

THE Grauer Gazette

No. 12

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024

The Grauer School

Letter From the Editor

By Gavin M.

When I first heard Grauer would create a journalism class, I was unsure how to feel. While I knew what journalism was on a surface level, I did not, at the time, understand how impactful joining the class would be for me. Being the first journalism class at Grauer meant we had to learn on the go from the first day, and adjusting to our new class took a while. From writing in different formats to designing, printing, and packaging professional layouts, journalism required skills many of us had never been properly introduced to.

However, despite whatever obstacles we faced or lessons we needed to learn, the Grauer Gazette handled each step with grace and determination. This does not mean we succeed in everything on the first try. In fact, during our first time printing, we nearly destroyed the printer room, left hundreds of pieces of paper all over the

floor, and spent almost five hours trying to complete a simple job of fifty editions. Yet, the Grauer Gazette is special because we never let our challenges define us. With each edition, we continued to improve upon our areas of weakness and work to sharpen our strengths.

When I took over as Editor-in-Chief last year, I was not yet fully confident in my ability to lead and bring the Gazette to where it is now. However, with the help of my fellow staff writers and Louise, our team has created and defined the Gazette's identity on the Grauer campus as one of credibility, unwavering pursuit of truth, and, every once in a while, hilarious entertainment. I am so very lucky to have worked with the group of writers I have over the last few years. In every edition, they worked to pursue deeper understandings of the fascinating worlds around them, pursue objective journalistic truth,

and have fun.

Our team is an exceptional group. One who, through difficulty, time and time again, has persevered, utilizing creative thinking and personal intuition. Though sometimes stressful, we've created exceptional memories and bonded over our work. Whether learning from distinguished professionals in the field, learning to make perfect (or, in my case, severely imperfect folds for the paper,) or playfully creating the ideas for each edition in class through a blended mixture of laughs and screaming, I've had a wonderful time being part of the Gazette. The Grauer Gazette is, and will forever be, a defining part of my Grauer experience, and I truly hope it will have the opportunity to continue redefining itself and thrive in the future.

From

Gavin - Editor-in-Chief

SpaceX for Dummies - What are the Rockets in the Sky?

By Sarai S.

Founded in 2002 and headquartered in Hawthorne, California, SpaceX is a privately owned aerospace company. The company aims to rethink space exploration in an affordable light - capitalizing on reusable rockets.

In 2012, SpaceX flew its Dragon aircraft into Earth's low-level orbit, becoming the first privately owned company to do so. During the 2012 launch, the spacecraft delivered cargo to the International Space Station. The company made history again in 2020 when it successfully delivered humans to the space station. Later that year, they shined bright with their first-ever rocket relight.

The 2020 Falcon 9 relight was a significant achievement in space exploration - the possibility of cutting expenses. NASA's Apollo 11, which shuttled the first humans to the moon and back, cost a staggering \$355 million for a singular mission. Conversely, the Falcon 9 costs \$62 million per launch.

In recent months, 'surprise' launches have

lit up the Californian sky. Thing is - they are not the typical rockets one thinks of, the ones that take astronauts to the moon. They are satellites used to generate internet for Starlink, a subsidiary company of SpaceX. SpaceX relies on these satellites to capture signals and route them to a receiver dish to receive the signal. With over 5,500 satellites currently in orbit, Starlink brags a much lower latency (lag).

In coming years, SpaceX will work with NASA in their newly confirmed partnership. The partnership aims to use SpaceX's new technology, and NASA's experience and funding, to send astronauts to the moon. Simultaneously, Musk and his team continue towards their goal of inhabiting Mars.



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The Social Stigma of a Tattoo

By Nicholas H.

The tattoo is a very prevalent form of self expression, involving the use of ink to create permanent markings on the skin. Although extremely popular, tattoos are thought to come with a social stigma that leads to judgment, assumptions, and sometimes discrimination. While this is partly true, society has come to be more accepting of people with tattoos.

The oldest tattoos ever discovered were found on the mummy, Ötzi the Iceman, which is estimated to be 5,000 years old. His mummified skin had 61 tattoos, which are presumed to have been ways of displaying social status. The first instance of tattoos being used as a stigma can be dated back to Ancient Greece, where tattoos were used to mark prisoners of war and slaves.

As time passed on, tattoos were used both as a form of expression and forms of diminishment. The most notable example of this

is during the Holocaust, when prisoners in the concentration camp Auschwitz were assigned numbers tattooed onto their skin as a replacement for their names. These tattooed numbers were a way to dehumanize prisoners and inflict a permanent marking on their bodies. In Japan, tattooed people are often barred from bathing in hot springs due to the affiliation of tattoos with the yakuza, a Japanese organized crime syndicate similar to the mafia. They are also often frowned upon by the general public and could possibly block entrance to public areas.



A common assumption made about tattoos is that they can negatively affect an individual's chances of getting a job. In a study conducted by the American Institute of Medical Sciences and Education (AIMS Education), they discovered that "76% of employees feel tattoos and piercings hurt job interview chances." Although this is an assumption made by employees, this may not be completely true. Generally, employers do not care whether or not a person has tattoos as shown by statistics provided by AIMS Education, 73% of people would hire a person with tattoos.

The stigma that comes with a tattoo is slowly fading away with the passage of time. While some places may still discriminate against tattooed people, the world is changing, and with it, social expectations and norms. As younger generations grow more tolerant, the stigma around tattoos will slowly be erased..

The Rise of Undecided Young Voters and its Impact on Presidential Elections

By Adele F.

In recent years, the phenomenon of young undecided voters in America has emerged as a significant factor in presidential elections, shaping political outcomes. With many statistics revealing a notable portion of this demographic remaining undecided, understanding the reasons behind this trend is important for predicting its influence on future elections.

According to an article from the Tufts Circle, young voters aged 18-29 consistently comprise a large portion of undecided voters leading up to presidential elections. In the 2020 election, for instance, approximately 12% of young voters remained undecided until late in the campaign, compared to just 4% of voters overall. Several factors may contribute to the prevalence of undecided young voters. Firstly, many young adults are disillusioned with the political system, viewing both major parties as "disconnected" from their personal con-

cerns. They believe these parties are lacking viable solutions to pressing issues that directly affect their generation, such as climate change, student debt, and social justice. Additionally, the abundance of information available through social media and digital platforms can overwhelm young voters, leading to indecision as they navigate conflicting narratives and viewpoints. A lack of trust in traditional media sources and political institutions can exacerbate uncertainty among this demographic.

The impact of undecided young voters on presidential elections cannot be understated. In past elections, their swing towards one candidate or another has proven pivotal in determining the outcome. For instance, in the 2016 election, the late breaking support of young voters played a crucial role in several swing states, ultimately influencing the electoral college results. Looking ahead to future elections, the influence of undecided young voters

is likely to remain significant. Their ability to mobilize behind a particular candidate or issue can sway election outcomes, particularly in closely contested races. Additionally, their demands for authentic representation and meaningful policy proposals are reshaping political discourse and campaign strategies. In response to this, political campaigns must prioritize engaging with this demographic early and authentically addressing their concerns. By offering substantive solutions to pressing issues and fostering genuine connections with young voters, candidates can mitigate the impact of indecision.

The rise of undecided young voters poses both challenges and opportunities for presidential elections. Understanding the reasons behind this trend and its potential impact is essential for crafting effective campaign strategies and ensuring the representation of diverse voices in the political process.

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The Future of Contraceptive Access in a Post Roe v. Wade World

By Ezri R.

The overturning of Roe v. Wade in the summer of 2022 inspired a wave of pro-choice and pro-life activists to take to the streets and the media, vocal in their beliefs either in favor of or against the Supreme Court's decision. Heavy media coverage was dedicated to the closing of hundreds of abortion clinics across the country and the works of pro-choice activists to establish more facilities in states where abortion rights were protected. For several months abortion rights were a topic of heavy deliberation, with new legislation about prospective exceptions to abortion bans brought onto the table each week. However, as the public's attention waned and shifted, the bulk abortion movement moved out of the media's spotlight, only returning into the daily news cycle when states introduced further restrictions.

This change in focus is no surprise—few movements have received nationwide attention in their entirety. While protests and laws receive news coverage at the climax of the effort, the discussions and potential concerns that arise in the following months, or even years, rarely receive equal treatment. To many, the crux of the abortion movement was the decision in June of 2022 and the resulting marches and protests attended by millions across the country. The issue of abortion rights is far from settled, and as we enter an era, where, for the first time in nearly 50 years, the right to an abortion is not protected, new issues continue to arise.

The dictionary definition of an abortion is “the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy” and, to many, is only associated with the medical procedure carried out to terminate a pregnancy. Some people include birth control pills and fertility drugs under the same umbrella as abortion pills, which is where the law reaches a gray area, lacking precedent in such situations. Abortion pills are legal in states where abortion is legal, but a vocal minority argue that contraceptive measures

should also come under scrutiny. The ethicality of contraceptive measures like birth control has not come under concern since Roe v. Wade was passed in 1973, protecting the right to an abortion nationwide, and eliminating the potential of those rights becoming compromised.

A recent case taken to the Supreme Court sought to make access to certain abortion pills more difficult to obtain, even in states where they are legal, by imposing sanctions on the pill's manufacturers. Since June of 2022, the country has seen a rise in abortions through pills, rather than visiting ultrasounds and in-person clinics. This option offers easier access to abortions for those living in more rural areas or states with stricter abortion bans. The FDA and pharmaceutical administration are under intense scrutiny as the safety of a specific mail-in abortion pill is being debated in court. If the Supreme Court chooses to override the FDA's approval, many fear this could set a dangerous precedent for future access to contraceptive measures, muddling the boundary that marks the extent of the Court's reach. Many fear this will likely lead to new litigation on certain drugs, beginning with birth control. After all, if one pill is banned, the process becomes two times easier to repeat the next time a similar pill is the cause of concern.

Many are up in arms that this case has even reached the Supreme Court. During the reversal of Roe v. Wade, the reasoning cited by many justices who voted to overturn it was that it would allow the representatives chosen by the people to become the deciding figures on any issues concerning abortion moving forward. Instead, two cases regarding abortion have already come to court, according to some, escaping the democratic process. One case is about this recent abortion pill and its legality, while another involves emergency room situations and the ability of physicians to terminate a pregnancy in extreme conditions. The result of both of these cases will have long-lasting implications for the future of abortion and contraception access in America, potentially allowing a new series of bans to sweep the country in their wake.



Photograph by Maansi Srivastava

Lili Tanghe’s Guide to Tokyo

By Lili T.

DAY 1:
I spent the thirteen hour flight playing video games instead of sleeping, so I hopped off the plane at Haneda Airport with bloodshot eyes and a vague sense that I am sleepwalking through reality. This is the ideal way to enter Japan. We clear customs quickly and make it to our hotel in Shiba Park.



Day 2
I wake up at some ungodly hour and wander down the street. It starts to rain and everything feels familiar. Everything reminds you of something, or whatever Hemingway said. I walk into a Starbucks and can’t recognize any of the items on the menu.

Later that night, we went on a walk through a street market and I bought some takoyaki. Our guide was impressed. I managed one bite before getting nauseous from lack of sleep.

Day 3
Shibuya Cross is flooded with people, but you can walk through the crowd without a single person truly bumping into you. A hundred dollars quickly exit my wallet- they prefer to spend their time in the various record stores I visit. I am also struck by how almost everyone in Tokyo is incredibly well-dressed. I felt very ugly and miserable for about ten minutes, and then I ate a crepe.

Days 4 and 5 are more variations on the same theme. Suffice it to say that I spend it either hyper fixating on being as polite and small as possible or eating something.

Day 6
We take the shinkansen from Tokyo to Kyoto. Out the window, I see Mount Fuji. Some Taeko Onuki song plays through my earbuds and I suddenly feel so nostalgic I want to cry. I am like a Pinterest board of the Romantics.

Day 7
We went on a driving tour of various landmarks in Kyoto. I tried to take photos of the shrines but they all came out blurry. We stopped at a restaurant when the rain became unbearable and witnessed a shouting match between the proprietor and some customer. I got some tasty ramen and learned a few Japanese curse words.

Day 9
The night before we leave, I spend the last of my yen on random gacha machines because I would rather have a bunch of useless crap than a wallet full of yen coins. It’s cherry blossom season in Kyoto, and at night we meander through the backstreets. We find an open door to a tiny stairwell. My brother goes up and I am seized by the irrational idea that I will never see him again. A light goes on upstairs. My brother returns: it was just a bar, and too small for us besides.

Grauer Gazette Mini Crossword

By Ezri R.

1	2	3	4	
2				5
3				
4				
	5			

Across

- 1. May ____, June Gloom
- 2. They help you choose sides
- 3. 1/16 of a pound
- 4. Baby, Scary, Ginger, Posh, and Sporty ____
- 5. Scorch

Down

- 1. Pink pinapples and Arctic apples, e.g.
- 2. Enlists again
- 3. “Little Orphan____”
- 4. Flowering desert plant occasionally used in Mexican food
- 5. Oracle

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Expedition Themed Crossword

By Sarai S.

y c b l a u g h t e r i s b l o f h
 l o e x p l o r a t i o n g f y n n
 t m d i s c o v e r y y w i i v d w
 k m s b j c q q r m f r i e n d s m
 o u c u l t u r e f p j j u h v o p
 u n z o a r c h i t e c t u r e j t
 t i f f e x p e r i e n c e s f e r
 s t l i m i t s m o u n t a i n s a
 i y s r f a v s e r v i c e w o o v
 d b e a c h w o n d e r c z u u o e
 e q e r l e a d e r s h i p n o u l
 m u s i c c o n n e c t i o n s w x

Find the following words
in the puzzle:

architecture
 discovery
 connections
 laughter
 limits
 experiences
 service
 exploration
 culture
 leadership
 friends
 mountains

outside
 community
 travel
 wonder
 beach music

7 Things to Know Before High School

By Nicholas H.

As a senior approaching the end of my four years of high school, I realized that people don't tell you much about how to handle this new chapter of your life when you start. For that reason, I have composed a list of things to be aware of when starting high school.

1. Go to office hours

Your teachers are taking time after school specifically to answer your questions. The biggest mistake I made when starting high school was feeling that I was wasting my teachers' time by approaching them after school with questions. This is also good preparation for college, where going to office hours is one of the only ways to get your questions answered. Another important thing to note is that if you feel the workload for a class is affecting your health or mental state, talk to your teacher. Most of the time, talking to or emailing your teacher in advance will get you an extension on your assignment.

2. Find extracurricular activities you enjoy

Remember that academics are only a small portion of your high school life. Taking extracurriculars are not only a

way to pursue your interests, but also will make your life much more enjoyable. While grades and GPA are important for your college applications, extracurriculars are just as, if not more important because they show what you are truly passionate about.

3. Try not to stress over small things

Turning in your math assignment a day late is not that big of a deal. Having to upgrade a quiz you didn't do the best on is not going to make you fail the class, nor does it make you stupid or a failure. This was a pretty big problem for me as I would put off spending time with my friends and family to do homework, something I very much regret doing.

4. Don't sacrifice your sleep to do work

I often hear many people bragging about getting less sleep than their friends. To be fair, I did too. A lack of sleep is nothing to be proud of. Sleep is a good thing. You should be bragging about getting more sleep than other people. Try to get at least six hours of sleep a night if not more. I assure you that your health is more important than one homework assignment.

5. Obligatory "don't procrastinate"

Keep track of all your assignments, projects, and quizzes. The last thing you want to do on a Sunday night is realize that you had an English essay due the next day and now you're stressing over it. Try to do your homework at least two days in advance; the feeling you get when you have all of your work done is worth it.

6. Take some time to explore new topics

Maybe you've been wanting to try theater for the first time, or art, or music. High school is the perfect time to start, because many of your classmates will also be trying these out for the first time. I personally took a big risk in taking theater as my period 5 elective and now, if given the choice again, I would pick it every time.

7. Take honors in classes you're interested in

Honors classes are a great way to learn more about topics you are interested in. If you aren't a big fan of a heavy workload, maybe just try taking one or two. If you really want to, take three or more. Remember that if the workload is ever too much, you can talk to your teacher and revert back to the standard class.

What's Up With Grauer?

By Sarai S.

International Students: The French students from Annecy visited campus the week of April 22nd. There were about twelve students (seven girls and five boys) aged 13 to 15. They are bilingual French/English speakers, and a lot of them speak a third language.

Expeditions:

Yucatan, Mexico: The Yucatan expedition was an incredible experience and allowed the students on the trip to explore Mexican food and culture while developing their Spanish skills. They were able to swim in natural underground cenotes, cook traditional Mexican pollo and empanadas, and visit famous Mayan ruins. Staying in the city of Merida allowed them to travel to temples and ruins across the Yucatan Peninsula with their amazing chaperones!

Body, Mind, and Spirit: The pace of the 21st century is quickening in such a way that it is too easy to lose real purpose in what we do and how we approach our own ways of viewing and interacting with the world. On the Body Mind Spirit expedition, it was refreshing to slow down and not only let our intellectual curiosity direct of exploration of different faith groups in California but to let our compassion for each other foster relationships organically. While of course Paige and I developed the itinerary, we didn't have to lead much as the students were so self-directed! We all walked away learning more about ourselves and how we want to be within our community.

Middle School CELP: Middle School students who attended the CELP Catalina program demonstrated great courage, and perseverance, and showed extraordinary school spirit. What impressed the chaperones most was the demonstration of compassion. The students were faced with many challenges: snorkeling through kelp, high ropes adventures, a rock wall, tide pool exploration, and night snorkeling, to name a few. Some stu-

dents stepped out of their comfort zones while others knew when they'd reached their limit and opted out of some activities. Regardless of student decisions, other students offered kindness, support, and encouragement. Strong swimmers helped less-strong swimmers navigate dark and frigid waters on the night snorkel. Others joyfully shared their findings with other students in order to ensure that everyone had the same excellent experience. A student even held a chaperone's hand on the tide pools to allay the chaperone's fear of slipping. Other students made sure to bring back extra desserts for friends so they wouldn't miss out on seconds. Everywhere we looked we found incidences of compassion that demonstrated the true "Grauer way".

Taiwan Like a Local: The Taiwan expedition was a unique, once-in-a-lifetime experience where students were able to experience the beautiful country of Taiwan. The expedition was led by Paul-Michael and Fupen, who both lived in Taiwan before coming to Grauer. Their experiences as locals in Taiwan allowed students to have experiences that they do not usually have in Taiwan. One memorable moment that was shared was when students went to Shifen Old Street to release lanterns with wishes written on them into the sky.

Maui Senior Trip: This year's graduating class traveled together to Maui, Hawaii, where they spent a week connecting with the beautiful nature, Maui Prep (Grauer's sister school), volunteering at the local animal shelter, as well as spending time together before graduation. At the animal shelter, students disassembled extra shelter space that was put in place for the 500+ cats rescued during the Lahaina fires. Favorite memories from the expedition include: swimming in a waterfall, tanning on the beach, catching tuna, and a bonfire with Maui Prep students. Mahalo Maui!

Senior Graduation Defense Presentations: This week, the senior class will spend the first half of the day sharing their Grauer experience and presenting a

defense of their petition to graduate. Each senior selects one of the following areas of distinction:

The Arts (Music, Studio Art, Photography, Theater, or Film)
Global and Humanitarian Studies
Social Justice / Activism
STEAM: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math
STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
Ecological Studies
Expeditionary Education
Leadership
Athletics
Liberal Arts

Come stop by to hear our senior's stories!

Prom: Grauer ASB presents Stardust! This year, prom will take place amongst the stars at the Skybox venue in downtown San Diego. The venue boasts dazzling views of the city skyline and Petco Park. Additionally, this year, attendees will have the chance to catch a glimpse of the Padres vs. Dodgers game! Join other high school students to enjoy a mocktail, dessert from the dessert bar, and dancing, all under the San Diego stars! Don't forget to buy tickets, sales end the week before the dance.

Grauerpalooza: In typical Grauer fashion, the music department will be hosting Grauerpalooza on May 17th. Music played will be in varying genres as an end-of-year showcase. It is yet another way to see all the talent here at Grauer while enjoying food and refreshments. Between songs, feel free to roam the quad and purchase goods and services to support the senior business! With a variety of musical genres, you are guaranteed to hear something you like, so show up and support all the Grauer musicians!

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The Lasting Impact of the Maui Fires

By Emerson M. G.

Eight months ago, Maui experienced one of the deadliest wildfires the US has ever seen. The fires began in August of 2023 due to high winds and dry weather. They originated in Lahaina and spread across 2,170 acres, affecting around 2,200 structures. More than 5,000 people were displaced, facing significant challenges in addressing the extensive damage. The destruction was unimaginable.

This spring, the senior class had the opportunity to visit Maui to witness the aftermath firsthand. Earlier in the year, the seniors contributed by sending clothes and writing letters of hope to Maui Prep, a sister school of the Grauer School. During their visit, they met many individuals from the community, including academic advisors, kindergarteners, first graders, juniors, and seniors. Listening to their stories and learning about their experiences during

the fires was deeply moving. However, the community's resilience and positivity were incredibly inspiring.



Another profoundly affected community was that of animal shelters and pets. The Maui Humane Society was significantly overwhelmed, taking in over 800 animals with limited space. This forced them to construct numerous temporary shelters in available spaces. Now, nine months after the fires, the humane society has made tremendous progress in finding homes for many of these animals. During their visit, the seniors assisted in dismantling these temporary shelters, symbolizing the reduced need due to the successful adoption efforts. They also had emotional encounters with many of the animals at the shelter.

Despite the extensive damage that remains, the recovery and rebuilding efforts have been remarkable. All the seniors felt fortunate to contribute to this rebuilding process.

The Final Countdown: A High School Reflection From a Grauer Senior

By Gabby C.

As a high school senior, there has been considerable pressure with homework. Some other stressors include time management, friendships, college applications, and maintaining successful and high-grade point averages for college admission.



From my own experience, my most stressful year of high school was by far my sophomore year. This was because it was my first year at Grauer, which was a major change for me coming out of the coronavirus pandemic. The additional stressor of taking three challenging hon-

ors classes (English, World History, and Chemistry) was also a huge factor as well. I found this year to be the most stressful specifically because I am the sort of person who takes a more extended time to become comfortable with fresh situations and experiences. After I became relaxed with the Grauer environment, I began to feel more and more a part of the Grauer family. In sophomore year, I was particularly hard on myself with my academics, seeking a great amount of academic validation, making it almost impossible for me to be satisfied with the work that I put in.

Once I concluded my sophomore year and transitioned into my junior year, I learned to take some pressure off of myself, and that if I got a "B" on an assignment, it wouldn't be the end of the world. This was such a significant realization for me because understanding this worked in my favor, and I ended up getting straight A's in my junior year with five honors classes

with remarkably less amount of academic stress in my life. After taking strain off of myself, and balancing my academics with sports and a healthy social life, I was better than ever!

Currently, as a senior, I have to say that this year has been the most eventful (in a positive way) year yet, whether it is regarding my college applications, volleyball season, my social life, or my family life. Senior year is by far the best year of high school in my opinion, mainly because of how close I was able to get with my classmates. The thought of parting ways with my close friends and heading off to college in just a short amount of time is crazy to me, but I am very happy with the growth and connections I have made throughout my years at Grauer, and more importantly, embodying the core values presented to me during my time at this school.

3 Reasons You Should Visit Your Local Library ASAP

By Lili T.

As a lifelong library kid, I was over the moon when I was finally offered a job at the San Diego County Library. However, I was taken aback by the sheer amount of services that the library offers, which most people don't typically know about. The library is first and foremost a facility operated by the government, meaning it serves the community first. Far more than just a repository for books, let me take you through a couple fun facts about your local library! (Keep in mind this isn't even the tip of the iceberg when it comes to library services, so check www.sdcl.org or www.sandiego.gov/public-library for a more comprehensive list).

ANY BOOK YOU COULD EVER WANT EVER

There are nine different library SYSTEMS in San Diego open to the public. The largest of these are the public library system (with 34 locations) and the county library (33 locations). Although each of these systems has their own catalog, using the inter-library loan system means that patrons can borrow books from libraries as far away as San Francisco or Oakland, and

have them shipped to their pickup branch of choice. It's like Amazon, except you don't have to pay for anything but you do have to give it back at some point. If print books aren't to your taste, you can also find basically any audiobook/digital publication on the Libby app, which you can install for free using your library card.



RESOURCES (FREE STUFF)

Although it's always nice when people come to the library for books, that's still only the beginning! Want to borrow a laptop, wifi router, free packets of seeds for gardening, or a free pass to any of California's state parks? Walk into a library and you can leave with any of those! Online, the library also offers options to receive free admission to multiple Balboa Park museums, as well as free/discounted tickets to the San Diego Zoo and the ballet! The li-

brary also offers courses to gain citizenship or a high school diploma. During museum month in February, you can receive free or discounted admission for theme parks such as Legoland and SeaWorld, just by stopping by your local library!

EVENTS

Depending on which library you go to in the county system, there are a multitude of different events offered. Working at the Del Mar branch, one of my personal favorites is Rose Week. The week of April 22-27 is the designated "Rose Week" for Del Mar. Over the course of that week, the Del Mar Rose Society partners with the Del Mar Library to host a variety of fun programs, including a live reading of Shakespearean sonnets, a classical guitar concert, and a paper flower making craft. The culminating event is on Saturday, April 27, when the Rose Society sets up bouquets of roses on display all over the library, creating a stunningly beautiful display. Larger locations also offer book readings, fashion shows, and other more large-scale events. It's a fun way to do something cool and also get involved in your community!

Catalina Artwork

By Jaden B.

The reason I decided to bring watercolor paints to expedition is because I usually get some anxiety from being away from home and painting helps me a lot with that. This was a little hard to do because we still did a lot of activities and I'm not the most comfortable with using watercolor paints. Through the years I have loved creating art, though as a seventh grader I haven't had the most experience or art education, I am very excited I found a new way to express it during hard times away from home.



The Tortured Poets Department Review

By Ezri R.

“God save the most judgmental creeps/ Who say they want what’s best for me/ Sanctimoniously performing soliloquies I’ll never see”

Taylor Swift recites during the bridge of the sixth track on her long-awaited album, *The Tortured Poets Department*. When we all waited anxiously, refreshing Spotify constantly, the evening of April, praying the app didn’t crash, no one expected a double feature. But, to our resounding delight, hours later, *The Tortured Poets Department* ended up being a whopping 31 song album, totaling at two hours and two minutes (22 anyone??).

An album from an international phenomenon such as Taylor Swift, however, can’t arrive without a slew of critics following behind the morning of the 19th. Whatever their thoughts may be, valid in their own right, critiquing the length or the production, or claiming the lyrics fell flat, all these criticisms arose in under 24 hours.

Sitting with a 31-song album and listening to it back to back for less than one day, it is understandable they found the songs to be “meld together”.

Only after I’ve had the album on repeat in my household for well over two weeks can I say I feel adequately familiar enough to provide a well-rounded view. Upon first listen, I’ll be honest, I found some merit in some critiques, but the more I listen, the more I have grown to love what Taylor has done with her newest studio album. Listening to each song individually I can not imagine how I ever thought the catchy synth pop of “Down Bad” sounded anything like the indie-rock power ballad that is “Florida!!!”. Taking the time to sit and focus on nothing other than absorbing the depth of her lyrics is necessary if you don’t want to miss anything.

The previously mentioned sixth track “But Daddy I Love Him” offers Taylor’s criticisms of all the “fans” and press

that publicly shoot baseless accusations at her, for no other reason than partaking in a hate train and stomping over something teenage girls take pleasure in. “Florida!!!” featuring Florence and the Machine is filled with Southern Gothic touches that are synonymous with the voice of the band and revolves around the allure and escapism of drugs and alcohol. In “Cassandra”, my personal favorite song on the album, Taylor utilizes the story of Cassandra of Troy to tell a story of betrayal that occasionally alludes to “mad woman” on her album folklore, with its themes of misogyny and burning witches.

In my opinion, to say the lyrics fall flat and the production sounds the same feels like the views of someone who listened nonstop to the entirety of the album once, and didn’t give themselves the time to absorb and appreciate the effort and emotion put into the storytelling.

Artist Block

By Gavin M.

The Artist’s Block is a column where we interview Grauer student artists. This art form can be something the student participates in on campus or outside of school. If you would like to be interviewed, please contact grauergazette@grauerschool.com.



This week’s interview is with Broden P., an 11th-grade student. Broden is a talented drummer and multi-instrumentalist who has become an impactful mem-

ber of the music department.

This interview has been edited for clarity

What was the first activity that made you interested in music?

Well, I had always grown up around music. My mom played Dave Matthews for me, and I remember hearing the drums and how powerful they were. I also remember being in the car with my dad, and he would play this playlist, and I would hear “Don’t Get Fooled” by The Who. Hearing Keith Moon’s fills and groove on that song blew me away, and I became more interested in the instrument.

What is your favorite moment in music?

My favorite moment in music is when you get into the zone and time disappears around you. For four minutes, you’re just swallowed up in the chaos of the song.

Who is your favorite artist (alive or dead)?

My favorite artist is the 80s King Crimson lineup with Adrian Belew, Tony Levin, and Bill Bruford. Any other time, I would say Led Zeppelin, the Grateful Dead, or Tool.

What is your dream song to perform in the future?

I don’t really have a dream song to perform. I’d love to do a live jam, like “Franklin’s Tower” or “Gates of Delirium.”

What would you like to create?

If I were to create anything in music, I’d probably just want it to be happy because... that’s what the world needs right now. Just some good vibrations.

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024

What We've Learned - Senior Year

By Emerson M. G.

As the school year draws to a close, the seniors are reflecting on all the experiences they have had throughout their four years of high school. Senior year specifically comes to mind. Although the seniors are more than ready to be done with the year, they are full of both gratitude and advice for those who may be starting their senior journey soon. Regarding advice about the college application process and academics in senior year, Carson B says, "You don't actually have to work that hard to get good grades in senior year. Throughout all of high school, I worked so hard, but once I got into this year, I realized school isn't ac-

tually that difficult anymore."

"Even though it's challenging, just get started and do it," says Kendall B about writing college essays. "You'll never regret starting early, but you will totally regret procrastinating and waiting until the last minute, especially with something as significant as college applications." Mac R also has advice about the college application process, saying, "Try to get as many people as possible to proofread your essays, and talk to Shelley to make the process as smooth as possible."

Although senior year is filled with stress and anxiety, there is a method to

make it more bearable through advice and support. Mac R puts it best, "You should learn to focus more on the intricate aspects of your high school life rather than solely focusing on the academic portion of it." Kendall B adds, "You will learn so much patience in every aspect of your life in senior year!"

When reflecting on the year, all the seniors can agree that even though this year was incredibly hard to get through, the memories and experiences will stick with them for the rest of their lives.

Great Gatsby Photos

By Peggy G.



Info

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Volleyball Season Recap: Boys

By Adele F.

The Grauer School, in partnership with Horizon Prep, has begun an exciting journey this season with its first-ever boys volleyball team.

This collaboration has not only provided a platform for athletic expression, but has also fostered a sense of new friendships among students from both schools. Since the beginning of the season, players have embraced this opportunity with enthusiasm and dedication. Under the guidance of Aurora Salas players have

improved their skills, developed strategies, and created a strong sense of teamwork. As the season progresses, the team's hard work is paying off. With each game, they continue to showcase their talent and resilience on the court. Let's hear first hand from one of these motivated players, "Being on the boys volleyball team has been such a great time. All the guys just honestly clicked really well and we get to have so much fun which definitely helps with our on court chemistry." -Luke Dalhke.

The Grauer School and Horizon

Prep are proud to support their students in this exciting new sport. Having students from both schools come out to support this new team has not only meant so much to the players, but it also helps foster a true sense of school spirit. The Grauer School hopes to make this a permanent part of the partnership between both schools. As the season unfolds, the boys volleyball team will undoubtedly continue to make waves of progress both on and off the court!

Volleyball Season Recap: Girls

By Gabby C.

As the beach volleyball season began through Horizon Prep athletics, the program went down in size tremendously compared to the previous season.



With the majority of last year's team being Horizon Prep's and Grauer's current junior and senior girls, it became apparent how important these individuals were for the team as a whole. Currently, the team consists of very few players, with zero Grauer or Horizon Prep seniors participating in the season this year. Grauer School's participating volleyball athlete Maya P. shared that, "Though it hasn't been a winning season, it has been fun to play in the sun and build our skills as a team." It seems as though the team's lack of athletes participating in the season this year has had an impact on tournament eligibility, scrimmaging, rankings, and the overall team spirit and vibe compared to last season. Even though the team is not as big as last year, it is still an amazing sport to watch simply for fun, and more impor-

tantly, to support our amazing Grauer athletes! Maya also made it clear that she is devastated to see the current senior volleyball players from both Horizon and Grauer graduate, mainly because they made up the majority of the indoor and beach volleyball teams in the past.

Though we are sad to see our seniors go, it is important to keep our volleyball program up and going, and welcome anyone and everyone regardless of their level. If you have any interest in playing high school indoor volleyball (fall season) or beach volleyball (spring season) for the 2024-25 school year, please contact trevo-rolson@grauerschool.com for more information.

Senior Buissness Advertisements

Trashy Men - "A garbage cleaning service."

Furvor - "Holistic approach to daily nutrition to ensure a long and healthy life for your pet."

Gloss & Glow Cosmetics - "Natural, hand-made body butter and lip glosses in multiple colors, scents, and flavors."

Sunspark Coffee Co. - "High-quality coffee

along with other drinks such as tea and hot cocoa in the morning to help power the Grauer campus."

Colin and Eli's Mobile Detailing - "We'll probably clean your car if you ask."

Leaf, Laugh, Love - "Founded by Aviya and Kendall. Sustainable business. Cost-efficient succulent plants in upcycled containers."

The Pancake Palette - "Wholesome home-style pancakes to bring nutrition and comfort to your morning routine."

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Sip 'N' Smile - "Fresh juices for the student body."

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, MAY 9TH, 2024

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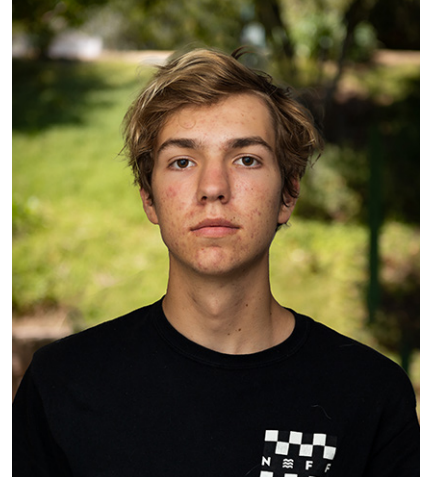
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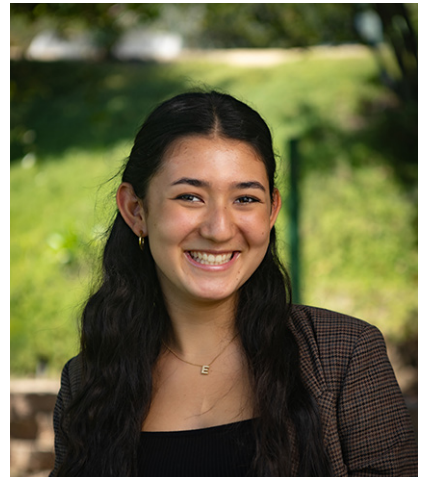
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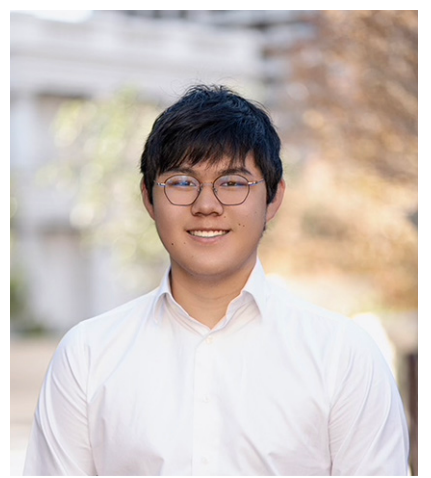
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