



Manipulation of Truth: The Prevalence of Bias in Textbooks and the Revision of History

by Madi Holmes and Kasumi Wade

Web Editor-in-Chief and Sports Editor

When it comes to education, it is easy to assume consistent validity among the bold, black-and-white print that fills textbooks. However, upon closer examination, the boundary between the objective and the subjective becomes unclear.

Textbooks tend to be cited and

tion process. In general, each state forms basic benchmarks for varying grade levels across the core subject. Each state then presents a list of textbooks that individual school districts can choose from and implement into public schools.

In Florida, the state calls upon district employees and teachers to take part in textbook reviewing committees. These committees give significant weight to the opinions of instructors in the adoption process, which can both help avoid or aid the implementation of bias towards specific

Their Accents," which explores the experience of a Dominican-American family. Conversely, Texas incorporated the words of Michael Teague, a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

While these books carry the same publishers and authors, the information presented to students is tailored towards the prevailing view in each state's legislature. As this spectrum of textbook bias surfaces, the

process. Pine View department heads recognize potential bias and look specifically to avoid its occurrence as much as possible. Melton notes that there are specific, potentially sensitive topics she searches for in text-



thought of as sources of pure fact, making the distortions caused by personal bias easily missed by readers. According to recent stories in the news, these biases are detrimental to American education, especially in subjects like humanities, where the course of history can be most easily blurred.

North Port High School American and

books before considering their adoption, such as Islamic history and Christianity. "We teach the

foundations of religion: the beginning and what it led to. We are not teaching them to promote or push any one religion," Melton said.

World History teacher James Noonan noted significant displays of "Eurocentric viewpoints" among the textbooks he teaches with, provided by the district, typically meaning less emphasis on non-European aspects of history, such as African and Asian cultures. Noonan also noted that this lack of a global perspective often alters students' perceptions of history.

"In history textbooks, you do talk about the Middle Passage and different aspects of early exploration, but they disregard all of the advanced cultures in Africa. So the students get this viewpoint that all of

...nativism

Africa was this strictly tribal mecca, notable for only

...Illegal immigrant

the slave trade and limited trade along its coast,"

...Asylum seeker

Noonan said. Textbook adoption procedures vary from state to state and district to district, but Texas, California and Florida undergo a statewide textbook review and adop-

index

ic publishers or viewpoints within textbooks.

According to the Instructional Materials and Library Services Program Manager Rob Manoogian, who is in charge of all textbook adoptions in Sarasota County, there are many external influences during the textbook evaluation process, although Manoogian and other employees encourage all textbook reviewers to evaluate using a wide scope. This process is entirely human, and it is almost impossible to ensure that all reviewers are selecting textbooks solely to meet the needs of students.

"Sometimes teachers are resistant to making those changes. They have to learn a new program, it may eliminate their old lesson plans, and there's some resistance to that," Manoogian said.

In Texas and California's cases, these committees have led to striking variations in the presentation of certain topics and concepts in print, especially history and civic education textbooks, all aided by the stark differences in partisan politics between the states.

A recent New York Times article, "TWO STATES. EIGHT TEXTBOOKS. TWO AMERICAN STORIES," shed light upon some examples of bias among California's and Texas' American history textbooks. As the McGraw-Hill textbook discusses immigration and nativism, California incorporated an excerpted piece from the novel "How the Garcia Girls Lost

ques - tion of where Florida lies arises.

Bias in Florida's textbooks may not stem directly from reviewers pushing for alterations to the current text, but rather the lack of ensuring awareness towards both diversity and sensitivity. The importance of women, African Americans and Native Americans often goes overlooked or skewed throughout the book pages of some of the most popular K-12 publishing companies.

The Florida Department of Education 2019 Statutes state guidelines as to the core curricular content taught in grades K-12. In section 2(h), the Statute makes a point to include African-American history and the contributions made to American society. In 2(p) and 2(q), the Statute covers women's and Hispanic contributions to American society, respectively. While these Florida Statutes ensure the inclusion the history of some minorities, the history and contributions made by other minorities, such as Native Americans, are completely neglected.

Pine View, as a highly ranked, all-gifted school has the ability to choose its own textbooks, separate from the district-specific books. Permission for Pine View's separate curriculum was granted to promote higher reading levels and greater depth in the information. Each department head is typically in charge of organizing textbook orders. Every six years, the department heads meet with curriculum specialists at the district for a textbook meeting where major companies present their state-approved textbooks to teachers all over the district.

The head of Pine View's social studies department, Robin Melton, has been fully invested in the textbook selection process for the past year. She believes teacher feedback is a pivotal aspect of the

Many teachers understand that textbooks can be a limited resource. Therefore, most teachers, including Noonan, share that they often seek supplemental materials such as documentaries, guest speakers and primary sources to limit potential bias. However, the textbook is still the primary source of information.

"Teaching both sides is important so that they [students] can become educated citizens about historical events, present events, and potential future events. They can take that information and make their own informed decisions," Melton said.

GRAPHIC BY BRIANNA NELSON

Follow us on...



PVTorch.com: @PineViewTorchDotCom

Humans of Pine View: @humansofpineview

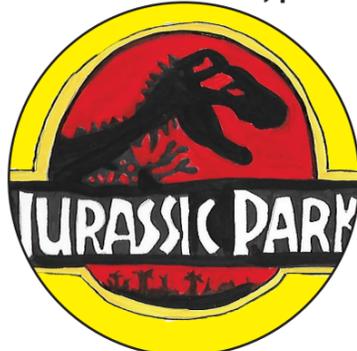


The Torch: @pvtorch

Humans of Pine View: @humansofpineview

- 1 News
- 6 Sci & Tech
- 7 Entertainment
- Features Pullout
- 10 Sports
- 12 Humor
- 14 Opinion
- 16 Focus

Entertainment, p. 8



Experiencing the Weta effect Hyper-realistic CGI in today's movies

Sports, p. 11



Ruby Copsey works hard, punches harder Tenth-grader knocks out the competition

Opinion, p. 15



Exclusivity at inclusive events Prejudice in protests

Grant permits Teen Court to provide free counseling

A \$300,000 grant by the Florida Blue Foundation enables mental health counseling for students

by Mahitha Ramachandran
Asst. Opinion Editor

The journey of a student referred to Teen Court of Sarasota involves many steps; however, due to a \$300,000 grant awarded to Teen Court by the Florida Blue Foundation early last year, the experiences of these students have been transformed. This grant has allowed Teen Court to provide free mental health counseling to students as part of their process.

In October 2018, Teen Court applied for Florida Blue Foundation's grant, and received the grant — \$100,00 for 3 years, or a total of \$300,000 — at the beginning of last year. Previously, Teen Court had a budget to provide private mental health counseling to young people referred to Teen Court, but this budget was only a third of the amount that they are now able to spend. That resulted in some students' referral to mental health organizations in the community, rather than private practices. With the money from the grant, Teen Court is now able to fully pay for mental health counseling for all young people that are brought to Teen Court.

Once a young person is referred to Teen Court, the counseling process begins with a one-hour intake assessment with a case manager. Teen Court takes extensive care to match young people with a clinician that suits them; this involves the clinician's age, gender and other aspects that change the experience of counseling. In addition, many of the clinicians are specialized for certain cases.

"We have clinicians that we contact specifically for young people in the LGBT+ community, or for anxiety or depression, for example. We want to make sure that they really feel comfortable," Heather Todd, an Executive Director at Teen Court, said. "We usually do ten sessions. Sometimes they need less, and sometimes they need more. Sometimes the clinician will even suggest the parents for a session, too. The family is usually very much involved in the process."

Since the grant was awarded in January 2019, the services it has allowed Teen Court to provide in the past year have had tremendous



Local students attend Teen Court meetings in which they observe and participate in "trials" of local youths. After applying for a grant from Florida Blue Foundation, they were awarded a grant so they could offer mental health counseling to the teens in trials. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY TEEN COURT



impacts on the young people who have been able to access free mental health counseling

A lot of times they have come back for the jury duty, and they will come up to me and thank me for recommending counseling sessions as part of the sentence,"

Jaden Probus,
Ninth-grader

through the program. In fact, for some students, it has completely transformed their perspective on therapy.

"We have had young people who were reluctant to start counseling, because maybe they have had clinicians that weren't the best in the past, but a lot of

them take our services really seriously because they know that we are a court. Many of them end up looking forward to their sessions and really liking therapy. I hear success stories every week; it has been life-changing," Todd said.

For ninth-grader Jaden Probus, who participates in Teen Court as an attorney, the positive effects of mental health counseling on the young people who are referred to Teen Court are clear.

"A lot of times they have to come back for jury duty, and they will come up to me and thank me for recommending counseling sessions as part of the sentence. They tell me that the sessions are helping them learn how to overcome their obstacles and are really making a difference," Probus said.

Unfortunately, Florida Blue Foundation's grant only lasts three years and is set to end in December 2021. This does not mean the mental health services have to end, though. Todd is determined to find the money from another source so that Teen Court can continue to provide free counseling.

IN BRIEF

Key Club contributes \$8,000 to Make-A-Wish Foundation

by Joanna Malvas
Spark Asst. Editor-in-Chief

With the purpose of making strides in supporting their community and those on campus, Pine View's Key Club committed to raising \$24,000 for the Make-A-Wish Foundation last year. This goal was set with the intention of ensuring the wishes of three students on campus, including the wish of tenth-grader Max LaForge, who suffers from cystic fibrosis.

To date, approximately \$8,000 of contributions were donated to Make-A-Wish. Consequently, Make-A-Wish granted LaForge's wish of meeting his favorite football team, the New Orleans Saints, as he traveled on his trip Dec. 16.

"I got to meet all my favorite players, and it was something I never even imagined would be able to happen. And, they made it happen... It was a dream come true because ever since I was little, [the Saints] helped me through different times throughout my life," LaForge said.

Key Club held a multitude of events to accomplish such progress. For example, at the annual Pine View fundraiser Pinnacle last year Feb. 8 the committee head and Key Club treasurer eleventh-grader Nora Alexander took part in the event to raise funds for their initiative. The

club raised funds by auctioning off student services, such as ACT and SAT tutoring with Anatomy teacher Flo Ames and dinner with English department head Paul Dean.

The club additionally spearheaded their Danceathon event Mar. 9 of last year, as well as earning money from three booths at the Pine View Fair. The club has also expanded their efforts to other not-for-profit organizations, such as raising funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Children's Miracle Network and UNICEF.

"I think every little thing you raise is important. It might seem like just a dollar, but when people come together, and they collect so much money, and they donate it, I think it's very effective," eleventh-grader and President of Key Club Meera Nair said.

Evidently, Key Club's fundraising has created a lasting impact in several communities and for students such as LaForge.

"In my case, I just want to say, 'Thank you,' because [meeting the Saints] was the best experience I've ever had," LaForge said. "It was fulfilling, after everything I've gone through... Thank you to the school, and Make-A-Wish, and Key Club, for sure, to be able to get this done and make it happen, because it definitely changed my life and my perspective on life."

Redefining the qualifications to receive the Five Star Award

by Lucy Collins
Social Media Coordinator

Pine View's longstanding tradition of excellence does not go unnoticed with numerous awards and recognition given each year, among them being the Florida Five Star Award. This acknowledgment takes into consideration numerous aspects of daily life and activities on campuses all across the state and has been awarded to Pine View 11 times.

This year, however, no awards will be given due to qualifications shifting to "align statewide priorities with proven, evidence-based strategies," according to a memorandum sent to school superintendents in December of last year. The new qualifications derive from the input of teachers, school leaders and district members from across Florida. As of now, the new qualifications are unknown.

Each year, a book is prepared to present to the Florida Department of Education which depicts each aspect of the award. There are about 20 different qualifications a

school must meet, including the categories of family involvement, volunteers, student community service and a School Advisory Council (SAC).

Each of these subsections dive further into the definition of a "Five Star School" to the Florida Department of Education. For example, the topic of volunteers includes a requirement that volunteer service hours stating that the hours must be twice the number of students attending the school. The book resembles a scrapbook in which each page represents a specific requirement. For the past four years, parent Laura Paolercio volunteered for that responsibility.

"I think [Pine View] getting recognition is wonderful. As long as the requirements represent what the Department of Education and the Sarasota County School Board and Pine View are all working towards and recognizing that we are not only working towards their goals but meeting and exceeding them," Paolercio said.



In the back row, from left to right, twelfth-graders Carlton Leffler and Gwyn Petersen, and eleventh-graders Dylan Black (Out-of-Door Academy) and Alex Ivanchev attend a press conference calling for Florida's ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. At the event, several representatives, including State Representative Dotie Joseph, and volunteers from the Florida National Organization for Women spoke on the importance of this legislature and what it could mean for women everywhere. PHOTO PROVIDED BY GWYN PETERSEN

Organic, free-range ingredients.
Homemade ice cream made right in front of you.
Crystalcreamrolls.com
157 N Tamiami Trail
Osprey, FL 34229

Ice Cream Rolls
Crystal Cream

Student author works toward self-publishing

by Peyton Harris
Focus Editor

Sitting in her preschool classroom, eleventh-grader Emily Benson was reprimanded for writing fiction in her daily journal. However, this didn't discourage her, and over a decade later, Benson can be found writing fantastical science fiction stories of magic and extraterrestrial life.

"I like to think of creative writing as the inverse to what we do in the classes like AP Lang or like AP Lit, where you look at a piece of work and you analyze it for its motifs and themes. I kind of do the opposite where I find a motif or theme and then I expand upon it, and I find parallels in real life," Benson said.

Since fourth grade, Benson has been establishing a science fiction franchise in the form of a novella. Still in progress, Benson describes her work as a series of installments spreading thousands of canonical years in a multiverse dreamed up by Benson herself — without a human character in sight.

"I don't have a single human character, because humans are a normal, everyday thing," she said. "My goal in escapist works is to explore themes and stories in a world that is entirely alien, unlike anything you could possibly experience. This detachment from reality is what I would say is a core value of my work, what allows me to explore themes and ideas in a way that is free from any real-world im-

plications."

Benson started establishing this multiverse in fourth grade, splitting her works into seven eras with each chronicle featuring a new set of characters. She has committed to finishing eras four through seven, four being about the "Star Union," an intergalactic organization, and five through seven referring to the "Star Alliance," the organization that succeeds the union.



PHOTO BY ELLA WILLIAMS

It's a tech-based society, one that parallels another organization known as the "New House," in which magic is used in unethical ways and demons are released into the world. Most novels feature a new civilization, which she then cultivates everything around, from the architecture to the attitude toward magic and science.

"My least favorite trope in science fiction is when [the authors] try to explain science through magic, so I decided to separate them completely. I either write a civilization that uses magic, but isn't able to use

science or a civilization that uses science, but not magic. It's a kind of duality and there's a lot of conflict between these two types of civilizations. I use this to illustrate a theme, since a lot of conflict stems from misunderstanding and the two can't understand each other," Benson said.

Benson credits Pine View's science department for great influence on the scientific aspect of her work, especially lab work in bio tech.

She attributes most of her scientific knowledge to her four consecutive summers at Duke summer intensives and two years in science teacher Rebecca Kehler's class.

"Emily is an exemplary young scientist. She is naturally inquisitive, curious and always prepared. She frequently spends summers participating in science programs and is passionate about the subject. Her demeanor and intelligence make her a natural leader and a pleasure to have in the classroom," Kehler said.

Benson spends her free time on her series and plans on continuing it through college and possibly graduate school. She hopes to find collaborators within her time in college to help her balance out the novel and then self-publish the series. Since she spent most of her childhood in Russia, where both her grandparents are published authors, Benson plans on publishing her series both in Russian and English in order to attract an international following.

New Course Offerings for the 2020-2021 School Year

(It's not too late to change your schedule!)

Guitar 1
In Guitar 1, high school students learn basic guitar technique — like simple and full-strum chords, major scales, and ensemble skills — and foundational music theory and literacy. Students will perform outside of school as a culmination of specific technical goals.
Christopher Mink

Introduction to the Teaching Profession
In Introduction to the Teaching Profession, high school students learn how to apply skills necessary for work in the Education and Training career cluster. Skills include reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes and general employability, among many other skills.
Hali Flahavan

Personal Financial Literacy Honors
In this semester-long course, high school students learn about Economics, Financial Literacy, Mathematics, Languages Arts for Literacy in History/Social Studies and Speaking and Listening, with further study in the concepts of scarcity, choice, opportunity cost, and cost/benefit.
TBD

Changes to Existing Courses

AP Physics C will be split into AP Physics C: Mechanics and AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism.

French V and Spanish V will now be offered to students.

Individual FLVS courses were not offered during course scheduling.

High school lunch period will be offered seventh period only.

GRAPHIC BY LEO GORDON

Investigating the funding behind the AP curriculum

by Ella Hechlik
Editor-in-Chief

When students sit down to take their AP exams in May, most are focused on earning a passing grade for college credit, or to prove what they have learned throughout the year. However, the AP exams do more than just show the skills students have learned; they also provide funding to teachers.

Although many students are unaware of this when taking the exams, for each passing score, the AP teacher who taught the course receives \$50. This system is based on the Florida Statutes and the legislative body's decision and is done across the state based on statute 1011.62, "Funds for the Operation of Schools." This also applies to any Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) teachers with students receiving a score of 3 or higher, and International Baccalaureate (IB) instructors with students receiving a score of 4 or higher on the IB exam.

CollegeBoard is a non-profit organization, so all of the funding is done through the Florida Education Finance Program (FESP) which provides the state of Florida with a lump sum, which the district is then in charge of dispersing back amongst schools and programs. This system is in place by district.

At Pine View, students are not required to pay to take their AP exams. The usual charge is around \$94 with some tests requiring up to \$142 in fees.

"The schools are the ones that pay for students to take the AP exams. For every student that takes and passes the AP tests, the state kicks mon-

ey back into programs, which is meant to buy more tests in the future for their students. [The money is also used] for AP materials and training for AP teachers which they go to every 3 years," High School Curriculum and Instruction Director Catherine Coccozza said over the phone.

ey an AP teacher could earn back with a limit at \$2,000 or \$3,000. However, the state legislatures chose to remove this cap in 2017.

History teacher Christine Braun has taught AP European History for five years.

"My workload doubled teaching an AP class compared

give for all the hard work and effort teachers give is a good thing," Braun said.

Also, the time spent on classes differs based on the content according to music teacher Seth Gardner, who has taught AP Music Theory for the past six years.

"I spend more time on

students, but overall it is nice money comes back to teachers."

AP Human Geography teacher Roma Jagdish echoed these sentiments.

"When you teach fewer students, you get the cream of the crop who are interested in the subject being taught. When you have lots of kids take your class, you get a lot who are on the peripheral. I teach many ninth-graders, so that means a lot more parent conferences and grading, etc. But, how much more equitable can it be, it all evens out in one way or another," Jagdish said.

Jagdish has also previously taught AP Macroeconomics, AP Comparative Government and AP Microeconomics.

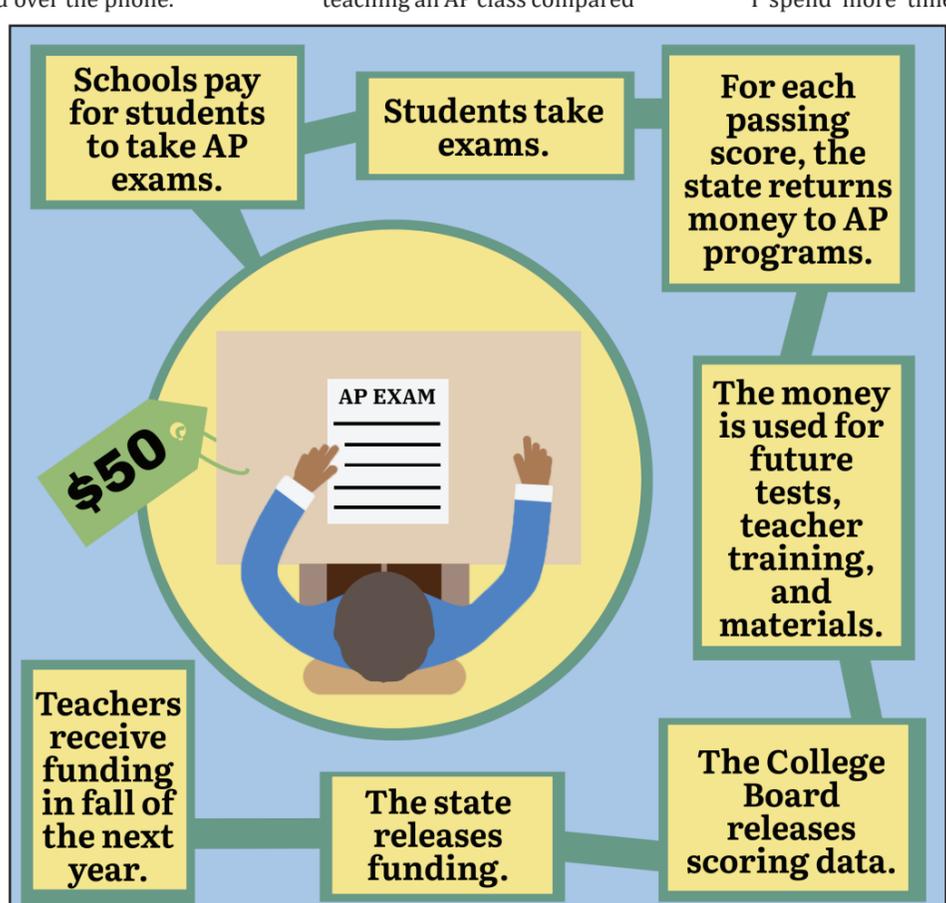
Another component of teaching AP classes is the balance between the actual education students receive and the specific curriculum needed to pass the exam.

AP Calculus BC teacher David Nezelek commented on this balance: "A colleague of mine who left Pine View said, 'The Sarasota County school board writes us our checks, but in a sense, the College Board also employs us, and I do what my employer says.' If the Board says 'this is what Calculus BC is,' then that's what I teach... I am here to teach AP Calc the College-Board way so that's the way I teach it, and it is very much informed by the way questions are asked on the exam, and I think that's appropriate."

However, other teachers expressed differing opinions.

"I cannot just let the exam be the focus of the class. I want students to walk out as a learned person," Jagdish said.

GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO



Teachers finally receive their funding in the fall of the following school year.

"All the funding is sent out in the fall. We have to wait for the College Board to release the [AP] data and for the state to release the funding. Once they are compared, the funding is released to teachers," Coccozza said.

Originally, there was a cap on how much mon-

to any other class I teach. What I want people to know is, nobody is getting rich off the fifty dollars [per passing student]... When I started teaching I was not even aware of the bonus. I think with all the money the College Board is making there is no harm in them giving us a bonus... We are doing a college professor's job at a county school teacher's salary, so I think any incentive they can

my AP class than any other class I teach. To be honest I didn't even know about the money my first year," Gardner said. "For me, usually only one person out of between twelve to fifteen does not pass. That is around 800 dollars, but I don't teach the class for that money... It isn't worth it in the grand scheme of things. I can see where it could be a boost for people who teach a lot of

100 years: The anniversary of women's suffrage

a brief history of

Women's suffrage in America

Women's suffrage is the right to vote for women. This was a long and hard battle for women across the world. Through petitions, rallies, and conventions the US ratified the right to vote for women in 1920.

1861-1865

Suffragist activity was minimal during the **Civil War**; however, many women stepped up into traditional men's work while they were away fighting.

1868

The **Fourteenth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, introducing the word "male" into the Constitution for the first time..

1870

The **Fifteenth Amendment** holds that neither the United States nor any State can deny the right to vote "on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude," leaving open the right of States to deny the right to vote on account of sex.

1875

In the case of **Minor v. Happersett**, the Supreme Court rules that the Fourteenth Amendment in the U.S. Constitution does not grant women the right to vote.

1890

The **National American Woman Suffrage Association** is born. The focus turns to working at the state level. **Wyoming** renewed general women's suffrage, becoming the first state to allow women to vote.

1916

Montana elects the first woman to the U.S. Congress, suffragist **Jeannette Rankin**, to the House of Representatives.

1917

The **Nineteenth Amendment** to the U.S. Constitution, which eventually granted women suffrage, passes the U.S. House with exactly a two-thirds vote but loses by two votes in the Senate.

1920

The **19th Amendment** is ratified. It states: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

1848

At the **Seneca Falls Convention**, suffragists **Elizabeth Cady Stanton** and **Susan B. Anthony** organized petitions and lobbied to Congress for women's enfranchisement.

1866

Formed at the initiative of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, **The American Equal Rights Association** worked for suffrage for both women and African Americans.

1869

Wyoming grants unrestricted suffrage The territory of Wyoming is the first to grant unrestricted suffrage to women.

1872

Susan B. Anthony attempts to vote and the first female runs for President. She registers and votes in Rochester, New York, arguing that she has the right to do so according to the Fourteenth Amendment; however, she is arrested.

1878

Senator **Aaron A. Sargent** proposes an amendment to grant women the right to vote. Although unsuccessful, this eventually becomes the **19th amendment**.

1913

Alice Paul organizes the **Woman's Suffrage Procession**, a parade in Washington, D.C. on the eve of **Woodrow Wilson's** inauguration. It is the largest suffrage parade to date.

1917

The **National Woman's Party** is the first group to picket the White House. Nearly 500 women are arrested, and 168 serve jail time. Suffragists are beaten and abused at the **Occoquan Workhouse** in Virginia during the "**Night of Terror**." The U.S. enters World War I and the **National American Woman Suffrage Association** aligns itself with the war effort to gain support for women's suffrage.

History club to present simulation

by Gwyn Petersen

Managing Editor

For the centennial anniversary to the 19th Amendment of the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote, the History Club will be putting on a historical simulation beginning during the middle of third period this Monday, March 9.

The women's suffrage movement includes an extensive history. It first began to gather strength in the late 1840s, following the Seneca Falls Convention, which passed the first resolution in favor of a woman's right to vote. By the time of the first National Women's Rights Convention in 1850, however, suffrage was becoming an increasingly important aspect of the movement's activities.

Two competing organizations, one led by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the other by Lucy Stone, merged in 1890 to form the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA).

In 1916, the National Women's Party was formed by Alice Paul. It served as a militant group, and carried out some of the more extreme protests, such as the Silent Sentinel picketing in front of the White House. NAWSA continued to consider women's suffrage a top priority, and four years later, their efforts resulted in success. The 19th Amendment officially became part of the U.S. Constitution August 18, 1920.

The History Club, sponsored by ESE Resource teacher Jym Froelich, has put countless hours into organizing the simulation, building set pieces and creating costumes to help students feel truly immersed in the era. Preparations began a few weeks before the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Though the club had originally voted on a simulation focused on the Vikings, administration reached out to Froelich and requested a collaboration with Florida Studio Theatre to

bring an educational play about women's suffrage to campus. Teachers were invited to take their classes between first period and sixth period to watch actors put on an informative performance on Wednesday, Feb. 19, as background for the simulation.

In recent years, however, the club has faced a decline in student and parent involvement alike, which has made putting on the large scale bi-annual simulation more and more of a struggle.

"The students are

women took through Washington, D.C. in their protest.

The event will also include a voting area where participants will hear short speeches from members acting as Warren Harding and James Cox and cast their vote at an array of desks with dividers, symbolizing voting booths.

Other activities will include an interview with Sonia Fuentes, a women's rights activist and author, who will talk about her career and the struggles of the women's rights movement, a presentation explaining the process of passing a Constitutional Amendment, with extra focus on the 19th Amendment, and a presentation discussing how the migration of women into the workforce during and after World War I.

There will be a food room of period-appropriate delicacies, a character room, reminiscent of a Wax Museum, where actresses will portray figures like Alice Paul, who made contributions in the fight for women's suffrage. The Women's Choir will be performing music chosen by the director in the auditorium.

As for the club's future, Froelich isn't worried. "This core group is so involved and they've done some amazing work. Their future is bright, and I hope they inspire others to take over the club once they graduate," Froelich said.

Temple, the club's treasurer, also has a message for potential members: "I would say this: those who love history, those who love the stories of epic generals waging war, or those heated political debates on floors of congresses ancient and current, those who seek more information about our past and our trajectory in the mind of history and those simply wanting to live in history will thrive here." GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT



stretched thin, and seek out other opportunities," Froelich said. "It's a lot of research, and a lot of students procrastinate or don't come to meetings."

The students who are involved, however, have dedicated themselves to the simulation.

"[Putting on the simulation] isn't all that hard, despite the lack of manpower. In fact, it's arguably easier to manage a smaller group, especially if they're invested in the project," eleventh-grader Ethan Temple said.

The students involved in the simulation prepared this week with a full run-through. Members of the club will dress in era-appropriate clothing, and will run each of the rooms that are a part of the simulation.

Outdoor attractions will include a sign coloring booth — where participants will color and create signs with slogans commonly used by suffragettes — along with a procession along a designated route through the quad designed to replicate the path Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and thousands of

delicious DRINKS

great BANTER

free WIFI!

10% OFF FOR students

#GETCLEVER



COFFEE SHOP

6530 GATEWAY AVE SARASOTA, FL 34231
(941) 806-5909

Protecting freedom of the press in schools

Expanding on the court case Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, the New Voices movement works to protect students' First Amendment rights

by **Tricia Saputera**

Assistant Editor-in-Chief & Copy Editor

To protect freedom of the press for student journalists, New Voices works towards implementing state laws that would clearly define when student media can be censored. New Voices is a student-powered nonpartisan national grassroots movement that seeks to secure the First Amendment rights of student journalists, counteract the effects of Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier (1988), and promote efforts in youth engagement in education, law and journalism.



In the court case Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, students at Hazelwood East High School in St. Louis, Missouri were writing stories about divorce and teen pregnancy for their school newspaper, The Spectrum. These articles included personal experiences from Hazelwood students, but false names were used to protect the identities of the students mentioned. While reading newspaper pages for approval, the school principal was concerned the students would still be identifiable, and he deleted two pages of the newspaper, sent the publication to be printed and did not inform the student journalists.

The editor, Cathy Kuhlmeier, filed suit with two other student reporters of The Spectrum, but in a 5-3 ruling, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the students' free speech rights were not violated. Because The Spectrum was school-sponsored and funded, the Supreme Court

said the school is entitled to censor the articles.

Now, the New Voices movement is setting bills in motion across the nation to declare the four ways student media may be censored.

According to the website of the Student Press Law Center (SPLC), "New

Voices laws ensure that student media can only be censored if that media is libelous or slanderous, contains an unwarranted invasion of privacy, violates state or federal law, or incites students to disrupt the orderly operation of a school." While protecting the First Amendment and freedom of the press, New Voices intends to maintain the core values of journalism with these four definitions.

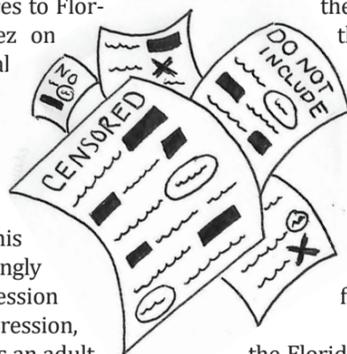
In a model bill found also on the website of the SPLC, this bill is known as the Student Journalist Press Freedom Restoration Act, and "it is the intent of the legislature to restore and protect freedom of expression through school-sponsored media...in order to encourage students to become educated, informed and responsible members of society."

Currently, fourteen states have adopted New Voices laws: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kan-

sas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington. In the article "Bringing New Voices to Florida" by Melissa Gomez on SPLC, there are several teachers that are strong advocates and are hoping to introduce New Voices legislation in Florida.

"I am torn on this new bill, because I strongly support student expression and freedom of expression, but at the same time, as an adult and a school employee I find it difficult to ignore the responsibilities of the administration to ensure that minors don't make major mistakes," social studies teacher John Schweig said. "I would probably support some sort of middle ground that gives strong press freedom and little administrative oversight and then very minimal circumstances in which the administration can

fall under the tightly defined limitations of Hazelwood, which are information that would disrupt the educational function of the school or endanger the safety and security of any student. Other than that, I think that the student journalists should be able to print things even if they make the administration uncomfortable."



Brit Taylor, president of the Florida Scholastic Press Association (FSPA), said via e-mail, "I am excited about the New Voices movement, and with the leadership of Sarah Lerner and Melissa Falkowski at Stoneman Douglas High, I'm committed to get the legislation passed in Florida...I'm lucky to advise at a school where administration values what our publications do, but so many people work in places where journalism is seen as the enemy, and leaders



work to keep any 'negative press' out of the public eye. I get e-mails throughout the year asking for help and how to handle it when administration doesn't want to run a story. It's difficult to do much right now if your principal says the story cannot run. Our current political situation

ask for changes to the words. I think sometimes that the Hazelwood decision gives administrators a feeling that they can ask for a lot of changes that Hazelwood doesn't really allow, and I think the changes they ask for should solely

only makes that worse, and New Voices would be a step in the right direction to make sure the voices of student journalists were protected."

PHOTOS FROM CREATIVE COMMONS GRAPHIC BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

Medical marijuana use in district schools approved

by **Alyson Mizanin**

Asst. News Editor

After insistence from the Florida state government, Sarasota County recently became the last county in the Tampa Bay area to approve an official policy regarding the use of medical marijuana on school campuses. Unanimously approved Jan. 9, the new guidelines detail that qualified students can only use medicinal marijuana if administered by the student's primary caregiver in a designated location within school grounds.

Strict guidelines must be met before a student is permitted for medicinal marijuana use while at school. Based on universal district policy regarding all medications, students must show viable physician's orders dictating that use of the medication during school hours is required for the well-being of that student.

"If a student needs a narcotic after a surgery, situations are decided on a case-by-case basis. If [a narcotic] is needed by the student, they shouldn't be coming back to school in the first place," school nurse Beth Banko said. "There are certain situations in which a student may have a diagnosed condition that requires them to use narcotics, but within my 15 years of working as a nurse, I've never known a student who required [medical marijuana] nor any students here on campus who would be affected by this."

The district emphasizes that students should take all necessary medications at home, as affected judgment and learning capabilities due to usage can cause disruption of the classroom environment. That being said, cases are

handled based on the needs of each individual student.

"Ultimately, it's a parent's responsibility to administer medication to their child," Banko said.

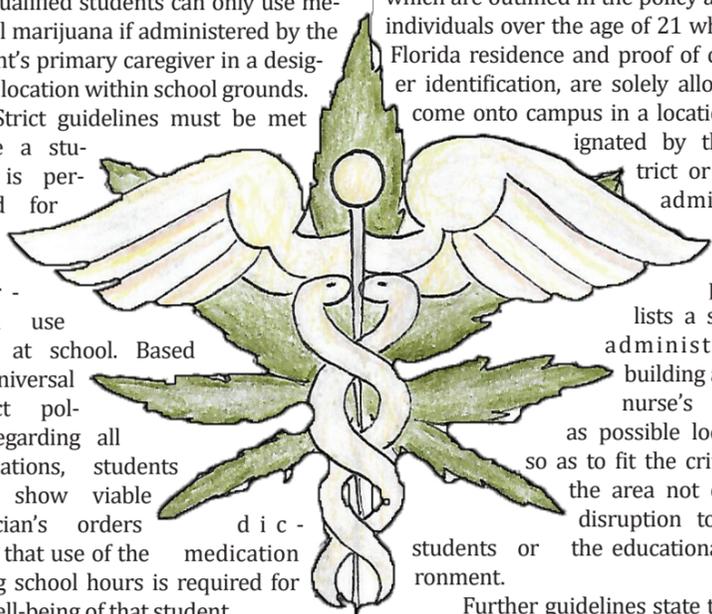
In the case of the new policy, school staff — including nurses — would not be allowed to have access to a student's medical marijuana. Primary caregivers, which are outlined in the policy as being individuals over the age of 21 who have Florida residence and proof of caregiver identification, are solely allowed to come onto campus in a location designated by the district or school administration. The policy lists a school's administration building and the nurse's office as possible locations, so as to fit the criteria of the area not causing disruption to other students or the educational environment.

Further guidelines state that the medicinal marijuana used must not be smokable nor inhalable. So as to avoid misuse and distractions, the medication must be able to be ingested and absorbed within a short period of time.

Although there are no cases directly involving the Pine View campus, 11 students across Sarasota County have sent in formal requests to the district for access to medical marijuana while at school. The majority of them have done so due to the ability of the drug to prevent seizures.

The policy is still in a tentative state, so if it leads to the district losing federal funds, it would be "suspended immediately" according to the school board, through the Venice Gondolier Sun.

GRAPHIC BY MAHITHA RAMACHANDRAN



UNIVERSITY CONSULTANTS OF AMERICA

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS EXPERTS



- College Applications & Supplements
- College Search & Selection
- Essay Editing & Polishing
- Interview Preparation
- Complete Admissions Assistance

HARVARD • YALE • PRINCETON • STANFORD
MIT • CHICAGO • COLUMBIA • CORNELL
PENN • DUKE • NORTHWESTERN • RICE

Our Students Have Been Accepted to ALL of America's Top Colleges

Call or Email us to schedule your **FREE CONSULTATION!**

813-210-9616

Info@UniversityCOA.com

www.UniversityCOA.com

Kampachi aquaculture is subject to local debate

Mariculture facility may be established in Gulf of Mexico

by Sarah Catalano
Sci&Tech Editor

“Planet over Profit,” read one sign, hoisted into the air by a blue-clad protester on the corner of John Ringling and Ken Thompson Parkways. On Jan. 28, a grim-faced, sunglasses-wearing crowd gathered, with bright blue signs bearing the phrase “NOT HERE” in bold capitals — ensuring their voices would be heard before the meeting to come.

At 5:30 p.m. that day, a public meeting was held in the Wave Center at Mote Marine Aquarium, with the purpose of allowing the public to speak on Kampachi Fish Farms’ request for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit would enable Kampachi aquaculture to continue with their newest mariculture project, a fish farm titled Velella Epsilon.

Approval of this request would allow Kampachi Fish Farms to discharge waste — including uneaten fish food, feces and pharmaceuticals — into the water near the pen under strict regulation and management. The pen itself would be located approximately 43 miles offshore of Sarasota in the Gulf of Mexico.

The pen, composed of mesh nets and expected to hold up to 20,000 albacore jack fish (88,000 pounds), would be the first floating mariculture facility in the Gulf of Mexico.

Several citizens voiced

their concerns that the discharge would directly fuel red tide and other algal blooms. While red tide blooms are reported to originate 10 to 40 miles offshore (and the farm would be located outside of this range), its proximity raised concerns.

Environmental Science teacher Jason Miller said that the results of a project like Velella Epsilon could vary greatly depending on how the project was executed — a well-regulated facility has the potential to take strain off of wild populations that could otherwise be limited by human consumption, while a facility run by lower standards could damage the environment.

“Unless this aquaculture facility got massive, I don’t think it’s going to have enough influence to cause red tide throughout the state,” Miller said. “It might cause localized algae blooms ...but it’s not going to cause the systemic issues we’ve had in the past.”

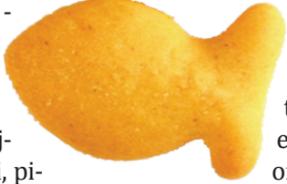
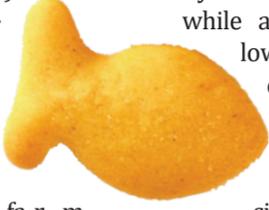
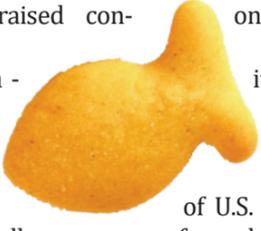
Kampachi Farms previously supervised research projects in Hawaii, piloting net-pen mariculture in water up to 6,000 feet deep. Their Velella Gamma project involved a moored net-pen with a remote-controlled feeding barge, approximately six nautical miles offshore

of Kona Coast. Kampachi Farms’ website describes the projects, “The Velella Beta and Gamma demonstrated the potential of open-ocean aquaculture to produce outstanding finfish, while having no significant impact on ocean ecosystems.”

Aquaculture facilities like these may soon become necessary. According to NOAA, nearly 90% of U.S. seafood is imported from abroad, with the majority of it sourced in aquaculture. Several representatives from aquaculture organizations present at the public meeting suggested an alternative option for Velella Epsilon — growing other species, like edible algae, alongside the albacore jack, suggesting experimentation using the farms in order to actually improve the surrounding water quality.

A draft of a letter by Sarasota city commissioners stated a “strong and formal opposition” to the implementation of the facility, and was submitted Feb. 3.

As of yet, Kampachi’s pilot projects have shown net-pen farming to have no discernible effects on the surrounding environment; however, none have been tested in the warmer, shallower water of the Gulf. Until the project is implemented, results will remain unknown — and if Kampachi moves forward with Velella Epsilon, the door will be opened for other mariculture projects to follow.



Spotlight on STEM

Sonica Prakash and Ben Covert

by Lora Rini
Match Layout Editor

Merging cells and tweaking variables to the max, tenth-grader Sonica Prakash and twelfth-grader Ben Covert used their spreadsheet skills to secure first place in the Spreadsheet Applications contest at the Sarasota County STEM Fair at Roberts Arena Jan. 29.

The event typically features a team of two working together on a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for an hour and a half, using Excel formulas to find values such as interest rates. Prakash and Covert were assigned to create a budget for a college student using Excel. They competed against six or sev-

en other teams of two.

Prakash has been interested in using Excel since she was in elementary school, and is considering eventually finding a career involving data analysis. She and Covert prepared for the competition by studying an online list of Excel formulas, relying on their prior knowledge to win first place.

“It was just really fun talking to all these other kids who were also into STEM with the same interests as me, and it was really cool to watch all the robotics demonstrations as well, but all in all, it was really fun to meet other people who also like math and science and all the STEM subjects,” Prakash said.

Jack Gallahan, Pragnya Govindu, Michael Gutierrez and Danny McDonald

by Lora Rini
Match Layout Editor

Relying on years of mathematical knowledge, twelfth-graders Jack Gallahan and Michael Gutierrez and eleventh-graders Danny McDonald and Pragnya Govindu achieved first place in the Math Quiz Bowl event.

In this event, teams with up to four people each competed for two hours, during which each team worked together on a math problem. The calculations involved in the event went up to pre-calculus level.

The Pine View students discovered the competition through the Mu Alpha Theta

club. Their weekly meetings calculating and discussing problems served as most of their preparation for the event. Mu Alpha Theta has been involved in more competitions this year than in the past, with this being the second competition of the year.

Gallahan has been a member of Mu Alpha Theta since he was in ninth grade. He also went to the previous competition, and has participated in the annual American Mathematics Competition.

“It’s just kind of a fun opportunity to do some math and hang out with people who are interested in math,” Gallahan said.

ADDITIONAL RESULTS

- 1st Place Web Design - Uday Goyat & Gatlen Culp
- 2nd Place Drone - George Harding & Evan Hannon
- 3rd Place CAD 3D Design - Alex Gage
- 3rd Place Desktop Publishing - Sahil Agarwal & Peyton Harris
- 3rd Place Health Quiz Bowl - Nick Paredes, Ashley Pelton, Rosie Chan & Ray Min
- 3rd Place Multimedia Math - Anusha Bishayee, Lisa Zhang, Haley Gardner & Nicole Lauren

Examining the History Beyond the Milky Way

Fermi’s Paradox offers answers for lack of extraterrestrial contact

by Isabella Gaskill
Web Section Editor

Humans have been gazing into the universe since the beginning of our time on Earth. With early astronomy dating as far back as 1400 BC, and deep roots of astronomical sciences existing in almost every civilization from China to South America, it seems that the world outside our little planet has always been a central focus of human curiosity. And no doubt everyone has at one point or another gazed into the stars and wondered: is there anyone else out there?

Physicist Enrico Fermi posed the same question, attempting to reconcile the high probability of extraterrestrial life to the lack of evidence for it. Although he died before he was able to report on his ideas, as-

trphysicist Michael H. Hart laid out the foundations of what would be called the Fermi Paradox in his article “An Explanation for the Absence of Extraterrestrials on Earth.”

Hart explained that with the high number of stars in the universe, even in the Milky Way alone, there is a high likelihood that some of these stars have Earth-like planets — and that some may have developed intelligent life.

Further, some of these

civilizations may have developed interstellar travel. With so many stars billions of years older than the Sun, and the Milky Way taking only a few million years to travel across, there has been more than enough time for contact to be made. So with all these circumstances indicating that extraterrestrial life is not only possible, but highly probable, the only question left is: Where are they?

In 1977, Voyager 1 and 2 were launched, famously bearing golden records with symbols intended to be understood by any advanced civilization (for example, the time associated with the transition of the hydrogen atom and binary arithmetic explaining how to play the records).

The records themselves include images and sounds of Earth, such as weather, vehicles, human footsteps, speech, and heartbeats, animal sounds, music, and the

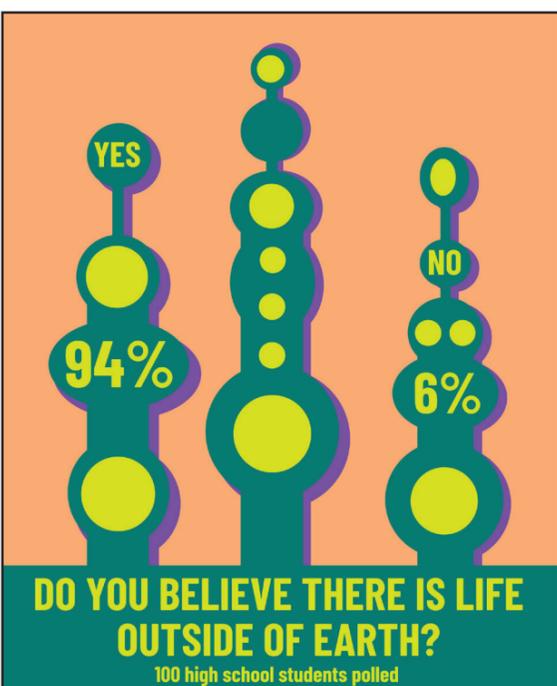
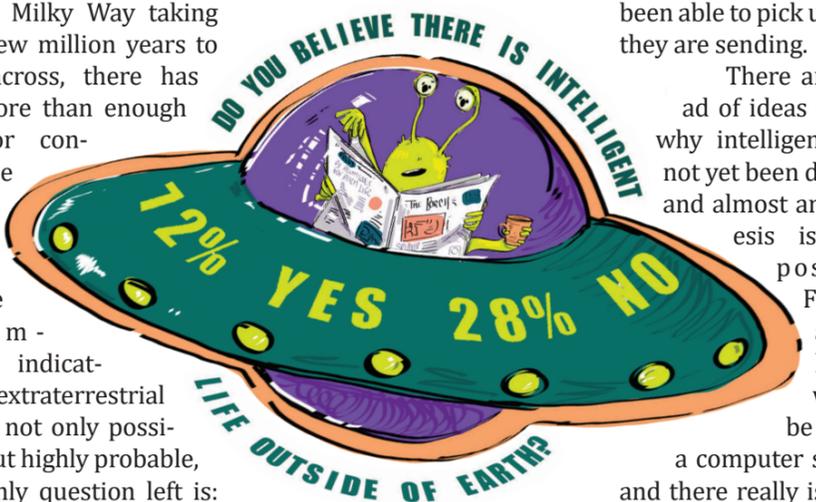
sound of a pulsar. Voyager 1 is currently more than 13 billion miles away, speeding the sounds and sights

sages we would be able to interpret and understand. Or maybe they are making contact but we just have not been able to pick up on what they are sending.

There are a myriad of ideas theorizing why intelligent life has not yet been discovered, and almost any hypothesis is a valid possibility. For all that anyone knows, we could be living in

a computer simulation and there really is no other life for us to find — and until life is found, none of these explanations can be dismissed. Maybe we’re alone, but maybe we’re not.

Either way, the search for life, intelligent or not, continues. Explorations are already planned for likely planets and moons, such as Europa, one of Jupiter’s Galilean moons. NASA’s Europa Clipper is set for launch in 2025 and will study the moon in a series of flybys. In as little as five years from now, the answer to a paradox that has been puzzling us for centuries could be in reach.



GRAPHICS BY SARAH CATALANO AND ZOE MERRITT

Not to toot my own horn but...

Twelfth-grader translates his affinity for music into a career in law studies

by Peyton Harris

Focus Editor

Although it plays an integral role in his life now, twelfth-grader Cameron Burns did not initially pick up the trombone out of passion, or even particular interest. Instead, he wrote in "Orchestra" on his sixth-grade course selection sheet because he was equally unimpressed with the other options.

Burns was living in Texas when he first picked up the trombone but decided to keep at it following his move to Florida in seventh grade. Not surprisingly, the transition between states was difficult for him, as he entered a new academic and social environment. Though many aspects of his life were changing, what remained consistent for Burns was his fervor for music, which helped him find his community of friends at Pine View.

"I wound up finding so many friends that next year [seventh grade]. The fact that we could bond over something we all love so quickly is what kept me going [with trombone] in those early stages of playing," Burns said.

Despite the tepid start to his musical career, Burns experienced sweeping strides in improvement as he pro-

gressed, finding a particular affinity for jazz music. Burns' fondness of said genre is reflected in his all-time favorite musical icon — the late Bill Watrous, who was an American Jazz trombonist.

"His tone, style, licks, just all resonate with me. His style of playing is somehow relaxing while also exciting... it seems to pour out of him naturally..." Burns said. "When I started playing jazz, it was like falling in love with music all over again because it's just so different from classical music."

Burns finally began seeing the countless hours invested in the instrument pay off when, in December 2016 during his sophomore year of high school, he was given the opportunity to play the pit at the show "1940's Radio Hour" with the Sarasota Players.

The play depicts the final holiday broadcast of the Mutual Manhattan Variety Cavalcade on the New York radio station WOV in December 1942. The pit is a large hole in front of the stage in which musicians play background music and is usually played by professionals. It serves a vital role in the cohesiveness of a show.

"It was an absolutely awesome experience," Burns said. "It's incredible to be a



part of that, playing a live show every night... Getting to play alongside these, in every sense of the word, professionals and every skill that includes is just insane. I've gotten so much better from listening to them play."

Burns went on to play the pit for the musicals "Annie Get Your Gun" and "Sister Act," and is scheduled to play for "Anything Goes" later in the year.

As for the future, Burns wants to take his love for music beyond high school graduation, but not in the traditional sense. A problem that Burns wants to remedy further in life is the music world being infa-



mous for taking advantage of talented artists with unclear contracts that rob them of creative freedom and proper pay.

Currently, Burns aims to pursue music in college but intends on transitioning to law

school and becoming an entertainment lawyer, which involves negotiating contracts for clients to protect their intellectual property rights and represent them in cases of disputes. Burns hopes to use the skills that he has acquired from extracurriculars like mock trial and debate to facilitate his transition into law studies.

"I figure if I can use the powers I gained there [Pine View's Speech and Debate and Mock Trial team] to protect those musicians from being taken advantage of, that's what I have to do with my life... to do everything I can to protect the art form I love and artists who make it," Burns said.

According to Pine View Jazz Band conductor Victor Mongillo, "Cameron is one of those students that is always ready to give 100% in whatever he does both in and out of school. He's a great mentor for the younger students and is very dedicated."

PHOTOS BY ANNA LABINER

WHICH GREEK GOD ARE YOU?

ZEUS

You're the big boy/girl of the friend group — everyone follows your lead. You are an articulate and forceful speaker which makes everyone take you pretty seriously. You like to follow the rules, but you also have a fun side. Your confidence is one of your biggest strengths, but you do have a big ego.

POSEIDON

You're the god of the sea which means you're chill — every morning you wake up and ride the wave that is life. However, we all know you can get a bit moody. If you don't drink a red bull before you leave for school, then you get pretty scary.

HADES

Major emo, My Chemical Romance vibes. You're different and no one in your family gets it, so you just chill in the dark pit you call your room (aka the underworld). You're pretty shy, so you don't let a lot of people in, but when you do, you never let them go (like ever).

HERA

The "Mom/Dad Friend" of the group but in a cool 'Mean Girls' mom sort of way. You hold everything together and do your best to keep everyone happy and satisfied. You can be super petty, but it's never without reason.

DEMETER

Super down to Earth and 'hippie' in a cute boho way, and always equipped with a metal straw. In your free time you are at the farmer's market, watering your basil plant, or growing new succulents (can you ever have enough?).

ATHENA

You're incredibly intelligent, hard-working, and well rounded — and you know it. You are on top of everything, and you have gained respect from everyone around you. People may say that you are a try-hard, but you take it as a compliment.

APHRODITE

Well, we're just going to come right out and say it — you're attractive. But there's more to you — you love a good gossip, you're a natural flirt, utterly charismatic, and wholly embody that hot girl/boy summer vibe. People say you're shallow, but they're just jealous.

KUMON® MATH. READING. SUCCESS.

JOB OPENING

Help early learners and grade homework.
Flexible hours.

Contact: 941-462-2729

Email: sarasotabeeridge_fl@ikumon.com

TO♥Tille Eye Care

**COMPREHENSIVE
EYE CARE FOR
THE ENTIRE FAMILY!**

- Digital Eye Examinations
- Contact Lens Fitting
- Specialty Contact Lenses
- Ocular Health Evaluations
- Emergency Office Visits

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK!

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED INSIDE LENSRAFTERS

AT WESTFIELD SIESTA KEY

3501 S. TAMiami TRAIL, SUITE 302

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34239

www.tilleeyecareassociates.com

[facebook.com/TilleEyeCare](https://www.facebook.com/TilleEyeCare)

941-366-3205

The overuse of CGI ruins movies

by Grace Johnson
Match Asst. Editor

At best, computer graphics imagery (CGI) is a collection of profound technical achievements, but because of its overuse in recent years, it has become an overwhelming, kitschy cinematic experience that does anything but astound its audience. While viewing such CGI-heavy movies, viewers are no longer experiencing the suspension of disbelief that they once did when the movies were first put into production. These viewers are experiencing what some would call the Weta effect.

Weta Digital is a film and animation studio that has produced films such as "Avatar," "The Lord of the Rings," and "Avengers." The list goes on from there. While the majority of the movies they produce are hits, the major use of CGI in many of their films has been dubbed too unrealistic by critics and moviegoers alike.

The overuse of such effects interferes with audiences' sus-

pension of disbelief.

As reported by The Sydney Morning Herald, suspension of disbelief is what causes a viewer to become immersed in a film. This feeling of getting lost in a movie is the magic of the industry. The Weta effect's hypothesis states that the use of CGI in today's movies is too glossy and, as the viewer notices these graphics, disbelief is no longer suspended, and the audience loses their excitement in the film.

While the phenomenon's namesake is Weta Digital, movies that have no relation to said production company can be associated with the theory as well,

like the recent train-wreck movie, "Cats." The film's rating on Rotten Tomatoes was 20%, mainly because viewers were not fully engaged in the world of "Cats" (and were also terrified of the human-cat digital hybrids).

However, Department for Computer Animation at Ringling College of Art & Design, Jim

McC Campbell, disagrees with why audiences are seemingly dissatisfied with hyper-realistic CGI in today's movies.

"I disagree with the theory in general. While I do agree that the level of detail that is possible to provide in these films can be distracting because it is detailed and incredible to watch, I don't



think that is the crux of the problem," McC Campbell said in an email response. "We have become desensitized to the content that the artists and technology can provide."

McC Campbell explained that the two films which truly kicked off the "computer animation revolution" were "Terminator 2" in 1991 and "Jurassic Park" in 1993. The two movies amazed audiences so

much that CGI started being incorporated into movies regularly — and the viewers loved it.

"Nobody had ever seen anything like it before... We just couldn't believe it," McC Campbell said.

Nowadays, audiences know what to expect. Viewers are harder to wow.

"The reason we have a harder time with the suspension of disbelief isn't because the effects are too good. It's because we have no more disbelief to be suspended," McC Campbell said. "We know it isn't real, because we know how it was done. If you watch a magician do a magic trick and you know how the trick is done, do you still believe it's magic?"

Even colorless, two-dimensional animation amazed audiences when it first came out. However, as viewers got used to it, they enjoyed what they watched without being quite as charmed. Desensitization has happened before, is happening again and will

continue to happen.

Because of this, as the entertainment industry develops, it must create new mediums to reach viewers through. While CGI isn't going anywhere anytime soon, the entertainment industry has some where new to turn — Virtual Reality (VR).

McC Campbell explained that VR technology can create real memories as if these online experiences are a reality, which is extremely advantageous to film.

"Watching a film is a passive experience. You see what the director wanted you to see in the order and the way they wanted you to see it. With VR, you are part of the story and your own choices shape the path of the experience. Just imagine some of the hard choices you've watched film characters make in the past. Now imagine if those choices were yours," McC Campbell said.

GRAPHICS BY ANNA LABINER

TORCH PREDICTS: Oscars

PREDICTED

- Best Picture - Parasite
- Actor in Leading Role - Joaquin Phoenix
- Actress in Leading Role - Saoirse Ronan
- Actor in Supporting Role - Brad Pitt
- Actress in Supporting Role - Florence Pugh
- Animated Feature Film - Toy Story 4
- Cinematography - Joker
- Costume Design - Little Women
- Directing - Parasite
- Film Editing - Joker
- Documentary (Feature) - Honeyland & American Factory*
- Documentary (Short Subject) - Walk Run Cha-Cha & Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone*
- International Feature Film - Parasite

OUTCOME

- Best Picture - Parasite
- Actor in Leading Role - Joaquin Phoenix
- Actress in Leading Role - Renée Zellweger
- Actor in Supporting Role - Brad Pitt
- Actress in Supporting Role - Laura Dern
- Animated Feature Film - Toy Story 4
- Cinematography - 1917
- Costume Design - Little Women
- Directing - Parasite
- Film Editing - Ford v Ferrari
- Documentary (Feature) - American Factory
- Documentary (Short Subject) - Learning to Skateboard in a Warzone
- International Feature Film - Parasite



Hot Topics

PARASITE

First international film to win best picture

THE VIEWERS

Viewership of the 2020 Oscars hit an all-time low

THE GENDER GAP

No female nominees for Best Director

SPEECHES

Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress discuss the climate crisis

Music's Dynamic Culture

Gatekeeping in Modern Fan Culture

by Lily Quartermaine

Asst. Entertainment Editor

In a world of relentless Twitter "stans," countless new artists on the rise and a resurgence of alternative music, it may feel overwhelming trying to find a popular artist you can wholeheartedly enjoy. It feels as though it is impossible to casually enjoy a few songs by an artist anymore; you must completely dedicate your life to them, memorizing everything from birthdays to hometowns lest you fall victim to the criticisms of super-fans.

But, we already know this. It is impossible to ignore, especially if you are an avid



user of social media or are

already integrated in some popular fan bases.

Admittedly, many of us have found ourselves in the position of a "stan" before, obsessing over some musician that we truly believed we were the absolute biggest fan of. The real question is: Why? Why do we and most other fans, especially those in the music industry, feel the need to be "the best"?

Merriam Webster defines a stan as "an extremely or excessively enthusiastic and devoted fan." It's also a

verb, stan-ning, which means the action of being a stan. The term originally comes from Eminem's 2000 song "Stan," which describes a borderline-stalker fan of Eminem's, going insane obsessing over him. In most cases, the term has evolved into something a little less gruesome, but still holds the "passionate" undertones.

However, this description of a "crazy superfan" is not only found in a catchy Eminem song. It's a real,

commonly occurring phenomenon.

But not all fanbases are malicious; in most online communities, there is a sense of togetherness. It can be a very moving thing to see people from across the globe bond through artwork and shared devotion for an artist, especially when that artist's work has emotional connections to those involved. So why does that sense of community seem to shift into a competition when it comes to the music world?

The competitiveness of stan culture can be found on all sorts of social media and even in real life. There is always that urge to be the "best" fan, to know more or act as if you care more than your fellow devotees.

This feeling of being a superfan, or of being among some of the biggest fans, also makes you feel as if you are worthy of gatekeeping. Gatekeeping, as defined by Urban Dictionary, is "when someone takes it upon themselves to decide who does or does

not have access or rights to community or identity." This holier-than-thou mentality sparks the commonly heard superfan declarations of "you can't like this artist because you don't know this specific fact about them," and the idea that if you're a fan that's been around since "the beginning" then you are automatically better than those that are newer.

This mindset is especially popular right now among artists like Billie Eilish, who started when she was just 15 on websites like "Soundcloud." Now, Eilish has blown up, holding five Grammy Awards, two American Music Awards, two MTV Europe Music Awards, three MTV Video Music Awards and a NRJ Music Award. So, it's understandable that fans that have idolized her since she was a "nobody" feel as if they are more important than newer fans, but that doesn't excuse the constant belittling that newer fans receive.

It is likely that most

stans think they are being admired for their knowledge of their musical role model, or even impressing said role model themselves. But the dog-eat-dog, gatekeeping mentality is anything but productive.



in fanbases is the exact opposite of what fanbases were created to do. Fans are meant to encourage the growth of an artist, not make said artist undesirable because of a toxic community surrounding them.

Yes, it could be an enjoyable or gratifying experience to believe that you're a "true" fan, or more likely to appease your musical idols than others, but this is a selfish and destructive mindset. A true fan is not one who segregates and shames other fans, but one who spreads love and acceptance despite differences in musical knowledge.

GRAPHICS BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

Finding Vinyl in Sarasota and Beyond

by Zoe Meritt

Features Editor

In today's world of endless streaming options, it may feel as though keeping up with both contemporary and vintage fads has become a near-impossible task. No matter what subculture you align with or what's on your playlist, vintage trends have saturated pop culture, bringing with them a new wave of interest in vinyl.

"For one, vinyl has a better sound to it. Another reason is the art," Josh Klippel, owner of Salty Dog Records, said. "Artwork on an album is something lost with digital media. I know many people, including myself, who hang album covers on their wall."

Klippel first started selling vinyl inside the Red Barn Flea Market in Bradenton, Florida in 2018, but recently moved to the current location found at 6565 Gateway Ave. in Sarasota following the growth of his business. The Clever Cup Coffee Shop is just across the street, making Salty Dog a great place to check out while taking a break from a cafe study session or when meeting up with friends.

The store is a vibrant space that reflects its owner's clear love for music — records and music memorabilia line the walls, and most of the available space is taken up by crates of records sorted by genre. Alongside vinyl, Salty Dog also carries CDs, cassettes and posters of popular alternative musicians.

Inside, one can browse both new and used records with a variety of genres and artists. This comprehensive curation doesn't limit Salty

Dog to specific eras in music, as can be the case with some used stores that follow the ebb and flow of independent sellers and garage sales. And unlike the better-known option of Barnes and Noble, the number of limited edition movie soundtracks being pushed on you as soon as you start flipping through the crates is refreshingly nonexistent.

With affordable pricing at about \$20 a record (fairly standard pricing for the industry) and a small group of regulars, shopping local is not just better for the customer, who doesn't have to deal with overpricing and shipping fees, but also better for the musical community that's bound to have formed in cities like Sarasota with a thriving art scene.

"The best thing with used vinyl is that the original version, that the artist meant for you to hear, and the artwork or inserts are exactly what they wanted you to see. The reasons we carry new vinyl are plentiful, often for more expensive records, a re-issue is much more affordable and acquirable. Some things either never got a vinyl press or it was super limited, also current albums are only really available new," Klippel said.

Klippel's father owns a record store in DeKalb, Illinois, which Klippel began working at when he was 11 but didn't become serious about vinyl until he was 14. At 18, he moved down to Florida and began selling records at Red Barn Flea Market.

While many believe that this new age of streaming will be the death of analog, vinyl is as popular as ever. There is something to be said about

hearing an album all the way through as the artist intended, and something so corporeal in comparison to the immateriality of the ones and zeros behind a Spotify "liked songs" playlist. And if anything, the internet has only increased interest in vinyl records as a place where people can partake in a shared aesthetic in

which retro items play a large part or talk about their shared interests in music, vinyl included.

"With

vintage stuff coming back into the public eye in the last however many years, more people get interested in vinyl and start a collection," Klippel said.



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERITT

Vinyl Record Dos:

- Store your vinyl vertically. This is the best way to keep your records from warping which is when the vinyl bends or melts out of shape. This permanently damages the vinyl.
- Always use the cueing lever on your player to lift the needle up and down off the record. Not using your lever means you risk scratching your record. Make sure that you only lift your record off the platter after the record stops moving.
- Check out your thrift stores, garage sales and local record shops and talk to the owners. Each record store has its own unique curation of new and/or used vinyl.

Vinyl Record Don'ts:

- Stack your vinyl. This is the surest way to warp your vinyl!
- Touch your vinyl with greasy hands. Fingerprints are not fun! Carry your vinyl with the pads of your fingers, like a waiter with a plate.
- Drop your vinyl into the sleeve. Most vinyl you buy will come in a paper sleeve. Dropping the vinyl into the sleeve will rip it and cause damage to the record.
- Call them "vinyls." This is the biggest faux pas you can make. Vinyl is the material used to make records. Instead, call them "records" or "vinyl records". Using the correct terms is an easy way to a show a collector how much you know.

Tenth-grader rolls with the punches

by Felicity Chang
Web Section Editor

When she steps onto the sidewalk and passes the looming presence of a monochromatic mural – a depiction of an old-school, bare-knuckled fighter, complete with a piercing gaze and handlebar mustache, the solid black background of the mural stands in stark contrast to the gray-washed walls and bold block letters sprawled across a white ribbon spells out two words: Uppercut Fitness. Her platinum blonde ponytail sways behind her as tenth-grader Ruby Copsey walks into an array of heavy bags encompassing a black-and-red boxing ring – into the place where, according to Copsey, she “can only think about trying harder, working harder, punching harder,” as nothing else is going through her mind.

Greeting her is two-and-a-half-year-old Jax Jaco, whose parents – second-generation professional fighter Aaron Jaco and personal trainer Heather Jaco – co-own Uppercut Fitness. The toddler, always with a bright smile on his face, is often found running around the gym.

But Jax isn't the only one Copsey has developed a close relationship to. In addition to attending group classes three days a week, she has private sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

“It's this environment that you can't explain,” Copsey said. “I go to both the owners for advice; we tell them about our life, and they tell us about theirs... It's a different type of service that has family wrapped into it.”

During her Tuesday sessions, every week at 4 p.m., Copsey focuses primarily on her technique, with one-on-one instruction from Aaron Jaco while hitting mitts – a drill in which the coach uses a pair of focus mitts to catch a boxer's punches, honing in on combinations with both offensive and defensive motions. For Copsey, it is extremely rewarding when the snap of a boxing glove hitting a mitt resonates through the building after she throws

a good punch.

Group classes, on the other hand, reflect another mode of recognition.

“When she's hitting mitts with me, the whole gym – those who have never seen her do it – they're almost, like, shocked. And I mean, she looks ferocious when she's throwing punches,” Aaron Jaco said. “I think that's kind of what makes heads turn – when you see this young girl who just looks like a nice, little, lean, quiet little girl and all of a sudden she's throwing these big, fast, hard punches.”

“She's still this sweet little girl, but inside there's a lion that comes out when she trains,”
Aaron Jaco,
personal trainer

While Copsey's lean physique doesn't necessarily fit most people's notion of a typical boxer, her build doesn't put her at a disadvantage – in fact, it's quite the opposite.

“When you look at Ruby, you don't go, ‘Wow, she's an imposing figure with these big muscles on her.’ That's not what you want as a boxer – you want nice, long, lanky arms. You want to be nice and loose,” Jaco said. “Truthfully, I've been in the ring 41 times; the guys who hit me the hardest

are the long, lanky guys because that muscle just holds you back.”

Copsey's growth in boxing is a result of what Jaco refers to as “a ton of effort” mixed with “consistency and intensity” – all propelling her past square one. According to Copsey, when a family friend first introduced her to Uppercut Fitness in November 2018, she had participated in athletics since she was about nine years old.

“I used to always joke with my friends that my motto was ‘I don't sports [sic],’” Copsey said.

But with time came progress, and Copsey's effort paid off. One of her first major steps, according to Copsey, was when she did 60 unassisted push-ups in one session; it was a momentous achievement, as she couldn't do a single push-up before she started training at Uppercut.

According to Jaco, Copsey's progress has been reflected in other ways as well. “She's throwing some great combinations and is not just someone who can come in and throw a one-two,” he said. “She can actually throw hooks, and, also, she's gotten great at reading body language – where I can throw a certain punch at her and she knows how to duck 'em or slip 'em without me even giving commands.”

Copsey's improvement proved to be worthwhile, as she was awarded “Best Female Boxer” at Uppercut Fitness. Every year, the gym hosts a party, in which its members are given both light-hearted and significant awards.

“She had the most growth,” Jaco said. “She threw the best punches, and that was through hard work and consistency.”

From not a single push-up to 60 all at once, from “I don't sports” to “Best Female Boxer,” Copsey has – in Jaco's words – “done a complete 180,” with her fitness level going through the roof.

“She's still humble. You would never know. She's still quiet; she's still this sweet little girl, but inside – there's a lion that comes out when she trains,” Jaco said.



Copsey throws a punch with personal trainer Aaron Jaco at Uppercut Fitness. She was awarded “Best Female Boxer” for the year. PHOTOS BY BEN GORDON

[an infographic]

WORKOUT COOL DOWN

How to relax and recover after a hard workout

1 SHOWER

Shower to help uncoil your muscles and avoid oils from sweat clogging your pores. Lukewarm water is best to avoid shocking the body. If you have the time an epsom salt bath is relaxing and revitalizing.

2 STAY HYDRATED

Stay hydrated and make a simple herbal tea.

- Ginger - reduces inflammation
- Cinnamon - anti-inflammatory
- Star anise - alleviates cramps
- Honey - anti-oxidant

3 SNACK

Eat a high protein or calcium late-night snack to replenish your energy levels.

Seasonal fruits and greek yogurt or banana with peanut butter are easy and tasty snacks.

4 YOGA

Yoga is a great way to cool off after a strenuous workout through meditation and stretching. Downward dog, sphinx pose, and forward fold pose are easy to do at home.

GRAPHIC BY NAINA CHAUHAN

Torch tries: Kayaking

by Tiffany Yu

Match Layout Artist

Gently rowing along through the canopied mangrove tunnels, The Torch staff came across a beautiful white bird, an egret, stooping silently by the edge of where the water ended and the mangroves began. Surrounding the bird erupted numerous little spider crabs, skittering along the outstretched branches of the mangroves, encircling us with the profuse life of the area.

Among the varying activities you can experience in the Sarasota Bay area is kayaking. The sport is great exercise, engaging your whole body, but it can be a lot of work. So what happens when you put a dozen high school journalism students out on the water in kayaks? We The Torch staff sought out this answer.

On Saturday, Jan. 18, the Torch staff arrived at the Lido Mangroves Tunnels located in Ted Sperling Park to begin setting up. There were thirteen participants ranging from ninth to twelfth grade, including a parent who provided us all with kayaks, paddles, and of course, life jackets for safety purposes.

I chose to take out a tandem kayak — a kayak made for two— with my good friend ninth-grader Lily Quartermaine, a fellow writer here on staff. The kayak was heavy at first to say the least, but once we hit the water it wasn't hard to get going. Quartermaine and I, not being the seasoned kayakers we now are, struggled at first with maneuvering through the water. We kept speeding up and slow-

ing down at unwarranted times, and turns were sometimes frustrating. To be fair, not only were we new to the sport, but also a tandem kayak made it twice as difficult. We spent about two and a half hours out on the water, which was more than enough time for us to get the hang of things.

“It was literally one of the most chaotic, yet tremendously fun experiences ever. The mangroves tunnels were so narrow and we were all bumping and sloshing around,” Quartermaine said. “It was definitely physically demanding, but it was a great bonding experience for the staff.”

It was a hot day, but this was heavily improved by the mangrove tunnels which offered shade, and the cool breeze only available in Florida's winters. The water was tranquil and easy to glide through, and the views never ceased to impress me. When we took a moment to look around,

the intricate mangrove tunnels were breathtaking and intertwining, and the canopies overhead turned the landscape into a kaleidoscope of green. This, alongside the fact that I was able to spend quality time with my friends and fellow staff members, made my experience highly enjoyable. I would recommend kayaking to anyone, fitness nuts and couch potatoes alike.

For those who prefer to venture off independently, kayaking is a serene experience that is just as enjoyable on your own. Kayaking has the perfect balance of exercise and fun, and going with friends is definitely an experience to remember.



PHOTO BY TIFFANY YU

Tenth-grader enjoys the ride

by Sarah Hassan
Match Asst. Editor

Galloping into her future as an equestrian, tenth-grader Kani Schram has been exposed to the unique and daunting experience of horseback riding for twelve years.

Introduced at the age of four, Schram practiced horseback riding as a hobby during the weekends. While staying in an R.V. due to home renovations, Schram's dad, Bruce Schram, tried to find Kani a fitting activity to pass time. He eventually found a horseback riding place from one of his clients.

According to Bruce, he has seen Schram "from going for a ride to being in command of an athletic horse at age 16." He is impressed by the great skill Schram has been able to develop over her time riding.

With having a father familiar with riding horses and previously part of the U.S. Pony Club (USPC), Schram was not entirely new to horseback riding. Schram is currently involved with the USPC, a national club, which is divided into regional clubs. The state of Florida has its own region, the Sunshine Region, which further splits up into local clubs such as Schram's, the Seafoam Pony Club, located in Myakka City.

As horseback riding involves a multitude of events, Schram has familiarized herself with the mounted games, which are relay races. Held by the USPC, Inc. and hosted by the organizers of the Land Rover Kentucky Three-Day Event, the Prince Philip Cup takes place as an exhibition in Lexington, Kentucky. During this international five-star exhibition, participants perform three events: cross-country, dressage and show jumping. In the cup, four teams of five from different regions compete with each other.

Attending the event three years in a row, Schram's team, the Yellow Jackets, represented the Sunshine Region in

2016 through 2018. In 2017, her team placed fourth in Overall Riding and Horse Management, and in 2018, they placed second in Horse Management and fourth in Overall Riding.

As a horseback rider, one needs a horse of their own or at a local facility. Schram has four horses, each with a distinct personality and specialty. She has Shiraka, an Arabian horse; Arlon, a Foundation American Quarter Horse; Precious, a Welsh Cross; and Daisy, an Off-Track Thoroughbred. Shiraka, Arlon, and Precious specialize in jumping, while Daisy leans toward Dressage, an event in which the horse and the rider perform a series of movements from memory.

Daisy, a hot-tempered 13-year-old, is the main project for Schram. Considered slightly untrained, Daisy is assumed to have a racing background. Schram loves all four of her horses equally, but during the Prince Philip Cup, she had participated with Precious, who is also used for teaching horseback riding.

"It's really interesting to have to be conscious of another being... Just being aware of [the horse's emotions like] 'Oh, she's crabby today. Maybe it's because she has an ulcer or her feet are hurting.' You always have to think of things that you would never think of when you are riding," Schram said.

Not only does Schram learn lessons from the Terranova Equestrian Center, but she also teaches horseback riding to third-grader Abby Williams on Saturdays or Sundays for an hour each lesson. According to Schram, teaching her student has helped her develop a more firm understanding of horseback riding by rethinking her riding foundation and keeping her sharp on her basics.

"It's like one step forward two steps backward a lot of times... You keep continuing with it because you can't exactly just [give up] with a horse," Schram said.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY
KANI SCHRAM

Fall Sports Best of HT Preps 2020

For the fifth year, the Sarasota Herald Tribune honors Sarasota County Schools' best sports players and teams. There were six Pine View students mentioned in the Fall Sports Jan. 26 issue, and they will be honored at a ceremony held at Robart's Arena May 20.



Lydia Vaccaro, Junior-
Honorable Mention for Girls
Golf



Ian Brann, Senior- First
Team for Boys Swimming



Liam Custer, Sophomore-
Player of the Year Finalist
for Boys Swimming



Orlando Cicilioni, Junior- First
Team for Boys Cross Country



Lucas Caragiulo, Senior-
Honorable Mention for Boys
Cross Country



Kasumi Wade, Junior- Player
of the Year Finalist for Girls
Cross Country

GRAPHIC BY NAINA CHAUHAN

TOGETHER
WE CAN
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



BE SAFE. GET EDUCATED.
STAY HEALTHY.
CALL: 844-922-2777
CANCOMMUNITYHEALTH.ORG
FOLLOW US

The Torch exposes PV's secret menu

by Ella Williams
Asst. Sports Editor

Despite what one may think, the school cafeteria menu featured here at Pine View is much more complex than what is presented. The lunch ladies and lunch men spend hours on end shrewdly crafting a secret menu that only a select few know about. In order to be granted the privilege of knowing about these treats, one must understand a series of codes and clues hidden in the cafeteria.

Believe it or not, a delectable, tantalizing form of flavoring for fries and chicken exists, only available to an elite group of students. This sauce is composed of honey mustard, barbecue sauce and ranch dressing, a concept completely exclusive to the Pine View kitchen. Rumor has it that local chicken restaurant Chick-fil-A began selling this "212 sauce".

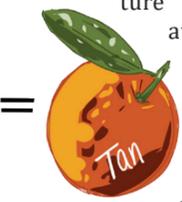
In order to get such

flavor, one must state a certain reply to the lunch ladies when they ask, "How are you?" The appropriate and usual response to such a remark is "I am doing well." However, to receive the 212 sauce, one must respond by reciting your favorite monologue from a piece of literature taught here at Pine View. This is sure to catch their attention while proving your intellect at the same time.

The Pine View cafeteria secret society crafts mouth-watering pies, only available to those who can recite the first 24 digits of π . Pie flavors are based off of a variety of mathematical principles including trigonometry, featuring TAngerine and COTangerine.

Despite what you have read, please be sure to be discrete when entering the Student Union.

After all, the secret society will function at its best if the members are exclusively those who read the humor section of the Torch.



GRAPHICS BY ZOE MERRITT

The dance taking out Tik Tok-ers left and right

by Peyton Harris
Focus Editor

15-year old Dan Cer awoke in an unfamiliar hospital bed, his arms strapped down as his muscle memory urged him to do the dance that admitted him in the first place. His parents tearfully watched and nurses protested as Cer was struck with a burst of superhuman strength, which he used to rip through the cloth securing his arms, sit up in bed, and "renegade."

Cer is just one of the thousands of victims of CPR, or Compulsive Powerful Renegading that is spreading rapidly. Teens everywhere are experiencing unstoppable repetition of the renegade dance, unable to control their limbs as they aggressively punch whatever or whoever is nearby. 240 people worldwide have been the victims of a CPRer's overenthusiastic punches, according to the TikTok Center of Health.

A commonplace site for these incidents are school campuses: CPRers show off their renegade skills to their friends, often unaware of their disease and end up punching small children by accident. Often the subjects of renegading are able to recover, but some scenarios result in mass injury. School officials have been warned to not play "Lottery" by K Camp at school events, for



Student performs the Tik Tok "Renegade" dance unaware of what might come next or who might be the next victim of her incredible dance skills. One more "woah" may send her to insanity.

PHOTO BY ELENA D'AMATO

this will trigger mass hysteria for those afflicted as well as PTSD for those who have been struggling to get over CPR. In addition, history teachers internationally have been chastised for using the cursed word "renegade" in reference to figures such as Benedict Arnold.

CPR has been demeaned by boomers as "fake" and merely a farce for imprudent app usage, but the horror stories of its victims prove otherwise.

"One time I was renegading and I accidentally punched my sister, who then punched her friend, thinking it was her, and then the friend punched someone else, and

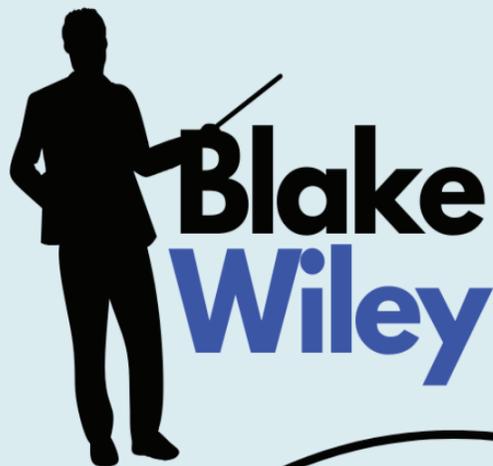
eventually 68 people were hospitalized," ninth-grader Sam Sung said.

Sung's story is just one of many, chronicled in what doctors are calling the "crisis of the century."

Early symptoms of CPR include excessive TikTok usage, unexplainable Charli D'Amelio infatuation, lowering brain activity and twitching hands. It is highly contagious, typically manifesting itself in friends and family of those diseased.

Doctors are urging all high school students to avoid doing the renegade at all costs, for once one starts, it's nearly impossible to avoid contracting CPR.

[an infographic]



Blake Wiley

VS.

Blake Lively



Teaches High School students

Usually opts for pumps and a mini skirt

Undisputed champion at the SOAPStone olympics

Can analyze literature, has no regrets

Doesn't teach High School students

Always rocking a jersey and blue jeans

Came in second at SOAPStone olympics

Biggest regret: never learned how to analyze literature

"Had a thing" with Ryan Reynolds

Long, flowing, blond hair

Legs for days

MEME OF THE MONTH

"I Am Asking Once Again For Your Financial Support"

Origin

On December 30th of 2019, Democratic Candidate Bernie Sanders came out with a promotional video in which he requests fundraising for his campaign. The quote from the video, "I am once again asking for your financial support" soon became the focus of memes.



About

In light of the 2020 election, politicians have been the center of memes circulating social media. Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders has become the heart of these memes; his quote has been restated with different scenarios in which monetary donations are requested.

Popular Derivatives

College kids calling home for the first time in 3 months



The girl from high school who is advertising her pyramid scheme on Facebook



Photos provided by Twitter

GRAPHIC BY OLIVIA HANSEN

[a column]

Riding The Bus: An Experience

Although we as high schoolers don't have the luxury that is riding morning school buses, we will always have the memories of elementary and middle school mornings everyone can fondly look back on.

After all, what is better than spending your mornings with a miscellaneous group of pre-teens you don't know? Nothing.

Riding the bus was an experience that differed for everyone, but I think we can all safely say that we learned a thing or two from those daily excursions.

The conspicuous hierarchy on the bus is rarely discussed, but so prominent that it is consistent on every bus across public schools. Cool kids sit in the back.

Period. Usually they are eighth-graders. This is counterintuitive to the concept of seniority, since high school students usually find a way to be invisible in the middle of the bus to hide the fact that they still haven't gotten their learners' permit.

Be careful around them, they are very fragile. It takes a while to earn your spot at the back of the bus, but once you do, it is well worth it.

The best part about taking a "community car" to school is you don't have to worry about picking music.

Your amazing designated driver will take care of that for you — in the very best way possible. Drivers' taste in music reigns supreme. We are all waiting for that



Elena D'Amato, Asst. Humor Editor

Spotify playlist to drop. What other way to listen to Jason Derulo on repeat?

Even better, you don't have to fret about being home on time.

Whether you like it or not, your bus will arrive at a set 4:25 p.m. If not, you can look forward to the collective chaos

that will ensue. This feature gives you plenty of time to get some homework done.

Despite what most say about riding the bus, it really is a significant aspect of middle school culture that remains ingrained in your mind forever.

Making new friends, learning new music and knowing where exactly you lie in what is the middle school social hierarchy are all crucial aspects to riding the bus that you cannot learn anywhere else. The bus rides of youth are looked upon fondly. Plus, it is a guaranteed ride home.

Cats: A thorough review

Was it worth the roar?

by Leo Gordon
Match Editor-In-Chief

Unless you're a cinematic degenerate, you have probably seen Hollywood's latest box-office hit, "Cats." Timeless, classy and mildly horrifying, it's the best film I've seen since "The Emoji Movie," and if that doesn't speak to the quality of this classic film, I don't know what does.

Breaking records with its box office revenue, which, since its release two months ago has earned the film a negative \$27 million profit, the off-Broadway production received an impressive rating of 20% on Rotten Tomatoes — the highest rating awarded to any film in over 50 years.

Although a 20% rating on the review site is unheard of, Rotten Tomatoes' general statement for the film speaks volumes.

"Despite its fur-midable cast, this 'Cats' adaptation is a lawful mistake that will leave most viewers begging to be put out of their misery," Rotten Tomatoes said.

Aside from its impressive critic reviews, "Cats" has received extended praise from Pine View staff.

"I think I'm going to stop teaching standard curriculum," AP Language and Composition teacher Catsar Grate said with tears steaming down his face. "We're just going to analyze 'Cats' for the rest of the year. It's sort of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, you know, being able to share such an amazing film and story with my students."

Students, too, have found comfort in the film's extremely tasteful display of theatrical excellence.

"I want to study theater arts in college, and 'Cats' has served as the catalyst of all my theatrical interests. Before it was released, I planned on studying statistics," twelfth-grader Clawfus McGrowl said. "After seeing Jason Derulo's career-highlight performance in the film, I was inspired to pursue theater."

Considering the film's award-winning screenplay, director Tom Hooper's ability to blend humor with reality comes as no surprise to general moviegoers. Some of the film's most notoriously hilarious dialogue comes from Jennyanydots, played by "Pitch Perfect" star Rebel Wilson who we all know and love.

"Do you think he just got neutered? Because those notes are high," Jennyanydots said.

"No joke, I had to be escorted out of the movie theater because I was laughing too hard. I just couldn't deal with it. When Rebel Wilson's character made a joke about Rum Rum Tugger's high notes, I nearly spilled my popcorn," ninth-grader Litta Bocks said.

Ultimately, "Cats" is much more than just an amazing film — it's a life-altering masterpiece. Facing the future, put some serious thought into your next film-viewing experience. Why face the mediocrity of films like "Parasite" and "Little Women" when you can watch "Cats" instead?

Rating: 6/5 Torches.



Who's that Pokémon?

As part of a Humor tradition, each issue will include a teacher-based Pokémon. Try to collect them all!



GRAPHIC BY ANNA LABINER

[staff editorial]

Taxation without adequate representation is too common

“No taxation without representation.” It’s not just a hallmark of any liberal democracy, but one of the tenets upon which the United States was founded.

The phrase was coined in 1761 by James Otis, penning his outrage at a British Parliament that taxed the colonists relentlessly while allowing them no elected representatives to voice their interests.

And while colonial America may be a far cry from the United States today, this 17th-century political slogan is still relatable to many modern-day Americans.

For instance, as all minors working part-time jobs know, teenagers are subject to the same laws as adults when it comes to paying taxes on earned income. But, without a legal say in the political process, this dynamic runs contrary to the nature of a true democracy.

Ultimately, if you, like many students, are under 18 and work a part-time job, then you’re a victim of taxation without representation.

Recently, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed into law by President Donald Trump Dec. 22, 2017 eliminated the need for most minors to file income taxes. Because the standard deduction was raised to \$12,000 per person, any teen earning less than that amount does not have to file an income tax return. However, teens still have the ability to file if they make under this amount. Regardless of the income tax require-

ments, taxes are taken out of each paycheck.

Although most teenagers who file their taxes are eligible to get their money back, due to the lack of proper education on how to manage finances and pay taxes, this complicated task becomes a burden for employed minors.

Some justify taxation without representation by claiming that minors are not educated enough to vote and that many adults, such as felons and those on green cards, are also taxed despite not being eligible to vote. However, voting is a sacred responsibility, and there will always be those who misuse their privilege and provide uneducated votes. Teenagers should not be overlooked, as in today’s political climate, more students are becoming informed and involved in local, state and national politics.

Taxation without representation is not limited to working minors. Here in the United States, multiple districts and territories have a large population and pay federal taxes, but are denied a vote in Congress.

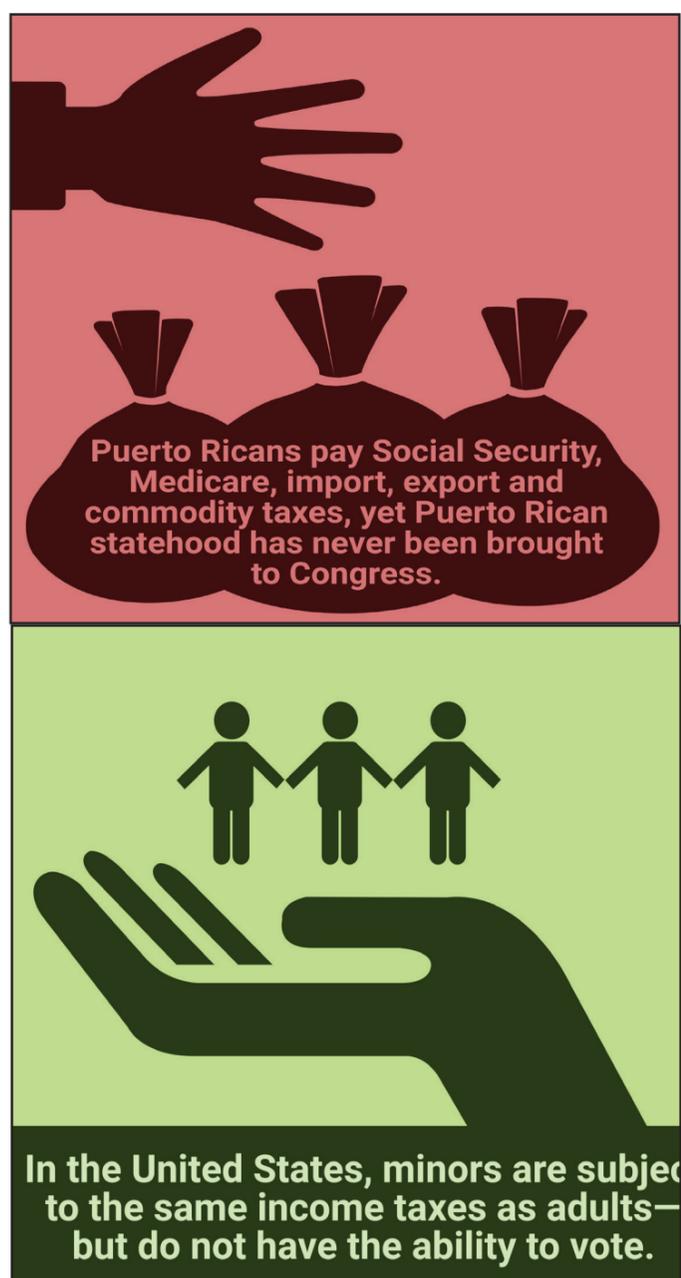
Residents of the District of Columbia have fought for years to be granted a voting representative in Congress. Standard-issue license plates dot the phrase “End taxation without representation.” Yet, despite paying some of the highest federal taxes in the nation, (District of Columbia residents have the highest tax rate per capita out of any state), a bill for

representation has never even reached a vote in the House of Representatives.

Not to mention, Washington, D.C.’s population at 712,000, is much higher than Wyoming’s 577,000 or Vermont’s 626,000. So, Washington D.C. residents pay the highest taxes in the nation, make up a larger portion of the population than several states, and still cannot choose where their tax dollars go. That seems unfair.

Puerto Rico has gained even less support for representation — and they can’t even vote for president. Puerto Ricans pay Social Security, Medicare, import, export and commodity taxes. Puerto Rico’s population is 3.4 million people, which is larger than 21 states. Their gross domestic product ranks ahead of 23 states. 200,000 Puerto Ricans have fought in U.S. wars since 1917. And, yes, Puerto Ricans are American citizens, too. Puerto Rican statehood has never even been brought to a committee in Congress.

The one thing holding us back? Politicians who fear losing power. Until we put in the effort to make Congress truly representative of American values, millions of American citizens will be forced to share their money with the U.S. government without any role in choosing where to allocate those tax dollars. As Pine View students, we should support elected officials who believe every American citizen deserves



the same representation — no matter where they come from.

Nearly three hundred years after the founding of the United States, “taxation without representation” is just one of the many ever-present injustices that continues to overshadow American life. Essentially, we still have the same problems.

Especially within the

context of the current political climate, as we question the condition of our democracy, it would serve us well to correct this persistent weakness as a means to even the scales of American justice.

How free are we if American citizens, even today, face undue taxation without a voice in the political process?

GRAPHICS BY SARAH CATALANO

Inclusive events should not be exclusive

by Anna Labiner
Entertainment Editor

Events that promote inclusivity (women’s marches, LGBTQ+ marches, etc.) have certainly met their mark in intensity and vigor the past couple of years and have facilitated sweeping changes in government action and social norms. In the past couple of years, the effects of social activism have been seen in the legalization of gay marriage and health care reform, among other issues.

That being said, those who organize these events may inflict

personal bias into events that are supposed to be inclusive for all. This has often taken the shape of anti-Semitic or anti-Israel sentiment — two forms of intolerance that have no place at events that promote basic human rights and inclusivity on all fronts.

At the March in Chicago, Illinois three years ago, two women who displayed rainbow flags with the Star of David in the middle were asked to leave the event. Other march attendees commented that the Star of David would be a “trigger” for oth-

er marchers. This year, its organizers announced that there would be no tolerance for “nationalist symbols” at their event. Though the Star of David was a Jewish symbol before Israel was founded, it is important to note the distinction between Anti-Israel and Anti-Semitic sentiment.

This rule could be plausible had the organizers mentioned that they would not allow flags that represent “nations that have specific oppressive tendencies,” like Israel. Furthermore, the Palestinian flag was allowed to fly freely because it represents a symbol of “liberation.” The blatant bias here is absolutely intolerable. While Israel has had its fair share of violence and harsh militaristic incidents, Palestine has been far from complacent in issues in the Middle East, and is no stranger to violent acts, as well. By allowing the Palestinian flag to fly while condemning the Israeli one, the march organizers are directly countering the message of inclusivity that they wish to promote at their event, and are making pro-Israel LGBTQ+ members feel unwelcome and unsafe.

As a Jew, I would not consider this anti-Semitism, however. The conflation of Israel and Judaism is a touchy area that is far from being resolved; however, it was wrong for the organizers to bring that issue up in the first place. Even if nationalist symbols did become an issue, it is in the best interest of the organizers to ban nationalist flags altogether, not just ones that went against their personal beliefs. This unapologetic hatred is counterproductive, and reflects more broadly upon the truth, that these rules stem from resentment and hatred,



GRAPHIC BY ANNA LABINER

not respect. Losing the vision of inclusion and unconditional support of one another at these events is a scary backtrack.

However, in light of the ban, several D**e March organizers from New York, Boston, Seattle, Portland, and Buffalo, have announced that they will not be banning “Jewish Pride Flags,” which is certainly a step in the right direction.

However, the issues that fueled this controversy extend further than marches. They display more broadly the anti-Semitic and Anti-Zionist sentiment found in some in progressive settings.

That anti-Semitism was on display in 2017 at the Women’s March, when it was uncovered that the organizers of the event had been affiliated with anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist activity. One organizer, Tamika Malloy, would not renounce her relationship with Louis Farrakhan, who has made statements that reflect anti-Semitic and homophobic sentiment, while another organizer, Linda Sarsour (who is a Palestinian-American activist), claimed that Zionism and feminism are not compati-

ble.

Jewish or pro-Israel Americans should not have to decide whether they should support women or support Jews. It is unfair to put Jewish people, or any other group, in a place where their well-being is threatened, especially when the whole point of the function is to promote self-expression and inclusion. Why do the organizers of these events get to dictate which groups are valid and worthy of supporting their cause and which ones are not?

It’s painful to see Jewish people or pro-Israel advocates who are already excluded from many sects of society become further isolated from the groups that are designed to protect and embrace them. Looking toward the future, one can only hope that event organizers learn from this blatant neglect and refuse to succumb to the hostilities of others. Ultimately, these marches are no place for anti-Semitism or Anti-Zionism, and it is imperative that inclusivity remains foundational to advocacy and civil rights.

The Verdict

Fish Farm: We are sad to see out-of-state corporations’ attempts to capitalize on the Gulf of Mexico’s clean water and ecological vulnerability.



Women’s Suffrage: We are happy to see the various celebrations on campus marking the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s ratification.



Teacher Bonuses: We are discouraged to see our teachers’ worth being measured by AP and FSA pass rates instead of other methods.



Medical Marijuana: We are encouraged by our district’s change in rules allowing certain students who need medical marijuana to have access at school.



[guest editorial]
Lobbying in Tallahassee: a Pine View student's experience



by **Carlton Leffler**
 Grade 12

Tallahassee, Florida bustling with press conferences and committees as the legislative session rushed to a close — but there were still people there, advocating for what they believe in.

A few weeks ago, I had the amazing opportunity to take part in Lobby Days, the point in the legislative session where different organizations choose to meet with representatives and discuss specific bills and issues that pertain to their goals. I am a part of the Peer Education Program at the Planned Parenthood in Sarasota County. A few other Peer Educators and I went to meet with our representatives and specifically talk about two separate bills affecting young people: one pertaining to parental consent and abortion access and the other about the mandated reporter status of teachers.

The forced parental consent bill mandates that those under the age of 18 will now be required to receive consent

from their parent or guardian to receive an abortion, rather than the notification law currently in place, where minors are required to inform their parent or guardian, but do not require permission. The mandated reporter status of teachers requires them to disclose any information confided in them by a student to that student's parent or guardian — for example, if a student were to come out to their teacher, the teacher would be required to alert their parent or guardian.

This was not my first time speaking to my representatives, so I felt confident that I could effectively speak to them and convince them that these laws would negatively affect young people. This feeling continued until about halfway to Tallahassee, when I realized that these were not some local politicians or school board members — these people had the power to decide the fate of minors across the entire state. I started to worry about whether or not my voice was accurately representing the people I was fighting for,

or that I wouldn't be able to effectively communicate to others at all. Fortunately, those worries did not last long.

As we sat down in our first meeting, my job was to share a story that displayed the emotional toll these laws would have. After our introductions, I spoke first. The original feeling of uneasiness disappeared as I looked at the other empowering young people I was surrounded by. We all nailed it! Some sympathetic tears were shed, and by the end of the meeting we all felt on top of the world. We ensured their vote against these bills.

It's important to remember that the representatives are likely more nervous than you are. It is our right as constituents, voters and concerned community members to have our voices heard. Lobby Days was a chaotic, fast-paced and inspiring experience. One moment we were in a meeting, the other we were in a committee, then somehow we ended up at a press conference that was aired statewide. I was able to grow closer to and learn from the others on the trip, creating memories that will last a lifetime. I absolutely plan to take part in similar events in the future.

In the end, Lobby Days gave me and other youth a platform to share our thoughts and stories with those who decide our future — and the importance of that cannot be overstated. If you see something in our government that you consider unacceptable, take action yourself, and do everything you can to change it.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY MYFLORIDA.COM

[a column]
Choosing unity over division

As Democrats enter a primary season full of mistrust and dissatisfaction, it is important that they keep one thing crystal clear: If they want to win, party unity and compromise should be at the top of their priority list.

Offering a possible vision into the not-so-distant future, Steve Bannon, political strategist and mastermind of the 2016 Trump campaign, said Democrats are poised to do "what they did" in 2016, ultimately helping Trump win re-election.

So, what exactly did they do?

In the 2016 Democratic primary, Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders were locked in a tight race — but it now seems likely Clinton and the DNC worked some "magic" to ensure a Clinton victory. Obviously, Clinton's involvement in orchestrating, or at least bolstering, her own victory infuriated Sanders fans.

As the rest of election season ensued, it seemed less and less likely that the Democrats would coalesce around their candidate. They didn't.

This time around, you can see the same phenomenon. While there might not be clear corruption or irregularities in the nomination process, the two sides of the party (center-left and left) seem particularly estranged. Bernie supporters hate Buttigieg, Biden supporters hate Warren — it seems there isn't much agreement at all.

While the nomination process continues, have at it.



Ben Gordon
 Opinion Editor

Argue for your candidate and express why you don't like anyone else. But, unless you're willing to sit through another four years of President Trump, every Democrat should figure out a way to support the eventual nominee.

The preach of "voting blue no matter who," but they all know that

isn't going to happen unless we change our mindset. The idea that everyone — from Bernie supporters to Buttigieg fans — will easily unite around a candidate they find little excitement for is absurd.

Democrats have serious work to do, and it starts with fighting for your candidate in the primary. But, when general election season comes around, you'll have to make a crucial decision: vote for change, however small or insignificant, or be complacent in another four years of policies you believe are regressive and backwards.

Unless you're willing to sit through another four years of President Trump... Figure out a way to support the eventual nominee.

Voter disenfranchisement is everywhere

by **Brianna Nelson**
 Spark Editor-in-Chief

In our civics classes, we proclaim voting as not just a responsibility but the duty of every American citizen. We learn the intricacies of our government and our own role in that government, yet never ask why it seems that our politicians make it as difficult as possible to interact with it.

The truth is, accessibility to the polls is a heavily calculated political trick by those who seek to silence the marginalized. The laws and systems we use benefit the white and wealthy, and this has created that same representation in our legislature.

This subtle voter suppression comes in three primary forms: those that are used in tandem with other oppressive systems to suppress minority vote, those that are passed in what seems to be good faith in an effort to strengthen our election system, and those that are built on a patriotic sentiment that refuses to change despite a

clear exclusion of key voters.

The first type has hit close to home here in Florida. During the midterms, Floridians by massive margins passed an amendment that would allow previously convicted felons, except those who committed violent crimes such as murder and rape, to regain their right to vote once they had served their sentence.

However, reminiscent of our nation's dark past, new rules were quickly implemented that require what is essentially a poll tax, forcing felons to pay a n y fees, fines or restitution they owe to fulfill all terms of their sentences. Though it may seem innocuous, 80% of those who would have been re-infranchised are now ineligible to vote under these provisions according to a press release by the ACLU.

In a nation with a broken criminal justice system that disproportionately punishes people of color and the poor, we have silenced an ex-felon community that is primarily

made up of people who have historically been catered to by Democratic interests. The Republican party has played with the lives of ex-felons and the will of Floridians in an effort to maintain their grip on Florida politics.

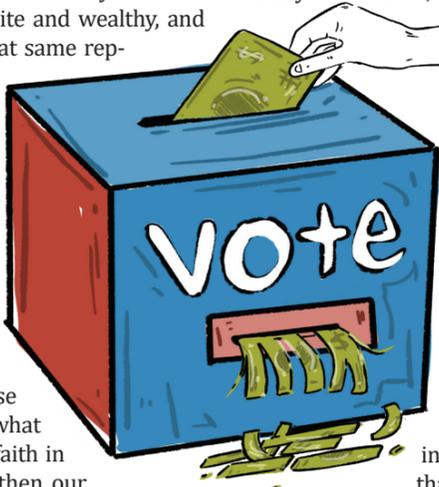
Some forms of disenfranchisement try to show a more outwardly benevolent intent. In securing our polling stations with claims of "common sense regulation," the impacts, intentional or not, directly affect who is comfortable going out to vote. Fearing voter fraud, many states require a photo ID to vote, a "basic" step to safeguard our elections. There are multiple prejudices that lie within this idea, whether it's a fear of immigrants or a belief that one party or another is conspiring to win an election through dead voters.

In reality, these restrictions prevent perfectly eligible voters from voting. Trans people are unable to change the gender specified on their driver's license or other IDs due to restrictive and transphobic ideas of sex and gender. In many states, this need to present photo ID leads to prejudice and harassment for those whose gender and expression do not match the M or F on their license. Beyond harassment, however, trans people are often denied entry to polling places because their presence doesn't match the gender on their ID. Similarly, those with

no easy access to facilities that provide voter ID, or those who can not afford to miss work to get an ID, are denied entry to polling places in some states. Why is income a factor in the right to vote?

After the disaster in precinct reporting in Iowa, many began to criticize the caucus system. Both the app and back-up mechanisms had failed, leading to a prolonged reporting time of election results. No longer the quaint system it once was, the public now understands that caucuses are fundamentally inaccessible. Caucuses require hours of waiting on a weeknight leading to a turnout rate typically in the 15% range (compared to about a 50% turnout rate in the New Hampshire primaries). One is significantly more accessible, especially to the working class and the turnout shows this fact. It has become abundantly clear that Iowa's caucuses alienate a large portion of the population. Working people, parents and disabled people are simply silenced.

Disenfranchisement, no matter which type, erodes our democracy. Standing idly by while we witness direct attacks on the votes of minorities only contributes to the collapse of the faith Americans have in our system. What right is more instrumental in an effective democracy than every person having trust and a voice in the system?



GRAPHIC BY ZOE MERRITT

the Torch

Editor-in Chief: Ella Hechlik*
 Asst. Editors-in-Chief: Tricia Saputera*, Elizabeth Hopkins*
 Copy Editors: Tricia Saputera*, Elizabeth Hopkins*
 Managing Editor: Brynn Petersen*
 Spark Editor-in-Chief: Brianna Nelson*
 Web Editor-in-Chief: Madi Holmes*
 Match Editor-in-Chief: Leo Gordon*

News Editors: Naina Chauhan*, Odella Tiutyama*
 Asst. News Editors: Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan, Alyson Mizanin
 Sci & Tech Editor: Sarah Catalano
 Entertainment Editor: Anna Labiner
 Asst. Entertainment Editor: Lily Quartermaine
 Features Editor: Zoe Merritt
 Sports Editor: Kasumi Wade
 Asst. Sports Editor: Ella Williams
 Humor Editor: Olivia Hansen
 Asst. Humor Editor: Elena D'Amato

Opinion Editor: Ben Gordon*
 Asst. Opinion Editor: Mahitha Ramachandran*
 Focus Editor: Peyton Harris
 Graphics Editor: Brianna Nelson
 Asst. Graphics Editors: Leo Gordon, Sarah Catalano, Lucy Collins, Isabella Gaskill, Olivia Hansen, Peyton Harris, Madi Holmes, Zoe Merritt, Naina Chauhan, Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan, Lily Quartermaine, Mahitha Ramachandran, Lora Rini
 Photo Editor: Anna Labiner
 Asst. Photo Editors: Ben Gordon, Grace

Johnson, Felicity Chang, Ella Williams
 Asst. Managing Editor: Kasumi Wade
 Asst. Web Editor: Isabella Gaskill, Lucy Collins
 Web Section Editor: Felicity Chang
 Asst. Match Editors: Grace Johnson, Sarah Hassan
 Match Layout Artists: Tiffany Yu, Lora Rini
 Spark Asst. Editor-in Chief: Joanna Malvas
 Adviser: Christopher Lerner
 Principal Dr. Stephen Covert
 *Denotes member of editorial board.

The Torch covers topics, issues, events and opinions of relevance to students grades nine through twelve. The Torch is published five times a year by Pine View School and maintains membership in the Florida Scholastic

Press Association. Press run is 1,700 copies. Editorials. Unsigned editorials and The Verdict represent the views of the editorial board. All other articles reflect the opinions of the individual authors unless

otherwise noted. All stories are subject to prior approval by administration. Guest columns and reader input. The Opinion section of The Torch is an open forum for editorial commentary. The Torch

welcomes guest editorials written on topics relevant to readers. Contact the Opinion Editor at ben.gordon@pineviewtorch.com to discuss an idea. Submit story ideas and comments to the editors at the email addresses given

at the beginning of each section. Advertisements and subscriptions. To place an advertisement or purchase a subscription, email gwynn.petersen@pineviewtorch.com. The Torch reserves the right to refuse any advertisement.

Alex, I'll take famous PV alumni for \$212

Alumnus celebrates victory on iconic game show

by Olivia Hansen
Humor Editor

For Pine View Class of 2016 alumnus Aravind Byju, "Jeopardy!" was considered an enjoyable trivia show to binge in the evenings with his friends and family. Now, it's a past accomplishment to look back on.

Byju's dreams became reality when he was selected to be a contestant on "Jeopardy!" in November 2019. The show aired Feb. 10 and features the former Pine View student taking home \$4,500, the first place prize.

Byju's interest in the show sparked when his older brother Arjun, Class of 2013 competed in "Teen Jeopardy!" in 2013.

"I helped him study and my family got to go out to L.A. and watch; after that, forget about it, I fell in love with the show," Aravind Byju said.

He continued to be an avid admirer of the show, even practicing his trivia skills at Buffalo Wild Wings during weekly trivia nights.

In order to become a

contestant on "Jeopardy!," one has to score high enough on an online test, which analyzes the intellectual capacity of the individual, granting them eligibility for the show. Byju started off taking the tests simply to see how he would do, but his high scores eventually caught the attention of the producers.

Soon after, he flew to New York for an audition and was chosen as a contestant.

"I got a call from a contestant coordinator asking if I wanted to be on the show and of course I freaked out. I was so excited," Byju said.

To prepare for the show, Byju spent a lot of time doing research about the show and which categories to focus on with the help of former "Jeopardy!" contestants online, along with intensive analysis on any and every topic. He interacted with the past contestants to get to know the atmosphere of the show to better understand the context of the

questions.

"I love Wikipedia — on my second day of studying I got a notification at the top of my page, 'You've been using Wikipedia a lot, would you like to donate?' and I was like, 'Yes Wikipedia take my \$20, you're awesome.'" He continued to prepare by re-watching past episodes and taking in an overwhelming amount of miscellaneous information and fun facts.

For Byju, being on the show was an overwhelmingly positive experience.

"It was kind of just a really happy blur; so much happened and I was really nervous, but the staff did a really good job of making the contestants feel comfortable, cracking jokes with us during commercial break," Byju said. "It was almost like you were sitting at home playing with your friends and family; they really made it a positive experience."

After the show aired, Byju gained recognition at Harvard University, where he studies political science.

"After the show aired everyone was so nice to me; people started stopping me around campus saying, 'Hey, you're the guy that was on 'Jeopardy!' I felt like a mini-celebrity; everyone was so nice about it,'" he said.

Pine View's persistent focus on academics instilled a



Alumnus Aravind Byju poses with "Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek. Byju won \$4,500 on the show in November 2019.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ARAVIND BYJU

love for learning and knowledge in Byju, providing a foundation for his quick thinking and his array of knowledge he needed for the show.

"Pine View taught me to really enjoy reading; the English department helped spark this passion in me," Byju said. "Pine View makes you a cool, fun nerd, and I think that helps out a lot on the show."

Being on "Jeopardy!" was a way for Byju to embrace his love of learning and have fun while doing so

"[The show] is a cool way to see how learning things and being nerdy could actually be fun — it's the one place in the world where you get rewarded for being a

know-it-all."

Byju's love of quick-thinking and answering questions was galvanized while he was on the Academic Olympics Team at Pine View.

"I love Aravind, you can tell he honed his skills at Pine View from being on the Academic Olympics Team to go do bigger and better things," former teacher of Byju, Paul Dean said.

Overall, being on "Jeopardy!" was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that Byju will forever cherish and look back on with admiration.

"If I could go back and do it again, I would just go back and do it again, I wouldn't want to change anything, I would just want to do it again," Byju said.

Student 'pockets' profits from new T-Shirt business



Eleventh-grader Grace Hu shows one of the shirts offered on her website. Hu received full funding for her business from the Perlman Price Entrepreneurs Program.

PHOTO BY SEBASTIAN GENELHU-BAZAN

by Sebastian Genelhu-Bazan

Asst. News Editor

Eleventh-grader Grace Hu starts off her weekend by heading to work. However, this work is not that of a traditional high schooler's, such as Chick-fil-A or Publix — her work is in her room. Her hands are all she

needs for her line of work: sewing, where her passion comes to life.

At first, Hu's business started as a joke between friends.

Then, this joke turned into a serious business prospect, and Hu started researching a Boys & Girls Club program known as the Perlman Price Entrepreneurs Program. Starting in early October and ending in December, the program is a competition where teens show up with business ideas and projects to pitch to investors. The winners received full funding for their projects.

"It is really hard to reach that break-even point, where

the startup cost has been paid for and you can finally start making a profit because the startup cost is usually so high," Hu said.

In December, she won the Perlman Price Entrepreneurs Program, and was able to start up her own pocket-tee business known as Pockets 4 People (P4P), which sells unique pocket t-shirts. The business had a rocky start, requiring a lot of hard work, such as Hu having to learn how to sew, make clothing and how to use

Photoshop.

"Sewing was more difficult than I had previously thought. Different stuff and fabrics go into it to make a finished product. But what is cool is seeing your own designs come to life from your work," Hu said.

Building a business from the ground up takes a lot of resources, a lesson Hu soon learned. The young sapling of a business takes time, energy, money, and a strong will to allow it to grow to its full potential

said. It takes a lot of risk to get an even greater reward, so she built up a reputation through various reviews and overall customer service advertising through Etsy, the online platform she uses to sell her products.

"You have to get people to care and believe in your product. Think of it like going to the mall, where you have dozens of stores in front of you, but your products have to be the one that they buy in order to get the word out there that you are legit," Hu said.

Hu feared going out of her comfort zone, apprehensive of potential rejection or disapproval. Hu never expected the business to grow so fast.

"It really isn't just about making pocket tees, what's really important is the character you have, because that's the thing that will drive you to where you want to go," Hu said.

Hu and P4P have both grown in these past few months of start-up, with Hu building up a name for herself and her business stretching out of the local area, getting orders from as far as Louisiana.

"Balancing school and my business is difficult, and it was tough keeping my grades in check and having time to sew all the tees for the orders. But my passion and enthusiasm drive me to keep doing what I'm doing," Hu said.

You can find two pocket-tees, one featuring a Florida sunset and another featuring a patch of cacti over a denim pocket, both for \$20. There's even an option for the buyer to customize the pocket, for the same price.

"Business is doing pretty good. But I am just doing the business because I like what I do, and it's not the results that make it worth it, it's the way of my stuff coming to life in front of my eyes," Hu said.

Destroy the disconnect [a column]

There's always a slight disconnect between students and teachers. Teachers are really only ever seen in one place—the classroom. That's why it feels so strange when you see a teacher in public—such as running into your English teacher at the grocery store or an administrator at the mall. To students, teachers can almost blend into the schools they work at. But, at the very least, you spend 6 hours a day for 9 months of the year with them.

Around this time of year, I hear a lot of complaining about teachers from students (and vice versa of course) when everyone is scrambling to cram content in before AP season is in full swing while both faculty and students alike are craving that long awaited spring break, which somehow still feels so far away.

With all the stress going on, I think it is really easy for us students to stop appreciating just how much our teachers do for us and how much they really care, not only about our education, but about us as human beings. And of course, we have all had bad teachers.

I feel like in a lot of instances I'll hear students translate a teacher's bad day or them not liking a specific teacher into a complete distrust and disinterest in any teacher, even the great ones.

I know sometimes I have left a class thinking why in the world did that person even want to be a teacher; they seem to hate their job. But, I think it's important to recognize the true value of your teachers, and how



Ella Hechlik, Editor-in-Chief

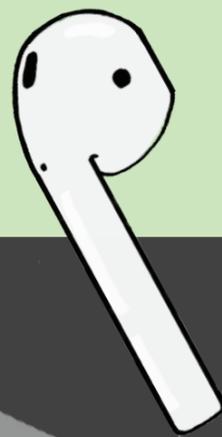
different your days and education would be without them in it.

We seldom take the time to remind ourselves how much extra work our teachers put into each class. A lot of students can really only visualize their teachers in their classrooms rambling on about a subject they may not even want to pursue. But that doesn't take away from the work teachers put in, even the unseen work. For me,

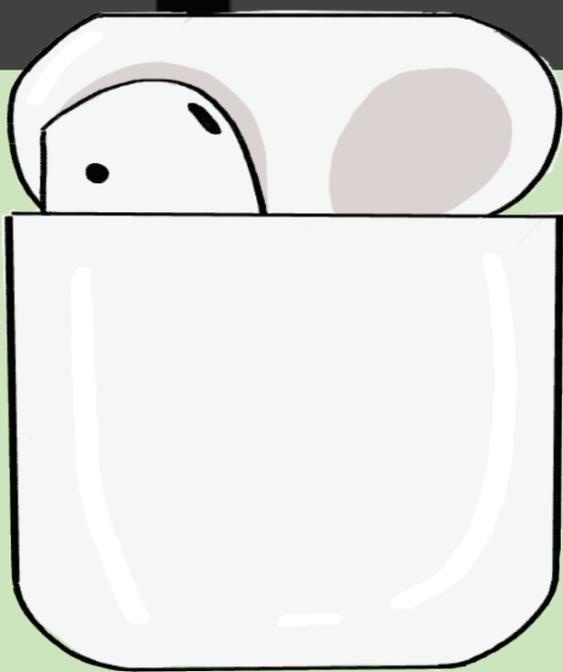
Pine View wouldn't be Pine View without my daily talks with Dr. Dean about dessert at seven in the morning, or my arguments with Mr. Lerner over the front page whenever international news breaks. A lot of my teachers have been the adults who have made the biggest impact on my life.

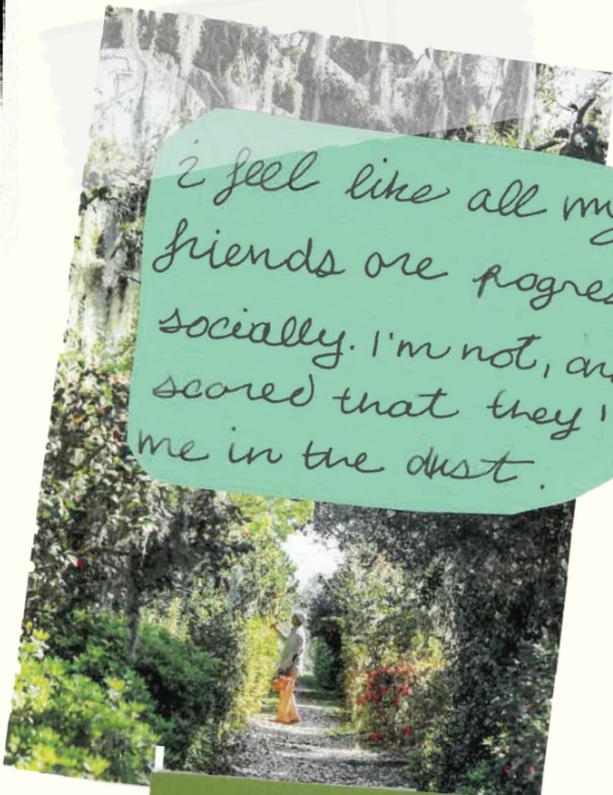
It's easy for us students to see teachers as just part of our boring school day, but for these last few months of school, keep in mind the true value and impact your teachers have had on you. The value of teachers, especially as the year goes on, diminishes in the mind of students while in reality, they are going above and beyond to keep students engaged and getting them ready (especially seniors) for real life. It might surprise you how important teachers are to your daily life at school, not just your education

In reality, they [teachers] are going above and beyond to keep students engaged and and getting them ready (especially seniors) for real life.

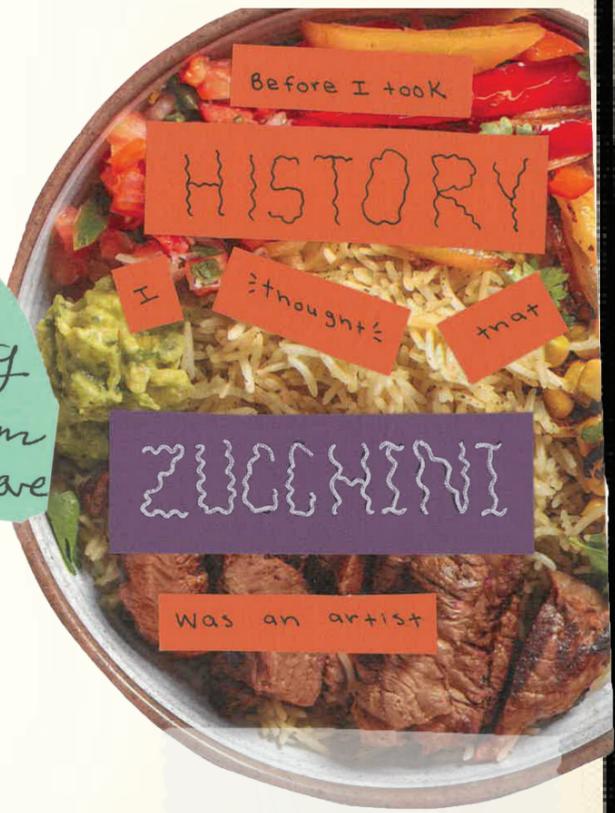


As dedicated students of Pine View School, it can sometimes be shocking, the thoughts that run through our minds between classes, projects, and activities that would drive us mad if not written down. Sometimes the only place to unload those thoughts is our tried and trusted journal, which we have imbued with our distinctive Pine View flair. Today dear reader, we give a sneak peek into the workings of the Pine View mind and peer into the inner chronicles of daily life here on campus.





I feel like all my friends are progressing socially. I'm not, and I'm scared that they'll leave me in the dust.



Before I took

HISTORY

I

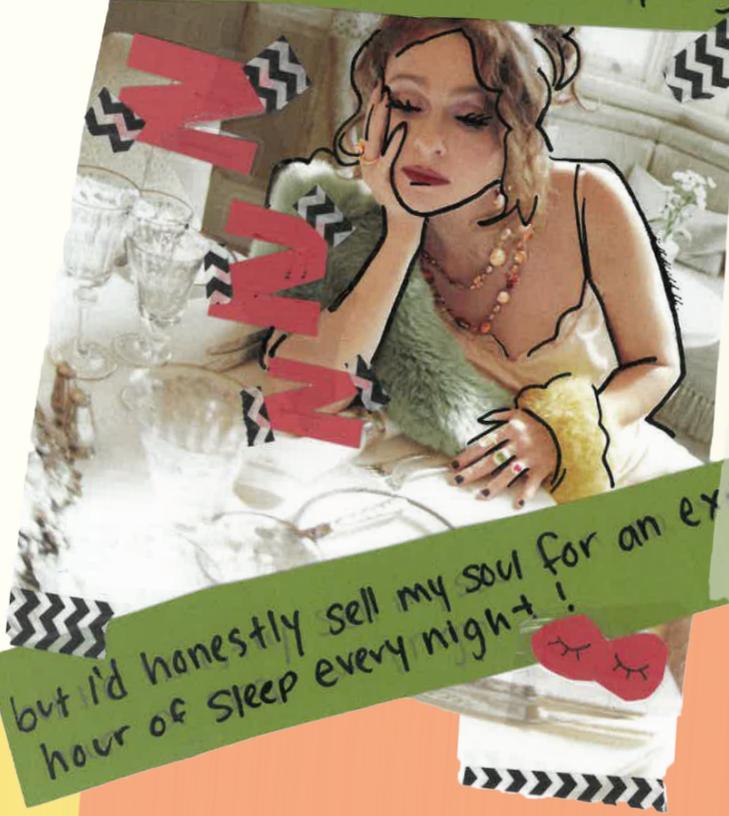
thought

that

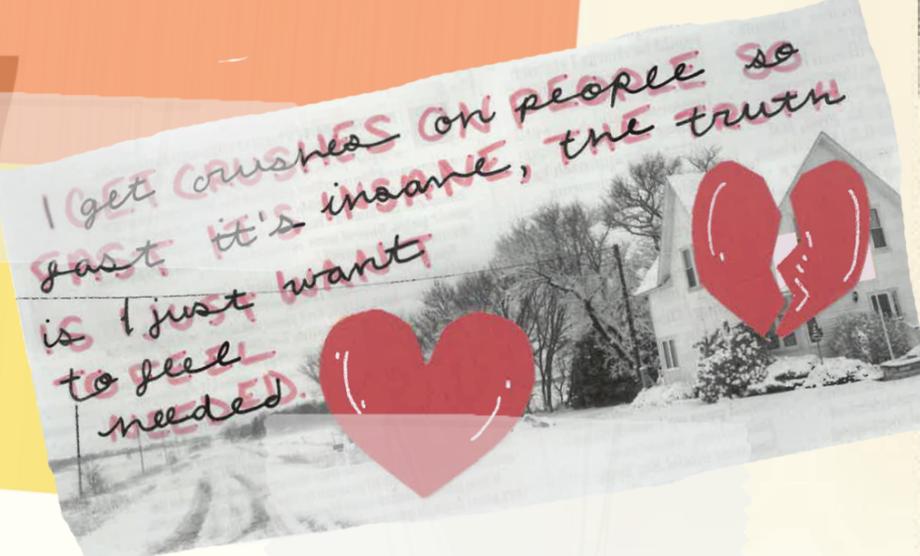
ZUCCHINI

was an artist

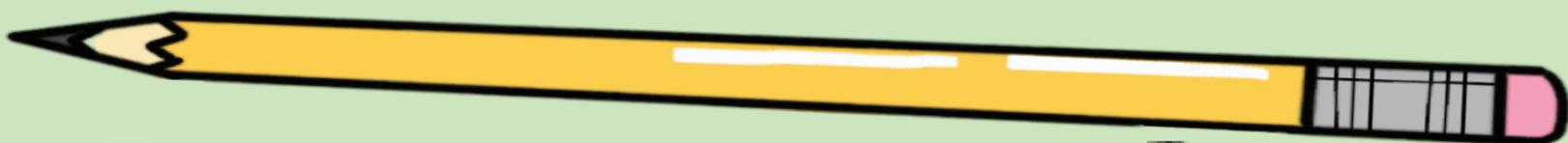
Not to be, like, that person or anything



but I'd honestly sell my soul for an extra hour of sleep every night!



I get CRUSHES ON PEOPLE SO FAST! IT'S INSANE, THE TRUTH is I just want to feel needed.



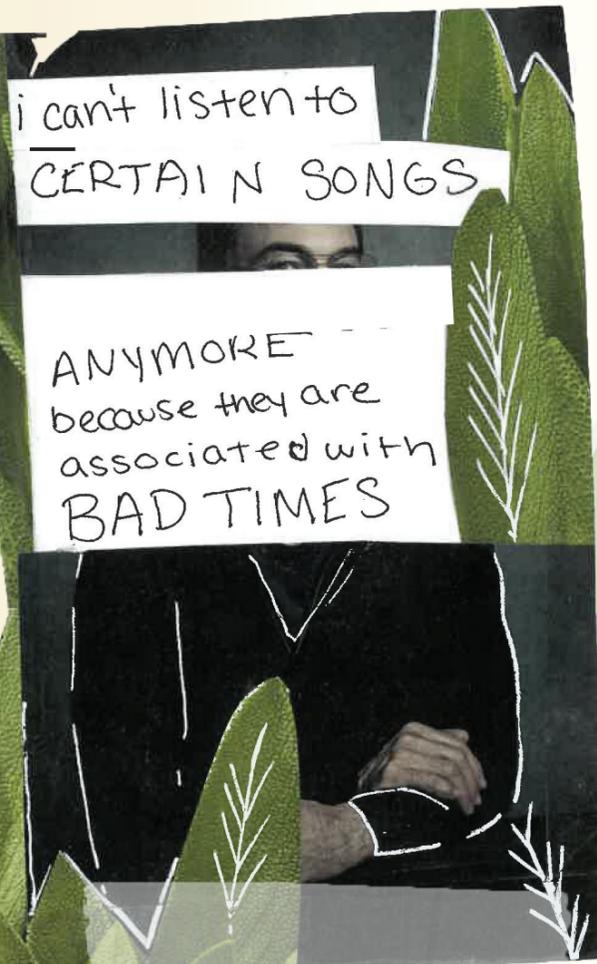
I'M A STAR WARS
FAN & MY TIKTOK
IS DEDICATED TO
MY LOVE FOR
ANAKIN SKYWALKER



Furbies
used to
give me
the

HEEBIE-
JEEBIES,
but now
they're

kinda hot



DISCLAIMER:
ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE
ANONYMOUS AND
ASSUMED TO BE WORKS
OF FICTION AND
FALSEHOOD



I let toots
out on the way
to classes because
I like pretending
I'm a train.

