

- Kaufman discovers TikTok music
- EG suggests new movies and TV

CULTURE

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Sanders speaks on Meghan Thee Stallion and Tory Lanez drama

by **Ethan Sanders**
People Editor

In his recently released self-titled album *Daystar*, rapper **Tory Lanez** (whose real name is Daystar Peterson) addresses the allegations that he shot **Megan Thee Stallion** on Jul. 12, thrusting both of them back under public scrutiny and into headlines.

Earlier this summer, the Los Angeles Police Department responded to a “shots fired” incident report in the Hollywood Hills. Police reported that an argument between Lanez and the WAP rapper (whose real name is Megan Pete) started inside the vehicle in which they were both riding until gunshots were fired and the vehicle fled the scene. That night, Police arrested and charged Tory with carrying a concealed firearm in his vehicle, but released him later on a \$35,000 dollar bail bond.

In August, Megan Thee Stallion took to Instagram Live to claim that the Broke In A Minute rapper had shot her in both feet as she was walking away from the argument the two had in July; however, on the night of the altercation, Pete only told police that she had stepped on broken glass, afraid that if she mentioned the involvement of a gun,

police would start shooting. “I didn’t tell the police nothing, because I didn’t want us to get in no more trouble than we was about to get in.”

After Megan Thee Stallion officially named Lanez as her assailant and accused him and his team of lying about the shooting, the L.A. County District Attorney’s office began studying the potential charge of felony assault with a firearm in connection to the case, which is still fully under investigation.

Breaking months of silence following the shooting allegation, Lanez dropped his album, *Daystar*, in which he suggests he is innocent and that “Megan[s] people are trying to frame [him] for a shooting.” Throughout the album, Lanez not only paints himself as the victim of lies and challenges Pete’s account of what actually occurred, but also calls out others who have taken her side in the debate, including singers Kehlani and Kaash Paige. Lanez also takes

verbal shots at the likes of Chance The Rapper, Lakers player J.R. Smith, and rapper Asian Doll.

The Los Angeles Times later confirmed that Tory Lanez apologized to Megan Thee Stallion over text following the incident, claiming that he “got too drunk” after a night of partying. Nonetheless, Tory Lanez’s aggressive denial of the shooting allegations and disses towards others have drawn criticism from Megan Thee Stallion’s legal team, as well as the public. The Savage rapper’s attorney, Alex Spiro, warned of Lanez allegedly running a “smear campaign” against his client, stating that “a calculated attempt [was made] to peddle a false narrative about the events that occurred on July the 12th.”

On Oct 8., the L.A. County District Attorney charged Tory Lanez with one count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm and one count of carrying a loaded, concealed firearm in a vehicle. If convicted of both charges, he faces a maximum sentence of 22 years and eight months in state prison.

(Sources: BBC, LA Times, Complex, LAPD, CNN)



B. Gibson

TikTok music creators wow Kaufman

by **Georgia Kaufman**
Humor Editor

Over the course of quarantine – and what has seemed like a gajillion years – many new music artists gained popularity due to COVID-19 and TikTok. And I’m not talking about popular creators like Dixie D’amelio, or ANY members of the Hype House, but rather the underground artists who have evolved since Mar. 13.

Since the beginning of quarantine in mid-March, I have gotten the opportunity to listen to some of these artists. A few of my personal favorites include groups like Avenue Beat, Ant Saunders, and Emmett Mulrooney – artists of songs *F2020*, *Yellow Hearts*, (a throwback, I know) and *IDC 4 TODAY* respectively. Whether you know them or not, you should, especially since this recommendation is coming from the girl who only listens to members of the Rat Pack in her free time. TikTok has given us the opportunity to discover so much new talent and different types of music, not to mention the chance to explore and uncover old music legends. If you follow my page, you know that you are blessed with older and heavily unappreciated artists (for this generation), like **FRANK SINATRA** and, well, **Frank Sinatra** to name one.

Expanding to a brand new repertoire of music benefits more than just the listeners, though. Users’ willingness to listen assists the artists themselves and contributes to their growth as musicians. Most posts I see on my For-You page about asking fellow fans of the app to go and stream said songs have resulted in overwhelmingly

positive results. While starting their music careers as a spontaneous decision, most have eventually led to not only a successful song, but also a great following on TikTok. This just goes to show how much technology allows us to reach out and make an impact with our creations.

Don’t even think I would forget about the multitude of absolute bangers which produce the most perfect TikTok sounds. Ever since I heard Miley Cyrus sing, *Heart of Glass*, my life has never been, and never will be, the same.

Although many of the musicians whom I’ve listened to (all thanks to TikTok) are amazing and better than I have ever hoped for, some of the artists I have encountered are — how do you say — not so good? Take, for instance, *Miss Girl*, *Dixie D’amelio*. Sometimes, she just does NOT want to be happy. Don’t question it either, otherwise she and her army of “same guy, different fonts” will definitely attack you.

Let’s just hope that TikTok doesn’t get banned on Nov. 12, so that people who appreciate this new music they get to encounter just like they do their ‘Discover Weekly’ tab on Spotify, aren’t so disappointed. To be extremely clear: I will be VERY disappointed.

Holland praises new Avatar series

by **Lucy Holland**
Culture Editor

With its re-release on Netflix over the summer, *Avatar*, *The Last Airbender*, renewed the interest of viewers worldwide, quickly topping charts once again. At its initial release, it was the highest-rated animated show in its demographic and stayed that way until its end. So, I pose this question: what makes *Avatar*, the *Last Airbender*, so good?

First, I must address the main draw of the show: the bending. In the world of *Avatar*, certain citizens possess the ability to bend elements. Earth, air, water, and fire are manipulated to the bender’s will. A water bender can move, freeze, or melt water as they please, while fire benders can create bursts of fire with their hands and feet.

The believability of this magic system sets the show apart from others with similar concepts. Viewers can imagine themselves manipulating the ground they stand on, or moving the air around themselves to fly.

The show’s creators went to great lengths to research different forms of martial arts to base bending styles on. Water benders adapt to the environment around them, using more control than strength in their slow, steady Tai Chi inspired movements, whereas earth benders are known for their stubbornness and holding their ground, which is based on the strong-stanced Hung Gar form of Kung Fu. Firebenders use the Northern Shaolin-style of fighting with powerful leg and hand movements that fit perfectly with the aggressive and dynamic aspect of fire bending. Finally, the Bagua style fighting, or circle walking, brings airbending to life as the fighters constantly move around.

In the show, Aang the Airbender evades attacks using circular motions with his hands and body. Not only do the writers go into detail about the martial arts the four basic bending styles are based on, they also depict the nuanced details between the bending styles of individuals. Toph, an earth bender, uses a Kung Fu style known as Southern Praying Mantis. The close-ranged attacks and evasive maneuvers found in this specific style play into Toph’s character as a strong-rooted blind bender.

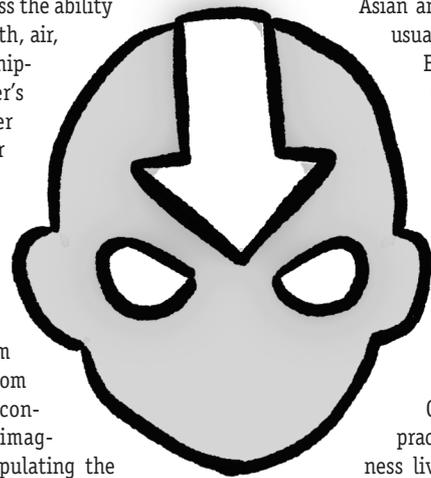
Another aspect of the show that makes it so beloved is the representation of Eastern Asian and indigenous cultures that are usually not present in kids shows.

Each of the four nations and other subgroups draw influence from real-life cultures. Inspired by Imperialist Japan, The Fire Nation ruthlessly conquers the rest of the world, whereas the Water Tribes pull influence from the Inuit and other Indigenous tribes. The expansive Earth Kingdom with the walled city of Ba Sing Sei reflects the sprawling country of China, and the Air Nomads who practice meditation and peacefulness live similarly to Tibetan Monks.

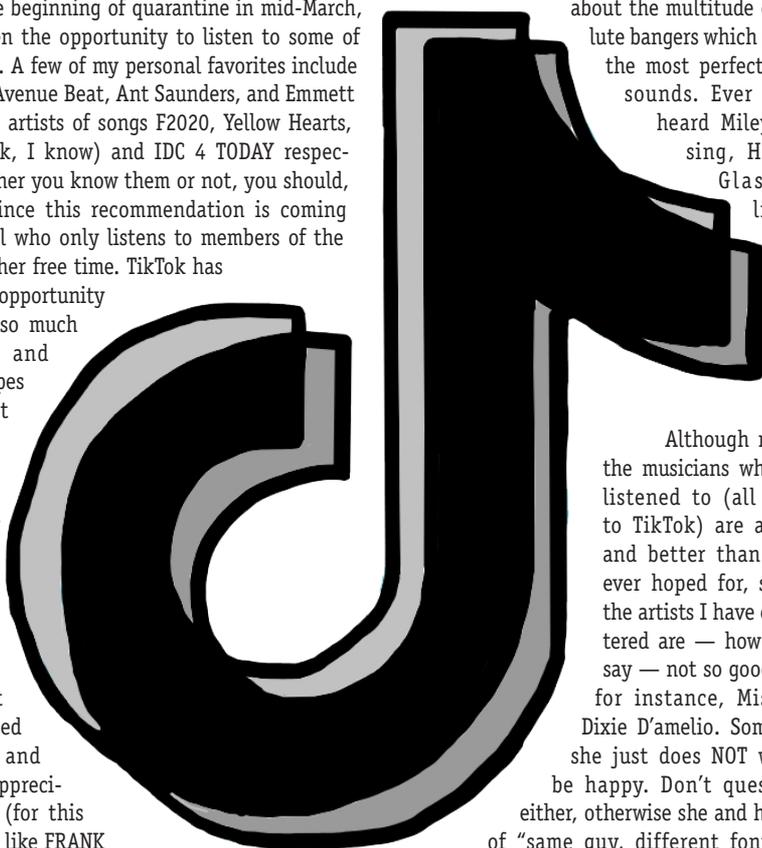
These real-life cultures that *Avatar* represents similarly play into the believability of the show, allowing viewers to immerse themselves fully in the world of *Avatar*.

I could go on for hours detailing how the show intertwines singular character development with the furthering of the characters’ bending skills or the complexities of the relationships between the main families, but I simply don’t have enough space and I am already over the allotted character count. So, I will end on this note: whether you’ve watched *Avatar: the Last Airbender* four times through or you are just getting into it, pay attention to the details because they uncover the brilliance of the creators of the show.

(Sources: Bridgewater State, Men’s Health, Screen Rant, Baron News, Nickelodeon)



B. Gibson



C. Wagner

El Gato Recommends: television favorites and new films

Hubie Halloween: Although Halloween activities like trick-or-treating may look a little different this year, the timeless tradition of watching Halloween movie classics remains untouched by COVID. Continue this cozy fall custom with Netflix’s latest twist on the holiday in Adam Sandler’s horror comedy, *Hubie Halloween*. The film brings together a cast of comedy’s best, including *Grown Ups*’ Julie Bowen, Kevin James, Maya Rudolph, Rob Schneider, Shaquille O’Neal, Steve Buscemi, *SNL*’s Kenan Thompson, and so many more. When people randomly start disappearing in Salem, MA, on Halloween night, the town turns to oddball Hubie Dubois, played by Adam Sandler, to solve the eerie mystery. Start the spooky season off right by watching *Hubie Halloween* this October.

-Jenna Roselli, *Center Editor*

Barbie Life in the Dreamhouse: POV: You’re sitting in a room with your friends (or alone with a mirror. It never hurts to be seen with good-looking people), scrolling through Netflix, bored out of your mind, wondering what show to watch. Suddenly, the phone rings. It’s me. I point you to a show that NEVER FAILS to make me forget about my AP Euro homework and recite the show word for word. *Barbie: Life in the Dreamhouse* follows Barbie and her fabby of BFFs through their lives in a ‘Real Housewives’ fashion. Full of golden schloned poofas and love triangles, *Barbie* never disappoints — just like my usage of three direct quotes from the show in this recommendation. Gazoontite!

-Georgia Kaufman, *Humor Editor*

Mama’s Boy: In his critically-acclaimed memoir, Academy Award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black recounts his unconventional coming-of-age story with

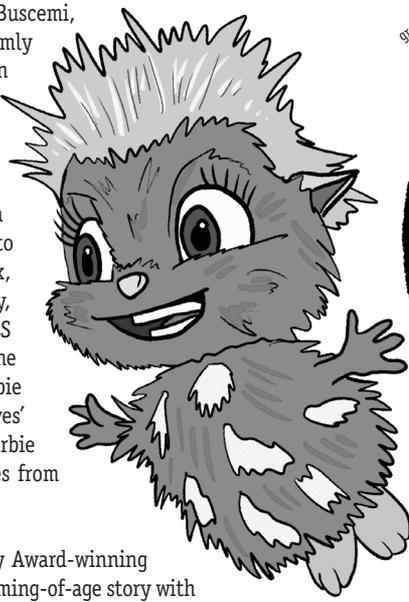
humor and honesty. Alongside their polio-stricken single mother, Black and his two brothers encounter abandonment, poverty, domestic violence, and find both refuge and betrayal within the Texas Mormon church. Despite his tumultuous childhood, Black ultimately grows up to come out to his family as gay, argue a case in front of the Supreme Court, become a successful Hollywood filmmaker, and start a family of his own; through it all, he remains his “Mama’s Boy.”

-Sasha Ryu, *Editor-in-Chief*

ALICIA: People are already feeling instantly uplifted and hopeful of a better future after listening to fifteen-time Grammy winner Alicia Keys’ latest album, *ALICIA*, released on Sep. 18. The artist fuses classic soul elements with evolved R&B cadence techniques to construct hits all music lovers can appreciate. Keys’ new album continues to showcase her ability to connect to all walks of life by writing about common goals like love and acceptance, as well as issues society faces today such as police brutality. The album includes several collaborations with other musicians such as R&B artist Khalid. *ALICIA* embodies vulnerability, love, perseverance, uncertainty, and trust. So, leave it to Alicia Keys to once again

connect humanity all over the globe through her music.

-Jenna Roselli, *Center Editor*



graphics B. Gibson

