

Volume 2: Issue 1

DChronicle

The Student Voice Of Douglas County High School

Community Service Hours: The Necessary Evils Of Doing Good

A topic on many students minds has been community service, a requirement for graduation. For some, this has been an easy task, but the action has completely wiped the minds of others. Community service is required in schools to teach the students selflessness, and change their views on the world. It allows students to apply what they have learned to real-life situations, and increase their self esteem by feeling good by what they

Every student needs 20 hours to graduate.

accomplish. It also allows students to increase their skills by learning new ones and practicing ones that they could use in a future career. "I find community service enjoyable," said sophomore, Rhiannon Sheme who collected most of her hours during her

freshman year. "I like experiencing new stuff, and overall, it makes me feel good."

Every student needs 20 hours to graduate, which is easy to collect when you find the perfect volunteer opportunity. The front office is the home of a book filled with volunteer opportunities, but as the years go on, everything is going online. The easiest way to find a volunteer opportunity is to visit VolunteerConnectDc.org. This website allows you to put in your own preferences to what you would like to do, the location, and when. It provides opportunities, such as working at shelters, painting murals and helping those with disabilities. There are options for everyone, no matter what you like to work with.

For students in the IB program, their CAS project is an important step to getting a diploma. According

to www.ibo.org, CAS is a self-project dedicated to enhancing students personal and interpersonal development through experiences. Although this is different from the school's community service hours, it still benefits community. IB students have made their projects about something they

Visit:

VolunteerConnectDc.org

are passionate about. Whether that be music, painting or soccer, there is always something you could make out of it. If you're more of a sports fan, attend an athletic training camps over the summer, as it counts for action hours, or if you're artistic try making a movie. It qualifies for all three of the categories and if done well can make up all 30 of your hours.

—HAYLEY HICKSON

Overcrowded Classrooms: The Struggle to Find a Seat

Every year it seems Douglas County High School changes something in the bell schedule, and this years changes have had some significant effects in the classroom.

Many classes in several departments have close to forty students. Brock Helvey, a sophomore at Doug-

Both students and teachers have felt the suffocating effects of large class sizes.

las County, states, "Right now you really have to make it on time to class because there aren't enough desks for everyone in the class."

Crowded classes have also provided difficulties for teachers. "It can get a little loud and chaotic with this many students," says math teacher, Mrs. Harrison. "It takes a little longer to get things under control."

It isn't just math or English classes that are overcrowded. Elective classes have their own overcrowding difficulties, due to the hands-on structure of



the classes. Brooke Speegle, drawing and painting teacher, notes, "The biggest issue is that I need to come around individually to help each student, and it's not possible to give my attention to 38 students in one class."

Down the hall from Speegle is Mr. Davis, who teaches ceramics. "Students in my class need room to work," he says, "but they're all squished together." A few teachers, along with Speegle and Davis, have had to request some of their students to switch periods or even drop the class.

The main reason for this year's overcrowded classrooms is the addition of advisement during third period. This results in teachers only having to teach five classes instead of six. The benefit is having another planning period for teachers, but with no instructional classes during third, a few more students would be added to the roster in every other class period.

We are hiring more teachers.

To ease the situation, "We are hiring half time math and science teachers so that teachers don't have more classes than they should," says assistant Principal, Dr. Christine Veto.

The beginning of the school year was certainly chaotic, with so many kids scrambling in and out of large classes, but things have seemed to calm down. Improvements will be made to ensure a comfortable class size for the year.

—HOLLY HUMPHRIES

Student Council: Old Dog - New Tricks

Have you ever wondered how the DCHS school events are put together? You may be surprised to know that so much goes on behind the scenes to conceptualize, organize and make them a success.

Student Council is a student-led organization where all of school's events are planned and organized to make it as fun and entertaining as possible - similar to a leadership program. There's around 40 members, including seven representatives from each class who share ideas and collaborate.

The student body presidents, Kyleigh Kappas and Ryan Simpson, are the "captains" of this program, responsible for keeping people accountable and making sure everyone is included by communicating with each class. This year, Kappas and Simpson would like to get to know the student body more so they can reach the interests of as many students as possible.

Student council basically runs almost everything student-related at DCHS, which is why it's broken up into a hierarchy of committees, for each class, as follows: the student body presidents, senior class presidents, executive rep-

Our main goal is to listen to students.

resentative, vice president, four class presidents, and four class representatives. There are also speciality items such as treasurer and historian. All these are considered mini "jobs", as each is responsible for delivering information that would make events around the school more successful.

"Our main goal is to listen to our students," said Simp-

Schedule Changes: Why Do They Happen?

For the past few years, schedules have been changing like the seasons. So that's why, when administration explained there was yet another one, nobody was surprised.

We were surprised, however, at how dramatically it changed. Sophomores should have gotten the biggest shock, considering how last year they had a block schedule with AA two days in the morning and PLC once a month.

This year, students still have a block schedule, but with an Advisement period (AA included after). PLC is every odd Wednesday, so about twice a month. PLC replaces first period, and on days with PLC we have no advisement period (So, students go from first to fifth period). Amidst all of this confusion, Lavender days aren't even included. Got it?

As one looks back on all of the different schedules in the past, one may wonder why they even changed in the first place.

Dr. Christine Veto, Assistant Principal, explained that the impact on the student is the priority. They try to make a foundation of success for the 9th and 10th graders, and attempt to prevent overcrowding in the classrooms.

son. "We understand from their perspective that assemblies may be a good time to get food and leave, but we want to try to make it fun." Most of the events that are held each year will continue to be held, such as Wish Week, Homecoming Week, Prom, and assemblies, but there's much more to expect during these events such as newgames, activities, new vibes, and new ways everyone can get involved with school spirit.

"We want to try some new events this year, especially now that we have a new Assistant Principal and advisor."

We want to try some new events this year, especially now that we have a new Assistant Principal and advisor. We can formulate new ideas and we want new 'stuff' this year.

Kappas explained. "We can formulate new ideas, and we want new 'stuff' this year." Examples could be a Movie Night and a Color Dance, similar to the color run, but hang tight until later this year, as the details are still being ironed out.

Whatever student council offers this year, you can be a part of this process by growing the excitement to go to all these events. All the old, boring stuff is getting thrown out, so buckle up and get ready for anything new that will be thrown out this year. Don't be shy to share your spirit, excitement, and love for this school. Help make this year the biggest one yet.

—BLAKE GRIMES



A majority of teachers have been very satisfied with this new schedule, considering they had one five years ago that was similar to the current schedule. "As a teacher, we lose a class," notes an anonymous teacher. "It doesn't wear us out as much, and it gives us a chance to interact with the kids. You're seeing with the teachers and students already, everyone is more positive and stress-free."

Students, however, have mixed feelings. An anonymous senior shares her opinion, "I think it's stupid and really confusing. It messes with my credits since during advisement I could be taking an actual class. Also, the core classes are too big."

Class sizes actually have been bigger, and many students agree advisement takes away an opportunity where they could fit in another class.

Dr. Veto's goal is that this schedule will stick around, but mentions she is never 100% satisfied. "I think about it all the time, better ways to do things. But I'm hoping to keep it for a couple years".

—CAITLAN WALDROP

Trouble Upstream: Toxic Waste from Colorado Mine

Water pollution has devastated communities and environments all over the world. Is Colorado on the hit list for disaster? Following an accidental dam breach by the Environmental Protection Agency crew at the abandoned Gold King mine in Silverton, extreme quantities of lead, arsenic and cadmium have been released into surrounding waterways, and are rapidly moving into New Mexico and the Navajo Nation.

Approximately six weeks ago, a cleanup crew infiltrated a pile of debris holding back years of untreated toxic waste during an attempted hazardous materials removal operation supervised by the EPA. EPA Administration acknowledges the concerns of authorities and has committed thousands of dollars to purify water used for livestock and crop irrigation in Farmington, New Mexico.

Farmington residents are not the only collective experiencing the consequences of the unchecked toxicity levels. Originating in Colorado, the water has since infested the Navajo Nation, located to the immediate west of Farmington. Navajo farmers question the safety of harvesting alfalfa and

Contaminated water...could be transported to drinking wells in Colorado.

corn crop while awaiting clearance to harvest. Could Douglas County be susceptible to this polluted water? The answer to that is unclear. The extent and long-term consequences of the damage is unknown.

Levels of lead in the Animas River far exceed the maximum exposure for both aquatic life and human beings. The EPA tested 24 metals in the river, but lead, cadmium, and arsenic remain the most dangerous and appear to be the most abundant of the substances. The heaviest metals have settled into the river beds, which, according to Marco Kaltofen,

a civil engineer, could be released upon being bombarded by the force of heavy rains or flooding.

Even more worrying, the contaminated water could potentially sink deeper into the water table, and still be transported to drinking wells in Colorado, New Mexico, and as far west as Utah, where the toxins have reached Lake Powell.

In the Rocky and San Juan Mountains, untreated mine waste is a real issue, especially when in contact with water. As a result of chemical reactions, heavy metals occur naturally and produce sulfuric acid, which is highly corrosive and soluble in water.

The EPA's job is to make sure this doesn't happen.

The EPA has offered to pay for Silverton area homeowners' water testing, but that offer may not be valid years from now. It is estimated that in total, the cleanup of every abandoned mine in the United States would cost, at the minimum, \$20 billion, and at the most, \$54 million.

Rachel Buswell, a student advocate for the environment says, "I mean, this is from a contamination sight, right? (the EPA's) job is to make sure this doesn't happen." Buswell adds, "It makes me annoyed, angry, that they failed to prevent it, considering the possible health and environmental issues that could spawn from this...I just hope nothing really negative comes from this."

Obviously, the contaminants in southwestern waterways have sparked alarm, and could present environmental issues for years to come. The EPA has taken full responsibility, but will their funding be enough to compensate for the damage that has been done? How can you help set the environment back on track?

— SARAH MANASSEE

Living Gluten-Free

Today, many of us face allergies or are on diets to where it makes it difficult to enjoy a meal out. In the past few years, there has been more awareness of people's diets and allergies, and restaurants have begun to start to cater to these. Many places now offer gluten-free menus and give vegetarian and vegan options within the normal menu.

These places are based off how many miles away they are from DC. Most of the places under the gluten-free options have separate menus and also have separate kitchens to avoid cross contamination. The vegan and vegetarian options are either completely vegan or vegetarian. Some places, however, do have options for both while also having something for those people who like their cows on a plate.

— OLIVIA PETTIT

Gluten-Free Options	Vegan Options	Vegetarian Options
California Pizza 13.8 mi	Baba's Falafel	Damascus Grill 2.6 mi
Chipotle 1.8 mi	Beet Box 28.0 mi	Duo Restaurant 30.0 mi
Costa Vida 11.3 mi	BeauJo's Pizza 21.4 mi	Govinda's Cafe 27.2 mi
Hacienda Colo 11.7 mi	CHOMP! 29.6 mi	Lotus Restaurant 27.2 mi
Manna 2.7 mi	City O' City 27.4 mi	Masalaa 21.9 mi
Mellow 'shroom 12.8 mi	Crazy Mae's Bakeshop	MAD Greens 13.5 mi
Outback 1.3 mi	Gaia Bistro 24.3 mi	Pho 777 1.8 mi
Red Robin 1.7 mi	Garbanzo 11.3 mi	Rockyard Brewing
Rockyard 1.9 mi	Mellow 'shroom 12.8 mi	Sputnik 25.8 mi
Salsa Brava 18.4 mi	Native Foods 23.2 mi	The Corner Beet 27.8 mi
Siena 2.5 mi	Nooch 25.7 mi	Watercourse 28.0 mi
Gluten Escape 18.6 mi	Sunny Gardens 20.9 mi	
Urban Egg 18.4 mi	Sweet Action	
	Ice Cream 25.9 mi	
	Udi's Pizza Cafe	
	Vegan Van	

Is Chivalry Dead? A Commentary on Today's Society

Is Chivalry dead? When you think of *chivalry*, you probably think of guys holding the doors for nearby women or a young man giving up his umbrella in a torrential downpour for his favorite gal. These warm and meaningful gestures, while cute, don't mean a thing. The real purpose of the Chivalric Code, and chivalry in general, is to provide a set of guidelines for the average knight to live by, so as to honor his lord and nation.

If that doesn't quite make sense, you can think about it in these terms: In place of holding the door

open for a young lady, the real chivalric thing to do is to smite down the enemies of your king, ruthlessly and swiftly. Instead of standing in the rain so your main squeeze doesn't ruin her freshly done hair, you might scour the local bazaar for merchants who are swindling your kinsmen and cut their thieving hands off.

Now, of course, we at your favorite newspaper do not condone violence, but, if you happened to find yourself in the position where you could exact divine revenge on an evil doer, who are we to stop you? I mean, Joan of Arc

took to knighthood and chivalry, and that worked out splendidly for her. Right?

Also, incase you fine readers thought that the noble pursuit of God and country was exclusively a boy's club, have I got some news for you! Ladies are beyond welcome. The more the merrier isn't just some idiom to validate stupid group activities. No siree. There's a place for all of us in the thrilling world of chivalry.

All throughout history the contributions of some darn fine women have been erased for the sole purpose

of molding the concept of chivalry into the dumbed down incarnation we have today. Don't believe me? Just look up Artemisia I of Caria or Tomoe Gozen of Japan.

So, there you go folks; a quick run down of chivalry and what it really means to be *chivalrous*. I'll leave the question to the floor: Is chivalry dead? It's up to you to choose; all I ask is that you try to remember the last time that you saw one of your classmates swear on their sword to serve Castle Rock like the knights of old.

— ERIC HOLBERT

Getting Involved at DCHS

Ever wondered what clubs and activities DCHS has to offer? Or, what season sports were offered? Well here's your guide to all things DC. There are many activities to get involved in at DCHS, and joining some can even help you resume or getting into the college you want. Don't be afraid to join these clubs; it's a great way to make friends with similar interests as you.

—MIKAYLA BENSMAN

Athletic Department/Teams

Registration:
www.dchshuskies.org

Once registered, the signed medical physical, medical information form, and CHSAA Hazing contract need to be filed with the athletic office prior to tryouts.

Teams schedules can be view at www.continentalleague.org

All levels are subject to change with registration numbers

Winter Sports

- Girls Swimming and Dive - Co-op with Castle View HS - JV, Varsity
- Girls Basketball - Freshman, JV, Varsity
- Boys Basketball - Freshman, Sophomore, JV, Varsity
- Wrestling - Freshman, JV, Varsity
- Ice Hockey - Co-op with Castle View - JV, Varsity
- Boys and Girls Skiing - Co-op with Platte Canyon HS - JV, Varsity

Spring Sports

- Baseball - Freshman, Sophomore, JV, Varsity
- Girls Tennis - JV, Varsity
- Co-Ed Track and Field - JV, Varsity
- Girls Soccer - Sophomore, JV, Varsity
- Girl Golf - JV, Varsity
- Boys Lacrosse - Freshman, JV, Varsity
- Girls Lacrosse - Co-Op with Castle View HS - JV, Varsity
- Boys Swimming and Dive - Co-Op with Castle View HS - JV, Varsity

Activities and Clubs

- Choir - Choir Director: Brady Loyd
E-mail: Brady.Loyd@dcsdk12.org
- Color Guard/Band/Orchestra/Marching Band: Nick Bidinger
E-mail: Nick.bidinger@dcsdk12.org
- DECA - Sponsor: Rich McCarthy
E-mail: Richard.McCarthy@dcsdk12.org
- FBLA - Sponsor: Ben Breljie
E-mail: Ben.Breljie@dcsdk12.org
- FCCLA - Sponsor: Peggy Masek
E-mail: Peggy.Masek@dcsdk12.org
- FFA - Advisor: Rachel Braverman
E-mail: Rachel.braverman@dcsdk12.org
- GSA - Sponsor: Janice Johnson
E-mail: Janice.Johnson@dcsdk12.org
- Jewelry Club - Sponsor: Doug Weckesser
E-mail: doug.weckesser@dcsdk12.org
- Anime Club - Sponsor: Brooke Speegle
E-mail: Brooke.Speegle@dcsdk12.org
- Art/NAHS - Sponsor: Cindy Ross
E-mail: cindy.ross@dcsdk12.org
- Mock Trial Club - Sponsor: Janice Johnson
E-mail: Janice.Johnson@dcsdk12.org
- National Honor Society - Sponsor: Michelle Fleet
E-mail: Michelle.Fleet@dcsdk12.org
- Photography Club - Sponsor: Cindy Ross
E-mail: Cindy.Ross@dcsdk12.org
- Project Unified - Sponsors: Tony Kappas & Ashley Strong
E-mails: Ashley.Strong@dcsdk12.org
- SADD - Sponsor: Jill Goeken
E-mail: Jill.Goeken@dcsdk12.org
- Technology Student Association - Sponsor: Matt Schreiner
E-mail: Matthew.Schreiner@dcsdk12.org

Killer Driller: Cecil the Lion is Downed by a 'Sporting' Dentist

On July 1st, Cecil the Lion roamed the savannas of the Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, unaware of his planned fate: A dentist from Minnesota, Walter Palmer, had arrived to kill the famous 13-year-old black-maned lion.

Palmer was no stranger to hunting and traveled the world hunting big game. His past kills included moose, deer, buffalo, mountain lions, a black bear, and a polar bear. These kills were not enough; Palmer needed something bigger and better.

Cecil was famous, around the world, for his striking, long black mane and his relationship with humans. Cecil seemed to be unafraid of humans; this made it easy to photograph him and see him often. In such photos it is easily seen how powerful, large and regal he was.

Theo Bronkhorst, a safari guide, was paid \$50,000 by Palmer to help with his kill. The hunt started on Antoinette Farm. This was an unimproved area, but this didn't stop the hunt from beginning at nightfall.

The plan was to use an elephant carcass as bait to lure a lion off of the reserve onto private property. Palmer thought that this would make it legal to shoot a lion. The hunters tied the carcass to a jeep and dragged it behind to create a scent trail the lions would follow.

A blonde lion named Jericho, who was in an alliance with Cecil, arrived at the trap at 9 o'clock. The hunters kept waiting because Jericho was not the prize they wanted; Cecil was. After waiting an hour, Cecil arrived at 10 o'clock.

Cecil was focussed on food, when the hunters flashed the headlights from the jeep, blinding Cecil. This gave the hunters time to aim an arrow and shoot. Cecil was wounded and the hunters ended their hunt.

The next morning, the hunters tracked Cecil and found him, badly injured. Cecil's life was ended with an easy shot by an arrow. After he was dead, he was beheaded and skinned, and his body was left to rot.

The death of the lion caused an uproar. Protesters found Palmer's dental office and covered it in red crosses and signs showing their thoughts on the kill. Eventually, Palmer closed his office and sent out apology letters to his patients.



Although Palmer had the correct permits to hunt a lion, what he did was still not legal. Cecil lived on a preserve, which means it is illegal to hunt him. Cecil was lured off the preserve, onto private property, but since he was lured off the preserve, the kill is still illegal.

Many didn't even consider this kill to be a hunt. Brent Stapelkamp, a lion researcher who was part of an Oxford University study by tracking Cecil with a GPS collar said, "You've brought this animal to you, delivered to you like a pizza. You're forty meters away. You've prepared everything, you've cut the grass so that there is nothing that's going to obscure your vision. Everything is prepared."

Jolene Dickerson, a science teacher at DC, agrees and said, "The way he hunted went against what sanctuaries are for and what they are supposed to protect."

Palmer denies that it was intended to kill the famous lion, but the precise planning suggests otherwise. Sophomore Alex Olson, upon asked if she thought Palmer intended to kill Cecil replied, "It was intended because in the circumstances I think he knew killing Cecil would make him more famous and well-known."

Many agree that Cecil was the intended target, Chloe Jeffers, a sophomore at DC, added, "I think he specifically wanted to kill a black-maned lion because of how rare they are." Jeffers continued, saying, "Also, I think he wouldn't have killed any lion because the blond lion, Jericho, was at the trap, and of he was looking for any lion to kill, he could've just killed that one."

Palmer claimed to have killed the lion for the love of the sport. Were those his true motives, or was it for self-gain? Dickerson thinks, "Palmer did it for the love of the sport, which is what makes it even more sick." Olson disagrees, saying "He did it for personal gain because if it was for sport then he wouldn't have set it up to make it so easy for himself and he wouldn't bribe someone to set it up for him."

The trial against Palmer has been postponed. Bronkhorst is also being tried for failing to prevent the kill and for assisting the fatal hunt.

Nothing remains of Cecil now but shriveled skins. Jericho, Cecil's partner, had called for Cecil for ten to 12 days after he was killed. Jericho is frantically looking for Cecil, and Cecil's whole pride is at risk. The six cubs that Cecil had were left defenseless and are in extreme danger of being killed by another male lion.

All in the name of *sport*.

—JOSIE RODRIGUE

'New Earth': A Search for the Future



Since the discovery of planets besides Earth, humans have been on the search for a "new Earth", a place where the conditions would allow humans to expand beyond our own galaxy.

The search has been in vain, however, as Earth has a distinct mix of the perfect temperature and atmosphere, it is hard to find a replica. However on July 23rd, 2015 Kepler 452b was discovered, an Earth-like planet being referred to as Earth's "older cousin".

This is a very new discovery and therefore not much is known about this new planet, but what scientists have discovered is promising. Kepler 452b was discovered

in the constellation Cygnus by the Kepler Space Telescope and orbits in the habitable zone of a dwarf star, the zones where liquid water is possible on the surface of the planet.

The planet also gets about the same amount of energy from its star as Earth receives from the Sun, and it takes Kepler 452b takes 385 days to orbits its star which is very similar to the 365 days it takes Earth to orbit the Sun. These characteristics not only make it possible for humans to one day live on Kepler 452b, but it is also possible there is already life there.

While the planet has several characteristics in its favor, it also has flaws. One of the main flaws about the new planet is the fact that it is 1,400 light years away from Earth, which means other flaws of the planet cannot be further explored until a mission is able to reach Kepler 452b. Another flaw that would need to be further researched is the gravity on Kepler 452b,

which is twice that of Earth's due to the fact that Kepler 452b is 60% bigger than Earth.

Also, while scientists are fairly sure Kepler 452b has an atmosphere, they are unsure of its composition. The planet could potentially have elements in the atmosphere that would make it unsuitable for humans to breathe. Again, this will be impossible to prove until rovers or other robots are sent to the planet. Finally, planetary geologists have predicted that there are active volcanoes on Kepler 452b, which could also be a potential issue.

Kepler is the most promising Earth-like planet in modern science but there are also 11 other "candidates" for the new Earth, which are in the habitable zone of their planet. They are light years away, but in reach of the future. As Kepler researcher Jon Jenkins said, "Today, Earth is a little less lonely."

—ALEX MARES

Chinese Dog Eating

Many look at dogs as a man's best friend, but in China that's not always the case. In 2010, dog meat traders began the Yulin Dog Eating Festival, as a way to boost their sales.

Taking place during the Summer Solstice, thousands of people gather in Yulin, China to feast on Lychee and dog meat. Each year as many as 10,000 dogs are stolen from their homes and shelters and taken to these festivals, where they are sold for slaughter.

Eating dog meat has always been apart of some peoples' cultures, and in the southern part of China, they believe that dog meat warms their insides. Meat is considered a hot food, and is frequently eaten in the winter to keep them warm, if they do not have access to heating systems.

The dog meat festival has sorted out a system, since they first began. First there is the collection of the dogs, where they gather as many as they can, in any way possible. One of the most popular, yet illegal ways of collecting dogs, is stealing them. People will break into homes, take their pets and bring them back to Yulin where they will sell them to vendors to make money. Although many just bring in their own dogs, some find it easier and cheaper to take someone else's.

The next step is the selling of the dogs. Hundreds of vendors are spread out along streets, selling the slaughtered and skinned dogs at different prices. People go out and buy this meat and bring it back to their homes for meals. One of the most popular dishes during the festival is dog meat stew, where they brew the animal into a soup. They also feast on Lychee, which is an exotic fruit that is typically compared to grapes, due to the similar taste.

During this festival, hundreds of animal rights activists make their way around Yulin, buying as many dogs as they possibly can. According to CNN, 65-year-old Yang Xiaoyun spent over \$1,000 U.S dollars saving dogs, as many dogs as she could and bringing them to safe house. For months she saved up over 50,000 Yuan, which is the equivalent to \$8,000, and traveled 1,652 miles from her hometown in Tinajin to Yulin, where she saved over 360 dogs. She hopes that one day others of her culture will learn to love dogs, and move on from this.

Du Yufeng, another animal rights activist runs an animal protection center, and has the same dreams as Yang Xiaoyun. She has saved over 300 dogs, and continues to do the same thing each each, saving more and more dogs.

—HAYLEY HICKSON

News Center

Jared Fogle of Subway: Jail Time

Subway fires their spokesman, Jared Fogle, after his court case on August 19. He pleaded guilty to paying for sex with minors and possessing child pornography. "Fogle will spend between 5-13 years in prison, depending on how his plea bargain is taken," says Abby Phillip from the Washington Post. The 14 children involved in the scandal will be given \$100,000, each, to recover.

Live TV News Shooting- Vester Flanagan

Vester Flanagan, an ex-Virginia reporter, shot and killed two co-workers on live television. Flanagan wrote out a long suicide note, explaining all the injustices in his life that led to him shooting reporter Alison Parker and cameraman Adam Ward. The shooter went to great lengths to ensure his murders had maximum shock factor, explaining why he waited until a live broadcast and planned an elaborate escape. However, Vester did not make it far before committing suicide with the very gun he used on Parker and Ward.

—Ed Payne and Ray Sanchez, CNN

New Technology PART 1: FlyRyder™

The future is now, with the new Self-Balancing Scooter. This interesting product can take you anywhere, in style. It's a celebrity favorite, seen all over the internet with the biggest names in Hollywood. If that isn't enough to have you immediately buying, then perhaps the 'low' price of only \$1,297 (non-blue-tooth), or \$1,497 (bluetooth) will persuade you.

New Technology PART 2: HoloLens™

Holograms are coming one step closer with the new HoloLens by Microsoft. Though it has yet to actually hit the shelves, the HoloLens shows a lot of promise for the future of technology. If they can pull it off, Microsoft will be the first company to make any sort of holographic technology, so expect it to be pricy.

Airplane Mishap

Fourteen people end up injured when a plane caught on fire. The flight came from a British airport and caught on flames in the Las Vegas terminal. It was estimated that smaller emergency vehicles were on site within about 90 seconds and larger fire trucks within two minutes. The entire event was over in about five minutes after the first call came in.

Sleeping

The U.S. National Sleep Foundation, (yes, they're a real thing) has come out with a new study on sleeping habits. Don't sleep in on the weekends is one of their biggest tips. According to the study, you're actually breaking your schedule and are less likely to sleep well during the week. The best advice is to take a nap for 20-30 minutes, strictly, no more. This helps the body get rid of grogginess and not disrupt the sleep schedule.

'Fat Shaming'

A youtube video on 'Fat Shaming' was released recently by a Canadian comedian known as Nicole Arbour. The video brought her tons of popularity, more than any movie or Youtube video has in the past. That's mainly because Arbour goes into detail about how 'fat people are the way they are because they don't take care of themselves.' Body image has always been a sensitive topic and since the release of this video, many celebrities, including Jennifer Lawrence, are duking it out over the topic. Although her account was disabled for a day, Nicole has yet to face any true consequences.

—JOANNE TERRY

AP vs IB: You're Not Smarter Than Us!

The Truth about the International Baccalaureate Program and Advanced Placement?

When I entered Douglas County High School last year, and initiated a new chapter in my life, I was placed into the International Baccalaureate program. I have heard things from underclassmen like: *IB sucks. AP sucks. Don't do IB. Don't do AP.*

With so much racing through my mind about these programs, I do not know what to believe and what not to believe, making my decision much more difficult. After going around the school and asking official AP and IB students and teachers, I have gathered enough information to differentiate the true positives and negatives about these programs.

IB and AP are two rigorous programs available here at Douglas County, both preparing students for college and the real world.

In reality, IB refers to an entire organization, including PYP (Primary-Years Program), MYP (Middle-Years Program), and DP (Diploma Program). Since Douglas County is an IB school, all 9th and 10th graders are taught in IB, which is just a method of teaching, but juniors and seniors choose if they want to be a part of the DP program, AP, or neither.

In the diploma program, student take six subjects: three are at a high level over the course of two years, and three at a standard level over the course of one year. They also take

a class outside of school that runs from 5-8 every Wednesday called TOK (Theory of Knowledge), they complete an extended essay (10-12 pages), and also a CAS project (Creativity, Activity, and Service). This is all required for a student to get their diploma.

On the other hand, IB teacher, Leah Yates said, "While IB is more comprehensive, Advanced Placement is more like a la carte." IB is more structured and complex, whereas Advanced Placement is more selective and simple.



Students in AP can choose to take certain subjects at an advanced level, and take standard level in other subjects.

"I chose to do IB because I thought it would be something that would positively impact me in the future," said senior Lio Beaini. Since IB is so structured and requires a lot from students, it can make students much more *well-rounded*. Every student has their weaknesses, and in IB, they may be required to take a difficult class in that certain subject. Initially, this may be dreadful for a student, but in the end and throughout the year, it makes them more

confident and can actually transform that weakness into a strength through their hard work, dedication, and practice.

A strong misconception is that students have no choice or freedom in IB, which is not entirely true. Students can choose what subjects they would like to take, which can furthermore enhance their strengths into a talent. AP instructor, Rachel Benskey said, "One of the biggest pros I have heard from students is that they enjoy the sense of community they get from the IB program." Students in IB start and end their journey together, and spend



time working with one another in the extended essay, TOK class, and the CAS project. These interactions help students communicate, share ideas, and build trust and confidence with the people that surround them.

AP also offers positive things for certain students. Senior Kyleigh Kappas says, "For me, the time-commitment for IB was not what I was looking for because you have to do TOK, extended essay, and CAS. It was just on a whole other level." Most AP students, if not all, love the flexibility and

freedom they have of what classes they would like to take. AP offers single-demanding courses for individual subjects, which is great for student who have strengths in that area. AP students love that they do not have to worry about certain requirements and projects, but only worry about the year-long class and the final test that follows. Both programs allow for college credit, as well.

Both programs are very difficult, and require a great deal of work and dedication. In their own ways, AP and IB unfortunately take time away from students, but can be manageable, with the help of others. IB students do not like the timing of TOK, interfering with homework and sports. Some do not like having the same students around them for two years. Some AP students do not like the idea that teachers are fully responsible for preparing them for the AP test, making them heavily rely on their teachers.

We are very fortunate to have these fantastic programs offered here at DC. After deeply analyzing and looking into each one of them, I have learned that one program is not better than the other. Each program meets the needs of certain students and the ways they learn and succeed. So for me, the best program is the one that best that suits me. So, go with your strengths, and do what's best for you!

—BLAKE GRIMES

Infernos of the Northwest: Cause for Alarm

If you remember the haze and smoke visible in the usually pristine Colorado sky this August, you might have wondered where it was coming from. You may or may not be surprised to find out that the smoke's origin was Washington state, the Olympic National Forest, and its thousands of trees.

Forest fires are deadly and self-sustaining, due to the obvious plethora of fuel. And the Olympic Peninsula, spanning approximately 3,600 square miles, has more trees than you can count.

All that oxygen production seems like a blessing in the midst of the environmental damage ravaging the modern world. And while deforestation actually does (unfortunately) occur in the Olympic Rainforest, the tables of ecosystemic homeostasis are being turned primarily by something else.

I recently visited Washington to see my mother's friends, and see the peninsula after several years. It's a little unnerving to be overlooking at the Queets River, surrounded by trees, and glance up to see smoke billowing from the other side of the water. How could Washington be plagued with wildfires? The state is ranked 29th out of all 50 states for average annual rainfall. The Washington Post even said in a headline, "The West is so dry, even a rain forest is

on fire".

This "Paradise Fire" in the Queets wilderness I've described was still burning until September.

In other Washington state regions, fire has decimated approximately one million acres of land; thousands of towns and numerous American Indian reservations have been subject to evacuation. The President recently declared a state of emergency and has sent the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency to combat the Twisp River fire.

The arid climate of the Western United States has only become more of an issue as global climate change has begun to take its toll. Fire seasons will lengthen, dryness will make areas more susceptible to burning, and lightning strikes are projected to increase. The Northwest may undergo a more substantial change, experiencing a more dry, desert-like climate in the future.

Bernice Harris, a friend that I had visited in Seattle said, "On NPR, one of our local correspondents said she saw two blackened cattle come out of the smoke while she was with a rancher who was looking for 1,800 head of cattle." She said she had never seen anything like it. Harris also states that the lack of visibility due to smoke as far east as

Missoula, Montana caused her son-in-law's flight to be delayed. Repeatedly. The air quality in Missoula is hazardous, "the worst rating," Harris says.

Extremely high winds have blown smoke into surrounding regions and even caused their own damage. Tree limbs have reportedly been ripped from their trunks and thrown into homes, Harris' property included.

Harris, who has previously lived in the Grand Tetons, remembers the Yellowstone fires of 1988. "I remember the helicopters flying up there from where we lived," she said. "It sounded like a war zone, made me have so much compassion for people who live in war zones."

This comparison between inferno and the likeness of a war zone may paint a more accurate picture of fire's capabilities in your mind's eye.

Allowing the fires to burn and letting Mother Nature run her course may have been a mistake in light of high winds, but citizens in the affected Okanogan area close to the Canadian border are grateful for recent rainfall. Let's just hope the rest of Washington will be lucky enough to see the same evidence of recovery.

—SARAH MANASSEE

The Aurora Theatre Shooting Trial: Three Years for Justice

On the night of July 20th, 2012, the midnight showing of *The Dark Knight Rises* premiered at an Aurora theater. A widely anticipated film, there were many people in costumes and masks, no one thought anything of it. Why should they?

The night of the premiere, James Holmes, who had bought a ticket 18 days earlier, entered the theater and just as quickly exited, leaving the back door to Theater number 9 propped slightly ajar. Holmes, who had stockpiled guns and ammunition, who had mapped out the Aurora theater complex to determine which auditorium would allow for the most casualties, who had even calculated police response times, would soon re-enter the theater, masked, and commit the mass murders he had been planning for weeks.

Holmes killed 12 people that night. Jonathan Blunk, 26; Alexander Boik, 18; Jesse E. Childress, 29; Gordon Cowden, 51; Ghawi, 24; John Thomas Larimer, 27; Matthew McQuinn, 27; Micayla Medek, 23; Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6; Alex M. Sullivan, 27; Alexander C. Teves, 24; Rebecca Ann Wingo, 32.

An additional 70 people were injured before Holmes was apprehended by the

police in the parking lot of the theater. An investigation into Holmes's apartment revealed it to be rigged with multiple explosives, chemical devices and various trip wires. Thus, began a grueling three year struggle in an effort to prove Holmes' guilt, which would result in one of the longest criminal trials in Colorado history.

At this point, the picture of the defendant with hair dyed bright orange, as if to match his jumpsuit, has become somewhat infamous. This is how the trial began, with an insanity plea and with hundreds of victims lining up to share their own horrible stories. With so much information and evidence, it took the prosecutors, as well as defendants, several months to wade through it. Consequently, the trial was continually delayed for many weeks at a time, putting the victims as well as their loved ones into further more distress.

Eventually, Holmes was found not to be insane, and therefore lost his plea of not guilty by insanity. Compensation, in the form of money, was awarded to the victims for emotional as well as physical damages. Yet, any form of closure was impossible for these victims, while the shooter's sentence was still to be determined.

It was a jury of 12 people who ultimately decided Holmes' fate. In Colorado, the decision must be unanimous in order to allow the death penalty. In the case of the Aurora Theater Shooting, 11 people were behind death as a punishment, and one was not. Moving forward with life in prison after 12 hours of deliberation, Holmes was sentenced to the maximum amount possible. 24 counts of first degree murder, 140 counts of attempted first degree murder, one count of possessing explosives and a sentence enhancement of a crime of violence. He received life in prison without the possibility of parole, with an additional 3,318 years, the maximum amount possible.

This decision has provided both relief and anger. Each family is different, and reactions have been widespread. *Justice* can mean different things to different people. It seems the only universal feeling regarding the end of this trial, is solace that it has finally reached an end. Even the judge, after reading the final decision stated, "Sheriff, now get the defendant out of my courtroom please." The room began to clap.

—REBECCA WEISS

Castle Rock Construction: Will Chaos Lead to Harmony?

The \$68 million project to create a new exit in Castle Rock began in 2013. The project is supposed to be finished by July, 2016.

This two-mile-long extension starts a few miles before the Founders exit and goes over Santa Fe, exiting into the Meadows. They are creating it in three separate sections.

"I don't think that it is necessary, because people got to their places before they had it," says freshman Maddi Hickey. "What's the point of making a new one?" Some people think that the extension is not necessary, while others may feel differently.

Congestion is one such reason. "There's always a lot of traffic in the Meadows, so people that live over there can get home faster, and it also reduces the traffic over here too," says

senior Charlene Azam.

"Half of people are like 'Yeah! There's going to be a new exit!'," notes senior Molly Patrick. "Then, other people are like just wondering, why the unnecessary construction?" There are several controversies on whether the new exit is a good thing.

"It's a temporary inconvenience for a long-term solution," says teacher Jill Goeken. Even though people disagree with it now, their opinions may change over time.

Senior Mikayla Bensman's father, Steve Bensman, is helping work on the construction. He is one of the cement truck drivers. According to Bensman, there is 23 million dollars worth of damage that his company, Ready Mixed Concrete, may need to pay. The company that RMC ordered bags of

concrete from sent the wrong bags.

The bags they sent were supposed to disintegrate in the cement but, because the bags were wrong, they didn't. Now the bags are sitting on top of the bridge and cannot be taken out without destroying the entire bridge and starting over.

"It's unfortunate because people aren't doing what they are supposed to be doing, and a lot of people are inconvenienced," said Goeken. "It's a lot of energy and time wasted." The mistakes that occurred affect everyone.

The overpass should be finished by July. Although, if they tear down the bridge and restart, it will take longer. When will our new exit be ready? No date is ever set in *concrete*.

—DANI NAVARRO

Slide the City: The Traveling SuperSlide Comes to Castle Rock

Slide the City came to Castle Rock, on Saturday, August 29, 2015. The giant SuperSlide went along the Front St. Bridge. This event was a great opportunity for friends and families to get together and enjoy a fun and exciting day. Even though school had already begun, everyone was able to enjoy the last days summer had to offer.

There were four available payment packages: Single Slider, Triple Slider, Super Slider, and Unlimited Slider. All of the tickets offered a drawstring bag and a mouth guard to inflate the tube. When purchasing a ticket, you had to select a two-hour wave time in which to slide and you had to arrive at the beginning of your wave time. The Single Slider allowed entry and the ability to slide once (you had to bring your own inflatable tube), and with the Triple Slider, you could slide three times and a tube was offered. The Super Slider allowed you to slide five times during your wave time; you also got a hat and an inflatable tube. If you purchased the Unlimited Slider, you could slide at any time during

9am-7pm and, in addition you got a tattoo, a t-shirt, and a hat.

In terms of parking arrangements, a shuttle service was operating from 9am-9pm, taking people to and from parking lots, each bus marked with a designated lot.

This event also offered the opportunity for people to volunteer, which means you got to have fun but also help out a little and get more community service hours. Slide the City partnered up with Downtown Merchants Association, which is dedicated to bring activity and awareness to the people of Castle Rock, and beyond.

If you volunteered, you were somewhat a part of this charity organization, by bringing more awareness to the community. There were four volunteer shifts, varying from four to five hours, morning, day, afternoon and evening.

"It was really fun actually, like 10/10 fun," said junior Braxton Byrd. "The whole mood was just fun and everyone was having a good time. People would run into you and if you fell off

your tube, it would be so hard to gain speed again."

When people arrived, they had to check in, and then fill up their own tubes, which some people did not like, and then wait in line for their turn. When their turn arrived, they would run as fast as they could and jumped on to the slide, and they would "Slide the City". Some people complained about the length of the line and the pricing, but most agree that the enjoyment they got overruled those things.

The environment of this event seemed to connect the entire community—as all the people participating enjoyed the time they had with one another. Slide the City was more than just an event, but also a fun way to say goodbye to all the exciting and relaxing summer activities. If you could not participate in this entertaining, community-bonding event, don't worry. Just keep your ears and eyes open and look forward to the next event that comes to Castle Rock!

—BLAKE GRIMES

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HOROSCOPES, PREDICTIONS . . .

ARIES
(MAR 21-APR 20)
THE RAM

You are adventurous and, though that's gotten you into trouble in the past, that will pay out soon and in a big way. Being the dynamic and confident person you are is going to be ridiculously beneficial to your overall well-being. As for tall buildings, bridges, rocks and trees, you may feel the overwhelming need to leap and actualize your adventurous spirit. Take the jump friend; it's only in the most adrenaline-fueled moments that you feel truly alive. Also, the nurse in the emergency room will be super cute and she'll totally want your phone number. Your type of furniture is the: Frat House Couch; you are full of fond memories and are representative of some mistakes that will never be forgotten, but are necessary for emotional growth.

TAURUS
(APR 21-MAY 21)
THE BULL

You are a bull. How's that working out for you? You are a mess of self-indulgent, greed-fueled resentment. That being said, you still manage to be patient and reliable, you are determined and loving. You will be a beacon in the dark and emotional times ahead. Your friends will come to you when they need love. As for that wallet you find on the ground full of twenty dollar bills, give in to your greed and take them all; the guy who dropped it is a giant jerk and he was just going to buy jewelry for his secret second wife anyway. She doesn't even know about Linda and their two kids. Your type of furniture is the: Plush Leather Recliner; you are greedy and meant for a single person, but, at the end of the day you are the reason that person bothers to sit down. Your comfort is integral to their happiness.

GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN 21)
THE TWINS

How are you two doing today? Still talking bad about your best friend behind their back? I thought so. Still when life throws you a curveball, you manage to keep your composure and adapt in a way that is both lively and eloquent. As for the juicy piece of gossip you just skillfully eavesdropped, steer clear, it's a trap meant to ensnare and destroy your social credibility. There are some that are out to get you and you must remember to keep your wits about you and power through. We all know that you can't always control inquisitiveness, so you are forgiven. Your type of furniture is the: Love Seat; you have room for two in your heart, but both spots are already taken. You are comfy and delightful on the outside and are of course the focal point of the room.

CANCER
(JUN 22-JUL 22)
THE CRAB

Geez, you're touchy. You really take too much to heart. You're like Michael Corleone in the second act of *The Godfather*. You're very emotional and that can manifest as crying yourself to sleep more often than it should you still manage to be an exceptional friend, and significant other. You always manage to match the emotional intensity of your friends and really enhance the beneficial life lessons they learn. As for that movie you're thinking about seeing this weekend, don't. The dog dies at the end of the first hour and you'll be an emotional wreck for the rest of the month. Your type of furniture is the: Television; you provide the rawest emotional moments, as well as, the funniest superficialities. You bring joy and pain to those around you, and they can't thank you enough.

LEO
(JUL 23-AUG 21)
THE LION

You're catty and that's all I've got to say about that. You are a lion in all things; you are pompous and dogmatic. You see yourself as the true king of your realm. Though, that may not be too far from the truth. You are generous, and loyal as any ruler should be. You are creative and broad-minded. As for the drama in your friend group, this is your moment. You've got to rise to the occasion and seize the throne. Lead them to comfort and happiness again and don't, even for a moment, think about the things you did to complete your quest. Your type of furniture is the: Rocking Chair; you are a strong oak, though you are limited in your movements you are the home of the family elders and, like the people who adorn you, are the natural leader of the room.

VIRGO
(AUG 22-SEP 23)
THE MAIDEN

You always manage to twist the knife don't you? You sure are fussy. You can be unrelentlessly critical, and mercilessly rude. Luckily for the rest of us, most of the time you are loving and intelligent, as well as funny. You are analytical and reliable. As for the dumb thing your worst friend is about to say, tear into them, they are weak and you don't need the backwards thinking they bring into your life. Let them see the fury you keep within your soul. Your type of furniture is the: Coffee Table; you are useful when in use and great when company is over. The trouble comes when you are forgotten by the homeowners; it's in that moment that you cripple kneecaps and bust out teeth. You are subtle but not to be disregarded.



.. AND ... FURNITURE

—BY ERIC HOLBERT

LIBRA (SEP 24-OCT 23) THE SCALES

You're a pansy. Your heart is unsure and so is your head. You believe everything and anything that you're told. More often than not you end up with egg on your face and tears in your eyes. Even though it can be embarrassing to be so gullible, you always put on your bravest face and your nicest clothes. You Libras tend to be some of the most urbane and debonair people around. You are charming and diplomatic, which had led to your positions as mediators and fence-menders amongst your friends. As for your fortune, you'll probably be tricked by a horoscope into thinking that the stars have anything to do with your character or personality.

Your type of furniture is the: Throw Pillow; an essential part of any good living room set; though you are often forgotten, you'll be the first one anyone turns to when it's time for an afternoon nap.

SCORPIO (OCT 24-NOV 22) THE SCORPION

You're strong-headed. I'm sure that's news to no one. You're certainly determined. It's a shame that all that determination goes to petty jealousy and anger. You're full of passion, which is rarely seen put to use beyond your almost machine-like dedication to complete control. When you're not in a jealous rage, your magnetic personality really shines through and shows the powerful and confident person you can be. As for that poser you see trying to oneup you, stop playing around and show them who's really in charge. You've got the potential to amazing things; you just need to focus on the big picture.

Your type of furniture is the: Chair from the dining room set that was pulled into the living room so everyone could sit down and watch the football game; you don't quite fit in with the rest of the living room but you're just as important and very grateful to be invited.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DEC 22) THE ARCHER

You're reckless, irresponsible and shallow. You've got no tact and that bites you in the butt quite a bit doesn't it? You're the first to admit that you're lazy; at least you're honest. You always put on the biggest smile you can before you do something stupid and it's that exact reason that we all love you. As for that huge paper you're putting off; keep putting it off. For once your irresponsibility will pay off because your English teacher will decide that they didn't like the prompt and won't collect the paper anyway. You can look forward to a pretty lengthy class discussion instead. Even though this worked out for you this time, you shouldn't make a habit out of it.

Your type of furniture is the: Kitchen Table; you can take whatever life throws at you and still be there for your friends and family around meal time. You're the life blood of the dining room, you are the platform that the proverbial pork chops of life and I think that's beautiful.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23-JAN 20) THE GOAT

You're pretty worried this is going to say something bad about you, huh? You're afraid that this horoscope is going to play on your fatalistic tendencies aren't you? Well don't worry you pessimistic mess, I wouldn't do anything like that. You may be reserved, but it's only because you are patient and measured in all things. You want to make sure that things are moving smoothly and you like to do that from the sidelines. As for your prediction, you probably don't want to know what's in store for you. I mean, I can tell you right now you won't like it. I'll leave you with a tip though: stay out of the grocery store after dark. Really.

Your type of furniture is the: Ceiling Fan; you are calm and cool in every situation and most of the time it helps keep everyone else cool as well. You are the star of the ceiling and it would be a hot mess without you.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21-FEB 19) WATER BEARER

You're a wild card. If I was your police chief, I would ask for your badge and your gun. That is, if you hadn't already shot me. That's exactly the kind of emotionally detached person you are. On the flip side of that coin, you're also creative, independent and original. It's this creativity that allows you to solve problems and save the day. Like any true wild card there's nobody else around who's quite like you. This will take you farther than any well-adjusted person could ever go. As for the phone call you're about to get from your mother, now is a good time to put that emotional detachment to use. I'm so sorry.

Your type of furniture is the: The Lamp In The Corner Of The Room, you light up the room in a way only an upright light could and if anyone touches you once you get going they can't be surprised when you burn them.

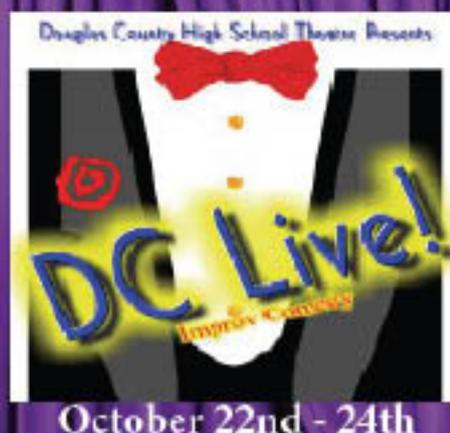
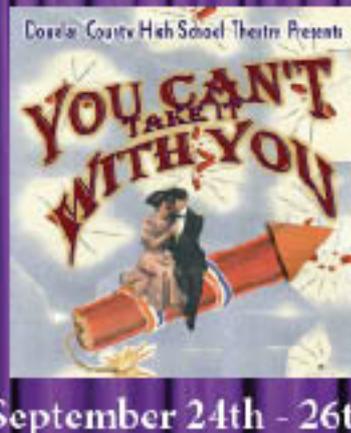
PISCES (FEB 20-MAR 20) THE FISH

You are a fish. You aren't a tropical fish or anything. Just ,like, a normal fish. Like a carp. I'd like to say that you are a goldfish but, nah. Your fishiness has brought you the fortune of meeting an assortment of interesting characters, such as the deep sea diver, the snorkel santa, and most importantly, the older sister who hates you because you represent the love that her parents tried to buy for their youngest because materialism is more important than real human connections these days. As for the swimming you'll do later, go ahead friend. I can't really see the future of fish so take my prediction with a grain of salt; but, I'm pretty sure that everything is going to be alright.

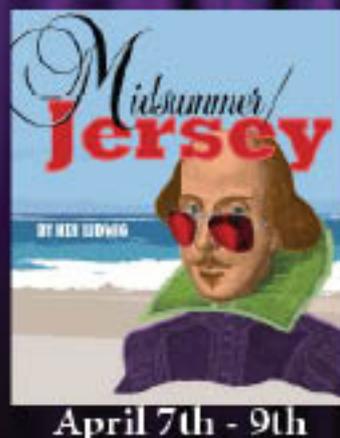
Your type of furniture is the: Fish, you swim and have a tiny scuba diver in your tank, the family feeds you more out of obligation than love. I have to recommend "Beyond the Sea", by Bobby Darin to really actualize your fishiness.



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The Problem with School Rules

I'm confused.

The other day I was sitting in the hallway, in front of the band room, with my friends, doing homework before school began. We had a teacher approach us and say that we could not sit there because freshman are afraid of upperclassmen. We were kicked out of the hallway.

Freshman are going to be around upperclassmen all year long. If we are not allowed to sit or be in the hallways, where are we supposed to go?

In the Douglas County High School planner of 2015-2016, it states the open campus guidelines for grades 10-12 as the following: *We do not support any disruptions to the instructional environment with students walking the hallways or sitting in the hallways. If this type of activity occurs the Administration reserves the right to take away the privilege of a "Release Period" from a student.*

The reason I am confused is I was not on a "Release Period". It was before school began. So, why was I kicked out?

Another query. Several people have been dress-coded this year, more than other years. It's only been a few weeks since school has started. Why, all of a sudden, the enforcement?

"This particular school is actually really lax," says teacher Kevin Conrad. "Understand, when there are rules, guys, they do it because they had to make a rule because things were getting screwed up."

Dress codes are there to make sure students and staff are dressing appropriately, just like a job. "Dress appropriately," says teacher Ashley Gilchrist. "You're

here at school to learn, not to show your stuff. Although, I do see the rules being more aimed towards young ladies than the guys."

Different rules? "I find that personally sexist," says senior Alexis Martin. "I don't think it's fair towards the girls." Does anyone pay attention to the male dress code? Are you even aware there is one?

The planner also states the dress code as the following: *Clothing that adequately covers the AB's (Breast, Butt, Back, Belly), strapless, spaghetti straps and tube tops are okay as long as they cover the ABs, no lingerie or undergarments exposed, slits no high than fingertip length, no sheer/see through clothing, no bare midriffs, no excessively low cut dresses or tops, shirt and shoes must remain on.*

All of these rules mostly apply to females, for males usually are not seen wearing dresses or slits. The only real stated code for males are no jeans at dances and no altering his attire during the dance.

During the annual homecoming assembly, the powder puff team perform a routine. Why is it that those males are able to wear short shorts and muscle shirts, but females aren't allowed to? Sometimes the teams even take their shirts off!

Rules must be followed to create order. They are always required in any stable culture. But why different rules and enforcements?

Why the confusion?

—DANIELA NAVARRO

New Librarian, New Library

As many of you have noticed, there has recently been a major overhaul in our very own Douglas County High School library. This is due in part to the new addition to the library staff, one Ms. Marika Olson, who has taken the reigns in bringing the library into the 21st century.

I had the pleasure of interviewing her about some of the changes that are coming our way. "We're working on weeding out non-fiction that is irrelevant, redundant, or has inaccurate information," says Olsen. This means that, at the very least, the staff is trying to update and refine the physical materials, so it is accurate and up to date. This coupled with the new policies means for some big changes in the future.

To start, the librarians hope to rearrange the library into four main sections. These include a standard library space, a digital media center, a makerspace, and a quiet study area. "Our library isn't a quiet place," admits Olsen. "We really want to encourage creativity and help you guys make the things you need to."

Through primarily fundraising, the library and administration hope to purchase a 3-D printer and a laser cutter for use in physical modelling for various academ-

ic projects. This would be in the added makerspace.

Along with the makerspace the current offices for the library staff will be converted into quiet huddle rooms, where students can meet and plan out assignments without the distraction of the library patrons. "We're actually going to frost over the glass so ya'll can write on the windows like a white board," Olsen beams.

The final quadrant will be a digital media center, where all of the computers currently scattered around the library will be centralized. To accompany the computers, there will be several large televisions broadcasting the kind of informational and fun content you'd expect. That is to say, the hilarious antics of Discovery Channel rednecks and History Channel alien nuts. "We've ordered 35 new periodicals which will be available for students beside the computers, things like *Diesel Motor* and *Field & Stream*," notes Olsen. A complete list of new periodicals will appear in a future issue of the Chronicle.

Thanks to "new blood," librarians and students are breathing easier and enjoying the library again.

—ERIC HOLBERT

The Year for Theatre

Douglas County High School's Theatre Department has an exciting year this year. Not only are they celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year, they are going to Scotland to perform in the American High School Theatre Festival.

In order to celebrate the 50th, Director Karie Johnston has decided to produce *Bye Bye Birdie*; this show was the first musical to be performed on Douglas County High School's stage. "We invited some of the original cast members to come watch the show," added Johnston. "Hopefully they come and are amazed by the growth of the theatre."

Bye Bye Birdie is a musical about a famous rock and roll singer, Conrad Birdie, who is drafted into the war. His manager and struggling songwriter, Albert, desperately tries to get Birdie to kiss a fan goodbye on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. Albert writes Conrad a goodbye song for the show and travels to the small town to retrieve the lucky girl, Kim MacAfee. From this small kiss, Albert hopes to make a fortune from the song and then marry his fiancée and secretary, Rosie. However, things get complicated when Albert's mother stands in the way of his marriage and people disapprove of the kiss.

Bye Bye Birdie is not the only thing that Johnston and Co-Director Mike Vahle have planned. In the hallway, by the entrance to the theatre stage, is a row of pictures. These are old Douglas County High School students who went into the performing arts world. Some are behind the scenes, while others are bringing the script to life. "We're very proud of these students for continuing theatre," says Vahle. "We're also thankful that they took the time to write these bios out for us." But the events don't stop here.

Mr. Vahle decided to put on the show, *Greater Tuna*, earlier in the year, in order to honor the 50th Anniversary and also to raise money for going to Scotland. Many theatre students have dedicated their time over the summer and school year in order to help fundraise for this trip. Senior Hannah Todd said, "I'm very excited for Scotland. I'm worried that I won't raise enough money, but I've been doing fundraisers to help me."

So, come see the shows and help the Douglas County High School Theatre Department celebrate their 50th year and make it to Scotland.

—KIKI EMERSON

The Girl Who Refused to Die: Part 1 of a five-part serial story

There once was a girl named Sanari. She lived in a small village on the outskirts of Barcelona. When Sanari was little, she caught a high fever. Most of her days were spent sitting in a bucket, full of cold water. During the winter time, she would sit outside, but the snow would melt whenever she touched it.

On October 18, 1345, Sanari lost her battle with this dreaded disease. Death came to collect her soul and body, but when Death arrived, only her body was to be found.

Sanari had learned from witches how to switch from body to body. All she had to do was wear a simple ring. It was petite, with a blue stone in the middle of it. Everytime she died, the ring would glow, then disappear. When Sanari woke up in her new body, the ring was on her ring finger.

Death was angry that Sanari was cheating him, so he sent a terrible disease into the world. The people began to develop flu-like symptoms, and grew boils that oozed a grotesque yellow pus when they popped. Once dead, their bodies would turn green and looked as if it was molding from the inside out. Toxic bodies littered the streets and were carried away on hearses. This disease became known as The Black Plaque and killed 25 million people. No matter how many people died, Death could not find Sanari.

Centuries flew by and Sanari never crossed Death's gates. She possessed the bodies of beggars and lived in the liars. She succumbed to living inside the unwanted people of the universe because she knew that if they disappeared, no one would question it.

However, in 1763, Sanari got greedy. She jumped inside the body of a rich woman, known by the name of Jennifer Haythorn. For months, she lived in the high life, going to elite house parties, receiving constant luxurious gifts, but then Jennifer started to fight back. The battle for her mind and body drove Jennifer insane. She ended up drowning her kids and slitting the throat of her maid.

When Death came to collect the spirits of the dead, he felt an odd aura. He turned towards Jennifer and realized that it was actually Sanari.

"Sanari, my darling, it has been a while." He smirked, while stalking forward.

"How nice it is to see an old friend." Sanari sneered and

held up the knife. "Too bad it's such a short reunion." She swung the knife down, slicing into her stomach.

Blood oozed out of the fresh wound, dripping down the handle, onto her hand, and down to the floor. Sanari coughed; blood splattered the air from her mouth and onto Death's face.

Sanari looked at Death one more time, with a glint of satisfaction in her eyes, and her body dropped to the floor, dead. Jennifer's emotionless eyes stayed opened towards the ceiling.

Death screamed with rage. He threw objects around the room, shattering mirrors and breaking anything within reach.

"I hereby curse the human race! Any human who is possessed by the spirit of Sanari shall bleed from their eyes!" Death spun the curse in his hand, creating a nasty purple green cloud. He threw it into the air and the cloud seeped throughout the world, cursing any human it touched.

....

I woke up and instantly sighed a sigh of relief. For centuries Death has stalked me. All of a sudden a sharp pain surged through my chest. I cried out in pain and clutched onto my chest. A man rushed into the bedroom and took me into his arms.

"My sweet sunflower I am so sorry that this is happening to you. We're going to go see the doctor tomorrow, so please fight a little longer for me." The man stroked my hair as my chest continued to rumble with pain. It lasted for a few minutes, but it passed. The man, who I assumed was my "father" stood up and walked towards the door.

"I'll go make you some tea." I nodded and watched him walk away. My vision started to blur. Confused, I wiped my eyes. Why am I crying?

I looked down at my hand and saw that there was blood smeared across it. I could feel the hot liquid run down my face and onto the bed.

"Sanari." A voice hissed as the room grew cold, "You can't hide from me now." The room grew silent and my eyes continued to bleed. What is happening to me?

—KIKI EMERSON



DEATH AS A STRANGLER. WOOD ENGRAVING BY STEINBRECHER AFTER ALFRED RETHEL, 1851.

Rockin' through Colorado: The Blush Band Rises Up

The Blush Band rocks DC's halls and Castle Rock...and Denver...and, who knows....These musically-inclined and driven DC students joined forces to create, not simply a good *girl* band, but a talented rock band, rising through the area with a bullet.



The Blush Band, not to be confused with *Blush*, consists of sophomores Jenna Hardy (guitar), Loren Hardy (piano and bass), Sabrina Meiklejohn (drummer) and Lina Corrales (lead vocals). The band formed in 5th grade, at a school talent show. A band was seen as the perfect act by the Hardy's and Meiklejohn because no one else was going to form a band. Upon practicing for the show, they realized that they worked well together and decided to keep the band going. Recently, a new singer was introduced into the band, Corrales.

Music was the foundation that the Hardy twins grew up on. Their mother would teach the girls how to harmonize and they were put into piano lessons. Their father would bring home various instruments, after business trips, and the twins would often pretend they were a band. Unlike most families, the Hardy sisters were put to bed with The Beatles instead of nursery rhymes. Jenna said, "With so much musical influence, I always wanted to play music."

Both girls agree that their inspiration to become a musician comes from their father. The Hardy's father even played in a band himself, when he was young, called Endless Horizon. The twins had a desire to learn all types of music and their father would give them albums to fill their appetite.

Meiklejohn had a different reason to come into music. "I was really, really shy, and I figured that by playing mu-

sic I could express myself more and learn a new instrument in the process." Being a part of a band allowed her to learn something new and do what she loves with her best friends. "I wanted to break out of my shell and show everyone what I could do." What she does is lay the solid backbeat, so the others can play frontstage.

Corrales' vocals prove to be a great addition to the band, and she enjoys being in it. She was gladly accepted because of her love for classic rock and 1990s alternative-influenced music, which is the type of music the band mostly plays. "I wanted the opportunity to collaborate more with other musicians and have good friends who have the same passion as me," she notes.

Corrales has loved music from a young age. Her parents surrounded her with music as she grew up and inspired her to learn piano at eight and to play the guitar at 13. "I was just so fascinated by the fact that literally anyone can make such a beautiful thing," she says, "whether that's with their voice or an instrument."

The blush band is an excellent opportunity for Corrales because she wants to play music for the rest of her life. The band offers a way to start her career at a young age. In addition to band, she can often be found solo at local coffee houses.

The Blush Band's success is due to their hardwork and dedication. "On a normal week we typically practice about three times," Meiklejohn said of their practice schedule. "Practices range anywhere from one to three hours during the week and usually five to six hours on the weekend."

In order to become known, the girls try to put their name out there as much as possible. In the beginning of their career they spent their time playing charity events and every gig they could to make connections in the music industry. The band has played many, many gigs: Freedom Fest, Gothic Theater, Maddie's Biergarten, Blues and BBQ, and Sand in the City. People naturally found out who they were after a year of playing non-stop.

The future looks bright for these young stars. The band hopes to start playing bigger gigs. The Blush Band hopes to continue to play music as long as they can and, if given the chance, would love to be professional musicians.

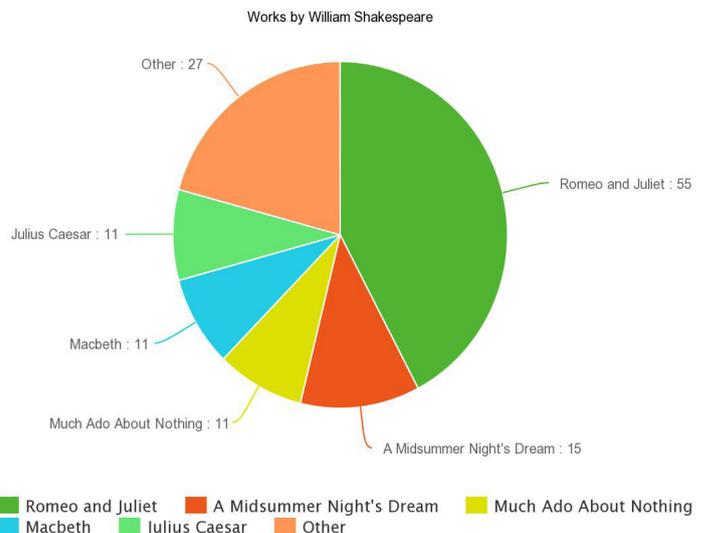
The Blush Band will be the feature performers at Starlighting 2015.

—JOSIE RODRIGUE

To Fave or Not to Fave

At DC, you've probably read at least one work of William Shakespeare's, whether it was for school or for fun. It might be a loaded and impossible question, but which play do students and teachers enjoy the most? A poll was taken in September to put this question to the test. Results came back, staggeringly leaning towards *Romeo and Juliet*, the timeless favorite. Out of 130 English students and teachers, 55 voted for *Romeo and Juliet* (42%), 15 voted for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (12%), and *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, and *Julius Caesar* tied at 11 votes each (8%). The *Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Othello* had between 10 and 0 votes each. I attribute the popularity of *Romeo and Juliet* to its less-than-anonymous reputation in pop culture. Also, *Romeo and Juliet* is required reading for freshmen. It could also be just as good as people say it is. *Much Ado About Nothing* is also taught in freshman classes, *Macbeth* is taught in some sophomore classes. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is a deserving favorite, but it's unknown if that play is taught in school.

—SARAH MANASSEE



You Need an App for That: The Hoops of the Application Process

College is about as confusing as it can get, when it comes to applying. Whether it be choosing between early decision and early acceptance or the submission deadlines, college sets you up for complete disarray.

Early decision could be one of the biggest decisions of your high school career. According to the counseling department at Douglas County, early decision, after being accepted, means that you are required to attend that school for, at least, your freshman year. Because you must attend, if accepted, be sure that the school you are applying to is your only interest or last resort. If you are not accepted, however, you are able to go to a different college.

Now, if you decide to apply for early acceptance, you are not committed and are still able to apply to other colleges. Early acceptance would be recommended for those who simply want assurance that they have a place to go to college if their dream college plans fall through. They are also extremely helpful so that, if it is your dream college and you get accepted, then you are not paying more money to apply to other places, when it is the place you would like to attend.

Submission deadlines can also be confusing, if you are considering different options. Most of the time, if you are looking at attending school the fall after graduation, the

submission deadlines for regular application are mid-December to early January. But, if considering attending the spring after graduation, submission deadlines are later in the year.

When applying, the easiest way to find deadlines is always the college website. The website often will give deadlines for early decision and acceptance and regular application as well as financial aid application deadlines, and most other questions you may have. If the website does not answer the questions you have, you can always contact the Office of Admissions. If you do call Admissions, do it yourself. Don't have your parents call them. This shows them that you are independent and mature enough to handle your own situations.

Lastly, "Make sure you request your [official] transcripts on Naviance," says Amy Boyce, counselor at DC. This is the ONLY way to request your transcripts to be sent to the college to which you are applying. Once you request a transcript to be sent, Naviance shows whether the request is pending or has been sent. As soon as your school of choice receives all of the required materials, it's simply a waiting game. Good luck with your journey to a new life outside of high school, seniors, and best of wishes with acceptance and the process.

—OLIVIA PETTIT



Who Likes Shots Anyway? The Vaccination Issue

As far back as 1840, vaccinations have been a government mandated fact of medicine in the U.S. Vaccinations are the result of centuries of study and thousands of scientists' collaborative efforts to make humankind a whole a lot safer. As long as we've had vaccines, there's been sectors of folks who think that this almost magical set of serums that stop all sorts of horrific ailments and deaths, are themselves, causing horrific ailments.

This stems from an all too natural fear of the unknown. Too many people don't really understand what vaccines are, or, what they do. To clear up some confusion allow me to refer you to the Merriam Webster definition of the word vaccine: *A preparation of killed microorganisms, living attenuated organisms, or living fully virulent organisms that is administered to produce or artificially increase immunity to a particular disease.*

Doesn't quite make sense? Let's break it down a little bit further then. A vaccine is a collection of dead, almost dead, or, very much alive viral cells that are injected in a very specific dosage that is meant to introduce a virus into your body in a quantity that lets your immune system get acquainted and ready to fend off larger quantities of the virus, later down the road.

Good stuff right? Well, according to the anti-vaxxer movement, that same good-old fashioned immunization will cause . . . autism. That's right folks, horrible, evil, world-ending . . . *autism*. This ignorant group of people is convinced that it's better to let their kids die than live with a child who has that condition. If that doesn't get you going, I don't know what will.

Lucky for all of us though, there is one man we can direct our outrage at, and his name is Andrew Jeremy Wakefield, a Brit who falsified a study in 1998, linking the MMR vaccine to bowel disease and autism. *The Immunization Safety Review Committee concluded that the evidence is sufficient to reject a causal association between TCVs and autism.* This according to a definitive study done in 2004 by none other than the Vaccines and Autism Board of Health.

Are you tired of reading the word autism yet? Well, I'm tired of medically inexperienced soccer moms around our fine nation deciding that they know better than centuries of finely-tuned, time-tested science. So if you think that you'd rather be dead than immune to the chicken pox, be my guest; one less naive zealot standing in the way of modern medicine.

—ERIC HOLBERT



Senior Flashback: Four Years Fly By

As a freshman, it's hard to imagine being a senior, but a senior year is only four years away. However, a lot can change in the course of four years in high school. Many Douglas County seniors have grown into who they are while transforming from a freshmen to a senior.

One senior, who knows this well, is Ryah Caskey. As a freshman she imagined she would be very popular, with a multitude of friends. To her dismay she has found that she does not have as many friends as she imagined.

Caskey credits her self-changes to her accomplishments. Caskey stated, "I've become a lot more independent and confident through the things I've accomplished and the unexpected relationships I have made."

Remembering freshmen year makes most people cringe, and we all wish we could go back and tell ourselves what to do differently. The advice Caskey gives applies to many of the freshmen here at DC. Caskey suggests, "Focus on always making yourself better, inside and out of school, and don't put off homework, no matter how 'uncool' you think it is."

Thankfully, most of us change from freshmen year to senior year. Caskey realizes that she has definitely changed for the better and acknowledged, "I've learned to take life in little steps and become a more in-the-moment person." Caskey added, "I'm a lot more positive about things because my outlook has changed significantly."



Cloe Zwicker expected to have changed a lot by the time she was a senior. However, she is essentially the same person, if a bit more mature. Zwicker still has a lot of the same friends and has kept up with her academics.

High school forces many students to learn various life-lessons. These lessons are what develop us into the people we are. Zwicker says, "I've learned to be more self aware because I think it's important to

recognize the type of person you are and how you learn or interact with other people, and high school kind of forces you to figure those things out."

To all the freshmen here at Douglas County Zwicker would advise, "Take advantage of every opportunity you have to succeed because it's all worth it in the end, even if you can't see it now."

Our priorities are what often change the most through the years. Zwicker agrees, "I've seen the most changes in what's important to me because you start to focus more on long term plans, like college and your career rather than what you're doing 'this weekend'." This is especially important as you are transitioning from being a freshmen to a senior, so that you are focussed on your future.

The older we get, hopefully the more we improve as a person. The mistakes we make are what help us improve. Zwicker improved upon an already pretty mature person.

A fellow cross country teammate of Caskey's, Caleb Thompson has undergone various challenges, from freshman year to senior year. Thompson had a hard time picturing himself as a senior. "I heard juniors and seniors saying that high school goes by so fast," he notes. "I didn't believe them." Thompson adds "I thought senior year was so far away; now, I can't believe that next spring I will graduate and be out of high school, for good."

Thompson can thank much of his success due to his incredible hard work and dedication. Thompson believes that in order for the freshmen here at DC to be accomplished he would recommend, "If you have any dreams or goals, make a plan to help achieve that goal because if you don't make a plan, you will not achieve your goal." Thompson also values his teachers and believes the hard work and the respect you give the teachers will pay off in the long run when they write you a letter of recommendation.

In the chaos of high school, many students become lost in who they are. Through the years, Thompson has become more aware of who he is. "The biggest change I have made, since my freshmen year, was that I decided to be more confident in myself and my beliefs," he says.

This change in confidence has led Thompson to become a better person. Thompson concludes, "Without a doubt I know I have improved as a person. I am not perfect, but I definitely more mature than I was as a freshmen."

I have seen the transformation from senior Kirk Rodrigue first hand. Kirk is my older brother, and he is definitely not the same ninth grader I knew.

As a freshmen, homework was not as big of a priority for Kirk; now he is taking AP courses and doing well in school. To ensure that the future Huskies' freshman year is successful, he would tell them, "Do your homework early and get it done." Kirk continues, "Say yes to an opportunity to be social because you won't regret it."

Kirk has not only grown in height but in character. As his sister I have noticed a change in his maturity, as he has really grown into a young adult. Kirk has transferred from being Kirk-a-Cola, 100% spaz to an actually likeable person. This newfound maturity has gained Kirk more friends and new people in his life.

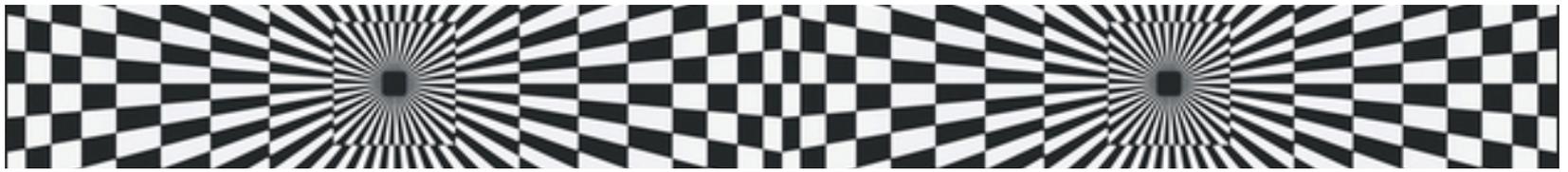
It often becomes hard to know who you are in high school because of the constant pressure to fit in. Kirk's biggest change was self-assurance. "I no longer care about fitting in, I just do what I want," he notes.

Overall, Kirk and I both agree that he has improved from freshmen year to senior year. "I have started to be more social, I'm better at getting school work done, and overall, I'm happier," he says.

No matter what grade all the Huskies here at DC are in, hopefully we all find our happiness. To all the freshmen Huskies: remember, it only gets better.

—JOSIE RODRIGUE





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You may be featured in the DC Chronicle in one of its upcoming issues.
 All ART submissions need to go to this email address, as well.

It's My Senior Year, and I Don't Care Anymore

(I Worked so hard on this newspaper, and it has broken my spirit.)

• Moshi Moshi - Brand New

• The Gift of a Black Heart
 - Said the Whale

• Elephant
 - Jane Impala

• Happy Ending
 - The Strokes

• Seventeen Years - Ratatat

• Light up the Night - The Protomen



• The Magdelene - Foping

• We're Not Lost
 - Roam

• A Hazy Shade of Winter - Simon and Garfunkel

• Hooped Earrings - The Front Lot
 - toms

• Heartshaped Box - Nirvana

• Friday I'm in Love - Yo La Tengo

• Synthetica - Metric

• Bang On - The Breeders



"Someone Throw Shamu Back into the Ocean!"

So you think SeaWorld is fun? You might want to reconsider.

Orcas in captivity are kept so close together that it often causes anxiety and aggression in the animals. When an attack or a fight occurs, the caged whales have nowhere to escape. According to SeaWorld, they promote a "healthy social structure" (seaworld.com).

100% of orca males in captivity have collapsed dorsal fins. Less than 1% of orcas in the wild have this. SeaWorld, however, maintains that "collapsed dorsal fins are normal."

Orcas in the wild may swim up to 100 miles a day. For captive orcas, however, it would take 3,105 lengths of SeaWorld's largest pool to match this distance (seaworldofhurt.com). Yet SeaWorld claims their orcas are "mentally stimulated" swimming in hundreds of circles every day.

SeaWorld has been lying to the public for half a century.

The SeaWorld brand has been under a considerable amount of stress the last couple of years due to the relentless exposure of animal mistreatment that they have undergone. For 54 years SeaWorld has remained a foremost "theme park" despite their blatant disregard for animal well-being. Only now are the tides beginning to turn.

Blackfish, a 2013 documentary, directed by Gabriela Cowperthwaite, was the spark that ignited a rather substantial flame of anti-SeaWorld activists. It follows the story of Tilikum, a killer whale that has taken the lives of several people due to his aggression, brought on by the stress of captivity. Fatal orca attacks in the wild? Zero. The film also discusses the corporate corruption of SeaWorld. Since the release of this documentary, SeaWorld has began some considerable damage control. They are all too eager to publicize their donation of ten million dollars to help fund whale research in the wild, while overlooking the fact that they budgeted 15 million for "brand repair" after their bad reputation spread (bbc.com).

The impact of *Blackfish* was so widespread, it prompted one of the former SeaWorld trainers featured in the film, John Hargrove, to release his own book on the subject, titled *Beneath the Surface*. This book highlights Hargrove's personal experience and relationships with killer whales, ultimately discussing why they should not be held in captivity.

SeaWorld has combatted this fresh obstacle by introducing an entirely new enclosure system which they have dubbed "The Blue World Project". While this does mark improvement for the company, their proposals are still quite flawed. Tanks would only be 350 feet long (1,500 lengths a day to equal distance swam by wild orcas), and most of the changes are focused on enhancing guest experience, as opposed to that of the animals (seaworld.com). The orcas, instead, receive a "fast water current" that mimics wave motions. It seems that SeaWorld does not understand that the time for "mimicry" is far behind us.

Awareness regarding SeaWorld has reached an all-time high, as people began to understand that orcas are simply not built for captivity. Even most students at DCHS have some degree of knowledge about the growing issue. "I've seen some of the pictures online," said senior, Scott L'Esperance, while Jason DesVeaux has even gone as far as to sign a petition, which can be found on *change.com*. The general consensus from the student population was a resounding: "I would help", as seniors Chloe Zwicker and Darrian Newman were kind enough to state.

Fortunately, *I would* can become *I did* with only a few easy



steps. The simplest way to help out the whales is to contact the California Coastal Commission (415-904-5200) and tell them to vote against the Blue World Project. There are also a number of charities to donate to, including the WDC (Whale and Dolphin Conservation), PETA, Adopt an Orca, ORCA, or STW (Save the Whales).

Since 1961, 158 orcas have died in captivity. 158 orcas each with an average life expectancy of 30-40 years. Only five of their captive orcas have lived past 30, when just recently in the wild, a 103-year-old orca has been discovered (npr.org).

This injustice, this global exploitation of an entire species, has to stop. Raising awareness has already begun to take its toll on SeaWorld's monopoly, their executive chief stepping down last year after SeaWorld's stock plummeted 33%. Add an 84% drop in SeaWorld's earnings from last year to this. But, sales rates and stock market prices, those aren't going to free the whales. Only with change, it seems, will that ultimate goal be accomplished.

STATISTICS;

1. Their Sunburns Are Covered Up With Black Zinc Oxide. They spend too much time near the surface because their deepest tanks are only 40 feet.
2. Many of the orcas weren't rescued, they were kidnapped
3. During Shamu's capture, her mother was shot with a harpoon. If not captured, the whales are killed
4. The average lifespan of orcas in the wild is anywhere from 70-100 years (Depending on male vs. female). The average lifespan of orcas in captivity is 30-50 years
5. 100% of orca males in captivity have collapsed dorsal fins. Less than 1% of orcas in the wild do.
6. For every 1,000,000 dollars of SeaWorld revenue, only \$600 goes to conservation. That's about 5 cents per ticket.
7. Only 20 of the 145 orcas that have been taken into captivity are still alive today.
8. Of the 190 acres of land SeaWorld rents from the city of San Diego, 172 acres are land while only 18 are water.

—BECCA WEISS

november 2015

1 daylight savings time	2	3 elections no school	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 veterans day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 no school	26 thanksgiving	27 black friday no school	28
29	30					

OCTOBER

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Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

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3 home coming

game XC @ 8:30am

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softball @ 4:00pm

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7

softball @ 4:00pm

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volleyball and boys soccer @ 6:30



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volleyball @ 6:30pm

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XC @ 3:00pm

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volleyball @ 6:30pm

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boys soccer @ 6:30pm

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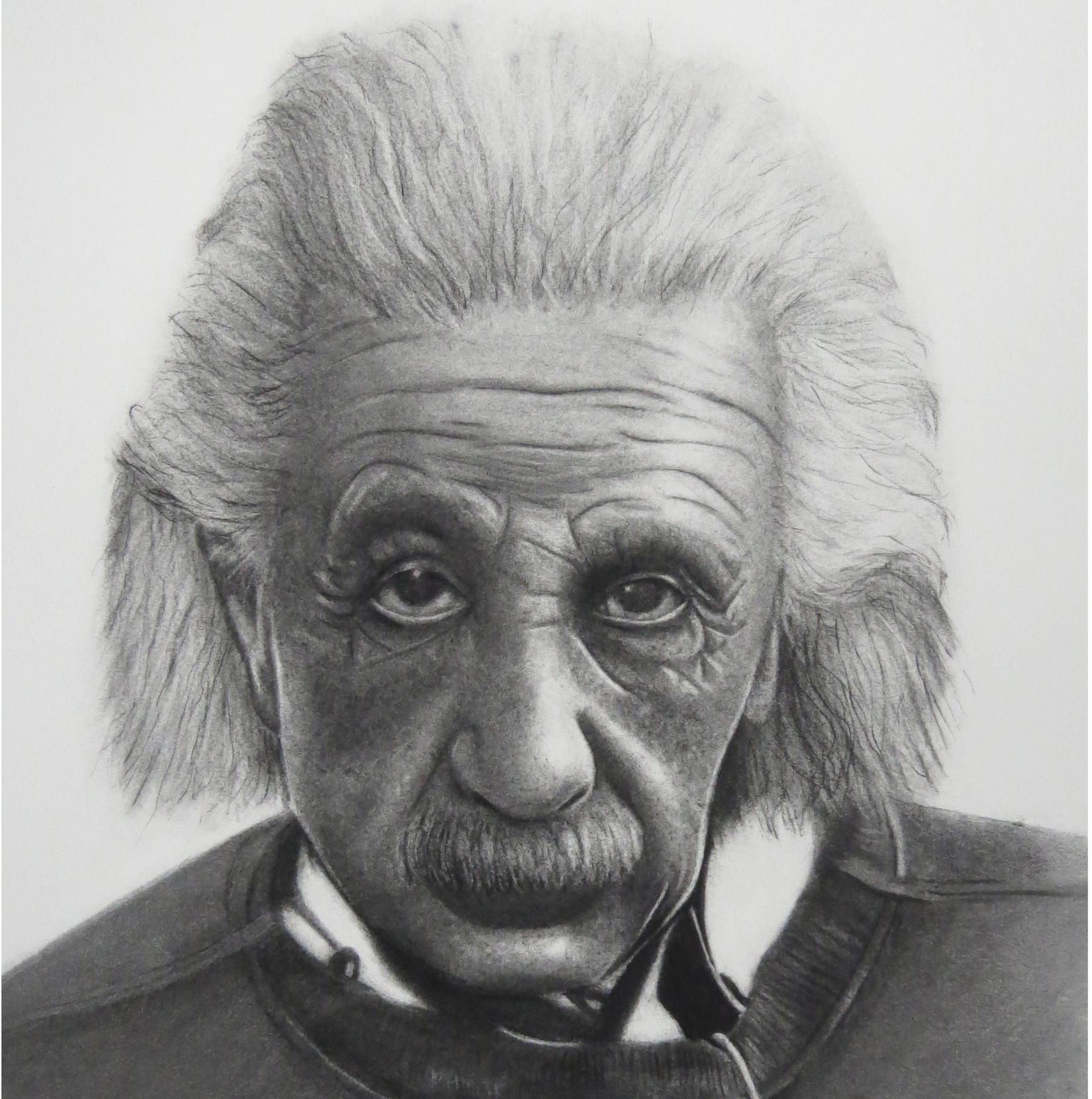
29

football @ 7:00pm

30

31 senior pics due





Cover by Sam Myer

Send your Artwork to DChronicle; E-mail inside