

THE Grauer Gazette

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ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2023

The Grauer School

The Willow Project

By Lana L.

The Willow Project is an \$8 billion oil drilling project located on the Alaska North Slope. Set to be built within the National Petroleum Reserve, this 30 year long project is predicted to produce up to 180,000 barrels of oil a day, throughout five drilling sites. The Willow Project was proposed and mainly funded by ConocoPhillips, a \$123.4 billion petroleum refinery company that is Alaska's largest crude oil producer. It was originally approved by the Trump administration in 2020, but was overturned in 2021 due to the environmental impact not being taken into account. The project was revised and put under review again in 2022 and approved by the Biden administration on March 13th, 2023.

Though Alaskan lawmakers say the project will create jobs and boost the Alaskan economy, Alaska natives who live within a closer proximity to the site are thoroughly worried about the environmental impacts of a major oil development. It is predicted that this expansion would generate 9.2 million tons of carbon

emissions released into the atmosphere each year, adding up to more than 278 million tonnes of carbon in its entirety. These numbers can be compared to the combined emissions from two million cars within the same timeframe. Environmentalists call the Willow Project a "carbon bomb" that would be a devastating blow to the climate goals proposed by the Biden administration's presidential campaign in 2020.

Another main argument for the development of this project is that capturing



ing oil from the US would be a cleaner way of energy production than purchasing from other countries. The problem is that the drilling sites will be built upon pristine arctic land that has already been majorly damaged by the effects of climate change. The Alaska North Slope is located on the

most northern edge of Alaska bordering the Arctic Ocean. This vast region of tundra lies upon underlying permafrost supports an intricate but vulnerable ecosystem. Millions of migratory birds flock to these areas to breed, along with herds of caribou, wolves, and foxes. The marine life is diverse as well, being home to multiple types of seals, polar bears, and walruses, along with thirteen species of whales. All these species are highly susceptible to the deadly effects of oil spills that are bound to occur in time if oil drilling is expanded in the area.

A call to action through social media has amassed over 3 million signatures on Change.org, as well as a million letters to the White House in efforts to stop the Willow Project from progressing forward. Though the development has been greenlit by the government, environmental advocates are expected to challenge the project in court.

Ohio Train Derailment

By Lana L.

On February 3rd, in the city of East Palestine, Ohio, a destructive train crash occurred. 38 train cars were derailed, setting a massive fire. Of these 38 cars, 11 were filled with hazardous chemicals that were emitted into the air by a large plume of smoke that could be seen from miles away. Officials ordered the evacuation of hundreds of residents in the surrounding area due to the risk of contamination. Although the company stated that 15,000 pounds of soil and 1.1 million gallons of water were removed from the area in attempts to mitigate the expansion of chemical contamination, the deaths of at least 3,500 fish along with 43,000 other animals are a key indication of the current water

and soil quality, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. Norfolk Southern, the railway company allegedly responsible for the crash, is currently being sued by the Ohio government for environmental damage. The harmful chemicals are also suspected to have soaked into the riverbeds and soil that will remain for years to come.

Lingering health concerns have many East Palestine residents urging officials for more testing to be done to ensure the safety of local drinking water, as well as more testing in other regions in case of further contamination. It is theorized that harmful chemicals have dispersed across many miles by seeping into the groundwa-

ter, which is more difficult to be tested and tracked. The proposed lawsuit is pressing the company to pay for ground water and soil testing for years to come in order to prevent unexpected toxic side effects from arising in the future.

After an investigation, it was concluded that the crash was caused by overheated wheel bearings. This was found to have been the same reason for two other derailments by the same company in the last year. Due to these new findings, Norfolk Southern has proposed to increase the number of temperature detectors along the tracks to prevent another highly destructive crash from happening in the future.

The 2023 Oscars and the Sad Decline of Award Shows

Op-Ed by Gavin M.

For 95 years, the Oscars have represented the best of Hollywood: glitz, glamor, and endless amounts of shining stars being recognized for crowning achievements in the arts. On these special Sundays, families and friends sit together, play entertaining games about possible award winners, and watch in pure awe at a talented crowd sitting together in an elegant Los Angeles hotel. However, this classic American tradition has begun to wane over the last few years, as the once millions of viewers have significantly decreased. While there are various theories offered about the cause of this decline, many believe it has been a long time coming.

The recent decline of the Oscars most certainly does not mean that movies have been losing popularity with the general public; it simply means that movies have outgrown the silver screen. In 2022, the American movie theater industry made 26 billion dollars, a 27% percent improvement from the Covid-influenced 2021 but still 35% behind the former rates in the mid-2010s. This decrease illustrates the truth many chose to ignore; that streaming has become the primary source of our entertainment input. For reference, in 2021, the video streaming industry produced an astonishing 72.2 billion dollars. This number is projected to reach over 106 billion dollars in three years, leaving movie theaters of the future in a nostalgic, overlooked past.

Another reason why the Oscars and similar award shows have declined in



recent years, besides major publicity scandals such as the infamous Will Smith and Chris Rock "slap" and the 2017 fiasco of *Moonlight's* Best Motion Picture Award, is the clearer vision of the public. The Oscars, for decades, have been shamed publicly for refusing to award and recognize a more diverse group of actors and actresses. While this controversial trend has grown scarcer in recent years, shown by *Everything Everywhere All at Once's* great success this year, many fans who believe the awards refuse to represent a diverse enough crowd have been turned off of the once quintessential award show.

The final reason that the Oscars have begun to lose their reputation as the definitive American film tradition is due to the show losing its original identity. Susceptible to their own shortcomings, many Academy producers have implemented different techniques to return the award show's viewership to its original number. However, these evasive and rash decisions have resulted in a spectacle many original

viewers do not recognize. For example, last year, the Oscars created a new format in which people are able to vote for their favorite movie on Twitter. Unfortunately, this vote has zero effect on the actual result of the award, leading some to question its purpose. These unneeded and desperate changes have inadvertently degraded the show's identity. While change for the Oscars is not inherently bad, the show's recent decisions have led the event to an unnerving crossroad.

After a disastrous two years, the Oscars are looking to once again make their mark on American culture in 2023. The irrevocable charm of the Oscars throughout the last century as one of the definitive pieces of American culture still remains, but it is apparent that for it to continue, the Academy must make substantial changes. As the American people watch a new generation of actors and actresses receive their awards this year, a new question emerges: does it simply mean the same?

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Selena vs Hailey

By Sarai S.

Almost everyone following pop culture seems to have an opinion on the lives of celebrities, yet not many people understand the full story. The lack of privacy celebrities have is already an issue, but when rumors of “beef” between celebrities arise, it is safe to say any privacy they might have maintained has vanished. Recently, social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Twitter have been overtaken with thoughts on the drama between pop singer and actress Selena Gomez and model Hailey Bieber, with many people claiming to be “#teamselena.”

It all started when Gomez was being publicly scrutinized about her weight after paparazzi photos were released of her enjoying vacation at the beach. Then, Bieber posted a TikTok alongside Kendall Jenner and Justine Skye to the audio, “I’m not saying she deserves it, but I’m saying God’s timing is always right.” Though there was no direct reference to Gomez in the video, TikTokers soon pointed out that with the timing of the video and their known history (having both dated Justin Bieber), the video must be about the comments on Gomez’s weight. After a few days of silence, Gomez commented on the TikTok saying, “It’s ok!

I don’t let these things get me down! Be nice to everyone! X.” Those following the supposed “Selena vs Hailey” drama soon dubbed the TikTok the “mean girl” video.



Image Press Agency/NurPhoto/Shutterstock;
Jim Ruymen/UPI/Shutterstock

In order to gain a full understanding of the two’s history, people have been tracing back through time to find any interactions or references between the two. One of the earliest public exchanges between the two started when Hailey Bieber tweeted, “I’m for sure 100% team #Jelena,” in 2011, showing her support for Selena and Justin’s new relationship. Clearly, things have changed. After Selena and Justin broke up in 2014, he soon became

close friends with Hailey, and in 2016 confirmed they were dating. Since then, many videos have emerged sparking all sorts of rumors, including that Hailey and Justin are in a “toxic relationship,” Hailey is “obsessed” with Selena (often copying things she says), and much more.

Though no one will truly understand what is actually happening between Selena and Hailey, the publicity of the drama has led to a widespread demand for a more considerate view of celebrities. Specifically, Selena has become a symbol of body positivity, often speaking out about her own body image and health. After sharing her experience with lupus, an autoimmune disorder which causes shaky hands amongst other symptoms, her supporters have started looking to her as a body positivity influencer, as well as one of the leading celebrities standing up to preserve their privacy. Though it might be frustrating for those looking to read into everything celebrities say, her position on publicity just goes to show that celebrities are people too, and shouldn’t have to face constant criticism just because of their fame.

Multiple Billion-Dollar Lawsuits Against Fox News

By Kai D.

In recent weeks, Fox News has received two multi-billion dollar defamation lawsuits regarding statements Fox made during the 2020 presidential election. The first lawsuit of \$1.6 billion was filed by Dominion Voting Systems, a private voting machine manufacturer, claiming that Fox News knowingly spread false information regarding the 2020 presidential election and Dominion Voting Systems machines. The second, a \$2.7 billion lawsuit by election software company Smartmatic, claims that Fox News and other defendants

broadcast over 100 intentionally false statements about the firm’s involvement in the 2020 election. Just last month, the State of New York Supreme Court allowed Smartmatic to proceed with its claims against Fox News, despite Fox’s attempts to have the lawsuit dismissed. Both cases have brought more than one million pages’ worth of evidence against Fox.

News organizations have been sued on several occasions in recent years for spreading false or deceptive information. While press freedom is a fundamen-

tal democratic principle, it also carries the burden of providing accurate and impartial news reporting. It can have serious ramifications for society as a whole when news organizations fail to do this. Individuals or groups can hold news organizations accountable for spreading false information by filing lawsuits against them, with the majority of these lawsuits ending with the news companies winning due to practicing the First Amendment through free speech and freedom of the press.

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Trans Identities Through the Margins of Literature

By Lily T.

In light of recent events, it becomes even more important to emphasize that gender identity has been a complex and multi-faceted topic throughout history, and isn't a recent development with the "internet age." People fear what they don't understand, and literature is one of the best ways to become more informed about a given topic. Due to frequent censorship and erasure throughout history, transgender literature is difficult to track down. However, there are a few prominent examples that escaped the axe.

Ovid's *Metamorphoses* is the earliest known example of a transgender character in literature. Ligdus, an upper-class Greek man, threatens to murder his wife's child if she gives birth to a girl. Desperate, his wife is visited by the goddess Isis, who helps her disguise her female baby as a boy named Iphis. When Iphis is older, he is betrothed to a woman named Ianthe, which leads to his despair over being born a woman since "not one female is attacked by lust for a female...I wish I were not one!" (Ovid) Praying at the altar of Isis, the goddess changes his biological sex to that of a man, allowing Iphis to marry Ianthe and live happily ever after. Heteronormativity

aside, the story is a poignant depiction of gender dysphoria, especially for a collection of poems written in 8 CE.

Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel *Orlando* is another classic work that features a transgender character. Born as a male during the reign of Elizabeth I, Orlando changes sexes for some mysterious reason at thirty and remains female for the next 300 years. The novel serves as a commentary on the different gender roles throughout the ages. Orlando is bisexual and pursues relationships with men and women throughout his life. Orlando displays no alarm about his abrupt sex change, viewing his gender as unimportant except in the eyes of society.

Many novels in Spanish also chronicle the lives of transgender women in the 20th century, such as *Hell Has No Limits* by José Donoso, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* by Manuel Puig, and *Cobra* by Severo Sarduy. These works, although being groundbreaking for their time, do rely heavily on stereotypes and are written mainly by men. Only in the past 25 years have transgender authors had a real place in the spotlight, fighting their way from underground indie publications to sponsorships in major

publishing houses. In 2020, the openly nonbinary writer Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the International Booker Prize for their novel *The Discomfort of Evening*, being the first transgender author to receive this award. Novels such as *Tell Me I'm Worthless* by Alison Rumfitt, *Manhunt* by Gretchen Felker-Martin, and *Nevada* by Imogen Binnie are all works by transgender women about transgender women, finally giving the group a real voice in literature. There are also many novels published for young adults about the transgender experience, although these novels usually end up on a "banned books" list.

In conclusion, literature is an art form, one that constantly shifts to reflect our landscape and society and challenge what we perceive as "normal," much like gender identity itself. The backlash of hatred towards people who stray from this societal binary seems largely founded on ignorance, which should resonate with any artist. Although our world still has so much further to go in terms of respect and acceptance for all individuals, reading about a life experience completely different from your own is a good way to start.

Who is Yayoi Kusama?

By Livia S.

Yayoi Kusama is a Japanese contemporary artist born on March 22, 1929. She was raised in Matsumoto, and later trained at the Kyoto City University of Arts for a year. She was inspired by American Abstract Impressionism, and moved to New York City in 1958 to join the avant-garde scene in the 1960s, especially the pop art movement. Her works include sculptures, installations, paintings, performances, video art, fashion, fiction, and other arts. Kusama's conceptual work has themes of surrealism, feminism, minimalism, pop art, Art Brut, and abstract expressionism. Kusama is seen as one of the most influential

living artists to come from Japan, one of the world's best selling female artists, and the world's most successful living artist. Her work even influenced artists such as Andy Warhol and Claes Oldenburg. She has created art showcased in museums around the world, starting in the 1950s and continuing through the 2020s. This past year, she has collaborated with the luxury brand Louis Vuitton and created a collection representing the bond she has with the company since working with them in the 2010s. The pieces are dotted using a technique that gives them a hand-painted appearance. She is opening a solo show at

David Zwirner gallery this May that will include a new "Infinity Mirror Room," a piece she originally created in 1965 which is showcased in several museums around the world. Similar works from the series are box-like spaces that viewers enter to see their images reflected throughout the glass panes. Her upcoming exhibition is titled "I Spend Each Day Embracing Flowers" and it will include new paintings and sculptures. Opening on May 12, it will be Kusama's largest gallery show and mark ten years since she first started working with David Zwirner.

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What's Up With Grauer?

By Sarai S.

Prom: May 13th | Grauer ASB Presents Let's Cruise!

This year, prom will take place aboard a boat from the Maritime Museum. This museum, which preserves historic vessels, features a beautiful ballroom-esque area adorned with warm brown wood floors and stained glass windows. It is the perfect place for a fun night of food and dancing, open to all high school students. Don't forget to buy tickets, as sales end April 21.

Spring Fair: April 14th

On Friday, April 14th, students can attend the ASB Spring Fair, which will be set up on the field from 6:00-8:30 pm. With carnival games, a cotton candy machine, a bouncy house obstacle course and much more, it's the perfect evening activity. The fair will follow typical carnival style, with ten dollar entry passes and a ticket booth to buy tickets for the games. It is open to all Grauer students.

Grauer Palooza: May 20th

Following in Grauer tradition, the music department will be putting on Grauer Palooza on May 20. Music played will be varying genres as an end of year showcase. In addition to the regular set list, the performance will feature an originals section, highlighting original work by students enrolled in the music classes. It is yet another way to see all the talent here at Grauer, while enjoying food and refreshments. 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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TV Show Review: *The Mandalorian* Season 3

By Gabriel C.

On Wednesday, March 1st, *The Mandalorian* returned for its third season on Disney Plus, the first ever live action *Star Wars* spinoff series to be released on the service. Since its early release, it has become one of the most watched shows on Disney Plus and a worldwide phenomenon. The show takes place after the events of *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi* and follows the adventures of a lone Mandalorian bounty hunter trying to stay out of reach from the New Republic and the remains of the Empire.

The series was created by Jon Fa-

vreau, who has directed films such as *Elf* and *Cowboys & Aliens*. As both a producer and actor, Favreau has also made a significant contribution to the Marvel Cinematic Universe for many of its films. *The Mandalorian* takes the *Star Wars* franchise to a whole new level. This series does a great job of combining elements from *Star Wars* and Western style films. The overall story keeps viewers engaged and wanting more throughout each episode.

Jon Favreau has impressed us once again with a story that has become a global phenomenon. This series is meant to

be a love letter to all *Star Wars* fans and it has certainly served its purpose. *The Mandalorian* has received a 90% on Rotten Tomatoes and a rating of 8.7/10 on IMDb. As of writing, the series is in the middle of its third season, with episodes releasing every Wednesday on Disney Plus, and Favreau is currently developing a fourth season for the streaming platform.

Ballet Core from a Ballerina's Perspective

Op-Ed by Emerson G.

"Ballet core" is a fashion trend that has been taking over the internet and racks of almost every clothing store. It is, by definition, a style that highlights the aesthetic and romanticism of ballet and draws from the traditional attire that a ballerina wears in their training and on stage. This style includes ballet leotards and bodysuits, tulle and wrap skirts, tutus, legwarmers, arm warmers (or shrugs), pink tights, and mock or real ballet shoes. From a purely superficial point of view, there is no fundamental issue with this new style - people can dress however they want. But many ballerinas find this "ballet core" trend to be weird and sometimes downright offensive. This ire isn't just because of how it has suddenly become a fashion style, but because it has become a faux-lifestyle for many non-dancers.

I have been a ballerina for the past 15 years, and I will admit that I am not a fan of this "ballet core" trend. On a recent shopping trip to Anthropologie, I noticed that almost every rack was filled with styles that clearly drew inspiration from what ballerinas wear to train and perform. From tulle midi-skirts to bodysuit tops that look

just like the leotards I wear to ballet class every day, the store is brimming with the "ballet core" trend.

As a ballerina, I've never been offended when people dress in pink, flowy, ballet-inspired skirts and clothes. As I said, I think anyone can wear whatever they want! But the trend's direct association with ballet culture feels different from simply influencing a fashion trend. The difference of the soft, feminine, delicate ballet core aesthetic and ballet's dedication, pain, and hard work couldn't be more different.

Since the trend of "ballet core" began, more people have been attending ballet classes, which should be welcome news. But it seems like many of the people who are flowing into these classes are not there for the real art, and discipline of ballet, they are there for the aesthetic of "ballet core" - and frustratingly, sometimes just to snap a selfie for their social media feed. These people are completely ignorant of what ballet actually means to a trained ballerina and are instead focusing strictly on the clothing, which is not at all what ballet is about. "Ballet core" naively romanticizes the reality of ballet.

For real ballerinas, ballet is late nights at the studio, eight-hour rehearsal days, pain in muscles you didn't know existed, a lifetime of hard work and discipline to try perfecting a single movement. It's constant blisters, sprained ankles, sore knees, putting twelve times your body weight on your toes with a serene smile on your face, judging yourself in the mirror, rehearsing from morning to night in preparation for the next show when you finally get to put on the gorgeous (yet stiff and uncomfortable) performance tutu - all while trying look delicate, effortless, and graceful. This is the ballet that real dancers know and understand. The clothing is all secondary and superfluous, and something which simply allows us more freedom of movement. It has nothing to do with trends or fashion. I think if someone chooses to follow the "ballet core" trend and put on the pretty tulle skirt, they should at least have a deeper appreciation of all it takes for an actual ballerina to wear that beautiful tutu on show night under a bright spotlight.

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Restaurant Review: Buona Forchetta

By Emerson G.

People who have had the opportunity to travel to Italy will often say the food there is some of the best they've ever eaten. I completely agree! I don't know if it's the quality of the ingredients, the fresh local produce, the recipes passed down through generations, the "dolce vita" vibe in the restaurants, the comfort of the familial cuisine, or the way it seems like someone's grandmother made the food just for you. I always miss and crave it as soon as I return home to America. That is, until I went to Buona Forchetta, a bustling little Italian restaurant on the 101 in Encinitas. Owned and operated by the Cattaneo family of San Diego, their first location opened in 2011 and has since grown into more than 11 locations throughout San Diego County. If you live in North County, you've probably passed one of their locations on the 101, seen their new pizza and gelato restaurant Gelati and Picatti, or their casual pizza place down the road from Grauer on El Camino Real, Forcheattabouddit.

The food at Buona Forchetta is some of the best and most authentic Italian food you will eat in San Diego, and the atmosphere is like being in an Italian kitchen, with the staff shouting to each other in rapid-fire Italian. The menu checks off the list of all the basics of Italian cuisine - small delicious starters, salads, pasta, pizza, and the most amazing desserts. Their appetizer, or antipasti, menu is filled with traditional Italian starters as well as ones

specific to the restaurant. My top recommendation is the montanara, or pizza in a jar. It happens to be slightly inauthentic in presentation, but the flavors make it feel like an Italian family's secret recipe! It is a jar of hot, savory marinara sauce filled with little scrumptious pieces of fried, crusty pizza dough and perfectly melted mozzarella cheese. This twist on the common cheese pizza is one of my favorite things on the menu and if you go to the restaurant, it's definitely worth a try. If you like pasta (because who doesn't like pasta), you have to try some of their homemade pasta options. My go-to, and all time favorite, is the cacio e pepe spaghetti, but close behind this would have to be the fettuccine with fresh homemade pesto. They have so many options of pastas and sauces, and the menu is designed so you can mix and match your favorites. Also, if you love meat or seafood on your pasta, they have many protein options you can add on. The pizza menu is every pizza lover's dream. They have so many options, and there's something for everyone. All their pizzas are wood-fired and made to order, so your pizza will always be warm, fresh, and delicious. For anyone with dietary restrictions, they also offer gluten free and dairy free options! Lastly, make sure to check out their special menu because it changes everyday, so even if you are a frequent customer to the restaurant you will always be surprised by a new and tasty Italian dish.

EMERSON'S REVIEW SUMMARY:

Food: 5 out of 5

Service: 4 out of 5

Atmosphere: 5 out of 5

Location(s): 5 out of 5

Recommended Dishes:

"montanara," or pizza in a jar or any pasta with cacio e pepe or pesto sauce.

Buona Forchetta

250 N. Coast Highway 101,

Encinitas

www.buonaforchettasd.com

760-704-8070

Hours:

Sunday: 12:00PM-9:00PM; Mon-

day-Thursday: 12:00PM-3:00PM,

5:00PM-9:00PM; Friday: 12:00PM-

3:00PM, 5:00PM-10:00PM; Satur-

day: 12:00PM-10:00PM

Outdoor seating is available



The Book

A Creative Writing Submission by Gabby C.

Today's date is February 17, 2007. I just turned twenty years old three days ago and got three presents. One from my parents, one from my brother, and one from an anonymous individual who left a box on my front stoop. After three days of putting off the present opening, I finally decided to open my gifts. From my parents, I got a \$200 gift card for Nike (my favorite store), and a new pair of sunglasses. From my brother, I got a tie-dye shirt that said "Keep Calm and Stay Positive" which was pretty stupid. He also bought me two candles that smelled like laundry detergent. But once I got to my last gift, I remembered that there was nobody I could think of who would bring me a gift besides my parents and my brother. I don't really have any friends or talk to anyone at school, so it was a bit odd to have received a third gift, especially at my doorstep. After contemplating whether or not I should ignore the gift and go on with my life, I finally started to peel off the thick clear tape holding the black wrapping paper in place. Yes, the wrapping paper was black. Once I opened the gift, I saw that I

was given a book. Seriously? What a lame gift. It didn't even have a title. The book was brown with gold lining the edges. I tried to find the author, but there was no author either. Whoever dropped this book off probably sent this here to mess with me. I'm not really the most likable person at school, so I'm honestly not surprised, nor do I care. I tossed the book onto the end of my bed and went to bed.

It is February 18, 2007. A day later. I have finally decided to read the raggedy book my secret admirer has given me. I walked into my apartment, threw my backpack next to the side of the couch, and walked straight to my bed. I turned to the first page of the book and began to notice that the storyline was almost exactly identical to my life. Chapter one started off by talking about a young boy who went to Rose Elementary School and was bullied by two older boys named Chase and Leo. Chapter two brought up that the young boy had recently gone through a rough patch in his family life due to his parent's separation. Chapter three mentioned that the

young boy's dog, Max, had recently passed away due to complications during a surgery to get rid of a tumor. After completing chapter three, I thought to myself that this book is literally the story of my life. How is this possible? It even included things that I haven't even told my parents. Like when I accidentally broke Mrs. Robert's favorite calendar in her classroom. And when I accidentally dropped my mom's favorite mug and pretended it was lost so that I wouldn't get in trouble. I felt shivers go down my spine, wondering who could have written a book about me, and my life. I felt fear. I scanned my room to make sure no one was watching me. I turned to the last page of the book. And saw that words were forming on their own, writing about me scanning my room at the very end. This book was documenting my every move as we speak. The book would even form its own pages. I packed my duffle bag at the speed of light, and ran out the front door. But all of a sudden my running came to a stop. I heard a voice. And then all of a sudden. It all came to an end.

High School Co-Ed Soccer Team Season Begins!

By Gabriel C.

The Grauer high school soccer season has officially begun! As this is one of the only co-ed sports that Grauer offers, it has gained large amounts of interest from students of different grades in high school. This year, the Grauer team has 17 passionate soccer players, which consists of a good mixture of students from 9th to 12th grade. Math department chair Morgan Brown is the head team coach. Grauer science teacher, Paulina Davis-Fisher, and

Grauer custodian Simon Checa also contribute to coaching the Grauer team. The team plays primarily at the YMCA and competes against other local schools and clubs in 6v6 player tournaments. Grauer is entered into a pool of different teams, where they participate in a "round robin" style tournament. This entails that every team is guaranteed to play each other, and the teams with the most wins will advance to the playoffs, where it transitions into a

standard bracket tournament.

High school co-ed soccer has been a great spring sports opportunity for several years. The season typically runs from March to May. As of writing, the Grauer team has played their first two matches of the season, they practice every Monday and have games every Friday at the YMCA. Best of luck to the soccer team for a successful rest of the season!

The Artist's Block

The Artist's Block is a column where we interview Grauer student artists. The 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 Erin. W in 10th grade. Erin is a talented artist who is passionate about many different mediums of art. She is featured in this month's edition of *The Grauer Gazette* for her poem, "I Always Will Remember."



Erin W.

What made you interested in writing?

"In first grade my teacher would have these sentences on the board to teach us about grammar. If you got it right you would get candy or some prize. I was like, wait I can actually do this! That was the start of my love for writing and then I just realized how fun it was and to express all of your ideas without having to talk to anyone. Just to be isolated with your own thoughts."

What is your favorite moment of writing?

"It's when I come out with my topic sentence! When you write your topic sentence, it encapsulates the entire work. When I can come up with something really captivating I'm just so proud of myself."

If you could play a song with any artist who would it be and why?

"Taylor Swift! She's on tour right now. I've got to do it."

Who is your favorite artist (alive or dead)?

"Since this is about writing I'll pick Rick Riordan. He's my favorite author. I just love the way he incorporates humor into his work which makes it that so much more fun to read."

What would you like to create in the future?

"I really like academic writing. So like research reports or things like that. It's a very exciting answer, (*sarcastically*) but it's something I like to do. I also want to write more poetry in the future."

Silent Hill 2 Game Review

By Lily T.

In honor of Konami Studios announcing the imminent remake of 2001 survival horror masterpiece *Silent Hill 2*, I would be remiss as a journalist to not encourage people to seek out the original. Although a sequel, *Silent Hill 2* surpasses its predecessor in terms of visuals and storyline. The game follows James Sunderland, a recent widower, as he journeys to the abandoned town of Silent Hill after receiving a mysterious note from someone claiming to be his deceased wife. As he searches for clues and dodges eldritch horrors beyond comprehension, James meets other characters with their own secrets and begins to unravel how an entire town of people disappeared overnight.

Silent Hill 2 is considered one of the classics of horror games, frequently cited as an influence by artists and game developers alike. Despite being almost 24 years old, the game holds up remarkably well, with even its flaws becoming iconic aspects of the game. In the early 21st century, video games needed time to generate different parts of their world, and since *Silent Hill 2* was a game without a fixed route for the player, they had to find a way to stall for time without interrupting the flow of gameplay. Their solution was the iconic fog that coats the town, making it impossible to see more than a few feet in front of

you. The fog also became one of the most frightening parts of the game, since monsters could materialize out of the gloom. A way to disguise the landscape's loading became one of the most thrilling aspects of the game, being utilized in future *Silent Hill* releases despite it no longer being technically necessary.



The town itself is inspired by Centralia, Pennsylvania, a town that was evacuated overnight in 1962 and has been abandoned ever since. The influence is apparent; you wander through a gray, soulless town, entering rooms with the feeling that everyone else just left. It's a game fo-

cused less on jumpscares than deeper, psychological disturbances. The monsters are all manifestations of trauma; the creatures in nurse costumes represent James' internalized guilt around his wife's death from illness, figures writhing in straitjackets are a symbol of his degrading mental state, and the infamous "pyramid head" creature is a manifestation of his guilt and desire for punishment. The monsters James fights are his traumas come to life, which makes the true ending of the game even more cathartic. The few other characters in the game also add to the story, showing how people cope with their trauma differently, for better or for worse.

However, you can also play through the game as "scared wife guy fights creepy monsters and really weird people" and still have an enjoyable experience. As each *Silent Hill* installment is standalone, you don't need to play the previous game although there are several references to it in the sequel. The visuals are incredible, there are quite a few genuinely frightening scenes despite the age of the game, and the soundtrack is a perfect mix of eerie and soothing. *Silent Hill 2* is a beautiful story and a really fun game, and I'm eager to explore the remastered edition when it's released.

I Always Will Remember

By Erin W.

Always...

I always will remember the warming scent of fleece, my head nestled against your flannel
And the worn, old, tattered TiVo plush sat there staring at us, winking from the mantle

I always will remember the sunny noons at Stagecoach Park where we played among the squalor—a dozen kids, all wailing, screaming bloody mary
But could I recall what they were crying? No, not for a million dollars

I always will remember the shoveling of sand, the castle-stacking 'til both of us were spent
Then we'd drive home in your Chevy with the sticker proudly on the hood: a snail I pressed there years ago, that you kept far longer than you should

I always will remember your coaching at Surf Bowl. Three arrows from the left, you'd say, throw it straight and watch them fall
As the pins clanked against the rack, we'd holler and high-five... No one could give advice like you, you really knew it all

I always will remember your haircuts in the yard—with Mom wielding the scissors, white tufts spiraling to the floor
As I ran past, I'd exclaim, "a snowstorm, in the summer, look!" then circle back for more

I always will remember the doughnut shop where the lady knew our names. Devil's food for you, each time, she'd bring an extra one or two
We'd sit there watching bright fish swim inside their tank oasis, tracing shapes upon the glass, 'til they followed our instruction on their next returning pass

I always will remember the sound of Hershey's snapping. Special dark, that chocolate bar you shared with me each time
I plopped down on your bed, nerves calmed, a morsel perched atop my outstretched palm

I always will remember the purple princess castle, where we napped each day in bliss
Under the eye of Sleeping Beauty, Snow White, and her dwarves, you'd play me Celtic Woman, then duck in with a pillow. We'd sleep until our hearts' content, me safe beside your stereo

I always will remember the lessons that you stressed. The day I misbehaved and my heart had gotten wrenched...
As you drove into the parking lot with all my favorite foods, then turned around and zipped away, while melting down, I swore I'd stop being rude

I always will remember the day in my doctor's little office. My mother took my hand as we waited for the nurse
She told me you would be okay, said you'd fight it like you were young. But I saw the tears well in her eyes as "cancer" stuck on her tongue

I always will remember the bus ride to that field trip at the farm. As I stared blankly out the window, my friend asked me what was wrong.
While I told her all about you, my hero, my role model, I let the wetness flood my cheeks as I imagined you were gone

I always will remember the moment you said no, to starting rounds of chemo, you refused to go out like so. Instead, they sliced you open, a lung traded for a life
While you were in that bright white gown, I was praying to some god. Who? I'll never know. I needed you, right then and there, your hugs easing my woe

I always will remember when I realized you'd be fine. "A tough old man," I'd laugh and tease, joy bubbling inside. And while you may not know it, I think of you each day, your wisdom passing through my soul in some form, shape, or way.
Each time my phone pings with a text, "Grampa" flashing on the screen, I grin from ear to ear as my fingers swipe through heart emojis: brown, blue, pink, then green

Poetry Play

In each issue of our newspaper we will highlight the work of student writers. We welcome works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, writing samples and more. Please contact us through our email: grauergazette@grauerschool.com, if you are interested in your work being featured!

Sunset Drives

By Gabby C

Driving down the 101 glancing over at the sea
The beautiful sunset is the only thing I can see
Practically no other place I'd rather be
Pink, red, blue,
The only three colors I can see in the view
Finally, a license to drive alone
Listening to the song "sunsetz" on my phone
Sunset drives will always have my heart
If the sunsets stop it will tear my heart apart
Driving past Swamis and Gelato 101
Each experience is better than the other one
Driving back home in the dark
Patiently waiting for the next sunset to start