



Podium

LMC NEWS

No. 2

October 29, 2021

HAPPY HALLOWEEN !

Hello LMC Fans!

In this week's issue we have a fun collection of *spooky* articles! We have a terrifying USA News Section, an intriguing Book Review, some creepy Crafts, a mysterious Advice Column, and two scintillating Short Stories. Also, please make sure to check out the info on the Food Drive and Cancer Awareness Month.

Enjoy!





USA NEWS

Democratic Voters Want Biden's Big Spending Deal—and They're Getting Impatient

By Nicki Conti



Democrats in Washington remain divided over the scope of President Biden's expansive domestic policy agenda. But their voters—both moderates and progressives—have largely rallied around the push to increase government spending and say they worry lawmakers will fail to come to an agreement.

Negotiations gained momentum this week after Mr. Biden in meetings with Democratic lawmakers identified programs that would likely be cut or shortened in the final bill to trim costs. Party leaders said they could have a framework for a deal by week's end, though many major provisions—and how to pay for them—remain under discussion.

Several recent polls, bolstered by interviews with more than 50 Democratic voters across six swing states in recent weeks, indicate broad party support for legislation to expand

social safety net programs and pass measures aimed at mitigating (making something less severe) the effects of climate change.

Democratic leaders have proposed paying for well over a trillion dollars in expanded government services, in part, by higher taxes. Top Democrats acknowledge that would have been considered too liberal (Democratic) a few years ago but say that it now has broad party support. At least one Democrat in the Senate has voiced opposition to the idea.

Most of the Democratic voters interviewed said they believed that if their elected leaders didn't act on the most ambitious legislation possible, the party risked losing congressional seats in next year's midterm elections and the White House in 2024.

A CNN poll released last week found that 75% of Democrats preferred a bill that included all of the social safety net and climate-change provisions proposed by Mr. Biden. Another 20% of respondents backed a scaled-back bill that costs less. A Pew Research Center poll released in late September similarly found that among those who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, 75% said they favored Mr. Biden's initial \$3.5 trillion package.

(continued)





When Republicans and independents were included, the CNN poll found that 41% of Americans supported a package with all the proposed provisions; another 30% supported a scaled-down bill. The same Pew survey found 49% of Americans supported the original \$3.5 trillion package.

Many of the Democratic voters interviewed also said they were frustrated with the Biden administration and congressional Democrats

over issues including voting rules and immigration. Yet, they said, the social policy and climate package, and a separate infrastructure proposal, were unifying priorities.

“The Democrats have the majority right now, why don’t they pull the trigger?” said Andre Edmonds, a 35-year-old welder from West Palm Beach, Fla. “If they don’t get it done, they’ll lose the chance.





BOOK REVIEW

Issac Asimov's Short Stories

By: Zephyr F. Sosin

If there is one thing I love, it's the golden age of science fiction. And if there is one author who perfectly embodies that time, it would be Isaac Asimov. He has accomplished many things in his career, but today, I want to take a look at some of his lesser known masterpieces. His short story collections.

I came across my first collection of his, in the summer months of 2020, and was immediately hooked. His stories were peak science fiction, and in a unique twist on an old idea, he put a small section before each story about how they came to be.

I really liked those little biographical stories, it almost felt like a distant relative at a thanksgiving party or family reunion of any sort coming by and telling you these crazy stories about that time they were almost eaten by a shark. He makes these stories about editors, his time in boston, himself, and much more feel like an exhilarating story, the story behind yet another story, this time made up by Asimov.

I cannot stress enough how great it is to read these books (at the current moment, I own 9 of these collections). Not only the introductions, but also the stories themselves. I must confess that Asimov's writing style makes reading a full book of his a tedious task, a task that I completed only once. This blunt, mostly conversational style, however, translates perfectly in a short story. It feels as though it perfectly stays its welcome, and just before you get bored again, he comes in and saves it with a story about the next thing you're going to read. He keeps the stories and introductions fresh through 25 stories, a feat only Asimov could perform.

"Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what's right"

—Isaac Asimov (1920–1992)

I actually wrote a short story in this very newspaper. If you haven't read it, I really think it's quite good.





Halloween Crafts

By Petra Mayers

*If you ever feel bored and don't know what to do,
here are some fun and easy halloween craft ideas to try out!*

Paper Leaf Garlands

The first one is a paper leaf garland which is the perfect fall decoration for pretty much anywhere. Here is how to make it:

Materials: colored paper, glue or string and hole puncher, scissors

1. Cut your leaf shapes out of the colored paper, you can sketch them out first or make a template, whatever works for you.
2. Glue them together to create a long line of them or punch holes then thread them on to a string.
3. Lastly, hang it up somewhere!

That is a very simple and easy craft but it's still fun.

Here are some pictures of what it could look like:



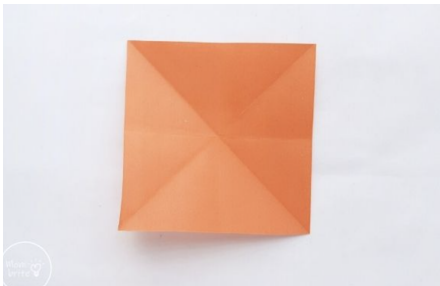


Origami Pumpkins

Another craft idea is origami pumpkins! These are a bit more complex but to be honest they're worth it! Here's how to make them:

Materials: 2 sheets of square paper and glue (optional)

1. First fold your piece of paper in half, unfold then fold it diagonally both ways and unfold in between, it should look like this:



2. Then push the sides together to create this:



3. Next smoosh it down sideways to make a square like this:



4. The next step is to fold up the corners of your square like this:





5. Then fold them again the other way:



6. Then pull the corners together to get a new square like this:



7. And repeat the same corner folds as before until you end up with this:

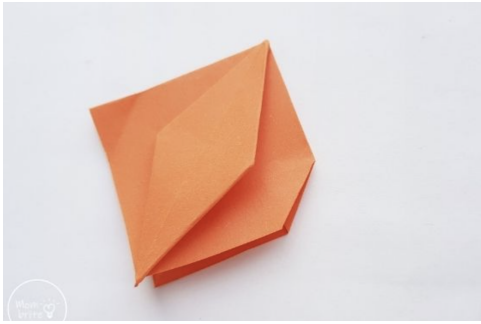


8. Next fold in the corners and then unfold them to create this crease:





9. The next step is to tuck your corners into the slot so it looks like this:



10. Next flip it over backwards to the smooth side and fold the top and bottom back so that it looks like this:



11. The last step is to make your stem and attach it so that it looks like this!



Thanks for reading and I hope you try these out!





SHORT STORIES

Abyss (extended)

By Zephyr F. Sosin

I originally wrote this story for a creative writing assignment for English Language Arts, yet it was never before published. Recently, however, the editor of The Podium has allowed me to publish a few of these never-seen stories in the newspaper. I do hope you enjoy this story, an extended version of my story "Abyss" Called "Abyss (extended)." I know, very creative.

He stared into the abyss. He wondered if it was his time. He reminisced. He remembered his job, a doorman sitting in a lobby, watching the world move around him. He wondered if anyone he saw had to make the same decision. He was sure there were at least a few. He remembered his kids, both teachers now. He remembered his wife. He wonders to himself if he would ever see her again. He remembered his grandkids, always ecstatic to see him, and wondered if he should go, leaving his family and the people he watched move by him every day. He looked back, wondering how long he had stood in this nowhere land, between life and death. He stood there for a moment, knowing what he had to do, yet too scared to do it, and uttered a solitary phrase. "Let there be light."

He jumped.

* * *





SHORT STORIES

The Flare Trails

By Thomas Demuth

My face paled. He lowered his voice, "I hope they don't execute you." With that startling statement, I boarded the train that no one came out of, where no one could hide, I had entered the schnellzug to the dreaded bliss.

The ride was uneventful, the tracks smooth and shiny. On my way there, however, I was not in cuffs, which was odd, considering this was supposed to be a schnellzug for prisoners - people bound for *correction facilities*. The food served was meager, and clearly to give you just enough to live. Upon arrival, I had the striking feeling of déjà vu. Had I done this before? I was removed from the train by numerous people, and thoroughly checked by security officials. After a brisk walk, we arrived. The facade of the *Correction Facility* was somewhat imposing, although the wide selection of colors intertwined within the building gave a more pleasant feel. I wasn't there for the view, unfortunately, and was escorted to a small room just north of the doors. In the hazy afternoon light, I could barely see the silhouette in the corner, it was Steve.

* * *





LMC's Advice Column

By Izzie Friedman and Nola Straub

Dear Podium,

My friends and I were going to have a great time on Halloween this year since last year we couldn't. But the other day we got into a big fight and I'm worried we won't make up in time and I'll have a terrible Halloween.

—Halloween Problems

Dear Halloween Problems,

I understand your concern. The feelings you are feeling are 100% valid. Some suggestions we have are maybe try to make up with this person! Trying to talk it out and find common ground is easier said than done though. If that is not helpful, and you or your friends still seem upset, try giving them a little space, and plan ahead. If you still don't make up by Halloween you can still have fun on your own! Grab the candy and relax in front of a scary movie.

Dear Podium,

I know it has only been like a month of school but I am feeling really overwhelmed with schoolwork and balancing it out. I have really bad time management skills but asking for an extension won't work because then I'll just put it off again. Please help!!

—Stressed Out

First, take a deep breath. Then, speak to your teachers and your parents and let them know how you feel. Your teachers can definitely help you learn time management skills so don't just ask for an extension – tell your teachers exactly what is difficult for you. The most important thing is to reach out for help when you feel overwhelmed. Don't keep it to yourself!





Community Awareness!

Mustaches For Kids makes a positive impact on the lives of children and their families facing cancer. MFK is a way to raise money for a great cause.

<https://giving.mskcc.org/having-fun-raising-money-mustaches-for-kids>

September was **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**, a time to recognize the children and families affected by childhood cancers and to emphasize the importance of supporting research on these devastating conditions.



LMC Annual Food Drive November 1–12

Please Donate Most Needed Items:

- Macaroni and Cheese (packaged)
- Peanut Butter (plastic jars)
- Canned Vegetables and Fruit
- Ramen Noodles
- Soups
- Hot and Cold Cereal
- Canned Proteins (i.e., Tuna or Beans)
- Granola Bars
- Rice/Pasta

THANK YOU!!





Nicki for the news section

Petra for the crafts section

Zephyr for the Review & short story section

Thomas for the short story section

Izzie and Nola for the advice column

Camille for editing

Ms. Mulligan for facilitating

AND HAPPY HALLOWEEN
FROM THE WHOLE PODIUM
CREW!!

