

THE OGA TIMES

APRIL 19, 2024



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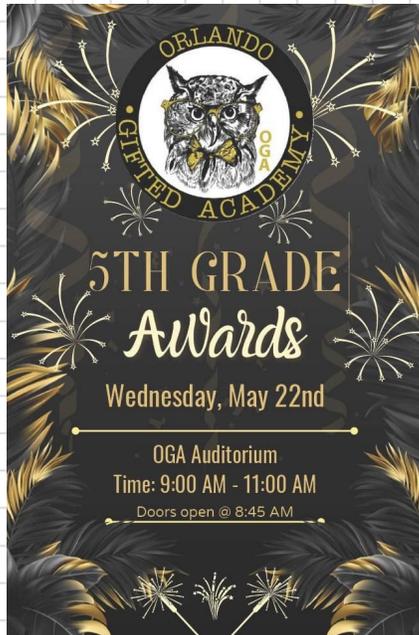
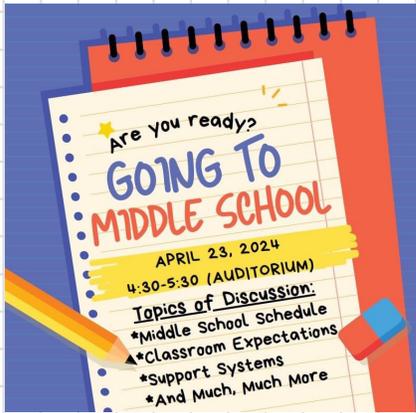
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“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain”
- Dolly Parton

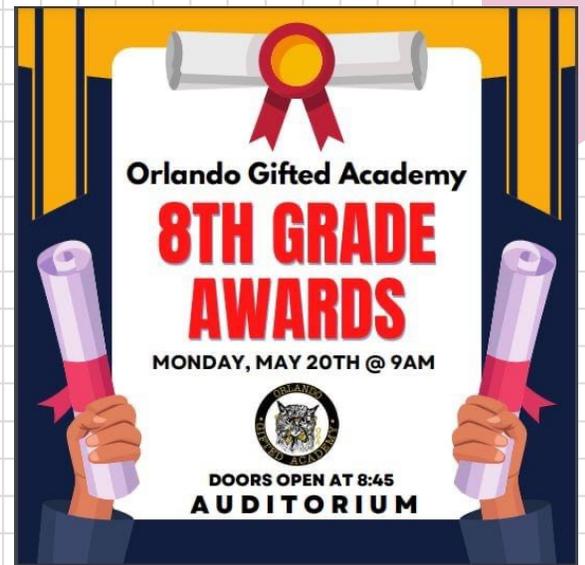
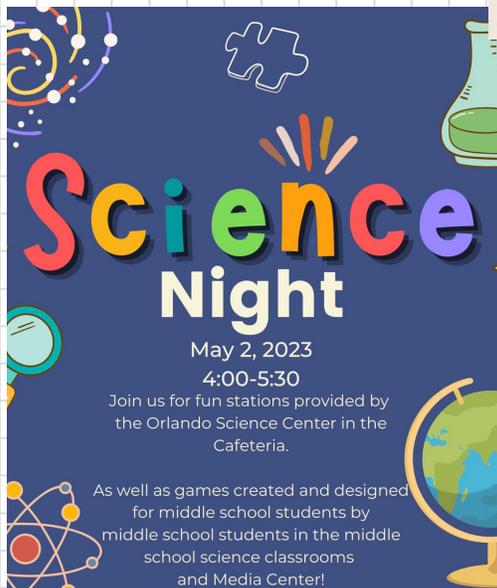


Clubs and Posters



ORLANDO GIFTED ACADEMY TESTING DATES

Date	Test
4/1/2024	B.E.S.T. Writing 4th and 5th
4/2/2024	B.E.S.T. Writing 6th-8th
5/1/2024	Spring FAST PM3 ELA 2nd-5th
5/2/2024	Spring FAST PM3 Math 2nd-5th
5/6/2024	Statewide Science Assessment 5th Grade
5/7/2024	NGSSS Civics EOC Statewide Science Assessment 8th
5/8/2024	Spring FAST PMA 3 ELA 6th-8th
5/9/2024	Spring FAST PM3 Math Middle B.E.S.T. Algebra I and Geometry EOC
5/13/2024-5/17/2024	Common Final Exams 5th-8th



Owl Messenger Crew



Editor In Chief: Kristina K.
 Co-Editor 1: Sloane H.
 Co-Editor 2: Lexi G.
 Writers: Jacob A, Amaya A, Natalie B,
 Reagan C, Amelia L, McKenzie L,
 Alexis M, Kristina K, Genevieve A,
 Carter J, Courtney Z and Cadence L.
 Advisor: Mrs. Olowu



Utopian Vs Dystopian Societies

By: Amaya A.

There are many books and TV shows about dystopias and utopias and usually, they go hand in hand where the utopia crumbles and turns into a dystopian society but what is the difference?

Where it comes from

They are part of a large umbrella of speculative fiction or science fiction. It includes sci-fi, sci-fantasy, sci-horror, supernatural, apocalyptic, alternative history, or other unrealistic fiction.

What is a utopia?

A utopia is perfect. There aren't problems like natural disasters, war, crime, disease, poverty, the list goes on. Usually, a utopia is built on the values of the writer. The word utopia comes from the greek word, Topos which usually means place and utopia means no-place. In short, utopias don't exist. Yet.

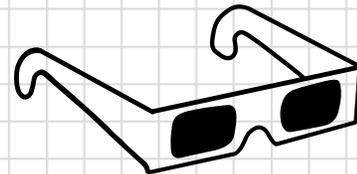
What is a dystopia?

Dystopias are usually not perfect in any way they take the problems in our world and make it more extreme. The prefix dys means bad or difficult.

E-mokymasis, emokymasis.weebly.com/.
Study.com, study.com/.

The Solar Eclipse

By: McKenzie L.



On April 8th, 2024, a solar eclipse occurred for the first time since 2017, when the moon completely blocked the Sun. The solar eclipse this year had a path of totality almost throughout the whole United States, and was the astronomical event of the decade! However, this year, Florida wasn't able to see the moon block the sun as a whole. We're in luck, almost all of Florida will be in the path of totality to see a total solar eclipse. So, what's the catch? It won't be happening for another 21 years. You might want to set aside for travel, in August of 2045, when Floridians will see the total eclipse. How long is it estimated to last? A total of 6 minutes and 6 seconds. The path of totality starts in California and goes all the way through the United States, and goes to Florida. Whether you're a fan of the solar eclipse or not, it's good to acknowledge it. So, mark your calendar for the upcoming total solar eclipse in 2045!

Robinson, Chelsea. "When is the Next Time Florida Will Be in the Path of Totality for a Solar Eclipse?" WESH, 9 Apr. 2024, www.wesh.com/article/florida-solar-eclipse-2045/60429968.

"Your Browser is Not Supported." Your Browser is Not Supported | News-press.com, 8 Apr. 2024, www.news-press.com/story/news/2024/04/08/total-solar-next-eclipse-2045-florida-path-of-totality-map/73241461007/.





Starbucks Mobile App

By: Genevieve A.



With over 10 million people coming in a year, Starbucks is one of the most popular food chains around the world. They have over 35,000 stores located in eighty different countries. Now, surprisingly, a lot of people would rather go in the drive-thru or go in the store to order; when you could easily just use their mobile app! However, only about 26% of people actually use this app, and that's just over 2 million. What I'm saying is, not a lot! And there are so many people who don't know the benefits of actually using this app. One of the major reasons people use this app is because of the star points. Star points are used when you buy a drink on the mobile app, and you can get points to get a free drink! As an example, let's say you have 100 points. If you go to Starbucks and want just plain coffee, you can use that 100 points to buy it. You can get one star per dollar, so that means if you buy a drink that is \$5.00, then that means you get five points.

Another reason that people use the mobile app is because it is easier for the drive-thru, or in-store pick-up. After all, you can just grab it, and go! This is helpful for not only you, but the workers too because if the lines are long, the workers have already prepared your drink and it goes by much faster.

So next time you go to Starbucks, make sure you use the mobile app so you can gain points and earn free things!

Fragassi, Selena. "Starbucks Rewards: You'll Need More Stars For Your Latte Starting Today." Yahoo Finance, 13 Feb. 2023, finance.yahoo.com/news/starbucks-changing-rewards-many-stars-205627315.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAACxigCLx8hZrQVSVGi9bLCCdBNVSVCr4n-Hs29XaK3CsRIMGWHNCw6n_Av3VxOyPBzMsxIzfYe3oCICiDmbQPq0lsslKDrthsYNNau10zZPKEmb-6E4OjRjZw9-rOqdMa4t_-cHyj6UkkxsBYJ5LhIC5lJYl8szwm8MZh83zK.
Per Diem | Premium Mobile Apps for Square POS, 17 Jan. 2024, www.tryperdiem.com.
ZipDo. "Essential Starbucks Customers Statistics in 2023 • ZipDo." ZipDo, 3 July 2023, zipdo.co/statistics/starbucks-customers/.



Barbie Movie Review

By: Cadence L.

This movie showcases Barbie's journey of self-discovery to love her true self. There is a lot of feminism and it is the perfect movie for people of any age, looking for a fun, uplifting movie. This film stars Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling. It was written by Noah Baumbach and directed by Greta Gerwig. The movie starts with clips of Barbie and Ken living their best life in Barbie land, where everything is perfect. Barbie goes to visit the real world and slowly learns how to appreciate herself, even if she isn't perfect.

I rate this movie a 9.5/10, it was a good movie, but there were some overacted parts. Overall, I recommend this to anybody who needs a movie recommendation or just wants a little pick-me-up.

**Mrs. Olowu says that this movie is rated PG-13 and you should ask permission before watching it.*



Neuralink: Playing Chess with your Mind



By: Carter J.

In February of 2024, Elon Musk announced that the first person with a Neuralink implant had left the hospital after a one-day recovery. People reacted with mixed feelings, some thinking this was a step in the right direction for technology, others thinking it was a rushed process and "inhumane" yet only time would tell. Time sure did tell.

On March 20, of the same year, the Neuralink account on X live-streamed a jaw-dropping display. The first Neuralink patient (Nolan Arbaugh) was shown playing chess on his computer with his mind! This shocked many people especially considering it had only been a month since the first patient even got the implant. Many of the people who doubted the possibilities of the technology had very swiftly changed opinions after seeing this impressive display. Nolan was able to play games like Civilization VI for "8 hours straight."

What does this mean for the future? Despite a questionable start, Neuralink seems to be pushing ahead with technology beyond what we thought was possible. If this is what Nolan can accomplish in one month, imagine what he will accomplish in a year from now!

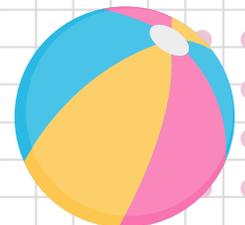
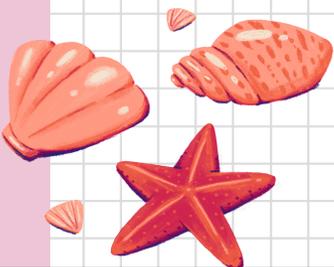
"Demonstrating Telepathy: Neuralink's First Brain Chip Patient Plays Chess with His Mind." *The Economic Times*, 21 Mar. 2024, economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/demonstrating-telepathy-neuralinks-first-brain-chip-patient-plays-chess-with-his-mind/articleshow/108669245.cms?from=mdr.
Potter, Will. "Elon Musk Reveals Breathtaking Footage of First Neuralink Patient." *Mail Online*, 21 Mar. 2024, www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13221011/Elon-Musk-Neuralink-brain-chip-telepathy-chess.html.



Top 5 fun summer activities

By: Cadence L.

- Make lemonade- This can be as easy or complicated as you want it to be, either way, it will turn out amazing, and be the perfect summer treat.
- Water Balloon Fight- The perfect way to cool down while having fun with friends. When there are water balloons around, everyone is having fun and no one is bored!
- Picnic- Get all of your favorite snacks and drinks and spend a day relaxing outside under a shaded tree with not a worry in your mind.
- Draw with chalk- The perfect activity that you can do almost anywhere you go, all you need is sidewalk chalk and a lot of imagination!
- Go to the movies- The perfect place to cool off after a long summer day, with the air conditioning and the newest releases of movies, you will be sure to have fun!



Student Interview

By: Alexis M.

Annabella P started at OGA this year and has already made many friends. She enjoys drawing and writing which makes sense because she's incredible at both. She's even in the process of writing a book! She is also part of the 10% of left-handed people. Along with drawing and writing, she also enjoys playing video games in her free time. And don't even forget how smart she is, most of the time when you ask someone about their favorite class they don't say math. Well, her favorite class at school is math. You wanna know why she likes math? "Because it's easy." But don't think that just because she's good at math and smart means that she doesn't know how to have fun. Like I said earlier, she likes drawing and writing, she is also extremely creative. She has also helped out with Ms. Bell's theater class by painting posters, boxes, and more!



Should Kids Have Limited Access To The Internet?

By: Reagan C.

Most kids these days have unlimited access to the internet and can look up and see almost anything by a simple search. But should they be allowed to? Some say it affects time management skills and how well you perform in school. They also say that it affects focus, a healthy lifestyle, academic performance, social interaction, and mental health and if you don't have unlimited access then you are challenged to think outside of the box. It also shows that it can improve your academic performance and a lot more because the distraction of the internet is gone.

There are many effects that the internet can have on children globally. For example, the internet can support kids by helping them research school projects, and communicating with teachers, their close friends, and parents. However, the internet can come with dangers online, inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and online predators. Is there a solution to this problem? Of course, parental controls are a perfect solution to this issue. When using social media, there should be boundaries, if there are not, the internet can take a turn for the worse.

By: Amaya A.

A Day in the life of a Cowboy

Cowboys in mainstream media today are extremely popularised, in old western movies and video games. What is a cowboy? Why did they exist?

Cowboys were part of the 1800's America. They usually had a lot of hard work, low pay, and little sleep. From sunrise to sundown, they were rounding up livestock and fighting off any threats to the herd, human or otherwise. They came from all lifestyles, war veterans, poor citizens, gunslingers, outlaws, retired lawmen, bandits, etc. They would share a small house and wouldn't take showers for weeks on end. They would spend their free time catching sleep, playing poker, or holding "kangaroo court" where a cowboy would be put on trial for oversleeping or something obscure and the others would carry out the sentence that more often than not would involve throwing them in a horse trough. Many of them died young, being claimed by accidents on the trail, as did native skirmishes, and disease.



"Cowboys The Old West America." Overview - Revelations - The Initial Journey, 4 June 2015, www.theinitialjourney.com/life-issues/cowboys-the-old-west-america/.



All About Apples

By: Alexis M.

Everyone loves apples, Honeycrisp, Granny Smith, Pink Lady, etc. Apples are amazing and typically the first fruit someone thinks of when told to name a fruit. Now yes, apples taste good, but they're also high in fiber, vitamin C, and various antioxidants. They're also high in water content! Enough about the health facts, for now at least. What about all the stuff you can make with apples? You can even make chips out of pies, juice, and smoothies! Did you know that over 2,500 varieties of apples are grown in the United States? And, fun fact, the average American eats 16 pounds of apples every year. It's no surprise how many apples we grow since we eat so many. This might be surprising and even sound wrong but apples are 25% air. Eating apples can also reduce the risk of cancer, so the saying "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." isn't completely wrong! Despite the high carb and sugar content, the glycemic index of apples is typically pretty low, ranging from 29-44. The glycemic index, or GI, is a measure of how food affects the rise in blood sugar after eating, low values of GI are commonly associated with various health benefits. Due to the high fiber and polyphenol counts, fruits tend to have a lower GI score. Apples are honestly great for health and with the different colors they can even be creative, and of course, everyone can collectively agree that Pink Lady Apples are the best.

BSc, Atli A. "Apples 101: Nutrition Facts and Health Benefits." *Healthline*, www.healthline.com/nutrition/foods/apples. Farms, Parlee. "Interesting Apple Facts to Know." *Parlee Farms*, 30 Aug. 2018, parleefarms.com/apple-facts/.



By: Carter J.

Why Was Godzilla Created?



The recent release of "GodzillaXKong: The New Empire" has left many people amazed by the movie and its action-packed adventure. One of its stars is the famous Godzilla. Godzilla first made his appearance on the big screen in Nagoya on, October 27, 1954, and was released to the rest of Japan on, November 3, 1954. He left an Impact on audiences which led to many sequels and even a successful American adaptation in 2014. One thing that has almost always been left behind in recent adaptations is the message Godzilla sends. What is that message though?

In the early-to-mid 1950s, Japan was still recovering from the impacts of the nuclear bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the 1940s. Despite this, America had still been testing its bombs at the time, one of those tests had gone wrong though. In 1954, America had decided to test one of their bombs, the bad news being that the explosion led to the radiation of a fishing vessel affecting 23 men in the process.

The event was proof that Nuclear radiation wasn't something that Japan only worried about amid war, but in life too. This event was the inspiration for Godzilla or "Gojira" as he was called originally. Director Ishiro Honda used not only this event but also the bombing in WWII as inspiration for the message he crafted in his movie. That message is that, while humans can stay curious, sometimes that curiosity and experimentation can lead to unforeseen consequences.

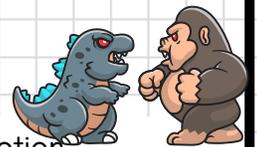
Godzilla may not convey the same message or story as before. What mattered though, was that people understood the message in the first place. The message that still rings true today. While nuclear radiation is impressive and fascinating, it just like anything else can cause many problems in the future.

"Godzilla' Was a Metaphor for Hiroshima, and Hollywood Whitewashed It." *NBC News*, 7 Aug. 2020, www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/godzilla-was-metaphor-hiroshima-hollywood-whitewashed-it-n1236165.

"Ishiro Honda: His Final Interview." *Toho Kingdom*, 29 Jan. 2023, www.tohokingdom.com/blog/ishiro-honda-his-final-interview/.

Merchant, Brian. "A Brief History of Godzilla, Our Walking Nuclear Nightmare." *VICE - VICE is the Definitive Guide to Enlightening Information*, 23 Aug. 2013, www.vice.com/en/article/9aaxze/godzilla-is-our-never-ending-nuclear-nightmare.

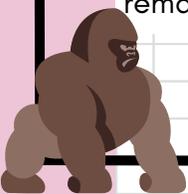
The Origins of King Kong By: Jacob A.



King Kong was released in 1933 to great acclaim because it pioneered movie stop-motion photography. King Kong summarized that a film crew took him from his home to New York where he then broke from captivity and kidnapped the lead actress of the film crew who took him originally. King Kong then takes the lead actress up the Empire State Building, where he is knocked down by a plane, falling to his death. In the same year, a sequel to the King Kong movie called "Son of Kong". In that movie, the man who took most of the blame for King Kong's destruction traveled to Skull Island; home of now deceased King Kong. They then save the son of King Kong, an albino ape from quicksand. The movie then ends with the son of King Kong saving the man from a sinking island. King Kong has made several major impacts on pop culture, from the early days with cinematic effects to remakes, reboots, and Hollywood fame.

Unpacking the meaning and impact of the King Kong myths. (2023, November 6). 33rd Square. <https://www.33rdsquare.com/unpacking-the-meaning-and-impact-of-the-king-kong-myths/>

G.Spider. (1933, April 7). *King Kong (1933)* ⭐ 7.9 | Adventure, horror. IMDb. https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0024216/?ref=ttls_li_tt

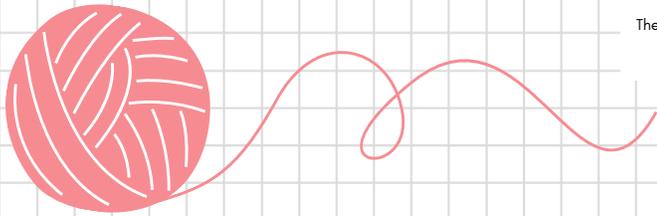


What animal judges us the most?

By: Reagan C.



Animals have emotions and are probably judging us as we speak. But what animal is judging us the most? I think cats judge us the most mainly because they are always sitting there and staring at us. Also, they sometimes give me a nasty look when I walk by them. Cats can tell to stay away from someone who yells at them versus someone who feeds them and treats them well. Some sources also say they're just trying to understand you and what you are going to do next, but I think they are judging us. They are constantly giving us a disappointed look like we just did something wrong but are they just resting or are they judging us? Cats are one of the most loved pets and they are also one of the most popular pets as well. Cats are also a very popular "funny" animal and there are many funny cat videos on the internet. So when cats are judgemental they show it in my opinion. That is why I think cats are the most judgemental animals.



The Animal Rescue Site. "Feline Behaviorist Reveals Why Cats Look Judgmental." The Animal Rescue Site News, 30 June 2022, blog.theanimalrescuesite.com/why-cats-look-judgmental/.



Should Facebook Be Banned?

By: McKenzie L.

Facebook is a noticeably popular app globally, with around 2 billion active users in a month, it ranks as the number one social media platform. As more and more people create an account daily, there are countless rising concerns about the app in society. Multiple people can argue that Facebook should be banned, to protect users from the negative effects. One of the most frequently made arguments is that Facebook damages people's mental health. For example, studies have shown how social media, specifically Facebook, can cause anxiety, depression, and even loneliness. This in particular is true for the people who spend most of their time on social media and compare it to their current lives to the lives on the platform. Another reason why some may argue that the platform should be banned is because it can be considered a source of spreading fake news. Facebook has been popularly criticized for spreading misinformation. This can be negative when it comes to politics and public health. By banning this popular social media platform, people wouldn't have to deal with negative mental health and misinformation. So, what do you think, should Facebook be banned?





Natalie's Ultimate List of Movie Genres

By: Natalie B.

1. Horror: The chase scenes are fun and the props are very impressive. The uniqueness and creativity of the villains are also an aspect I enjoy a lot.
2. Thriller: The thrill, hence the name, and suspense is exhilarating and fun. The music in the suspenseful scenes is almost always well-made and gives the nerve-wracking feeling that one is supposed to get.
3. Western: The cowboy and Wild West concept/scene has always been an interest of mine. Whether in movies, such as *The Ballad of Buster Scruggs*, or games, such as *Red Dead Redemption 1 and 2*, I've always found it interesting and very fun. The characters, story, and setting draw me in the most.
4. Crime: I find it interesting to hear the terrible things that happen. I'm not glad they happen, but they're cool to learn about.
5. Musical: The songs are often good and catchy. The stories, whether a reiteration of a famous movie or story or something original, are always fun, especially with the varying singers. The musicals can also be in any of the other genres.
6. Mystery: It's fun to try and solve the mystery before it's revealed, but sometimes it's revealed too quickly or after too long, which ruins the fun of it.
7. Science-Fiction: Like many others that come later on this list, many tropes are overused and it gets boring sooner or later. For example, aliens (world domination, abductions, etc.) are the most common, thus most overused, trope in Sci-Fi.
8. War: They can be both fictional wars such as aliens v.s. humans, or real-life wars that actually happened. I prefer the real-life ones since they show me parts of history that I find quite interesting.
9. Comedy: Sometimes they can actually be funny, but many times, the humor aspect is often followed by those old, annoying (personally) laugh tracks, which ruin it for me.
10. Action: Overused tropes, yet again. Sometimes, the SFX can be too much, even.
11. Adventure: Not as unique as it once was, yet another genre ruined due to overused tropes. The unique and impressive props are good nonetheless, though.
12. Animated: Many big animation companies (Disney, mostly) have worsened over time. The themes, plots, and characters have just become less appealing to me. I prefer older cartoons, in some cases.
13. Fantasy: As fun as they sometimes are, most tropes are overused at this point and have become much less unique and interesting.
14. Drama: I don't like all the emotional aspects that come from dramas, such as death betrayal, or romance.
15. Romance: All the sappy scenes where they cry, kiss, etc. are simply unappealing to me. It makes me uncomfortable to see people, even as actors, kissing or any other form of showing love, for some reason.





Is 'Cowboy Carter' Really Country?

By: Courtney Z.



Beyonce's latest release, "Act II: Cowboy Carter," is the second album in a three-part series. The album comprises 27 songs and is categorized as country, but there's a question mark over whether it truly fits the genre.

In my humble opinion, I do not think it is a country album. Compared to most country albums and singers the songs are more simple compared to how Beyonce's songs sound. I also feel that there are a lot of features and covers in the album and some are good and some are not. For example, her cover of "Jolene" originally by Dolly Parton, has gained a lot of criticism online, and I agree. In the original version, Dolly sounds like she is begging when she sings the words "Jolene, Jolene, Jolene, Jolene. I'm warning you don't come for my man." while Beyonce's has more of a demanding tone to it. Also, her line about her being "crazy" and being a "Creole banjee...from Louisiana" just rubbed me the wrong way and kind of just ruined the whole vibe of the song.

I enjoyed most of the songs on the album, and while I could say more, I don't think Beyonce could pull off country music. It's not that she's unable to do it, but her voice and style are so distinctive that it's hard to imagine her singing in a different genre.




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