Contributors:

Editors in Chiefs: Erina Chowdhury & Rana Saleh

Advisors: Ms. Lawlor & Ms. Mota


Photographer: Mia De La Cruz

Graphic designers: Stephanie McIntosh, Natasha Diaz, Nadia McClain, and Jasmin Lagunes
Rea Ann Silva endured numerous struggles to finally be recognized as a powerful CEO and innovator. Her creation of the makeup applicator, the Beautyblender, has been popularized throughout the 20th century for its effectiveness and durability. From renowned makeup artist to becoming CEO of a million-dollar company, her journey to success is an inspiration to all women around the globe.

Silva was born in 1961, in the sunny city of Los Angeles, California. She was in a working-class family, with her father working as an auto mechanic at Ford and her mother as a waitress. Silva didn’t believe a college education was a part of her plan, but her parents continuously encouraged her to follow her dreams through education. She later enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) in Los Angeles to embark on her creative career. Throughout college, Silva gained an interest in artistry, which sparked her love for the cosmetic industry. As she learned more about different makeup techniques, she started to work as a makeup artist in different film and television sets throughout LA.

Her journey into becoming a makeup artist and building a reputation in the beauty industry had many ups and downs. She had to balance being a single mother while trying to thrive in her career. Additionally, due to her Latina heritage in a white-dominated industry, she faced discrimination from directors who refused to work with her. But in these times of adversity, her work ethic helped her endure these challenges with a strong and determined mindset. She faced challenges head-on, and this helped her long-term. Silva also had the chance to work with many notable people. She has worked with Kerry Washington, and has been a makeup artist for shows like Girlfriends, Moesha, Set It Off, and many more.

Silva’s creation of the Beautyblender started when she realized the need for an applicator that can apply makeup in an efficient and faster way. She also needed a device that can go through specific crevices around the face that are hard to reach with regular brushes. Silvia then started to experiment with her own regular sponges and started to change their sizes and shapes. She eventually stuck with the egg-shaped sponge and started to use it while applying makeup on sets. Her creation was very popular among her staffers, so she eventually launched her company, Beautyblender. Her product was an ultimate success, influencing a new era of product appliance to the latest generation. The Beautyblender’s popularity ignited through various influencers using this tool to experiment with while doing makeup. The effectiveness and reusability of this product has caught the attention of many people. Beautyblender has now created their own foundation brand, and continues to sell their affordable products to people around the world.

From Silva’s humble beginnings, to now having a company worth more than 170 million dollars, Rea Ann Silva’s unique vision is now one of the most popular items in the beauty industry. Throughout this intense journey, Silva has still managed to be her true self in the heat of challenges. While reading more about her experiences, I’ve once again been enlightened by her drive to succeed and help others. Silva’s dedication, her optimism, and her passion are one of the many things that stood out to me while learning more about her. She truly is an inspiration, and I hope you know that you all are also future stars in the making! Don’t be afraid to take risks and start your own initiatives. You never know if you’ll be successful, just like Rea Ann Silva!
Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson’s confirmation as the first Black Woman US Supreme Court justice

The four days of confirmation hearings for Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson gave the United States a preview of the judge who will likely become the first Black female justice of the US Supreme Court. Despite her impressive credentials, Judge Jackson faced avid microaggressions, falsehoods, and demands for irrelevant information during her hearing. During multiple rounds of GOP (Republicans) questions, Jackson faced repeated interruptions and harsh dismissals of the responses she was trying to provide. She was questioned about the definition of being a “woman” during a time when transgender rights are an issue, and was pestered about her views on antiracism and critical race theory. On Thursday, April 7th, the U.S Senate confirmed Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court on a 53-to-47 vote. This made her the first Black woman on the Supreme Court, overcoming the constant efforts made by Republicans to derail her nomination. Judge Jackson is now confirmed to replace Justice Stephen G. Breyer when he retires at the end of the court’s session this summer.

Governor Kathy Hochul’s workplace harassment laws:

On Monday, March 16th, Governor Kathy Hochul signed three bills that will strengthen New York’s protection for victims of workplace harassment. The new laws will establish a toll-free, confidential hotline for complainants of workplace sexual harassment, the release of personnel records to discredit victims of workplace discrimination counts as a retaliatory action under the Human Rights Law, and it will close a loophole in current human rights law that allowed state elected officials to claim that they did not directly employ personal staff of officials or judges in certain cases. Hochul firmly states that “Everyone has the right to a safe and secure workplace where they are valued and respected.”

New BA.2 omicron variant

East Asia and Europe have been experiencing a spike in COVID cases over the past few days. It is believed to be due to the new Omicron variant, BA.2. There are worries that the variant may or may not have already spread around the U.S. Although it is still as contagious as the original Omicron, the death rates seem to decline. Professor Shangxin Yang of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA says, “This is normal and we shouldn’t be too concerned about it.” It is strongly advised that everyone gets vaccinated and boosted! It is also recommended to continue wearing masks to prevent any further spread.
O’ auricularly discerned the beginning of spring,
    The green grass hath appeared,
All traces of winter blow away from the warm air rush,
    The sunny early morning,
    The yellow bees are buzzing,
    Birds returning to the south,

She wore her kelly green spring dress,
With sandals stomping the bare, sultry ground,
An aerial perspective at the colorful leaves,
    Orange, green, yellow, lavender flowers,
    The happy toddler have rejoiced,-
Its view of an ice cream truck he hasn’t seen in 5 months,
    The farmers’s pleasure-

I toss my diminutive coat, entering Fordham Road,
    Celebrate dandelion’s birthday-
Spring gives nature its essence-
    The air is crisp like chicken,
    The blue vacious firmament
    A small seed-
    Add a little water

A fruit juice that taste better warm then cold,
    Spring prepares us for the heat,
    And recovers us from the cold-
Spring’s warm touch eases our souls-
    Wake up brown bear!
Space Prize has partnered with five public schools across NYC: The Young Women’s Leadership School of The Bronx, Midwood High School, New Explorations Into Science, Technology, and Math (NEST), Bayside High School, and Tottenville High School. Their aim is to inspire more women to participate in STEAM* careers, especially in the space industry. They are aware of the gender gap in STEAM fields and are using the Space Prize challenge to empower young girls in New York City.

The challenge consists of two portions: an essay contest and a video contest. All high schoolers from TYWLS Bronx were allowed to participate and were asked to submit an essay describing a time in their lives when their viewpoint was significantly altered, and how it has changed the way they perceive the world. Teachers from our school then judged the essay entries and selected five students to become finalists. Jade Capellan, Afrin Chowdhury, Kyjuany Cintron, Soumaou Doumbia, and Najeedah Zaman were our school's finalists. The five finalists won a trip to the Challenger Center, where they participated in a Mars mission simulation alongside the finalists from other schools that participated in the challenge. They also appeared on a billboard in Times Square for The Female Quotient. After the essay contest, the finalists were then asked to submit a video introducing themselves and responding to the question, "What does exploration mean to you?" They were also asked to briefly talk about a time where they made a discovery and how it impacted their lives. The video entries were then assessed by Space Prize, who chose a winner. The winners from each school won a Zero-G flight and a mentorship with an accomplished woman in the space industry. Our school's winner was Kyjuany Cintron. She is looking forward to the Zero-G flight as she will be experiencing weightlessness without actually going to space. Her mentor will be Bailey Burns, an Aerospace Systems Engineer in Tucson, AZ at Paragon Space Development Corporation.

Space Prize Global

Space Prize is launching another contest, the Space Prize Global, open to 15 to 18 year old women worldwide. There will be two grand prize winners that will win approximately $250,000 worth of private astronaut experiences. I encourage anyone with ambitions in STEAM or the space industry to sign up. Space Prize Global launches June 18th, 2022, on the anniversary of Sally Ride’s first space shuttle flight as the first American woman in space. For more information follow Space Prize’s Instagram, @thespaceprize, and check out their website, https://www.spaceprize.org/.

*STEAM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math
Space Prize Update!
By: Kyjuany Cintron

Here are some pictures from the Times Square billboard, and the Challenger Center!
In our white-dominated society, the struggles that people of color endure are overlooked simply because of their racial differences. Many people of color are constrained from the spotlight. There is a lack of representation within how western media portrays these various wars. White wars are heavily highlighted throughout history while wars waged against people of color are underrepresented. These are clear examples of racism within society.

As we know of recent events, Russia has been invading Ukraine, and has been facing a devastating war. This has brought great turmoil within our society, so much so that most of the world has been economically isolating Russia. The events concerning the Russian-Ukrainian war validate that white problems are held at top priority. It has made its way to being imperative, resulting in taking over the headlines of major articles. With the help of this and nothing to restrain it from being heard, the entirety of Western media stands with Ukraine.

Although Ukraine is deserving of assistance and attention, other wars that are waged against people of color also deserve awareness. Unlike wars between white people, wars that are between people of color lack the privilege of gaining support and awareness from the public. The whole media demonstrates this clear viewpoint of siding with Ukraine and condemning Russia; however, non-western wars where it is one-sided, vary in opinion. An example of this is the Palestine and Israel conflict. In this predicament, Palestinians face discrimination by the Israelian government. This conflict is inequitable, but the sides in opinion still vary.

To conclude, wars or conflicts concerning people of color remain controversial while there is a clear stand in white conflict.
Things to do during the spring in NYC
By: Vicky Melendez

Name: The Macy’s Flower Show
Location: 151 West 34th Street, New York, NY
Price: Free

The Macy’s Flower Show offers a gorgeous array of various different flowers! Over 1 million flowers, plants and trees are shown! This display last a total of 2 weeks in New York City (March 27–April 10). This event is free!

Name: Cherry Blossom Show
Location: Brooklyn Botanic Garden (990 Washington Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11225)
Price: Adults:$18, Seniors and Students:$12, Kids under 12:Free

In the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, a cherry blossom show is held where you can celebrate Japanese culture while also enjoying origami demonstrations, cosplay fashion shows, and a beautiful view of abundant amounts of cherry blossom trees! It is hard to tell when the cherry blossom trees bloom, so the Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a feature to get notified when the trees begin blooming in order to make it easier to plan to see these beauties!

Name: Movies at NYC parks
Location: NYC parks in Manhattan, The Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens
Price: Free

In Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, NYC parks and recreation centers offer free movies at the park! Parks such as Bryant Park, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and Queens Botanical Garden all show films with various genres offered as well. The movies begin showing during sunset, although sitting areas open around 4-5pm depending on where you would like to sit. This event starts every spring during the month of May.

Name: Loeb Boathouse
Location: Central Park Boat Riding at Loeb Boathouse (East 72nd &, Center Drive, NY, 10024)
Price: $20.00

For only $20 an hour, Central Park provides the opportunity to take a boat ride through the public garden! This boat ride gives you the chance to spend time with those you love while sightseeing!

Name: Easter Parade And Bonnet Festival
Location: 49th street to 57th street along 5th avenue (St Patrick’s Cathedral, 5th Avenue, NY)
Price: Free

The Easter Parade and Bonnet Festival lasts from 10am until 4pm on April 17th. Throughout the parade, participants often wear colorful clothes and Easter bonnets! Many people often go shopping and out to eat whilst the celebration is in motion. The celebration is informal and is simply a way for people to come together to have a good time!
Welcome back to another edition of Jae’s lookbook! Today we will be looking at the Rococo fashion aesthetic.

🌸 What is Rococo Aesthetic? 🌸
Rococo aesthetic is based on elegant clothes and art from France midway during the eighteenth century. This includes lace, pastel colors, the idea of finding a soulmate, etc. The king of France at the time, King Louis XV supported the idea of Rococo throughout his reign to be different from the last king before him, Louis XIV. This aesthetic shows the idealized version of nature, and was designed to impress anyone who looked at it.

🌷 Symbols of the Aesthetic 🌷
Listed here are some of the symbols for this aesthetic.
- Pastel Colors
- Nature
- Palaces
- Grand Staircases
- Shells
- Acanthus leaves
- Birds
- Bouquets of flowers
- Fruit
- Angels
First Question: What is the college application process?

First let's talk about the application deadline. Depending on the college you apply to depends on the deadline. Some colleges and universities offer Early Decision (ED). Early Decision allows you to apply to a college early. It also means that if you get accepted to the college, you will HAVE to attend. It means you commit to attending if accepted. Most colleges open their applications September 1st and leave it open till May 1st. Now let's talk about the actual application. Just like the dates, the application depends on the school. Generally the application goes like personal information, high school transcript, college essay, recommendations, and application fee. Certain colleges and programs may require more information. For example an art or film program may require a portfolio.

What is FAFSA?
Before you start college, you may want to think about how to pay for it. The most common platform that students fill the college applications with is Common App. There are many ways to pay for college like getting scholarships, loans (FAFSA), and paying for it yourself. FAFSA stands for free application for federal student aid. FAFSA helps students get reduced college tuition. The government will ask for your guardians yearly income and tell you how much you can get in financial aid. The government will loan you money to help pay for college.
Advice?

“I am glad I didn't spend too much time trying to fill up my schedule too much and tried to focus on one thing at a time.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“I wish I was more willing to ask my teachers for help or even to show more interest in teachers. Not even necessarily for recommendation letters, [but] it does help a lot to have a teacher care about you on a more personal level. I have a teacher who wants to recommend me for programs.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“I don't think anyone could have stressed how important scholarships are. I really wish there was more of a push for scholarships. Like I know it was a thing and I needed to get scholarships, but I never applied.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“Sometimes writing a supplement is better, [but] it’s not for everyone. I am a strong writer. I feel like sometimes you get it reviewed and you don’t agree with the feedback that somebody gave you. I realized it's okay to be like ‘nah’.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“My advice I wanna say is don't stress. It’s okay to be stressed. You don't have to check your emails all the time. Also, don’t worry about what other people are doing. Or thinking about how GPA affects the schools you apply to. I have had friends who applied for early decision or early action and were getting their acceptances back to back. Every school is going to offer you whatever you make out of it. It's not about names.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

Although the college process will be stressful, it's important to remember that you are ready and prepared to do this and that your teachers and friends have your back for any question you have. Don't let other people’s accomplishments stress you out and remember that you got this!

What are CUNY and SUNY schools?

CUNY stands for city university of New York schools and SUNY stands for state university of New York schools. The only real difference is that CUNY schools are only in New York City whereas SUNY schools are throughout the state.

**Below are the responses of Kayla Battle and Kiara Battle:**

“The application part isn't the worst part because that's not when it's over. Even after I applied to schools, I still had stuff I had to give in like FAFSA.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“Here's the thing people don't tell you, you're supposed to get it in as early as possible to hopefully get more financial aid” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

“The other crazy part about FAFSA is you can only do it for about ten schools at once. If you think about it, you're already applying to 6 CUNY schools. That's already over half of it.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

Question 2: What do colleges look for?

Colleges will look for high GPA scores, any standardized test scores, any extracurricular or volunteer experiences. You don't necessarily need to have any of these things, but your chances of getting accepted might be higher if you have these things. Since college applications are very competitive, having a well rounded application might set you apart. In addition, having a resume to add to your application may set you apart even further.

“Colleges mostly want to see you are a well rounded person and hopefully you go up and not down. If you go down, there is space for you to explain that on the college application.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

Do you think TYWLS prepared you for a college application?

“During junior year, those last couple months of school, they did these little meetings with the college advisor....even this year they continued to do those meetings and everything and that helped a lot. They told us about different loans and stuff.” – From interview between Kayla and Kiara Battle

Advice?

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Although the college process will be stressful, it's important to remember that you are ready and prepared to do this and that your teachers and friends have your back for any question you have. Don't let other people’s accomplishments stress you out and remember that you got this!
How did the stabbing happen?

On Morgan Geyser’s 12th birthday, she invites Payton and Anissa for a sleepover. Payton and Anissa stated they wanted to kill her during the sleepover while she was sleeping, but decided not to. The next morning, the girls decided to go to the park. While they were there, Morgan and Anissa wanted to play hide and seek in the woods with Payton. Payton said yes, and they all started playing. While playing, Anissa told Payton to lay down under a pile of leaves to “hide.” While Payton was hiding, Anissa grabbed Payton, while Morgan stabbed her 19 times with a kitchen knife. After this, the girls thought Payton died, so they both left and started walking to “Slender Man’s house” which they believed was real. During this, Payton actually survived this brutal stabbing, and crawled onto the road. A guy riding a bike saw her and stopped and called the cops. When in the hospital, it was said she survived because the stabbing missed one millimeter to her heart.

What happened to the girls now?

Both Morgan and Anissa pleaded guilty to their crimes of first degree attempted intentional homicide, Morgan for stabbing the victim and Anissa for planning the crime and holding her down because they both were diagnosed with mental illnesses. After this, Morgan was sentenced to forty years inside of a mental institution for her schizophrenia and psychotic spectrum disorder as stated. Anissa was sentenced to twenty five years in a mental institution as well, but in 2021 she got released. Now for Payton, she survived the attack and is living her life as of today. This is how Slender Man had a big impact on young minds.

How did the girls meet?

Payton was described as a very positive person. She was the type of person to always see the good in people. Payton stated in an interview that Morgan was having trouble making friends, so she befriended her because she saw positive aspects of Morgan. One day, Morgan was sitting by herself and Payton sat down with her. This ignited a start of their friendship. After this, the two girls had so many sleepovers, always calling each other, playing outside, etc. They were very close with each other, but this is where things turned different. Morgan became close friends with Anissa and that started the obsession with Slender Man. Payton never really liked the idea of Slender Man because she was scared of him, but she went along with it as stated in an interview “But I went along with it. I was supportive because I thought that’s what she liked.” When Morgan took a liking to Slender Man, Payton wanted to get out of the friendship. She said she didn’t just because she felt bad for Morgan. After a while, Payton didn’t really like Anissa, stating that Anissa was really mean to her. She didn’t do anything because she saw that Morgan really liked Anissa.

How did the girls meet?

Morgan Geyser and Anissa Weier were known for stabbing their best friend Payton Leutner 19 times. They both stated that they wanted to show their commitment to Slender Man through these heinous acts.

But who is Slender Man?

Slender Man is a tall figure with many tentacles and a white blank face. He wears a black suit with a red tie. He was first known from a forum named “Something Awful.” (A site that's known well for “tricky photoshopping” and general pranking.) Slender Man became well known through his creator, Eric Knudsen, known as Victor Surge, who uploaded photoshopped photos of children in parks, schools, etc, with a tall dark figure standing behind them. These photos looked extremely creepy. This dark figure was later named as the creature we now know as Slender Man. By this time, people started creating more photoshopped photos and making scary myths about him. In some myths, he kills his victims or in others if you look at him for one second, he can hypnotize you into doing bad crimes like killing other people.

Do you know about the infamous Slender Man, a mysterious creature that has a big impact on young minds?

Morgan Geyser and Anissa Weier were known for stabbing their best friend Payton Leutner 19 times. They both stated that they wanted to show their commitment to Slender Man through these heinous acts.
Billie Eilish Pirate Baird O’Connell, publicly known as Billie Eilish, is an American singer and songwriter. She is best known for her hit song *Bad Guys*, which is featured on her album titled *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* Millions of her fans admire her unique style; some even chose to closely mimic the various hair choices Eilish has made within her career thus far. One of her most noticeable characteristics is her iconic whispering voice. In most of her songs, she is singing in a hushed tone despite most of her songs having a faster beat. However, in her most recent album *Happier Than Ever*, she has taken on a more louder tone. Adding on, Eilish’s attire, which mainly consists of baggy oversized clothing, is widely admired by her fan base. A question many people might wonder is how her career took off.

Eilish was born on December 18, 2001 in Los Angeles, California. Her and her brother, Finneas O’Connell, were both homeschooled, so they grew up surrounded by many talented members of their family. At the age of 8, Eilish joined the *Los Angeles Children’s Choir*. It was here where she developed the soft, whispering voice her fans have come to know.

In 2015, her and her brother released a song titled *Ocean Eyes*. Her brother had originally written this song for the band he performed in; however, he enlisted her to sing the song for them. After recording the song, he uploaded it onto the internet. *Ocean Eyes* quickly gained a ton of success, and Eilish signed with *Darkroom* in summer of 2016. Ever since then, both of them work on writing and singing songs together. In her most recent performances, she can be seen performing with her brother. Additionally, her brother’s band are commonly seen as an opening act within Eilish’s concerts.
Most famous musicians collaborate with a producer to write their music; however, Eilish decides to keep the songwriting process within her family. This adds to how personal her songs are to her. Throughout her years with Darkroom, she released an eight-song long EP called Don’t Smile At Me. Don’t Smile At Me reached top 14 in the Billboard 200. One of Eilish’s most notable accomplishments is her becoming the youngest artist to ever win Album of the Year at the Grammys, a popular musical award show. She was only 18 years old when her most popular album, When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go? won Album of the Year at the 2021 Grammys. Along with that award, she has also won MTV music video awards, a Kids Choice award for favorite song, a Billboard music award for Top New Artist, a Grammy award for Song of the Year, and various other awards.

Despite her overwhelming success, Billie Eilish has faced many hardships as a female within the music industry. Although her soft voice is a distinctive feature of her music, many people seem to think that her voice is highly annoying and too simple. Additionally, some of her antis believe that she is unoriginal. They believe that her “type” (the heartbroken, sad, type) of musician has been seen hundreds of times. A member of the paparazzi was taking photos of Eilish without her signature baggy clothes on. The photographer commented on Eilish’s body by stating that she has a “mid-30’s wine mom body.” In response to this Eilish put out a statement saying “Nothing I do goes unseen. If I wear what is comfortable, I am not a woman. If I shed the layers, I’m a ****... Would you like me to be smaller? Weaker? Softer? Taller? Would you like me to be quiet?” along with re-posting a Tiktok of a woman explaining that a woman's body should not be held to an overreaching and unnatural standard.
Good East Asian Food Around New York
By: Sindy Medina

Moon House East Harlem
Address: 1810 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10029
Hours Open: From Monday to Saturday, it is open from 11:30 a.m to 10 p.m and on Sunday it is closed!

This is an excellent place to buy East Asian food, from more specifically Japan and China. They have a wide selection of sushi, bento boxes, fried rice, dumplings and more! The prices range between as low as $2.50 to as high as $21, depending on which meal you want! The Moon House’s chef specials include: General Tso’s Chicken, Mango Chicken, Chicken with orange flavor, Pineapple Chicken and Shrimp, Shrimp and Chicken hunan style, Four Seasons, and the Happy Family Special all served with white rice.

One of the most popular items on the menu is the Moon House Roll, which has shrimp tempura inside with eel and avocado, and eel sauce (a sweet tangy sauce) on top! There is a special as well that is available every day! For 3 rolls of the same sushi, it costs $11/12! Here is a visual example of the shrimp tempura roll! It was very delicious and tasted sweet, with unagi sauce drizzled on top!

Amsterdam Sushi
Address: 1518 Amsterdam Ave, New York, NY 10031
Hours Open: 11 a.m-10:30 p.m on Monday to Thursday, 11 a.m- 11 p.m from Friday to Saturday, and on Sunday it is open from 12 p.m-10:30p.m

This is one of my favorite go to sushi spots to eat at a reasonable price! I love to have shrimp tempura rolls and california rolls from Amsterdam Sushi. They are extremely fresh and also deliver if you cannot pick it up physically! As always I recommend everything from their menu. They offer a variety of food and you should expand your palate and try new things. The Chef Specials (all sushi) include the Rainbow Roll, Green Dragon Roll, Crazy Friday Roll, Fire Dragon Roll, Pink Lady Rolls, Fantastic Rolls, the Black Angel roll, the Amsterdam roll, and more! There are also substitutes for seaweed such as soy paper, and many vegan and vegetarian options such as the asparagus tempura rolls and the cucumber rolls. Additionally, they serve multiple sides/appetizers, such as aged tofu and shrimp shumai dumplings! The prices range between $5.50 to $22 depending on the types of rolls you order! As well as Moon House, Amsterdam sushi offers a special that includes three rolls of sushi for $15, and you can also have any three rolls, they aren't required to be the exact same!

If you are a person who struggles with finding good food, you are in the right place! Oftentimes, we all suffer from a common phenomenon of not knowing where to go when we want something good to eat, so here are my top 2 favorite East Asian restaurants!
Monthly sky pictures!
By: Mia De La Cruz

I am proud to announce that my mother is opening her own personal business named *Melanin Roots* and I will be working with her! My mother began the concept of this business at the beginning of 2021, with the help of me and my sister, and now it has become fully fleshed out. There are a variety of products being sold but are not limited to, custom tote bags, crystal bracelets, rings, and more! If you are interested in buying a custom tote bag, you can send your order to my email at sindym1001@tywlsbronx.org! They will be priced between 15–25 dollars!
The 8-child Massacre
By: Alexania Echevarria & Abigale Paredes

This crime is not very known in other countries or states, but it’s well known in Australia. We wanted to spread light on these horrible murders since the government doesn’t help people with mental illnesses.

Raina Mersane Ina Thaiday also known as Mersane Warria was a 37-year-old woman, who previously resided in Manoora, a suburb in the far north Queensland city of Cairns. Raina had 5 husbands in the total of her life span and she ended up with 7 children. Her children were between the ages of 18 months and 14 years old during this time. Raina was a religious single mother, who was facing a breakup and going through financial issues. She had schizophrenia and suffered psychotic episodes.

On December 19, 2014, at 11:20 a.m, a police call was made to 34 Murray street in the Cairns suburb of Manoora in Australia, where 8 children were murdered. The oldest son of Raina, Lewis, went to visit his mom but instead saw his bloody mom standing in the front of the house. Raina had been stabbed 35 times including in her private areas. When rushing her to the hospital, police went further into the house and discovered the bodies of children in separate rooms with pillows over their faces. Each room had two kids in it, and all were also stabbed. The police had thought it was first a robbery, but were wrong. With further evidence, it showed otherwise. While Raina was in the hospital, she seemed to be in a dissociated like state, but the nurses noticed the angles of the wounds being unusual. The angles looked self-inflicted, so the police investigated even more. They found out from neighbors that at 1 AM to 12 AM the next day, Raina was yelling at her daughter for coming home late and about her family being a sinner. When Raina came back to herself in the hospital, all she said was that her family was no longer going to die a sinner when the world would end soon. Later in court, Raina’s charges were all dropped due to her mental state and was subjected to a treatment order at a high-security ward in Park Centre for Mental Health on Brisbane’s outskirts.
Well, today was the day me and Diane went to the mall. I was still saddened at the thought of my crush leaving tomorrow, but it's to get her dream job, so I’m happy for her. As we walked through the mall, Diane wanted to go inside a perfume store to get some perfume to wear around campus when she arrived in America. As we walked through the fruit scented aisles, we took a look at all the selections of perfume they had available. One of the perfumes had caught my eye though. It was a beautiful heart shaped perfume bottle which smelled of strawberries and apples. As I went to grab the bottle to buy it, Diane grabbed my hand out of nowhere. My face lit up as I looked at Diane. She had a smile on her face as her face was a light pink. There was a moment of silence before Diane got close to my face and kissed me. I was shocked but I kissed her back. “I’ve liked you for a while so...” Diane said as she placed a hand behind her neck.

Date: July 17, 2010
Seems like I’ve forgotten about this journal for awhile! To give an update on what happened. We both got our dream jobs and had a long distance relationship throughout it all. Diane came back to the U.K after and we have since got married and own a house! Diane also has her own sushi restaurant while I opened my own art shop where people can buy my art! I don’t know what else to say but, it ends here!
Thank You!

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erinac4163@tywlsbronx.org
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