The Baima House Still Stands

MIKI KUSUNOSE

Image Courtesy of the Newcastle Historical Society

The Baima House stands as the last remnant of history that reminds residents of the coal industry. It bears the name of the Baima family, an Italian immigrant family whose history is still remembered in the region. The house was built around 1872 and served as a company house for miners working in the Newcastle coal mines. The house has a character of rustic antiquity, with a peely white porch and shingles spotty with moss, giving the tilted roof a historical charm.

The Baima House has been a symbol of the past and is now a site of education and preservation. After the coal boom died out in the region, the company houses faded away, and most were destroyed by fire. However, the Baima House has survived, providing a glimpse into the past and helping to keep the history of the coal industry alive.

Today, the Baima House is owned by the Newcastle Historical Society and is open to the public for tours. Visitors can learn about the history of coal mining in Newcastle and appreciate the heritage of the Baima family.

The Baima House is not only a physical reminder of the past but also a testament to the resilience of the community. Despite the challenges faced by the miners and their families, the Baima House stands as a quiet reminder of our once bustling history. It is a place where people can gather and reflect on the sacrifices made by the miners and their families.

In conclusion, the Baima House is a symbol of the strength and perseverance of the Newcastle community. It serves as a reminder of the past and a beacon of hope for the future. The Baima House is a true testament to the enduring spirit of the people who live and work in Newcastle.
A Scoop on Boys’ Lacrosse

MAX LEVY
Editor

After finishing their previous season 5-7, Newport’s Boys’ Lacrosse team members are back for Spring 2020. Multiple players, including captain Brady Byther (12), emphasized that they intend to finish with a winning record, and captain Gavin Tampa (12) added that they “only had one player depart after last season.”

But with the new season comes a major change- a second team. The influx of freshmen interest in lacrosse has paved the way for a junior varsity team. Byther emphasized the importance of getting in-game experience for underclassmen, which will help them prepare for the varsity spotlight. Without a JV team, underclassmen would often see minimal playing time in varsity games.

Nothing comes easy, and lacrosse players know this as well as anyone. Defender Frasier Ormiston (11) explained that while you “don’t need to be athletic” to play lacrosse, “you need to be willing to put in the time and effort.” He noted that to win more games, the team would need to continue improving. Jeffery Myers (11) explained that on the offensive end, players practice route-running and passing with a drill called 'spoke,' which involves players dashing to a spot and catching the ball, then throwing to the next teammate. Byther described a pregame warm-up drill that emphasizes catching the ball from a variety of angles.

One strength this team has going for them is their strong bond. Having played together for a long time, Byther described the team relationships as close “on and off the field.” Ormiston added that forming on-field chemistry is easier because of this longtime bond. In fact, Tampa even jokingly acknowledged that the team is so close that “focus can be an issue sometimes.” While winning is always nice, it’s those close friendships that will stand the test of time.
Newport Girls Tennis: Talented and Tight-Knit

CAROLYN HAN
Reporter

Full of strong players and an even stronger community, the Newport’s Girls’ Tennis teams are ready to be serving up aces this season.

Evelyn Wong (12), one of the Girls’ Tennis captains, informed that last season “[the varsity team] went undefeated in our league...and [that] Newport has consistently sent players [to state] the past three years.” On the topic of past seasons, Barbara Sneckner, Newport’s varsity Girls’ Tennis coach, noted that while last year’s successful season “will be difficult to follow,” because the team “had only [one] player graduate last year off of our varsity squad” and the tennis players “strive for excellence,” she believes that they “can continue our high performances.”

Beyond the matches, Kahini Kudur (12), another girls tennis captain, voiced, “We pride ourselves in...how close the team is to each other.” Girls’ Tennis captains Wong, Kudur, and Sophie Wu (12) hope to continue team bonding activities “like pasta feeds, sleepovers... multiple team dinners...[and] the tradition of exchanging boxes for the first league matches.”

This sense of a team community is built on the courts, too. Wu expressed that “practices are lighthearted and filled with jokes and laughter,” and during match days, “everyone is incredibly supportive and loudly cheering on their teammates.” Kudur affirmed, “[While] we keep it competitive, we make sure to keep it secondary to forming a tight knit team.” This team includes Sneckner, who appreciates that “every practice is both productive and fun, and that isn’t something you always experience as a coach.”

Reflecting on her experience in coaching Newport Girls’ Tennis, Sneckner expressed that she “considers...[her]self extremely lucky to get to work with these hard working ladies.” It is clear that the players of girls tennis appreciate Sneckner, the work put in during practice, and the community, too. Siena Kaneshiro (9) said, “[It is beneficial in] preparing us for the actual season and helping us get better endurance” and thought that “everyone seems really nice and pretty close so that’s cool too!” Wong agreed, loving how unlike in club tennis, which is “very individualized and competitive,” high school tennis has taught her how “how a strong team bond can completely transform someone’s experience.”

Looking forward, Wu, Kudur, and Wong, hope to “keep the momentum going strong and defend... [Newport’s] title as League Champion and Kingcos Champion.” The captains also have “high hopes for taking that momentum to State.”

Kicking Off the Soccer Season

ALEX SU
Reporter

The Boys’ Soccer team is kicking off (pun intended) the spring season this year on some bittersweet notes. For senior captains Masato Nandate (12) and Mikio Yap (12), this will be their last season playing for Newport before going on to college. Yap stated, “I have plans to continue playing soccer in college...and I’m excited to see where soccer will take me!” Yap will be playing midfield this year.

To better understand the difficulties of playing for Newport boys soccer, I questioned on Yap what he personally thought the most difficult struggle is, and he affirmed, “The most challenging part of being on the team is staying healthy and fit throughout the season because we tend to have weeks where we play two to three eighty-minute games and it definitely takes a toll on our bodies.” He continued, “It’s easy to get injured and we need everyone to be at a hundred percent, especially because we have a smaller number of games this year, and all of them count towards qualifying for KingCo Playoffs.” From this, we can see the dedication and devotion our players put into each game, along with the physical requirements just for practice. Nandate answered this same inquiry with a more emotional response, saying that the hardest part for him will be senior night, “knowing that the seniors are going to play their last games and will not come back next year,” and “being in that position as the senior this year, it feels very bittersweet and I hope I don’t cry on my senior night.” To make it even more emotional, Yap recalled, “I have been playing soccer since I could remember, and my very first training session was with my senior teammate Masato Nandate.”

With two senior captains leaving us this year, we also look forward to new players on the field. To all incoming freshmen, Nandate reassured that “tryouts are generally pretty easy, just two or three days of fun scrimmages.” He advised them to “be flexible, be willing to play any position and work as hard as you can.” We wish both Nandate and Yap good luck to soccer in the future and good luck for those interested in trying out!
March Madness

GRACE LEE
Reporter

With the season of March Madness approaching, avid fans are now preparing for the biggest event in college basketball. Even if a team has had a sub-par season, the NCAA championship title is enough to wash away past losses and leave a team’s mark in college basketball history. Just look at the current “big names” in college basketball with five or more championship wins: Duke, Kentucky, Kansas, North Carolina, and even UCLA. All of these schools keep a high reputation and their star players often have the opportunity to go to the NBA such as star rookie Zion Williamson, from Duke University, who became the first pick in the NBA draft after playing just one season with the Duke Blue Devils. However, looking at this year’s season and the results of past seasons, the outcome of the championship remains unclear. Why? Veteran college basketball fans will know the answer which is echoed in the famous phrase “It’s not over until it’s over.” Even at the championship game with only a few seconds left, a buzzer-beater or even a successful free throw may be all that is needed to take it all. In fact, the possibility for an exciting upset is something that attracts people who do not regularly watch college basketball like Mr. Rubio, who enjoys March Madness because “there’s a greater chance for an upset compared to the NBA which makes the games more interesting.” For example, UMBC made history in 2018, beating top-seeded Virginia to become the first 16 seed to advance out of the first round. Needless to say, you never know what could happen in college basketball, especially in March.

Unlike previous seasons where a crowd favorite or a clear victor usually emerges, Ms. Mack explained that “this season has honestly been a wild card” and suggested to any fellow viewers who make brackets not to “have all number one seeds in their Final Four” because of the unpredictability of the season. According to Sports Illustrated, the “Magic Eight” or the teams most likely to win the championship consists of Kansas, Baylor, Gonzaga, Duke, San Diego State, Maryland, Seton Hall, and Michigan State. Just looking at the rankings and stats, the Kansas Jayhawks seems to be in the best place for a win; Andy Katz from NCAA.com seems to agree, looking at his bracket of predictions for the NCAA championship. Of course, it is possible that the ultimate victor might not be part of this list, considering how all of the above teams could be knocked out of the brackets with just one loss whether the loss is by twenty points or just one. Another factor that determines the fate of a team are its players. Star players are always great to have, especially if they are high scorers such as Markus Howard of the Marquette Golden Eagles, according to Business Insider, he leads “the entire NCAA with 27.3 points per game this season.” However, just depending on one player could have catastrophic consequences if said star player gets injured or cannot play for the rest of the season. The ideal team is well rounded with several high scoring players in the offense and a tight defense. But who leads the players? The coach. Even though coaches are often in the sidelines while the players play on the court, the coach determines the plays, encourages the players, and calls helpful timeouts. A skilled coach could change the tide of the game with strategic plays just as much as a star player’s points can. Often, the skill of the coach can be determined by how many appearances teams make in the Elite Eight, Final Four, and the championship. Looking only at the statistics from Sportscasting, the coach with the most NCAA tournament wins, Final Four appearances, and more is Mike Krzyzewski (popularly known as Coach K). Regardless of all the factors that could affect a team’s wins or losses, at the end of the day, March Madness is just madness.

Moving away from professional opinions, the Newport body also have predictions about the outcome of March Madness. Personally, I think that the Duke Blue Devils have a good chance because of players like Vernon Carey Jr. and Tre Jones who both rank highly on the ACC and contribute to Duke’s overall ability to turn the tables around with great plays. Not only that, but their coach Mike Krzyzewski is arguably one of the best coaches in the NCAA. Coming from another perspective, Nick Radabaugh (12) thought that the Duke Blue Devils would win because “that’s what the Vegas gamblers are betting on.” Davis Endow (11) said that, “Seton Hall always does well surprisingly, but I think that Kansas will probably win because although they are young, they are a strong team with good chemistry.”
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Xenophobia: (noun) A Disease That Spreads Faster Than the Coronavirus

DEBBIE WANG
Reporter

Three weeks after the first coronavirus cases were reported from Wuhan, China, the New York Post published a story titled “Inside the Horrific, Inhumane Animal Markets Behind Pandemics Like Coronavirus.” These “unregulated” and “filthy” markets, the article stressed, are “found all over Asia and Africa.” The markets sell “exotic wildlife” such as “dead bats,” “live and dead dogs,” “snakes,” and even “rats.” Shoppers, according to the article, are greeted by a “sickly, almost sweet and nauseating smell of death” and “unbearable and heartbreaking screams from mammals and fowl.”

In wet markets, he was reluctant to support shutting down these markets.

In the last few months, hateful rhetoric against Asian Americans has spiked, and xenophobic news articles such as that published by the New York Post only fuel the hate. Without empathy for those at the outbreak’s epicenter, some news outlets pushed out one-sided, fiction-based sensational tales for an amusing reaction from the audience. On January 26th, the French Newspaper Le Courier Picard published an online article headlined “New Yellow Peril?”, a reference to the 19th century xenophobic belief that East Asians pose an existential danger to the Western world. On February 3rd, the Wall Street Journal published an article titled “China Is the Real Sick Man of Asia,” a reference to the derogatory term used to describe China in the late 1800s, when the country was divvied up by foreign imperialists. Joy Zou (12) called these xenophobic news articles “demoralizing.”

After a few Biology lessons, the knowledge that viruses spread by exposure to infected individuals, not ethnicity, must seem like common sense to many of us. Why then, do these hateful comments persist? According to the Columbia University professor Marie Myung-Ok Lee, how the media and the scientific community name an epidemic plays a crucial role in fueling xenophobia. In the past months, news outlets have repeatedly and “conveniently” renamed the 2019-nCoV coronavirus as the “Wuhan coronavirus.” The Economist, for example, published an article regarding the “Wuhan virus” along with the subtitle “Made in China” and a picture of earth wearing a mask made from China’s national flag. Naming a virus by its origin is not new. Past examples include: Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Asian Flu, West Nile virus, and Ebola – named after a river in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, viruses that originated in the United States or Europe were always given a generic scientific name, such as H1N1 or yellow fever. Afterall, the Spanish conquistadors never renamed smallpox as the “European killer virus,” right? The impact of xenophobia-fueled fear surrounding the coronavirus can be felt around Washington. Restaurants and cafes in Seattle’s International District, reported by Komo News, have experienced up to a 70% decline in business since the coronavirus outbreak. Zou stated that she felt uneasy knowing how much Asian businesses are impacted by xenophobia, especially because “a lot of Asian businesses, especially restaurants, are smaller, local businesses.”

At a time when so many are relying on news outlets for accurate coronavirus updates, biased news reports normalize xenophobia against Asian Americans. These reports reveal America’s continuous grapple with racism. Zou commented, “it is pretty obvious that the coronavirus [did not] create those xenophobic actions. [The disease] just provided a seemingly ‘justifiable’ outlet for them.” Since the outbreak emerged in late January, xenophobic comments along the lines of “this is what they get for drinking exotic bat soup” have circulated the internet. Zou, visibly frustrated, recounted an incident of “someone [asking her] a question about whether or not [her] people’ eat bats.” Although the question stemmed from “polite curiosity” instead of hate, Zou admitted that “it still sounded icky. She sarcastically questioned, “does a handful of people eating something that seems ‘foreign’ to European culture mean everyone in an entire country deserves to die?”

To overcome xenophobia, Zou encourages everyone to examine the coronavirus with a non-Eurocentric view and “think before you speak.” She added, “[do not] be afraid to call someone out when he or she says something that feels wrong. Not everything people say is said with the intent to harm, but that [does not] make insensitive comments less hurtful.”

Taken out of context, the discriminatory article seemingly describes a primitive, utterly apocalyptic setting. It is a wonder why a sane person would voluntarily venture into such places. In reality, the so-called “animal markets” are known as wet markets. According to Zhenzhong Si, a food security specialist at the University of Waterloo, large cities in China typically have a few hundred of them. Si stated that wet markets serve as “the predominant food retail outlets for fresh produce and meat in Chinese cities ... [as well as spaces] for socialization.” Even amid the coronavirus outbreak, individuals in China are still relying on these wet markets for daily necessities. Eric Chen (11), whose grandparents live in Beijing, stated that “[they] still go out daily to shop for vegetables.”

Shutting down these presumptuously filthy “animal markets” might seem like a no-brainer to outsiders; however, wild animals hold cultural significance to many in China. Qi suggested that “eating wild animals is considered a symbol of wealth” in China; he added that traditional Chinese medicine believes wild animal consumption could boost the immune system. While Qi stressed the need for better enforcement of food safety policies...
Does an Engaging Performance Outweigh Musical Integrity?

ZOYA SIDDIQUI
Reporter

In the music world, lip syncing during a concert is often viewed as a massive faux pas. Artists have had their careers shredded by being caught lip syncing. In some instances, they are even vilified.

It is commonly argued that lip syncing is inherently dishonest, but many people seem to forget that live shows are extremely draining, especially when it comes to artists who pair singing with intense choreography in their shows.

“There are many groups and individual artists that have to focus on dancing at a high tempo while also having perfect vocals, which is difficult, so it would make sense if they have to lip sync,” says Ellen Nielsen (9). Consider the example of an artist on a world tour, which requires them to perform several times a week for a span of several months to a year. It is incredibly unrealistic to expect anyone to sing perfectly, or for that matter, even passably without suffering adverse consequences on their voice over such a long period of continuous strain. Cancelling a show due to anything from vocal strain to allergies, though, causes financial loss for the artist, so some artists decide to lip sync their way through it instead.

superstar act could “expect to receive a cut of a $350 million tour gross around 90% to 35%” while the rest of the money is split up between “taxes, promoter fees, manager commission, fixed costs and staging/crew costs.”

If it is staged correctly and given enough creative effort, it should be recognized that lip syncing allows artists to direct their energy into theatrics and other elements that will elevate their performances. Britney Spears, for example, is known not only for her breathy vocals but for her phenomenal performances, which have typically included stylistic elements such as outfit changes. When it comes to the concept of live performances, Quencie Ding (11), says that she “would rather see a near perfect lip synced performance instead of an entirely live performance that isn’t up to par as long as the artist makes it engaging.”

Ultimately, if an artist chooses to lip sync, an engaging performance has the potential to outweigh the integrality of live vocals.

You’re dancing to the one of the catchy beats with your friends when in the middle of a song, Bieber turns his back to the audience and starts puking everywhere. Despite his body lurching as the vile substance muddies the stage, his strong vocals continue to fill the stadium. And it isn’t long before an audience filled with young fans and parents realize that their favorite teen idol had been lip-syncing for the entire duration of the concert.

Lip syncing is a practice that has been used by artists for years in order to give their viewers the best of both worlds: the shimmies along with the strong drawn out riffs. However, the truth is that lip syncing is dishonest; unless the audience is aware of its practice, it should not be utilized during concerts.

Elise Browder (12) offered her opinion on the situation and claimed that singers should use their “real voice” as they “got famous from singing”. Household names, ranging from old idols like Milli Vanilli to newbies such as Mariah Carey, attained their spot in peoples playlists due to their vocals. While artists should work to provide their fans with a good time, they should not attempt to create a fantastical utopia at the expense of truth.

However, lip syncing can also be seen as a valid way for artists to perform in concerts. That is, if they’re honest about their decision. In the end, all we ask is transparency between the entertainer and the audience. With K-pop bands such as BTS, dancing is a huge component of their act and they utilize lip-syncing. Claire Zhang (11) believes that for such artists and groups lip-syncing is reasonable as they have “wild choreography.” However, the part that makes this okay is the fact that the audience knows and understands this.

In the end, artists are mere mortals and can’t be expected to do everything at once. But it is immoral for artists to make money off of lies aimed at the public who made them famous.

Integrity in the Music World

ZÜMRÜT ERTEM
Reporter

It’s September 29, 2012 and you’re one of a hundred starstruck Beliebers who have paid hundreds to see Justin Bieber’s Believe tour.