



The Comet Newsletter

March 2019

Is Global Warming Irreversible?

In the past few years, climate change has been a significant topic around the globe, with many influential members speaking about the horrifying damage done to our precious environment. Indeed, global warming has been speeding up - and humans are solely behind it. NOAA scientists find that the rate global warming has increased over



the past fifteen years is faster than the latter half of the twentieth century. Humans contribute to climate change in many ways, such as emitting carbon dioxide, cutting down and burning forests, and even creating soot particles.

We've heard countless warnings about the impact we're pounding on nature, from Arctic glaciers collapsing, to accelerated rising sea levels, to the destruction of marine ecosystems. But have we stopped to think that our race could really turn this all around? Could we as a whole take our actions back, repair the planet, and reach an equilibrium of peace for the environment and people?

The short answer is no. Susan Solomon, a top climate scientist, soberly reports that climate change cannot be reversed. "Even if we stopped emitting pollution," she

says, “it won’t stop global warming. It’s essentially an irreversible change that will last for thousands of years.” This is because oceans are soaking up a lot of the excess heat, along with carbon dioxide. Since the oceans will eventually release this gas, this process will continue for a long, long time. If we continue our emissions for a few more decades, it could be enough to create permanent Dust Bowl conditions southwest of the US and the Mediterranean.

Despite this grim analysis, however, Solomon reminds us not to be discouraged. “If it’s irreversible, to me it seems all the more reason you might want to do something about it.” As a whole, we still have a while to find a cure for global warming. But if we want to preserve our Mother Earth, it’s time to act now.

- Naomi Ling

Meme Review

Shaggy

He’s so powerful, legend says he used 14% of his power to create the universe. Growing up in the 2000s as an American means you probably know Scooby Doo, a childhood classic about a dog, Scooby Doo, and his team, Shaggy Rogers, Fred Jones, Velma Dinkley, and Daphne Blake, solving crimes in their van called the Mystery Machine. While there have been dozens of memes branched off of the silly television show, there is a new one that blossomed in 2019. This meme started when *Scooby-Doo! Legend of the Phantosaur* held a scene in which Shaggy fights a biker gang. Later, YouTube user Midya took the scene and played it to Ultra Instinct music from *Dragon Ball Super* and titled the video *Ultra Instinct Shaggy*. Instantly, the concept of Shaggy being an overpowered-super-lord became viral, and in 2018, when the movie *Avengers, Infinity War* was released, people took the super-villain, Thanos, against Shaggy



for the ultimate battle. This Shaggy meme of him using a small percentage of his power against characters once thought to be undefeatable, making Shaggy seem godlike and superhuman, is truly a wholesome and influential meme. It tells the story of a once only known to small subreddit meme becoming world renowned and exploding across Reddit, Tumblr, and Twitter. Shaggy's meme is a beautiful tale, more inspiring than funny, and proves how creative the mind can become when given the correct material, so, in my opinion, Shaggy has earned himself a solid 7.6 out of 10, the highest ranking in 2019.

- Estelle Chen

Book Nook

Love, Simon by Becky Albertalli is an amazing and impactful book. Now, more than ever, the LGBTQ+ community is being represented in books and in the media. This book revolves around Simon, a boy just trying to discover who he is.

When he discovers a boy code-named Blue, who is also gay, Simon begins to exchange emails with him, spilling secrets and connecting with the one person who knows what he's going through. This book was so stirring that it became a movie starring Nick Robinson as Simon. If books aren't for you, I would definitely check out the movie. This is the age where LGBTQ+ is finally accurately represented in the media. All in all, *Love, Simon* is an emotional novel that is sure to leave you touched.

- Kylie Stuart



Managing Stress

Welcome to the self care section of the Comet Newsletter! This month, we're going to be talking about **Performance Anxiety**. Recently, I've experienced my share of performance nerves, and I thought I'd share what I do to calm myself and get ready for battle.

1. 90% of the battle is determined before you even enter whatever you are nervous for. Basically, if you walk into an event knowing you've worked and trained your absolute hardest, you're going to feel a lot more confident, and that will soothe your jitters.
2. If your event is early in the morning, take a shower before it! It doesn't have to be a long one, just a quick cleanse to wake up your mind and body. I find that after a morning shower, I always feel refreshed and ready to take on the day.
3. Stand up a little straighter. If you are feeling nervous, straightening your posture actually boosts your confidence; you feel more in power and composed. Especially if you are at a competition, standing up straight gives you and your opponents the message that you are a force to reckon with.
4. Finally, just smile. Laughing and smiling makes you feel a lot happier, and that's really important to calm your nerves. Ever seen the football players running wildly onto the field? That's what you've gotta do. If you are happier, not only will you gain confidence, but it will make you feel relaxed, and that reduces the chance that the pressure will get to your head.

Hopefully these tips helped and you're able to use them to get rid of your jitters!

-Lily Peng

Sports Time

Welcome to the sports section of the newsletter.

In River Hill Basketball, Nick Marshall, a sophomore, is up for Player of the Month in Howard County boys basketball. He is on the varsity team and has a 13.8 scoring average. His older brother, Ryan is also on the varsity team but is unfortunately injured.



In baseball, spring training just started. I am excited to see how each team does. I definitely hope the Orioles do better than last season. Manny Machado has signed one of the biggest contracts in MLB history with the Padres at \$300 million over 10 years. This has been your sports news. Hope to see you next time!

- Justin Blackman

About Us and Contact Us

Hey! We're five middle schoolers who love to write and find interesting content. Contact us at thecometnewsletter@gmail.com, we would love to hear feedback!

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