be for everyone. *The Other Einstein* does a wonderful job of presenting a biography in an interesting, reads-like-fiction type of way. However, if you are simply a not a fan of historical fiction, you might not be a fan of the book either. Also, *The Other Einstein* was a tearjerker. And this is coming from someone who doesn't cry for books often. So, those of you not looking for an emotional roller coaster, beware. Overall, however, I think *The Other Einstein* should be on every readers list of essential reads. It's important for us to recognize the achievements of people beyond those we learn about in textbooks. And if you're looking for an inspirational book about a powerful woman taking adversity by the horns, look no further. *The Other Einstein* is the perfect read.



The Silence

By: Afnaan Syed
Staff Writer

Silence, by Natasha Preston, follows Oakley Farrell, a girl who has been mute since the age of five. Now sixteen, Oakley has been mute for eleven years. Ostracized at school but her classmates, Oakley only has one friend, Cole Benson. Cole refuses to believe that Oakley isn't perfect, just the way she is. Despite the constant bullying from her schoolmates, Cole constantly stands up for Oakley. Cole and Oakley have their own unique friendship, their own way of communicating. Despite the hardships Oakley faces, she is quite content with the life she has, but will Oakley's and Cole's friendship survive when they start to grow even closer? And when Oakley is forced to face someone from her past, will she be able to keep the secrets she's hidden for the past eleven years? Or will the unraveling of her past change her future and the future of those around her?



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Bad Holiday Movies

By: Marica Szczybura
Staff Writer

It’s early morning on a snow day, and I’m snuggled under a pile of blankets on the couch - making the most of my lazy day. My little brother rushes into the living room, beyond excited about the possibilities the day has to offer. He takes one look at the television in front of us, puts his head in his hands, and walks out the room. “Not again,” he sighs. Later on, though, he’s back and the rest of my family has joined us. Snow falling outside, blankets and hot cocoa, the cheesiest holiday movie playing out in front of us. Candace Cameron Bure plays identical twins leading completely different lives and stressing out over the holidays in Hallmark’s “Switched for Christmas”. So, what better to do than switch lives for a day? The plot is like any other holiday Hallmark movie: girl meets guy in the most cliché of circumstances; they go through happy times and rough times, but always end up together in the end. Most people, like my brother, find these movies absolutely awful. Critics say the same; I’m not going to argue that. They’re bad--so sappy, so choppy written, such amateur acting. But there’s something magical that comes along with these movies, something that so many people love and they don’t know why. After all, cheesy cable channels like Hallmark still exist and are popular enough to have released 22 new movies this year. They take predictability to a whole other level. The plot can be guessed within the first five minutes of the film. It’s always about falling in love, or getting over insecurities, or accepting people for who they really are--noble topics, when done correctly. There’s only a handful of categories that channels like Hallmark pick from. Yet, I believe predictability is the point. The holiday season is stressful for almost

everyone. Chaos reigns the entire month. Yet, watching these movies becomes a little break, a tool to de-stress, a form of catharsis. We watch as the actors on the screen go through the stresses we experience ourselves --financial, romantic, or familial--with the ending turning out just perfectly. It’s a chance to live our lives through the actors and learn more about ourselves. It’s almost a fulfillment of our fantasy lives, the perfect lives we aspire to have. And even if we don’t see the more quasi-philosophical side of bad holiday movies, we can at least share a laugh while watching them. With the all too ridiculous plot lines filled with last minute flights and awfully corny jokes, it’s hard not to. My family and I can spend hours ripping through plot holes. Falling in love with someone within a span of two days? Cross-country flight to Las Vegas to stop your elderly aunt from eloping? Completely ridiculous, but we love them anyway.




Illustration by James Smith

You’re A Mean One...

By: Eva Brooks
Staff Writer

The winter months bring about a whole host of content, new and old, to enjoy during the holiday season. We break out the feel-good movies, bundle up with blankets, s weathers, and warm drinks, and, most of all, rejoice in hearing our favorite holiday tunes on the radio. Usually, the divide between the older tunes and newer holiday songs is quite great, but this year saw a bridge between the two with the rerelease of a Christmas classic: You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch. And while the old one always feels as diabolical as the famed green monster himself, the newer one feels cold and calculating in a completely different way. The original TV special, based on the book by Dr. Seuss, featured the classic original tune “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch”, with its creative lyrics that never stopped being amusing and awesome instrumental backing. The song has often been covered, such as for the 2006 Grinch movie starring Jim Carrey, but it’s hard to match the impressively memorable vocals of original singer Thurl Ravenscroft (who, fun fact, also was the original voice of Tony the Tiger for the Frosted Flakes ads). This recreation of the classic Christmas tune was made in promotion of the Illumination Studios 2018 reboot of the Grinch, starring Benedict Cumberbatch as the Grinch (you might not remember it because it came out before Thanksgiving, and therefore, before reasonable people celebrate Christmas). No doubt knowing how hard it would be to truly recreate the original, the movie asked Tyler the Creator to bring the song a new life as a hip hop track. And there’s nothing wrong with that, except that it doesn’t really... work. The lyrics here are mostly the same classic lines, except they’ve been cut up and rearranged in an odd sort of manner. The song tends to take the long lists of complaints and switch the two middle lines of the lyrics. This is not an inherently bad decision, and it makes the song feel fresh and different. However, it also seems to make the song stop and struggle with points by the end, instead of being scathing burns like the original. What makes this even more disorienting is that the lines where there IS a pause are cut, which takes away any comedy or magnitude and make the song feel like a slow ski lift instead of a nippy sleigh ride. This is also not helped by the instrumental drones not providing the same “oomph” as the the original orchestra. While by no means bad for a trap song, the use of the same lyrics without that backing makes the whole song feel formless. However, by FAR the thing that’s by far the most annoying is the squeaky children’s choir screeching behind Tyler’s lines. They turn simple lines like “you really are a heel” and make them GRATE on you. Of course, children can sing really well, and dissonance is a fine, smart addition for the original song. It’s the combination of their bright, loud voices and the stressed contrast that really makes the song get under your skin. However, in all fairness, Tyler the Creator’s main musical decisions are where the song stands out. The lyrics that he adds at the end of the tune fit quite well with the overall tone of the song, and he himself does a great vocal performance. Of course he sings it differently from the original, but one must remember that this is a much different genre of music from the original as well. With the song being the hip hop track it is, Tyler the Creator stands out well and delivers a memorable, charming performance (one that could have saved the song had it not originally been so background focused). Not to mention, the changes in the song all have good reason. The genre change, backing children’s choir, and restructured lines and emphasis could have really worked well together. They all change the song up enough to feel new, while also not clashing too hard with the original. The devil simply lies in the details here, and each individual part just can’t do well enough to boost what’s already good, creating a final song that, when not annoying, is by no means memorable. Nevertheless, this new version, with its musical decisions floundering with their execution, can’t but pale in comparison to the original song. While props can be given for the originality found and vocal performance, its flaws make it unlikely that this song will even be a blip on our radar come next holiday season.

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Injustice at Harvard

By: Areli Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Recently Harvard was exposed by the New York Times for racially profiling Asians as having little or no personality whatsoever. According to The New Yorker, “student’s personal ratings significantly dragged down their chances of being admitted”, which in my opinion was very unethical. Harvard even tried defending themselves by claiming that they “seek to create a diverse educational community(The New Yorker)”, if that were true, then why was the admission rate for Asians in 2017 “5.6%”(The Harvard Crimson)? I guess you could say that racial stereotypes is what clouded their better judgement, but it would have been more admirable for them to accept a candidate from any type of minority group based off of their hard work and dedication, instead of what the general public thinks of them. Harvard isn’t the only school that has done some injustice to their students, Curtis High School was sued by three former students, because of “racial slurs and discriminatory grading (according to Newsone)” back in 2015. These three students are African American and were treated like criminals by both their teachers and fellow peers. There is an official statement from one of the students on Newsone.com, which says “To this day, I have lingering stress and anxiety from my Curtis experience. While before I was easygoing and trusting of people, now I find that

I hang back and analyze people before trusting them. I also am more defensive than I used to be, and feel like I need to justify or explain who I am since I learned at Curtis that people have stereotypes and biases against me.” I find it very sad that we Americans still have racial issues in our country, isn’t time to put our differences aside? Why must we deny the people right to a safe and fair learning environment? Issues like these are what keeps this country from progressing and we really do need to change for the sake of the future generation.



photo from npr.org

By Winter Crane-Winn
Staff Writer

A black and white photograph of a small, scruffy-haired dog, possibly a Yorkshire Terrier, peering out from under a white, ribbed blanket. The dog's face is centered, with its large, dark eyes looking directly at the camera. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a carpet or rug. The lighting is soft, highlighting the dog's fur and the texture of the blanket.

If you want your pet to be featured in the ECHO, please send their name and a talent to 1211040@glenbard.org or DM our twitter @EchonewspaperG!



Jewel-Osco of Lombard is looking to hire high school students. Contact the manager, Mark, for more information at (630) 953-1390. The store is located at 1177 South Main Street, Lombard (Next to Enchanted Castle)

By: James Smith



Color this in and send it to @EchonepaperG on twitter for \$5 gift card to Culver's! You must be following @EchonepaperG to win!

By Annie Nonymous
Staff Writer

Answer: Oof that sounds rough. One of the most common questions I get is about relationships and crush advice, and to be honest, I tell this to everyone. Focus on yourself before you try and look for a relationship. I'm not saying it's a bad thing to want to be in a relationship with someone who you like, but sometimes, it's better to focus on yourself rather than trying to impress someone. But if you really want to be in a relationship with him, then find something you guys have in common. Sounds cliché, but it really works. Shhh... You didn't hear it from me, but guys tend to like girls who make the first move.

Question: Hi Annie, So, I've had a crush on this guy since middle school and we never really talk a lot, and now that we have no classes or anything together, I have no reason to approach him or speak to him. I haven't spoken to him since last year and really don't know what to do. We used to be friends and now he's like... not even acknowledging my existence. Please help!!! - Invisible in Class

Answer: Okay, this might sound really blunt, but if he doesn't acknowledge you, then chances are, he's probably not worth it. I'm not trying to be mean or anything, but don't lose yourself trying to impress a guy that might not care. But if you like him that much, then find him again through mutual friends. If you guys have mutual friends, then there's more of a chance you can interact with him and try to get closer to him.

Question: What are good ways to ask for help from teachers? - Confused Crusader

Answer: I would first send an email at a time where you think your teachers would be awake, and just get straight to the point. Ask them what you need to and then just wait for them to respond. If they still haven't sent anything back the next day, talk to them in person. After your teacher helps you, you'll get what you had been needing to do good in that class, and your teacher will also see you as someone who works to get what they want. So, good luck!

Question: Hey Annie! I'm a freshman who's currently crushing hard on a senior. Cliche I know, but got any advice? From, a Frustrated Freshman

Answer: Okay, real talk, it's not going to work out. You're completely new to the high school life, and your senior crush is probably heading off to college, and long distance relationships just don't work, just telling you now. The best thing I can say, is, if you're more than confident that you can make this work, then go for it, but if there's any doubt, don't do it. You still have your whole high school life ahead of you. You don't need to worry about relationships right now. Go live your life!

Question: How can you find yourself in high school? -Lost Llama

Answer: First, you should stay right where you are and call for help immediately. Just kidding! But the most important thing is that you find good friends so you feel comfortable to be a weirdo around them, share your favorite memes, and tell them your most embarrassing secrets. If you join clubs or sports, it's really fun and you also meet people that you could become friends with, but it's okay if you're not comfortable or interested in any, because that's not uncommon. Joining extracurriculars isn't a graduation requirement, so don't worry about participating in any!

Hey guys, quick announcement from Annie! I know that a lot of you are seeking for help, but don't know who or where to ask. Fear not, Annie to the rescue! We will be posting a Google form on Schoology where you can ask Annie your questions! Feel free to ask me any and all of your questions. 'Til next issue, this is Annie signing off!

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