

Dragondale

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DRAGONDALE #6

March has finally come, and we're all prepared for spring break to arrive. Bask in the spring showers and unexpected snowfalls, and watch the flowers bloom as we go into the last few months of school.

March is women's history month! Celebrate the women in your life and educate yourself on influential women.

Think deeply on an analysis on the Cecil Hotel mystery, a Mulan theory, and read a lovely poem by our beloved poet. And PURCHASE A YEARBOOK!

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Suicide hotline-800-273-8255
Crisis text line- text HOME to 741741
Trans hotline- 877-565-8860
Colorado crisis services- 1-844-493-8255 or Text "TALK" to 38255

Women's History Month

By: **Victoria O'Neal**

Women's History Month is capturing the spirit of these challenging times from past and present actions from women. Every year each president has announced an annual proclamation in the month of March. Every year the National Women's History month selects and publishes a yearly theme. This year the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced".

When Is Women's history month?

By 1987, Congress actually declared the entire month of March Women's History Month. Ever since then, every president has agreed to keep declared the month of March Women's History Month

What is the National Women's History Alliance?

The National Women's History Alliance is a group of American non-profit organizations dedicated to providing information that is training in multicultural women's history for educators, community organizations, and anyone who is interested in contributing to U.S history.

Some extraordinary individual Women:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton



Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a well-educated woman who fought for women's rights and suffrage movements. Elizabeth Cady Stanton formulated the agenda for women's rights that guided the struggle well into the 20th century. Which she has gain property rights for married women and ending slavery. Stanton was one of the people who inspired the women's suffrage movement increasingly became her top priority.

Eleanor Roosevelt



Eleanor Roosevelt advocated expanded roles for women in the workplace, the civil rights of African Americans and Asian Americans, and the rights of World War II refugees.

She has also lost any loved ones on the way but still continued, Roosevelt remained active in politics for the remaining 17 years of her life.

Betty Friedan



Betty Friedan was an American feminist writer and activist and was a leading figure in the women's movement in the United States, which in 1963 she wrote a book called *The Feminine Mystique* which is often credited with sparking the second wave of American feminism in the 20th century.

Marsha P. Johnson



Marsha P. Johnson was an American liberation activist and a trans woman of color. Marsha was known for being an outspoken advocate for gay rights, and also was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall uprising of 1969.

Emerald Heart

By: Sophia Porreca

When the sun sets and the sky cries.

Who will come to hold me and tell me it will be alright?

Who will squeeze my hand?

When the midnight breath exhales into the night.

When the ground erodes into new rock sculptures.

Who will carry me on their back?

Who will stare into my soul and configure it back into my body?

While the credits roll.

When the sea evaporates into stardust.

Who will catch me from falling into myself?

Who will tell the grim reaper that it's not the time for dessert?

While the curtains come to a fall.

When the only sound I hear is my breathing and the only thing I see is white.

Who will kiss me back to life?

I'm fearful of the answer.



Is Mulan Trans? A Theory.

By: Dazhay Aguirre

{Please note that this is just a theory and we have no confirmed evidence from Disney to support the idea that Mulan represents the Trans community}

Although it isn't stated or factually proven, there is a theory that Mulan represents the closeted trans community. Even if not, it can still be interpreted in that way. As I did my research, multiple flags would purvey this idea. One way is through the way that she tries to fit into the norms of the other guys. She tries to do this by tying her hair up, binding herself, and even changing her voice. In the lyrics from the song "Reflection," something that sticks out is:

*"No-one knows who I am
Must there be a secret me
I'm forced to hide
Must I pretend that I am someone
else for all time
When will my reflection show, who I
am inside"*

This can be interpreted that Mulan represents being a closeted trans FTM (female-to-male) or maybe even nonbinary because when she sings this line, she's staring at herself through the water and doesn't recognize herself, even after taking off the makeup she was forced to wear. Also, the "secret me I'm forced to hide" may be her, feeling as though the person (or gender) she is truly meant to be can't be revealed.

Also, throughout the movie, we see that she doesn't fit into society's norm of being "ladylike" and instead has more "masculine" characteristics or actions.

Although, throughout the movie we see Mulan's journey and self-discovery, in the end, it isn't revealed that Mulan wants to stay more "manly," but it does show her going against society's expectations and perspectives on what a woman or man should be. She meets right in the middle and is happier with herself.

Sources:

<https://www.shondaland.com/live/a21073307/disney-mulan-queerness/>

<https://www.vox.com/culture/21417212/what-are-the-gayest-disney-films-mulan-queer-subtext>



Cecil Hotel: Elisa Lam's disappearance

By: Marlenni Ortiz Perez

{Warning: Mentions of sensitive topics. Viewer discretion advised}

Elisa Lam's disappearance was reported on February 1, 2013. This transpired in the Cecil Hotel in downtown LA. This hotel has an outburst of different cases happening throughout the decades.

Why was the Elisa Lam case so significant? What were the circumstances leading up to her disappearance? How was this case closed, and why does it remain unsolved?

The Cecil Hotel was constructed in 1924; it was built as a destination for business travelers and tourists. It took about \$1.5 Million to build. Not even five years passed when the U.S hit rock bottom at the beginning of the great depression. The hotel had flourished as a very fashionable and trendy place through the 1940s; it heavily declined at the times of the great depression. During the great depression, an area known as Skid Row began to develop and increase in population. Skid Row has become one of the most prominent stable places in the United States (approx varying from 4,200–8,000 residents). It is famous for its condensed homeless population since the nineteen-thirties. It is one of the most critical districts in Los Angeles, with a long history of police arrests, city-targeted programs, and homelessness. The Cecil hotels' reports based on separate incidents increased during these decades, from the reported Suicide of Percy Ormond Cook. He committed suicide on January 22, 1927, the murder of "Pigeon Goldie" Osgood on June 4, 1964.



(pictured left: Elisa Lam)

To the famous murderer in the 1980s, Richard Ramirez, otherwise known as The Nightstalker. Upon those tragedies comes Elisa Lam's case.

Elisa Lam was an immigrant from Hong Kong. She was a student at the University of British Columbia. She decided to take a vacation, arriving at San Diego and visiting spots, such as the zoo. By January 26, she arrived in Los Angeles. Furthermore, by January 28, she had checked into the Cecil Hotel. Lam has been diagnosed with depression and bipolar disorder. To cure her illnesses, she was prescribed four medications: Wellbutrin, Lamictal, Seroquel, and Effexor. According to her relatives, Lam had no history of suicidal ideations or attempts, who allegedly kept her mental illness a secret. However, one source suggested she had previously gone missing for a brief time.

Lam kept in touch with her parents in British Columbia every day while on the road. Her parents did not hear from her on February 1, 2013, the day she was supposed to check out of the Cecil and leave for Santa Cruz, and they contacted the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD); her family flew to Los Angeles to assist with the search. The police investigated the hotel to the degree that they were legally permitted to do so. They searched Lam's room and had dogs search the entire hotel, including the rooftop, but the dogs were unable to locate her." But we did not search every room," Sgt. Rudy Lopez later explained, "because we could only do that if we had probable cause."

The LAPD agreed that further assistance was needed on February 6, a week after Lam was last seen. Flyers with her picture were distributed in the community and on the internet. It used the media to bring the event to the public's attention. On February 15, after another week with no sign of Lam, the LAPD released a video of the last known sighting taken in one of Cecil's elevators by a video surveillance camera on February 1. Elisa, alone, makes unusual moves and gestures in an approximate two and a half minute footage, leaving the elevator at one point. Simultaneously, its doors remain open, even after she appears to have pressed every button. When the doors fail to close after she returns, she leaves; the doors close later. Many of the viewers knew this was the last known footage of her being alive. Upon millions of streams of that released footage came allegations and conspiracies to what may have been the cause of her disappearance.



During Lam's search, guests at the hotel began to complain about the low pressure of water. Some subsequently said their water was black with an unusual flavor. On February 19, the hotel maintenance workers Santiago López found Lam's body, housed on a roof with water in the rooms, a bathroom, and a coffee shop in the four tanks, a thousand-gallon body, and 3,785 l. He saw Lam lying face-up in the water through the open hatch.

The tank was drained and opened as its maintenance hatch was too small to contain the necessary equipment to remove Lam's body. On February 21, an adverse drowning finding was issued by the Los Angeles coroner's office, with a significant factor in bipolar disorder. The complete coroner's report, released in June, stated that Lam's body was found naked; her wearing clothes were floating in the water, coated in a "sandy particle," similar to what was in the elevator video. She also found her watch and room key. Physical trauma, sexual assault, or suicide were not demonstrated. Traces of her prescription medication, plus nonprescription drugs such as Sinutab, and ibuprofen, were found in toxicology tests. There was a minimal amount of alcohol but no other recreational drugs (about 0.02 g percent). However, researchers and experts have noted that their prescription drug concentrations in their system have recently revealed that they have been undermedicated or have ceased to take their medications.



Upon her death came various theories; the top 5 theories include suicide, substance abuse, dark water film murder replicated, and supernatural forces that haunted her; which theory could you possibly believe the most?

Suicide: Lam had an active Tumblr blog, and she documented her struggles with depression and anxiety. "I wish that I could put part of my brain in a taped shut box, shoot it for the night at my closet," she wrote in a post. Some online sleuths pointed out that she died of suicide to her posts. However, the coroner said "a comprehensive examination of the circumstances" did not support the idea that Lam, according to CBC, tried to hurt himself. Lam also did not say that she planned her death in the last post about her Tumblr. "I got to Laland... I got to... And next to the place I stay there is a monstrosity of a building," She wrote about the Hotel Cecil. "When I say monstrosity, I say as in Gaudy, but in 1928 the art deco theme was built again, so it is elegant and then, as it is in LA, it went off. Baz Lurhmann is quite sure that this is where Great Gatsby is to be filmed."

Substance abuse: People indicated that she was using hallucinatory drugs by Lam's behavior on the elevator. Nevertheless, Vice reports that her toxicology report found no evidence of drugs or alcohol in her system. This is not a speculation-based theory but facts. Elisa had bipolar disorder, a mental illness caused by depression and mania. Elisa took prescribed antidepressants, antipsychotic products, and mood stabilizers. These drugs should now work in harmony. One can seriously damage one's system if you take without the other. Moreover, that is what Elisa did until her death day. According to the toxicology report, Elisa's antidepressant

but not her psychotic and mood stabilizer were recently taken.

Dark water film murder

replicated: Dark Water is a Hollywood rewrote Japanese horror movie in 2005. There are scenes in this documentary, which surround a woman called Dahlia and her daughter Cecilia, and the buttons appear to be flawed. Filthy black water flows out of the taps in the building of the apartment. Cecilia wears almost the same red Jacket as Elisa wears in the famous footage of the elevator. The gunman? The ghost they are haunted by is that of a girl who died on the apartment building roof after falling into the water tanks. Was anyone trying the film for kicks before it went too far? Several people asked this question. Moreover, you make a connection instantly if you saw the film as I did some years ago. However, I do not think this theory has much worth, however troubling it might be.

Supernatural forces haunted her:

The Hotel Cecil was built in the beginning with a view of pure grandeur and opulence. The owner dreamed of being a busy lounge for good-looking people in business and wealthy people. Nevertheless, the Cecil Hotel became a terrible place where several people were killed in the decades. The hotel was known as a seedy underground paradise for criminals, murderers, and prostitutes. This was actually where the Richard Ramirez 'NightStalker' unwind after women were hunted and killed.

They began to wonder whether Elisa was owned by one of the many people in this "cursed" hotel who had lost their lives. Another popular theory I can remember watching is that Elisa was playing lift games in a BuzzFeed Unsolved video. In this "game," a player presses the buttons for a particular measure. The players say that the entities that followed them after the game haunted them. It was strongly speculated that Elisa interacts with other-dimensional spirits in the CCTV footage, which were not taken on camera. It was strongly speculated that Elisa interacts with other-dimensional spirits in the CCTV footage, which were not taken on camera.



Culinary Club

March or April-Currently to be determined

Mrs. Burke:

Krtistie_burke@dpsk12.net

Google meet code: KCAABAKES

Newspaper club:

Tuesdays or Thursdays at 4:45 pm

Gene Knapp: 740261@dpsk12.net

Ms. Hempe: ahempe@dpsk12.net

classroom code: ryks3xm

MSU tutoring:

Monday-Friday 4:00-6:00 pm

Classroom code: alhp65y

Personal Articles: Even if you are not in the newspaper, but want to submit your writing to the current month's newspaper, you are more than welcome to! Whether it be a poem, a short story, a movie analysis, etc. you will always be welcome to submit an article to the paper. If you choose to contact Gene Knapp: 740261@dpsk12.net Gabe Duke: 718366@dpsk12.net Ms. Hempe: ahempe@dpsk12.net and they will get back to you!

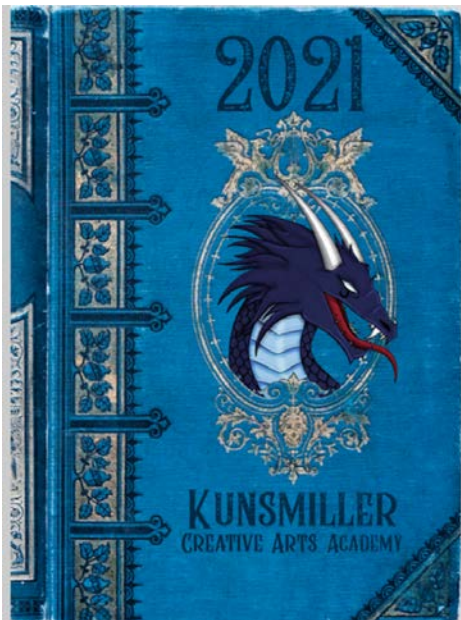
Art Gallery: If you want to submit art that you have done to the newspaper's very own art gallery, feel free to! Use Gene's contact information up above to submit. The only requirements are your first and last name and grade. We will not accept any NSFW art, gore art, or heavily triggering art. Teachers, you can also submit students' artwork into the paper if you so choose.

Suggestions: If you have any suggestions on how we could improve the newspaper, what you want to see, or just ideas for cool stories, feel free to tell us.

Events: In a club or class that is doing a remote event? Email Gene about it! He will put it in the paper and advertise it!

KCAA! The wonderful yearbook team led by Ms. Ayres has finished the yearbook! Purchase a unique yearbook for only \$25 dollars [here!](#) Grab one while you can, there's very limited stock!

If you're a senior, Ms. Ayres raised money for the entire senior class to get a yearbook for free!



Don't forget to thank the yearbook team and Ms. Ayres for putting together an amazing yearbook for us!

Snowmageddon!

By: Gene Knapp

This past few weeks, a heavy snowstorm hit Colorado bringing many feet of snow with it. DIA got at least 27 inches of snow by Monday 15th, leaving flights delayed and canceled for the day. This blizzard also brought a new Colorado record for snow storms, ranking this as the 5th largest snowstorm in Colorado history. The 4th largest was dated back in 1982 on Christmas eve night where 23.8 inches of snow fell.

Due to the severity of the blizzard, hundreds of cars were abandoned on the side of the road and thousands were forced to book a room at the Denver National Airport Hotel, and some even slept in waiting areas inside DIA. Though many were left stranded, many kids were lucky enough to get a full snow day! School for almost all of Denver was canceled, leaving many kids at home able to go out and play in the record-breaking snowfall. Many made snowmen and snow angels and basked in the bliss of enjoyment. Many of the animals at the Denver zoo were excited by this blizzard, playing in the snow after it had fallen.

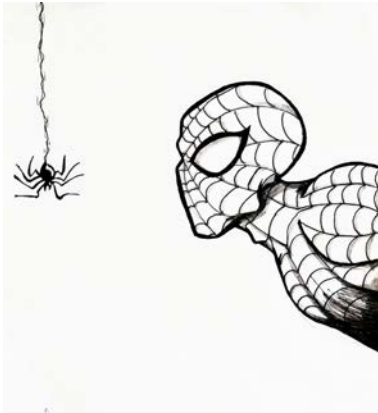


Issac, Jorge, and Leo with Alvin The Snowman!

Student Art Gallery!

Come see your peer's amazing artwork! - Submit [here](#)

Faith Watts
11th
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca
11th
(Newspaper Staff Submission)



Gene Knapp
11th
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke
11th
(Self Submission)



Gabe Duke
11th
(Self Submission)



FayeEtta Johnson
11th
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca
11th
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca
11th
(Self Submission)



Sophia Porreca
11th
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers
11th
(Self Submission)



Rose Bowers
11th
(Self Submission)

