

THE Grauer Gazette

No. 10

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024

The Grauer School

“Grauer Crime Report” (Satirical Commentary)

By Anonymous

Forwarded herewith is the official **classified** report of the 2023 Evasive Vandal (or possible vandals?), who effortlessly avoided the Dean Team from punishment for their December █ attack on the bathroom walls.

What we do not know: Motive? Is this a crime-seeking adrenaline junkie? Or was there possible peer pressure at play?

What we know: On the morning of █ a Grauer faculty member stumbled across a truly astonishing site: a GRAUER student MISBEHAVED?! There, written across the wall, █

Grauer staff are not ones to jump to conclusions, but an inside source reveals that teacher █ said they think █ is the culprit, alongside their sidekick, █. After all, the two are never seen without each other.

This reporter finds it is typical-

ly quite easy to convince the █ class to throw each other under the bus. However, this time they decided to keep their mouths shut. Except for █, who did not hesitate to reveal that █ did it.*

*It should be mentioned that the account mentioned above is hearsay and no proof is available to confirm this source’s story.

Out of ten randomly polled students: zero believe the culprit/s were from ninth grade, six believe they were from tenth grade, one believes they were from eleventh grade, and finally three report they think the vandal/s belong to the twelfth grade.

In addition to getting a better grasp of the student’s perception of the Grauer grade levels, this reporter also came to a new realization. While the Grauer facility addressed the case of vandalism at

assembly, many students had completely forgotten about it by the time this journalist went around conducting interviews. After all, had this happened at SDA or LCC, would anyone even notice another marking appeared on the wall? Probably not.

Another anonymous interviewee, present on the scene at the time of the crime, reported that the suspect allegedly conceptualized the idea in the moment, starting with a distracted giggle, and ending with a secret they will carry with them until the day they graduate...or to the grave.

Though, truth be told, we might never know who decided to disgrace the hallowed halls of the Grauer School... unless they choose to reveal themselves, and offer a full confession and a heartfelt apology.

Reckless Review

By Gavin M.

Less than two weeks into the New Year, Grauer’s Drama Department launched its inaugural performance of the play *Reckless*. Originally published in 1985 by American playwright Craig Lucas, *Reckless* is a highly experimental play adorned with countless unexpected twists.

Set primarily during the holiday season, *Reckless* follows the story of Rachel Fitzsimmons, an effervescent and endlessly optimistic wife who, above all else, loves Christmas. However, this uplifting and gingerbread-glazed time quickly dissipates when Rachel’s husband, Tom, takes a hit out on her life. On the run, Rachel accepts a ride from a stranger named Elle, who takes her home to meet her paraplegic deaf-mute girlfriend, Pooty. The three characters develop a makeshift family until the secrets they’re all running from catch up to them.



Helmed by a strong supporting Grauer cast, Adele F. (11) and Charlotte J. (9), starred as Rachel, each offering a captivating performance in the role. The play was delivered in a non-traditional theater-in-the-round style, which gave the performance a more immersive feel overall. When asked why this year’s production of *Reckless* stands out from previous Grauer performances, Lily T. (12), who plays Elle, said, “I think this play is exciting because of the layers to the narrative. There

are so many moments in the show where people come up to me afterwards and tell me about little details they noticed that I didn’t recognize at the time. The play is definitely absurd, but the narrative thread feels well-constructed as it runs through the show linking the events together. It feels down to earth, despite the insanity of what’s happening.” Similarly, the director Erin Langen stated her favorite part of the process was “finding characters...finding motivation...[and] finding objective... that’s what this play is. Because it’s absurd, you’ve got to dissect it. It’s not just people saying random words. There are reasons why they’re saying these words.” Through the glitzy, gun-slinging, and humanitarian embezzling story, Grauer’s *Reckless* delivers an absurdist yet deeply authentic appeal to simplicity in a chaotic world.

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Godzilla Minus One Review

By Lily T.

I have always been told that I talk too much during movies. I have a very short attention span, meaning it takes a very special film to get me to shut up for even half of the story.

Let it be a testament to how genius *Godzilla: Minus One* is, then, that I was dead silent from the moment the monster appeared onscreen until the end of the film's two hour runtime.

The main character of the film is Koichi Shikishima, a kamikaze pilot who encounters the monster during an emergency landing on Odo Island in the middle of World War II. He falters at the last second before shooting at the monster, leading to the deaths of all the crewmen on the island except for one. He returns home in disgrace- it was a great shame at the time for a kamikaze pilot to return alive. Even after the war ends, Shikishima is haunted by his perceived failures. His trauma prevents him from truly connecting with the girl he has feelings for, as well as the child she rescued from the rubble. He gets a job as a minesweeper with three other men, including former naval scientist Kenji Noda. Godzilla returns, mutated to become even stronger than before due to America's nuclear testing in Bikini Atoll. The government refuses to acknowledge the danger so as to avoid panic. This leaves Shikishima, Noda, and a group of civilians who survived the war as the only people standing between Godzilla and the complete destruction of Japan.

My favorite thing about monster movies besides the special effects, of course) is the way the monster is used as an allegory. The original *Godzilla* film was released about six years after the bombing of Hiroshima. Godzilla was originally awoken from its dormant state by the excess radiation from the atom bomb; it is a creature meant to represent the anxiety of nuclear war and its effects.

It is extremely difficult, as an American viewer, to watch the scenes of people screaming and running for their lives from the fallout of the nuclear explo-

sions. There are scenes of scientists doing radiation testing while families try to break through the barricade to find the bodies of their loved ones. Common settings are town halls where throngs of people try to locate their displaced family members, crowded hospital rooms, and rubble as far as the eye can see. This movie almost feels like a war film first, a monster movie second.

It is also the rare monster movie to actually tackle PTSD, survivor's guilt, and depression, for a truly emotional and in-depth experience. We see Shikishima break down multiple times, wanting to die as both penance and relief from his shame over causing the deaths of all those men on Odo Island. He seeks to destroy not just Godzilla, but also himself.

It is common in action movies for the heroes to sacrifice themselves for the cause. Suicide is honorable, if done to save others. This movie subverts that completely, as evidenced in Noda's speech during the climax of the film. "Come to think of it, this country has treated life far too cheaply... That's why this time I'd take pride in a citizen-led effort that sacrifices no lives at all. This next battle is not one waged to the death, but a battle to live for the future."

The message of the movie is that above all else, live on. The human drama of this story makes it feel so much more captivating- you truly relate and cheer for the characters as they fall and get back up again.

All of this is not to say, however, that the monster elements aren't incredible. They are. The CGI used in this film is extraordinary; Godzilla looks so awe inspiring that I had my hands over my mouth in shock for the first ten minutes he was on screen. I love Godzilla so much, and this iteration is definitely one of the best onscreen in a long time.

It doesn't matter if monster movies aren't your cup of tea. It doesn't matter if war movies aren't always your cup of tea. It doesn't even matter if you don't like subtitled movies. If you like powerful storytelling and expert cinematography, you will see *Godzilla Minus One*.



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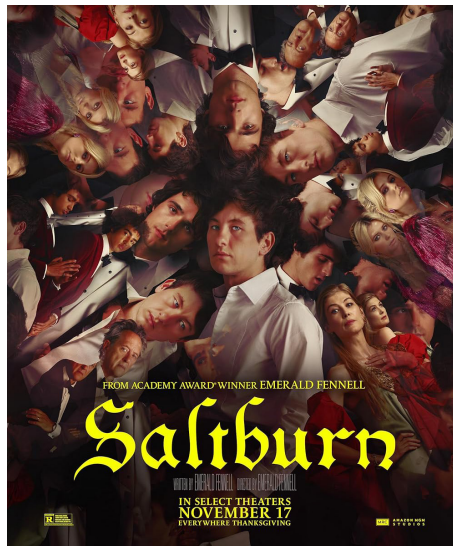
Saltburn; “Eat the Rich” or Envy Them?

By Adele F.

Saltburn, directed by Emerald Fennell, is a cinematic masterpiece that seamlessly blends a talented cast, stunning cinematography, and a gripping plot. Fennell, known for her exceptional storytelling in *Promising Young Woman*, once again delivers a captivating narrative that keeps viewers on the edge of their seats. The film sparked quite a controversy, with its enticing and sometimes horrifying plot. The following article will delve into the shocking events that take place throughout the film. Oxford University student Oliver Quick, portrayed by Barry Keoghan, grapples with his identity. His journey takes a twist when he encounters the charming and aristocratic Felix Catton, played by Jacob Elordi. Drawn into Felix's world, Oliver receives an invitation to *Saltburn*, the sprawling estate of Felix's eccentric family. However, this seemingly idyllic summer takes a sinister turn.

As the Catton family initially warms up to Oliver, his true intentions gradually reveal a darker side. Oliver had previously painted a painful picture of his home life, citing his father's recent death and his mother's struggles with addiction and poverty. The story takes a shocking and unexpected turn when Felix discovers

that Oliver's parents are in fact alive and well, and the family has a middle-class background. This revelation disgusts Felix, unraveling the web of lies Oliver has spun. In the aftermath of Oliver's exposed lies, Felix orders him to leave *Saltburn* after Oliver's birthday celebration that night. The subsequent day delivers a chilling discovery; Felix is found dead in the castle's unbelievable maze. The tragic story continues with Venetia (Felix's sister) taking her own life. Despite the mother's desire for Oliver to stay, their father, James, pays Oliver to leave *Saltburn* permanently.



Years later, with James's passing, Oliver reconnects with Elspeth, the mother. However, the reunion takes a startling turn when it is unveiled that Oliver orchestrated every intricate detail of his involvement with the fall of the Catton family. From their initial meeting to Felix's poisoning and influencing Venetia's tragic decision, Oliver was behind it all. Elspeth, now on her deathbed, reveals that she has signed over her assets to Oliver. Seizing this opportunity, Oliver removes her from life support, inheriting all of *Saltburn*. Now residing in the castle, Oliver is the mastermind behind every tragic death.

The movie has a captivating ending that allows the viewer to choose the takeaway. As the credits roll, we are confronted with a profound ending that makes it challenging to definitively categorize the film. A straightforward commentary on “eating the rich” or a portrayal of intense envy towards the privileged? Emerald Fennell deliberately crafts an ending that invites speculation and contemplation. The intricacies of the character's motives, particularly Oliver Quick's, provide a variety of interpretations, making it a cinematic experience that lingers in the mind long after the screen fades to black.

Anyone But You Review

By Gabby C.

A romantic comedy that is currently being shown in theaters, *Anyone But You*, has become extremely popular. When the two ghost each other for an extended amount of time, and unexpectedly find out that they are both invited to the same wedding, things start to get interesting. This rom-com is the perfect movie to watch on a night out with friends or even a date night with your significant other. If you are looking for a movie to watch where you can feel the wholesomeness and build up to love, *Anyone But You* is the perfect movie for you. I watched *Anyone But You* with friends, and we all loved the movie very much. My favorite aspect of this movie was that there

was never a point where you feel bored or disinterested. I have never been interested in rom-com movies, but after watching *Anyone But You*, I have found a love for this genre. This movie has left people with such differing opinions, but I was very pleased with the storyline, comedy, and pure joy felt throughout the movie experience. One of my favorite parts of the movie was at the very end when Ben and Bea expressed their true feelings for each other. This was just one of the many wholesome moments from the movie. The feeling *Anyone But You* leaves you with after leaving the movie theater is just pure happiness and joy.



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Op-Ed: Etiquette of Covering True Crime

By Gavin M.

On January 17th, 1965, readers from all across the world came upon a type of writing many had never before seen. Neatly stacked on store shelves, the infamous novel, *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote, sat, waiting to be discovered. While not the inventor of the true-crime genre, Truman Capote's infamous *In Cold Blood* forever cemented the distinctly human gravitation towards the morose and mysterious. Today, true-crime stories are more popular and accessible than ever, with thousands of chilling tales available at the touch of a button. However, covering this intricate genre presents many moral and legal complexities for those reporting it.

The main difference between true crime and other widespread literary genres is that true crime covers real lives that can be forever impacted by biased and unbelievable narratives. For journalists and writers covering true crime, it is essential to follow a strict set of guidelines. Since the historically significant case of *New York Times v. Sullivan* in 1964, in which the New York Times was sued for inaccurately reporting a story about the Alabama Police Department during the Civil Rights Era, the legal line between free speech and reporting has

become increasingly thin. Therefore, one of the first steps for journalists in this morally complex minefield is to understand the difference between journalism and heroism. When covering a true crime story, it is nearly impossible not to gain a personal bias. Yet, even when the evidence seems to point a certain way, it is a journalist's job to achieve a neutral stance in their writing. By taking time to thoroughly research the topic, and provide each side with factual support, one is able to allow the audience to make their own opinions.

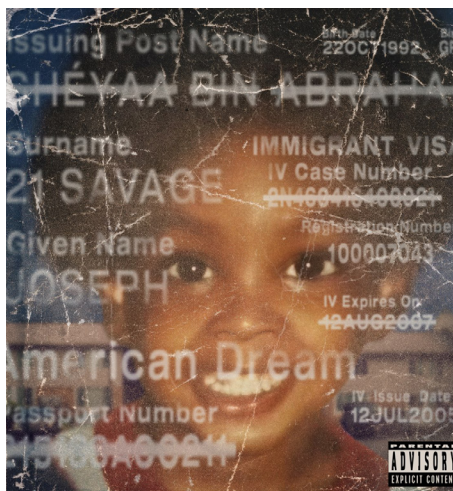
Another complicated step writers must take in reporting true crime is interviewing and forming relationships with members of the case. After the release of *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote was accused of becoming too close to one of the men who was implicated in the case. In fact, Capote spent over six years researching and interviewing Perry Smith, one of two men convicted for the Clutter Family murders. This blurring of journalism and friendship likely tainted much of Capote's supposedly impartial writing and is a prime example of the difficulties covering true crime.

Finally, in an age where internet sleuths make yearly headlines for solving decades-old cold cases, it is very easy

to believe anyone has the ability to play detective. Yet this simple assumption is where the issue arises. Even in the last decade, misinformed storylines and false suspects promoted by internet sleuths have not only deeply hurt innocent victims' lives but also made it more difficult for police to solve cases. This impact is evident in the tragic 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing. After police released videos of potential suspects, internet sleuths incorrectly identified 22-year-old Sunil Tripathi as one of the perpetrators. People rushed to blame and terrorize his family, yet Tripathi had nothing to do with the attacks and was later found dead from suicide by police. This dangerous decision of assuming conclusions without facts and blurring the lines of reality for entertainment makes the world of true crime especially problematic. Yet, for all of the dangers and complications, each year, countless journalists, writers, and researchers help save individuals or provide justice through thoughtful, well-researched, and impartial journalism. Therefore, while true crime might be more complicated than covering other, lighter topics, it has the opportunity to have a visible positive impact on the world around us.

21 Savage - *American Dream* Review

By Gabby C.



Shéyaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, also known as 21 Savage, is one of the most popular rappers of our generation. With hard-hitting albums like *Savage Mode*, *Savage Mode II*, *I Am > I Was*, and more, fans cannot seem to get enough. After releasing his most recent album, *American Dream*, on January 12, 2024, his fans immediately began listening to the exquisite melodies created by the one and only 21 Savage. Although my personal favorite was the deeper cut, "Née Nah", several of his songs including "Redrum" went viral on TikTok. Many 21 Savage fans complain that some of his best work starts to become "TikTok

songs" which creates a disinterest in specific songs that are overlaid on the TikTok platform. Fans of 21 Savage hope that *American Dream* does not get taken over by the TikTok community. 21 Savage has always been an extremely popular artist, with his target audience being primarily adolescents. My personal opinion on *American Dream* would be that this is some of 21's greatest work, with some amazing features including Travis Scott, Doja Cat, Young Thug, and Lil Durk. This album is definitely #1 in my book, and I would recommend this album to anyone who is a fan of rap music.

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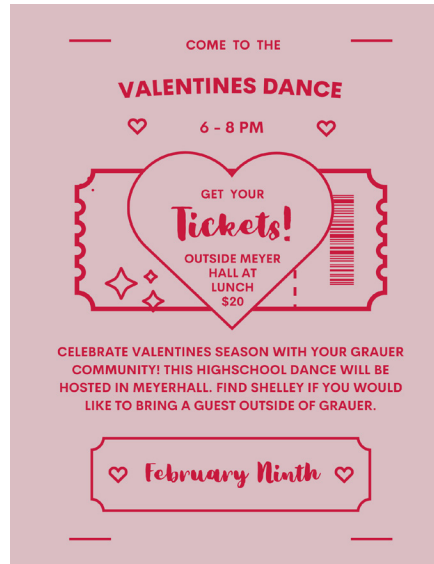
What's Up With Grauer?

By Emerson M. G.

Movie Night - The senior class is hosting a movie night on February 2nd (tomorrow) where there will be a screening of Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse. The screening will take place in Meyer Hall and it will be \$10 for the movie experience, which will include popcorn, lemonade, and other snacks. Come hang out and support the senior class! Tickets are being sold now in front of Meyer Hall, the price will be raised at the door.

Candy Grams - With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it is important to make sure your friends know how much you love them. ASB has started selling candy grams at \$2 for 1 and \$5 for 3 in front of Meyer Hall. The candy grams will be distributed on Feb 14, so the cutoff to purchase will be at Valentine's Day dance or Friday, February 9.

Valentine's Spirit Week - From February 12 - 16 celebrate the season of



love by dressing up all week in your best attire. Kick off the week by dressing up in your favorite concert merch, on Tuesday dress up in your best Valentine's Day attire, on Wednesday get together with your friends and dress up as your favorite iconic groups, on Thursday get fancy and wear

your most formal getup, and on Friday feel the winter and dress up in ski gear. Don't miss out on the fun and the love - participate, show your school spirit and win cookies and eternal glory for your class!!

Valentine's Dance - The high school ASB celebrates love in the air with a Valentine's dance on February 9th. Capture the moment at our photobooth or dance the night away with DJ T Hopper in the Meyer Hall from 6-8! Don't miss the LOVELiest dance of the year and purchase your ticket in front of Meyer Hall.

2024: 1984, Revisited

By Lily T.

The eyes are always watching.

I'm on the list and they know it. They've got my name down, and I can feel my time running out.

There isn't enough food anymore. The shining glass of the vending machines is a taunt. We have to scrounge for coins now, rolling quarters one by one and praying they don't spill over the floor as a metaphor for our own helplessness. It is 2024- who even carries spare change anymore? Such are the questions we have to find the answers to in this new reality.

The resistance is hidden under blankets and tables, furtive smiles a mask for rebellion. The refrain of the more fortunate- "Yeah, it's in my car, don't worry about it." The interrogation is complete- they are safe for another day.

As for the lesser ones, those with their names written on ledgers that will never see the light of day (or, more likely, a Post-It note taped to a laptop)? Tracked like moose through the Grauer halls. The punishment unforgiving; the iron hand crushing as it swiftly falls. Many a poor soul has made the trek through the brutal wilderness of the nature corridor, to retrieve their phone from the car because they thought Big Brother would have forgotten the time they pulled their phone out real fast to buy Cheez-Its from the vending machines and looked up and he was standing right there staring at them from the stairs and there was really nothing they could argue after that so they just relinquished their property in silence.

As this new wave of McCarthyism arrives at the Grauer school, our cell phones being dropped into the pocket becomes a sort of oath of allegiance to the Grauer World State. When writing homework in a planner, it almost feels as though the date on the top should read 1984, rather than 2024. I have to hurry my typing now, since I'm using the google docs app on my phone and I can hear footsteps getting clo

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The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: High School Jobs

By Sarai S.

Lily: Assistant Librarian at the Del Mar Library, Hostess at Harumama Encinitas

What is the worst thing that has happened at work?

"I was helping out at the front desk with shelving, and one of my co-workers was working the front desk helping customers when this guy came in. He seems normal at first, he asks my co-worker where she is from because she has an accent, and she's like 'I'm from Colombia,' and so he's like, 'Oh! Cocaine.' She leaves to go get our supervisor because you're not allowed to say that and within the time of her going to get our supervisor, the man starts shouting, 'Where's my phone, this Colombian hustler stole my phone.' So my co-worker hits the emergency button, which you're only supposed to hit if there's a fire, a shooting, or both, so everyone is super freaked out. He's still screaming about how the library is going to go out of business and he's going to have all of our jobs. He would not leave, we

kept asking him to leave, and he would not leave. So, we had to call the cops, and since this is San Diego or whatever, the cops take twenty minutes to get here. We all have to go on like normal, and it takes not one, not two, but four cops to get him out of the library. One of the cops comes in and asks him to leave, so they have to pull him out, drag him outside."

What is the worst mistake you have made at work?

"When I was working at the ramen shop one night, I tried to carry three cups of ramen at the same time, and one spilled all over my stomach. I got these second-degree burns and I had to go into the back room, and my manager wouldn't let me leave, so I had to work a three-hour shift with an ice pack, and I was trying not to keel over."

What do you like most about your job?

"I actually really like working at the library, I enjoy helping out with the lit-

tle kids. I really like making people library cards and seeing people have a genuine love for learning. Most people there also treat you like a real human being, worthy of, you know, respect and being treated decently, which you don't really get at a restaurant job. And I get to sit down, that's so much fun. I love sitting at work."

What hours do you like working best, and why?

"I really like working at the ramen shop for the 4:30 shift, because you have to show up an hour earlier but you get to leave two hours early, so it's convenient."



Colin: Fulfillment Expert at Target

What is the worst thing that has happened at work?

"One time I was taking out the trash and the bag was filled with wet energy drinks. The bag ripped and it went all over my pants. It was so nasty. I was covered in sticky Monster."

What is the worst mistake you have made at work?

"I stepped on one of the things you move big packages on, a big piece of plywood with wheels that you push around. I stepped on one of those and I almost slid out and hurt myself... in front of my manager. That was lowkey kind of dumb."

What is the most memorable customer exchange you have experienced?

One time I was talking to this

guy for thirty-five minutes about college. I tried walking away five times and bro got me back every single time. We were talking about how the U.S. colleges are corrupt. He was saying how he is a professor and he hates the U.S. colleges and wants me to go to Albania for college and he told me about some town in the Czech Republic."

What do you like most about your job?

"It's super chill. I work with some kids my age and everyone is super nice, definitely friends. And the managers are really chill."

What hours do you like working best, and why?

"5:30-10:00 or 6:00-10:00 [pm] because at night there's fewer people and the people that come in are either kids or relaxed adults. No one is pressed. And you find funny stuff happen[ing] at later times."

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The Best Coffee Houses in San Diego

By Ezri R.

The craving for a good cup of coffee rises around this time each year. The holidays have passed already, and as the temperature continues to dip, winter has lost its novelty on many of us. With little to do in January and February, and no desire to brave the harsh outdoor elements, my weekends are usually taken up at coffee shops. The constant change of setting and new drink options each week is perfect- whether I'm looking for a place to study or just to nurse a cup of coffee with some friends. Over the past few years of cafe hopping, I've compiled a list in my Notes app, in no particular order, of my favorite coffee houses with anything from good music to the most easily accessible charging ports.

Ironsmith Coffee Roasters

A local coffee shop, Ironsmith Coffee Roasters has high-quality, freshly roasted coffee and drinks, sourced from beans around the world. Even if you usually don't get a warm drink, I'd recommend trying their hot lattes, because they are both delicious and always include some cute latte art. My favorite drink there is the warm matcha latte with almond milk.



Bird Rock Coffee Roasters

If you are looking to pick up some coffee to-go, Bird Rock is an amazing place to stop by. While their Encinitas location isn't too large, you can stop by La Jolla if you want someplace to study. I haven't visited it yet, but their Del Mar location has a gorgeous view and is located in the Torrey Pines area. My favorite drink of theirs is the honey latte, and I've also heard great things about their mochas.



Succulent Coffee

Located further up north, in Oceanside, Succulent Coffee is a quaint little cafe with some unique drinks. The inside of the cafe is decorated with succulents on every wall, and there is always some soft jazz playing in the background. The rustic atmosphere is perfect for hanging out with friends and grabbing a drink. I prefer the teas they have to the coffee here, but I know people who love their coconut mocha.

Revolution Roasters

Also in Oceanside, check out Revolution Roasters, right next to the ocean. It can be a busy area, so I recommend getting coffee to go here and finding a spot on the beach to enjoy it. They have a rotating menu for food, and it always includes some delicious pastries and a really good avocado toast. Revolution Roasters also do a house-made almond milk that I love to get in any lattes.



Cafe Bassam

This cute little vintage cafe is located downtown, and its interior is decorated with antiques of all kinds. They have a nice selection of sandwiches, and I really enjoyed their iced Vietnamese coffee. Overall, my favorite part of this coffee shop is the atmosphere and the variety of cozy seating options they have.

Sleeping Tiger Coffee

Sleeping Tiger Coffee is located in Carlsbad, and has lovely indoor seating. I got their vanilla bean latte with macadamia milk and loved it. The space has a comfortable ambiance with all their antique decorations, and while I've never been to any of the events they host, I saw multiple flyers for music or comedy nights.



Lofty Coffee

With multiple locations across San Diego, Lofty maintains a good environment and even better coffee in all the locations I've visited. The Encinitas and Solana Beach cafes are the perfect places to go and grab a pastry on a sunnier day. The larger location on the 101 in Encinitas gives you a stunning view and plenty of outdoor space. They make delicious chai, and I always can get one of my favorite almond croissants to accompany it here.



Sevie Vs Senior - Middle School Mayhem vs High School Senior Burnout

By Emerson M. G.

As the second semester of the 2023/24 school year starts, seniors deal with major senioritis while seventh graders just start to fall into a routine that is going to last for the next six years at Grauer. This article takes a look at both of those experiences. (Special thanks to Victoria A. and Leah S. for their help on this article).

How would you describe your overall experience during the first semester of the year?

Sevie - The first semester was pretty positive! The teachers have been super nice and the classes have been super interesting and engaging. I love the hands-on learning, which I feel is super unique to Grauer.

Senior - The first semester was very difficult and hard - a lot harder than junior year. Don't trust anyone who says it easier because it definitely wasn't.

What challenges did you face during the first semester, and how did you overcome them?

Sevie - A big challenge was being a new kid again. I moved from Portland in elementary school and had to meet so many new people. So coming to Grauer, it was hard to be the new kid again. I overcame that by pushing myself out of my comfort zone and talking to people.

Senior - I took a lot of hard classes and the workload was a lot more than I expected. I also played on the volleyball team this year, so I didn't have time to

go to office hours and the work piled up. But I overcame it all somehow and pulled through.

What challenges do you intend to face during the second semester?

Sevie - Independent PE was difficult and last semester I fell behind getting everything signed out, so I hope to stay more organized during this next semester.

Senior - Senioritis is probably gonna hit me like a train and the workload is still gonna be a lot and I'm going to have no motivation.

In what ways did your feelings about the second semester differ from the first semester?

Sevie - I feel like I know everyone better and it's easier to ask questions in class and I understand how to stay on top of my classes better.

Senior - I already got into college so I don't feel like I need to try as hard to get amazing grades, which makes me a lot less stressed.

Can you share a specific moment or accomplishment from the first semester that stands out to you?

Sevie - In Global Insights, there was a big assignment where we had to make a magazine from medieval Europe and mine was on music. It was super overwhelming and there was so much work, but I took my time and worked really hard and got an A and I was super proud of myself.

Senior - Getting into college and getting all my applications in before winter break.

What academic and personal goals do you have for the second semester?

Sevie - For the language rotation, I want to stay on top of it and get as much out of it as I can. In my personal life, I want to become a better athlete mentally and physically.

Senior - I want to keep up with all my honors classes and attempt to get all A's and do well on my calculus AP test.

How did you manage stress and workload during the first semester, and what strategies proved most effective?

Sevie - The only way for my stress to go away was to get everything done. My strategy for this is I like to plan everything out and just get everything done so I know I am on the right track.

Senior - I spent a lot of time with my friends, gave myself time to relax, and I didn't let myself dwell on things I couldn't control.

What are you most excited about for the second semester?

Sevie - I just joined the high school recording class for music and I am really excited to learn more about music and writing songs and get better at that.

Senior - I am very excited to graduate!

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What Will the English Language Look Like in 100 Years?

By Adele F.

Since the British Empire's dispersal of English to different parts of the world, the language has taken on many forms. In today's society we recognize ten different literary periods. With all of these existing varieties, what's in store for this global language?

To answer this question, we must look at where the English language came from. Modern English, emerging from a Proto-Germanic language in the fifth century, began its worldwide spread in the 1600s. However, the roots of the English language trace back to the arrival of Anglo-Saxon tribes from Central Europe in 400 AD, establishing "Old English" as the common language in England. In today's context, English stands out as the predominant global means of communication, over 2 billion people worldwide. It has become the most widely spoken language globally and ranks as the third-most spoken native language, following Mandarin Chinese and Spanish. This linguistic journey, shaped by historical migrations and colonial in-

fluences, shows the dynamic nature of the English language on a global level.

As English continues to thrive on a global scale, there emerges a pressing concern for the fate of lesser-known languages. The dominance of English raises questions about the potential extinction of smaller linguistic communities as globalization propels forward. Can the rich diversity of global languages endure, or will many fall to the influence of a dominant global tongue?

Delving into the dynamic realm of language evolution, we observe the constant flow of speech patterns and informal banter. The interplay of technological advancements, cultural shifts, and societal changes contributes to the changing nature of language. Looking ahead, the future of communication may witness profound transformations. Will regular forms of expression change to new language styles? How will the use of artificial intelligence and technology affect how we talk every day?

Attempting to predict the precise contours of the English language a century from now becomes an exercise in speculation. Language, as a reflection of evolving societies, undergoes transformations with each societal shift. The confluence of emerging technologies, geopolitical transitions, and cultural revolutions is bound to imprint a lasting influence on the way we communicate.

The future of the English language holds both excitement and uncertainty. There is no real way of knowing what common dialogue will look like centuries from now. While American globalization is poised to continue shaping its trajectory, the delicate dance between linguistic diversity and the looming risk of extinction plays a pivotal role. The ever-shifting landscape of speech and common banter adds further mystery. As we navigate the uncharted waters of the future, one certainty remains – the English language will persist as a captivating canvas, reflecting the tapestry of human expression.

Teahupo'o Surf Tower Controversy

By Ezri R.

The soon-to-be home of the second-ever Olympic surfing competition lies on a reef break off the southeast corner of Tahiti. The French Polynesian island is littered with lush mountains and alluring white sand beaches, but the beach of Teahupo'o stands out. Chosen as the competition site for France's 2024 Olympics, it is renowned among surfers for its heavy, glassy waves reaching 23 feet.



Teahupo'o Beach sits over a shallow coral reef teeming with an abundance of diverse wildlife. It has been regarded as a peak surfing travel destination among surfers for decades due to the level of finesse required to attempt to surf there. Among Native Tahitians, Teahupo'o has been considered a highly revered location for much longer.

Scrutiny on the beach and its amenities has increased recently with the announcement of it becoming the venue for the Olympic surfing event. The judging tower located on the reef has been in use since 2003 and is furnished out of purely natural, biodegradable materials, like locally sourced wood. Due to its barebones

status, it lacks many of the desired qualities the judging officials are looking for, like bathrooms or air conditioning inside the tower. The International Surfing Association, or the ISA, announced plans to remove the older judging tower to replace it with a newer aluminum one, increasing the size and adding additional amenities. Immediately, members of the local community voiced their objection to the ecological damage a construction of that magnitude could cause.

Due to its precarious location on an extremely shallow reef, any type of construction would cause irreparable damage to the formation of the reef and any habitats existing in it.

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Teahupo'o Surf Tower Controversy

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The unique geomorphology of the underwater landscape is what makes Teahupo'o and the waves generated there so impressive. Olympic organizers pushed for the new tower amid growing controversies, until the ISA released a statement on December 9th, standing with the local surfers to preserve the sanctity of the reef. Nonetheless, the French Polynesian government decided to go forward with the plan to build the aluminum tower, against many locals' wishes.

I had the immense privilege of visiting the stunning island of Tahiti just

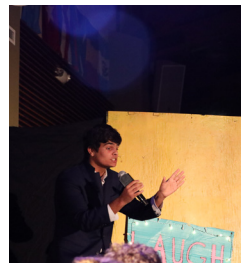
last month and became educated on this issue through multiple conversations with local surfers. The beach itself was unfortunately closed due to the construction that had already begun, and I was unable to go see it in person. However, many of the local surfers provided me with resources and petitions from Tahitian activist groups once I expressed interest in learning more about the topic. From my limited exposure to the community in Tahiti, their passion and respect for the land they live off of is eminent. Famous local surfers continue to publicly appeal to the French Polynesian

government to halt their work on the reef, to no success as of yet.

Conservation and wildlife preservation efforts can often seem daunting, attempting to tackle issues like ocean pollution or threats to coral reefs head-on. It is inspiring to observe the tangible impacts of local activism and watch a community banding together for a shared effort. If you are interested in signing the petition and standing with the local community to protect the reef, you can learn more at save-teahupooreef.com.

Reckless Pictures

Taken By Peggy G.



Bluebird

By Gavin M.

Milton Griffin awoke to the sound of a ringing alarm. Rolling over slightly in bed, he pressed his hand on the clock, bringing the noise to a swift end. Without opening his eyes, Milton raised his body to meet the rising sun, which flickered through his home's newly installed white curtains. The house lay empty and silent. Stepping across the hallway, Milton placed his sleeping clothes on a neatly organized shelf, turned on the faucet of his shower, and watched as a warming mist covered the room. In the kitchen, three automated machines worked diligently to produce a single black cup of coffee, two fried eggs, and a perfectly browned piece of toast. 7:10.

On perfect schedule, Milton sat down at the table, now dressed in an impeccably pressed baby blue polo shirt and khaki pants, and pulled the drink towards his face. Outside, he could hear the lively chirps of the neighborhood's bluebirds. Their voices echoed throughout the neighborhood, bringing a discernible energy to the formerly sleeping assortment of perfectly arranged houses.

Finishing his meal, Milton stacked his dishes tidily in the sink and ambled slowly over to the living room, where a single velvet red couch and television were set up. Milton lowered himself down to the chair and looked at his watch. 7:30. On perfect schedule, he thought to himself. Sitting contently on the couch, Milton peered expectantly at the screen. Almost immediately, the illuminated silhouette of a figure appeared. Dressed in a light gray suit with a tone of hair to match, the man on the screen shuffled pieces of paper in his hands before addressing his audience.

"Hello, workers. The day is Wednesday, the 15th, 2053," the man spoke in an orotund and soothing voice.

"The country of Egalaster thanks you for another tireless day of service. We honor your commitment to improving our charity to our citizens. We could not have done it without you."

"You are a bee in the colony of our success, and we are grateful for your work.

Each minute spent at work is a step towards us reaching our goal," the man continued clearly.

"Egalaster is a vast and beautiful country decorated with commanding buildings, speeding trains, and immense offices designed for optimized productive work. You are each an important part. For your service, the protector requires each worker to use their connecting remote properly. Please now retrieve these devices and place them in your supporting EMS port when asked to do so."

Following the man on the screen's demand, Milton arose from his seat, opening a small glass box on the side of the screen where a lengthy leaden cord was wrapped on a single bolt. As he started to pull the cord, placing it into the EMS connector in his left arm, a noise on the TV screen suddenly distorted, emanating an intense mechanical screeching. Turning his head, Milton watched as the previously composed figure on the screen flashed into unrest, twitching and stirring mercilessly. Looking directly at his audience once more, the man cried out in a weak, wavering voice,

"They're trying to control us. Don't let them. Detach from the ports. We're more than they say. We used to be someone. We used to..."

The screen shifted into brisk darkness. With electricity still lightly sizzling on the corners of the television set, Milton looked around, confused and worried. All at once, a shock of electricity pulsed through the cord he was holding, making him lash backward and shriek in pain. He dropped the searing cord to the floor, where it caught the carpet, instantly erupting into flames. The fire engulfed the living room in an instant as Milton raced across the hallway and out into the front yard. To his surprise, the neighborhood was silent... dead silent. Looking out across the rows of perfectly manicured lawns and matching single-story red-roofed houses, Milton could see no sign of life. As he wandered

aimlessly across the endless suburbia, he heard the sound of harsh humming from behind a bush. Approaching the noise, Milton started to make out the slight outline of deep blue. He suddenly realized what it was. Sitting motionlessly underneath the bush was a bluebird. Yet, this bird was no bird at all. Milton watched as slight sparks of electricity coursed through the animals' broken mechanical frame. Now quivering with fear, Milton craned his neck towards his home. The painted white picket fences burned brilliantly in the front of the house, creeping progressively closer.

Running through the streets, Milton surveyed in horror as each house remained noiseless in the fiery uproar. Cutting through a backyard, he ran to a fence, roughly placing his hands against it. The white fence, like all in the neighborhood, was much taller than the house, constructed high into each day's clear blue sky. Trying to escape the scorching blaze, Milton seized the handle of a sprinkler and started hitting it violently against the fence. With each impact, an image started to emerge from behind the fence's cracks. With a final blow, a section of the fence splintered, revealing what hid behind. Peeking through, Milton could see a massive room lit with rows of harshly illuminated lights. In the room were metallic shelves that lined up to the ceiling. Taking one last look at his neighborhood, Milton stepped into the room. All around, he could hear noises of automated beeping and mechanic squealing. As he approached one of the shelves, he noticed the items on the shelves were not items at all, and instead lifeless bodies encased in clear wrapping. Placing his hand on one of the packages, Milton felt the cold sensation of technology. Looking closer, Milton became horrified. Inside the wrapping, the figure was dressed in an impeccably pressed baby blue polo shirt and khaki pants. The body's eyes flew open.

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