

SVC Transition Year presents:

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Hope

A Tom Brady story

Tom Brady, one of the best American Football quarterbacks, was regarded as the slowest player in his position

Written by Seán Conroy, St Vincent 4

Tom Brady (Thomas Edward Patrick Brady, Jr.) is one of the best American Football quarterbacks of all time. The head coach of the New England Patriots got Brady as a backup quarterback. He was also regarded as the slowest player in his position.

He was told by certain NFL scouts he was not agile enough, not fast enough and did not have a strong arm. He kept working until he could go to the NFL Draft.

In college, he had to work into the starting position and he also had to be better than all the other quarterbacks that were in the same position as he was. In college, he excelled in baseball as well as football. He went to the University of Michigan where he kept playing football. That meant that he had to give up baseball. In 1999 he led the University of Michigan to win the Orange Bowl – a big annual football game. He got a big reputation after this victory.

He was drafted by The New England Patriots in 2000 he was the sixth pick in the NFL Draft for his position. In the second game in the 2001 season the starting quarterback got injured and Tom was chosen to play in the position. After that he helped the Patriots win the Superbowl with an 11-3 record.

He also received a Pro Bowl nomination after guiding the Patriots to the Superbowl. He helped the Patriots win 6 Superbowls and then he moved to Florida to join up with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

He has won 7 MVP's making him one of the most successful quarterbacks. He has also won 7 Superbowl rings. Some pundits called him the G.O.A.T. which is an acronym for the greatest of all time. In the 2011 season he passed for 5,232 yards along with another quarterback named Drew Brees. The Patriots became one of the most elite teams in the NFL posting an incredible 40-12 record. In May of 2015 Brady was suspended for 4 games because he was involved in a ball deflation act in the AFC Championship game. In 2016 he was suspended for another 4 games. He also has a performance website called TB12.

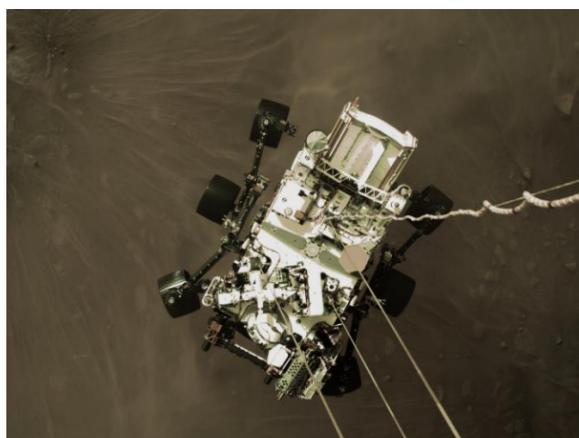
How about History?

Perseverance: How Did We Get Here?

Written by Tom Walsh, St Laurence 4

On the 18th of February, NASA successfully landed the Perseverance rover on Mars. It was the centrepiece of the Mars 2020 program, having been launched in July of last year, and carried with it a promise that we will one day walk on the red planet. On board was a coring drill to preserve samples before people land on Mars,

an experimental oxygen generator to see how future astronauts could survive on a Martian base, and a helicopter called Ingenuity to test the concept of flying on another planet. This is a massive step for humanity, and so in this issue of How About History I will look into Percy's predecessors and how they helped to bring us to this precipice of Martian exploration.



One of the first images released of Perseverance landing on Mars

The first missions to Mars were launched by the USSR in the 1960s, but of the first 5 only one was even partially successful. The aptly named Mars 1 spacecraft flew past the surface of Mars in 1963 sending 61 messages back to Earth before failing.

GameStop scandal



Private investors used trading platform to increase GameStop's share price, causing €4.2 billion hedge funds losses.

Read more on p.2.

There would not be a truly successful mission to Mars until NASA launched Mariner 4 in 1965. It not only completed a full flyby, but sent the first close-up images of a planet other than Earth. Data sent by the craft showed no magnetic field or radiation layers on the planet, dashing hopes of life on Mars. It also showed craters and temperatures on Mars, meaning NASA scientists had new information to make their first rover.



Mariner 4, surprisingly not a component of the Death Star

The first Martian rover was the Sojourner rover, which touched down on Mars alongside the Pathfinder lander in 1997. It looked nothing like the more modern rovers we see today, having no distinctive “head” with a camera on it, or even a nuclear battery which is now commonplace on rovers. It looked a lot more like a golden box with a black top housing solar panels, and a small antenna to transmit data. It was originally designed to only be active for a Martian week, but due to the fact that JPL care about as much about how long something is meant to last as they do about whether putting a nuclear reactor on Mars is doable or not, the rover lived for nearly 3 months instead.



Sojourner investigates a rock named after Yogi Bear while Pathfinder watches

The Sojourner rover was by no means perfect. It was solar powered, a problem that most famously reared its head when Opportunity was killed by a dust storm in 2018. It also had a non-rechargeable battery, which meant that it only had a limited ability to conduct night operations. Regardless, the ability to put a moving research base on Mars was a massive leap forwards. Since Sojourner, over half of the objects NASA put on Mars have been mobile.



“My battery is low and it’s getting dark” -last words of Opportunity “Oppy” Rover, 2004-2018

Perseverance is by no means the first of its kind, but it might be surprising to learn that its design has been used before as well. Curiosity, launched in 2011 and landed in 2012, used the same nuclear battery and chassis that Perseverance would incorporate 9 years later. It collects dust samples to experiment on, which is what distinguishes it from Perseverance, which drills rock samples and drops them in its path.



Curiosity takes the ultimate location selfie

Even from this very brief history, it is clear to see that Percy is in good company. With his first movements only just occurring last Friday, he has quite the future ahead of him, and if his big sister Curiosity is to be any reference, it will surely help us dramatically in our understanding of the massive universe around us.

In case you missed it: The GameStop saga

Written by Arran McEntaggart

Quite recently US game retailer GameStop was subject to a fierce battle between hedge funds and so called private “day traders”.

The investor then immediately sells that share for €2. They then anticipate and hope that the price of the share drops. If the share value let’s say drops to €1, the borrower will pay back the share (which is worth €1 and then pocket the difference).

The hedge funds headache

A Massachusetts man who goes by the “Roaring Kitty” on social media helped fuel the frenzy around GameStop.

Private investors used trading platform to increase GameStop’s share price, causing €4.2 billion hedge funds losses

The private investors, co-ordinating in groups on Reddit, used the trading platform Robinhood to increase GameStop’s share price inflicting over €4.2 billion in losses on the hedge funds.

What is short selling?

In my own words, short selling is when an investor borrows someone’s share let’s say, for €2.

His \$53,000 investment in the company briefly reached \$48 million in value. In mid-2019 he Roaring Kitty shared with reddit his investment of \$53,000 dollars, he was barely recognised in doing this and users only engaged to mock him.

Keith Gill’s spirits were not dampened however and he proceeded to tweet constantly over the next year about GameStop. Gill began to amass a large amount of followers on Reddit who would

imitate every move he would make and too, launch investments into GameStop.

Mr. Gill has inspired many young traders with comments such as “your example has changed the lives of thousands of ordinary people, seriously, thank you.”

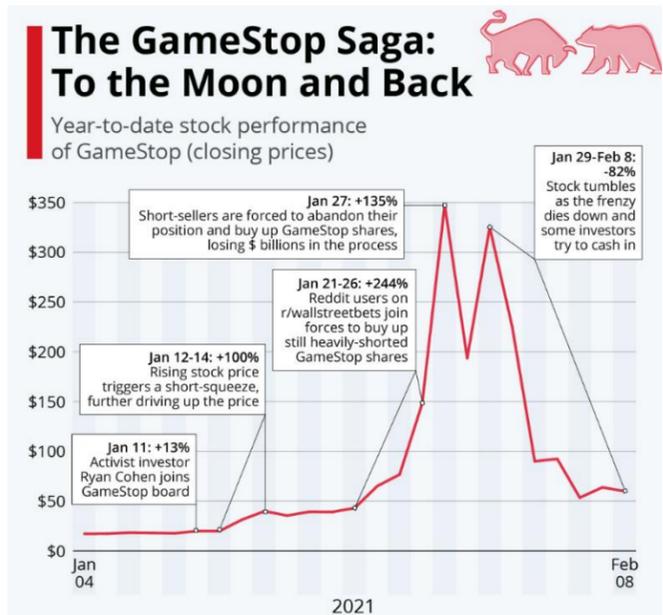
It is a story never to forget as young, individual day-traders took the bull by the horns and took it for a wild ride and

disembarked with wealth and empowerment.



The GameStop Saga: To the Moon and Back

Year-to-date stock performance of GameStop (closing prices)



GameStop share price: Yahoo! Finance, Statista

Jan 25,

Share price soars 144% mainly fuelled by online traders.

Jan 26,

Elon musk tweets "Gamestonk!!!"



Jan 28,

Robinhood temporarily restricts trading in Gamestop.

GameStop share price: Yahoo! Finance, Statista