

THE Grauer Gazette

No. 03

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2022

The Grauer School

THE YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION MOVEMENT

By Gavin M.

On the early morning of October 14th, two young girls walked into the National Gallery of Art in London. What seemed to be a normal visit to the museum quickly transformed into a worldwide stage for environmental activism, when the two girls tossed cans of tomato soup onto the iconic "Sunflowers" painting by Vincent Van Gogh. Instantly, the other museumgoers erupted in outrage, as many could not understand the insolence they had just witnessed. Yet for Phoebe Plummer and Anna Holland, this act of defiance turned years of frustration over environmental complacency and denial into societal rebellion.

As the girls, dressed in white shirts with bold imprinted letters that read "Just Stop Oil," threw the soup across the famous painting, they ignited a fierce global debate about what is more important, a famous painting or our planet's future. While the painting was not harmed due to a protective glass, for many, the damage was already done. In the news, these girls were depicted as ignorant delinquents, whose only goal was to destroy priceless art for a small issue. Yet, this event was only one of many in the latest climate movement orchestrated by different protest organizations and institutions across the world. This renewed passion for climate activism has come at a crucial time for our planet.

The desire for climate protection began in the 1970s, when the issue of global warming started to gain worldwide notoriety and the voices demanding for it to be addressed by the government grew increasingly louder. In fact, in 1970, Earth Day was established as the first environmentally-themed holiday. Earth Day is regarded as the first large-scale environmental event that called for the protection of the planet. During its inaugural celebration, over 20 million people gathered across the United States to protest in unison. This era's activism exposed many people to the issue of environmental protection and gave an effective platform to demand policy change and political action. The establishment of this day to honor and unite those who will care for and protect this planet serves as an active reminder for the importance of climate action over neglect.

The people who forged the first path for the climate movement created a space where people can continue to fight for their beliefs. While the climate movement has evolved over the last five decades, the movement's core argument has remained

the same. Today, the fight for environmental protection and advocacy is led by a new age of climate activists, many of whom are still in high school. These youthful activists have given a resurgence to the fight for our planet's future and given an example to younger generations who seek to enact productive change in their communities. Youth activists such as Greta Thunberg, combined with recent events like the Youth Climate Strike, where a record breaking 5,000,000 young people protested climate complacency, prove one's age does not limit one's passion, fervor, or intelligence to fight for the future. This youth-led movement has and will continue to demand and inspire long-lasting climate protection.



A Climate Justice Protest

While the actions taken by Phoebe Plummer and Anna Holland in the National Gallery of Art were drastic and direct, it is difficult to find fault with their anger and fear regarding the lack of action taken to protect the world they will grow up in. This modern age of youth activism has developed into a beacon of hope for many, not because it is wanted, but because it is needed.

If you are interested in advocating for climate protection at the Grauer School, please contact Nick Scacco to become a member of Climate Action Club.

Info

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Women's Rights in Iran and in America

By Emerson G.

In August of 2020, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of one of the greatest victories for the women's rights movement in the United States. It was a decades-long fight which resulted in the passing of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote and a constitutional guarantee for women to enjoy the rights and responsibilities of full American citizenship.

However, 2022 has shown gender equality is something that should not be taken for granted, both in America and abroad. In fact, situations happening around the world may serve as a bellwether for things to come within our own borders. The country of Iran is currently going through a fierce women's rights struggle, which began when twenty-two year old Mahsa Amini was taken into custody and killed on September 16th, allegedly for wearing her hijab incorrectly. While the official statement from the Iranian law enforcement claimed that she had a heart attack while in custody, UN investigators believe that her death was caused by 'torture and ill treatment'.

Iran's patriarchal and authoritarian rulers had made it mandatory for women to wear head coverings since the 1970s. Each subsequent decade brought



(Photo Credit: The Atlantic Magazine)

stricter laws, and more rigid societal enforcements for women's appearances and behavior, led by the Morality Police, Iran's agency to enforce guidelines according to the Iranian government. Public scrutiny and harassment has been an issue for women in Iran for a long time, but the threats of violence and detainment has become an untenable situation.

Protests have cropped up across Iran calling for the police to take accountability for Mahsa's death, with Iranian women risking their own safety by removing their hijabs and cutting their hair in public. Though these protests were peaceful in origin, they have intensified and led to over 326 deaths (CNN). The oppression and violence is imposed by a theocratic government that uses force and intimidation to scare and control a demoralized population.

Many people in America observe the situation in Iran and believe it could

never happen here. Yet it is important to acknowledge that throughout our own history, the US government's attempts to control women and their bodies has been a constant theme. The challenges we face in America aren't as extreme as the struggles in Iran, but there have been enormous setbacks for feminism recently in America, with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The images of the massive protests which broke out all over our country has resonated with what we see happening in Iran. Even in a democracy like our own, the backlash from US law enforcement agencies against the protestors included over 180 arrests in Washington DC alone (Axios).

In the recent midterm elections, only 30% of eligible voters between the ages of 18-29 cast a ballot (The Hill). Yet many news outlets reported that this was the highest voter turnout of this group in the last 30 years. As high schoolers, most will soon become part of the enfranchised citizenry of this democracy. Their votes will count and their voices will matter. The moment will be upon them to guard the rights they already have and use their voices to protect and further every person's freedom and liberty.

Kanye West's Fallout

By Gabby C.

Kanye West is a successful and world renowned hip-hop artist and producer. Recently, the forty-five-year-old rapper has made controversial and racist remarks, causing his fallout within the music industry. West's Twitter and Instagram accounts have been temporarily banned because of his anti-Semitic remarks in early October of 2022. West posted on Twitter, "I'm a bit sleepy tonight[..] I'm going death con 3 On JEWISH PEOPLE[..]The funny thing is I actually can't be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jew also You guys have toyed with me and tried to

black ball anyone whoever opposes your agenda,” which led the company to take action by banning Kanye from Twitter. West’s anti-Semitic comments had been taken down briefly before his account had been restricted (Unpacking Kanye West’s Antisemitic Remarks). On September 15, 2022, West wore a shirt that said “White Lives Matter,” which originate from white supremacists, “who began using it in 2015 in response to the Black Lives Matter movement,” (Tumin). West proceeded to make false statements about George Floyd’s death in Minneapolis, MN. West said in the podcast Drink Champs that Floyd did not

get murdered by a police officer, but died from the use of fentanyl, which is false. The remarks that West made caused a huge amount of tension with his fans, and the music industry. Fans of influencers believe they should spread truthful information and use their voices to make the world a better place. Many believe that a man with so much fame, such as Kanye West, should take advantage of his influential role to spread meaningful messages, and to set a good example for younger generations.

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Combating Cultural Appropriation in “The Nutcracker”

By Charlotte R.

The holiday special “The Nutcracker” is a ballet traditionally performed around Christmas. Composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographed by Ivan Vzevolozhsky (director of the Russian Mariinsky Theater) and Marius Petipa, the ballet’s first performance occurred in 1892. Since then, it has been performed countless times throughout Europe and the



Angela Sterling - Pacific Northwest Ballet

America’s, from professional ballet companies to small teaching studios. In the second act of the ballet, the lead, Clara is in a dream world where she is serenaded with cultural dances from around the world.

Since the ballet’s creation, many of these dances have not aged well, namely the Chinese Tea dance. With its pointy finger movements, rice-paddy hats and a Fu Manchu-type mustache for the male

dancer, this dance has recently been realized as unfairly stereotypical to Chinese culture. Since the 2000’s, many companies began to notice the cultural appropriation they were perpetuating in their annual productions of “The Nutcracker.” Many dancers feel uncomfortable performing these roles. Most ballet companies make up to 48% of their season’s revenue from performing “Nutcracker”, so finding a new holiday ballet to perform is not an option for these artists who are not well paid. The best solution is to alter the taboo scenes.

Adam Sklute (artistic director of Ballet West) had been troubled by the Tea scene since he was hired in 2007. Once in a position of authority, he petitioned to the board of directors of the San Francisco Ballet, asking if he could create his own adaptation of their Chinese Dance. Their adaptation has a Chinese soldier fighting a dragon, which he considered “more a celebration of the culture versus a mockery of the culture.” Since Ballet West adopted this version in 2018, the company has not received related complaints from their dancers or their audiences.

When the Coronavirus spread into a global pandemic in 2020, anti-Asian

sentiments were perpetuated, especially throughout the United States. Many ballet companies proved their allyship by changing the Tea scene’s choreography. Pacific Northwest Ballet in Washington state immediately took action in altering their production of the Chinese Tea scene. Artistic Director Peter Boal has been experimenting with ways to decrease Asian stereotypes in “The Nutcracker” since 2015. In 2021, he fulfilled his idea of making the lead of the Tea scene a cricket, which is a symbol of good luck in Chinese culture. Another company who altered their Tea scene was Tulsa Ballet in Oklahoma. Tulsa Ballet resident choreographer Ma Cong made adaptations to his company’s “Nutcracker” by incorporating elements of Tai Chi and classical Chinese dance.

It has taken the ballet world over a century to make much headway in confronting these unjust stereotypes in “The Nutcracker,” however, this is a big movement towards equality in the dance industry. As Ma Cong said in an interview with The New York Times, “It’s one simple word: respect. It’s truly important to have respect for all cultures, and to be as authentic as possible.”

Holiday Gifts Ideas and Tips from the Gazette Staff

By Cooper B.

‘Tis the season, Grauer! With the holidays fast approaching, many of us are beginning to wonder what presents we should get for our friends and family. Here are a few tips and ideas!

If you are stumped, play on your loved ones’ interests! For example, get your friend a poster of their favorite band, or a lightsaber if they love Star Wars. One can’t go wrong when buying a present relating to an individual’s interests. Gifting activities is also an option. Buy a friend a concert ticket, take them out to dinner, or plan a trip to Universal (or any amusement

park). Quality time is an impactful and wonderful gift. DIY presents are another staple of gift giving. An individual could simply write letters, or include them in a larger gift. For example, if you love reading, annotate and write little notes in one of your favorite books and give it to another book lover. One could make candles, create a playlist, or bake some holiday treats. A renowned DIY Christmas present at Grauer is the Kristen Stewart prayer candle, created by Kendall B. and gifted to Lily T. It tends to make an appearance during finals week, so be sure to keep on the lookout!

However, perhaps a generalized

gift is more appropriate. If that is the case, think chocolates, soaps and lotions, fuzzy blankets, gift cards, slippers, etc. Gift baskets are always a cute idea too! They are easy to theme and can be filled with anything! Think movie theater essentials, to picnic aesthetics, to Friday Night Football necessities. But they don’t necessarily need to be themed. Simply gather a collection of small and nice knick knacks or ‘stocking presents’ and you have the perfect gift basket. Plus, gift baskets can be hand made or store bought. Gift giving doesn’t need to be a hard or painful process. There are many gift ideas to play off of this holiday season! So have fun, explore, and start your shopping!

How Christmas Came to America

By Livia S.

The Christmas tradition comes from both pagan and Roman cultures. As Christianity spread across Europe, they were not able to suppress these pagan customs and celebrations. Since Jesus's birth date was unknown at the time, they turned the pagan ritual into his birthday. The tree tradition came from Northern Europe, where Germanic tribes decorated evergreens with candles and dried fruit. The tradition was incorporated into the celebration in Germany during the 1500s. They started to decorate trees with sweets, candles, and toys. Santa, who was inspired by St. Nicholas, has Christian roots rather than pagan ones. His legend states that he saved three girls from being sold into slavery. Since the girls did not have a dowry, it was their father's last resort.

St. Nicholas is said to have tossed gold through an open window into their home, which landed in a sock drying by the



fire, saving them from their fate. In America, many banned Christmas because of its pagan origins, although immigrants

arriving from Europe continued with their Christmas customs. Not until the early 1800s did the modern American Christmas begin to take shape. The author of *Old Christmas*, Washington Irving, liked the idea of a festive holiday bringing people together, so he wrote a story about old Christmas traditions that had been lost but were restored by a wealthy landowner. Through Irving's story, Christmas started to gain popularity in America. In 1822, Clement Moore wrote *The Night Before Christmas* for his daughters. Later, in 1881, the artist Thomas Nast drew Santa for a Coca-Cola advertisement. He created a Santa with a wife named Mrs. Claus, surrounded by worker elves. This caused the modern image of Santa as a cheerful, white-bearded man to become part of American Christmas.

A Brief History of Hanukkah

By Livia S.

Hanukkah celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from a period of harsh oppression. It all started with a man named Antiochus IV, a Syrian king who was part Greek. Antiochus wanted to impose Greek culture upon the Jewish people so he forbade them from practicing their religion and culture. A group of Syrian soldiers entered a Jewish village and were determined to test the people's loyalty to Antiochus. The villagers gathered and were ordered to sacrifice a pig to Zeus. When asked to perform the ritual, an elderly priest named Mattathias refused, but in his place another priest offered to comply with the order. Mattathias killed the priest and the commanding officer with a sword. Following suit, Mattathias' sons killed all

the soldiers present. About a year later, Mattathias died and passed his leadership on to his son Judah. Judah earned the title



"Maccabee," a word meaning "hammer" in Hebrew. During the next three years, Judah and his men won many victories against

the Syrian Army. Through this, they gained access to Jerusalem and control of The Holy Temple. At this time the Temple needed ritual cleansing. They needed to light the Temple lamps to do this but only had enough oil for one day. It would take eight more days to get more oil, but through a miracle the one-day supply lasted the entire eight days. Today, Hanukkah is a period of celebration for being freed from oppression, celebrated with food, singing, and games. Following tradition, some of the food is fried in oil to symbolize the miracle of the oil. Items used on Hanukkah are the menorah, dreidels, and sometimes coins called "Gelt", which are chocolate covered in gold foil. While Hanukkah traditions differ around the world, its spiritual focus is on deliverance and dedication.

The Problem with Palm Oil

By Lana L.

Palm oil is one of the most widely consumed vegetable oils. Harvested from the fruit of oil palms, it is used in many food items such as candy, pizza dough, and ice cream, as well as in cosmetics and detergents. According to the World Wildlife Fund, (WWF) "Palm oil can be found in close to 50% of packaged products found in supermarkets." Palm oil is used universally because its properties are vital in product manufacturing, as well as giving food a longer expiration range, and adding texture in hot temperatures. Another benefit to using palm oil is that it has no taste or smell when used in cooking.

The problem with palm oil is how it is grown. Since it is one of the most

efficient crops that can be grown year round, it is a staple product for third world countries, such as these in Malaysia and Africa. Palm oil plantations are the reason for rapid deforestation in these countries, especially in Sumatra. This is putting already critically endangered species at risk, such as Sumatran tigers, orangutans, and rhinos. According to WWF, "43% of Tesso Nilo National Park in Sumatra...has now been overrun with illegal palm oil plantings." These statistics show there are no effective regulations on palm oil production in these vulnerable habitats. The burning of these rainforests is also putting immense amounts of CO2 emissions into the air, contributing to climate change.

Though environmental groups have pushed for change, boycotting palm oil altogether would cause more harm than good. This is because palm oil is one of the biggest contributors to the economy and employment in these countries. The most impactful way to prevent critical habitat degradation is to pressure companies for better management and more sustainable practices in the palm oil industry. Through organizations such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), a nonprofit created to promote the growth of sustainable palm oil, the solution is to find ways for palm oil plantations and wildlife to coexist.

Review: Drake and 21 Savage - *Her Loss*

By Kai D.

On Friday, November 4, Drake and 21 Savage released their collaborative studio album, *Her Loss*. The 16-track album marks 21's first album since his collaborative project, *Savage Mode II*, with Metro Boomin in 2020, while *Her Loss* is Drake's third album in the last 13 months after the poorly received *Certified Lover Boy* and *Honestly, Nevermind*. The two artists have previously released four singles together since their initial collaboration on the song "Sneakin" in 2016. All of which were positively received and successful, proving that the two artists could work well together, complementing each other's strengths.

Her Loss was originally announced on October 22nd and set to drop the following Friday, but was postponed a week due to delays in production. Subsequently, a wildly unconventional and viral album rollout began, with a Vogue magazine cover featuring Drake and 21 that was given out in New York. Yet the magazine wasn't a legitimate Vogue issue, but a fabricated magazine made from recycled Vogue issues with "her loss" sprawled across the pages and photoshopped models sporting 21's

knife tattoos. This was followed up by a fake NPR Tiny Desk performances, GQ's "What's In My Bag", and Howard Stern Show interviews, all poking fun at the typical promo route.

Her Loss takes its audience on a journey through the struggles and triumphs that come with Drake and 21's level of



Her Loss Album Cover

fame. "Rich Flex" starts the album off strong with a modern trap track with Drake and 21 seamlessly trading verses, followed by "Major Distribution" and "On BS," both well-made tracks showing off the duo's talents. The album's middle is filled with

mostly repetitive, forgettable songs with lazy production and poor songwriting like "Hours in Silence." Although *Her Loss* is a collaborative album, it quickly begins to feel more like a Drake album featuring 21 Savage. "Circo Loco" attributes a sample from Daft Punk's "One More Time" that creates an undeniable atmosphere, yet the track still feels rushed and somewhat underwhelming. "P**sy & Millions" sees Drake and 21 on a pleasing instrumental before a smooth beat switch with a verse from Travis Scott, the only feature on the album. This well-produced diverse track acts as an essential break in the repetitive flows that faulted the middle portion of the record. Ultimately *Her Loss* culminates in a slow, weak finish with two mediocre solo tracks from Drake and 21.

While *Her Loss* has its flaws, it still manages to assemble into an overall enjoyable album with multiple hits. *Her Loss* debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart surpassing Taylor Swift's *Midnights* with 513.56 million on-demand official streams during its opening week.

Elon Musk Buys Twitter

By Gabby C.

On October 28th of 2022, Elon Musk, a multi-billionaire with a net worth of over \$300 billion, bought out the social network company Twitter for \$44 billion (Conger). Twitter was formed in 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, and Biz Stone. Elon Musk, who is well-known for being the CEO and founder of Tesla, mentioned in a tweet that he bought Twitter, “...to try to help humanity, whom I love,” and not for the money (Clayton). As the Chief Executive Officer of Twitter, Musk mentioned that the platform is in need of major changes which he plans to work on (Clayton). Musk made it clear that he wants Twitter to be an environment where people can share their beliefs in, “...a healthy manner,

without resorting to violence.” (Lerman) Musk wants Twitter to be a platform that promotes free speech, which is causing his employees and experts on social media to worry about the safeguards and guidelines that Twitter originally had in place. Twitter, and other social media platforms filter the language and content individuals share, which would be taken away if Musk continues with his plan. Musk also stated that Twitter is going to be a private company moving forward, meaning that its stock will no longer be available for purchase by the general public on the New York Stock Exchange. The impact of Twitter being privately owned is that it will no longer be available for the public to reach in regards

to shares. Once all papers are filed, current Twitter shareholders shall receive \$54.20 per share (Lerman). As Musk reshapes the company, he has already amassed a large inner circle at Twitter of existing staff such as Jason Calacanis, David Sacks, Sriram Krishnan, Alex Spiro, and Jared Birchall (Ghaffary). Jim Tabery, a professor of philosophy at the University of Utah, commented, “When it comes down to it, it’s all about the money and — even for the world’s richest person — \$44 billion is hardly chump change.” (Raymond). Very soon, the world will see a whole new platform under Musk’s leadership.

The Rise of Sharks in San Diego

By Lana L.

Recently, videos have been surfacing on social media and news sites revealing an increasing number of great white sharks off the coast of San Diego. Many people are wondering where they are coming from, and if they are a risk to humans. Sharks in general, especially great whites, have been demonized in media from dozens of movies such as *Jaws* and *The Shallows*. This is a harmful perspective, because a fear of sharks overshadows the damage humans are doing to their populations. 100 million sharks are killed every year, yet people still see them as the monsters of the oceans.

The reason for more sightings in the past couple of years is simply do to the fact there are more sharks in the water. Great white sharks were protected off the coast of California in 1994, when they were written into the California Code of Regulations, Fish and Game Code. This made it illegal to fish for or catch great whites. The population is now rebounding and the ecosystem is healing. Great white sharks are apex predators and therefore regulate other marine populations. A stable population of sharks means a healthy ecosystem.



A leopard shark at La Jolla Shores (photo credit Lana L.)

The sharks being sighted are mainly juveniles, and their primary source of food is stingrays, which are plentiful along the coastline. These sharks use San Diego beaches as a nursery site because shallow waters are naturally warmer and provide better protection than the open ocean. Nowadays, one can fly a drone and find a great white shark within minutes, swimming peacefully outside the surf. The simple truth is that great white sharks come into contact with surfers and swimmers all the time. As seen from the aforementioned drone footage, people rarely see these sharks and the sharks don’t care about the swimmers either. This is a perfect example of coexistence in the ocean, where both humans and sharks are operating peacefully in the same space. The only time there would be an interaction would

be out of curiosity, not hunger.

A major hotspot for a different type of shark in San Diego is La Jolla Shores. Every year from July through October, thousands of leopard sharks congregate in the surf, directly out from the Marine Room, a beachside restaurant. One can walk out, knee deep in the water and have several leopard sharks swimming around them. It was recently discovered that almost all of these sharks are pregnant females, who use the calm sandflats of La Jolla as a sanctuary before they give birth. These sharks can grow up to six feet in length, but the average is around four to five. Leopard sharks are completely harmless to humans, eating sand crabs and other small crustaceans.

Due to recent warmer ocean temperatures, the leopard sharks have been found to stay in La Jolla nearly year round. This differs from previous years when, from December through May, the sharks would leave for a different location and arrive again the next summer. Whether it was for warmer water due to climate change, or the abundance of food from the Marine Protected Area (MPA), San Diegans can now find these sharks year round.

The Pros and Cons of Upgrading

By Sarai S.

Upgrading has been a part of The Grauer School curriculum since the founding of the school 32 years ago, allowing students to improve their work after submission. Throughout his life, Dr. Stuart Grauer saw the advantages of revising one's work, saying, "whether you were a kindergartener or Albert Einstein, if you persevered you could keep learning and keep making things better." The primary factor in Dr. Grauer's journey to introduce the concept of upgrading was the relationships that could be built upon the work required to upgrade an assignment, specifically, emphasizing, "the relationship that upgrading supports between the teacher and the student," and how "in many schools, you get your work back with the grade, and then the learning stops. The teacher writes all sorts of helpful things, edits and corrections, and the student does nothing with it. You are trapped."

However, the upgrade policy is continually debated. Upgrading can lower students' stress, help them understand the academic level they hold themselves to, and revise mistakes. While providing

numerous benefits to students, the upgrading policy can also lead to a false representation of post-high school education.

As a short term policy, upgrading proves highly beneficial to students' mental health. A study conducted by the National Society of Medicine showed that 20.8% of students in public school experience high levels of anxiety, and 15.8% are stressed. 20.5% of students enrolled in private school struggle with anxiety, while 20.1% tend to be stressed. Most private schools' mental health data is similar to public schools, however most of those private schools do not have an upgrade policy. When upgrades are woven into a school's curriculum, the hope is that the overall stress the students feel will be lower. Though, when it comes to "real life," is this practice setting students up to fail?

Tom Guskey, a professor at the University of Kentucky, argues that even the most specialized careers need room for error, at least in the beginning. "The surgeon's first operation was performed on a cadaver—a situation that allows a lot of latitude for mistakes. Similarly, the pilot spent many hours in a flight simulator

before ever attempting a landing from the cockpit of a real jet. Such experiences allowed these professionals to learn from their mistakes and improve their performance," wrote Guskey in an online blog titled Why Should We Allow Students to Retake Assessments? (EducationWeek, 6 July, 2020).

When students are given the opportunity to upgrade their work, a new rift can be created amongst the students. With upgrading, the students who strived to get a higher grade the first time around may now be earning a similar grade to that of a student who did not push themselves as hard, but was able to earn points back after revising their work. This can lead to an altered perception of which students are 'A+' students during their first submission and those who only achieve 'A+' grades after upgrading.

Even as students' grades may be falsely represented through a transcript in which they were given a second chance, it should be noted that upgrading can foster personal improvement, better student-teacher relationships and keep individuals in a continual state of learning.

New Grauer Art Wall

By Jasper H.

Pablo Picasso once said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." Recently, you may have noticed a see-through case near the vending machines. This new addition is one of the many ways Grauer students can share the amazing art they have been working on this year. Currently, the art wall has paintings of donuts that students painted using actual donuts as reference, as well as landscape paintings. Paul Panckhurst notes in his article, "Can



Viewing Art Reduce Stress?", "Viewing art has been proven to reduce stress in overstimulating environments such as hospitals, universities and corporate settings." So why not try it at our school? The art wall also inspires the core value of intellectual curiosity, because by looking at other people's art, you may be inspired to create and explore new mediums of expression. So if you're ever near the vending machines, be sure to look at the great art that the Grauer School students have created!

Grauer School senior, Devon O. offered this response to a college application prompt

By Devon O.

Brown students care deeply about their work and the world around them. Students find contentment, satisfaction, and meaning in daily interactions and major discoveries. Whether big or small, mundane or spectacular, tell us about something that brings you joy. (200-250 words)

I've been at the same school for five years now. It's been under construction, teachers and students have come and gone, and our founder is retiring later this year. However, the biggest change came over this past summer.

A generous family donated a ping-pong table!

My friends and I didn't even look at it twice at the beginning of the year. However, the ping-pong fever eventually infected each and everyone of us, but those most severely affected were the senior class. Symptoms include: racing to the table to get in line first, a careful analysis of opponents' weaknesses, and a focused construction of smack talk to expose said weaknesses.

As with most schools social structures exist and friend groups remain relatively separated through the years. However, this year that changed due to that ping-pong table. No matter the time of day you can hear the sound of a group of seniors playing before school, during breaks, and of course at lunch. There is always a line of students eagerly waiting to play a 'first-to-two points', king of the court style game.

In addition to all the joy the ping-pong table has brought, it has also broken the barriers of those friend groups and unified the grade in a special way. Instead of finding different groups of seniors spread out across campus, you can almost always find us all laughing and cheering around the ping-pong table. Seeing our senior class come together in the final moments of our high school career, confirming and establishing new friendships that will last a lifetime, brings me the greatest joy of all.

Hysterical, Unreliable Narrators: *Lolita* and *My Dark Vanessa*

By Lily T.

Vladimir Nabokov's 1955 novel *Lolita* is one of the more misunderstood novels in the literary canon. The novel, which follows the middle-aged Humbert Humbert and his obsession with teenage 'nymphet' Dolores Haze, has been the subject of much controversy, with people rushing to either condemn the novel for its depiction of pedophilia or justify Humbert's actions. People weren't sure how to interpret *Lolita*- was Humbert an abuser, or was Lolita a teen seductress exploiting Humbert for her own benefit?

The latter interpretation, while supported at first glance, is false. *Lolita* is a masterful example of an unreliable narrator, with Humbert's flowery language disguising his repeated abuse of a child.

Lolita is, at its core, a horror story: a literary spiderweb designed to lower defenses until the reader is trapped like Dolores, justifying a monster's actions as a tormented love story. It is a rare example of a character so delusional that they convince their audience to agree with the madness, a *folie à deux* between reader and narrator.

The 2020 novel *My Dark Vanessa* reverses the story, creating a narrative from the perspective of a 'Lolita'. As a teenager in the early 2000s, Vanessa has trouble connecting with others, which is noticed by her older English teacher. As her teacher grooms her for a romantic and sexual relationship, Vanessa finds herself justifying his behavior- because if it's a love story, then she isn't a victim. The story jumps back and forth between

Vanessa as a teenager in the 2000s and an adult during the #MeToo movement, as she comes to terms with her abuse. Vanessa manipulates the truth as an unreliable narrator: you start the novel confused and outraged as to why a person would romanticize and excuse the predatory acts they were victim to, but you end the novel empathizing with Vanessa, despite her refusal to be a 'perfect victim'.

My Dark Vanessa is a timely companion to *Lolita*, giving Dolores Haze the voice she's been missing for fifty years. Although difficult to read, *My Dark Vanessa* is an expertly done novel and a reality check for fans of Nabokov who defend Humbert's actions after all these years.

The Artist's Block

By Charlotte R. and Gavin M.

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 Aviya A., a student in 11th grade. Aviya is an aspiring architect who incorporates different mediums of art into her work.



Aviya A.

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

When I was younger, I was always super interested in art, but it was my 5th grade photography class that actually sparked my interest in architecture, which is one of my favorite forms of art.

What is your favorite moment in art?

The spark right when you get inspiration or you have an idea for a project. It's that little moment when you're super motivated to create.

Who is your favorite artist (alive or dead)?

Zaha Hadid is one of my favorite architects and her inspiration comes from abstract geometric patterns that she turns into buildings and designs. The way she sees architecture is so unique and she is someone I would love to be able to talk to.

What is one project you would love to create in the future?

Architecture...I hope to design buildings and when I'm older be able to see them come to fruition and go inside them.

Where would you like to create?

I love the East Coast, especially Boston and I also love Europe, so because I love those places, I would love to see one of my buildings there... but really it could be anywhere.

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!

Ode to Life

By Alexa K

Your green grass,
Prickly but fresh.
Emeralds dance among its blades
Your flowers: red, white, blue, pink
Crane themselves to the sun,
Open and vulnerable
Your bright sunlight warms the Earth,
Your cool shade will bring rejuvenation to smiling faces,
Your birds will sing, and titter, and fly,
Your dogs will run and roll and play,
White and black and brown

Your breeze, your wind,
Will bring with it life and light
Making the short grass wave,
The flowers sway,
Making the cool shade cooler,
Your birds will ruffle their feathers in delight,
Your dogs will raise their noses in rejoice for the wind
tells tales
And spins stories of far off--of beauty they have yet to
see

Your peace and quiet of calm silence,
You're full of life yet so still unless studied.
Untrained eyes do not see your exultant birds, your
joyful dogs, your dancing grass,
They see not your twirling flowers, your revitalizing
shade, your peace of mind.
Untrained eyes, they do not see your life.

Poetry Prompts

Try writing a persona poem! Look around the room you're in and find an object of interest or importance to you. Then, write a poem from the point of view of that object.

Think of a recent conversation that resonated with you. Try writing a story or poem based on the dialogue of that conversation.

Club Coverage: Climate Action Club

By Sarai S.

As friends and family filed into the Meyer Hall for Thursday's music Cafe Night, eyes were immediately drawn to the table filled with large gift baskets, ocean paintings and small succulents placed carefully into hand painted pots. Behind that table, Lana L. and Tahlia F. stood waiting for the first guests to wander over. Throughout the night, the pair sold raffle tickets and succulents for the new club they started

alongside Gavin M., Climate Action Club. "We started Climate Action Club because we feel very passionate about the current state of our environment, and we believe that if the world continues to do things the way we've been doing them, our planet won't ever recover," said Tahlia excitedly. She explained the club as a way to get students involved with the community to work towards climate preservation and

education. Their first organized event was the fundraiser at Cafe Night, with all proceeds going to Project Kolika - a local nonprofit organization which focuses on ocean conservation through beach cleanups and educational outreach programs. At the end of the night, the club raised \$282 and are looking forward to their next events.

ENCINITAS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 2022

Behind the scenes of The Grauer Gazette



New Winter Photography Contest

Theme: Nature/Wildlife, People, and Holiday



Upload Now!



SCAN ME

Photos by Kai D.

