



see features pullout

## ‘Say Gay’

### Class president fights for equity in education

by Peyton Harris  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Standing atop the newly installed sundial on Pine View’s green, twelfth-grader Zander Moricz faced a crowd of nearly 200 students. In a rallying cry, he directed the group with two words: “Say gay!”

The “Parental Rights in Education Bill,” also known as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill, has moved through the Florida House and Florida Senate floor, garnering protest and controversy across the state, particularly in high schools. It states “classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3,” and allows parents to sue school districts in violation.

How- ever, the bill also includes a statement on instruction that is “not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards.” This leads critics to believe the bill’s contents could be applied to all students regardless of age.

Moricz, Pine View’s four-term senior class president, has been involved in activism throughout his high school career, having founded the Social Equity in Education Initiative (SEE) and serving as Central-Eastern Director of Communications for Diversify Our Narrative, an organization with over 6000 organizers and 200,000 followers on

social media.

Moricz credits Pine View for helping him grow as a leader and student activist; prior to coming to Pine View, he wasn’t involved in advocacy — that change happened as he grew throughout middle and high school. Pine View curricula challenged him to both think more critically about the world and communicate those concerns more effectively. As he grew into this realization, he began wondering how young people could help fix or change societal disparities.

“I didn’t understand how to respond to these questions at the young age, but over time I started to find my voice and I found ways that I can make a difference... I did what I could in my community. That was really important for me, but I started to look out and beyond

my community and think, ‘Okay, where can I go from here?’”

When news about the bill broke, Moricz explained how his heart dropped.

“All of my work for a very long time centered around educational inequities and making education equal in the way that it

is accessible to students and also the way that it treats students. And that was my focus,” Moricz said. “When the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill erupted, it hit me: that is inequity in education, and immediately I ran and I read the legislation. And just from the very first read of the actual bill itself, I knew that it was a very dangerous bill because it’s written to be abused.”

**“I am a student. I am an activist. I am a brother and a son. I am a queer man and all of me is threatened by this legislation,”**  
Zander Moricz,  
Twelfth-grader



Twelfth-grader Zander Moricz stands atop the sun dial and addresses the students present at the March 3 “Don’t Say Gay” walkout. Moricz intends to continue fighting against HB 1557 and similar bills across the country. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

Moricz hosted a protest against the “Don’t Say Gay” bill Feb. 27 in conjunction with Project Pride SRQ. Hosted at Marina Jacks in downtown Sarasota, the protest garnered over 500 attendees and featured speakers like the director of Planned Parenthood of Southwest Florida, the mayor of Sarasota, and multiple city commissioners. The rally concluded with a march across Ringling Bridge with a 700-foot gay pride flag.

“I was not expecting as many people to show out as they did. It was the first time that, for me, activism against this bill hasn’t felt like a death sentence, and it instead felt like an actual fight and like a community,” Moricz said. “Articles [about the rally] have shown up in papers and in news sites of cities across the state that aren’t having [rallies], just because people are so hungry for there to be a community... I think it was so important for not only our community, but the entire queer community of Florida to have a tangible, visible item like that gay flag that we are

here, we are not alone.”

The following day, in conjunction with Equality Florida, a nonprofit advocacy organization, Moricz traveled with twelfth-grader Anna Dennison to the State Capitol in Tallahassee, a nearly six-hour trip.

There, he delivered a speech urging lawmakers to vote “no” on the bill, saying, “I am a student. I am an activist. I am a brother and a son. I am a queer man and all of me is threatened by this legislation. So for me, people like me, and people nothing like me, oppose HB 1557. Please.”

Reflecting on his trip to the Capitol, Moricz said, “It was a very difficult experience. I would say it was draining. It was exhausting to witness so much hate, and you could feel it in the room. There were people around me crying. I almost cried a number of times.”

An unofficial walkout was organized for Pine View high school students March 3. Moricz led the crowd, urging them to take action and advocate against the bill.

“On three, I want you all to say ‘gay,’” he said to the crowd. News of the walkout reached the Sarasota Herald Tribune and other media outlets.

“Our school’s response to this legislation is only the beginning. This fight has brought Pine View’s students together and will propel us into action as a collective in the future. I see Pine View at the forefront of the fight for equality, both in and out of the classroom,” Dennison said.

The bill passed the State Senate March 8.

“Nothing has changed in terms of the fact that we have to continue to resist and make ourselves heard. Now, it’s about channeling our energy into the fight that is about to erupt in the courts. This won’t even end with this piece of legislation. I wasn’t joking when I said this bill would set a precedent — Georgia just dropped their version,” Moricz said. “We have to think big picture about national regression and about where our voices are needed. This won’t end anytime soon, so buckle up and do some self care.”

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# Evolution of Campus Security

by **Alyson Mizanin**  
News Editor

Change has been a hallmark of this year at Pine View; with the addition of Building 17 and removal of the portables, security measures on campus have also evolved.

Building 17 comes with a myriad of new security features. According to School Resource Officer (SRO) Eugene Williams, 46 cameras were installed in and around the building. Williams monitors these cameras, as well as preexisting ones that are situated throughout campus. Footage can be pulled and reviewed as needed.

During lockdowns, the stairwell doors in the new building will close and lock automatically, helping keep intruders out. Tinted windows, automatic locks on doors, and recessed walls that form safe corners all help guarantee safe classroom environments.

"I feel confident with all the features of the new building," Williams said. "It's not just me and the security personnel — it's every staff member, every student. Everybody's eyes help to keep the place safe."

Campus security monitors Jessica Auerbach and James Hawkins comprise the security personnel Williams mentioned. Pine View is divided into three areas that are meant to have their own respective monitors; Auerbach looks over the shell lot and the south end of campus, while Hawkins handles fields, Building 16, and the north end of campus.

Former security monitor Theresa James' departure left the middle of campus without an official monitor. With the

portables no longer being a concern, Auerbach and Hawkins monitored the area. Ed Ledue, Pine View's newest security monitor, started March 23.

"One of the things that I've really made sure of is that I'm always visible. Yes, I'm supposed to be south campus, but you will see me all over; if you guys need anything, you know that I'm here," Auerbach said. "We have a big campus. There's a lot of nooks and crannies, so I'm roaming around all day."

Though Auerbach started working as a security monitor in 2019, she was no stranger to Pine View. Years prior, she was part of the fifth grade Career

knew each other before she started working at Pine View; she trained him for half-marathons. While Auerbach is on her third year at Pine View, Hawkins has been a security monitor for 16 years. Much like Auerbach, he started out as a regular aide before taking on the security position when Bob Reed retired.

Hawkins starts his days in front of Building 16, grouping the elementary students by grade before they enter the building — "making order out of the chaos" is how he describes it.

When Hawkins started working at Pine View, the area near Building 16 was where fields was held. This separated PE from fields, preventing game disruptions; with the portables gone, Hawkins said that "we're getting back to the normal" that existed before them.

"Coach Joe [DiGiacomo] and Mark [Thorpe] — everyone will have their own area now. That'll be wonderful. But it's kind of sad to see [the portables] go because it reminds me of Mr. Largo, Coach Donovan, and Mrs. Abrams," Hawkins said.

Working at Pine View has led Auerbach to wanting to pursue teaching as a career; she plans to get certified in the future. Hawkins will retire in the next few years, though he hopes to come back to Pine View to perform his folk songs.

"The kids are growing. And I'm growing the same way — I'm 63, and I'm still learning. Only a fool says, 'I've learned it all and seen it all,'" Hawkins said. "Everything goes in a big circle. Especially down at fields, it's going to be like it was before. Everything is evolving."



Campus security monitor Jessica Auerbach and twelfth-grader Sophia Brotz talk together in the shell lot after school. Being at Pine View has inspired Auerbach to want to pursue teaching as a career. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

Day projects through her work as a retail manager with Build-a-Bear. When a monitorial aide position opened at Pine View, she took it before becoming a security monitor the following school year.

"Working in retail and running a store, I had to be aware of everything that was going on. If I'm talking to you, I'm always seeing what's going on behind you," Auerbach said. "To me, this is the same thing. The shell lot is like my store, like my house — this is where you guys are, and I want to make sure that I see what is going on."

Auerbach and Hawkins

# High schoolers take on Peramathon



Eleventh-grader Kara Wegrzynek runs alongside an elementary school student at the Peramathon. PVA Peramathon Committee Chair Silke Cuff added new opportunities for high schoolers to participate this year. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

# IN BRIEF

## Student organizes school's first mental health symposium

by **Lindsay Luberecki**  
Assistant News Editor

From discussions about anxiety to boundaries with electronic devices, many mental-health-related topics were discussed in the Pine View auditorium Feb. 7 at the school's first ever mental health symposium.

Three psychologists spoke at the symposium: Amanda Jans, Dr. Angela Steranko, and Dr. Stacie Herrera. First, each presented a certain topic, and the room was then opened to anonymous questions from student attendees.

The event was organized by eleventh-grader Emelie Selberg, who was inspired by the idea of helping her peers and friends.

"Ever since the end of middle school, a lot of my best friends have struggled with mental health issues," she said. "A lot of them don't know what to do... [the symposium] was to spread awareness."

In order to see the event come to fruition, Selberg reached out to many psychologists to ensure that she found three who could attend the chosen date. Before the

organizing could occur, Selberg needed a teacher to help her with planning; she ended up working with AP Psychology and Anatomy and Physiology teacher Jessica Patella.

"She gets all the credit," Patella said. "My role was more making sure all the paperwork was filled out... [Emelie] saw something that she thought could be helpful and she put in the effort, energy, and time to implement it."

One benefit important to Patella and Selberg, as well as the speakers, was the students' ability to ask questions on the spot and get help if they needed it.

"It was wonderful to have people pull out relevant aspects for themselves and be able to ask moments of clarification," Steranko said. "It led to some good conversations about the real world."

Selberg is in the process of possibly planning another similar event, intending to reach out to the larger Sarasota community.

"It feels great, knowing that I'm helping kids," she said. "Seeing some kids that got their questions answered made me glad."

## Pine View holds Speech & Debate mini tournament

by **Sarah Catalano**  
Copy Editor

Monologue met mentorship under the cafeteria lights for Pine View's Speech and Debate team Feb. 17. The combined efforts of club members, parents, sponsor Jym Froelich, and event organizer and twelfth-grader Joanna Malvas made the club's first ever mini-tournament possible.

Structured in two rounds to simulate an off-campus competition, the tournament featured Extemporaneous Speaking, Public Forum, Original Oratory, Congress, and Humorous Interpretation events. High school team captains and parents served as the judges of these events, among them eleventh-grader Rafeh Khan, who judged Public Forum.

"It was one of the happiest moments I've had, not only in my Speech and Debate career but also in high school in general," Khan said. "I saw [the novices] learn what public forum was and what debate was, and all of their arguments I taught them and all of their different strategies I told them how to do, so seeing that coming to fruition was a feeling you can't really make, it's just something that happens."

The names of competitors — all of whom were sixth- to ninth-grade students — were printed and glued to a bright yellow poster created by three high-school members hours before the tournament began. As the night stretched on, students created and delivered their speeches, and 13 talented winners went home with prizes such as cheerful notepads, plushies, and mini gavels.

Malvas, the club president, expressed hope that the tournament would give young members an opportunity to train and find their niche at a younger age.

This year also witnessed the club's recovery from a post-pandemic low of 31 members to a robust 151, many of whom are middle school students, as well as ten students advancing to the Grand Nationals in Washington, D.C.

"I really hope that this mini tournament event carries forward," Malvas said. "If Speech and Debate is to sustain its growth in the future, we're going to need to have events like this... So much of Speech and Debate is a mentorship, where high school students are the ones teaching middle schoolers and underclassmen."

# Bidding adieu to Pine View's gentle giants

*The removal and phase-out processes of the campus portables*

by **Felicity Chang**  
Web Editor-in-Chief

For many students who have been at Pine View since elementary school, a campus without ongoing construction projects may be difficult to envision. However, in March 2022, Tandem Construction, the company contracted for the completion of Building 17 and other additional renovations, completed the final phase of construction at Pine View: removing most portables from campus.

In order to provide "swing space," or a temporary instructional environment while renovations are being carried out, Florida schools use portables as classroom space. These portables usually increase in number over the years to account for student body overpopulation.

With the opening of Building 17, this extra space was no longer needed, so 33 portables were transported to other district schools and seven were demolished on site. Four portables were provided to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office as part of a quid pro quo for crossing guard services at school crossings throughout the county.

Before being transported off campus, portables were lifted onto tractor trailers around 8 to 9 a.m. by Johnson House Movers, a local company specializing in moving buildings such as trailers and portables. In the early morning, the portables made their way across the county, with the aid of a sheriff's escort to close roads and direct traffic as needed.

There are only two portables left on campus; Sarasota County Schools Construction Project Manager Steve Clark said that one of these portables will be used as a storage shed on the south side of campus for extra desks, whiteboards, and "attic stock," or leftover construction material such as paint and tile.

According to Middle School Assistant Principal Melissa Abela, the other portable will be used as a mid-county office space for Take Stock in Children Inc., a nonprofit organization that aims to provide mentorship and scholarship opportunities for Florida low-income students. To achieve these purposes, newer portables were transported to the campus' south side to replace two older, wooden portables.

"The wooden portables, we want to get rid of them. They're old and dilapidated," Clark said. "The process of demolition is actually pretty involved, but it's easy, because we do it quite a bit."

In addition, a Florida statute requires all portables made of wood to be destroyed — they cannot be reused at another location. From examining maintenance and financial records to filing deletion paperwork for Florida Inventory of Schoolhouses (FISH) numbers, several steps needed to be taken before the actual demolition process in accordance to Tallahassee Department of Education standards. The portables were surveyed for asbestos, which is hazardous, abrasive silicon material, and the utilities were disconnected before the tear-down.

According to Clark, the last step was "retrograde," consisting of clearing the site and restoring it to green space. Within the field space, trees were planted to make up for the loss of trees from the courtyard area.

Tandem Construction Project Manager Nathan Renner said that there weren't many portables when the campus was built in 1991; instead, there were softball fields, a baseball field, and an open play area. When all the "swing space" portables became part of the campus, only two fields remained. Though the project managers referenced stormwater plans to see which spaces to possibly bring back, Clark said the final decisions will be up to the school.

"The goal... is to be able to host track and field events here [for the 2023 season]," Abela said. "Track and field is already in full swing, so it's not going to happen right now because we're in the process of removing [the portables], but that'll happen next year. We're very excited about that and hosting everything."

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NATHAN RENNER  
GRAPHICS BY FELICITY CHANG

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE PORTABLES?

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## Honoring Ben Turoff: Graduate, Parent, PVA Volunteer

by Kai Sprunger

Assistant Match Editor-in-Chief

From vivid booths advertising prizes to the broad rock wall almost touching the sky, the annual Pine View

Fair is quite popular, and crowds fill the fair every year. Behind the scenes, a team works together to produce organized events like the Pine View Fair; one mainstay is Pine View Class of 1980 graduate Ben Turoff, who has been involved in organizing and volunteering at Pine View events for the past 42 years.

Currently an Alumni Representative on PVA, Turoff has been PVA president twice; he coordinates the Pine View Fair, organizes Pinnacle, and assists Drama Club, among countless other contributions to many activities and events on campus. Though his children have already graduated, he continues to help the Pine View community.

"Anytime you help anybody else, you feel better, and I certainly feel that helping Pine View — whether it's helping the Drama Club, PVA, helping with the fair — it always makes you feel good to give back to someone who needs your help, and that is why I still

do it even though my kids have graduated — my last kid graduated 3 years ago — I still help out. It is fun and I like to give back to the school that helped me so much," Turoff said.



Ben Turoff (middle) poses at the 2019 Pine View Fair. For more than 8 years, Turoff has been heavily involved with the organization of the fair. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEN TUROFF

Turoff's experiences in theater and planning lend themselves to his work at Pine View. He coordinates events as the Director of Member Life and Events at Glenridge Theater. His skill in theater comes from his work with Drama Club in high school; he even served as the club's president. With this theatre experience, he helps Drama Club by giving them equipment and showcasing how to use various technologies. He helped the club get a new lightboard and made recommendations when the school redid the lighting in the auditorium.

Along with supporting Drama Club, Turoff represents the perspective

of a Pine View alum on PVA. During PVA meetings, he votes on several subjects, like where funding goes and how much funding clubs should receive. Some of the various projects, activities, and events he works on with PVA are PV Pride, Proud Python, the school store, the organization of volunteers, Pine View anniversaries and more.

"He cares deeply about making sure that PVA runs in the best possible way — runs smoothly — and that everyone feels included. He is very inclusive and is always reaching out to new people," Camille Cline, an active PVA member who has known Turoff for 12 years,

placement and putting together maps of booth arrangement.

"Keeping everything non-commercial, which allows the students' creativity and imagination to flourish, is what I think is the most important thing about keeping the Pine View Fair as cool and fun as it is," Turoff said.

At the root of each annual fair is the cooperation and support from the Pine View community. Turoff finds that parents are essential to keeping the fair alive; organizing the fair would not be possible without them.

"The more parent involvement there is in any event, whether it is



Ben Turoff (right) is awarded a "Master of Volunteerism" award by the PVA. This award recognizes the work of those who help Pine View. PHOTO PROVIDED BY BEN TUROFF

said.

When he was a student, Turoff's parents helped with the fair, and he attended yearly. For the past eight years, Turoff has put his heart into the Pine View Fair. He helps with organizing the fair, overseeing booth organization and

the Pinnacle, whether it is the fair, whether it is Proud Python, whether it is the school store, the more parents that get involved, the better off everything is," Turoff said, talking about the importance of parent involvement.

Working behind the scenes both figuratively and literally at Pine View, Turoff plays a huge role in bringing together the community. When asked if he will continue contributing to Pine View at this level, he said, "I'll keep doing it certainly for a while. I may not do quite as much as I have in the past, but I enjoy doing it."

## Paving the Shell Lot: The Pine View Pipedream

by Jiayi Zhu

Match Layout Artist

In rain or shine and during morning or afternoon, bumps accompany students' and parents' drives through the dust of the Pine View shell lot. The idea of paving the shell lot has been no stranger to the Pine View community in the past few years; however, there are environmental and logistical reasons as to why this change hasn't yet occurred.

Commonly known as Swiftmud, South Florida Water Management District is one of five water management districts administered by Florida state law. One of Swiftmud's main goals is to protect the environment and preserve water resources. In order to pave the shell lot, Pine View would have to get an approved Swiftmud permit.

When it rains, the shells in the shell lot allow for a portion of the water to gradually percolate into the ground. If the shell lot were to be paved, the asphalt would increase runoff and the presence of harmful pollutants into nearby soil.

Eleventh-grader Lauren Brotherton frequents the shell lot daily.

For many student drivers like Brotherton, the shell lot serves as an important place on campus as students transit to and from school; however, it does not come without the cost of inconvenience.

"Frankly, to me, it's been a mostly negative experience, just because of how the shell and the gravel material can change, especially with the Florida weather. Like when it rains, there are so many potholes that start to show up...I'm spending a lot of money to keep [my car] clean and have it be clean," Brotherton said. "I understand why we can't do it. I really do. It's just really inconvenient. If we had any other kind of material to put there on earth, I would do it in a heartbeat — like something cleaner and easier."

Campus security monitor Jessica Auerbach is often seen outside the shell lot in the mornings, greeting students as music plays from her golf cart. Though she notes that the shell lot's circumstances aren't the best, there are concrete reasons as to why the shell lot still exists.

"It's not just because we don't want to [pave the shell lot]. Environmentally, it's not

going to be paved due to the fact that the water needs to go somewhere. And if it was paved, there would be no place for the water to go to. And with the way that it rains here, it can't trickle over to our school campus, or to the houses that are behind there as well," Auerbach said.

Ben Quartermaine, a Pine View parent and professional engineer and prior stormwater manager for Sarasota County, describes the environmental effects that paving the shell lot would have on Sarasota's local environment.

"Both the county and a lot of conscientious developers understand that runoff is one of the main causes of nutrients into the bays and estuaries," Quartermaine said. "Nutrients are what's causing algal glow blooms and a reduction of sea grasses and other beneficial vegetation in the bays and then ultimately in the surrounding gulf. Water quality treatment is certainly... something that we have to consider and something that we have to employ to ensure that we're not only meeting the standards but exceeding the standards to reduce or remove the nutrients from the runoff."



A student driver leaves school in the afternoon. The Pine View community has been discussing the idea of paving the shell lot over the past few years. PHOTO BY JIAYI ZHU

However, paving the shell lot isn't entirely impossible. Water management engineers often conduct engineering studies that determine the technicalities behind ground stormwater systems. There are also porous pavements available that would provide a more eco-friendly, paved shell lot. The catch? An engineering study would cost around \$5000, and porous pavements cost double to triple the cost of typical asphalt.

Principal Dr. Stephen Covert is open to the convenient

idea of a paved shell lot but looks at the matter through the lens of the cost benefits.

"There's always a cost, and you hope that there's a benefit. The benefit would be a smooth place to drive, a smooth place to park — no bumps, no dings, that's awesome. The cost: not only is it money, but there's also time. It is significant money, and it's not good for the environment... When you look at it from cost benefit, the costs far outweigh any temporary benefit for convenience," Covert said.

# Pine View welcomes back Class of 2017 alumna

by Sarah Hassan  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Pine View has become a second home to 2017 alumna Jackie Cetola, who has grown accustomed to a role reversal; previously a student at Pine View, she is currently the long-term substitute for AP Calculus BC and Precalculus Honors.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Cetola spent the majority of her life in Venice, Florida. In second grade, she started her decade-long journey with Pine View; now that she has returned, Cetola has coined herself an “extra Pine View person.”

Cetola recently graduated from the University of Florida (UF), majoring in Material Science and Engineering. At UF, Cetola took extracurriculars that were more teaching-oriented, which she had originally thought she was too shy to do.

However, her career plans took a turn when she became a teacher assistant and a member of the American Chemical Society, where she worked with younger students grades K-8 in classrooms near Gainesville. There, Cetola was able to expose herself to more social activities.

“It was just fun, working with kids

... being like, ‘This is literally the first time I’ve ever seen something like this happen,’ and I get to teach them that,” Cetola said. “That’s so rewarding and fun.”

Following her new ambitions, Cetola started substituting this August. Because of her musical background, she even subbed for her former choir teacher, Seth Gardner. She particularly enjoyed days like her ones in choir, as they allowed her to actually teach students.

“When I came back [from all-state], the kids knew everything that I had assigned,” Gardner said. “It really made me feel better knowing that they had someone in the classroom, who had been in a choir and who had piano experience [and] could play for them and accompany them.”

Cetola wanted to apply for a long-term job for the next school year, so she emailed Principal Dr. Stephen Covert to see if there were any positions available

in the math department. She received a call on a Friday about a long-term substitute position and started the following Monday.

Because of her quick acceptance, Cetola ran into the obstacle of needing to quickly grasp the the content for each class. It’s an adjustment that she has since been able to make.

Since Cetola was a Pine View student, she understands her students’ workload.

“I know how hard all of my students are working,” Cetola said. “So, just trying to be flexible in terms of deadlines, and making sure that I’m like, ‘I know you all are stressed out already. I don’t need to add on to that.’”

Eleventh-grader Caroline Deacon notes that in the month prior to Cetola’s introduction, AP Calculus BC had been challenging; however, Cetola has since helped clear Deacon’s worries regarding the subject.



PHOTO BY SARAH HASSAN

“[Cetola] is very understanding, and she’s very thorough in explaining things, and she’s very reassuring. She’ll be like, ‘Don’t worry about it, we’ll get through it,’” Deacon said. “She’ll answer all of our questions, and if she doesn’t know the answer, she writes it down to look at later.”

In response, Cetola thanks her students for their welcoming reception.

“I want my students to know just how awesome they are because I know they’ve had such a rough transition...a whole lot of things have changed very suddenly over the past month,” Cetola said. “Everybody is still so kind and flexible and helpful and excited to learn...It makes my job a lot easier and more fun.”

Cetola is currently working on certifications to become an official teacher. If possible, she wants to continue teaching next year at Pine View.

“This is where I wanted to be. This is the kind of thing that I am passionate about, and I enjoy doing,” Cetola said. “My favorite short-term sub things were always the ones where they actually gave me a lesson to teach. So it’s nice that I can just run with it here.”

## Yield Protection: Legitimate Concern or Ego Defense?

*Claims of yield protection are commonplace in college conversations, but how valid are they?*

by Peyton Harris  
Assistant Editor-in-Chief

With a 1560 SAT, 35 ACT, 4.8 GPA, and an acceptance from Dartmouth, a Tulane acceptance seemed only natural for one twelfth-grader, who has asked to be kept anonymous. However, when the decision date rolled around, she was shocked — she didn’t get in.

“Objectively, my stats were much higher than average. I didn’t think it was a safety school, but I was pretty confident I would get in,” she said.

In the 2025 profile, Tulane’s 25th percentile SAT score was 1530, and the average GPA was 3.56. It’s important to note this student was involved in a number of extracurriculars and held more than one title of presidency.

So what went wrong?

Often referred to as “Tufts Syndrome,” yield protection is the alleged practice of universities rejecting or delaying acceptance for overqualified students if they feel students will decline the offer to attend a more highly regarded institution.

Yield is the percentage of students who enroll at the institution out of the number of students who were accepted. A university’s yield is factored into annual rankings, often indicative of societal prestige.

At Ivy Leagues and similarly prestigious institutions like Duke and MIT, the yield rates are consistently well over 70%; these institutions are rarely accused of yield protection because of their high selectivity. For example, while Harvard’s yield rate was 85% for the class of 2025, Tulane’s was 45%. The theory is that by accepting students that are more likely to

attend a higher-ranked institution, colleges risk low yield rates. Tufts, Tulane, Northeastern, Emory, and Georgia Tech are schools commonly associated with the practice, especially at Pine View.

In 2020, five of 11 Pine View applicants to Emory were accepted. One enrolled. The next year, three of 13 were accepted. Zero enrolled. This shows a decrease of over 20% in terms of acceptance.

In 2021, 12 of 23 Pine View applicants to Northeastern were accepted, seven being from the Early Action decision plan. Of those, only two enrolled, both on binding Early Decision (ED) plans. In 2022, an unprecedented low of zero of 10 Pine View applicants were accepted on the Early Action (EA) plan.

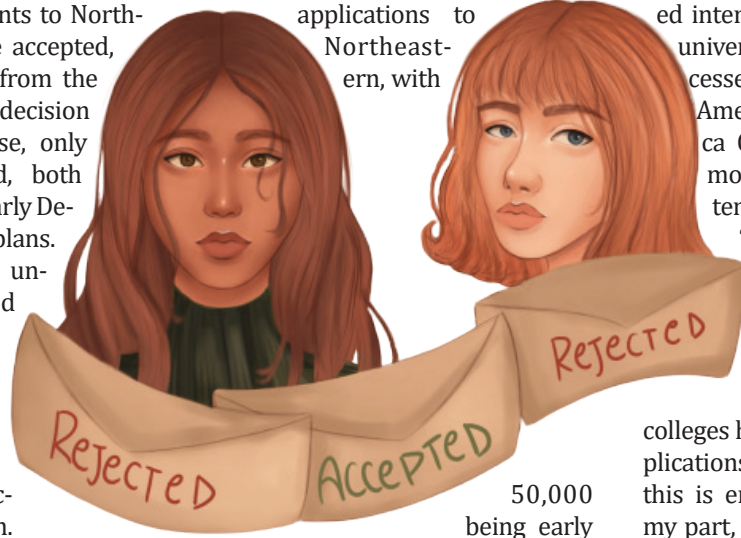
Excluding binding decision plans for both of these schools, the yield rate with Pine View students from 2015-2021 was 18 and 16 percent respectively. With decreasing yield rates, acceptances for the following year showed marked decrease.

It’s natural to ask whether the caliber of students fell — and if that factored into the decrease in acceptances. According to Pine View college counselor Lance Bergman, “it is and isn’t.”

“The explosion in applications is in part consequent to COVID-19, and a change in testing, [which is] having huge im-

pacts on admissions outcomes everywhere,” Bergman said. “Colleges are able to select from a much more diverse and qualified pool, meeting their institutional needs and preferences. PV students, in general, reflect a type of student that is the largest proportion of the applicant pool. The quality of the PV applicant has not changed — it’s simply more competitive.”

Compared to 51,000 college applications in 2016, the 2022 cycle saw 90,000 applications to Northeastern, with



50,000 being early action. However, according to Bergman, the lack of acceptances wasn’t just due to an increase in competition.

“Other than early decision students, we’ve had one matriculation to Northeastern in the last five years. That tells us something, too; if our ED students are getting in, and our EA students are not, they’re telling us they want to wait and see how interested these students are. They defer them and through that, get rid of some of them who don’t take the time to show continued interest,” Bergman said.

He describes how students who are deferred to the

regular round are often monitored by schools for signs of interest at the university, such as a letter of continued interest (LOCR) or campus tour.

“Demonstrated interest” is a factor often used by universities to stipulate how interested a potential student is in their school. Tactics used include campus tours, contact with the admissions office, and even seeing if and for how long a student opens the emails from that university. While demonstrated interest isn’t a factor in all university applications processes, many utilize it. At American University, Ithaca College, Syracuse, and more, demonstrated interest is a factor marked “very important” in decisions.

“My fear is that yield protection is becoming particularly big now that colleges have so many more applications to choose from, and this is entirely speculation on my part, but they would rather take a chance on yielding some kids that fit their parameters,” Bergman said.

Early decision is a binding decision plan that means, if accepted, the student will commit to that university. Early decision boosts a shorter decision time frame (deadlines are usually November 1 and students find out in mid-December) as well as a greater likelihood of acceptance, often two to three times as likely. For example, for the class of 2025, the regular decision rate of 5% paled in comparison to the ED acceptance rate of 17%.

In recent years, some selective universities began to

introduce “Early Decision 2,” another binding decision plan due in January, with results announced in mid-February. Some universities that offer this second binding plan include Emory, Vanderbilt, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, and Wash U. in St. Louis.

Between two ED rounds, schools often admit 75% or more of their class before regular decision. This leaves 25% to be filled by regular decision, driving down acceptance rates often to a fraction of years past.

“The presence of yield protection will increase early decision applications and, in turn, disadvantage students,” twelfth-grader Zander Moricz said. “It’s like colleges are threatening, ‘if you don’t show me you want me more than anyone else, you’re not getting in at all.’ That culture makes the college application process a lot more toxic. Students should be able to weigh their options financially, academically, and culturally at every school.”

“It could be considered a tragedy of the commons,” Bergman said. “We have too many students trying to take too much from it [the ‘ocean’ of college applications] and I think we’ve seen that continue.”

He’s talking about an economic concept — the idea that individuals neglect societal wellbeing for personal gain, often illustrated with a hypothetical ocean and the “fish” distributed amongst nations.

No school has ever openly admitted to yield protection; some argue that the concept is fabricated by students to justify a denial at a school they felt they deserved entrance to.

GRAPHIC BY KAI SPRUNGER

## NFTs: An Enemy to the Environment

by Lora Rini  
Match Editor-in-Chief

Today, most people have heard the acronym “NFT” used at least in passing. Celebrities are selling them, billionaires are buying them, and major news sources are reporting on them, but the average person is probably still confused about what exactly an NFT is, and the definition does not necessarily clear anything up.

unique and irreplaceable. NFTs can take virtually any form online, and some of them sell for thousands or even millions of dollars. Buying an NFT grants you some usage rights, but how can you claim ownership over something if any-

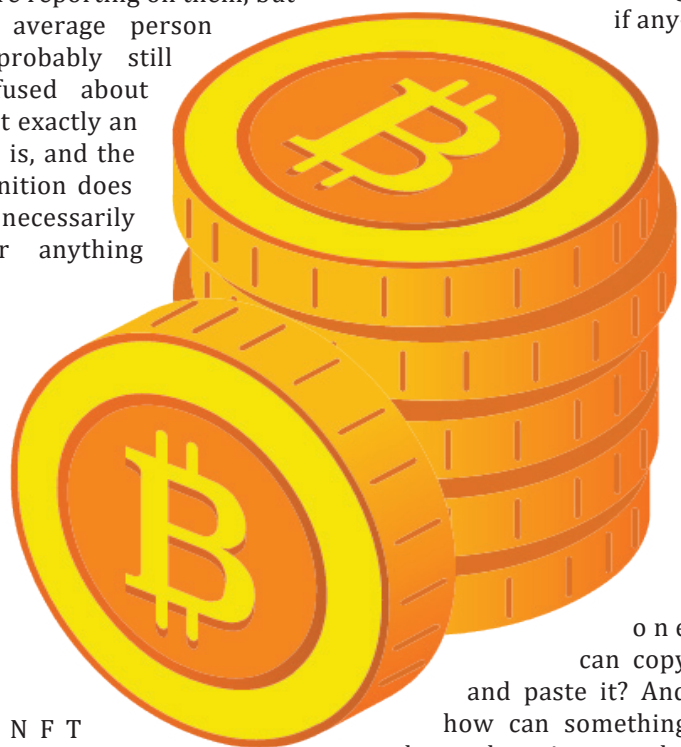
In most cases, the answers to both of these questions can be traced back to one thing: cryptocurrency.

Cryptocurrency is traded, managed, and stored by systems called proof of work blockchains. The way block-

chain and NFTs. Creating new blocks is essential to the system, but each block takes a ton of energy. NFTs are primarily traded in areas that use the cryptocurrency Ethereum, and according to Statista, one Ethereum transaction uses more energy than 100,000 Visa transactions. Buying anything with cryptocurrency

cause.

Fortunately, NFTs are still a relatively new concept, and their negative effects on the environment can be mitigated if cryptocurrencies switch to more sustainable systems. One potential solution is proof of stake blockchains – they require a lot less energy to operate than proof of work systems, and there is already some discussion about switching the



NFT stands for “non-fungible token,” meaning every NFT is

one can copy and paste it? And how can something that only exists on the internet have a substantial effect on our environment?

chain technology works is very complex, and not necessary to understand in order to grasp the environmental implications of cryptocur-

can have a negative effect on the environment, but NFTs are a notable issue due to the sheer amount of cryptocurrency transactions they

Ethereum blockchain over. However, this is not the kind of change that can be made overnight. In the meantime, energy consumed by cryptocurrencies and blockchains must be monitored and decreased.

# NON FUNGIBLE TOKENS

## The New vs. Old Computers

### OLD

#### HP 840 Elite books

- Have hard drive and spin disks; more prone to overheating and crashing
- RAM (Random Access Memory) amount: 8 gigs; same as new computers
- RAM type: DVR-4; same as new computers
- (Original) Battery life: 16 hours
- SD card slot
- Larger screen (13.34 inches in length)

### NEW

#### HP 360 Pro Books

- Less prone to overheating and crashing
- Have solid state drives; more stable, faster processing speed
- RAM type: DVR-4; same as new computers
- (Original) Battery life: 14 hours
- No SD card slots
- Smaller screen (11.75 inches in length)

A GREAT NEW ADDITION TO PINE VIEW'S CAMPUS ARE THE NEW COMPUTERS, HERE IS A LIST COMPARING AND CONTRASTING THE NEW DEVICES FROM THE OLD ONES.



PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

*Having a rapstar as a classmate seems like something out of a movie. Yet, for Pine View Class of 2023, this is a reality...*

by Aly Zaleski  
Humor Editor

Pine View Variety Show 2022. One of the most awaited acts is up. Eleventh-grader Shane Schwarzenbach makes one of the most anticipated announcements of the night during the junior class act: "B is for BMP." The spotlight is on him at last. After his hyped up

a bit odd to someone who has only heard, for example, "The Life of BMP" or "Olé."

"I've been playing violin since I was ... four or five and it has been a big part of my life, classical music," Enright said.

This sentiment is very apparent through his involvement in multiple orchestras throughout his time practic-

"I try to keep the music. If you don't use it, you lose it," Enright said. He just can't help but make bars whenever he speaks.

While he makes it clear this isn't his main focus and he wouldn't always want to continue with it, BMP is a big part of Enright's image. In mid 2021, *The Life of BMP* was born.

The original story behind this album appears complex on the surface, but is actually very simple. On March 17, 2018, Enright made a post on his Instagram account stating, "If this post gets a hundred comments, I'll drop an album (Pine View Dropout)." While it had been archived shortly after it reached the goal, Enright decided to stay true to his promise about three years later, gaining him the viewership he has now.

This album goes right alongside his "Pine View Dropout" era — something his fans have been confused about for a while. During this period, Enright was doing online school, fulfilling his course requirements through FLVS.

While this did give him more time to record music, some problems followed.

"I was getting sick and tired of FLVS ... It's so boring ... Just sitting at home on your laptop all day is possibly the worst thing ever," he said.

Enright explained how "The Life of BMP" was full of real emotions and stories. While rap is part

of a bit to him, it's still a useful creative outlet that's gotten him through some rocky roads.

This notion gave Enright the idea for a new album. The perfect payoff of his last — "The Life of BMP 2 / The Return to Pine View." Due to being back at in-person school, he had to finish the album during winter break.

Through his ups and downs, highs and lows, the high school experience as a whole, both BMP and Patrick have kept Enright going. Whether it's a fun time joking

around while making a new album or working hard to continuously improve his violin skills, music will always be a major part of his life.

"BMP's future in music is going to be very bright. The sky is the limit for him as a rapper, and as long as he continues to make music and grow his brand, he can really become something in the music industry," Schwarzenbach said.

And, from the man himself, "I might have something in the works. You never know. I'm unpredictable."



Patrick "BMP" Enright (left) poses for a photo with Shane Schwarzenbach (right.) The photo was taken after Enright's first live rap performance in the 2022 Variety Show. Enright rapped a portion of one of his songs in the 2023 Class Act, directed by Schwarzenbach. PHOTO BY ALYSON MIZANIN

appearance and phenomenal musical talent, eleventh-grader Patrick Enright makes his way on stage as BMP for the first time.

Schwarzenbach has known Enright for five years. When he was putting together the Class of 2023's "ABCs of Pine View" Variety Show act, he said he was "trying to go for any students in the junior class with cool and unique talents"; Enright was the perfect fit.

Many people think of Enright for his work as BMP — that being his rap albums published to YouTube and Spotify along with his podcast. However, there is another side to his music career that seems

ing and his current spot as first chair in the Pine View chamber orchestra. Enright has performed violin live at events such as Pinnacle and Solo & Ensemble in which he's gone on to play at the state level.

He went on to explain how he, while not wanting to make it his main focus, would always want to continue music in this form.

**BMP's future is going to be very bright. The sky is the limit for him...**

Shane Schwarzenbach,  
*Eleventh-grader*

# TORCH

PV'S PERSONAL  
POPSTAR

## PATRICK ENRIGHT



GRAPHICS BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

## Practicing Shelf Awareness

### Your Guide to Sarasota's Best Reading Nooks and Crannies

#### A Parker's Books

by Grace Johnson

Editor-in-Chief

Amidst a flurry of Downtown Sarasota's boutiques and cafes stand the geometric metal frames marking the entrance to A Parker's Books and Book Bazaar. Glass exhibitions surround the unique, 1970's style structure, allowing onlookers a glimpse into the precious cargo awaiting inside. Bright green tables envelope the pathway to the door.

Brrring! Opening the door triggers a welcoming chime. Dark green carpet sprawls out underneath countless mismatched wooden shelves, totting thousands of books and several antique prints. The main shop breaks off into thin hallways housing hidden, whirling hallways adorned with spines of all colors, sizes, and even textures. Two shelves are especially eye-catching, bearing a load organized in rainbow order. A maze unfurls ahead, teleporting the customer into hidden worlds of literature.

A Parker's Books and Book Bazaar would only disappoint someone looking for recently produced, modern novels that wouldn't be housed at this used bookshop. History buffs would be thrilled at the size and diversity of offerings, from ancient accounts to modern analyses. Fans of the performing arts wouldn't be disappointed to find the enclave housing the Shakespeare, Cinema, and Entertainment Biography sections. Anyone who appreciates classic literature would awe at shelves stocked with practically untouched vintage paperbacks, wrapped in plastic now to preserve them.

The ambience alone is a reason to enter A Parker's Books and Book Bazaar. Just one foot through the door is enough to feel transported back in time; the price tags might bring one back to the present day. Considering the quality of their offerings and the decreasing demand of independent bookstores, though, it can be worth the extra fees in order to preserve the landmark store. As you exit the labyrinth of paperback heaven, you'll think fondly of the preserved period of time that A Parkers manages to encapsulate.

PHOTO BY GRACE JOHNSON

#### Goodwill Bookstore

by Lora Rini

Match Editor-in-Chief

Upon first glance, the Goodwill Bookstore doesn't look like much. It stands as a lone building on the side of Clark Road, between a Starbucks and an auto service store. The outside is painted the classic Goodwill blue and white, and is decorated with large photos of smiling people holding books. Put bluntly, the store is not the most welcoming from the outside. I was hesitant as I approached the glass doors.

Each bookshelf is topped with a sign that identifies the genre of the books on the shelf; some of the largest sections were fiction, romances, mysteries, biographies, and classics. Performing arts books, Western books, and crafty books each had their own shelf. There is certainly something for everyone.

Because the books carried by the Goodwill Bookstore are all donated, their selection is extremely different from what you would see at a commercial bookstore. The vast majority of books are mass-market paperbacks, and names like James Patterson and Daniel Silva dominate the shelves. Twilight, Harry Potter, and Rick Riordan books each have an entire shelf to themselves in the young adult section. If you've long lost an old favorite, the Goodwill Bookstore might have it in store.

While the variety of books in the Goodwill Bookstore leaves something to be desired, the prices more than make up for it. Most of the books cost somewhere between three and five dollars — the most expensive book I saw was a copy of "The Seed Keeper" by Diane Wilson in the "signed first editions" section, priced at twenty dollars.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee of new releases or high quality literature. Most of the books are either extremely well known fiction or nonfiction in very niche topics, but there are definitely some gems hidden among the shelves if you look hard enough. I walked away from the Goodwill Bookstore with two books — "It Ends With Us" by Colleen Hoover and "The Bell Jar" by Sylvia Plath.

PHOTO BY LORA RINI



#### Brant's Used Books

by Joanna Malvas

Managing Editor

Brant's Used Books exudes a kind of comfort and intimacy that other big, industrial bookstores seem to lack — and that's not because of Max the dog, the store's sleepy mascot. Quaint murals of people reading adorn the exterior, and shelves with the sign "Free books" welcome customers in. With stacks on stacks of books lining the walls at every turn and reading nooks at each corner, the store feels like a wonderland of reading. Brant's Used Books' eclectic collection of books and vintage antiques create a whimsical atmosphere for anyone who walks in.

Brant's Used Books is one of the oldest secondhand bookstores in Florida, having been around since 1956. Established by Glen Brant, the store was initially located at an army barracks where Bee Ridge and U.S. 41 meet. The current bookstore owner, Barbara Barone, has been working at Brant's for over 66 years.

"There's a lot of things to be said for places like this, because there's not a lot of them left. This used to

be what a used bookstore looks like," Barone said.

In the 1970s, Barone's mother had bought the store, which led Barone to begin working at the store as a teenager. Unfortunately, Barone's mother passed away before Barone was able to manage the store with her.

The bookstore features recently released books at the front, from "The French Bridal Shop" to "The Philosopher's Flight". Older, second-hand books can be found near the back, with some being priced at just \$4. Generally, most books are sold at half the market price, making them affordable for student readers.

Customers may also trade in books their own books, with each book counting as one-dollar credit to purchase a book from the store. Currently, the store is only trading paperback fiction books. Recently published Amazon bestseller books are also sold through the store's website, brantsbooks.com.

Inside the store, carts full of old scrapbooks can be found. In my own exploration, I found a photobook containing rustic photos of cathedrals

and scenic mountains from a person's roundtrip in Europe. These old photos are exciting lenses into other people's history and adventures.

Barone explains how her bookstore is not just a place for reading, but it can also be a meeting place for people to socialize.

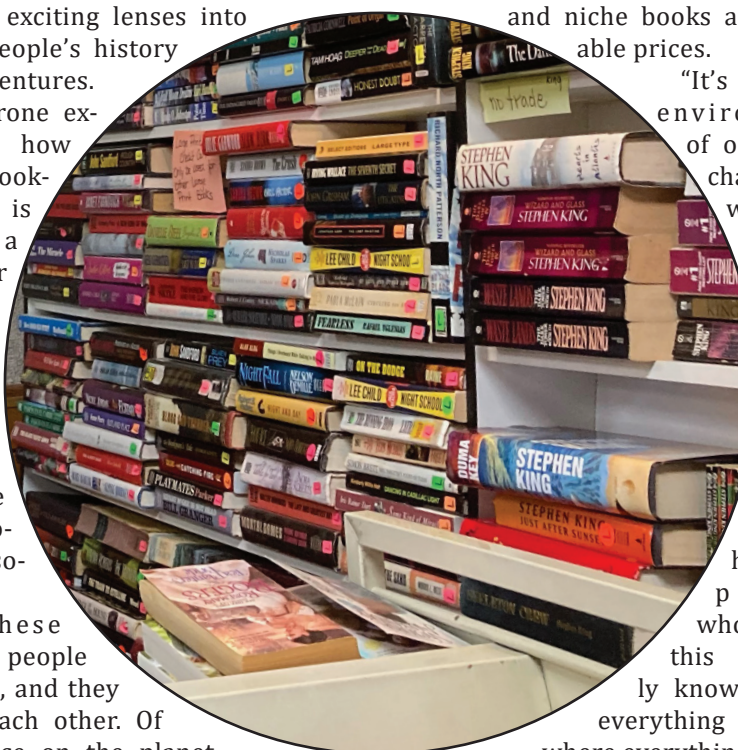
"These two people came in, and they knew each other. Of any place on the planet, they both show up at the bookstore at the same time. I mean, it's just magical what happens here," Barone said.

Essentially, Brant's Used Books

is a euphoric place for readers, being a hub for finding both mainstream and niche books at affordable prices.

"It's a lovely environment of organized chaos. You walk in, and it feels like a personal library that someone has. The person who owns this definitely knows where everything is and where everything goes. It feels like home," said Keelyn McNary, a Pine View twelfth-grader who has worked for Barone for six months.

PHOTO BY JOANNA MALVAS





# The Oscars' Best Pictures: How Do They Hold Up Over Time?

by Terry Shen and Isabella Gaskill  
Match Layout Editor and Copy Editor

Anybody who tunes in each year knows that the Oscars have a reputation for favoring mature and artistically ambitious films, so the number of nominees with less than an R rating remains limited. The ratings of the nominees fluctuates each year, but for the past decade, all winners have boasted the R rating. And while that rating often goes hand-in-hand with a thorough exploration of darker themes, it is not always necessary. In preparation for the awards, we will be looking at the five most recent best picture winners that were rated PG-13.

## The Artist (2011, PG-13):

In a time when high-budget, CGI-reliant films are widely regarded as the future of cinema, "The Artist" is an important reminder of Hollywood's roots. It is a French drama-comedy film, shot in black-and-white. It explores the relationship between a rising young actress and an older silent film star, just as "talkies," or talking films, have begun to replace silent cinema.

Despite many people's skepticism about silent movies, "The Artist" is a deeply charming homage to film as an art form, and to the world of Old Hollywood. It enchanted audiences, was nominated for 10 Oscars, and took home five. It is also the first mostly silent film to win Best Picture, and it has remained influential nearly a decade after its release.

## Million Dollar Baby (2005, PG-13):

Upon first glance "Million Dollar Baby" seems like a surface-level sports drama film. But it surprisingly reveals a much bigger picture, examining the intersection of class, gender, and disability. The film follows Margaret "Maggie" Fitzgerald, an amateur boxer who is coached by a veteran boxing trainer. Maggie is aware of her poor upbringing, and she resents it. She uses boxing to escape from that life and to achieve the working-class dream.

Without providing any spoilers, a major part of the movie touches on disability. This aspect of the movie has been heavily criticized by disability advocates for being stereotypical and perpetuating a negative view of

life with disability. Although flawed, the film provides a surprisingly deep story.

## Chicago (2002, PG-13):

A spectacular adaptation of Bob Fosse's 1975 musical of the same name, "Chicago" is a parody of celebrity and scandal during the Jazz Age. Two women find themselves awaiting trial in a 1920s Chicago prison.

The movie has all of the spectacular visuals one would expect from a Fosse inspired movie, and the actors sell their performances. Some critics say that it lacks depth when you take away all the glitz and glammer, but it will remain a genre-defining movie that paved the way for the musical adaptations we see today

## A Beautiful Mind (2001, PG-13):

Based on the true story of Nobel Prize winner John Forbes Nash Jr., "A Beautiful Mind" shows the life of a genius mathematician with schizophrenia. Coming up with the "Nash equilibrium," John Nash made a revolutionary impact in mathematics, specifically game theory.

The film follows both his achievements and the daily struggles he has to face. Giving an inside look at the effects of schizophrenia, the film portrays mental illnesses and genius coexisting.

## The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King (2003, PG-13):

Based on the final volume of the trilogy of the same name by J. R. R. Tolkien, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the Rings" is an impressive showcase of both directing and special effects. Continuing the storyline, this movie portrays the bold and ambitious long-anticipated final battle, tugs on the heart-strings with emotional flashbacks, and continues to develop the strong bonds between characters.

Although often criticized for lacking emotion, the film still pulls viewers in and keeps the story engaging and immersive. Going out with a bang, the last film wraps up subplots and ties up all loose ends.

GRAPHICS BY FAITH BOSSMAN AND LILY QUARTERMAINE

# The Torch's Favorite.. Sarasota Thrift Shops

Women's Exchange, Inc.  
539 S Orange Ave, Sarasota, FL  
34236

St. Vincent de Paul  
2711 Mall Dr, Sarasota, FL 34231

The Blue Heirloom  
5650 Swift Rd, Sarasota, FL  
34231

## HOW TO THRIFT FLIP

# Jeans



1. Find a pair of jeans you like for a good price, preferably fitting around your legs for the most part.

2. While the jeans are on you, fold in both sides of the waistline on the jeans enough so it fits.

3. With a distinctive fabric safe marker, mark the two sides of the fold in the waistline. You can do the adjustments in the front or the back, personally I do not recommend doing it over the brand label because it is a chunkier sewing job.



4. Using the lines you drew in step three, cut out an isosceles triangle exceeding a little bit past the waist band. If you are looking to get rid of a gap in the back, cut a little bit farther into the fabric. I would recommend using fabric scissors.

5. Overlap the triangle and use a sewing machine to do a zig-zag like stitch to provide a secure adjustment. Do a few layers to make it more stable, then there you have it: a new pair of cool jeans with a waistline perfect for you.



## Students 'disc-over' the flying field of disc golf

by Isabella Kulawik  
Sci&Tech Editor

Chains clang and clatter as round discs fly through the air along with the laughter of students. Students walk on the short grass of the playing field, tinted with the dying wisps of the fleeting Florida winter. The wind blows in the ears of players while students focus on reaching the coveted basket. Amidst the forehand and backhand throws a voice yells, "Four!"

This is a common scene at the Pine View School Disc Golf Club, run by English teacher Chris Pauling, and science teacher Dylan Bell. Both teachers are extremely dedicated to the sport and the club, working together as they create a great learning environment for

both experienced players and those who want to dabble in the sport.

"Well, Mr. Pauling and I really enjoyed playing disc golf already and it was something that we kind of connected with ... and we were playing outside of school and then we just had the idea; you know we wanted to make a club, because we thought that it wouldn't be too expensive and COVID was happening so we wanted to get people outside," Bell said.

To start the club, Pauling and Bell began by starting a fundraiser to build club funds to purchase materials like the baskets and the different types of discs. There are three main types of discs in the game: putters for short distance throws, midranges for medium distance throws, and drivers for long-distance throws.

These can be distinguished by the width of the

rim. Short distance discs have a wider rim to decrease the movement once it hits the ground. In contrast, long-distance discs are far more aerodynamic and thinner to ensure that the disc goes as far as possible. While these discs are not necessary to have a good

the difference is, it's definitely harder to catch. It's a flying object that's coming at you. It's a little more dangerous than just a traditional frisbee."

With more space when the portables are removed, Bell is hoping to expand the area for the club to hold two



Ninth-grader Vander Kuipers and others practice putting in a circle around the basket. In unison each attempts to throw the disc into the basket.

PHOTO BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

game, they certainly are recommended.

"Now if you just want to go with your family or friends to have fun, you don't have to have a lot of skill or practice. you could just [play] from one disc if that's all you have, or really it would be ideal if you would have three; a putter, a midrange, and a driver," Pauling said.

The club traditionally has a good member turnout, but at times the numbers can fluctuate from 5 people to 20 people. Still, Bell and Pauling are focused on outreach to include more people in the niche sport.

"We're just trying to get more people aware of what it is and have them just come out and practice; and though a lot of them have thrown a regular frisbee a little bit this is very different than a frisbee," Pauling said. "In fact, some people will get upset about calling it a frisbee and not a disc. But

to three more holes to practice on. In addition, the club is attempting to plan meet-ups at courses outside of school to provide more experience for the players.

"I wish that there was a disc golf club when I was in high school because then I'd have a chance at being a pro. All the pros now are like twenty or in their twenties," Bell said. "I want to try to get these people in as much as possible because there's a lot of professionals who are like 19 years old ... So as long as you can get out there and get started young you can have a chance of becoming a professional."

With all these opportunities, students can allow their skills to grow. One of the members, Vander Kuipers, has already witnessed the impact the club has had on his skills after beginning at the start of this school year.

"The driving is probably my favorite aspect of it. Just sending the disc as far as possible, focusing on getting your form down in a single forehand is pretty enjoyable and rewarding," Kuipers said.

Another special aspect of the club is that it is open to everyone, as a novice or advanced player. Meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., the club looks forward to seeing new faces on the field. Get ready to start a new game and be prepared to learn a new skill as Bell opens the game with his classic saying, "Alright. Get your mid-range disc and your putter and let's go."



Ninth-graders Elias Juckett-Malone (top) and Aaron Schroeder play around at the club. They managed to use proper form even when on each others' shoulders.

PHOTO BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

### A Beginner's Guide to Disc Golf

When you are beginning disc golf it can be easy to get lost in the fancy terms. This will help you differentiate some of the more difficult terms so you can improve your game and sound cool.

#### Forehand

This is a common type of throw in disc golf, where the palm of the player's hand faces the basket.



#### Backhand

Another common type of throw which most are familiar with. The front of the player's hand faces the basket until the disc is released.

#### Basket

The hole, if you will, of disc golf. This is where the disc should go into.



#### Driver

The driver is a disc in disc golf made to travel long distances. The disc has a thinner rim which makes it more aerodynamic than other types of discs.

#### Midranger

This type of disc is used to travel medium to short distances because of its thicker rim.



#### Putter

The putter is a disc which is meant for the shortest distances on the course. With the thickest rim of all, the surface area between the grass and the disc increases slowing it down.

Now that you know some new vocabulary terms, go and put those skills to practice at Mr. Pauling and Dr. Bell's club which meets Wednesdays at 1PM.

Resources: <https://infinitediscs.com/blog/disc-golf-dictionary/> Pine View's Disc Golf Club.



Astronomy and Earth and Space Science teacher Dylan Bell demonstrates proper form when throwing the disc with student Elias Juckett-Malone. There are different types of serves and discs in the sport which Pauling and Bell show students.

PHOTOS AND GRAPHICS BY ISABELLA KULAWIK

# Torch Tries Trapeze

by Lucy Collins  
Social Media Editor

Against the whir of airplanes taking off across the street, Tito Gaona's clear orders ring out to the small group of people clustered atop a wood and steel platform, many feet above the ground. Up on the platform, the evening sun illuminates ropes, pulleys and hooks. A slow wind teases the flyers as they reach for the bar, looking down at the black net below them.

My first experience trapezing was not quite what I expected. The site of Tito Gaona's Trapeze Academy is not large, taking up a quarter of the unassuming piece of land it inhabits. The energy it emanates, though, immediately makes you feel welcome and energized with a buzz of excitement for the hours to come.

Upon first entrance, you hear Tito before you see him. "Straight! Back! Up!" He shouts from the ground, gripping the two safety lines attached to the current flyer. Tito comes from a Mexican circus family that call themselves the Flying Gaonas. He

has performed along with his family before royalty, at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's "Greatest Show on Earth" and the Big Apple Circus.

Entering flyers are fitted with safety belts and taken

After a few minutes of light practice, we were guided into line to wait for the big version, which was similar in height to a professional trapeze platform. First up was Sarah Catalano, Torch's Copy

attached her to a new safety line to jump. Upon Tito's command, she squatted, picked up one leg, and jumped into the air. He began to call out commands, which the semi-experienced clown performed flawlessly, and then Tito called for her to tuck her knees under the bar and hang upside down. Again she performed perfectly, and she folded herself into a split. After about two minutes of her fly, she was

instructed to fall backwards into the net.

Zoe Merritt, the Torch Graphic's Editor, then climbed the ladder to repeat the same; then it was my turn. All of the guiders were extremely helpful and reassuring. By the time I jumped off the platform, I felt prepared mentally — but not so much for the muscles it used in my abs, arms, back

and even legs. Everybody before had made it appear so flawlessly easy, but alas it was not. My run was not quite as smooth as the clown's, but was extremely exhilarating, nonetheless.

In between our turns on the trapeze, other customers would take a turn. Many of them were elementary aged children, but there were also some families and older people, too. Between beginner flyers, more experienced ones practiced complex and challenging tricks as well.

A crowd of local bicyclists gather to one side, looking on and applauding. At one point, a child no more than three years old took a turn. We were all impressed with the ease such a young child exuded to perform the feat.

Each customer had three runs on the trapeze, all of them well worth it. Tito Gaona was the type of instructor that was so kind and encouraging that even after five minutes of knowing him, you wanted to make him proud. Overall, an unforgettable experience worth going back for again.

PHOTOS BY LUCY COLLINS



to a low, miniature version of the trapeze bar to test their current skill level. It also gives your back and hands a nice workout, signaling the need for a strong grip, rough calluses, and muscled lats for this activity. You swing back and forth a bit, piking at each end of the swing and stretching backward towards the middle to heighten acceleration.

Editor, a current student at the Sailor Circus, lightly experienced in trapeze already. We watched her climb the rickety ladder attached to a safety line to the top, where young trapeze performers guided her into the right position and

der to repeat the same; then it was my turn. All of the guiders were extremely helpful and reassuring. By the time I jumped off the platform, I felt prepared mentally — but not so much for the muscles it used in my abs, arms, back

# Excellent Equestrian

by Sanya Patel  
Match Assistant Editor

Imagine waking up on Saturday morning, on your way to Fox Lea Farms for your weekly horse showing; the sun is shining, the grass looks fresh, and you are ready to amaze the judges with your skills. This is the life of equestrian eleventh-grader Katharine Hoerle.

When she first began riding, Hoerle was on vacation in Massachusetts. She started with horseback riding lessons at Martha's Vineyard, and fate took its course.

"We just went to [the vineyard] and took a couple of lessons for fun, and I just kept doing it when we got home,"

Hoerle said.

Hoerle mainly competes in equitation, which is judged based on position and riding style, as well as jumpers, which are judged on speed. Lately, Hoerle has been doing hunters, which are judged on the movement of the horse. Each category is scored out of 100, zero being the lowest and 100 being the highest. Hoerle trains for three hours every day, which includes getting her horse ready to ride, training, and taking care of him after.

"I usually give my horse a bath because he's gray and he always looks gross," she said with a laugh.

Hoerle's 15-year-old horse named Blockey is a

Dutch Warmblood. Hoerle has leased Blockey for six months and the duo rides every week at Fox Lea Farms in Sarasota. Right now, they have a Venice Equestrian Tour, where Katharine shows every Saturday and Sunday, and Fridays, depending on school.

Hoerle also has an Instagram account especially for her equestrian journey. With nearly 4,000 followers and over 200 posts, she posts pictures and videos of her riding and taking care of her horses. For Hoerle, the account has been an opportunity to make friends in the community, many of whom she later sees in person at horse shows. Additionally, it enables her



Hoerle's 15 year-old horse Blockey standing in his stall after a show. It is a champion ribbon which they won in the children's equitation division at a recent show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHARINE HOERLE



Eleventh-grader Katharine Hoerle riding her 15 year-old horse Blockey. Hoerle has been competitively horseback riding for five years now. PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHARINE HOERLE

to look back at memories of years past — having started it in 2019, Hoerle has come a long way since then.

"When I first started, I was young so I didn't know, but now definitely I want to do it long term," Hoerle said.

Hoerle hopes to continue to ride in college for an NCEA (National Collegiate Equestrian Association) Team and continue to work with horses in the future. In the

meantime, Hoerle wants to keep moving through the equitation divisions to be able to qualify for the finals in fall 2022.

"I love it, it's really great. There are definitely days where you feel like you're just tired and you have other things to do, and it's a hassle... But overall, it's like, if you keep working hard, that's how you are going to meet your goals," Hoerle said.

www.thetorchpersonalitytest.com

## The Torch's Personality Test

So, you've heard about the Myers-Briggs (MBTI) personality test. You've maybe even found out your own type. All of that can move over – there's a new quiz in town. A quick disclaimer: these results are exaggerated to the point of total fiction. That's why it's the humor section. No offense is meant to be taken. Answer these questions and see your results at the bottom.

### What animal do you think you are most like?

- A. motionless snail
- B. shark because I'm misunderstood
- C. cheetah because I'm fast
- D. sloth

### Which food would you most like to eat?

- A. month-old bag of chips
- B. pizza
- C. anything to carbo-load before the big game
- D. shortbread cookies

### What shoes would you most likely wear?

- A. Who needs shoes if you don't go outside?
- B. Converse (but only with my prom dress)
- C. bright yellow Nikes
- D. slippers

### What do you do most in your free time?

- A. video games (because I like them)
- B. video games (because it makes me different)
- C. win
- D. knit

### What time do you go to bed?

- A. sleep? What's that?
- B. unlike others, I can stay up past 1 every day
- C. whenever the game tires me out
- D. 8:00 pm

### What shirt would you choose off the shelf?

- A. "I paused my game to be here"
- B. "I'm a chicken nugget"
- C. "Nike: Just Do It"
- D. oversized sweater, no text

### What's your least favorite subject?

- A. PE
- B. music because I'm untalented
- C. anything that's not PE
- D. technology (because I don't understand it)

**Mostly A's: COAL (chronically online and lifeless):** While others spend their time, well, seeing grass, you stay in the darkest corner of your room. Alone time is fine, but we quite literally die if we don't see the sun. Might want to work on that.

**Mostly B's: NLOG (not like other girls):** You're, like, really special. And you make sure everyone knows it. Other girls are clones, robots, fakes. You're the real deal. You don't even wear makeup.

**Mostly C's: HOWK (highlighter outfit-wearing kid):** If you don't know what this means, it's that middle school boy outfit with the basketball shorts and dry-fit T-shirt in the most obnoxious orange or yellow possible. This one is pretty self-explanatory.

**Mostly D's: CBAG (could be a grandparent):** This means you're old. Like a 75-year-old man. I mean, it's a lot better than it could be. BY LINDSAY LUBERECKI

## Extreme Cheapskates: Spirit Week

### Budget Ball



Disc golf is out — budgetball is in. Sure, disc golf is fun and all, but (other than Mr. Pauling) who actually knows how to play? Besides, supply chain issues have caused disc prices to rise to \$500 per disc — at a minimum. That's why Pine View made the bold decision to switch to a more accessible and affordable sport during Spirit Week this year.

Budget ball can be played with only a piece of paper and a couple willing participants, and the memories are unforgettable. One AP Research student found it to be 30 times more competitive and 50 times more fun than disc golf.

Shown in the picture, students Mobyl Games and Ray Derclash are participating in the cheap sport. If you actively ignore Games playing Clash of Clans while messing with the ball, it was quite a successful endeavor. Oh, and coach Matt Ball staging the game. Stop backseat budget-balling, Matt.

## Microdoor Decor

Because no door was available to be painted on, the alternative was a plain microwave.

This extravagant display required 30 hours of manual labor all while trying to actively avoid the teachers complaining about not having their daily dose of caffeine.

"We really did it this year," twelfth-grader Dora Decora said. "Hours upon hours went into this feat... Those heart cut-outs took forever and a half."

The idea of removing the decorations is a major onus weighing on the backs of Decora and eleventh-grader Pane Inmihart.

"The decorations are still there," Inmihart said, "and they'll be up as long as possible. It's my intention to never have them go away."



## Tug of Board



Students Confi Dent and Tryan Hisbest battle it out during the grand finale of Cheapskates Spirit Week. You can see nothing but joy on their faces. Just don't look too hard.

In previous years, entire grades were able to compete at once during tug of war. However, students found the face-to-face nature of tug of board made the activity more intimate and personal. All in all, it was a fantastic conclusion to a sensational, never-before-seen week.

## Impractical Teachers



Math teacher Aga Instmath tries to enter the teacher's lounge while preventing others from doing the same. Instmath started the pranks after being betrayed by a fellow teacher.

PHOTO BY SARAH HASSAN

by Sarah Hassan

Assistant Editor-in-Chief

It was an average day, and tenth-grader Wvatt Amidoin was walking into the new, freshly made building, expecting everything to be readily cleaned and prepared.

As teachers moved into their new rooms in building 17, they were living together in harmony, but everything changed when the subject of the teacher's lounge came up. Every teacher thought they could work something out, since they had no problems with each other.

However, the pranks all started when one teacher, who will not be named, decided to make a snail out of another teacher's whole-hearted fist bump.

"The amount of betrayal I felt was indescribable," math teacher Aga Instmath said. "I've never been so disrespected before, and I'm a high school teacher."

So far, the art and science departments have cre-

ated an alliance, based on their mutual love of buckets and their functions. The science department has allowed the usage of their Erlenmeyer flask to help mix the oil paints for the upcoming-prank.

As the school days have passed, Amidoin witnessed pranks between teachers.

"I walked down the hall and saw a teacher putting a bucket of paint on top of the door," Amidoin said. "It's a lounge, just share it."

In Amidoin's math class, various calculations have been written using the stolen idea from the physics classes. The math department has decided to go solo due to conflicts with calculations.

Overall, classes have been disturbed by the on-going pranks among teachers.

"My teacher, covered in paint, would be planning out schemes with a creepy smile on his face," Amidoin's classmate Luvyas Cool said. "I just walked out of the classroom and taught myself the subject

under the stairs. That's the only place where a kid can get some peace these days."

However, Sculs Ucks thinks differently from Cool.

"I honestly don't mind watching them set up pranks; it gives me free entertainment at school," Ucks said.

As Amidoin was passing by some classrooms, an intense and final round of rock, paper, scissors was being held to determine the winner of the teacher's lounges.

"I just wanted to go down the hallway but the entire building had this ominous feeling. I found teachers in a circle, hands out and shaking, looking like they were summoning something, but it turns out it was just a game of rock, paper, scissors," Amidoin said.

Only two rounds of the game were played. The arts, science and social studies departments ended up tying.

"I don't know how this happened, it statistically doesn't make sense," Instmath, who lost overall, said.

However, it was shockingly discovered that the students were the main culprit. From the beginning, they had plotted the fist bump fail to reduce their workload. However, after getting tired of every teacher's lame shenanigans, they taught the teachers a valuable lesson - sharing.

"We told the teachers something spectacular called sharing," student representative Itso Ver said. "It's a beautiful concept that makes society work at some points, so now, they can share their lounges..."

## Aly's Average Advice

*"No one remembers my birthday."* -Ray Rini



by Aly Zaleski

Humor Editor

Hello, you lovely amazing people. I'm back once again — a quite regrettable experience, to be honest. This time, we've gotten our question from the one and only Ray Rini: Class of 2025 President, famous pop singer, and brother to The Torch's one and only Lora Rini. In an interview she stated, and I quote, "I don't even know his birthday. He's just not important enough."

Let's put our brains together and think for this one, Big R. Dates are hard. Just like names. So, you need to make your birthday memorable.

My first piece of advice is to have a firework show at the mansion you probably live in every month on the day of your birthday. The mansion isn't required, but it's always a good touch. That way someone will always ask if that day is your birthday. Eventually they'll

get it right. Unless something goes wrong. And a lot can go wrong.

My second idea is to carve your birthday in a tree somewhere in a magical forest. At some point, a delusional old man will go on a crazed adventure and find it, probably lighting it up into the sky. Listen, I know I sound crazy, but not as crazy as the old man.

Third, become everyone. Yeah, yeah — "oh, but physics" this and "that's not possible" that. Why don't you stop all your whining and crying.

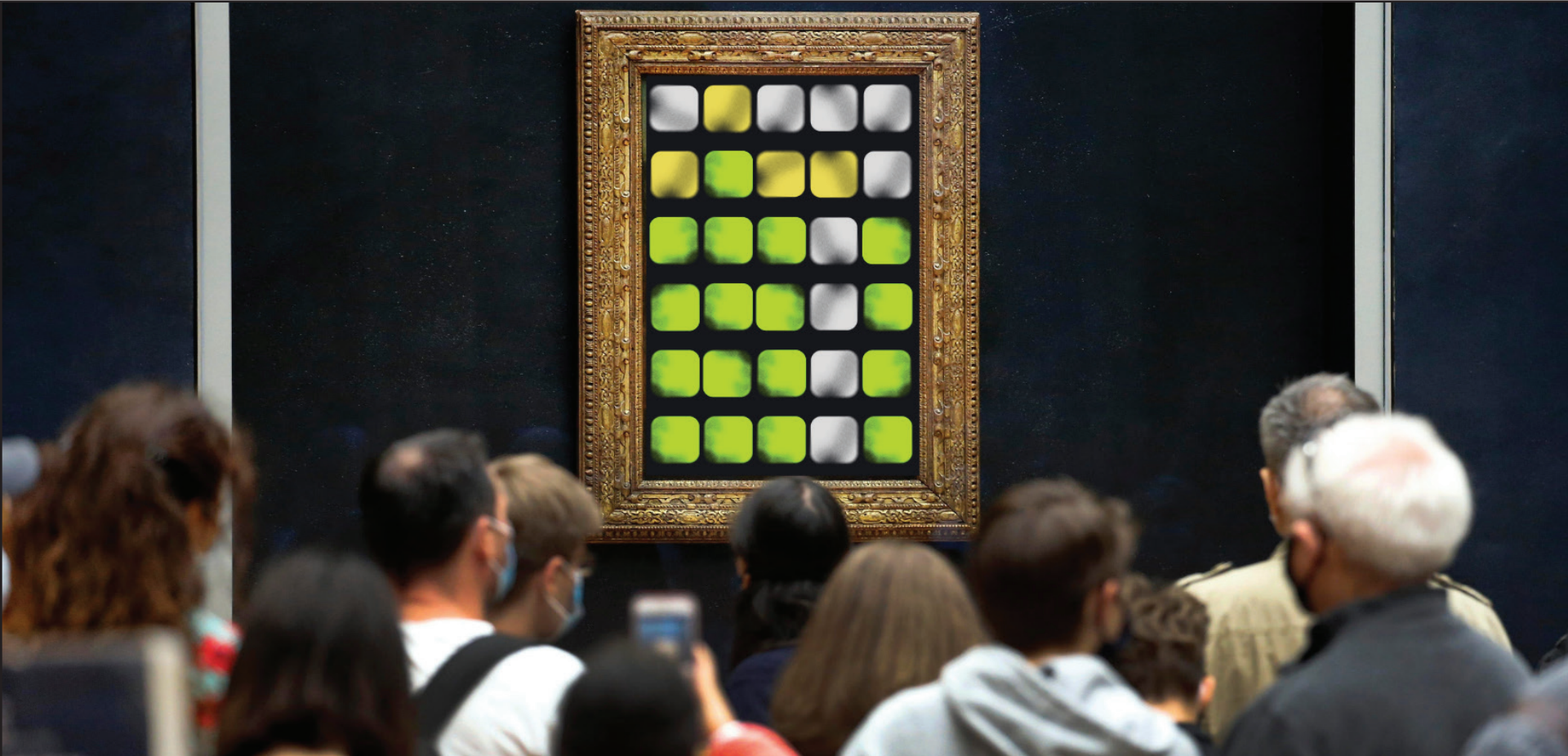
Waa... Wah waah... What's that? Waaaah... Is... Is that a little baby? What? Do you need a waambulance? Yeah. That's what I thought.

If you want people to listen to you, you have to go to extremes. You need to insert your memories into everyone else. That way people will always know your birthday, even if they don't know you.

Finally, I suggest being cooler. It seems like a pretty easy solution if you ask me. Put on a pair of sunglasses. Maybe a hat. Maybe backwards.

Honestly, if these don't help you, then I really am not sure what I'm supposed to tell you. I'm not a doctor. I don't want to solve your problems. Maybe develop some critical thinking skills or something like that.

"I can only Jason Derulo so much." - Mackenzie Haas



Last week, Pine View twelfth-grader W. R. D'Gaems oil painting became the most valuable piece of art in existence at US\$4.9 trillion, surpassing da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" and Maurizio Cattelan's "Comedian." Entitled, "Modern Tragedy in Six Parts," the painting has replaced Mona Lisa in the Louvre, and admission to 60-second viewing periods is valued at \$8.8 million. For those who are able to see the piece in person, the experience can be life-changing. "It's like it reached into my soul," said one hysteric connoisseur. "All around me, people sobbing, laughing, holding onto each other as if the world were ending. I don't think any piece of art in all of history has ever touched the root of the human condition like [Modern Tragedy] has." GRAPHIC BY SARAH CATALANO

[guest editorial]

## Stop Sacrificing Sleep to Succeed

by Aravind Rajeev  
Guest Writer

Perhaps comparable to a hurricane with its torrential rains consisting of essays and exams, fourth quarter has finally arrived. While wreaking havoc by peaking stress, anxiety, and emotion among Pine View students, the storm forces us to compromise one of the most vital components of our health — sleep.

Sleep is essential to our mental condition, cognitive ability, and health. In addition to preparing our brains for another day of constant activity, sleep improves our memory, supports our concentration, enhances our physical performance, strengthens our immune systems, promotes our growth, and boosts our mood.

Meanwhile, sleep deprivation not only hinders the aforementioned benefits, but also increases the risk for obesity, poor mental health, diabetes, and more conditions according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). While not tangible

consequences, these effects of sleep deprivation pose great risk to our future health.

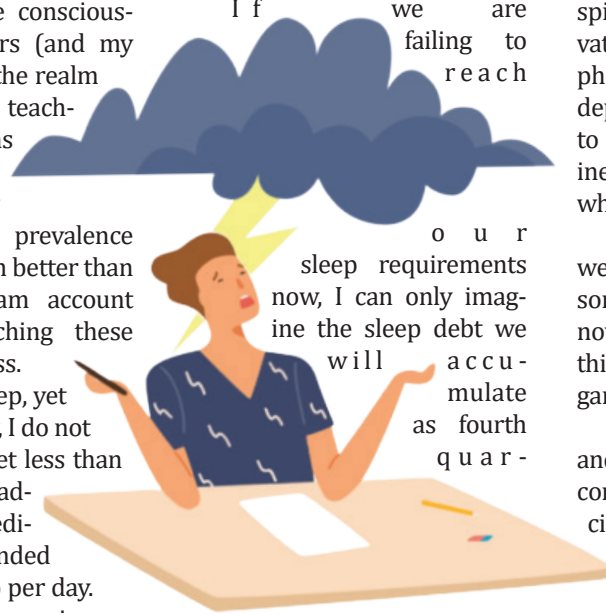
Pine View would be a red zone in this epidemic of sleep deprivation. Numerous times have I noticed the consciousnesses of my peers (and my own) drifting into the realm of dreams as my teacher's lecture seems to slow time itself. And nothing demonstrates the prevalence of this phenomenon better than an entire Instagram account dedicated to catching these sleepers during class.

We cherish sleep, yet we sacrifice it. Now, I do not blame you if you get less than the American Academy of Sleep Medicine's recommended 8-10 hours of sleep per day. I am guilty of the same crime, as are many other students.

In an Instagram poll that I posted on my story asking about the average number of hours a Pine View student sleeps each night, I received concerning re-

sults. A vast majority of respondents reported sleeping less than the recommended number of hours, with one respondent simply responding "yes" to the question.

If we are failing to reach



ter progresses. The number of all-nighters we pull and caffeinated beverages we drink will likely increase. The price we pay (in exchange for academic achievement) for such sleep

deprivation will also increase in the long-term.

Yet in the short-term, it amazes me how Pine View students are able to stay determined and achieve success despite the effects of sleep deprivation. If we can operate at such phenomenal ability when sleep deprived, then what are we able to do when well-rested? Imagine the potential we possess when we perform at our peak.

In pursuit of this potential, we can take action. Here are some tips you can implement now to help persevere through this stress hurricane with regards to sleep:

(1) Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time. With enough commitment, this will help your circadian rhythm, your brain's internal clock, establish a rhythm and ensure alertness throughout the day.

(2) An hour before bedtime, refrain from using any electronic devices. Many studies have shown that the blue light from electronic devices, like cell phones and laptops,

discombobulate our circadian rhythm. With a relaxing bedtime routine without any devices, our circadian rhythm can better consolidate its clock and increase the quality of our sleep.

(3) When you wake up, try some stretching. By stretching after waking up, you get your blood flowing throughout your body in the morning, "waking up" your muscles and organs. Even better, it will also "wake up" your brain.

Now, I do not wish to demand changes to your current schedule or routine. Since we are all burdened by different stresses, do what works for you. But know that there is indeed a price to pay in sacrificing sleep for grades. Adequate sleep and excelling grades need not be mutually exclusive of each other. In fact, adequate sleep can be conducive to excelling grades.

As odd as it sounds, we can achieve excellence by sleeping. With finals now here, the best thing you can do to prepare and succeed is to consider sleep.

GRAPHIC BY TIFFANY YU

## The Game of College Admissions

by Peyton Harris  
Asst. Editor-in-Chief

The moment I got into Georgetown was one of the most validating and celebratory moments of my life. I cried with my mom in what seemed like the culmination of four years of hard work, the pinnacle of what my time at Pine View meant to me: to be accepted into my "dream school."

Many of my friends had their own versions of this moment with their respective "dream schools," Ivy Leagues and other elite institutions with acceptance rates in the single digits. We celebrated together and marveled at each other's success, in the quest to reach the ultimate goal of our high school experience.

With record-low acceptance rates for universities across the country, it's special to be chosen, to be deemed as worthy among hundreds of thousands of applications. But why? Why does our celebration and success so closely relate to the number of people who lost?

For the winners of the game of college admissions, it's easy to get caught up in flaunting in the numbers, in how many people we beat out. We can defend the selectivity of schools because it benefits us. At Pine View especially, there's an emphasis on how many people are going to "Ivies" or schools close to it, such as Duke or Vanderbilt.

We discuss others' applications like they are our own, we speculate on who's going where and why.

University of Florida's decision day resulted in entire grade-wide meetings about how and why deserving students were not accepted. To our credit, it's not all our fault; an increasingly competitive college admissions culture has been building our entire lives. "Ivy Day" is treated almost like a holiday, spurring praise and jealousy for its winners. Online forums are dedicated to results, with an entire subgenre of YouTube videos dedicated to opening decisions.

The college test prep industry is worth millions of dollars. College consulting is a lucrative enterprise that now begins as early as freshman year. Students are encouraged to have a career path in mind before high school even starts to ensure their extracurriculars follow suit, that

have you committed to a school yet??

"lead" is a cohesive bundle of activities

no, not yet :(

there's so much pressure...

and classes that will show direction to admissions officers.

For students without the opportunity to seek and obtain these advantages, it's virtually impossible to gain a level playing field in elite university admissions. For all students at Pine View, we have been afforded privilege in education. We have a well-trained college

counseling department, a nearly unlimited supply of rigorous courses, and counselors that lead us through our career options with our four-year plans.

But even with all these advantages and for students who did everything "right," there's still disappointment. Admissions officers are susceptible to bad days when reading particular applications. Sometimes there's too many students with the same general profile.

An office might not like a particular topic of essay. It's an impossible game that does not boil down to merit; luck and privilege are also majorly at play.

Pine View students need to examine our privilege and the resources we are afforded at a school designed to be a pathway to elite universities. We are incredibly lucky and privileged to be on the receiving end of so many advantages that aid us in the admissions process. But sometimes that is not enough. Everyone is subject to factors we cannot account for.

We deserve our success, but it does not mean the ones who lost are any less qualified or deserving.

We need to devalue the importance of exclusivity in our college process. Going to college is a success in and of itself. The idea that some college educations will lead to more success than the others only increases our competitive culture as a school. We should be focused on how we can uplift each other as future college students, not concentrating on the rejections we and others have faced.

I'll never deny the happiness I felt when I opened that decision. Georgetown is and will always be a special school to me. But now, only a few months later, it seems less like a validation of merit than it does a climax of the privilege and competition I've been surrounded by, as well as whatever luck I happened to be afforded the particular day my application was read. So yes, I deserved my acceptance. But so did many more.

GRAPHIC BY LILY QUARTERMAINE

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# Talk Less, Eat More

## Why food is the best common language

by **Felicity Chang**  
Web Editor-in-Chief

Growing up, I lived off a steady diet of East Asian cuisine — I learned how to make dumplings before I learned my ABCs, and I had more than my fair share of rice cakes before discovering that other kids' grandmas baked them a peculiar confection called banana bread. Although I wouldn't have known it then, my multicultural upbringing would help me realize that food is not just a means of sustenance, but also a way to communicate.

As I entered primary school and moved out of my grandparents' house, I found myself submerged in an unfamiliar world, devoid of the comforting aroma of soy sauce and green onion. It was replaced by awkward discussions in half-broken English with classmates about how it was even possible for both peanut butter and jelly to belong on a sandwich. Together. That confusion morphed into gradual understanding, and by the time I reached third grade, I knew enough about American cuisine that my rebellious phase began.

For a week, I begged my mother to let me buy school lunch so I no longer had to explain to the other kids that century eggs are supposed to be black and no, the quail eggs in my Thermos did not contain baby birds, just like how chicken eggs don't contain baby chicks. My fervent argument served its purpose, and my mother reluctantly stuffed a ten-dollar bill in my backpack, sending me on

my way to foreseeable culinary doom.

You see, I quickly realized how fragile my palate truly was — and how flavourless the dull, boiled carrots in my school lunch seemed compared to grandma's vegetable soup. I relayed this regret to my mother, and from that week onward, I unpacked my steamed buns and pickled radishes in the cafeteria with pride.

During summer and winter breaks, I cherished the moments I spent with my grandparents. I cherished the smell of grandpa's leather jacket and briefcase whenever he'd return home with paper bags filled with fresh egg waffles and takeout boxes stuffed with char siu. I cherished the sound of grandma's fussing whenever I said, "No, it's okay! I've already eaten," as she never believed in such preposterous statements. I cherished the feeling of unadulterated joy when we all sat at the dinner table rolling batches of tangyuan, accidentally dropping pieces of dough while attempting to beat each other's unofficial records for fastest tangyuan-making — with pride at stake in an Asian family, it was a serious competition.

Although the longer I was away from my grandparents, the rustier my Cantonese became, I somehow managed to pick it back up every time I visited. I realize that growing up as an immigrant child, I was fortunate to be able to communicate well with my extended family, but I've discovered over

the years that food knows no boundaries.

Every time I taught neighbourhood kids how to wrap zongzi — it's an irrefutable fact that I wrapped the neatest zongzi out of everyone in my family — they watched and learned through silent trial and error. A nudge of an elbow here, a shift of a finger there, that was how I was taught, and I thought there was no reason not to use the same method.

After experiencing several lessons of similar nature with Polish and Guatemalan families, I realized that this sentiment was universal. Beyond just technicalities of how to prepare certain types of food, there always seemed to be a kind of unspoken mutual appreciation of culture through cuisine, regardless of language barriers. So, to all my fellow immigrant kids out there who may have passed up opportunities to connect with their family throughout the years, give your grandparents a call sometime — pay them a visit, and perhaps you'll come out the other end with a full stomach, and heart too.

# Tiffany's Epiphanies

## Two Halves of A Whole

As an ABC (American Born Chinese), I grew up under my family's notion that success is quantifiable. It was always understood that above all, your life could be measured in wealth



and status. Friends will let you down, family will pass away, happiness



**Tiffany Yu**  
Opinion Editor  
chasm between what makes you Chinese versus what makes you an 'American.'

In growing up between two worlds, each finds the other strange or difficult to understand. Although you may find it most comfortable to stay within one cultural bubble, it becomes evident that you can't in order to thrive.

You must take these separate aspects and merge them together into their own unique almagamation, rather than putting together two distinctive halves to create a whole.

So while yes, you should be proud of the individual aspects of your identity, it's also important to acknowledge that these attributes combine to create your unique identity that — no matter what you qualify as being successful — is worthy.

Finding a path in life that appeases you as an individual is most important.

GRAPHIC BY FELICITY CHANG

fleeting, but money: money is the one thing you can always count on.

This cutthroat philosophy directly contrasts the culture I've grown up surrounded by outside of the house; success is measured, or rather has an emphasis, on happiness, love, and connection.

The main problem with growing up in the United States as an ABC is the lack of a rooted identity; there's a noticeable

# The Forbidden Topic: My Parents

## Real life ramifications of the 'Don't Say Gay' bill

by **Isabella Kulawik**  
Sci-Tech Editor

I patiently raise my hand, glancing at the faces — some old and some new — that sit in the smooth, navy blue plastic chairs around me. Itching with anticipation to be called on, I prepare my answer to the common icebreaker where we all say a fun fact about ourselves on the first day of school. Butterflies in my belly, I puff my chest out with pride and say, "I have two Moms."

This memory is one I have fondly recalled since the beginning of elementary school. I loved to boast about my unique family and I cannot imagine my childhood without being able to freely share my family.

However, recently, parents have become more than ever involved in their children's curriculum. Regardless of political views, these parents have been making big waves in the legislative system, which is resulting in the Parental Rights in Education Bill or more popularly known as the "Don't Say Gay" Bill.

This bill would eliminate discussions of gender and sexual orientation at primary levels and potentially get rid of clubs such as Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and other supportive groups. These topics were never discussed when I was in elementary school — in fact, I would often feel frustrated that my family was never in the stories we read or the things we discussed. The reason behind this homophobic legislation is explained best by Senator Joe Harding, one of the proponents of the bill.

"The bill is designated to keep school districts from talking about these topics before kids are ready to process them," Harding said in a Twitter video in response to opponents.

However, if this bill is meant to prevent the discussions of sexuality and gender, then teachers should not teach about straight couples or cisgender norms either. This also means that teachers should not discuss marriage, because gay marriage was legalized in the U.S. in 2015,

and one cannot teach marriage without the inclusion of all legal relationships.

Middle school science teacher, David Yotsuda, has a unique perspective on the bill. Yotsuda is one of the few teachers who is pivotal to Pine View's staff by teaching here for so many years. Students often hear of his roommate when he shares details about his personal life to the class; what many do not know, however, is that his roommate is also his partner. Being a teacher, he has watched as the education system has changed over the years, and as these bills come into shape, he feels more and more frightened for students and teachers.

"I'm horrified — and again, it really comes down to the fact that we've come such a long way with defining equality, not only amongst race but also with sexuality, and for our legislature to come in and pretty much dictate how people should live their lives ... It just baffles me why all of the sudden [we have] this shift and why we have to be



Tenth-grader Isabella Kulawik's mothers, Elwira Kulawik and Assunta Musone poke their heads through the largest gay pride flag in the country at the "Say Gay" rally in Sarasota. Her parents recall the days when they were at the New York City Pride Parade. They are saddened by the new legislation.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA KULAWIK

so hush hush ... Gay couples are now adopting children, so what happens to this child that's in those grade levels, and they have questions or want to talk about their parents? I think it's just going to make matters a lot worse," Yotsuda said.

With that being said, it is easy to be trapped on a negative track of thinking. Despite feel-

ing that the worst is only yet to come, I have hope that people will do the right thing and recognize that this bill is detrimental to many. One thing that is certain is that people will fight, they will fight for that child sitting in a classroom, making sure that that child will never feel lonely for who they are and have every right to be.

## Caption Contest

*Submit a caption on [pvtorch.com](http://pvtorch.com). Our favorite submission will be published in the next issue!*



**Congratulations to last issue's winner, ninth-grader Ethan Kim!**  
*"Simon and Cole embrace, chosen by the great Terry Shen to deliver the wonders of pizza across the galaxy."*



PHOTO BY FELICITY CHANG

## Good talk with Grace *AP Selfcare*



by Grace Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief

Try not to freak out — AP exam season is creeping up again. Over the last three years, I've seen myself and my peers place our exams over physical and mental health.

"It's only a couple weeks, right? I can push through the sleepless nights; I'll live off of coffee and Princeton Review; I'll get all fives, and everything will be okay." If this thought process sounds familiar, you aren't alone. But, you're also misled. If you refuse to take care of yourself, you'll end up doing worse on your exams.

I know you've heard this a thousand times. You know you need sleep and suste-

nance, but you counter that with your need to review. By all means, study, like a lot. All I suggest is that you strategize when you're planning your study schedule. You'll thank me.

You need to take breaks. exercise, sleep, and eat. These relaxing moments fuel your brain. In Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, they're called "charge-ups," and you need to schedule charge-ups just like you do clubs, work, and even school. You can't let yourself skip a charge-up, even if you aren't in the mood. If you want to hang out with friends, schedule it around your charge-up. If you have homework, that doesn't negate the necessity of your charge-up. You need to treat your charge-up time as important — it is.

Inevitably, we all reach a point where it feels like our brains can't take anymore information. We feel drained. Charge-ups prevent this. They give more longevity to your study time, thus more value.

Whether it's a walk around the block or reading before bed at night, your brain needs time to rest as much as it needs time to study.

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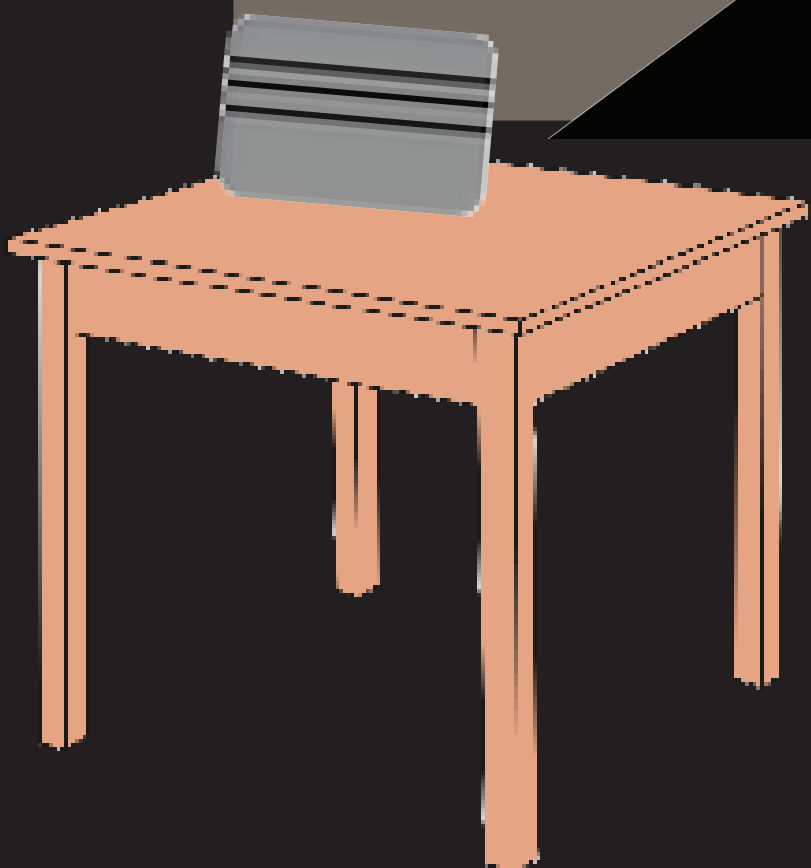
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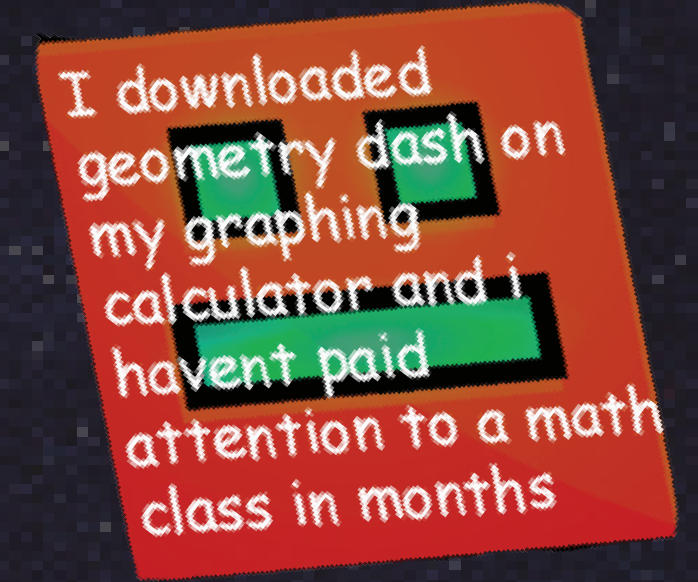
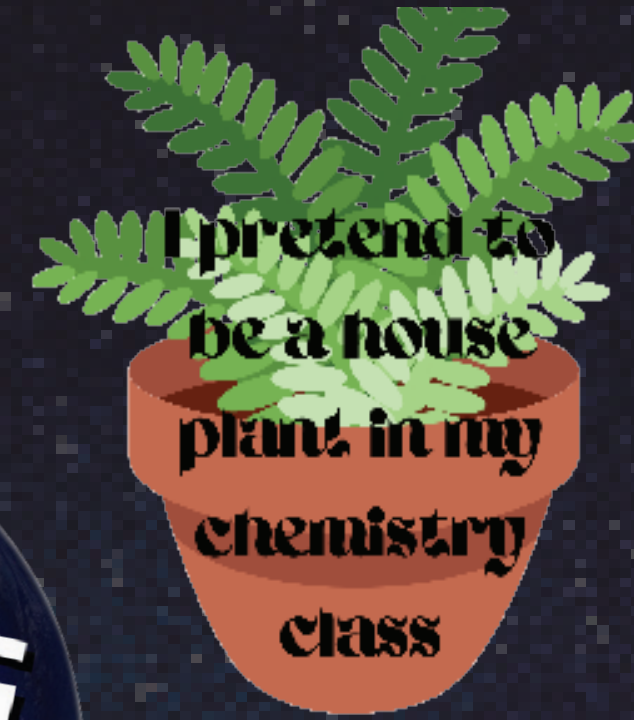


# The Torch's

SECRETS  
TO THE  
Universe



Millions of your fellow earthling friends have anonymously sent in secrets for YOU to find. Good luck astronaut...



I PEE MY PANTS A LITTLE EVERY TIME I PRESENT IN ENGLISH



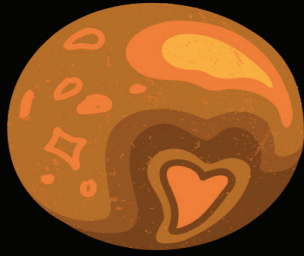
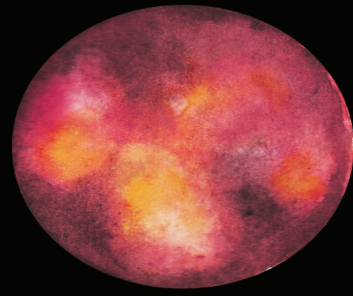
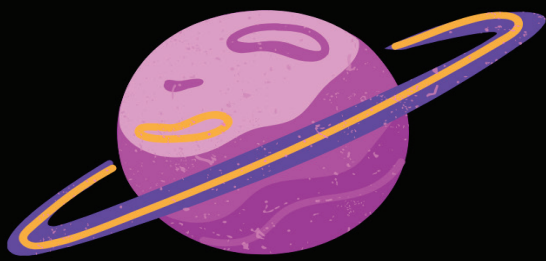
were my best friends



THE STAIRS

MAY OR MAY NOT BE THE DEATH

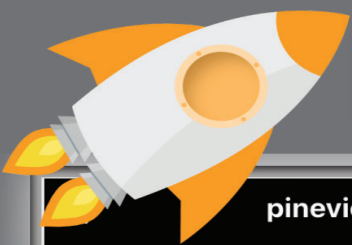
\*Disclaimer: All confessions are anonymous and presumed to be works of fiction.



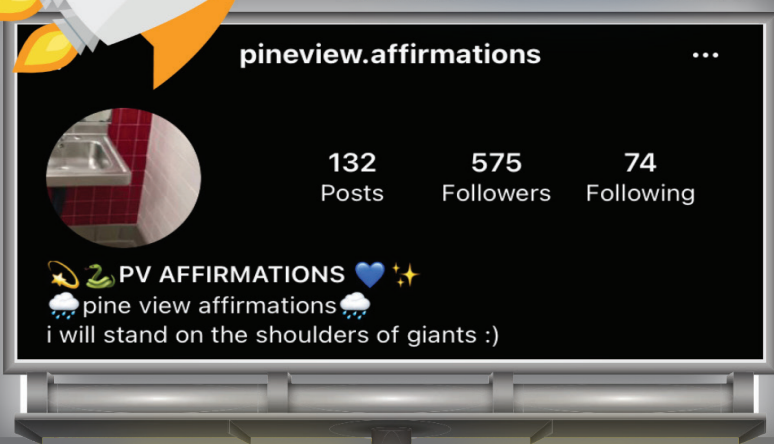
One time I spilled popcorn on the floor and didn't want to pick it up so I bent over and sucked it into my mouth like a human vacuum cleaner



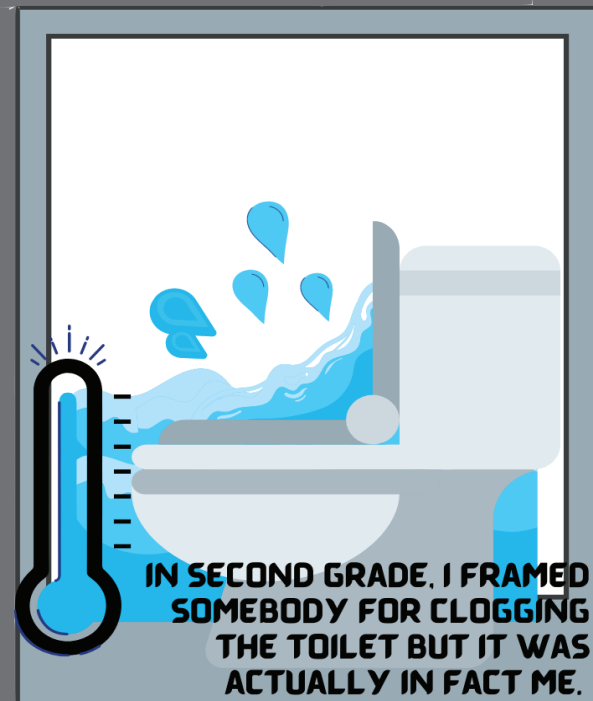
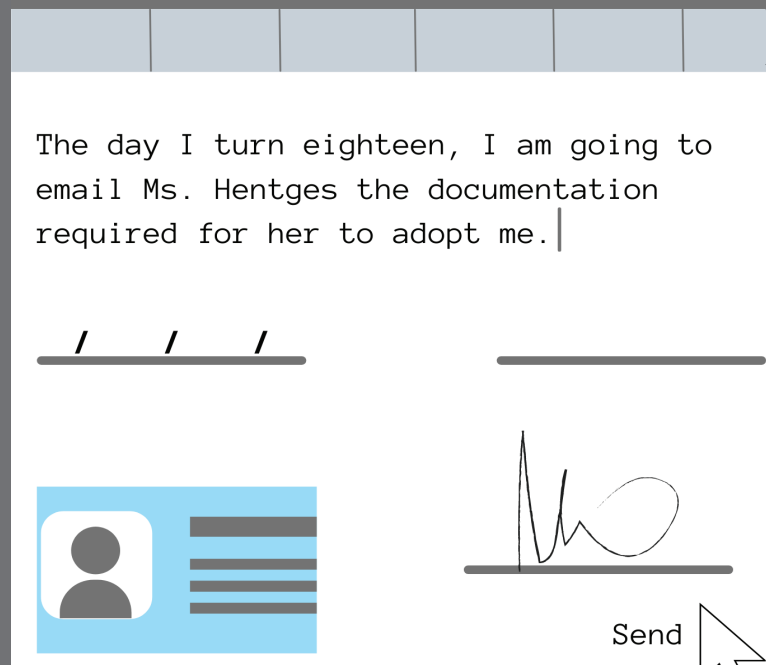
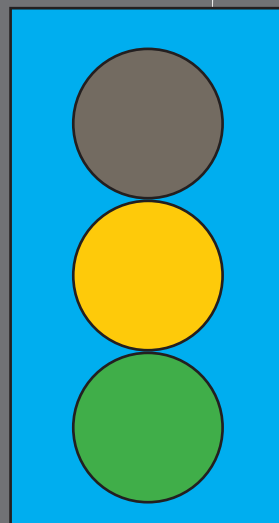
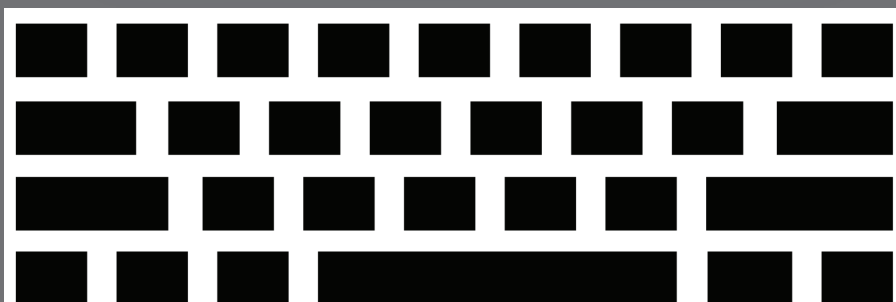
Congrats PV explorer! You safely completed your mission to uncover the secrets of the universe.



# I RUN



# PINE VIEW AFFIRMATIONS



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