# PRIDE PRESS



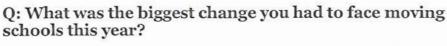
Winter Edition

2022

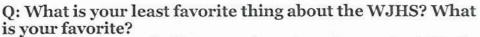








A: "Bigger kids, bigger problems."



A: I don't like how early I have to wake up to go to our school. My favorite thing about the WJHS are the students here.

Q: What does a typical day look like for you as our principal? A: I have to wake up at 4 am, and get here at 6. Throughout the day I get to meet with the students, teachers, and other staff members throughout the building. I go home at around 5-6pm, but if my kids have any extra activities, I go home later.



# Q: Has your motive/goal as a leader changed ever since you came to the Junior High School?

A: No, I have the same goal. I want to help the students here get the best education possible. I have to go over all these brick walls and hurdles, but if that's what it takes to help our kids, I'll do it.

Q: How would you describe an effective school principal in three words?

A: Present, visible, and active. A principal needs to be there for their students and be actively involved in helping them through everything.

Q: What are your goals for this school over the next five years?

A: For our school, I plan on increasing attendance throughout all grades. I would like to increase the achievements our kids are capable of getting, and I would like to increase parent involvement and interaction at school events and other school-related things.

Q: Have you always worked at West, or have you worked at East or any other school before here?

A: I started here at Pocono Mountain [WJHS] as an assistant principal. I then went to Clear Run for three years. And now, finally, I am back here again. It is my 5th year here [at PM].

Q: What motivated you to become a leader in education?

A: I would always lead things when I was younger. I became a teacher and I loved teaching so much before, so I followed suit with education [teaching in Nazareth School District] and continued learning. Because I continued, I eventually became a principal.



The Vaughn family enjoying some time together

# Q: How do you balance such a large job as our principal and as a parent at home?

A: I schedule everything. Time management is very important to balancing everything.

(continued on pg.2)

## Welcome, Ms. Grindle!

By Eliza Straukas

Q: How is your first year going?

A:My first year is really fun, I like the different role. I also like helping all students instead of only a few kids that I work with in a classroom. I also like making a difference.

O: What made you want to become an administrator?

A: Most of the stuff I said before, but I also wanted to support teachers. After being a teacher for 15 years I wanted to help teachers and students more.

Q: What is your opinion of the district?

A: I graduated from PMSD, so I am a little biased. I think it is a very special district overall.

Q: Was it difficult to transition from teaching to administration?

A: There is not a lot of difficulty. I still like that I am helping students and teachers. I feel like it was an easy transition.



Photo credit to pmsd.org

0: What from teaching helps you with administration?

A: Teaching before helped with learning how to interact with different people. Classroom management to school management is very similar. Working as a teacher for so long made me realize I can have fun and not always take things so seriously.



Ms. Grindle and her boys just relaxing together. Photo credits: Ms. Grindle

Q: Where and what did you teach? And how long did you teach?
A: I taught at Wallenpaupack- kindergarten and 2nd grade, Daytona Beach, FL3rd grade, PMSD—3rd grade and K-6 reading specialist, JTLambert-7th and 8th
grade reading. I have been teaching for 15 years."

Q: Could you introduce us to your family?

A: "I have two sons, Jaiden and Jasiah. Jaiden is 14, in 8th grade at East junior high school. He plays baritone saxophone, basketball, and throws for track and field. Jasiah is 9, in 4th grade at SIS. He does Odyssey of the mind and plays basketball. I also have a cat named Bean who is 3 and is a mama's boy. I also have a dog named Mello who is 2 and is also a mama's boy."

Q: Does administrating on West side and having kids on East side cause conflict?

A: There is no conflict other than when the schools are playing each other in sports.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

(Dr. Vaughn's interview continued from page 1)

Q: If you had to watch one streaming service for the rest of your life, what would it be? A: It would be Hulu, and I would watch Grey's Anatomy.

Q: If one movie/show soundtrack would play in the background of your life, what would it be?

A: It would be Wicked. It is a great play.

Q: Let's say that you were an explorer, what island would you pick to build your colony/fortress?

A: Anywhere in the Caribbean. Anywhere where it's nice and hot.

Q: Is there anything you would like to add before I finish? A: I'm ready for an awesome school year.





# It's That Time of Year!



Homeroom

As we head into the snowiest and coldest time of the year here in Northeast PA, we all need to remember that school closings could occur. This year, Pocono Mountain will utilize up to five online flexible-instruction days (FID's) which allows the district to continue classroom instruction in any situation that would require a school closure. It may not be the most optimal learning situation; however, it provides continuity and an earlier ending date in June. Here are a few reminders about FlD's:

**NOTIFICATION:** All PM families will be notified through automated phone and emails, postings on the district website, social media, and local news outlets.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to use Google Classroom/ Meet, etc. Classes follow a one-hour delay schedule that begins with Homeroom (8:10) and follows a daily schedule. Be sure to:

- Answer the attendance questions posted (including homeroom)
- Be on time and <u>remain</u> in the class for the 30- minute period
- Participate in the live-stream lessons
- Complete all activities/assignments

Teachers will make every effort to assign an approximate time to each activity or assignment "...equivalent to time spent on a similar activity on a regularly scheduled class period. Any student who does not attend class, complete the activity/assignments will be marked "absent" and will receive a zero on any graded work not submitted."

\*All teachers will be available to answer questions during live-streaming and/or district email (8:10am- 2:40pm)

ABSENCES: All excuses must be turned in within three days after returning to school. And as always, if you were absent and missed any part of the school day, check with your teachers for all missed work.

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Resource: More detailed information can be found on the district's website <a href="https://www.pmsd.org/cms/lib/PA01916596/Centricity/Domain/13/Virtual%20Day%2022.23.pdf">https://www.pmsd.org/cms/lib/PA01916596/Centricity/Domain/13/Virtual%20Day%2022.23.pdf</a>

8:10

8:25

## **PMWJHS HAPPENINGS**

# **Musical Opportunities at WJHS**

By Mya Aragona-Young and Eliza Straukas

The music department here at WJHS has many opportunities for students: Marching band, Jazz Band, Pep Band, Broadway Appreciation Club, and Color Guard. Students can participate in things like parades, field trips, visits to the high school, sporting events, pep rallies, and concerts.

Jazz and pep bands are two after-school clubs that require smaller groups of students to come together and use their musical skills. Jazz band is a series of brass, woodwinds and percussion instruments that play jazzy tunes for the audience to enjoy. The jazz band usually performs at concerts. Our pep band, however, is a smaller band that fans might see at some of the WJHS basketball games. Pep band brings spirit to "cheer" on the basketball players to victory. Both after-school clubs are led by Mrs. Benson.

Marching band is the largest group for grades 8-12. This band performs during football games, in parades, and even competes with other marching bands. Practices are at the high school and are held both indoors and outdoors. Marching band isn't just playing instruments and marching, though. Color guard is a very important part of marching band, too. Color guard tells the story of the song through dancing and flag work.

All of these groups and clubs provide incredible opportunities and experiences for students. From personal experience we know how close everyone becomes while working and practicing so long together. It's fun to make so many memories with each other.

If you might be interested in joining one of these clubs feel free to contact Mrs. A-Y and Mrs. Benson through email: Jaragona@pmsd.org, Gbenson@pmsd.org.



PMWHS marching band posing for a quick pic!



Jazz band hitting those jazzy notes!



The best of friends





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# Student Leadership: Then and Now

By Adam Elias

Student Leadership has undergone many changes over the past couple of years. It has been a lot of work and taken a great deal of dedication from students, staff, and advisors. Originally led by Ms. Husted, she has now been joined by Mr. Neira, and the two are working together with stu-

dents and the staff's administration to create a dynamic team of student leaders.

Just to clarify, Ms. Husted isn't gone from the group.

Just to clarify, Ms. Husted isn't gone from the group. She is still helping, but she is not the lead adviser. She is super nice and caring. I asked her a few questions including why she picked Mr. Neira as co-adviser. She said that she thinks that he is super creative and can work with the kids in a positive way.

This year, Mr. Neira has taken over the leading role of adviser. He is very relaxed and makes Student Leadership fun and interactive. He is very charismatic and wants to make school a fun place. Student leaders work closely with other school groups such as Student Government, administration, and the building's PRIDE committee to create a positive school community for everyone. He want to also provide more opportunities/ more activities for the students.



Mr. Neira and Ms. Husted (Photo credit to Adam Elias)

Currently, student leaders are helping the Student Government with the Glow Dance in January. Student Leadership also helped out with the Pride Festival back in the fall. For the spring, we are helping to plan and organize Field Day. A typical meeting is basically Mr. Neira or Mrs. Husted explaining our agenda about what we need to complete and what needs to be completed for future events. After that, we get to work.

If these activities sound interesting to you, why not join us? Students are still able to apply to Student Leadership. I think Student Leadership is an amazing after-school program to join. We help make our building a more exciting place to be while growing as leaders in our building and helping our community grow and enjoy school. So, if you are interested, send Mr. Neira an email (Nneira@pmsd.org), and he will reply.



### **Around The Pocono Mountains**

### The Poconos: A Place To Be

By Kevonna Smith

The Pocono Mountains offer beauty and many outdoor activities throughout the seasons.

There is downhill skiing and snowboarding at Camelback and Big Boulder/ Jack Frost, hiking at Big Pocono and Tobyhanna State Parks, and swimming in the many lakes throughout our region.

Resorts, inns, and even museums offer entertainment and great views, all at the same time.

This beautiful place is **Bushkill Falls**, Around 33 miles away or about 50 minutes from Pocono Summit, it is worth the travel. Many tourists go there to enjoy the scenery, camp, swim, fish, hike, and most importantly, have fun. To get there, one must hike and go across bridges to see the wonderful eight waterfalls.



Bushkill Fall, the "Niagra of Pennsylvania" Photo credit: WorldAtlas.com



Promised Land State Park is surrounded by the Delaware Forest and is 3,000 acres in area. It is 20.4 miles away from Pocono Summit, and visitors can go canoeing, swimming, hiking, biking, and snowshoeing and explore the surround-

ings. It is a quiet, relaxing place to be. It's perfect for a day trip or camping in a tent, cabin, or RV. Nature is very calming and can improve mental and physical health.

#### The Pocono Indian Museum

displays Native American artifacts from around 150 years ago. It also teaches the history of the Delaware Indians. The place was established in 1976 and is usually open to the public from 10 AM to 5:30 PM. The tour is estimated to be 30 minutes long.



Peace Pipes and Arrowheads on display At the Pocono Indian Museum

Resources and photo credits: <a href="https://www.visitbushkillfalls.com/">https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/StateParks/FindAPark/PromisedLandStatePark/Pages/default.aspx</a> <a href="https://www.poconomountains.com/listing/pocono-indian-museum/105/">https://www.poconomountains.com/listing/pocono-indian-museum/105/</a>

## My First Time at Summer Camp

By Angelina Ranko



Twelve scouts and three counselors from my scout troop went to summer camp at Resica Falls in East Stroudsburg this past summer from August 7-13, 2022. We did this to help Advance our ranks more quickly. It was a fun learning experience.

#### The First Year Program

The first year program was called Resica Rangers, and it focused on getting everyone who attended scout rank. Since I had already achieved scout rank, most of what I had learned was a review, but I did learn how to raise and lower an American flag on a flagpole, earned my nature merit badge, and worked towards earning my swimming badge.

Accomodations: Our troop's sleeping accommodations were rustic. There were enough tents for everyone to sleep in their own tent, but we slept on old cots inside the tent. My cot had a gash in the middle of it, and the other had a hole at the ends. I had brought a sleeping bag to sleep in, so I laid it on top of the cot and slept like that. Everything in the camp itself was spaced out. According to the official website, "Resica Falls Scout Reservation is a 4,200-acre Scouting Paradise." That's 43,560 square feet which is a lot of land and open space. Thankfully, our accommodations were close to the main places like the cafeteria, shop, pool, and bathrooms.

Cafeteria: The cafeteria was honestly one of the best parts of the camp. For breakfast and dinner two scouts from each troop were in charge of setting and cleaning the tables. Those selected arrived at the cafeteria before everyone else to get utensils, cups, two fountain drinks, and food for everyone in the troop. When everyone was finished eating, the servers had to clean everything up. Lunch was similar to our school lunch with an optional salad bar. The food tasted great and the staff was very accommodating to people with allergies.

The Pool: The pool was split up into three sections: non-swimmer, beginner, and swimmer. To swim in the pool, we needed to take a swim test that would determine which sections were safe for us. There

were also free swim programs before breakfast, after lunch, and an hour after dinner. In Resica Rangers, if scouts qualified as swimmers, they could work to get a swimming merit badge. Beginning swimmers and non-swimmers had to take instructional swimming lessons.

Activities: When scouts weren't working on merit badges and Resica Ranger activities, we could sign up for different activities like face painting, scavenger hunts, virtual reality headsets, archery, rifle shooting, and hiking. Several other activities were always available to us without sign-ups: tetherball, volleyball, gaga ball, and instructional swimming.



Photo credit: CradleofLibertyCouncil.org and UncoveringPA.com

Resica Falls was a great first-time summer camp experience. I learned a lot and made new friends. If I had to pick a favorite part, it would be archery. I'm even getting a bow and arrow, so I can continue practicing my skills that I learned at camp. Consider joining a local troop of Scouts!

## THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

## **Snakes in Pennsylvania**

By Alexis Cornejo

When you see a snake in front of you, what is your initial reaction? Many would end up bolting away in fear. The thing that some people fail to realize is that almost all snakes don't want anything to do with us as well. Snakes are actually really interesting creatures that will mind their own business if they aren't bothered. In PA, there are 21 different snakes, all with their own unique characteristics. Here, you will see some of the most interesting snakes that reside here in PA.

Most snakes have scales that are colored in a way that they won't be spotted by predators. However, some snakes' colors are so unordinary that they immediately catch your eye, such as Northern Red-Bellied Snakes. As the name suggests, this snake has a high-contrasting red belly. If accidentally turned over, this snake's color will catch your attention. These snakes will typically hide underneath rocks, logs, bark, and other natural debris.



Northern Red-Bellied



Northern Copperhead

In Pennsylvania, there are only three venomous snakes, and that's nothing to be afraid of when there are 21 snakes in total. The three snakes that contain venom are the Timber Rattlesnake, Northern Copperhead, and Eastern Massasauga. Even though they are equipped with venom, these snakes will rarely bite you. Most of these snakes will hide under rocks and will stay very well hidden. Most venomous snakes will have flatter heads and straight, oval-like pupils. All venomous snakes also possess an indent, or pit, on the side of their head.

As of today, the longest snake in PA is the Black Rat Snake. The longest Rat Snake recorded was over 8 feet long! These snakes can vary from dark brown to pure black, as suggested by the name. The Black Rat Snake is a constrictor, meaning it will wrap around and suffocate its victim. One interesting thing about the Rat Snake is that despite their size, they can hide in trees. Another interesting thing is that if these snakes are threatened, they will vibrate their tail in order to imitate a rattlesnake. This deception is a form of Batesian mimicry, when a non-venomous animal mimics a venomous one in order to avoid getting eaten by predators.



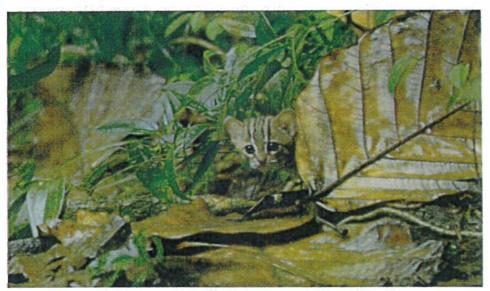
Black Rat Snake

Resources: Fish and Boat Commission Website, PA Herp Website, Fish and Boat Commission Snakes in PA Brochure, The Arboretum at Penn State Black Rat Snake Brochure

# The Rusty-Spotted Cat

By Kevonna Smith

The rusty-spotted cat, whose scientific name is the Prionailurus rubiginosus, is the world's smallest cat. This feline lives in the grasslands, scrubs, and forests of India and Sri Lanka. This cat can grow up to 35-48 centimeters or 13-19 inches and weigh between 0.9 and 1.6 kilograms or 1.9 and 3.5 pounds. That certainly is smaller than the average American house cat.



Rusty-spotted cat compared to a leaf (Photo credit to unknown photographer)

The rusty-spotted cat population is decreasing and is becoming more and more vulnerable to extinction. This makes these cats not available to keep as pets. There should be around 10,000 kitties left as of today and only 40-50 are kept in protective captivity. The dwindling population is due to the destruction of their habitat, deciduous forests.

Their main habitats are moist or dry deciduous forests with rocky areas. The Prionailurus rubiginosus seems to prefer vegetation and rocky places.

The rusty-spotted cat's main diet consists of small mammals including rodents and birds. They will hunt insects, lizards, frogs, and bats. The spotted cat needs to eat between four to six ounces of meat a day when they are in captivity.

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# Entertainment

## **Winter Cheer**

By Jaylyn Rowe

No matter what holiday you celebrate this time of year, decorating is a fun way to celebrate and bring joy to a home. Throughout this snowy season, fill your home with snowflakes, candles, and more! These ideas can also be used as last-minute gifts.



Popsicle stick snowflakes are a simple craft you can do to add a winter touch to your home. Gather some popsicle sticks and lay out a design. Your snowflakes should vary in size and shape. Then, carefully hot glue your popsicle sticks together to create your snowflakes. Next, paint your snowflake and allow it to dry. Finally, add

your snowflakes to the walls in your house. Enjoy your winter decoration!

Another way to brighten up your home is a **candle holder**. Grab a simple ball jar and decorate it how you choose. In this case, hot glue a piece of ribbon around it and then tie some string in a bow. Maybe add some greenery as seen in the picture. Finally, add a battery-operated or pillar-candle inside to give it a cozy glow.



Snow covered pine cones are also a beautiful decoration to add during the winter



time. Before starting, prepare the pine cones to be decorated. You can learn how to do that here: <a href="https://how-to-prepare-pine-cones-for-crafts">how-to-prepare-pine-cones-for-crafts</a>. Making these snow-covered pine cones is an easy task. First, gather some white paint. Next, put a small amount of paint on a paper plate and dip your pine cone into it. Repeat this step with the rest of the pine cones. Finally, set the pine cones to the side and allow them to dry.

Enjoy this time of year with creativity! I hope these crafts can fill your home or others with fun and festivity this winter season.

#### Resources:

https://www.agirlandagluegun.com/popsicle-sticks-snowflakes-sugar bee https://www.bhg.com/decorating/seasonal/winter/diy-winter-decorating-ideas/ https://www.hgtv.com/design/make-and-celebrate/handmade/diy-holiday-pinecone-garland

## Press "Start"

By Grace O'Hanlon

Video Games have been popular all over the world, and they've been here since 1958! Physicist William Higinbotham was the first man ever to create the first video game. It was a very simple tennis game, similar to the classic 1970's video game "Pong", and it was quite a hit at a Brookhaven National Laboratory Open House.

There are so many different types of games to explore all over the internet, and listed here are the basic genres and brief descriptions. There are over 30 different types of games in the world/internet.

#### Adventure

These contain puzzle-solving with game characters and focuses on the story. (*The Hobbit, Sherlock: The Riddle of the Crown Jewels*)



#### Action

An action game would contain the following: moving, weapons, using a type of magic like making a spell. (Fruit Cut)



#### Mystery

A mystery game could contain crime and would also include clues and suspects in the game. (*Clue*)



#### Horror

A horror game's purpose is to scare the person who is playing the game. It could contain jump-scares, loud noises, some sort of ghosts or demons, flashing lights, and blood.

#### RPG (Role Playing Games)

An RPG would contain NPCs which are non-player-characters and side quests for the player. (Hand of Fate 2, Avengers)



# Avenceus Avenceus

#### Sandbox (Minecraft)

These games emphasize the challenges of creating. (Dreams, Scrap Mechanic)



#### Resources:

https://www.history.com/topics/inventions/history-of-video-games https://www.whatgamesare.comaction.html https://beebom.com/sandbox-games-like-minecraft/ (All photo credits to developers/manufacturers)

# The French Connection

Written and Illustrated By Aliyah Richards



# Translation

Translated and Illustrated By Aliyah Richards



## **REVIEWS**

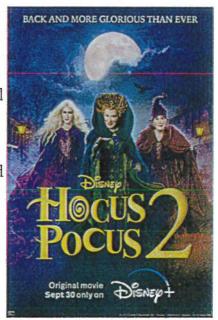
#### **Hocus Pocus 2**

#### By Tereza M. Curtis

Just about everyone is familiar with the 1993 movie *Hocus Pocus*. I personally really liked it and was excited when I heard about *Hocus Pocus 2* on Disney+. This movie gives the long-awaited backstory of the Sanderson sisters and tells the story of friendship and sisterhood. This story takes place 29 years after the events of the last movie and is equally as good.

The main characters, Becca, Izzy, and Cassie, bring about the return of "the most powerful witch coven in history", and work together to stop the Sandersons. I don't want to spoil too much, but I feel like a lot of people would be able to identify with these characters because they have to find a way to repair a broken friendship. I think many people have experienced repairing a relationships and can see themselves in this situation.

The movie had an emotional ending with Winnefred Sanderson making a choice that shows how she values her sisters over her own power. This is meant to reference how we all have choices to make in life and how we'll all have to decide what we value more - our friends and family, or our own quest for power.



The three original cast members make a reappearance: Sarah Jessica Parker, Bette Midler, and Kathy Najimy Photo credit: Disney

This movie is funny, entertaining to watch, and can be enjoyed on Disney+. Heads up to viewers: there is more singing than the last movie with musical numbers like, "The Witches are Back". While art is subjective, I think I could safely rate this movie 4 out of 5 stars.



### **Black Panther: Wakanda Forever**

By Andrew Devita

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (rated PG-13) opened on Friday, November 11,

2022 and has left audiences all over the world in awe and amazement. This movie, like the first, was ground-breakingly diverse and original...not to mention the incredible acting and Oscar-worthy performances and designs.

This film starts off with a tribute to T'Chala, but really it was a tribute to Chadwick Boseman just as well. His heart-breaking death left



Chadwick Boseman starring as the Black Panther

Photo credit: Marvel Studios

people all over the world questioning who would take over the mantle of Black Panther, and could *Black Panther*; *Wakanda Forever* live up to the first movie? And I'm glad to

say, in my opinion, it does.

The main plot of this movie consists of moving the protagonist's role to actor, Tenoch Huerta, and the setting of the Black Panther to the underwater kingdom of Talokan, Namor the Sub-Mariner, and the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) debut of the young superhero, Iron Heart.

Overall this movie was original, inventive, and very enjoyable. Although, while I still enjoy it, I feel that it will not be the same if I re.watch it. Even leaving the theater I was already realiz-

Iron Heart played by Tenoch Huerta who stated in an interview with NBC: "...diversity matters. This movie shows Black and Indigenous characters from East Africa and Mesoamerica."

Photo credit: NBC News

ing things I did not love about this film. Such as the character of Iron Heart was a little too immature and didn't think things through enough. The acting was good, but for a character who would take over for Iron Man, I think it would be much better in the hands of a more emotional character such as Spider-Man. In the end I would give this movie 4 out of 5 large popcorns.









## Superman Ill: Underrated and Over-Hated

By Andrew Devita

After famous writer/director Richard Donner introduced the world to the DC comic hero, Superman, in 1978 with his first movie, he was abruptly fired from the set of Superman II . In 1983 writer David Newman and director Richard Lester picked up with the comedy/action movie, Superman Ill. It is one of six Superman solo movies. Solo means that Superman is the only superhero in the movie, so films like Batman Vs. Superman and Justice League

are not included.

A few of the reasons I feel that this movie deserves more attention than it receives is because it attacks a plot line never tried before. One of the main plot lines is that Superman is confronted with "Synthetic Kryptonite." This causes him to have two personalities battle inside of his mind, resulting in



Clark Kent's brief battle with Superman

Photo credit to © Warner Bros.

mood changes and involuntary actions. This is where possibly the most creative and unusual scene I have ever seen comes into play. While not himself, Superman flies to the Leaning Tower of Pisa and just straightens it. This goes to show how truly creative this movie was. And possibly the most entertaining fight I have ever seen on the TV screen is when Superman battles with Clark Kent, his alter ego.

The other plot line of this movie is about Gus Gorman, played by comedian Richard Pryor. He worked for a financial company when he is caught hacking and is fired from his day



Christopher Reeves as the original Superman and comedic genius, Richard Pryor, as Gus Gorman Photo credit © Warner Bros.

job. This, however, catches the attention of Ross Webster who hires him to take control of satellites and weaponize them to take out coffee supplies in Columbia. Superman soon finds out, breaks through his inner battle, and stops Ross and Gus before they can destroy Columbia. This is a plot that knows it is half silly. It takes the comedic skills of Richard Pryor, adds a funny script, and makes a very light and fun film with a solid story line and decent cast. In the end, I would give this movie 4.2 out of 5 large popcorns.











