



THE DISPATCH

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

"THE BEACON OF TRUTH SINCE 1974"

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HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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ERIN YE

After nine months that saw many early mornings and many visits to the student portal, the 2018-2019 Huntington High School school year has officially been entered into the memory books. For most people reading this, the school has probably already fallen to the bottom of your priorities, and justifiably so: no more running late to the first period, no more final exams, and no more Castle Learning assignments

until next year rolls around. Before we close the door firmly on the past, let's look back on the 180 days we spent in these hallways. Let's talk about the moments that brought out the best in the Huntington community over the course of 1,620 class periods. Let's discuss how we felt for the 64,800 minutes we spent inside of a classroom this school year. It's important to reflect on all that we've learned this year in order to ensure a positive learning experience for Hunting-

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AVENGERS: ENDGAME

KEVIN O'DONNELL

Avengers: Endgame is the fourth Avengers movie (for some reason excluding Captain America: Civil War) directed by the Russo brothers. The aim of this movie was to be a climatic end to the eight year set up of the main antagonist, Thanos, as well as to hold a possible solution to the tragedy that occurred at the end of Infinity War. This movie takes place after the death of close to half of the most important Marvel characters in which the struggles of both, the society and the remaining Avengers,

are portrayed as they adjust to a post-Thanos world. Some focus on how to fix the past, while others give into the new lifestyle and try to move forward. However, at the end of their movie Ant-Man and his partner the Wasp use a device to dive into the quantum realm where Ant-man is trapped until the start of Endgame. He finds the husk of the Avengers which kickstarts the crazy interdimensional hurdles for the surviving Avengers to face. This is as much as I can write in regards to the plot without spoiling important scenes and twists later in the movie. Overall Endgame

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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1500 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. The Dispatch staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to The Dispatch mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

IN MEMORIAM

LETTERS FROM THE OUT-GOING EDITORS

THE HONORABLE KERRIE JOYCE

Dear Dispatch Readers,

When I first joined the Dispatch, I never pictured myself becoming Editor-in-Chief. I joined the staff later than most, during my Junior year of high school, and only expected to write occasionally or maybe get credit for my Journalism class. I was inspired by the freedom of topics to write about, the support from my fellow writers, the Editor at the time, and from the club advisors. I ended up contributing more often, attending meetings frequently, and to my surprise, became Co-Editors in Chief with Hannah Bailin.

The Dispatch has remained an outlet for student activism, concerns, passions, interests, and the arts since it was first established in 1974. The paper is and always has been a platform to give a voice to the Huntington High School student body for encouraging

**...the Dispatch remains
a united force for
uplifting any and all
students who have a
message to share.**

progress, unity, and school spirit. As I depart from high school and the Dispatch, I am confident that generations to come will continue to use platforms like these to enact positive change and bring our community together. I am also confident that there are no two individuals more qualified to take over as Editors in Chief than Kiara Gelbman and Lucas Kelly. The job is extremely demanding, but equally rewarding. I am of the utmost confidence that Lucas and Kiara will preserve and further amplify the voice of Huntington High School students. Kiara is

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THE NOBLE HANNAH BAILIN

To the Readers and Writers of the Dispatch,

This is a letter to you. My time as an editor of the Dispatch has come to a close and in short, being a part of the paper was one of the most memorable and fun experiences of my high school career. Most importantly, it allowed me to look at many perspectives, develop new skills, and further open my mind to new ideas. I've learned many things over the past two years on the paper. To save space on the layout I'm going to be highlighting three things I have learned in my time as editor for the Dispatch, If I spoke about more, I'd be writing an essay (you're welcome Lucas). One, if you have a strong interest in a topic, write about it. Two, the writers will always have your back. And three, you don't have to just be a writer to be a part of the paper.

Over the past year, Kerrie and I have been working towards expanding the paper. Now it is up to you, the readers and writers of the Dispatch to finish what we started. I've always envisioned the paper as being something that connects and enriches the students at Huntington High School. Everyone, please continue to use the paper as an outlet for this. It's important for our community to maintain their support of the students and the environment they learn in. Congratulate your fellow writer friends on their articles, give constructive feedback to the Dispatch staff to make positive improvements to the paper, suggest article ideas on important topics, within the school or out in the world, and bring something of your own to the table. Whether you are an advocate, artist, designer, writer, photographer, videographer, programmer, business person, anything, the sky's the limit. You can add something unique to this paper.

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a loyal member, a long-term writer for the paper, a talented aspiring journalist, and a persistent hard worker. Lucas is an invested Dispatch member, a pop-culture expert, a talented writer, and a graphic design student. This powerful duo is guaranteed to improve the paper and uphold its values as the “beacon of truth” for HHS students.

Through thick and thin, the Dispatch remains a united force for uplifting any and all students who have a message to share. Whether it be through writing or cartoon, and I am proud to have been a part of it for these past two years.

Sincerely,
Outgoing Editor in Chief, Kerrie Joyce

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With that being said, a website for the paper is in the works. This is a step towards more frequent and relevant articles and an opportunity for the paper to reach people outside the walls of the high school. But the implementation is up to you, readers and writers, as you have the ability to shape the direction of the paper. I can say I’m excited to see what the future holds for the Dispatch, in paper and digitally, for years to come. Thank you to my advisors Mr. Florea and Mr. Kroll, my fellow writers, and editors Kerrie, Lucas, and Kiara for this truly amazing experience on the school paper.

Sincerely,
Outgoing Editor in Chief, Hannah Bailin

CONGESTION PRICING: WHAT IS IT?



LUCAS KELLY

Starting in 2021, New York will be the first city in America to adopt congestion pricing. Included in the next New York State budget and endorsed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, congestion pricing will charge drivers entering a designated zone within the heart of Manhattan. The new State Budget refers to this zone as the “central business district.” The zone drawn is from 60th street to Battery Park, excluding the surrounding FDR Drive and West Side Highways. Most details are yet to be determined but the price is expected to be around \$10 to \$15 and will be charged electronically for those entering the district, similar to E-Z Pass.

WHY CONGESTION PRICING?

For the last few years, politicians have been debating how the MTA transit system should be

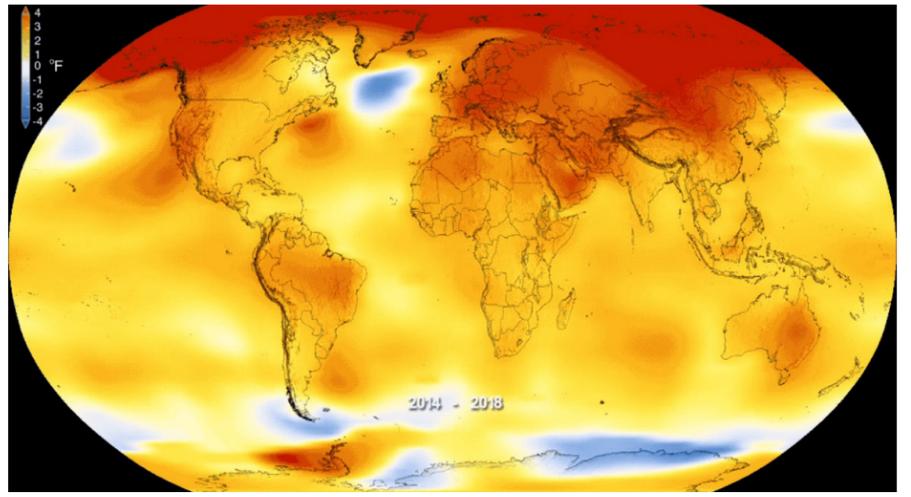
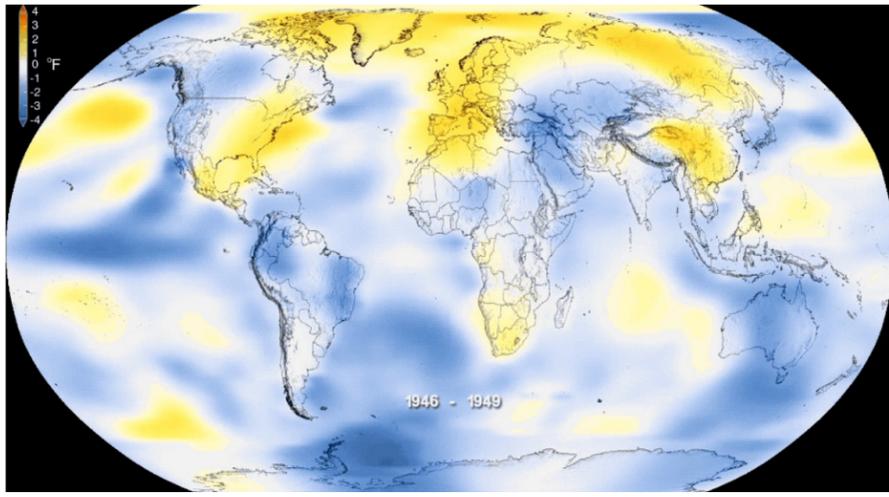
fixed. Mayor Bill de Blasio first proposed a tax on the wealthiest New Yorkers as a way to fund the improvement. However, de Blasio settled with Cuomo’s congestion pricing plan. In a recent radio interview, Governor Cuomo stated that it was stated that

...congestion pricing will charge drivers entering a designated zone within the heart of Manhattan.

the new congestion pricing plan will deliver 80 percent percent of it’s projected \$1 billion revenue to fund further improvements of the transit system. Proponents also argue that congestion pricing will reduce metropolitan traffic because the charge discourages commuters from choosing to drive. New York is not the first city to

introduce congestion pricing. Cities around the world already have similar measures. Advocates of the congestion pricing plan hope to replicate the success congestion pricing had in other cities like Stockholm, Sweden. The congestion pricing experiment in Stockholm saw a 20 percent drop in city street congestion, decreased travel time within the city zone, and an increase in overall air quality. Nevertheless, congestion pricing also comes with negative side effects as in the case of London. London is one of the earliest cities to adopt the charge. The area inside the congestion pricing zone witnessed a large increase in the price of housing. Residents of this area were those willing to pay more for a location with better air and less congestion, driving out low-income residents. New York City poses to be the North American test-run for congestion pricing.

OUR PLANET IS SICK



ERIK FLORES REYES

Humane is a word often utilized to express a feeling of benevolence and generosity. Our modern cities have been greatly influenced by past amenities which have led us to rely on cars and the internet. The acidification of our oceans and lakes, the deforestation of autotrophs in tropical rainforests and other major biomes, the mass extinction of wildlife, and pollution, are all signs that our planet is sick. These are tremendous trends that indicate that we are in a crisis yet we are doing little to diminish these issues that might lead to the collapse of our biodiversity. Hence the word humane has come to mean cruel and repugnant.

Many factors have contributed to the world-wide pollution problem that has severely attacked us. Some of these kinds of pollution include noise, air, land, and water pollution. The presence of these factors in our biosphere can have far-reaching effects. For example, when we choose to ride a car to work or school, we are contributors to air and land pollution. The burning of fossil fuels in our daily drives delivers dangerous gases such as hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen oxide. These tiny particles are dispersed in our atmosphere can block the infrared rays, thus, keeping the Earth warmer than usual due to the abundance of chemicals and gases found in the atmosphere. Some nitrogen oxides (those emitted to the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels, cigarettes, vehicle exhaust, and electric power plants), can have negative impacts when it gets in contact with ultraviolet rays and generates photochemical fog. The photochemical fog can depreciate our health or even exterminate us

if we are exposed to it over a prolonged time period.

The mass-consumption and desire for plastic is also a significant issue that has augmented the destruction of our biodiversity. Most single-use plastic waste is not recycled and the nuclear power plants generate solid waste that can harm life in our planet and create instability. "9.1 BILLION US tons of plastic have been produced since plastic was introduced in the 1950s" (Earth Day Network). These plastic particles end up in our oceans and are a threat to aquatic life. How-

These are tremendous trends that indicate that we are in a crisis yet we are doing little to diminish these issues that might lead to the collapse of our biodiversity.

ever, this does not mean that we are not in danger. Due to biological magnification, when animals in the ocean consume chemicals and plastic, these toxins get into our body and augment through an ecosystem. Overfishing and hunting have abbreviated biodiversity, and common diseases can surely strike animals. Because we are part of an ecosystem, we are also impacted by nature when animals are endangered or extinct. To add to the problem, electrical power plants use water from lakes and oceans to cool down. They return the lake water to other bodies of water in a thermal manner and reduce oxygen levels in the hydrosphere. Besides, additional factors contribute to the acidification of

our oceans when sulfur and nitrogen oxides combine with vaporized water. When precipitation occurs, the rain returns to the Earth as acid rain, which has a lower pH level than that of the original. (below 7). Acid rain can harm aquatic living organisms and even forests. This contributes to the destruction of our diversity and the Earth.

The exponential growth of our civilization does not mean that we have better chances of surviving. Like many other animals that are part of an ecosystem, we have a carrying capacity that we will soon reach. Our population number in 2019 is 7.7 Billion. As our population has increased, our need for natural resources and habitats has increased as well. The demand for raw materials has led us to this diminishment of other populations we rely on, like fish, honey, and trees. Although algae produce oxygen in marine areas, there is too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. We need trees in order to get rid of harmful gases.

However, we can do much to decrease the impacts of these tremendously negative issues. For example, we can recycle plastic waste and turn it into debris that we can use as materials for house construction. This adaptation would benefit both, human and animal lives. We could also decrease the amount of plastic-use on an every-day basis by choosing to use glass jars instead. The option to eat vegetables or fruits, rather than chips or meat which come wrapped in plastic, we can enhance our nutrition while reducing land and water pollution. By choosing to travel less and utilize industrial vehicles, we can lessen the number of greenhouse gases outputted into the environment and reduce global warm-

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ing. These choices would stop the melting of glaciers and decrease the vaporization of water, reducing the chances of catastrophic storms and tornadoes. Besides, we can also elect candidates who are willing to reduce global warming. The candidates running for office can contribute to the creation of laws that preserve wildlife. These

are factors we depend on them. Instead of worrying about emigration across the world or trying to find life on different planets, we should make global warming known as a major crisis and worry about our own planet first. This is due to the fact that we have made it sick. Remember, we have the power to stop the degeneration of our own civilization and

animals, but it is your decision to do the right or the wrong.

“Fact Sheet: End Plastic Pollution | Earth Day Network.” 7 Mar. 2018, <https://www.earthday.org/2018/03/07/fact-sheet-end-plastic-pollution/>. Accessed 3 Jun. 2019.



A SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW: 2018-2019

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ton High School students in the future. Surely, with the network of caring individuals that we have here, we can make changes to thoroughly benefit our students.

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CLASS OF 2019

June 28th will mark the end of an era for the class of 2019. When they're dressed in their caps and gowns and thinking about the courses of their futures, I hope that they step back and let their experiences at Huntington guide them. This is the year that Eli would have graduated, and for that reason and many more, this class is special. What they've done inside and outside of this building for the past four years says a lot about who they are as people and who they will become as they continue to grow. I hope that they don't forget about the homecoming dance their freshman year or about winning the game that gave them a chance at reaching playoffs. Those things might feel minuscule in the grand scheme of life, but they shape your childhood and in turn shape you. In high school, you learn things far beyond what you studied in class.

The graduation ceremony will be led by Hadley Clayton, this year's valedictorian. In lots of ways, Hadley outdoes the idea of normal. She will be enrolling in Princeton University this fall, but not before she competes at the New Balance Outdoor Track and Field National Championship in June. Both of these things are the fruit of hard work and dedication towards what she cares about.

Nevertheless, Hadley's senior quote is “No pants, no problems,” her car is named Creepy Jeep, and out of the many teachers she's had, she'll always remember Mrs. Racz as the math teacher who went skydiving. She cheers the loudest at track meets and she's stood out to me as a role model for the girls on our team.

Even though she lives less than five minutes away from school, she always goes out of her way to drive people who live in the opposite direction home. You'll find that there's a lot of depth to a person once you look beyond the

This is the year that Eli would have graduated, and for that reason and many more, this class is special.

label of valedictorian. When I asked Hadley for advice to get through the next three years of high school, she told me this:

“Freshman year, everybody is so excited and motivated to try everything that they possibly can. Sometimes, people get lazy. Keep pushing. Don't let your grades slip and things will pay off in the end.” It occurred to me that Hadley isn't a superhuman far above the rest of us. High school wasn't a walk in the park for her, but she made every second count.

What I think we can all learn from Hadley is that success is in the hands of those who seek it, and that Huntington provides the materials needed to do so. Her high school experience was just as, if not more stressful than the rest of ours. She had to go through the hours of homework and the stresses of scheduling that come with being a student. Yet Hadley managed to thrive in these situations without losing sight of who she was. This isn't an easy thing to do, but she is a testament to the fact that it can be done. Huntington is the kind of school that has the structure, culture, and open ears needed to provide students with the golden opportunity to go forth and conquer.

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MOMENTS THIS YEAR

Out of every major happening of each day in nine months, only a handful are going to be remembered in full. You might've forgotten that in the fall of this year the junior class won the Homecoming Day float contest. You probably don't remember that the Mock Trial team made it to the Suffolk Sweet 16 before being denied a back-to-back county championship. You most likely didn't know that the boys' track 4x400 relay team earned All-American honors this winter, or that the girls' team shattered school records and won their first spring division championship in years. These things might not matter to you if you weren't directly involved in their culmination, but school events and extracurriculars are some of the best things that Huntington has to offer. There's bound to be a room that you can walk into where you'll meet people who value your words and want to hear them. Seize the opportunity to explore what you care about.

You may remember that in late December 2018, Huntington was featured in a New York Times article. This was jarring, and it put our school and administration in a situation that was beyond difficult. I think it was important to realize that in a school of over 1,600 students, there's a lot that you don't get the chance to see. At the same time, being painted by the media in a way that didn't reflect what we saw in ourselves, and experiencing



something tragically close to home strengthened us as a community. The way that Principal Cusack and Huntington as a whole dealt with what they were handed illustrates the character that our school aims to teach. Learning to move past times of adversity has made Huntington a better place to be and ultimately a safer place to go to school.

Another time Huntington was thrown into the spotlight was for the school production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Regardless

of what you personally believe about the show, it is critical to realize that the Huntington High School drama club, pit orchestra, and stage crew poured in countless hours of work to do the best possible job that they could with *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and to say that



they delivered would be an understatement. Facing media attention and biting backlash was not easy, but it also taught Huntington students a vital lesson. We learned that the music and arts programs that we have here are filled with talented individuals, wonderful resources, and some of the hardest working teachers out there. We also learned that there is never a more important time to stand up for what you believe is right.

The spirit of Huntington this year was found in the spirit of rebuilding. We were faced with struggles and it in those moments we were able to come together as a community. What we can learn from our experiences is that we are strongest when people come together and stand tall in support of one another. Huntington is filled with people who want to make a difference, and that makes this a breeding ground for opportunity.

THE VOICE OF THE STUDENTS

There is no way to avoid the fact that school can be stressful. Even with all that school offers us, students find themselves in difficult situations when it comes to exams and pressure, in particular, during the middle of the school year. High schoolers nationwide deal with inadequate amounts of sleep, and Huntington is not an exception. Our student body is among the most enthusiastic anywhere, and we are home to countless hard working individuals. Yet these fantastic students sometimes feel strung out. Surely there are things we can do to make the Huntington experience more enjoyable for our students who have the potential to go even further and flourish to even higher levels.

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tential to go even further and flourish to even higher levels.

When asked about the part of their school experience this year that could be improved on the most, students responded overwhelmingly with answers related to homework. School-wide “No Homework Day” was a step in the right direction, and it shows that Huntington cares about its students in a way that is very special. However, teachers assign homework on Tuesday to be due on Thursday. Classwork from the day carries over into finishing as homework. Students know that Huntington’s teachers are amazingly dedicated to their craft, and the teachers we’ve had throughout high school have been instrumental to our growing up. Ultimately, we can reevaluate how homework fits into the lives of students and make efforts to adjust how we assign it, for optimal results.

Something we can do to change the way students view education is to implement the idea of learning smarter, not harder. The most exciting and effective teaching moments for students are intuitive in-class assignments that spark excitement. It’s impossible to make every Huntington student love going to school, but it is possible to make math class less about formulas and more about studying for the sake of applying logic and reason into how we live each day. To me, beneath its many layers, that’s what education really is.

A School Year in Review

WHAT I LEARNED FROM THE 2018-2019 school year is that Huntington High School is not perfect, and while there’s room for change, our hearts are in the right place and Huntington is undoubtedly somewhere we should be proud to call home. The students here are interesting and insightful, the academic departments are alive and well, and the relationships that students have formed in our hallways and classrooms are the kind that lasts longer than four years. Inside our building walk state champions, Ivy-League admits, and

the voices of our generation. This is a powerful thing.

Given that Huntington holds a student body with the luster that it does, it is critical that changes are made to prevent them from burning out. In the past nine months, we have seen our students shine, but there is still more that we can do to make Huntington the best possible place that it can be. The happiness of our students is the most important thing when it comes to our approach to education. With hap-

Inside our building walk state champions, Ivy-League admits, and the voices of our generation.

pier students, performance improvement will naturally follow. In the coming 2019-2020 school year, there is a sense of optimism for what can be achieved. Huntington is a beautiful place to learn, and with an understanding between administration and its students. There is hope that changes can be made to benefit our academic programs in the years that come. The good thing is that the conversation is now open and learning from this school year will allow Huntington to soar to new heights and continue cultivating intelligent, inspiring, and kind leaders of the next generation.

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HIDDEN GEMS OF HUNTINGTON: Mr. Schwendemann

KERRIE JOYCE

To many students, Mr. Schwendemann is a trusted role model and mentor. The English teacher and Drama Club advisor somehow manages to have a strong bond with nearly every student who passes his classroom. He never hesitates to reach out and demonstrates a strong investment in students’ well being whether he has you in class or only knows you from seeing you in the hallways.

Being the locker assigned next-door to his classroom for the past four years, I have gotten to know Mr. Schwendemann (or as most people know him, Schwen) quite well. From review-



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ing Dispatch articles and essays from different classes, Mr. Schwendemann has always been a proofreader for my writing. Upon becoming one of his students this year, his wisdom grew beyond just writing advice as he taught our entire senior class about the Pyramid of Hate in Holocaust Literature as well as the dangers the world still faces today in terms of rises in antisemitism. He has also been an outstanding resource to many senior students, including myself, in providing advice about the college application process, scholarship opportunities, and choosing the place where you spend the next four years of your life.

After seeking advice from him throughout my entire college application and decision-making process, I began to grow curious about what makes Schwen, Schwen.

To my surprise, Mr. Schwendemann had originally planned to be a pre-med major. It wasn't until later in his college career at the University of Alabama that he switched to a program in Communication and Theatre Arts. Schwen discovered his apt for teaching after working in a Youth Outreach program for the National Shakespeare Company. Soon after, he attended CW Post and received his teaching certification. He was even able to do his student teaching with his mentor teacher at Bayshore High School. After the retiring teacher who Schwen was supposed to replace changed their mind, a twist of fate brought him here to Huntington High School where he taught his demo lesson in Mr. Pagano's class after being interviewed. Through all of his 17 years of teaching, Mr. Schwendemann maintains that he absolutely could not imagine teaching in any other district and that Huntington's diversity sets it apart from all other schools, making it truly special. After asking about how the school has

changed over the years with the coming and going of different generations, he mentioned new AP courses and changes in administration, but the point he emphasized most was the emergence of smartphones. He stressed that teaching has grown more difficult as students have become more and more addicted to their phones. While teaching teenagers can be a challenge, Schwendemann maintains that he does love his students

Through all of his 17 years of teaching, Mr. Schwendemann maintains that he absolutely could not imagine teaching in any other district and that Huntington's diversity sets it apart from all other schools, making it truly special.

and that there is "something endearing about all of them." He also added that the highlight of his day is "potty duty" because it is where he feels he can "truly help students in need." When asking about the most fulfilling aspect of his career, Schwen told me that the most rewarding experience is being visited by former students years after they have graduated and become grown adults, whether they graduated college, go on to graduate school, have a family, or are overall succeeding in whatever they choose to do after high school. On the flip side of that coin however, he says that hearing about a former student being convicted of a crime or being in some kind of trouble is equally impactful and the most gut wrenching thing he has experienced as a teacher.

As curriculums, schools, and generations of students continue to change, Mr. Schwendemann remains a force of positivity in Huntington High School and has impacted the lives of myself and several of my classmates with his jokes, advice, and knowledge.

THE TAOS OF BLUE DEVILS

EMERSON FORBES

For high school students, the school year is a time of pandemonium. Studying for tests, completing homework assignments, and sitting through lectures all consume our precious time. Of course, there is also your social media pages, your crush, and a host of other mindless pursuits which preoccupy your mind. In the midst of this, there is little time for nothingness, that quiet we deem irrelevant. No, we are far too enveloped in a combination of grueling assignments and those All-Important Questions: Is today an A day or a B day? Do they like me as a friend, or do they want something more? If I blow off my homework to-

night, will I have time to do it all before class? And so on. We all live in a constant state of distraction and overly concern ourselves with minutia.

Taoists vigilantly avoid this way of thinking. They embrace nothingness. Winnie the Pooh enjoyed nothingness as well. To him, life's greatest joys could be found in the biggest pots of honey or in the dazzling skies on a warm summer day.

I recently finished a book called the Tao of Pooh. This book discusses Taoist principles through the well-known characters of Winnie the Pooh. It reveres child-like attitudes. After reading this book, I have come to appreciate the teachings of Taoism and have attempted to implement its principles into my life. As I continue to

learn, I struggle with the paradox of these two teachings: One of Taoism, emphasizing the importance of nothingness and how it relates to wisdom and contentment, and one of school, which encourages the memorization of a great deal of facts, the relevance of which is uncertain. Obviously I understand that school, as a whole, is not irrelevant. It encourages fledgling minds to learn and fosters a social environment where educational opportunity is offered to all. To many students, school offers an ideal place to learn about many subjects, some of which may particularly interest the student. But why must we be inundated with a tsunami of topics, assignments, projects, and examinations?

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In Taoism, acceptance of nature and the natural order of things is essential to achieving peace and contentment. In Winnie the Pooh, Owl limited himself to the pursuit of knowledge. He spent his time accumulating facts by studying his encyclopedia. On the other hand, rabbit was far too concerned with his own cleverness. In life, owls and rabbits may learn a great deal but ultimately are left unfulfilled. They lose themselves in endless pursuits of facts and/or derive pleasure from their own wit.

Piglet and Eeyore both allowed their fears, precautions, and hesitations to interfere with everything. As a result, they would always miss out on what life had to offer. These types of people rarely get their dream job, their dream car, or their dream partner. They will likely never truly be happy. Finally, there is the way of Pooh. The simplest mind with the greatest understanding of the way things work. Or rather, a lack of understanding and just being.

When a mournful Eeyore lost his tail, who found it for him? Erudite Owl did not recognize it when he saw it while Clever Rabbit was off doing clever things. Eeyore did not even notice he was missing his tail until Pooh pointed it out. Then Pooh set off to find it. He

We all live in a constant state of distraction and overly concern ourselves with minutia.

stopped by to see Owl, who had just gotten a new bell-rope. As Owl began to speak fondly and in a scholarly manner-of his new bell-rope, Pooh began to look at it more closely. As Owl told Pooh how he came to find it, things suddenly became clear

to him. Pooh grabbed what was certainly not a bell-rope, and happily returned it to a relieved Eeyore. The point is, the clearest minds are often the most observant and discerning. However, these minds may struggle in a school environment.

What would Pooh do in your math class? Would he have his nose in books, studying and completing assignments? Would he fret over his lack of understanding? Would he check his hair through his phone camera, only to get lost in his own sensational looks? No, he would be staring out the window, not the least bit concerned about whatever the teacher was saying. He would be admiring the clouds, or the beautiful greenery. Or...no...he would be in trouble. This activity is frowned upon, as it distracts you from the task at hand. Certainly, Pooh would probably not be a particularly good student, but if we ever are to truly gain wisdom from school, should we not first be



allowed to sometimes set aside our busy work to make room for nothingness? Of course, there is an ocean of difference between those who demonstrate no interests or concerns whatsoever and those who see value in nothingness.

In an ancient Chinese tale, consciousness set off in search of finding and understanding the Tao. He came across a speechless non-doer who gave him no answer along with an impulsive speechmaker, who could not answer without confusing himself. At the end of the tale, he asked the Yellow Emperor his questions, who told him, "To have no thought and put forth no effort is the first step towards understanding the Tao. To go nowhere and do nothing is the first step towards finding peace

in the Tao." To many of you, the Tao may be no more than "that cool-looking black and white wavy symbol," but allow me to put it in simple terms. The Tao represents a code of behavior that aligns with the

While Eeyore frets... and Piglet hesitates... and Rabbit calculates... and Owl pontificates... Pooh just is. -Benjamin Hoff

natural order of things. To follow this code of behavior, one must first rid oneself of all unnecessary concerns.

In the writings of Chuang-tse, an elderly man was seen being tossed about in the rough waters beneath a massive waterfall. K'ung Fu-tse and his disciples rescue him and ask what secret power the elderly man has, seeing as no man could survive in such harsh waters. "Nothing special," the old man replied. "I began to learn while very young... Now I am certain of success. I go down with the water and come up with the water. I follow it and forget myself. I survive because I don't struggle against the water's superior power. That's all." Taoist principles and fictional bears alike, stress the importance of nothingness and natural law.

It may seem difficult to strike a balance between the engrossing demands of school and nothingness. In reality, it is these moments of empty thought when we might find a greater meaning. Perhaps, some responsibility lies in the hands of our schools to step back from their own protocols and welcome these moments of reflection, to take a moment and appreciate the wonders that surround us. Because sometimes, just being is enough. Sometimes, a pot of honey is all you need.

ANY TIPS?

TEA?

**ANONYMOUS
SUBMISSIONS
ACCEPTED**

TELL YOUR STORY

**NEXT GENERATION WRITERS JOIN
THE DISPATCH
2019-2020**

**WE WANT YOUR
TALENT
LET YOUR VOICE
FOR HEARD,
WRITE FOR THE
DISPATCH**

GENERATION Z: WHAT'S ON THEIR MINDS?



PHOEBE WALTER (18)



MICHAEL REED (17)



BRITNEY GUARDADO (17)

LUCAS KELLY

Generation Z is set to be the largest generation ever to come to adult age, projected to inhabit one-third of the total US population by 2020. This generation is defined to be those born between the mid 1990s to the mid-2010s. The coming-of-age generation is often described to be more financially conscious, valuing stability and entrepreneurship, while widely appreciating diversity, and social policies such as gay marriage. Generation Z came to age during the 2008 financial crisis and many have never seen a country not at war or a phone in their hand. Generation Z is the last of the alphabetical names coined. The Dispatch caught up with 5 young faces to talk about their concerns and aspirations going into the adult world.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST STRUGGLE AT THE MOMENT?

"Right now my biggest struggle is figuring out what I want to do in my life, like I feel that there is a lot of pressure from people around me to make that decision. I don't really know what I want to do, but that gap is closing where I need to decide where I want to go, what I want to do with my life. That is my biggest stress factor."

Michael Reed (17)

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WORRY MOST ABOUT GOING INTO THE ADULT WORLD?

"What if I don't like my job. What I want to do right now is the medical field but I don't know if I'm going to like it you know. Because what if I go to college for it and I hate it. That will be a waste of time and money."

Britney Guardado (16)

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU THINK ABOUT GOING TO BED AND WAKING UP IN THE MORNING, ITS ALWAYS ON YOUR MIND?

"Everyday I think about how in 20 years New York City is going to be under-water and no one is doing anything about it."

Michael Reed (17)

WHAT IS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE, YOU THINK, OUR GENERATION WILL FIX?

"Our environment is something our generation has to step up and take action on. Because we are a species harming ourselves and the ecosystems we share, with our actions and the carbon footprint we are leaving behind. We are not thinking about the animals we live in harmony with. We must develop more sustainable ways to do everyday things. Our time is now."

Phoebe Walters (18)

WHAT IS A POLITICAL ISSUE YOU ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT?

"I would say women's access to abortion. It seems around the country we are losing the idea that abortion is a personal issue. Abortion should not be decided by the government. End of story. I feel men wouldn't like it if women made their decisions. It's only fair."

Yaniris Tavarez (16)



YANIRIS TAVAREZ (16)

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WHAT IS YOUR DREAM IN LIFE?

“My dream is to make an impact on someone’s life the way many teachers and friends have onto me. So, I want to be an elementary education teacher with special ed. I want to be in an area where I can help kids...I want help them get started and to have a positive outlook on life. To teach them that they too can do things they think they cannot.”

Phoebe Walters (18)



FINN MALONE (18)

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT MAKES GENERATION Z UNIQUE?

“I feel like we are an experimental group because, as a society, we really don’t know the long-term effects of what smoking these carts does to our bodies. That goes for the phones as well. What ever happens to us will be recorded to improve the generations after us.”

Britney Guardado (17)

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE FOR GENERATION Z?

“Too many people are too head-strong about their opinions and it’s less of a compromise for us. It’s opinions clashing and not enough time to just sit down and say that we actually have more similar ideas than we thought. Its political division, cancel culture, and call out culture, where you have to be a saintly person or else. We need to sit down and talk about it civilly.”

Finn Malone (18)

WHAT ARE SOME ICONIC CULTURAL ASPECTS FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD THAT DEFINE GENERATION Z?

“My favorite show growing up was ‘That’s so Raven’, I just liked her out-going, fun, light-hearted personality. The show was very genuine, I think. I think it kinda shaped me, because I like to be groofy but I know when to be serious, lol”

Phoebe Walters (18)

MEET YOUR PRESIDENT: DANIELA RAMOS

DANIELA RAMOS

Twenty-six months ago I came to Huntington High School. Since arriving in Huntington, I have taken every opportunity to make a difference. Leaving my country and coming to a new home with a whole different culture and different language was very hard for me. Adapting to a new world is one of the most challenging things for any teenager. This school year I have been involving myself with many clubs to prove to other people that anyone, no matter their background, can make an impact in their community. Anyone has the opportunity to be someone and I decided to become an instrument for change. It is very hard and cliche, but anything is possible if you try.

I committed myself to do

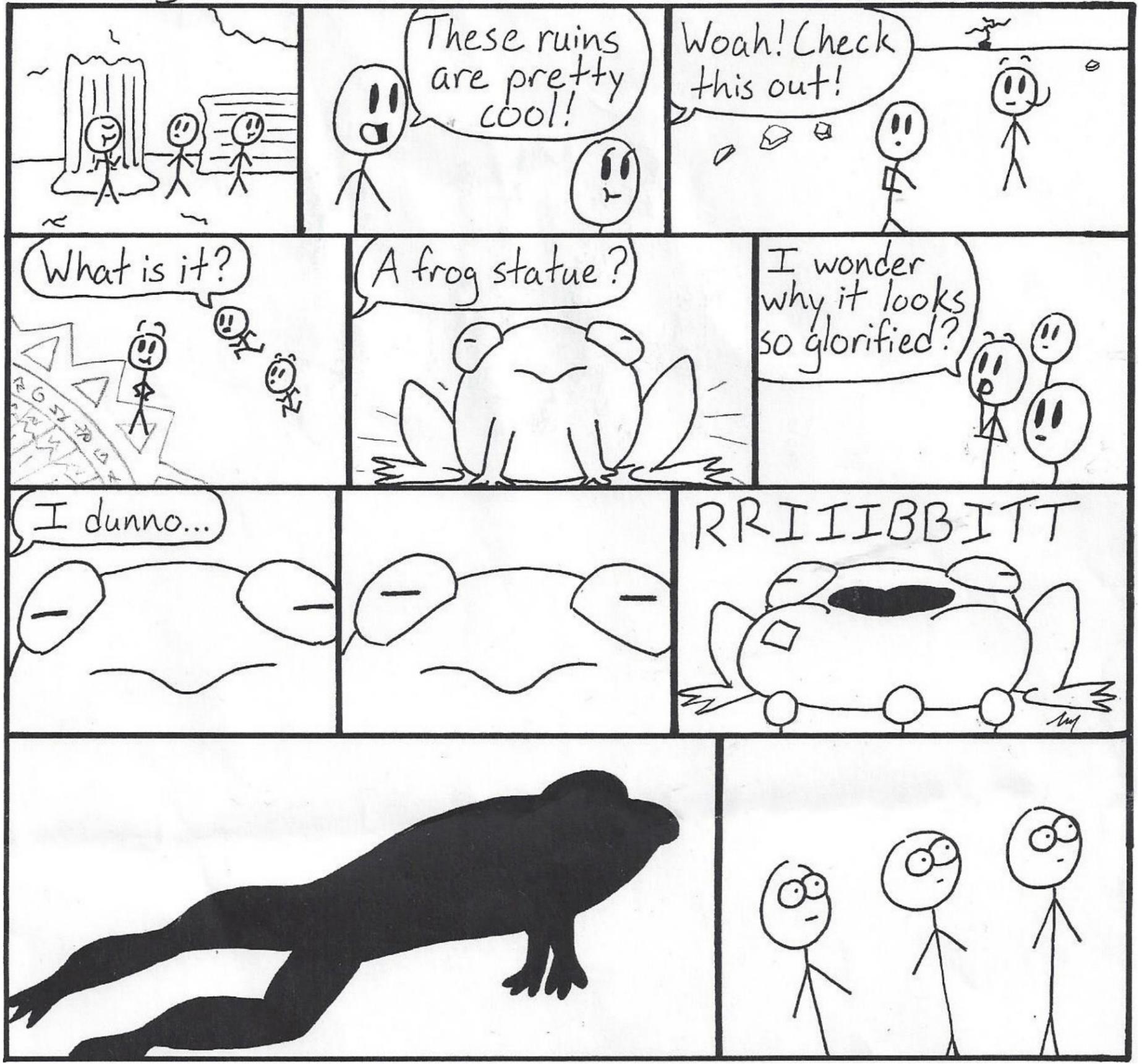
something that I would have never done before, run for office. I decided that I wanted to be a bigger part of the Huntington community. I’m a student, a teenager, and I’m in the same classes as every other student and I know how it feels. I ran because I wanted to represent students like me, to show kids that anything is possible, to change the culture behind student government, and make the community more welcoming.

Now that I’m the president of the 2020 class, I want this community to prosper in all possible aspects, We must include all students from every group to come together and contribute to the common community. I feel a great commitment to represent my class, I want to work together, I want to learn about all of our talents and share them without judging

our differences. I am honored to hold your trust and with all my heart I want to tell all of you guys that I believe in you. Thank all of you for believing in me. I invite all of you guys to change the world. We are the school and as difficult as it is sometimes, it is all up to us. Restore the community, to give the importance and respect our school deserves.

**COME TO OUR
CLASS MEETINGS
SPEAK YOUR MIND
ROOM 014
MRS TYREE’S
TUESDAYS AFTER SCHOOL
2019-2020**

FROG BY JAMES KRETSCHMER

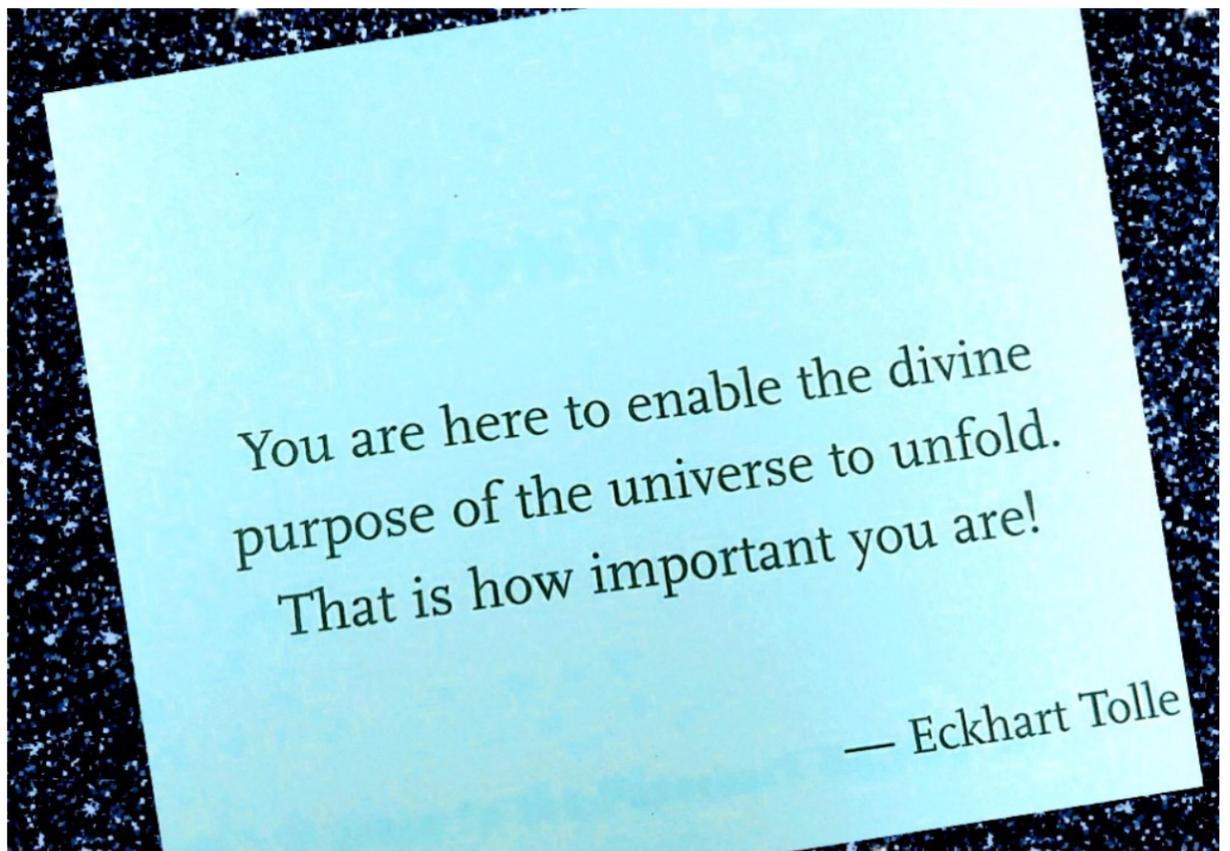


HOW TO MOTIVATE YOURSELF

KAREN AVILA

Sometimes life can be really hard. There are moments when we do not want to do anything, when we have lost inspiration, when we feel that everything is going in the wrong direction, when we need to look up. A little while ago I learned a phrase from my friend. She says "If I ever let my head down, it's to admire my shoes," which means that it does not matter what situation is going on, she will always keep her head high and will never give up. Every time we feel down and have problems it's something nor-

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mal, everyone has them. Life is about overcoming challenges. Think about if everything in life were easy to achieve. Without putting in any effort it would be boring, how could we learn? We learn from mistakes, we learn when we have bad times, in those times we show who we really are. Whether we have courage or not, we learn something that helps us improve as a person. Eckhart Tolle, a spiritual teacher from Germany, wrote an amazing book called "The Power of Now." One chapter says, "All Problems Are Illusions of the Mind." Every word written reveals the truth that we all suffer at some time. He explains that even if we were in paradise, our minds may doubt and contradict themselves. Ultimately, this is not about solving your problems. It's about realizing that there are no problems, only situations to be dealt with. Everything is in our mind and we decide how to handle each situation. What does it matter if we are wrong about something? Mistakes show that at least we tried because in life we never stop learning. If plan A doesn't work, try

plan B. Never give up without a fight. Nothing good comes quickly and it will take time to achieve your goals. However, with hard work, all of your goals will be achieved.

If you see that someone is falling behind in any situation, give them your help, tell them that everything will be fine and to remember that everything happens for a reason. Give them your sincere friend-

**Never stop believing
in your goals because
if you work for it,
one day you will notice
that all sacrifices
are worth it.
Believe in yourself...
You can do it .**

ship. You will see that you feel a sense of satisfaction when you help others. If you are frustrated or stressed because you have so much to do and feel that you can not do it anymore; take everything calmly, breathe, try to organize yourself, be patient and know everything will work

out. If you work hard to achieve it, you will see that you will achieve your goal. Always believe in yourself, you are able to do it. Do not say "but," or doubt yourself. There may be a time when things do not turn out as you expect, but be positive, know that better things will come to your life. Be thankful for everything you have; your family, friends, and life. Remember that you are blessed and you are not alone. Nothing lasts forever so do not get stuck in a difficult situation; be brave, know you can get up, keep your head up, and believe in yourself. You are worth a lot. Remember that you were born for a reason and that there is a plan for your life. Try to be happy because your happiness is your choice. Since you can be happy with the little things in life, never stop smiling no matter what happens, your smile shows that you are strong. Try to change negative thoughts and do not waste your time on them. Never stop believing in your goals because if you work for it, one day you will notice that all sacrifices are worth it. Believe in yourself... You can do it .

A BROKEN SYSTEM

ANDREW MCKENZIE

Ask yourself honestly: do you think the current school system is serving you well? Do you think you would benefit from school starting later? Do you feel as though you don't have time to do the things you enjoy because of the amount of homework you are given? While, the world and the populace within it has been changing for decades, the school system has remained essentially stagnant. Such lack of reform is certainly unsustainable. In recent years student depression rates, sleep deprivation rates, and overall experience have worsened in schools [5]. The education system has now reached a tipping point, and if the trend is allowed to continue, the students within it will be hindered rather than helped. The first thing that must be addressed is the timing of the

school day. The average start time for schools in the US is 7:30-8:00 a.m. The recommended school start time that is advised by the Center for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) and other health organizations is no earlier than 8:30 a.m. So why is it that only 5%

**It seems as though
any time the family
wants to do something,
the answer
is always "I have
work to do."**

of schools meet this standard [10]? Economics. It's easier for schools to rent out one set of busses and have them start at the older grade levels first, and then go to the younger

grades after. Schools run for 6 hours and 30 minutes on average, while additionally, sports practices average 2 hours each day, not including days where they have games or meets. This means that if a child starts school at 7:30 a.m, assuming they do a sport and no other extracurriculars, they can expect to go home, in the best possible scenario, at 4:30 p.m. However, this is a generous estimate, because in my experience one will not get home till 5-5:30 p.m. Starting schools later may lead some to believe that means school will end later as well, however the school system's start time can be reformed, without this effect. If school were to start at 8:30 a.m., and classes were just 5 minutes shorter, with a passing time shorter than 1 minute the time would be made up. While one may think that shortening classes is not the best of ideas,

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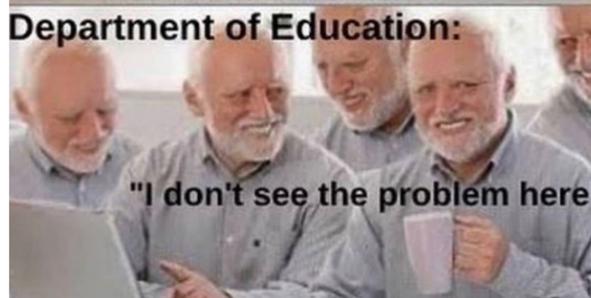
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but in truth, it is. If teachers were more rapid in getting to lessons, the 5 minutes would not be lost, and the system would be more efficient. In addition, if sports started immediately after school ends instead 30 minutes later, then not only could the schools start later, but they could end sooner. Now, you may be thinking that this would simply not be cost effective because of the economics of the bussing system. This too, is a relatively easy fix. The early grade schools from First to Fourth grade should start the earliest, and the high school should start the latest. As of right now, the order is reversed. This is a system that many school districts across the country employ, and truthfully is quite intuitive. What time did you wake up when you were in 1st or 2nd grade? The answer is likely much earlier than you do now. Younger children tend to wake up earlier, have significantly less homework, and little to no extracurriculars after school hours. This means that they would still have plenty of free time and be able to go to bed early. The same cannot be said for the average high school student. They tend to sleep later, have more work after school, and as a result are not able to get the proper amount of sleep as a consequence of the current system.

The start time of schools is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the failures of the current system. The greatest one is the homework situation. As previously mentioned teens in particular don't get enough sleep. But if they are getting home at 5 p.m., why is this happening? The truth lies in the fact that, although you've left school, school has not left you. The average student has 7 classes that administer some form of homework. With most assignments ranging from 25 minutes to 1 hour in completion duration, this adds up to three hours of homework on a minimum night, and even more on a heavy night. Now it is to be said that these numbers range greatly, with some assignments being no more than 10 minutes and others being multiple hours. As depicted by the large amount

of homework, many teachers (though not all) are not being fully considerate of students extracurriculars and sports after school, or don't seem to realize that we have many other classes that give homework besides their own. But even so, if a child gets home at five and has three or so hours of homework, including activities like showering and eating dinner with family, this becomes 9:30 p.m. or later. With kids needing to wake up at about 6 to 6:30 a.m. to go to school, the proper amount of sleep means going to bed at 9:00 p.m. [13]. As you can see, with the current rate of homework it's no wonder that kids don't get enough sleep. This school-induced sleep deprivation is the cause of many health disorders that are on the rise such as obesity and depression [7] [4]. Furthermore, if a student does additional extracurricular activities, or perhaps has a job, a domino effect can occur in which they have less time to do homework, get less sleep, thus getting lower grades. The homework issue also has another caveat. It destroys the family unit. Just a decade ago it was commonplace for children to sit

school makes me depressed
school makes me suicidal
school makes me anxious
school makes me cry
school makes me feel stupid
school makes me sick
school makes me so tired
school makes me sad
school makes me tired
school makes me so stressed



down with their families for dinner and maybe enjoy some after school activities with their family. Now it seems like this is impossible. It seems as though any time the family wants to do something, the answer is always "I have work to do." As a result, many kids these days don't spend time with their parents or siblings because they are simply "too busy." The consequences of this are truly terrible. People will not develop strong familial relationships, become isolated and depressed, and will not receive the guid-

ance and care they need and deserve. It is simply not fair that a student can't sit down at the dinner table with their family to eat and have a discussion without thinking about

Homework should be limited to quick 10 minute assignments aimed at refreshing students memory of what was learned throughout the day, not full assignments.

how much they have to get done, or how little sleep they are going to get. As previously mentioned, the school system will consume itself if this behavior continues. The lack of sleep and less time for family is not an incentive for students to perform well and join advanced classes. In fact, it's a deterrent [6]. Why should a student do their homework if it means being sleep deprived and not spending time with family and friends? Why should a student join honors or AP classes, knowing they will drown in homework? The school system thinks that the way to increase student academic performance is more homework, yet this is fundamentally untrue. Not only does sleep outweigh homework in terms of improving performance, but more homework deters students from good grades and high classroom performance. The homework problem, much like the school start time issue, is not unfixable. In fact, I would argue that there is a simple solution: stop giving homework, at least in the way we define it now. Students spend nearly 7 hours a day learning. Is that not enough? Homework should be limited to quick 10 minute assignments aimed at refreshing students memory of what was learned throughout the day, not full assignments. This would achieve the same goal as homework, and improve the sleep and social lives of students, while still maintaining, if not improving grades.

The problem with the school system is that it simply

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has the wrong solutions to the right problems. The solution to declining grades is not to throw more homework at the problem, but less. The solution to student sleep deprivation is not to start earlier, but later. Yes, the system seems broken, but there is hope that it can be reformed. These issues affect many of the students in our community. Things need to change for the benefit of students and educated individuals, creating a better world all around us.

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LAS PAGINAS EN ESPANOL

SPANISH EDITOR DANIELA RAMOS

COMO MOTIVARTE TU MISMO

KAREN AVILA

A veces la vida puede ser muy dura. Hay momentos en que no queremos hacer nada, cuando hemos perdido la inspiracion, cuando sentimos que todo va en la direccion equivocada, es entonces cuando necesitamos mirar hacia arriba. Hace poco escuche una frase, venia de mi amiga, ella dice: "Si alguna vez bajo mi cabeza, es para admirar mis zapatos." Eso significa que siempre habra situaciones que le provocaran agacharse y quedarse alli, pero sin importar que tan malo sea el momento ella siempre mantendra la cabeza

alta, nunca se rendira. Cada vez que nos sentimos deprimidos y tenemos problemas, es normal, a todos nos pasa. La vida se trata de superar desafios. Imagina que todo en la vida fuese facil de lograr, sin poner el minimo esfuerzo, eso seria aburrido. ¿Como podriamos aprender? Aprendemos de los errores, aprendemos cuando tenemos malos momentos, en esos momentos mostramos quienes somos realmente, si tenemos valor o no; sea como sea siempre aprendemos algo que nos ayuda a mejorar como perso-

CONTINÚA EN LA SIGUIENTE PÁGINA

CONOCE A LA PRESIDENTE: DANIELA RAMOS

DANIELA RAMOS

Veintiseis meses o lugar de origen puede atras yo vine a Huntington High School. Desde que llegue a Huntington he tomado todas las oportunidades posibles para hacer la diferencia. Abandonar mi pais y venir a un nuevo hogar con una cultura e idioma totalmente diferente a lo que conozco ha sido muy dificil. Adaptarse es uno de los mayores retos que cualquier adolescente puede afrontar. Sin embargo este ano escolar me he involucrado en diversos clubes para demostrarle a otros que quien sea, sin importar su cultura

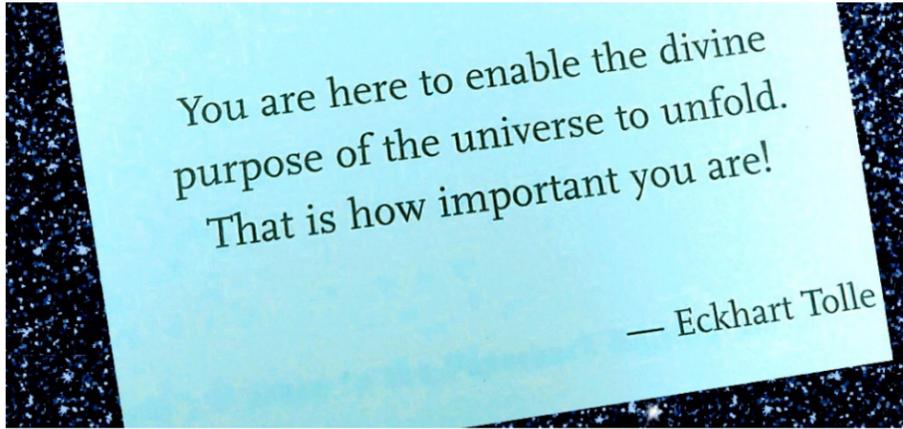
hacer un impacto en su comunidad. Todos tienen la oportunidad de ser alguien, yo decidi ser un instrumento para el cambio. Es dificil, pero todo es posible. Tu no puedes hacer el trabajo que alguien mas esta haciendo, porque tu eres lo que crees que hara el cambio. Teniendo diferentes ideas que otros es la simple prueba de lo valioso que eres en tu unica version.

Despues de crear toda una teoria acerca de ser alguien, me

CONTINÚA EN LA SIGUIENTE PÁGINA

*CONTINÚA DE LA
PÁGINA ANTERIOR*

nas. Eckhart Tolle, es un maestro espiritual alemán, quien escribió un libro titulado "El poder de ahora". De acuerdo al capítulo "Todos los problemas son ilusiones de la mente." cada palabra que Tolle escribió nos dice la verdad que todos sufrimos en algún mo-



mento. El nos dice que:

"Si te encontraras en el paraíso, no lo harías ni lo notarías mucho antes de que tu mente dijera sí, pero..." En última instancia, no se trata de resolver tus problemas. Se trata de darte cuenta de que no hay problemas. Solo situaciones con las que lidiar ahora. Todo está en nuestra mente, decidimos cómo manejar cada situación. ¿Que importa si estamos equivocados en algo? Los errores demuestran que al menos lo estamos intentando, porque en la vida nunca dejamos de aprender. Si el plan A no funciona, intenta el plan B, nunca te rindas fácilmente, nada bueno se consigue rápido, se necesita tiempo para lograr cualquier meta que tengas.

Si ves que alguien está cayendo en cualquier situación, ayúdalo, dile que todo estará bien y recuerda que todo sucede por una razón. Da tu amistad sincera, verás que sientes una sensación de satisfacción cuando ayudas a los demás. Si estás frustrado o es-

tresado porque tienes mucho que hacer y sientes que ya no puedes hacerlo, tomalo con calma, respira trata de organizarte y se paciente. Si te esfuerzas para lograrlo verás que lo conseguirás. Siempre cree en ti mismo pues eres capaz de hacerlo, ya no digas "pero", mejor piensa si llegare a la meta, solo se pa-

ciente. Tal vez habrá un momento en que las cosas no resultan como esperas, pero se positivo, piensa que las mejores cosas llegarán a tu vida. Se agradecido por todo lo que tienes empezando con tu familia, amigos, por la vida y recuerda que estás realmente bendecido de no estar solo. Nada dura para siempre, no te quedes estancado en una situación difícil, se valiente porque puedes levantarte, mantén la cabeza en alto, cree en ti mismo. Tu vales mucho, recuerda que has nacido por alguna razón y que hay un plan para tu vida. Intenta ser feliz porque decides serlo, puedes simplemente ser feliz con las pequeñas cosas de la vida, nunca dejes de sonreír porque sin importar lo que pase, tu sonrisa demuestra que eres fuerte. Trata de cambiar los pensamientos negativos y no pierdas tu tiempo en ellos. Nunca dejes de sonar porque si trabajas para ello algún día te darás cuenta que todos los sacrificios valen la pena. Cree en ti porque tu puedes.

*CONTINÚA DE LA
PÁGINA ANTERIOR*

atreví a hacer algo que quizá antes de esta teoría jamás me hubiese atrevido a hacer, decidí que quería ser parte del presente de Huntington. Soy una estudiante, soy un adolescente, yo estoy en los mismos salones de clase que cualquier otro y se que se siente, soy como tu y quiero formar parte del cambio. Entonces me postulé a la presidencia de mi clase. El proceso fue un trabajo bastante duro, pero he tenido una gran variedad de razones por las cuales debía hacerlo. No me preocupe por cuantos votos iba a tener, pues me pareció más relevante quienes iban a votar quería estar segura que todos lo hicieran. Pues aunque el cambio es propio y comienza con uno necesita de todos para que sea real.

Hoy en día soy la presidenta de la clase 2020 y quiero que todos seamos parte del cambio. Me siento en

**...soy como
tu y quiero
formar parte
del cambio.**

un total compromiso de representar mi clase, quiero que trabajemos juntos, que valoremos todos nuestros defectos y compartamos nuestros talentos, y que sin importar nuestras diferencias seamos una comunidad. Que la diversidad cultural sea festejada y admirada, porque de eso se trata la cultura, de compartirla. Involucrarme con ustedes es una de mis mayores metas, quiero

escucharlos y que me digan que les gustaría que cambie en nuestra escuela. Me siento muy

Me siento muy honrada de que hayan puesto su confianza en mí y de todo corazón les digo que yo creo en cada uno de ustedes sin importar nada. Gracias por creer en mí. Yo les invito a que cambiemos el mundo.

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**VEN A NUESTRAS
REUNIONES DE
CLASE**

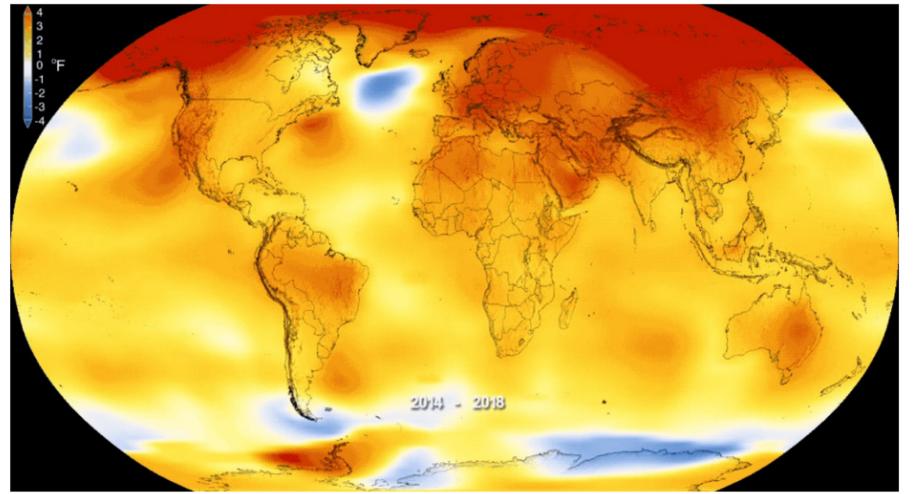
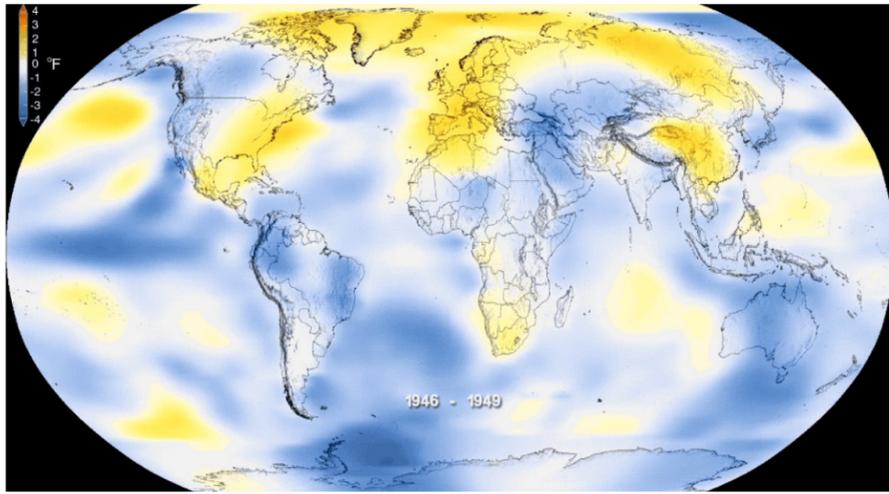
DECIR LO QUE PIENSAS

**SALON DE CLASE 014
SENORA TYREE'S**

**LOS MARTES
DESPUES DE ESCUELA**

2019-2020

NUESTRO PLANETA ESTA ENFERMO



ERIK FLORES REYES

Humanitario, es una palabra que se utiliza a menudo para expresar un sentimiento de benevolencia y generosidad. Nuestras ciudades modernas se han visto muy influenciadas por los servicios del pasado que nos han llevado a confiar en los automoviles y en internet. Existen tendencias tremendas que indican que estamos en una crisis, pero estamos haciendo poco para disminuir estos problemas que podrian causar el colapso de nuestra biodiversidad. La acidificacion de nuestros oceanos y lagos, la deforestacion de autotrofos en las selvas tropicales y otros biomas importantes, la extincion masiva de la vida silvestre y la contaminacion, son signos de que nuestro planeta esta enfermo. Por lo tanto, la palabra "humanitario" ha cambiado su significado a cruel y repugnante.

Muchos factores han contribuido al problema de la contaminacion mundial que nos ha atacado gravemente. Algunos de estos tipos de contaminacion incluyen la contaminacion de aire, tierra y agua. La presencia de estos factores en nuestra biosfera puede tener efectos de gran alcance. Por ejemplo, cuando decidimos ir en automovil al trabajo o la escuela, contribuimos a la contaminacion del aire y la tierra. La quema de combustibles fosiles que provienen de los medios de transporte diarios libera gases peligrosos como hidrocarburo, monoxido de carbono y opxido de nitrogeno. Estas pequenas particulas dispersas en nuestra atmosfera pueden bloquear los rayos infrarrojos, por lo que mantienen a la tierra mas caliente de lo normal, y esto es debido a la abundancia de sustancias quimicas y gases que se encuentran en la atmosfera. Algunos

oxidos de nitrogeno (los emitidos a la atmosfera por la quema de combustibles fosiles, cigarrillos, gases de escape de vehiculos y plantas de energia electrica), pueden impactar de manera negativa al entrar en contacto con los rayos ultravioleta, por lo que generan niebla fotoquimica. La niebla fotoquimica puede afectar nuestra salud o incluso exterminarnos si estamos expuestos a el durante un lapso de tiempo prolongado.

El consumo masivo y los desechos plasticos, son tambien un problema que han aumentado la destruccion de nuestra biodiversidad. La mayoria de los residuos de plastico no se reciclan y las centrales nucleares que generan residuos solidos pueden danar la vida en nuestro planeta creando inestabilidad. "9.1 billones de toneladas de plastico se han producido en Estados Unidos desde que se introdujo el plastico en la decada de 1950" (Earth Day Network). Estas particulas de plastico van a parar a nuestros oceanos y son una amenaza para la vida acuatica. Sin embargo, esto no significa que no estemos en peligro. Cuando los animales en el oceano ingieren quimicos y plastico, las toxinas entran a nuestro cuerpo al consumirlos. La pesca excesiva y la caza han reducido la biodiversidad, y hay animales que incluso se encuentran expuestos a enfermedades comunes que sin duda pueden afectarles. Debido a que somos parte de un ecosistema, la naturaleza tambien nos afecta cuando los animales se encuentran en peligro de extincion. Para aumentar el problema, las plantas de energia electrica utilizan agua de los lagos y oceanos para enfriarse, devuelven el agua del lago a otros cuerpos de agua de manera termica y reducen los niveles de oxigeno en la hidrosfera. Ademas, factores adicionales

les contribuyen a la acidificacion de nuestros oceanos, como cuando el oxido de azufre y el nitrogeno se combinan con el agua evaporada. Cuando ocurre la precipitacion, el agua regresa a la tierra como lluvia acida, que tiene un nivel de pH mas bajo que el de la agua neutral (Por debajo de 7). La lluvia acida puede danar muchas clases de organismos entre ellos los acuaticos y hasta incluso los bosques. Todo esto contribuye a la destruccion de nuestra diversidad y de la tierra.

El crecimiento exponencial de nuestra civilizacion no significa que tengamos mejores posibilidades de sobrevivir. Al igual que muchos otros animales que forman parte de un ecosistema, tenemos un limite que pronto alcanzaremos. Nuestro numero de poblacion en 2019 es de 7.7 Billones; a medida que nuestra poblacion ha aumentado, nuestra necesidad de recursos naturales y habitats tambien han aumentado. La demanda de materias primas nos han llevado a la disminucion de otras poblaciones de las que dependemos, como el pescado, la miel y los arboles. Aunque las algas producen oxigeno en el mar, hay demasiado dióxido de carbono en la atmosfera, por lo que necesitamos arboles para deshacernos de los gases nocivos.

Sin embargo, podemos hacer mucho para disminuir el impacto que estos materiales estan teniendo en la naturaleza. Por ejemplo, podemos reutilizar toda clase de material plastico convirtiendo todo en algo util, como por ejemplo sillas, viviendas y hasta juguetes para ninos. Esta adaptacion beneficiaria tanto a la vida humana como a la animal. Tambien podriamos reducir la cantidad de plastico que se usa todos los das al elegir usar frascos de vidrio.

CONTINÚA EN LA SIGUIENTE PÁGINA

*CONTINÚA DE LA
PÁGINA ANTERIOR*

La opción de comer verduras o frutas, en lugar de papas fritas o carne envueltas en plástico, podemos mejorar nuestra nutrición y reducir la contaminación de la tierra y el agua. Al elegir viajar menos y utilizar vehículos industriales, podemos reducir la cantidad de gases que se suman al efecto invernadero y acabar con el calentamiento global. Estas opciones detendrían el derretimiento de los glaciares y disminuirían la vaporización del agua, reduciendo las posibilidades de tormentas y tornados catastróficos. Además, también podemos elegir líderes que están dispuestos a reducir el

calentamiento global. Los candidatos que se postulan para un cargo distinguido deberían tener como requisito contribuir a la creación de leyes que preserven la vida silvestre. Estos son factores de los cuales dependemos. En lugar de preocuparnos por la emigración en todo el mundo o tratar de encontrar vida en diferentes planetas, deberíamos hacer que el calentamiento global se conozca como una crisis importante y preocuparnos primero por nuestro propio planeta. Esto se debe al hecho de que lo hemos enfermado. Recuerda, tenemos el poder de detener la degeneración de nuestra propia civilización y los animales, pero es tu decisión hacer lo correcto o

lo incorrecto, lo que dane o no al planeta.

“Fact Sheet: End Plastic Pollution | Earth Day Network.” 7 Mar. 2018, <https://www.earthday.org/2018/03/07/fact-sheet-end-plastic-pollution/>. Accessed 3 Jun. 2019.



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has great thematic focuses and struggles for the characters, making it an enjoyable and yet somehow not drawn out movie, despite its above average run time of 3 hours and 2 minutes. These factors along with the presence of different Marvel characters from normally separate storylines interacting with one another creates a grandiose and awe-inspiring attitude that pushes the movie along at a brisk pace. My final thoughts on the movie is that it hit every expected mark and went over the top in its peripheral uses including music, sound design, and effects, leaving no one disappointed. I am looking forward to their necessary build up to the next major villain.



WHAT'S GOOD WITH JAMES CHARLES?

JUILA GILES

To answer that question and explain why he's important in the first place, let's talk about James Charles. Charles is a famous beauty Youtuber (i.e. Youtuber who specializes in makeup for the uninformed) and online influencer. Despite having a variety of controversies in the past, Charles remained popular among a mostly young, female demographic. And when I say popular, I mean P O P U L A R. At his channel's highest point, it had 16.6 million subscribers, with a total of 1.6 billion views. He's also collaborated with a variety of mainstream celebrities, including (but not limited to) Iggy Azalea, Kylie Jenner, and Kim Kardashian. Charles has a net worth of 12 million thanks to his beauty product sales and his YouTube revenue. He even attended the Met Gala this year. James Charles is, or at least was, the biggest beauty Youtuber on the site.

Recently, Charles's fame and reputation quickly took a turn for the worse. This downfall all started with some seemingly petty drama with former mentor and long-time beauty Youtuber, Tati Westbrook. Westbrook runs a company called Halo Beauty Inc., which sells vitamin supplements. On April 22nd, Charles started to advertise vitamins for SugarBearHair,

a direct competitor of Westbrook's. Westbrook later posted a lengthy, teary-eyed Instagram video about how she felt “used” and “betrayed.” Despite never mentioning Charles by name, fans quickly put two-and-two together, as Westbrook and her husband James (a different James, don't worry), had taken on a close parental role for Charles during his rise to fame. Charles posted a written apology to Westbrook on his Instagram, and for a few weeks everything stayed quiet. That is, until May 10, 2019.

On that date, Westbrook uploaded a 43-minute-long video titled “BYE SISTER...” that heavily criticized much of Charles's past behavior, including his aforementioned “betrayal” with SugarBearHair after she had done so much for him. The most notable (and prevalent) of these criticisms were accusations that Charles had been “manipulating people's sexuality” and “using...fame, power, and money to play with people's emotions.” (“YouTube star James Charles loses 2m subscribers after row with fellow vlogger”. Sky News. Retrieved 2019-05-12). Charles is openly gay, but has admitted being into “straight” guys and often jokes about pursuing them. Westbrook and many others have said that Charles's behavior is more than just a joke, and that his aggressive flirting with straight and “bi-curious” men

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was predatory in nature. Westbrook brings up one situation in which Charles persistently flirted with a waiter even after Westbrook told him that he was straight (Westbrook, Tati. "BYE SISTER..." , Youtube, May 10, 2019). Later that day, Charles posted an apology video simply "tati." (Lowercase lettering is used by Charles). In the eight-minute video, Charles apologizes to Westbrook and her husband for everything he put them through. He also addresses the "boy situation" and his regrets over putting his love life in the public eye. ". . . I've learned the hard way about ways that



I can interact with boys that I'm interested in and also the ones I should and shouldn't be talking to," Charles stated. The apology video was not well received, becoming one of the top 10 most disliked videos on Youtube (Capon, Laura (2019-05-12). "James Charles has lost 2million YouTube subscribers in 3 days" . Cosmopolitan. Retrieved 2019-05-12.). To make matters worse, the next day, singer Zara Larson revealed in a now-deleted tweet that Charles had "hit up [her] boyfriend in the DMs several times knowing damn well he's straight." (Wright, Susty Baxter. "Zara Larsson publicly apologises to James Charles for claiming he slid into her boyfriend's DMs" , Cosmopolitan, May 23, 2019).

The backlash against Charles was almost instantaneous as well as devastating to his career. In the 24 hours after "BYE SISTER..." was uploaded, Charles lost over 1 million subscribers, setting the Youtube record for the highest sub count loss ever ("jamescharles YouTube Stats, Channel Statistics - Socialblade.com" . socialblade.com. Retrieved 2019-05-11.). By May 15th, Charles's 16.6 million followers dwindled down to a total of 13.4 million, only recovering slightly in the days that followed. Meanwhile, Westbrook gained 4 million subscribers during the week after her video was uploaded and as of May 21st, had reached a sub count of 10 million. Many fans "canceled" Charles in response to the drama. This reaction was fueled by more videos and Youtubers accusing him of predatory behavior. Jeffree Star, a beauty Youtuber and long-time collaborator/business partner with Charles, stated in separate tweets that he was a "predator" and a "danger to society." In addition, Star revealed that his boyfriend, Nathan, had banned Charles from their house.

In response to the near universal hate he was receiving, Charles released a follow-up video on May 18th that, evidently, debunked many

of Westbrook and Star's accusations. Entitled "No More Lies," the 42-minute "call-out" post showcased an overabundance of screenshots that supported his side of the story. For the SugarBearHair situation, Charles had claimed that he had only taken on the deal with them because the company provided security for him at Coachella. Westbrook claimed that this was total BS, but his text screenshots with the company prove that he was telling the truth. A previously posted text conversation between him and Nikita Dragun, another beauty Youtuber, seemingly confirms this story, as she was the one who hooked up Charles and SugarBearHair because he was "getting attacked" at the music event (Lundgren, Amanda. "A Detailed Timeline of That James Charles/Tati Westbrook Drama" , Cosmopolitan, May 20, 2019). The allegations that Charles tried to manipulate the waiter's sexuality were also debunked, due to the fact that the waiter, Sam, told Charles that he was indeed bisexual and the interactions they had with each other were "100 percent consensual." It was also revealed that Westbrook, who previously stated that she tried to intervene in Charles's flirting, was actually encouraging Charles to hook up with the waiter. In response to Zara Larsson's accusation, Charles said that he "dm-ed" him only once because he didn't know that he had a girlfriend. Additionally, Charles points out that Larsson met her boyfriend by dming him on Twitter, and this action was only seen as "predatory" when he, a gay man, did it. At the end of the video, Charles states that he's upset with how far the internet has taken this situation, but gives Westbrook and Star some leeway and commended them for trying to stop the drama. Westbrook had taken down the "BYE SISTER..." video and has repeatedly expressed regret on social media for starting this in the first place (Boan, Daniel (2019-05-21). "A complete timeline of James Charles and Tati Westbrook's explosive feud that tore their relationship apart" . Business Insider. Retrieved 2019-05-27.). While Star, initially hostile against "No More Lies," admitted that he got too emotional and apologized for his accusations as well as now-deleted tweets. Charles accepted both of their apologies in an official tweet, and all three have seemed to have agreed to move on from this. Through this conflict, Westbrook and Star have joined Charles in being on the receiving end of internet-wide criticism. Westbrook has been accused of pushing stereotypes of gay men, and Star being accused of being a hypocrite due to various instances in which he made sexual comments and advances on straight men, despite accusing Charles of the same thing and degrading him for it.

To put it nicely, his entire situation has been a giant trainwreck. From records being broken in all the wrong ways, to the mainstream attention it received outside the YouTube community, the drama surrounding Charles has sparked debate and discussion for a variety of modern-day issues. Fans and non-fans alike were quick to note that, despite making racist and transphobic comments in the past, many people only decided to cancel Charles when it came out that he, a

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comments in the past, many people only decided to cancel Charles when it came out that he, a gay man, was allegedly bothering straight men. Others have noted that “cancel culture” as a whole is incredibly toxic and perhaps a little too trigger happy. Most dropped Charles like a hot potato before any real evidence was used to support either side of the story. The drama itself ended up consuming and tarnishing the careers of everyone involved. Even if Tati Westbrook is the only real “winner” here with her millions of new subscribers, any accusation she makes in the future will most likely be met with heavy skepticism, regardless of its merit. This says nothing of Star and Charles though, who will most likely be facing a steep uphill battle to regain trust from non-dedicated fans (Charles perhaps less so, as he has a relatively young audience, and Star is a long-time Youtuber whose fan-base is older and will definitely

find it harder to excuse his behavior). Charles himself, despite receiving some mild vindication from “cancelling” his accusers, received major blows to his reputation and career. Charles had to cancel his sold-out “Sisters Tour” because of the controversy (Garvey, Marianne, “James Charles cancels upcoming tour following Tati Westbrook feud”, CNN, May 27, 2019.), and the internet is still merciless when regarding his content and behavior. It’s debatable whether or not this is deserved, as the accusations of sexual harassment have not been deemed valid or invalid. Remember, there were multiple other complaints from Westbrook and others about Charles’ s behavior, not just the waiter and Larson stories. With the drama’ s anticlimactic ending (for now), only time will tell if this controversy will have any lasting impact on the participants’ careers, or even the YouTube community as a whole.

WHAT WILL BE THE SONG OF SUMMER?

KIARA GELBMAN

It’s that time of year again! Summer. Are you ready to soak up the sun? I know I am. As we see summer just around the corner, excitement builds for fun festivities. Whether you have any concert plans or just love listening to music, the question in all of our minds is what will be the song of the summer?

Last year during the summer of 2018, Drake’s, “In My Feelings,” held the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart for over two months. I don’t know about you but I haven’t forgotten the “In My Feelings Challenge,” where people got out of their cars to dance to this bop. We still hear “Despacito,” by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee featuring Justin Bieber, in many music mixes today. This hit topped the charts for nearly the entire Summer ‘17.

Will one of these fan favorites return to win another song of the summer? Or will we see a new face? I asked Huntington High School students what their song of the summer predictions were and I received an array of answers! Some predicted the return of Daddy Yankee to our summers top charts with his song, “Con Calma.” Others stressed the idea of a country song like “Old Town Road” by Lil Nas featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, which has already topped the charts for much time leading up to the summer. Being in the generation who watched Disney channel and lived for a camp experience like that of “Camp Rock,” we were ecstatic by the return of the Jonas Brothers. Whether your favorite is Joe, Nick, Kevin or Frankie, after hearing “Sucker,” we all want to know if they can climb to the top of the charts yet again. Two fan favorites, Ed Sheeran and Justin Bieber, dropped “I Don’t Care,” early summer ‘19. We’ve all been listening to it, but can it remain at the top?

While these frontrunners may predominate our playlists so far, many amazing artists have set release dates for new albums that could completely change the charts. Will Billie Eilish, Chance the Rapper or another awesome artist drop a surprise single or album this summer? I cannot predict the future but we will know soon. Be sure to stay tuned as songs of the summer continue to shake the souls of the nation and beyond.



Billie Eilish’s “Bad Guy”



Lil Nas X’s “Old Town Road”