

THE HUGUENOT HERALD

Joker: The Making of a Supervillain

By Alex Streinger

This year has been very good to movie lovers, with blockbusters such as: Avengers: Endgame, Spider Man: Homecoming, and John Wick 3 being released. Standing above and beyond all these pictures and touching audiences around the world is the recently launched “Joker.” When the public heard of the making of this film, most expected a superhero-related movie. The movie is far from that, though. Usually, the Joker, always portrayed as a supervillain, is a character associated with Batman in the popular DC movies and comics. In this film, though, Batman is not even present – even if the location is the dark Gotham City.



“Joker” deals with mental health in a way that has been rarely seen in movie theaters. If one observes Joker throughout the movie, it becomes clear in the way he acts and interacts with people that he suffers from poor emotional health. Portrayed splendidly by actor Joaquin Phoenix, the story reveals a struggling man from the fictional Gotham City, who turns into the criminal mastermind Joker. The man, whose name in the movie is Arthur, is between jobs, and he lives with a laughing condition which makes him vulnerable to be made fun of by the people in the city. His life before his switch from Arthur to Joker makes audiences feel empathy for the “villain” in this movie. From firsthand experience, the movie leaves a mark on you when you leave the theater both mentally and physically. I was tense, but also intrigued and thoughtful by the time the film credits appeared at the end of the show.

Many large news sites have discussed the possibility that the Joker movie is dangerous, a threat to those watching it because of its unusual level of psychological (besides physical) violence. I struggle to describe why the movie is so scary, but it is something spectators quickly understand when they watch the film. In my opinion, even though the movie is violent in more than one way, it shouldn't be seen as threatening. It simply shows an alternate society where things are crazier, and people are different than the world today. In sum, the controversy does not take the magic away from the movie, which is simply fantastic.

New Technology Updates

By Ben Feinblum

Brand new this year, every issue of the Huguenot Herald will include a tech update, encompassing everything from Apple products, to new games, or just technology that just sparks interest.



Drones, Action Cameras and Gimbals

First up: GoPro. The Hero 8 Black was released October first, introduced as a full-fledged camera, able to go beyond extreme action recording. It's advertised a camera you can film with, vlog with, and a capture great videos with. It lists for \$399, which was the same price as the previous Hero 7 Black. The feature selling point of this camera is its accessories, which now allow it to have a flip-up screen, a shotgun mic and LED spotlights. It also features the standard mount built into the bottom of the GoPro, so you no longer need any additional cases. As far as the internals are concerned, the camera sports Hypersmooth 2.0, the next generation of GoPro's image stabilization technology. New HDR (high dynamic range) technology, TimeWarp 2.0 and LiveBurst are all packed into this tiny camera. If you've got \$400 lying around, this camera seems like a great buy, especially if you plan on vlogging or doing basic videography work. But if you plan to use it for everyday activities or sports, save yourself \$70 and go with the Hero 7 Black. And, if you're looking to save even more, GoPro is offering \$100 off the Hero 8 with the trade-in of any camera from any manufacturer, working or not. The camera started shipping October 15th, so happy filming.

In August, DJI released the Osmo Mobile 3, a gimbal meant to take advantage of your phone's camera, turning it into a steady filming machine. The 3rd iteration of this mobile gimbal has added the ability to fold the gimbal for storage, faster activation of Sport Mode, which allows faster tracking, and reduced the gimbal overall weight, allowing for easier transportation. the base kit goes for \$119, and the expanded kit, which includes a case and tripod, goes for \$139. However, on October 11, Zhiyun, a competitor of DJI, announced a brand new gimbal meant for DSLR and mirrorless cameras, packing a 14-hour battery, 150% of the previous versions torque, and the ability to turn your phone into a monitor. The new gimbal goes on sale for \$439 and includes wireless control, smart tracking capabilities and the ability to have the gimbal move in accordance with your phone.

No new notable consumer drones have been released recently, but I did find a drone that was quite interesting. It's called the Anvil, and it is designed to destroy other drones by smashing into them at 100mph. The drones will be used by federal authorities and the military to destroy illegal or dangerous UAVs.

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New Website Coming Soon!

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Apple

The release of iOS and iPadOS include Dark Mode, which converts every white or light gray coloring of an app and iOS to a dark gray, making it easier on the eyes and reportedly improving battery life. Dark Mode allows users to experience any Apple app, as well as Gmail, Instagram, Amazon Kindle, Evernote, Facebook Messenger, Google Drive and more in a darkened state. In addition to iOS 13, iPadOS was released, designed to be an operating system specifically for iPads, independent from iOS. iPadOS packs tons of new features, including the ability to manipulate spaces differently, shrink the full-size keyboard so that it can be used one-handed, and most noticeably, allow notifications and widgets to be displayed on the home screen alongside other apps.

A tradition as old as the original iPhone itself, new rumors suggest an updated iPhone SE being released in the coming months. Nothing is definite yet, but most leaks and mock-ups suggest an iPhone 8 like device, sporting touch ID, a single camera, and the internals of an iPhone 11, including the A13 Bionic processor. Rumors suggest a release in early 2020, most likely in January. And for those who dismissed the 11 Pro for its thousand dollar price tag, the new SE may start around 400 dollars, a much more reasonable haul.

Additionally, Google Photos now offering free, unlimited full quality storage for all photos taken on your iPhone. This means that you no longer need to pay extra for iCloud or delete apps to make space, as all your photos will be saved to Google Drive, where you can access them from any device. Ironically enough, Google originally announced the new Pixel 4, Pixel's 2, 3 and 3a will not have unlimited storage, as their files are much larger per image, but retracted their statements.

Amazon/Alexa

In an event closed to press, Amazon released a slew of new Alexa products. The 4th version of the Echo Dot has been released, (but still called third Generation) now including a clock built into the exterior fabric. Amazon also released a new speaker targeted at high-end consumers and audiophiles, which produces a clearer, louder and more three dimensional sound according to Amazon. Also in this release of products was were a few oddities, like Echo Frames (glasses), Echo Loop (a ring), and Echo Buds (earbuds), all of which allow you to use Alexa on the go. The ring and glasses are not available to the public, yet. They are currently being sold on an invitation-only basis, so we'll have to wait and see if they're worth it. If you can't wait until they go widespread, you can apply to be an early adopter of the product and will be sent a review copy. Less important, but also released was a new Echo Show and an Echo Smart plug. But notable of all is that all Echo devices can now speak Spanish in the U.S.

The Big Topic: Global Warming

By Alex Streinger



Global warming is a matter that, for the last decade, has slowly risen in terms of relevance to public opinion. At this point, its centrality became a worldwide phenomenon. With people all around the globe coming together to protest and demand changes, the matter has caught the eye of many politicians. In the United States, several candidates running for president in 2020, such as Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, have included global warming as a pivotal subject to address in

their campaigns. Incredibly, some members of the current federal administration do not believe in the relevance – or even existence – of the matter.

Recently, one advocate in particular has come into the spotlight: teenager Greta Thunberg. The activist delivered a tear-filled speech at the September 2019 UN Climate Action Summit in New York, bashing world leaders for not doing enough to combat the threat of global warming, mostly by ignoring the science behind the climate crisis. In support of her leadership, New York City schools dismissed students to allow them to participate in protests around the city.

A major aspect of the current climate change, global warming has been demonstrated by direct temperature measurements. The term refers to the mainly human-caused increase in global surface temperatures. Some people believe that because it is not hot on one specific day, global warming just might not be happening. But that's not how it works. Global warming has a direct relationship to gradual, constant changes in temperature, whether a sudden increase or decrease in heat.

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Overall, the media, including social media, has been a central ally in spreading information about climate change. It will be up to us, teenagers and young people to build awareness about the subject and avoid its worse consequences.

Disney Plus Streaming Service to Start Soon

By Connor Fieldale

Starting on November 12, you will be able to purchase the Disney Plus streaming service. What will this streaming service offer? It will offer all of the Disney classics, including films by Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic. There will also be classics from 21st Century Fox such as “The Sound of Music,” “The X-Men,” “Avatar,” and “King's Men.” Disney acquired 21st Century Fox in March 2019 for a whopping \$71.3 billion dollars. In this purchase they also acquired Fox’s TV assets, such as “The Simpsons,” “Family Guy,” “Futurama,” and “Bob's Burgers.” Disney will also offer TV shows



and some new original content. Some new original content coming to the streaming service is “The Mandalorian,” a revival of “The Lady and the Tramp,” “Star Wars: The Clone Wars,” “The Falcon,” “The Winter Soldier” and several other original TV shows and movies. Disney Plus is Disney’s effort to hop into the “streaming wars” and compete with services such as Netflix. Disney has already taken back its assets from Netflix, such as “Luke Cage,” “The Defenders,” and more. When Disney’s Bob Iger was asked about the streaming service, he told CNBC, “I’m pretty optimistic, particularly when you make it accessible because of the content we’re putting on, because of the user interface and because of the price.” Bob Iger has also stepped down from his chair at Apple since they are also starting their own streaming service. Apple, Hulu, Netflix, and now Disney are all stepping into the “streaming wars,” with Netflix at the top for now. Disney plus will start streaming on November 12, 2019 for a price of \$6.99/month or \$69.99/year.



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adj. not artificial, fraudulent, or illusory

adj. showing no prejudice for or against something; impartial

n. a report of a recent event; intelligence; information

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