



## Think Different, Unless You're Apple.

By: Noah Kantor

On January 22nd, 1984, during Super Bowl XVIII, a fledgling company known as Apple Computer released their infamous 1984 commercial, itself a take to George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four. It features a dystopian society of mindless humans obeying a computer screen known as Big Brother. However, in the commercial, while Big Brother is giving a rousing speech, a heroine hurls a hammer at the screen, freeing the people, while the screen cuts to black and reads "On January 24th, Apple Computer will introduce Macintosh. And you'll see why 1984 won't be like 1984". In this ad, Big Brother is supposed to represent IBM (also nicknamed Big Blue) as a mindless, conformist, stationary force imposing his will on the people, while Apple is supposed to represent the heroine, as a force of freedom, expression, and ideas. This commercial was lauded with praise and is known as one of the best advertisements of all time. However, it's subtext is still relevant today, as Apple, once the free-spirited expressive heroine, is now the stagnant and conformist Big Brother.

Ever since the death of Steve Jobs in 2011, Apple never really regained the spark, imagination, and charisma he brought to the company. Most importantly, Apple lacks true innovation. Granted, they did introduce a couple of new product categories since 2011, such as the Apple Watch and AirPods, but these type of products have been released by other companies before Apple came out with their refinement. So, if Apple isn't really innovating anymore, how are they still the most successful company in the world?

Among the multitude of reasons Apple continues to turn a profit, brand loyalty is first and foremost. Apple possesses one of the largest fan bases, who will, unconditionally, pay top dollar to have an Apple logo on their phones and computers. Come September, the month of the iPhone launch, Apple Stores nationwide will have lines that are multiple blocks long for days before the devices go on sale, and Apple's website usually doesn't have items in stock for at least two weeks after their reveal to the public.

## Local Man Mildly Upset

By: Chris Benincase

September 6, 2018 - A local man expressed today his discontent with the issues plaguing spaghetti sauce and the consumption thereof. Xristos Papageorgiou of Huntington Station, commented, "Sometimes, I'm eating spaghetti, and like, a meatball just falls on my shirt and gets sauce everywhere. It's not cool, dude".

According to the victim, the sauce ruined a light gray t-shirt, a tablecloth, and his enjoyment of dinner.

It does not seem to be an event that causes great distress upon oneself, yet the slight frustrations of consuming spaghetti are enough to mildly perturb an individual. Taking into consideration the inherent messiness of the red sauce paired with the flaccidity of the noodles, as well as the shape of the meatballs, one might think that the risks of consuming a spaghetti dinner would be more well recognized.

Due to the aforementioned issues, Mr. Papageorgiou was mildly upset at this event. However, it is believed that the bad mood was alleviated within a short period of time by an amusing GIF on Reddit. Herein lies the true value of the internet. The ability to distract us from the annoying and frustrating things in life, and forget our problems.



A plate of spaghetti

## Disney Is Giving Netflix a Run For Their Money

By: Sophia DiPrima

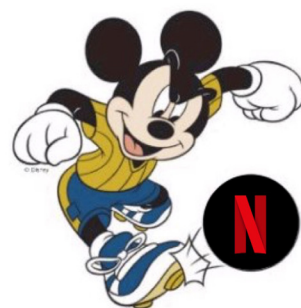
With the news that Disney will be launching its own streaming service (called "Disney Play" according to Variety.com) in the fall of 2019, many people are wondering what exactly will be streamed. Bob Iger, the chief executive officer of The Walt Disney Company, says this service "will have the entire output of the studio, animation, live action at Disney, including Pixar, Star Wars and all the Marvel films."

So what will happen to the Disney shows and movies that are already on Netflix, Hulu and other streaming services? Disney says that all of the content will be taken off and put on this service. The only movies that won't be put on are R-rated ones, which will be put exclusively on Hulu. Disney is really giving Netflix a run for their money.

And if that isn't enough, Disney is aiming for the price of this service to be considerably lower than the ones of Netflix. Netflix starts at \$7.99 a month, and can get up to \$13.99 a month, depending on the resolution you want or the number of people who can watch on separate devices at once. From this, we can assume that Disney Play will at least cost around \$4.99 a month and at most \$10.99 a month.

Disney Play will also be offering new original shows and movies. Tomsguide.com added that "Disney says they're, "...aiming to offer four to five original films and five TV shows for the streaming service."

One of these shows that have already been announced is Jon Favreau's new Star Wars show, The Mandalorian. According to a post Favreau put on Instagram, the show will take place between



Mickey kicking netflix

Services and subscriptions are also one of Apple's burgeoning product categories in the last two to three years. Services such as Apple Music, their \$10/month music streaming service, Apple Care, which is a protection plan sold alongside new purchases, and Apple's rumored video streaming service, most likely to be revealed next year, continually perform for Apple.

Thirdly, what's colloquially known as the Apple ecosystem entices those who already have Apple products to buy more Apple products. Apple's ideology that keeping their software and services only on their own hardware, unlike Android and Windows, which license their platforms to other manufacturers, as well as Apple's software integration between platforms, such as between the iPhone and the Apple Watch, make those who enter the Apple ecosystem much less likely to leave.

And, one of the most obvious reasons of Apple's success is the fact that they are inherently a luxury brand. Three years ago, people scoffed at the idea that a company could charge \$1,000 for a phone. With mid-range phones (those roughly between \$300 and \$500) getting more powerful and more efficient for their price, surely there could be no way a phone with that high a price could survive, right? Releasing the iPhone X, and now the XS, with that high a price actually benefited Apple greatly, and helped Apple become the first ever \$1 Trillion company. And this strategy not only works for the iPhone, but for other products like the Apple Watch, which had its price go up \$100 this past year, and the MacBook, whose least expensive model, the 12-inch MacBook, which is far less powerful than most sub-\$1000 laptops, has a starting price of \$1299, and, due to the factors listed above, they can get away with it.

So, while Apple may be lacking in innovation, they make up for it in a plethora of ways. For better or for worse, Apple, in the foreseeable future, will continue to release incremental updates to their products, continue to charge top-dollar for them, and dominate the tech world for years to come.

## 50 Billion Burgers: No One Cares

By: Liam Sweeney

While preparing this article I originally intended on writing about the changes recently subjected to the McDonalds' apple pie. Turns out nobody in Harborfields eats McDonalds... But why is this? Such a cheap and somewhat satisfying meal could surely be popular anywhere, right? I guess I was wrong. In order to gain more information on why this is I decided to go online for answers.

The first step into finding out why the popularity of McDonalds is so low in our school would be to check the yearly sales of cheese burgers. After visiting McDonalds' official news website I learned that national sales have been at an all-time high. Most of America still prefers McDonalds over any other fast food establishment. It would appear more research would have to be done.

Next I started to wonder if the students at our school would like to eat fast food at all. Upon asking a few students, I was stumped once again. Immediately, I three3 student responses in complete contrary to my speculation. Evan Ackerman stated that he preferred Popeyes over McDonalds. Another student, Jack Panicoe, liked to eat from Wendy's instead. Eamon Walsh had a bias against fast food all together. The main thing all these students had in common was their last choice was McDonalds.

While it is reassuring to know that a vast population of our school is eating healthy, it still worries me to think of how many people just don't like fast food. Will this affect any regional food establishments in any referable way? When consulting a local McDonalds, I was told that sales have been higher than ever even in our area; however, they did mention the decrease in younger customers.

Parents now-a-days choose to have their kids either eat healthier fast food and or not eat it at all. I personally believe as long as you consume fast food in a responsible manner it isn't as detrimental towards your health. Although this may sound crazy, I'm not the one who decides what you or your family should consume.

Return of the Jedi and The Force Awakens.

Another series worth mentioning is a new addition onto the MCU. Fan favorites, Loki and Scarlet Witch are getting their own separate mini-series, with actors Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olsen reprising their roles. Sophomore Ella Lau says "Although Netflix has great shows available such as The 100 and Sherlock, I'm super excited for all of the original content Disney will be making."

There will also be shows and movies based off existing content. Apparently, there will be shows based off of Monsters Inc., The Muppets, and High School Musical. There will also be movies based off 3 Men and a Baby, Sword and the Stone, and Lady and the Tramp.

Senior Alexandra Palmieri brings up a good point about the service saying, "I think it's going to be really interesting. It's important for Disney to have their own streaming service since they're such a big franchise."

Disney states that this service will be launched on everything, such as Amazon Fire T.V., Apple T.V. and Roku. In a Deadline report, it was said that Disney Play will, "start with a domestic service only, and then expand overseas."

Many students are super excited for this platform to make its debut. One of these students is sophomore Emma Rose, saying, "This sounds so cool and I know I'm going to get it the second it comes out. We've been needing this forever."

Disney is making a big move by creating this new platform. Can Netflix really stand a chance?





## THE TOUGH QUESTIONS

### IS SCHOOL TAKING OVER STUDENTS LIVES?

By: Isabella Mule

"Twenty pages of reading, make sure to take notes \*quiz tomorrow\*, write fifteen sentences for Italian, they all need to have double verbs! Thirty math problems, you must show work or no credit. Also you make sure to start your English project because its due at the end of the week!" This is just the normal homework assignment for a tenth grader and guess what, it's only the fifth day of school. Colette Albertson says, "I'm a little overwhelmed by the workload, I have other commitments and it's hard to do homework on top of it, its very stressful!"

So how does all this work prepare us for our future? Sophomore Milena Albertson says, "I work hard in school so that I can get into a good college, though I believe a grade shouldn't determine your future, your effort shows how much you care about it and it's unfair that so many students are labeled by a number." While school does teach us some great things like how to read, write and do math there are other things that students should be learning as well.

Does school teach us how to do taxes, pay student loans, or even cook? How are students supposed to survive in the real world if what they learn in school is that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell and how to do the pythagorean theorem. Students are stressed out of their minds yet every year the tests get harder and students feel more and more like they're a failure.

According to familydoctor.org it says, "Most teens need between 9 and 9 1/2 hours of sleep." The average High School student gets up at around six in the morning so they can



Student being stressed because of school

Source: Google Images

get to school by seven and then students are in school for several hours until 2:20 in the afternoon. Adding after school clubs and activities, some of which can go as late as 7:00, students then also have three to six hours of homework. This can mean that students get to bed at maybe one in the morning not even including anytime to eat or socialize. I asked senior Alex Palmieri when was the latest she ever stayed up doing a homework assignment and she said, "Probably around three in the morning doing an essay for English." So how are students supposed to get those 9 hours of sleep that we so desperately need?

For starters, schools should get rid of homework! Also to bring more creative ideas into a classroom, teachers should use more hands on lessons so that students get the full experience without a whole bunch of boring lectures that leave students heads the minute they leave. These are just a couple suggestions but with a whole bunch of minds it could turn into something a lot bigger!

Funnily enough some of the most well known and most successful people in society were school dropouts, including Thomas Edison, Benjamin Franklin, Bill Gates, Albert Einstein, Steve Jobs and many more! School should stop being a competition are start being a place for students to grow creatively without being held back by stress. If we start focusing on the future and not what schools did in the past, maybe we won't make the same mistakes former generations did.

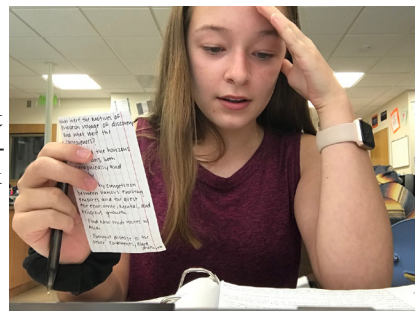
### IS HOMEWORK ACTUALLY HELPFUL?

By: Jenna Forestiero

For as long as anyone can remember, homework has been a main focus of schools everywhere. But what if I told you that a good number of schools in the country are declaring homework unnecessary and are getting rid of it altogether?

In Godley, Texas,, second grade teacher Brandy Young, handed out a letter to every kid on the first day of school that read this: "After much research this summer, I am trying something new. Homework will only consist of work that your student did not finish during the school day. There will be no formally assigned homework this year. Research has been unable to prove that homework improves student performance. Rather, I ask that you spend your evenings doing things that are proven to correlate with student success. Eat dinner as a family, read together, play outside, and get your child to bed early." Young isn't the only one who has decided to abandon homework this school year. A couple of districts in New Jersey are not assigning homework this year and it has been going exceptionally well. Their "no homework" movement is proving to be especially popular with the students. But more surprisingly, with the parents who see it as an opportunity for their children to spend more time with their family and pursue their own passions.

Many researchers have been unable to prove that homework can enhance a student's performance in class but they have proven that too much homework can lead to a stressful school year.. Sophomore Madelynn Murray said, "I don't believe most of my stress comes from the homework



Sophomore Madelynn Murray with a lot of homework

Source: Jenna Forestiero

I have. Most of my stress comes from studying for tests and quizzes but I do believe a lot of homework can lead to stress and anxiety in teens". According to healthline.com, "...more than 70 percent of students said they were often or always stressed over schoolwork with 56 listing homework as a primary stressor." Studies have also shown that many students experience headaches, exhaustion, sleep deprivation, and stomach problems from stress over schoolwork.

When I asked sophomore Milena Albertson how much time she spends doing homework she said, "I usually spend around four to five hours doing homework each night". This means she spends roughly 25 hours doing homework each week. According to healthline.com, researchers found that "spending too much time on homework meant that students were not meeting their developmental needs or cultivating other critical life skills. Students were more likely to forgo activities, stop seeing friends or family, and not participate in hobbies". Teachers like Young who are not assigning homework are asking students to spend those 25 hours by exercising, reading, staying off of electronics, and spending time with their family. When I asked sophomore Sophia DiPrima what she would do if she didn't have homework she answered, "Catching up on lack of sleep and probably studying more for tests and quizzes.

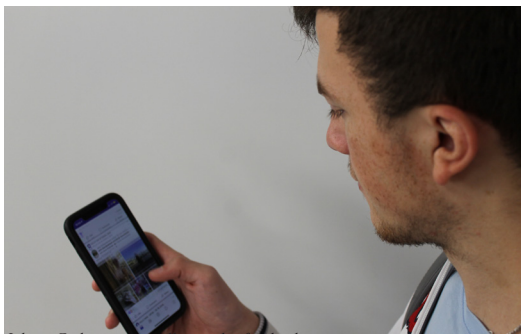
Even though homework will probably be around forever in most schools, it is still amazing to see how many districts are not assigning homework and who deem homework as not helpful.

### CAN I KEEP MY PRIVACY, FACEBOOK?

By: Noah Kantor

On October 8th, 2018, Facebook announced their first ever hardware product, the Facebook Portal and Portal Plus, a \$199 smart display powered by Amazon's Alexa platform, meant to rival Amazon's Echo Show and Google's newly announced Home Hub. It also features a camera that has an AI that can analyze your video calls to steal personal data and sell more detailed and accurate advertisements to your interests. Sounds like a good deal, right?

Privacy concerns are nothing new to Facebook. In November 2007, Facebook was embroiled in controversy when it was revealed they tracked what their users purchased and shared it with their friends, without user consent. In June 2013, a bug was discovered that contact information, such as phone numbers and emails, of over 6 million people that Facebook users uploaded to the site had been leaked. And as recently as March of 2018, the Cambridge Analytica scandal, where this company used psychographic data of 87 million people to advertise pro-Trump stories during and after the 2016 election, was exposed. Even in the early days of Facebook, Mark Zuckerberg, in a series of private messages to one of his friends, called his early users at Harvard "dumb f\*\*\*s" for trusting him with their personal data on Facebook, going as far as saying to this friend "Yeah so if you ever need info about anyone at Harvard, just ask". Should we let this company, with an illustrious history of privacy concerns and breaches, have a literal window into our homes?



Johnny Godamowitz scrolling on his facebook

Source: Gabby Gagliano

with a camera cover, for those who don't trust that the camera isn't secretly recording their home activity.

I think there can be a different approach to in home smart displays like the Portal. On October 9th, Google announced their foray into this category, the Google Home Hub. The device, other than its use of Google's operating system and Google Assistant, has many similar features to the Portal, such as its integration with smart devices like smart locks and automatic garage doors. However, there is one notable feature this device lacks, and that is a camera. Google, during its keynote, stated that "We consciously decided to not include a camera on Google Home Hub so you feel comfortable placing it in the private spaces of your home". For those who want a Google-powered smart display with a camera, third party manufacturers such as Lenovo and JBL already do so, but not including a camera may be the the Home Hub's best features, not one of its drawbacks.

Moreover, for a company like Facebook to introduce a product like this merely a week after yet another data breach that leaked 50 million of their users data was extremely ill-timed. Facebook needs to gain its users trust back. If, or possibly when that happens, maybe I'll suggest you buy a Portal.

For those interested, the Facebook Portal and Portal Plus are available for pre-order, and will go on sale on November 19th.

Don't get me wrong, I think that many of the innovations on this device are a great idea. For example, say you are on a video call with a friend, and someone walks into the frame. The camera will automatically zoom out to capture both of you. There is a case to be made that the technological advances on this device in particular outweigh the privacy concerns. The device also comes

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