

The Chariot

Valentine's Day / Black History Month Edition

February 2021



Celebrating for More Than Just a Month

By: **Katie Schadler**

Black History month is a time of pride and glory. A time of embracing a culture and a history that is such an integral part of America's culture and history. Though as we honor and celebrate black lives and black legacies, we must also recognize and reflect on America's prevailing flaws and unsolved problems. We cannot simply look at this time as a month-long celebration. We must be willing to care for longer than a month. We must continue to educate ourselves beyond the single paragraph within the history textbook, stand up for black lives even when their names are no longer a trending hashtag, and sustain conversation regarding racial inequities even when these conversations become difficult or uncomfortable, for uncomfortable conversations are needed conversations.

And while we acknowledge the historically-significant foundation Fredrick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, and W.E.B. DuBois laid beneath our feet and the pivotal, nonviolent fire kindled by MLK and the countless marchers possessing

unmeasurable courage that made Barack's presidency possible, it is equally important to acknowledge that this fight is far from over. That as a nation, for every three steps forward, we find ourselves taking two steps back. We suffocate a man for nearly five minutes, catalyzing months of glorious protest and political unrest to demand justice. But as we shed light on underrepresented groups in America, we turn on the television to watch our neighbors raid our capital. We watch our nation become less united by the day. How can we admire America's progress and celebrate the inspiring achievements of past and present leaders when we resort to this debilitating and shameful division?





In the spring of 2020, I was embarrassed that it admittedly took a publicized death for me to truly look around. Sometimes I think we feel trapped in our lack of full awareness, believing we are powerless to provoke change, so we do nothing. But in hindsight, I think not knowing is the first step. The first step to committing to the imperfect process of dismantling our internal biases and learning to embody anti-racist ideas. When we are willing to say the wrong things and not know all of the answers, we start listening to one another, for ignorance is only the weapon when we make the active choice to keep our minds closed. Rather than some of us continuing to feel guilty in our inherent privilege, we are in a position to now use our voice and our privilege to decide who is put in power, advocating for policies that uproot inherent racial inequities out of communities rather than preserve them. We are the generation that is catalyzing a whole new wave of radicals and revolutionaries, a generation that demands representation and embraces diversity of all kinds. We are the generation that will honor the black heroes that came before us and prove that this is more than just a month and more than just a movement.

Link to student justice group:

<https://sites.google.com/view/yvc-star>

Fast Fashion By: Grace Diehl

The fast fashion industry is one of the largest industries responsible for the garbage filling our landfills. The House of Common Environmental Audit Committee said in 2019 that “Textile production contributes more to climate change than international aviation and shipping combined.” In addition to its negative impact on the environment, the fast fashion industry also takes advantage of workers who live in “developing market” countries. According to Fashion Checker from 2020, a site that assesses whether or not brands pay their workers a living wage, 93% of the brands they surveyed do not pay their garment workers a living wage. Some of these brands that do not pass include Nike, Amazon, H&M, and Under Armour. Big brands like these make it difficult to avoid them since they hold monopoly positions in fashion as well as in other areas of the market. As shoppers, it can feel overwhelming to try and avoid supporting brands who do not adhere to our ethical non-sustainable standards because the alternative is either difficult to find or too expensive. It is unrealistic to expect yourself to end your fast fashion shopping and transition entirely to sustainable and ethical brands, but it is important to consider where you are shopping from and make an effort to support businesses that make the effort to be ethical and sustainable. Some brands that have made this effort include Pact, Girlfriend Collective, and Organic Basics. If you’re



looking to replace more than just fashion, a good replacement for sites like Amazon is an app called Miiriya that includes businesses and brands that are ethical, small, and black-owned. The process towards sustainable and ethical shopping is complicated and long, but being conscious about where you shop is a great first step!

Who Is The True Deity Of Love? (In The Greek Pantheon At Least) By: Sutton Daraneau

So here's a question. We all know that Cupid is Valentine's Day's mascot. He is generally accepted to be the Greek patron deity of love. But is he though? Is he actually the Greek god of love? Well, yes and no. He is a god of love, but not the god of love. To have a look at the different gods and goddesses of love, we'll need to start with Aphrodite. Whether or not Aphrodite is a goddess is up for debate. She was born from the blood of the tyrant titan Chronos mixing with the sea. Because of her odd creation, she's not quite a titan, nor a goddess. She is, however, part of the major 13 deities making up the pantheon. Her domain is technically love, focused mostly on the lust aspect, as her domain equally envelopes beauty and sexuality.



The Birth of Venus by Sandro Botticelli
From Uffizi Gallery, Google Arts and Culture

As to be expected, she is having an affair. More specifically, an affair with Ares, god of war. Her children with Ares include gods of fear Phobos and Deimos; the goddess of harmony and concord Harmonia, as well as the Erotes; sibling deities of love. First off we have Eros (Roman form being Cupid), god of love and desire, again emphasis on the desire part. He's also a fertility god, if that means anything. Secondly, there is Anteros, god of love returned. He's responsible for that feeling when you confess and your crush confesses back. Next, Himeros, god of "Impetuous love." He's basically the god responsible for that time you make out with the hot guy/gal/non binary pal simply because they're hot. No emotion further than that. Third is Hedylogos, god of sweet talk. He causes the back and forth, the cat and the mouse of relationships. While technically an Eros, Hymenaios is the god of marriage, not actually a god of love or one of its aspects.

The next two are considered Erotes, but weren't actually children of Aphrodite and Ares. First off is Hermaphroditus, child of Hermes and Aphrodite. The interesting thing about Hermaphroditus is that they are also not a deity of love, but instead the deity of hermaphrodites and of effeminate men. That is to say, Hermaphroditus is androgynous, and also the deity of androgynous people. The final Eros is Pothos. Pothos is the son of Eros, and god of yearning. You know when you haven't seen your crush for a week and you're literally dying? Blame Pothos.

Moving away from Aphrodite, we have Hedone, goddess of pleasure. While not directly confirmed, Eos could very well be a nickname for Hedone, but for now, consider her another goddess of pleasure. Following her is Peitho, Aphrodite's constant companion, babysitter of the Erotes, and goddess of sexual and political

persuasion. Wonder who the Erotes learned it from. Following Peitho is Philotes, a daughter of Nyx, titan of the night. Philotes is the goddess of affection, but considering her mother, one can only assume what kind of affection. Finally is Priapus. I don't want to talk about Priapus. Look him up if you like.

So to answer the question: who is the actual god/goddess of love? No one, apparently. Everybody I've mentioned is lust in one way or the other. The closest one is either Anteros, or Hedylogos. There is no Greek deity of love and romance. Cupid is a lie. Enjoy your unwanted and unwarranted Valentine's Day knowledge.

Trouble In Paradise? The Love Triangle Drama Between Olivia Rodrigo, Joshua Bassett, And Sabrina Carpenter

By: Riley Dauber

For those alone on Valentine's Day this year, you may be seeking solace in other people's relationship drama. You don't have any relationship drama of your own, so it's best to live vicariously through others. Fortunately for everyone on the internet - including me - teen star Olivia Rodrigo is giving us all the drama we need this year.

Olivia Rodrigo is known for playing Nini on the DisneyPlus original series *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. There are rumors that Rodrigo and her co-star, Joshua Bassett, were dating during the show, but there were no confirmations. The two play ex-lovers on the show, and have great chemistry. *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* was released in 2019, and teens across the internet became obsessed, specifically with Rodrigo and Bassett's performances and chemistry.

No one really knows if these two dated, but Rodrigo posted a TikTok in

August of 2020 that suggested her and Bassett had ended things. According to Elle, "By August, 2020, it seemed like things were over when Olivia posted this TikTok, featuring her song from the series which was about the on-screen relationship between Nini and Ricky [Bassett's character]. Captioned 'and that's on failed relationships,' it definitely seemed quite pointed" (Mason).

Everything was hush-hush until October, when Bassett and actress-singer Sabrina Carpenter were seen dressing up as Sharkboy and Lavagirl for Halloween. It's not the most romantic couples costume, but it still led people to believe that Bassett was finished with Rodrigo and was moving on. Carpenter is most known for starring on the Disney Channel show *Girl Meets World*, and has recently been releasing her own music.

What's a singer to do when a boy breaks her heart? Write a song about it; and that's just what Rodrigo did. On January eighth, 2021, she released the single "Driver's License." Frankly, the song is a masterpiece, and has been number one on the Billboard Hot 100 for three consecutive weeks. Everyone on TikTok - myself included - is obsessed with it. Rodrigo's voice and songwriting skills are impressive considering she is only seventeen, but it's the lyrics about her possible relationship with Bassett that have people interested. She writes, "I guess you didn't mean what you



wrote in that song about me,” referencing the songs Bassett has released about Rodrigo. She also says, “And you’re probably with that blonde girl, who always made me doubt.” Yes, Carpenter has blonde hair. Yes, Carpenter was seen with Bassett during Halloween. Coincidence?

Don’t worry; the plot thickens. Bassett released his own song, titled “Lie Lie Lie,” on January fifteenth, a mere week after Rodrigo’s song. This quick turnaround date made fans wonder if the song was in response to “Driver’s License.” Some people are saying that Bassett wrote the song two years ago, but why release it now? Did he think his song would be more popular now that Rodrigo was getting clicks? If so, he was wrong. “Lie Lie Lie” doesn’t have the interest or the talent that “Driver’s License” has. Bassett sounds like a knock-off Shawn Mendes, but the lyrics are still important to note. The song starts with the line, “So they told me all the things that you said/running all over my name/and you’re acting oh so innocent/like I’m the only one to blame.” Yeah, saying that Bassett wrote this song in response to “Driver’s License” is a stretch, but the release date is notable. Also, in the music video for “Lie Lie Lie,” Bassett is seen driving around, just like Rodrigo does in her own music video.

Every good love triangle needs another player, and that player is Carpenter. I’m a bit biased because I’m a big fan of both Carpenter and her music, so take my thoughts on her single “Skin” with a grain of salt. She released “Skin” on January twenty-second, two weeks after “Driver’s License” and a week after “Lie Lie Lie.” Unlike Bassett’s song, Carpenter directly mentions Rodrigo and her song. “Maybe blonde was the only rhyme” and “Don’t drive yourself insane” reference lyrics in “Driver’s License.” Carpenter’s song, however, is a low-blow at Rodrigo where it becomes

almost uncomfortable to listen to. The chorus goes, “You can try/to get under my, under my, under my skin/While he’s on mine.” Yikes. I should also mention that, like Bassett, Carpenter is seen sitting atop a car in the music video for “Skin.”

Carpenter’s song is the latest addition to the love triangle gossip, and neither Rodrigo or Bassett have responded. My thoughts on the situation are convoluted. I think the release dates of each song had an important effect on everything. Rodrigo was the first to release a song, and by the time the other two released theirs, everyone had taken sides. Teens on TikTok could relate to Rodrigo’s relationship troubles, and it doesn’t hurt that the song is the best of the three. The pop ballad is heartbreakingly real, and the lyrics cut deep. It was the first song and side of the story that everyone heard, making it hard to be open to other sides. Like Carpenter says in “Skin,” “But you’ve been telling your side/so I’ll be telling mine.” Still, Rodrigo has been earning the most success from her song, with artists like Taylor Swift and Cardi B. congratulating her on it. “Lie Lie Lie” wasn’t even noticed by the TikTok community, and “Skin” has yet to make an impact.

So, what’s the big deal? Well, we are still in a pandemic, and people will look for any sort of distraction. However, many fans have speculated that the whole “love triangle” is a publicity stunt. This theory has become more believable as all three points of the triangle have released their songs. Carpenter released her song fairly quickly, and made direct callbacks to “Driver’s License” and her relationship with Bassett. But the relationship between Bassett and Rodrigo was never confirmed, and neither was Bassett’s relationship with Carpenter. There were a few photos and videos posted to TikTok, but nothing concrete. Even I’m starting to believe - and hope - that it’s a PR stunt. I don’t like that Carpenter is getting

all this hate for “attacking” Rodrigo in her song, even though the song is shady. And I feel like we, as a society, are over two girls fighting over a basic man who doesn’t deserve them? Just some food for thought.

Anyway, if you didn’t know about the drama, now you do. I’d recommend giving all three songs a listen if you want to form an opinion, but if you’re only interested in good music, give “Driver’s License” a try. If it is all a PR stunt, then we all freaked out - and obsessed over celebrities we don’t even know - all for nothing. My only hope is that Rodrigo and Carpenter can move past this, and they collaborate on music in the future.

Super Bowl LV: The GOAT vs. The Future

By: Harry Weiss

After a wild year full of COVID-19 drama, intense finishes, and luckily no cancellations, we have arrived at Super Bowl LV on schedule. In the rematch of the Week 12 game in which the visiting Kansas City Chiefs defeated the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the two teams meet once again with the Lombardi trophy on the line. The young superstar Patrick Mahomes meets the aging GOAT Tom Brady in the playoffs for a second time. Prior to the game, I predict Mahomes, powered by a monstrous game from Travis Kelce and his cast, to defeat the Buccaneers 35-28 with Kelce winning Super Bowl MVP.

The Greatest of All Time (you could say of any professional sports), Tom Brady, has won his seventh ring. Brady and the Buccaneers’ defense absolutely overpowered and dominated the Kansas City Chiefs. Led by linebackers Devin White,

Jason Pierre-Paul, and Lavonte David, Todd Bowles’ defense just completely locked down the Chiefs’ explosive and creative offense.

Just from the start you could tell this game was going to be an uphill climb for the Chiefs. After taking a 3-0 lead in the first quarter, Kansas City never held the lead again. The Chiefs were without starting left tackle Eric Fisher and were forced to start two backups at the tackle positions. With a ferocious defensive front of Ndamukong Suh and Vita Vea to pair up with David and Pierre-Paul, it was going to be a long night for Mahomes. Brady proceeded to work down the field and find another ex-Patriot, his favorite target, Rob Gronkowski for the first touchdown. That was the first touchdown in the first quarter by a Brady-led team in any Super Bowl he has appeared in. The next drive the Chiefs forced a turnover on downs after a marvelous stand at the goal line on 4th & goal at the 1 yard line.

Tampa Bay continued to move down the field but the countless defensive penalties on Kansas City in both halves cost them the game. In the second quarter, Tyrann Mathieu had an interception called



back due to defensive holding and the Buccaneers proceeded to score a field goal, until an offsides penalty was called on the Chiefs, giving Tampa Bay the first down. Just like that, the Chiefs are frustrated and only one play later Brady found Gronkowski once again to go up 14-6. While Kansas City was able to score their third field goal of the half to limit the Buccaneers lead to five, but that quickly changed. Right before the half, on a 3rd & 2 with 44 seconds remaining, Chiefs' cornerback Bashaud Breeland committed defensive pass interference to give the Buccaneers another shot before the half. Once again, with just 13 seconds left, Tyrann Mathieu was called for the Chiefs' second defensive pass interference on the drive. On the next play, Brady went right back at Mathieu and found another ex-Patriot, Antonio Brown, for the touchdown.

With a 21-6 lead going into half, the Chiefs weren't counted out just yet. In Super Bowl LIV last year, Kansas City was losing and turned it on in the second half scoring 21 points in just the fourth quarter to defeat the San Francisco 49ers.

It appeared Kansas City had found a way to counter the Tampa Bay defense



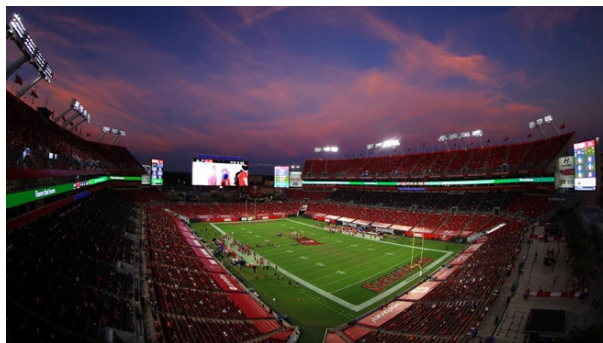
with the first play coming as a draw to Clyde Edwards-Helaire who scampered for 26 yards. A play later Edwards-Helaire ran for another gain of 10 yards but the Chiefs' offense was shut down on their next three plays leading to a 52 yard field goal from Harrison Butler to go down 9-21. Speculations crept in that the Chiefs found a little crack in the Buccaneers defense. However, that was the last time the Chiefs scored in the Super Bowl. Following that drive Mahomes threw two costly interceptions and turned the ball over twice on consecutive 4th & longs.

Whereas in the next two drives the Buccaneers marched down the field and scored a touchdown on a powerful 27 yard run by Playoff Lenny, now Lombardi Lenny, (Leonard Fournette) and Ryan Succop just barely nailed a 52 yard field goal to clinch the game. At this point, it was clear the Tampa Bay defense had absolutely taken over the course of the game. Give credit to Todd Bowles. In the Week 12 matchup, Mahomes threw for 462 yards with 3 touchdowns only being sacked twice. Tyreek Hill had 13 receptions for 269 yards with 3 touchdowns. Many predicted that the Chiefs high-octane offense would be unstoppable yet again. But wow, did Bowles prove the doubters wrong.

At a statistical standpoint, Mahomes was pressured on 29/56 dropbacks which was the most of any QB into Super Bowl history while Brady was only pressured on 4/30 dropbacks. Yet just in the first half, Mahomes was pressured on 57% of dropbacks while Brady was pressured a measly 9.5%. Tampa Bay won the war in the trenches and showed the importance of a

strong, capable offensive line with a monstrous, game-ending defense. While Bowles is known for his aggressive blitzes, he didn't have to send extra men to pressure Mahomes. The mismatch for the decimated Chiefs offensive line, which had two backups at tackle in Mike Remmers and Andrew Wylie, ultimately led to their downfall leaving Mahomes running for his life attempting crazy acrobatic throws. Stud linebacker Devin White had 12 total tackles with 2 tackles for loss to go with an interception. Kansas City ultimately had no answer for Bowles' intricate stunts and twists in his blitzes, even though he only brought four men, Mahomes had no time at all in the pocket as he ran for a whopping 497 yards just escaping the Buccaneers' pash rush.

While Bowles' plan in the trenches worked, so did his secondary's game plan. After the Week 12 thriller, it was obvious that the secondary could not match up one-on-one with Tyreek Hill outside. So, what did Bowles do? He used an extremely effective two-high safety coverage over the top. This worked so well that it gave the Buccaneers' pass rushers enough time to make Mahomes run around all game long. It worked from start to end for the Tampa Bay safeties Jordan Whitehead (who played with a torn labrum) and rookie Antoine Winfield Jr., who had an interception, as the pair blanketed the Chiefs' speedy wide outs. On deep balls over 20 yards Mahomes was 0-5 with an interception. While Mahomes could usually rely on his targets, his receivers failed him with multiple drops all night long to add to the suffering. The improvement of deceptive



plays with a single-high safety coverage look that quickly turn into a three-deep zone made it impossible for the Chiefs to beat the Buccaneers deep downfield again.

The Buccaneers' offense cannot be overlooked either. Yes, they were bailed out with some questionable penalties, but the Chiefs never found an answer after frustration kicked in. The Chiefs had 11 penalties for 120 yards while the Buccaneers only had 4 for 39 yards. All year long the Tampa Bay running game was overlooked by their countless receiving weapons of Mike Evans, Rob Gronkowski, Chris Godwin, and even Antonio Brown. But, their dominant offensive line allowed for Ronald Jones II and Leonard Fournette to run for 150 yards combined. While Tampa used a two-back system, their running game shifted from inside zone runs towards a more outside zone scheme. Their use of a pulling guard and a sixth offensive lineman exploited the Chiefs, giving their duo the holes necessary to hit payday.

With such an overlooked running game, OC Byron Leftwich came out heavy with the run. Establishing the running game opened up the play-action game for Tom Brady. On play-action attempts, Brady had time to sit back in the pocket with the Chiefs

linebackers falling for the run. This allowed for Brady to not only take more shots downfield, but it gave him more time to throw. Brady finished with a passer rating of 149.0 and 3 touchdowns on 10/13 play-action play, but on non-play-action plays, he was only 11/16 with a passer rating of 76.6. The key difference between those stats is that the gap between yards attempted was massive as Brady attempted 10.4 on play-action but only 4.1 on non-play-action passes. Most importantly, we saw that vintage Brady to Gronkowski connection that dominated up in Foxborough for nearly a decade, until the duo took their talents to Tampa Bay!

Even though the Super Bowl LV was somewhat considered a dud, it truly was a legendary performance from Bruce Arians' Buccaneers. Tom Brady was questioned all summer about his infamous decision to leave the Patriots. But now, he silenced all his criticism and haters. Most quarterbacks are lucky to make one Super Bowl, and to even win the Lombardi more unlikely. To make it 10 times and to win seven with five Super MVP awards, including a championship at the age of 43? That is unheard of. When all is said and done, Brady will enter Canton, Ohio as



the most successful QB in NFL history and most importantly, the greatest of all time.

Sitting On Dollar Bills

By: Emma Seley

What if that numb feeling isn't
necessarily numb
Maybe its just blank
A blank emotion that you haven't filled in
yet
Because you haven't unlocked that
expression yet
That expression of emotion that you can
reveal to others
To communicate and share with your peers
When they ask the age old question

Well, why are you sad?
It's like a pause
You went through so much
In so little time
You have to heal
Healing takes time
Healing is the number one priority
But shoved down your throat is career

MONEY

Everyone loves money
More more more
Everyone expects so much of you
When you refuse to picture your future
With loads of sick dollar bills
From a sick system of constant struggle
It is not normal to drag yourself through life
And to hurt for so long
Normalize healing first
Without pause

Without waiting
For a day to come where everything just fits
into place
Happiness will only be found when all is
achieved
And everyone stops looking down
And starts looking away
And the pressure of living is gone



ARTWORK
By Reese Dauber

