

THE Grauer Gazette

No. 02

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2022

The Grauer School

INFORMATIONAL CENSORSHIP

HOW INFORMATION AFFECTS THE WAY YOU SEE LIFE.

By Gavin M.

Did you know that sixty-seven percent of The Grauer School's teachers carpool to school in a double-decker bus?

The majority of people are aware that this statement is incorrect. Yet, if you were to accept this blatantly false statement as truth, it would influence your perception of the world in which you live. As author and satirist Jonathan Swift wrote, "Falsehood flies and the Truth comes limping after it." The tendency to quickly absorb the information we receive as truth, regardless of its accuracy, profoundly affects our view of the world in which we live.

Today, it can be much harder to distinguish lies from truth. Once exposed to inaccurate information, it is often difficult to decipher the truth due to the limitless sources of data available to us. These recurring inaccuracies make people more accustomed to lies than reality. A scientific study published in the American Psychological Association stated that for someone to believe an idea, they only need to hear it repeated three to five times. The repetition of the lie makes it believable. We are exposed to these 'illusions of truth' daily through the news we read, the people we speak to, and the books we choose.

Censorship effectively promotes these 'illusions of truth' by controlling the message. Defined by the ACLU as the suppression of words, images, or ideas to impose political or moral values on others, censorship has deeply affected access to credible information over history. Often people in positions of power utilize censorship to withhold information that does not reflect their views. Before the age of technology, most people became informed through two possible sources: conversations with others or the literature to which they had access. These few options made censorship much more effective, as they easily restricted and altered the information people received, influencing opinions and ideas. Today, censorship remains a manipulative tool to suppress information that does not mirror their beliefs. A recent example of censorship is the banning of over 1,600 books in over 5,000 American schools in 2021. This number of banned books doubled the amount from 2020. This disturbing trend has expanded to new sources of information, including the internet.

The internet, specifically social media, is a new avenue of censorship. On digital platforms, algorithms actively control information. These computer-generated gatekeepers have no moral duty to present you with the whole truth but rather to reflect that with which you already agree. These algorithms are programmed to optimize every piece of information you present to them. This worrisome trend creates artificial echo chambers. If unmanaged, this biased representation of information results in more closed-minded and uninformed individuals.

Past content consumption, search, and engagement behavior heavily influence the content you see on social media platforms. This concerning example of self-censorship means that over time, the information you seek will challenge your views less and less, diminishing your ability to critically evaluate the information you receive and accept truths with which you disagree.



Fortunately, while the wide range of information available today provides the majority of the world's skewed knowledge, it also allows us to utilize multiple sources to become more critical and well-rounded thinkers. By participating in events such as Banned Book Week, engaging with people with differing views, and being aware of the quality of the information you absorb, you can overcome all forms of censorship. As stated by Pablo Antonio Cuadra, a Nicaraguan poet and outspoken political advocate, "...censorship is cowardice. ... It masks corruption. It is a school of torture: it teaches, and accustoms one to the use of force against an idea, to submit thought to an alien. But worst still, censorship destroys criticism, which is the essential ingredient of culture."

Info

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Covid Updates

By Gabby C.

In recent news releases, there has not been much information the coronavirus pandemic. The coronavirus was originally discovered in December of 2019 by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Wuhan, China. The coronavirus, scientifically known as SARS-CoV-2, has a variety of possible symptoms such as: nausea, myalgia, fatigue, fever, headache, chills, and more. It is important to note that people with pre-existing medical disorders and people over the age of 65 are considered at high risk of severe COVID-19 symptoms and even death. High risk individuals include anyone with cancer, lung diseases, kidney diseases, neurological conditions/disorders, cystic fibrosis, type 1 and type 2 diabetes, Down's Syndrome, birth defects, heart disease, HIV, weight problems, pregnancy, thalassemia, sickle cell anemia, smokers, cerebrovascular disease, tuberculosis, and more. As the coronavirus pandemic starts to die down, there also seems to be a huge decrease in detailed COVID-19

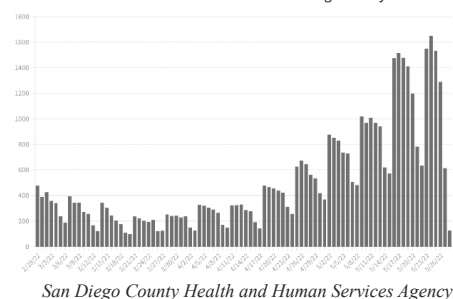


COVID 19

updates in school newsletters and television newscasts. Though there are not as many COVID-19 updates on readily available sources of news, the pandemic is still a state of emergency not only nationwide, but globally. Many people are not aware of the mutations that come with the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Dr. Nicola Williams, a mutation is, '...when there is a change to the genetic material – either the DNA or RNA – from the original normal or 'wild type' version of the genome of a particular organism or biological entity'. A few COVID-19 mutations include: Alpha,

Epsilon, Eta, Theta, Kappa, Iota, Zeta, Lambda, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Omicron, and many more unknown variants. In California currently, there are 11.3 million cases and 96,460 total deaths. Specifically in San Diego County, there are approximately 999,000 cases, and 5,507 total deaths. However, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "The community level of Covid-19 in San Diego County is low based on cases and hospitalizations." Though there are not as many news reports or updates on SARS-CoV-2 in San Diego County or the United States, it does not eliminate the fact that there is still a global state of emergency occurring in other countries.

COVID Cases in San Diego County
The Omicron variants BA.2 and BA.2.12.1 are largely responsible for the latest increase in COVID cases in San Diego County.



San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

Should you take the SAT or ACT?

By Cooper B.

Among many high schools and academic institutions, there has been widespread debate on whether students should take standardized tests such as the SAT or ACT. Recently, many universities have become test optional. However, for some students it may still be a good idea to take the SAT or ACT. High-stake exams can negatively impact students' confidence, even though they do not portray a complete representation of a student. The tests leave out room for creativity, and group work. In addition, they can be unfair to different types of learners. The SAT and ACT force students to learn for a test, rather than for personal growth or for the sake of simply learning. English Language Learner students and students with disabilities are given accommodations, but the test is created for the "average student," putting them at a disadvantage from the start.

Despite the clear negative aspects to the SAT and ACT, there are still benefits to both. Achieving good test scores gives students more of an advantage when applying for colleges. Many schools will look at test scores if they make individuals stand out as an applicant, especially due to evidence of grade inflation. Grade inflation is a "term used to an increase in students' grades that doesn't necessarily correlate with an increase in their academic achievement" (U.S. News). According to the 2022 ACT report, high school GPAs have increased from 3.17 in 2010 to 3.36 in 2021. The highest known grade inflation occurred between 2018 and 2021, when grade point average increased by 0.1 points. Overall, a SAT or ACT test score that falls into a universities acceptance range will get students through to the next round of viewing by college admissions. They will not be "punished" for not turning in test scores,

but they will miss out on an opportunity to boost their application and get themselves through the first round of admissions.

Along with standing out, the SAT and ACT prepare students for future standardized tests they may have to take, such as the MCAT or LSAT. Any individual who wants to become a practitioner in a specialized field will have to take a standardized test at some point in their career.

Ultimately, it is the students decision whether or not to take a standardized test. They must evaluate themselves, their learning methods, goals, and see if taking one will support them and their future. Are they a good test taker or not? Is it a good measure of what they can accomplish? Is it good practice? And it is important to remember that even if students do take it, they don't have to send their test scores in, and they can retake it as many times as they wish!

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The Queer Influence on Horror

By Lily T.

Horror as a genre is centered around fear: the point of creating a work of horror is to inspire fear or disgust in the audience. Although this is often utilized effectively, it can also be a slippery slope into xenophobia, with many works relying on racism, homophobia, or ableism as cheap scares. However, what was originally created to alienate can occasionally be reclaimed, which occurred in the case of the horror genre with LGBTQ+ people.

In the early-to-middle twentieth century, homosexuality was still considered a taboo topic, and largely condemned by major religions and conservatives alike. Openly gay characters were few and far between in media, and due to decency codes either had to be the villains of a narrative or end up dead. Queer people were considered predators, monsters trying to corrupt children and seduce innocent heterosexuals, leading them down the path to hell. This was perfect bait for the horror genre, being able to use the taboo concept

of queerness to code their villains as monstrous. Throughout the twentieth century, characters such as Ursula, the Joker, Norman Bates, and Stu Macher were coded to appear predatory to the protagonist, who represented classical gender roles coming under attack by the community. Male villains would adopt feminine characteristics, such as dressing in drag, and flirt with the heterosexual main characters. Female villains would either appear masculine or overly flirtatious with the female characters, further cementing the “predatory gay” stereotype. Queercoded villains use seduction to achieve their goals, with the effect being to induce disgust in the audience. Movies like *Jennifer’s Body*, *The Lost Boys*, and *Rebecca* all used these tropes.

As the years have gone by and the LGBTQ+ community has become more mainstream, “coming out of the closet” and entering the public subconscious, there have been frequent controversies involving homophobia in Hollywood. However, many of these characters and films have

been reclaimed by the community, going from homophobic stereotypes to queer icons. Media such as *Let the Right One In*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and *American Horror Story* all portray their queer characters sympathetically. You relate and empathize with them, which makes the horror even more engaging. Horror movies have also often been used as allegory for queer issues, such as *It Follows*, an allegory about AIDS.

As a community that has been treated like freaks for years, told that they are unnatural and wrong simply for the way they live and love, and shunned as predators and monsters, many queer people find solace in the horror genre. Seeing the monster win, the slasher get their revenge, and the vampire triumph against their traditional counterparts can be extremely cathartic. A genre created to celebrate monstrosity can often be a refuge for people treated as monsters.

Artist’s Fascination with Death

By Charlotte R.

If there is one thing all successful artists share, it is the ability to feel deeply. Artists deal with negative emotions by expressing them as an emotional outlet, often creating beautiful work. This contributes to the many works of art themed

sadness, anger, confusion, hope, grief, love, and so much more. While no painting or performance can ever mend the holes that materialize in our hearts, addressing loss by pursuing art is a healthy way to begin the healing process.

Two common ways of approaching grief through the arts are self-expression and a memorial. Self-expression allows the artist to express their pain. They have the opportunity to convey how the event affects them and how much this person meant to the artist during their life. Meanwhile, a memorial will focus more on the person who has died and honoring their life.

An example of someone who took the memorial route is Candy Change. After losing a friend, Change expressed her grief in a simple yet cathartic way, writing, “Before I die, I want to ____.” on the wall of an abandoned New Orleans building. Within 24 hours, locals filled the wall with

personal aspirations, hopes, and goals - everything from “be me completely” to “see equality for all.” The project illuminated life’s value in an empowering and optimistic manner. Today, it has been recreated in over 500 cities across the globe.

Angel by Sarah McLachlan combines self-reflection and empathy for the deceased. She was inspired to write *Angel* when she read a Rolling Stone article about Jonathan Melvoin, the keyboard player from Smashing Pumpkins, who died at age 34 due to a heroin overdose in his hotel room. The musician’s death was particularly poignant for McLachlan because she could empathize with the pressures of touring and the “lonely existence” of life on the road.

Any art form is healing when going through emotional turmoil. Observing others’ work and creating new work when faced with grief is a healthy place to start.



Wall of an abandoned New Orleans building

around death and loss. “There is no real way to deal with everything we lose,” author Joan Didion wrote in *A Year of Magical Thinking*. Despite this, humans continue finding ways to cope. For eons, artists have turned to their work to confront feelings of

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Día De Los Muertos

By Gavin M.

In October, retail store shelves are lined with hissing inflatable skeletons, vibrant jack o' lanterns, and messy Halloween crafts. Yet in the past decade, the decorations of another holiday have gained popularity and been sold among these items. These decorations celebrate the Mexican holiday known as "Día De Los Muertos," or the "Day of the Dead."



Día De Los Muertos altar

Día De Los Muertos celebrates and honors the reunion of family members who have passed on with those who are living. On this holiday, loved ones may briefly journey from the spirit world to the living world as the two worlds collide. While Latin America has celebrated this holiday for over 3,000 years, its recent appearance in popular culture has propelled the holiday to become a prime vessel for American consumerism. This commercialization has provided the holiday with a larger audience but has also diluted the holiday's

original meaning.

Historically, Día De Los Muertos is rooted in Mesoamerican rituals that honored the dead and celebrated death's importance in the cycle of life. In Aztec culture, these rituals celebrated the deceased by providing offerings of gifts and food, constructing altars, and burning incense. Over the years, these rituals evolved into an annual feast known as Miccailhuitontli, where Aztecs would lavishly collect large amounts of food and gifts. When Spanish colonists arrived in Mesoamerica during the 16th century, Miccailhuitontli's traditions merged with the European Christian festival known as All Souls Day. The result of this union was the birth of the current syncretic holiday Día De Los Muertos. During the late 19th century, this holiday became widely celebrated in America by Mexican citizens who had immigrated to the United States. These celebrations honored the lives of their deceased family through simple decorations such as candles and flowers, especially marigolds. According to tradition, marigolds guide the dead to their lovingly designed altars through their distinct smell and bright colors. These celebrations often occur in the cemeteries of their loved ones, providing an opportunity for the family to celebrate, reflect, and renew their bonds with their dead. As Spanish teacher Mimi Robinson,

states, "...it is healthy as humans to be able to remember someone in a positive way."

Día De Los Muertos is an opportunity for generations of families to celebrate their ancestry cathartically.

Currently, Día De Los Muertos' once modest beginnings have grown more commercialized due to its appearance in popular films such as *Coco* and *Spectre*. What were once simple altars of marigolds and favorite trinkets have become filled with candied skulls, garish artwork, and copal incense. These changes, while bold, aren't inherently negative. As Mimi Robinson expresses, "[Día De Los Muertos] is a great tradition and if more people are adopting it outside of Spanish speaking cultures that is great."

During the seventies, Mexican artists and activists began to revamp the holiday, using it as a symbol to celebrate Mexican-American immigrants and to provide a way for them to identify with their Latin heritage. These changes, including the introduction of the iconic colorful skeletons, soon gained popularity in local American communities, resulting in genuine respect for Hispanic culture.

Today, citizens of the world may celebrate Día De Los Muertos in different ways, but the holiday's design to bring together families and friends over shared respect for Hispanic traditions will remain unchanged.

Midnights Album Review

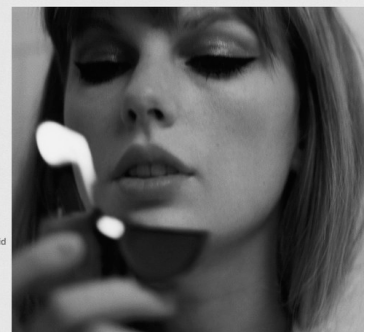
By Kendall B.

Swifties everywhere celebrated October 22nd when Taylor Swift released *Midnights*, her 10th studio album, at midnight. The 13-track album smashed three Spotify records, with 88 million streams in the US and 185 million worldwide on the first day of release. At 3 a.m., Swift released an additional 7 songs, *Midnights (3am Edition)*.

This concept album is a collection of music Swift says was, "written in the middle of the night, a journey through terrors and sweet dreams." Based on material she wrote on 13 sleepless nights, *Midnights* feels random and uneven at times, but that is by design.

Midnights remains true to Swift's pop sound but the songs are covered with vocal effects and synths. At times her vocals are so coated in a heavy synth sound that the album feels as though it is moving in slow-motion. *Midnights* is more understated than the material we expect from Swift, providing more atmosphere than substance. Still, Swift's brilliant lyricism and intimately personal storytelling remain incomparable.

Midnights



Lavender Haze
 Maroon
 Anti-Hero
 Snow On The Beach
 You're On Your Own, Kid
 Midnight Rain
 Question...?
 Vigilante Shit
 Bewitched
 Labyrinth
 Karma
 Sweet Nothing
 Mastermind

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What is Roe V Wade?

By Gabby C.

Roe v. Wade was an abortion law initially established on January 22, 1973. The purpose of this law was to provide women the option to access an abortion if they chose to, giving women command over their own body and personal health without the government stepping in. According to the New York Times, "On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion after almost 50 years. This will lead to all but total bans on the procedure in about half of the states." In recent posts on social media platforms, many people have been posting quotes that say, "You cannot ban abortion, only safe abortions." This quote insinuates that even though the Supreme Court has

banned abortions conducted by medical professionals, individuals who are truly in need of an abortion will do anything to receive one, even if it is unsafe. Roe v. Wade being overturned is unfortunate, as women have worked hard and sacrificed much throughout history to be able to establish women's rights. Those in opposition to pro-choice note that religious beliefs preclude the right to access abortions. It is sad to see the women in our generation have less rights than our mothers when they were our age. Being able to choose to get an abortion is a human right, and there should never be any laws that claim otherwise. The right to a woman's body should not be decided by a government, because this method of control is breaking

women's human rights. Women involved in abusive relationships, particularly sexual abuse survivors/victims, should be able to have the right to make the decision whether they want to keep the fetus or not. Also, many women have to terminate their pregnancies with abortion, otherwise both the fetus and the mother would die. Laws should actively benefit people's lives, and the overturning of Roe v. Wade only harms the women in need of this form of medical attention. Women whose lives depend on abortion will no longer have the freedom to receive this medical procedure now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned. Women's rights are human rights, and the government needs to acknowledge that.

Whale Entanglement Across the US

By Lana L.

In late September, there was news of a humpback whale off San Elijo State Beach in distress. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), this whale was found to be tangled in over 300 feet of crab fishing gear lines. A team from NOAA fisheries and Seaworld Rescue were out on the scene the next day. Equipped with two small inflatable boats, an underwater camera, and a long pole with an attached knife, they located the whale and formulated a plan to free it. As shown in a video by Seaworld Rescue, they used the underwater camera to pinpoint the most effective spot to cut the line. The team was able to free the whale with a single cut. Though the fishing lines made deep lacerations in the whale's back, it is expected to survive. This is a success story for conservationists throughout the US. Realistically, most whale entanglements do not have a happy ending.

On the East Coast, North Atlantic right whales are facing the threat of

extinction due to fatal entanglements from lines of lobster and crab traps. As recently as October 15th, new whales have been sighted with ropes caught on their tails and backs. If not disentangled, lines will continue to cut into the skin of these whales, who will eventually die from boat strikes or



A whale fluke

drown from their injuries. Most of the time, whale rescues are postponed until weather and safety conditions allow. This can either slow down or put the process completely on hold for months. The North Atlantic right whale species has been declining since the whaling era of the mid-

1800s. There are fewer than 350 individuals remaining, with less than 100 breeding pairs. At their present rate of fatality, they are on the path to extinction.

Though the humpback whale rescue in San Diego went smoothly, whale disentanglement is a very dangerous process. A Canadian rescuer was killed in 2017 from accidentally being struck by a whale, moments after being freed. Since then, teams are highly trained with strict protocols, such as whale behaviors and warning signs to prevent accidents.

Unfortunately, whale entanglements are a worldwide problem and disentanglement teams can only help a small number of cases. Even that is only a temporary solution, as some documented whales have had up to five previously resolved instances with entanglement. To mitigate this problem we have to look to the source, and limit the amount of fishing gear used in the ocean.

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A Brief Introduction to Ergodic Literature

By Lily T.

Ergodic literature is loosely defined as a form of writing that plays with the formatting of the work itself. It was first mentioned in the 1997 book *Cybertext*, written by video game designer and writer Espen J. Aarseth. He defined it as a work that uses ‘nontrivial effort required to traverse the text.’ The term ‘ergodic’ came from the Latin roots *ergon* and *hados*, meaning “work” and “path,” respectively. The genre is commonly associated with interactive and meta fiction, which both involve changing the layout of the work itself, rather than just the style of the writing. This would include line breaks, unreliable narrators, stream-of-consciousness narratives, websites, videos, or audio tracks outside of the work that add to the story. These novels have often been compared to or been the blueprint for ARGs— an abbreviation for alternative reality games, which are essentially interactive narratives that

use the real world to influence the plot (think infamous Youtube phenomena such as *Don’t Hug Me I’m Scared* or *The Mandela Catalogue*). Ergodic works are designed to mess with your mind and the way you view the world; to take the familiar (a book, a video game) and bring it uncomfortably close to your reality. This genre is most often associated with horror, but many works from classical literature to sci-fi also fall into the category of the ergodic.

Standouts in the genre include *Pale Fire* by Vladimir Nabokov— a 999-line poem, but with the main narrative located in the footnotes. Based on the narrative within the narrative, our protagonist— the editor— could either be a delusional fan or the former king of Nova Zembla—the story never confirms one way or another. *Ship of Theseus* by J.J Abrams is a more recent, though popular, addition to the canon, using the margins of a ‘library book’ and inserted papers to tell the love story of two

college students investigating a missing persons case. Other books such as *Night Film* by Marsha Pessl and *Universal Harvester* by John Darnielle utilize QR codes and websites you find within the novel to reveal the full narrative. However, the *chef d’oeuvre* of the ergodic (and the most likely to be recommended when you google the term) is the novel *House of Leaves* by Mark Danielewski. The book is a narrative within a narrative, with the main theme being labyrinths. The book flips text, margins, and footnotes to turn the book itself into a maze, where the reader is in charge of interpreting their own way out.

As visual novels, video games, and podcasts have become more popular, what defines a narrative is constantly changing. The ergodic genre provides that interesting mixture of literature and treasure hunt, providing layers upon layers for the reader to dive into.

The Harte International Gallery

By Livia S.

When exploring a small town in Maui, Hawaii, the last thing one expects to see is an art gallery featuring huge pieces from artists such as Picasso, Miro, Salvador Dali, and Albrecht Durer. Contrary to those beliefs, Harte International Galleries, located at 844 Front St in Lahaina, Maui exists. The gallery is owned by Devon and Glenn Harte, who have followed their passion for researching and preserving art, creating an environment where one can truly enjoy it. The Portuguese Duke of Braganza even knighted the two earlier this year due to their discovery of a wax-based relief created by Salvator Dali. The Hartes have produced a gallery that has earned international recognition and features art from celebrities such as Anthony Hopkins and Anthony Quinn. They also work with the artist Rascal and have some of his original and one-of-a-kind pieces for sale in the gallery. Even though the art is exhibited in a relatively small space, one is able to enjoy each piece and learn about the artists as one does in any museum. The casual approach to this gallery can make one second guess the authenticity of the work since the collection is worth millions of dollars. Due to the friendly nature of the space and the breathtaking art, it is a great place to visit and further one’s interest in art.



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Fantasy Football Becomes Popular Sports Game on Campus

By Gabriel C.

Fantasy football is an interactive, strategy based mobile game where participants become fictional coaches of their own football team. Players draft a team that consists of real NFL players, while considering their skill level and their quality of performance during a certain week. You compete against other players' teams to see who gets the most points. The amount of points a team gets is centered on how many points the drafted players earn on the field during the games that week.



Fantasy Football

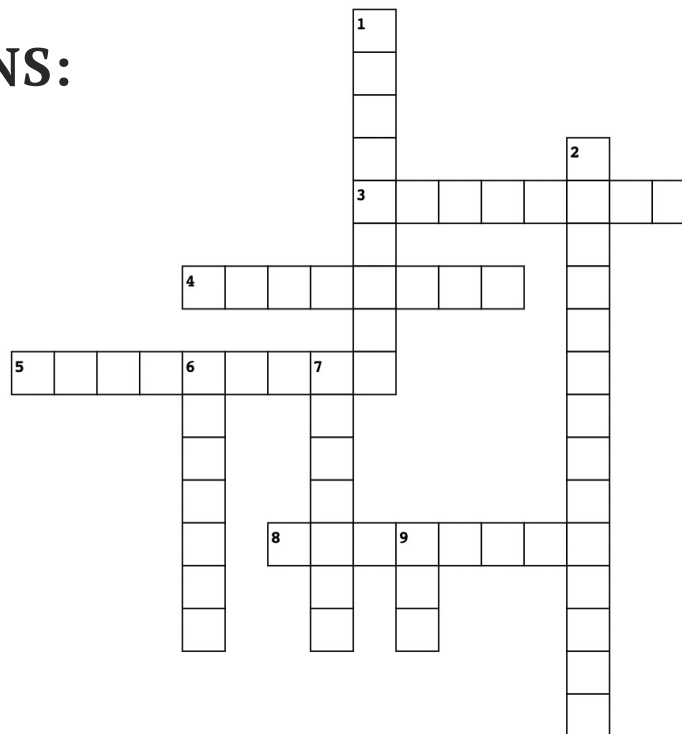
This game has created a greater connection amongst students and staff on campus and has also increased their interest and knowledge of football. 7th grade

Life Science and 9th grade Biology teacher Nick Scacco said, "The game has made watching football on Sundays more fun because of the competition with friends. I have learned more about advanced stats, player production and contract structure by playing fantasy football. I have always tracked player stats, but now I think about how their impact changes over the course of a season and how injuries impact their contribution." If you are interested in learning more about it, some people you can contact are Johnny and Tom.

Louise's Crossword Puzzle

EXPEDITIONS:

Answer on page 11



Across

- 3. Participants on the Washington DC expedition were fortunate enough to see this
- 4. Ziplining was a highlight of this expedition
- 5. New English teacher at Grauer
- 8. Favorite snack in the vending machine

Down

- 1. Popular lunchtime place
- 2. Current popular tv show
- 6. This chaperone shared some gnarly waves
- 7. I'm in a ... state of mind!
- 9. The abbreviation for the country where the Grauer Gorillas can be found

10 Questions with Johnny King

By Jasper H.

Jasper: Where are you originally from?

Johnny: I'm from Northern California. The Bay Area.

Jasper: What's your favorite food?

Johnny: My favorite food ... I like... kinda like comfort food. I like pizza, burgers. That's what I would say. No wait. Tacos, too. Tacos for sure.

Jasper: Do you have any pets?

Johnny: Yeah I do. I have two dogs. (Juno and Jaws)

Jasper: What music do you listen to?

Johnny: I listen to a lot of music depending on my mood, but recently I've been doing a lot of indie folk music. But I grew up in the '90s so also, like, alternative '90s rock has been my jam for a long time.

Jasper: What's your favorite color?

Johnny: Blue.

Jasper: Who's your favorite sports team?

Johnny: The Dodgers.

Jasper: What's your favorite median

Johnny: Printmaking.

Jasper: What subject do you teach?

Johnny: I teach Art.

Jasper: What do you like most about teaching?

Johnny: I like being surrounded by other like-minded people who are just into learning, and being surrounded by the younger students helps to keep me feeling more alive, I think.

Jasper: And lastly, what are your students currently doing in art class?

Johnny: They're doing everything. All different things. We've been using the heat press now. Some students are doing block printing, others are doing digital art and stickers, painting. It's everything.

Jasper: Thank you for your time.



*Johnny King VISUAL ARTS, PHOTOGRAPHY,
AND YEARBOOK TEACHER*

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.

The Artist's Block's first interview is with Raina N., who is a student in ninth grade and enrolled in Advanced Music, where her passion for drumming is highlighted.



Raina N.

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

“My dad is very interested in music. It was my first year in kindergarten and there was this performance I got to watch. This teacher was on the drums, and I really wanted to try that out. I connected with it. I told my mom, and she asked that teacher to teach me how to play, and so I started playing the drums.”

What is your favorite moment in your music?

“I think I was in third grade, and I was in a band with three boys that were in fifth grade. We played in Battle of The Bands, and we won. That was a really good experience. We didn't think we were gonna win because that was our first time performing, but we did.”

Who is your favorite artist in your music/who would you want to meet (alive or dead)?

“Sheila E. probably. She's a really good drummer from a while ago. She's just really inspiring to me, and I like her music a lot.”

What is one song you would love to perform/create in the future?

“Probably a Van Halen song. They're just very...happy but not serious.”

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!

Yours

By Cooper B.

"You make me feel like the only girl in the world,"

Once I was yours.
As we ran together through the wind
In the bitter cold
The rain dancing on our clothes
It was dark, gloomy
But our figures shone
And our smiles glowed
Lighting up a world
Filled with the two of us
And I was yours
Falling hopelessly into your arms.

However,
There was a time where my smile
Grew grime
The words, the actions, the patterns
Of others, of ourselves,
Dimmed our shining souls
And I let go.
I shall watch you take the hands of another
And glow in the bitter cold
As the rain falls down on your desperate loving souls.
Just as we once did, just as we once were,
And I shall smile for you,
But my heart shall always remain yours.

A Small Identity Crisis

By Cooper B.

With the scars of my knees kissing the concrete beneath my trembling limbs; I hold my hands to the center of my heart and squeeze my eyes tight. And my lips move softly in prayer, to a being whose given my brown body no hope, no reason to tread within this blazing world. And yet I beg, just for a moment, that I could be purple. To be a delicate flower blooming with spring, its violet hue embracing the warmth of the sun. Could you see me like that? Could you see me that way? Or perhaps I could resemble the color of wine, its strong, soothing effect lowering inhibitions with every drop on your tongue. Maybe I'm royal purple? Dancing through the hall in my beautiful, elegant robes with my chin held high and my bejeweled crown glistening in the candlelight. Or I'm a pomegranate shade, delicious fruit, staining the white of your teeth with its glaze. And bitter seeds stuck in the back of your throat and yet you can't seem to get enough. Could you see me as purple? Even just for a moment? Please... I want to be what I'm not, for this bodily prison of sweet milk chocolate to you is made from the suffering of those dark cocoa beans you fail to remember. But just beyond this, what you don't see is a land of fresh snow reaching out as far as the eye can see. A winter wonderland, unlike one you have ever seen, because gracing its horizon is a sea of red. As if the sunset were bleeding from a deadly wound. But you have to understand, I don't know what it means to be a piece of milk chocolate, a winter wonderland, and a bleeding horizon. And yet I am all three, in a world where only one is desperately desired by the palms of your hands. So please, I beg, I pray. Let me rise beyond that, beyond my own and your lack of understanding. Look at me, truly look at me, on my knees, hands held in prayer, eyes shut so tight and yet a single tear escaping, rolling down my cheek. Look at me, and what do you see? A young girl who simply wants to be purple.

Poetry Prompts

Write a poem answering these questions: Who are you? Which facets of your identity aren't prominent but form the basis for how you view and carry yourself in the world?

Choose an important figure from your past and create a list of all the lessons they've ever taught you. Weave what they've taught you into a larger narrative piece, or poem.

Choose someone you love and write a list of all the things that person loves (ex. candied roses, chicken wings, etc.). Write a poem about an act of gratitude you want to do for this person focusing on the objects in your list.

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2022

A comic by Jasper H.

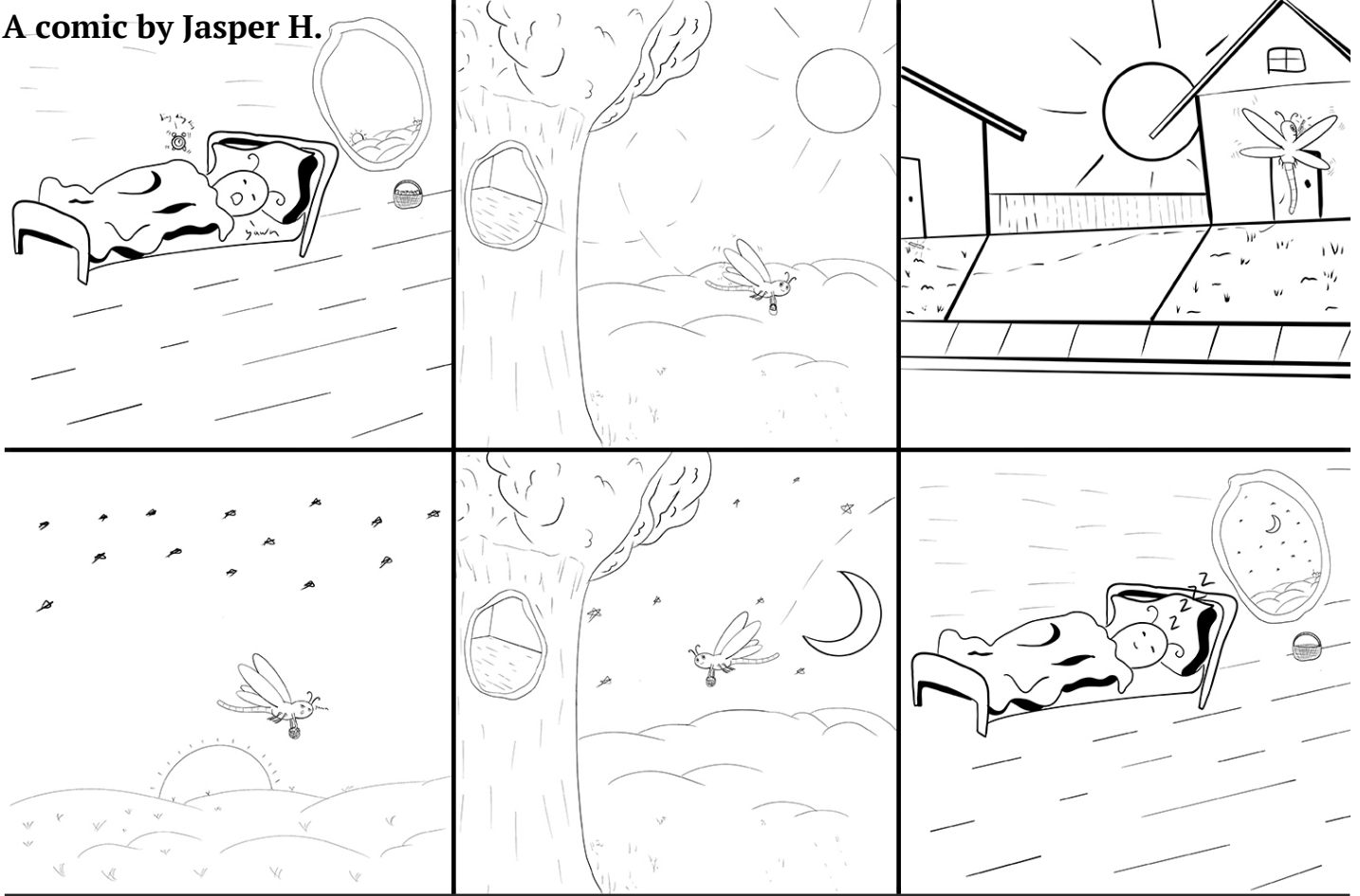


Photo Contest Results



OVERALL WINNER: SEAN F.

Runner Ups: Johnny King and Paulina Davis-Fisher

Louise's Crossword Puzzle Key:

