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ENCINITAS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH, 2024

The Grauer School

A History of Fanaticism

By Nicholas H.

With Taylor Swift's new album releasing soon, her fans are all eager to listen to her newest compositions. In recent years, Taylor Swift has had a resurgence in popularity, and her fanatics, who call themselves Swifties, have massively risen in numbers. Swifties have seen a bad reputation in the media due to their erratic and over the top behaviour, but this is not the first occurrence of this type of celebrity worship. The first instance of this type of fan frenzy can be dated all the way back to almost 200 years ago, when fanatics of Hungarian pianist and composer Franz Liszt began displaying radical behaviour towards him. Liszt was a piano virtuoso and regarded as one of the greatest pianists of all time, causing people to act very erratically towards him and his music. The term "Lisztomania" was coined by German author Heinrich Heine and this term opened the word "mania" to describe obsessive behavior, along with its previous use to

describe mental disorders. At its peak, fanatics would faint in Liszt's presence, stalk him to collect his trash, and even attempt to cut hair off his corpse after Lisztomania came to a halt. Liszt abruptly decided to end his career as a celebrity and lead a more religious lifestyle, ending Lisztomania.



The world would not experience a similar phenomenon until over a hundred years later, when the world was struck by another mania surrounding the rock band the

Beatles. Sprouting from a small fan base in their hometown of Liverpool, the Beatles spread around the world and experienced a massive surge in popularity. Fanatics of the Beatles went crazy over the four band members, chasing them around, attempting to sneak into their hotels, and one fan even trying to mail herself to them. Beatlemania only ended after the band made the decision to end their careers as live performers, due to not being able to hear themselves play over their fans. Similar manias that occurred in this time period included fanaticism for Elvis Presley (which preceded the Beatles) and Michael Jackson, which has ultimately led to the rise of Swifties as new musical artists attract more fans. Taylor Swift has an undeniably influential role as a celebrity in modern pop culture and her fans have a large impact on modern societal events. As time marches on, fanatics will follow closely behind, waiting for new artists to reveal themselves.

“Senioritis Procrastinensis” - A Scientific Case Study at the Grauer School

By Gavin M.

As the calendar rolls past January 1st into the second semester of the school year, a mysterious sickness falls over the senior class. This illness, known only by its scientific name, “senioritis procrastinensis,” or its short name, “senioritis,” is a possibly terminal condition that has a catastrophic effect on a certain percentage of the student body. First discovered in 1956 in Lakewood High School in Kentucky, senioritis sent shockwaves through the American school system. One by one, students began exhibiting persisting conditions of procrastination, a concerning decline in attention, and, in some severe cases, full invisibility

during class. Unfortunately, this seemingly inexorable endemic has shown no signs of stopping. When asked about his symptoms (Patient 0) at the Grauer School, Nicholas H. expressed, “It hurts so bad. When I wake up in the morning, I can feel all of the symptoms. Sometimes, I don’t even want to come to school in fear of spreading this deadly sickness to someone else.” Others take a much less sympathetic view of the ailment. Teacher Louise H. articulately stated, “As mothers and teachers for generations have acknowledged, one is never sure if a student is faking it or ill. I try to employ the core value of compassion but often fall short, reverting instead to frus-

tration and cynicism!” Every year, scientists and teachers try to combat this illness with various methods, including dropping grades, raising tardy minutes, and even resorting to complete academic amputation. One unique characteristic of senioritis is that if it remains untreated in the body and mind for a certain amount of time, it can be too late, resulting in a full takeover in the body in the form of bed head, eye bags, and casualitis (the uncontrollable urge to wear sweatpants). As the brilliant minds of the scientific community strive to propose a solution, this year’s senior class will have to anxiously wait, not knowing if, one groggy morning, they will be the next victim.

Navigating the Era of AI: Jobs That Are Resilient

By Adele F.

The invention of artificial intelligence has sparked concerns about the future of work, with fears of widespread automation leading to mass unemployment. While it's true that AI technologies are poised to revolutionize many industries, there are certain jobs that are likely to remain resilient in the face of advanced technology. These "AI-proof" jobs leverage human skills and attributes that are difficult to replicate with technology, offering stability and security in an increasingly automated world.

One area where humans are likely to maintain a competitive edge over AI is in the realm of creativity. Jobs that require imagination, originality, and emotional intelligence are less susceptible to automation. Professions such as creative writing, graphic design, music composition, and filmmaking rely on the nuanced understanding of human emotions and experiences, making them less easily replaceable by algorithms. While AI can assist in creative endeavors, it lacks the ability to truly innovate and express the depth of genuine human creativity.

Roles that involve empathy, compassion, and human connection are also likely to be safe from automation. Healthcare professionals, such as doctors, nurses,

and therapists, require a level of emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills that AI cannot replicate. Similarly, personal care workers, such as home health aides and childcare providers, rely on their ability to build trusting relationships with clients, a quality that is inherently human. While AI may augment certain aspects of healthcare, the human touch will remain essential in providing personalized support. In addition, jobs that involve complex problem solving and critical thinking are less susceptible to automation. These roles require the ability to analyze data, think creatively, and make strategic decisions based on nuanced understanding and contextual knowledge. Occupations such as management consulting, research and development, and strategic planning rely on human judgment and expertise to navigate ambiguity and uncertainty. While AI can assist in data analysis and decision-making processes, it lacks the intuitive understanding and adaptability of human intellect.

Certain skilled trades and craftsmanship professions are also likely to be resistant to automation. Jobs such as plumbing, carpentry, welding, and electrical work require manual dexterity, spatial reasoning, and practical problem-solving skills that are difficult to replicate with AI. Additionally, crafts such as pottery,

woodworking, and jewelry making rely on the unique creativity and craftsmanship of human artisans. While technology may enhance efficiency and precision in these fields, the human touch remains integral to the quality and authenticity of the final product. Roles that involve community engagement, advocacy, and social support are less likely to be automated. Jobs in social work, counseling, education, and community organizing require interpersonal skills, cultural sensitivity, and a deep understanding of human behavior and societal dynamics. While AI can assist in administrative tasks and data analysis, the complexities of human relationships and social systems demand judgment and empathy of human professionals.

While the rise of AI undoubtedly presents challenges to the future of work, there are certain jobs that are likely to remain resilient. Roles that require creativity, empathy, complex problem solving, skilled craftsmanship, and social engagement; attributes that are difficult to replicate with technology. By investing in education that emphasizes these qualities, individuals can position themselves for success in an increasingly automated world, ensuring that the human touch continues to play a vital role in our society and economy.

Interviewing Sevies

By Lily T.

The transition from middle school to high school is a treacherous one. The person you were and the person you thought you would become are destined to never meet- the person staring back at you through time is a complete stranger. Who is the true self- the person you were or the person you became? Pondering these questions, we interviewed some seventh graders, asking the same two questions: What are some strange things you notice about the high schoolers, and what do you think you'll be like as a high schooler yourself?

Here are a few of those illuminating responses.

Note: Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

Dane P.

"They [high schoolers] like to hang out in Nick's room a lot, and their favorite teacher is probably *****? As a high schooler, I'll be amazing. I'll be nice to all the middle schoolers and I'll try and include everyone in everything that I do."

Raphi A.

"I always see the [high school] students congregating in Meyer Hall at any time. Something interesting they do is they always have one teacher they go to for advice and are in their classroom 90% of the time."

I predict it'll be mostly the same in high school, but a lot more complexity attached to the same topics we already discuss. I'll be able to have a much deeper relationship with the teachers because I'll get to know them more."

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Black History Month: Remembering Carter G. Woodson

By Emerson M. G.

As you may have heard in the news or even your classes February, was Black History Month. Although this month is something we have observed for our whole lives - it hasn't really been around for that long.

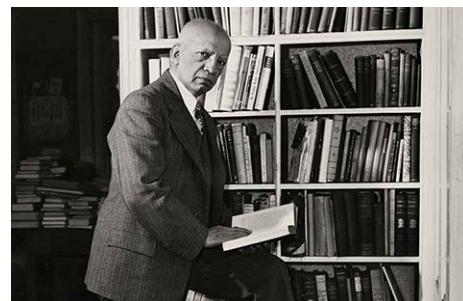
Black History Month was an idea created by Carter G. Woodson. Woodson (1875 - 1950) was an American historian, author, journalist, and later founder of the Association for the Study of American Life and History. He was also one of the first scholars to study the history of the African diaspora, including African-American history. He was dedicated to celebrating the historical contributions of Black people, which led to the eventual creation of Black History Month in February of 1976. The path to the creation of this historical month was not easy.

Woodson was born to illiterate former slaves and had to work on his family farm and in the coal mines, making his schooling anything but stable. With a desire to learn, he taught himself basic school

subjects - mastering them all by the age of 17. He entered highschool at 20 and obtained his diploma in less than two years. After that, he worked as both a teacher and school principal before getting his bachelor's degree in literature and his masters degree in European History. Soon after he became the second Black American ever to get a PhD from Harvard University. With his education complete, Woodson joined the faculty of Howard University.

Woodson became determined to create Black History Month after realizing that the study of African American history and cultures was mainly dominated by white men. He saw African American contributions "overlooked, ignored, and even suppressed by the writers of history textbooks and the teachers who use them" (NAACP). Woodson knew it was up to him, a black man, to study and teach about the African American experience. Woodson founded the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, with the mission written as the scientific study of the

"neglected aspects of Negro life and History." In 1916, he started the scholarly *Journal of Negro History* which is still published under the name *Journal of African American History*. Woodson's passion for showcasing the contributions of Black Americans was finally noticed in 1926, when he launched Negro History Week in the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Woodson's concept was later expanded into Black History Month. It is important for us today to realize the legacy that Woodson and all Black contributors left, not just in February but every month.



What's Up With Grauer?

By Gabby C.

Grauer Theater Department - Erin Langen's theater crew is preparing for a few exciting events open to all Grauer students and families! Theater Cafe Night takes place on Wednesday, April 10, at 6:00 pm, with an exceptional performance by all high school theater students. Additionally, the Theater Department is very excited to announce The Great Gatsby performance on April 27th, at 6:30 pm.

Grauer PTA - ATTENTION ALL GRAUER STUDENTS! The Grauer PTA is proud to announce that they will be hosting and leading a day trip to an orphanage in Baja, Mexico. The Door of Faith orphanage is inviting 40 individuals to participate in showing the love and care that these young children deserve through cooking food, playing games, sports, and spending

time with these children. The fee for going on this trip is \$100, and 10 community service hours can be achieved for students taking part. Have questions? Contact Julie Silva (juliesilvasd@gmail.com) for more information and to register



Spring Sports - Spring sports have finally taken a kick start both through The Grauer School and through Horizon Prep Athletics. Coed track and field, coed golf, ladies' beach volleyball, and men's indoor volleyball have finally begun at Horizon Prep in February 2024. All school-inclu-

sive Grauer Archery with Trevor Olson, high school-exclusive soccer with Morgan Brown, and middle school boys basketball have also begun on the Grauer campus. Interested in playing one of these sports? It's not too late! Contact Grauer Athletic Director, Trevor Olson (trevorolson@grauerschool.com) for more information!

Music - The Grauer School's High School Music Department is hosting an Originals/Reworks Cafe Night at 6:30 on March 21st. This event will showcase the talents of students who will be performing original works of music or reworking classic old songs. The night promises to be filled with creativity and innovation as students share their musical talents with the community. Make sure to mark your calendars and come out to support these talented young musicians!

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Lonely City: *Chungking Express* Review

By Lily T.

Wong Kar Wai is a Hong Kong filmmaker and screenwriter who is incredibly popular amongst film enthusiasts around the world. His distinctive style can best be described as an aesthetic of urban loneliness- his films have the common motif of people searching for connection, typically under the neon lights of the city. The style of cinematography gives his films the feeling of unreality that you typically only get when you're awake in the latest hours of the night.

One of Wong Kar Wai's most

famous works is the 1994 classic *Chungking Express*. This film is an anthology, a fact I didn't realize until midway through the film. Although the main characters of their respective segments do meet each other in the middle- a passing of the baton, as it were- they never truly connect. The thread connecting them is brittle at best, breaking as if it never existed at all.

The initial narrative is about a cop in Hong Kong whose girlfriend breaks up with him. Adrift by the loss, the man buys a can of her favorite pineapples each night after the breakup, only accepting her

loss when the pineapples finally expire. At the same time, a mysterious woman in a blonde wig is traversing the city after a drug operation gone wrong. Their paths intersect for just a night, and then they are immediately lost to each other again. The second story is about Faye, a girl working at a fast food kiosk. She falls in love with a policeman whose girlfriend just left him, taking an unhealthy obsession into his life. Upon realizing her feelings, the policeman tries to meet her at a restaurant, only to receive a letter that Faye has signed up to be a flight attendant. The story ends a year later, with Faye and the policeman reunited. She gives him a plane ticket for wherever he wants to go.

The overall feeling of this movie was that of a liminal space. The shades of neon provide an artificiality that parallels the shallow connections formed throughout the film. Even amidst the bustle of Hong Kong, the main characters remain isolated. The beauty of a lonely city resonates with viewers across the world, making *Chungking Express* a film not to be missed.



Tick Tock, TikTok: Impact of UMG Decision

By Nicholas H.

On January 31, 2024, TikTok users worldwide found many videos on the platform to be muted. The Universal Music Group announced that they have stopped licensing their music on TikTok, muting the music of many major artists such as Taylor Swift, Drake, and Olivia Rodrigo. The ending of this license removes any UMG-licensed music previously on the platform, the option to search for these songs under the "sounds" tab, and the right for artists to upload UMG-licensed music onto the platform. In an open letter from UMG to the artists, they expressed that they have been pressing TikTok on three issues: "appropriate compensation for our artists and songwriters, protecting human artists from the harmful effects of

AI, and online safety for TikTok's users." They stated that TikTok proposed paying artists a much smaller amount of money than other major social media platforms did, stating that despite its size, TikTok only contributed to 1% of their total revenue. UMG is also disapproving of TikTok's support of AI-generated audio, which they claim is harmful to human artists and promotes the AI replacement of humans. User safety on TikTok is also a problem, as UMG claims that TikTok does not make an effort to stop the hate speech or harassment on the platform. As a response, TikTok attempted to offer UMG a contract worth less than the previous, and attempted to coerce them by removing the music of smaller artists in an attempt to intimidate

them into making this deal.

Although a large amount of music has been removed from TikTok, this will most likely not last long. The partnership between UMG and TikTok is mutually beneficial and pressure from artists and their fans will probably influence the decision both companies make. While negotiations between TikTok and UMG are being made, users will have to wait and see what happens. For TikTok, the removal of music will cause a massive decline in popularity as a major selling point of the app has been taken out. Whether this will lead to the death of TikTok or not will be determined by the outcome of this situation.

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Three-Day Trip Itinerary - Seattle, WA

By Sarai S.

Visiting Seattle with only a few days for exploring can be tricky. There are endless activities and each neighborhood offers a unique atmosphere. Here is my guide to spending three activity-filled days in the Emerald City.

Day One:

I suggest staying on Capitol Hill. It is within walkable distance to downtown, extremely colorful, and has something fun 24/7. After arriving at Sea-Tac, you will likely be tired, hungry, and simultaneously ready to start sightseeing. Oddfellows is a boho-barn-esque brunch restaurant, with the best brunch food on the Hill. It is a great spot to sit down and rest for a few hours in between your city ventures. Conveniently, it is located next door to Elliott Bay Book Company, and if you know anything about Seattle, you know this is one of the top tourist attractions (bookworm or not). If it is cold, you might want to grab a hot drink (Seattle Fog recommended), from the café in the back. Finally, across the street is Seattle's Glossier store, in which you can have fun trying their new products in a PNW-modeled retail experience.

Day Two:

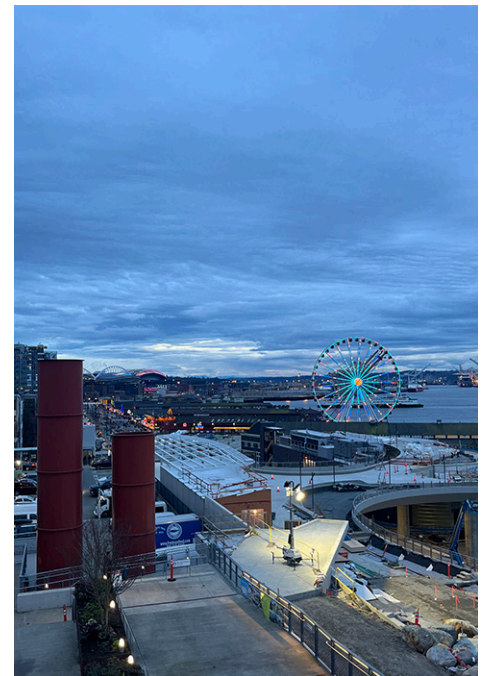
On a crisp-air, foggy Seattle day, it is hard to find anything better than an early morning walk. Depending on where you are on Capitol Hill, Pike Place Market (yet another famous tourist destination), is only a mile away. However, if this feels like too much effort first thing in the morning, Seattle has an amazing transportation system and you can easily catch a bus down the hill. At Pike, you might want to visit the gum wall in Post Alley (though I think if you were to skip any famous attraction, this would be the one). Instead, head inside the Crumpet Shop for freshly made crumpets they prepare in front of you, and a warm drink. After exploring the rest of the market, walk south about a mile and a half to the ferry terminal. Ferries run all day to various towns across the water. I suggest catching the fer-

ry over to Bainbridge Island, which is just big enough for a few hours of boutique-ing, taking a stroll along the harbor, and stopping for ice cream. Island Cool Ice Cream has tons of fun flavors including Washington classics such as Mountain Blackberry. After a short (35-minute) ferry ride back to the city, you can pop over to the Starbucks Reserve, where they roast the beans, serve a special limited edition menu, and have a full bar and food. Finally, end the day at Old Stove Brewing Company for pub food and drinks, before heading back to Post Alley for a comedy show at Unexpected Productions.

Day Three:

Today is about neighborhood exploration. It starts in Queen Anne, where you can find endless cafes, record stores, and stunning views of the city. Next, head over to Madison Park for a drive-by real estate tour of some of Seattle's oldest and largest homes. Park your car at the Arboretum and find yourself in a beautiful park that will make you feel as if you are miles away from any sort of city. The park is perfect for either a sunny spring day or one of Seattle's many rainy days. A short drive from Madison Park is the U-District, where you can shop in the University Village Mall before crossing the street to the stunning University of Washington campus.

Once you've finished exploring the U-District, stop at Razzi's Pizzeria on your way back to Capitol Hill, where you can get hot pizza served until midnight. Finish off the night at Frankie and Jo's Ice Cream and Late Night Vintage Market. Late Night Vintage Market is four floors, descending below ground, of vintage clothing and accessories. True to its name, the store is open until midnight. It guarantees a good shopping playlist, friendly staff, and fun late-night activities.



Argylle Movie Review

By Emerson M. G.

The movie that fooled everyone - *Argylle*, touted as an action-packed spy comedy extravaganza, boasted an ensemble cast featuring the likes of Dua Lipa, John Cena, and Henry Cavill. Its initial allure stemmed from the pervasive belief that Taylor Swift was somehow involved in its book and subsequent film adaptation. While this assumption turned out to be utterly false, it inadvertently served as a brilliant marketing ploy, catapulting the movie to a staggering \$77 million gross at the box office.

However, despite its commercial success, *Argylle* was met with scathing reviews, earning a paltry 33% on Rotten Tomatoes, and for good reason. From the

outset, the film careens through multiple storylines, leaving viewers bewildered as it abruptly switches gears at least five times, if not more. The sheer volume of plot twists is enough to make one's head spin, making it nearly impossible to grasp any coherent narrative thread.

Clocking in at a cumbersome two and a half hours, *Argylle's* runtime feels interminable, stretching the patience of even the most dedicated moviegoers. What should have been an entertaining escapade devolves into a convoluted mess, leaving audiences feeling cheated out of both their time and money. In hindsight, attending this cinematic debacle felt less like a night out at the movies and more like a regrettable exercise in endurance. Despite its

star-studded cast and initial hype, *Argylle* ultimately squandered its potential, leaving behind a trail of disappointment.

Rating: 2/10. The only points are for the cat because it was cute.



The Depiction of Insanity in Literature

By Gavin M.

As the saying goes, people are intrinsically drawn to what they don't understand. Therefore, one of the most thoroughly studied and discussed aspects of human psychology is insanity. For centuries, people have asked, what forces someone to the edge of sanity? What leads a person to lose themselves fully to madness? Fortunately, these questions have been answered repeatedly by some of the brightest literary minds in history, providing surreal depictions of human sensibility and creating connections between society and psychological behavior. Yet, each author's vision of madness is not the same. In fact, madness is not only used as a plot point in a tragic Shakespearean play or cunning psychological thriller but also as a reflection of inhumanity, social standards, and flawed government policy.

One of the longest-lasting impressions of insanity in literature is in Miguel de Cervantes' magnum opus, *Don Quixote*. This novel, portraying the life of a Spanish man's descent into madness on a personal quest to become a knight, is famous for being the first work of prose fiction that "viewed reality as a kind of fiction and fic-

tion as a kind of reality." This was a substantial step in creative narratives, making it acceptable for writers to lean outside traditional stories. In the book, *Don Quixote's* madness is not caused by a single event, but instead by a decision to view the world through a romantic lens of chivalry rather than being forced to accept the harsh reality of life. In this way, madness is utilized as a mirror for readers to understand that in real life, no one is perfect, and therefore are unable to hold themselves up to the unrealistic portrayal of knights.

Another classic example of mania in literature is in Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper". Published in 1892, the story follows a woman who slowly falls into hysteria as she is resigned to the same room after giving birth. While the story portrays the woman's illness as insanity, modern readers can easily conclude that her "madness" is, in fact, severe postpartum depression. "The Yellow Wallpaper" is an important example of literary commentary as madness being used as a tool to shine light upon the patriarchal constraints of the time as well as the importance of female mental health.

As seen through the diversity of

madness in the prior examples, there is no limit to how insanity is used in literature. A prominent way insanity has been employed is to critique current social standards or parts of government policy. A prime instance of this usage is in Ken Kesey's film-adapted novel, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Set in a psychiatric hospital in Oregon, the novel follows the actions of a group of patients who slowly rebel against the ward's authority and, in doing so, blur the lines of what is truly sanity or insanity. This story, extremely controversial when first released, works as a social critique of how, at the time, people deemed "mentally insane" were treated. While many people may think of insanity as a sadistic killer on the loose or a scientist losing themselves in pursuit of discovery, the way "madness" is used in literature paves a path far beyond that. It allows people to observe and reckon with their flaws, understand and advocate against injustice in their governments, and even adjust their perspectives of society. Therefore, while characters in stories may be insane, authors' use of insanity to amend imperfections in the world could not be more sane.

Staff Spotlight: Simon

By Ezri R.

Simon has been an integral part of the Grauer community for fourteen years, and he embodies the core values this school represents. Every student, parent, and faculty member is immensely grateful for all the work that he does to maintain our campus, allowing it to become a safe, clean space to foster creativity. This week we had the privilege to interview him to gain more insight into his experience at the Grauer School:



What is your favorite part of working at Grauer?

Everything! I mean my favorite thing is to just come in the morning, be here, and just say hi to everybody.

What is something you think students should know about what you do?

They pretty much know everything about what I do. In case I have some special thing to do or a special tool to wield, that's what I want the kids to see so that they can learn a bit, but that's up to everybody.

Is there something you wish students did more of?

Everybody does their work at the Grauer school. And that's what I like about it, the help that I get from kids.

What does your daily routine look like?

First I say hi to the kids, say hi to the teachers, and then I just start doing my job- which is some cleaning, some repairs, whatever is needed.

How many expeditions have you been on, and what has your favorite expedition been and why?

I think I've been on four expeditions, maybe five. So far, the Baja expedition has been my favorite. It's amazing and very different from others, so that one has been my favorite, probably because I'm from Mexico! What I enjoyed about it was just hanging out with the kids and fishing.

Is there anything you want to tell students?

I would tell them to keep smiling, and just have fun, and that is what Grauer is all about!

If you have spoken to Tracy you have heard her speak about how much she respects Simon and his dedication to the school. We had the opportunity to interview her about Simon and what she believes we, as students, can do to make his job easier:

What can students do to make Simon's job easier?

One thing that's so easy is to just pick up after yourselves, and it's so simple, we just ask everybody to leave it cleaner than you found it. And, honestly, if you see stuff happen, or see trash, or a mishap, take care of it. If you can do that, Simon doesn't have to clean everything, and he will, without even saying a word about it. So I think cleaning up after yourself.

What is one thing you think every student should know about Simon?

How incredibly humble he is, and I think Simon is the epitome of a true man.

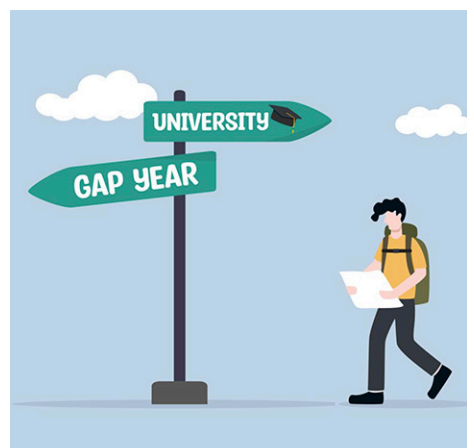
Op-Ed: Why Everyone Should Consider Becoming a "Gap-Yearian"

By Sarai S.

I often hear parents reminiscing about college, and how they "really found" themselves during those beloved four years. While I cannot speak to this on a personal level, I have questioned if this is something concrete I can rely on. As I approach the final days of my high school career, I become increasingly excited to move on to something new. I attribute this to the image of college I have created in my mind: a place where no one knows me, and I can finally choose who I want to be. Whereas, in high school, I feel the constraints of others' opinions and projections of insecurities

onto myself, which prevent me from being truly authentic. Honestly, this is ridiculous if you think about it. In college, how much of what I so desire to break away from will be different? Not only will I still be attending classes with peers, but I will be living with them as well. I've come to realize there is one almost guaranteed way to avoid a repeat of high school: a gap year.

What interests me most about the possibility of a gap year is how versatile it is. Should one choose to take a gap year, you can center it around a career-related internship, travel, community service, work, or more.



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Op-Ed: Why Everyone Should Consider Becoming a “Gap-Yearian”

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In the age of social media, this is becoming all the more within reach. I used to think travel had to be expensive, with every detail planned. However, since TikTok gained popularity, I have followed travel influencers along their journey to see as much of the world for as little money as possible. One influencer with the username @soos.foods provides day-to-day itineraries with specific budgets. Some days, she eats every meal from street ven-

dors and keeps her daily spending below \$15. Influencers similar to @soos.foods document the reality of travel, making it just that much easier to tackle your own travel adventures.

This past summer, I spent time with a friend from Oregon and his close friends. One of them chose not to attend college and is instead working for a finance company, spending his weekends hiking and exploring the Pacific Northwest.

Each “Gap-Yearian” I have spoken

with has said they felt they discovered more about their passions and priorities, which helped them stay in balance when they did re-enter a typical collegiate environment. While it might be scary to feel like you’ll be left behind if you take a gap year or become unmotivated to earn a degree after time off, it can also be the perfect opportunity to gain self-understanding before throwing yourself into the ring of college life.

The Dynamic Relationship Between The Fan and The Artist

By Adele F.

Fans play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of artists’ careers and the evolution of their work. Whether in the realm of physical art or performance, artists often find themselves navigating a delicate balance between their creative vision and the expectations of their audience. This interplay between artist and fan can lead to both profound transformations and enduring legacies.

The relationship between artists and their fans is symbiotic, with each party exerting a significant influence on the other. Fans provide artists with vital feedback, validation, and financial support. Artists, in turn, offer their fans a source of inspiration, entertainment, and emotional connection. This reciprocal relationship forms the foundation of the artistic process, driving artists to create work that resonates with their audience while staying true to their creative vision.

One of the most tangible ways in which fans influence artists’ work is through their expectations and preferences. Artists often find themselves adjusting their creative output to cater to the tastes and desires of their audience, sometimes at the expense of their own original integrity.

This phenomenon is particularly evident in the music industry, where artists frequently alter their sound or image to appeal to a broader demographic. For example, pop musicians like Taylor Swift and Madonna have reinvented themselves multiple times throughout their careers, adapting their musical styles to stay relevant in an ever changing landscape. Similarly, bands like the Beatles and U2 experimented with different genres and sonic textures in response to the shifting tastes of their fan base, leading to the creation of iconic albums that resonate with audiences across generations.



While fan influence can be a source of inspiration and support for artists, it can also create significant pressure to conform to certain expectations. Some

artists may feel compelled to replicate past successes or cater to specific demographics in order to maintain their popularity and commercial viability. This pressure can be particularly daunting for emerging artists striving to establish themselves in a competitive industry. However, artists who succumb entirely to the demands of their fans run the risk of sacrificing their authenticity and creative autonomy. The most enduring and influential artists are those who strike a delicate balance between honoring their audience’s expectations and staying true to their unique vision. They understand that true innovation often requires taking risks and pushing boundaries, even if it means alienating some fans in the process.

The relationship between artists and their fans is complex and multifaceted, characterized by a constant exchange of ideas, emotions, and influences. While fans undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping the direction of artists’ work, ultimately, it is the artists themselves who possess the power to redefine boundaries and challenge societal norms. By embracing the creative dialogue between artist and audience, we can foster a culture of innovation and exploration that transcends the constraints of commercialism and conformity.

How Has Music Taste Evolved Throughout Generations?

By Gabby C.

What's something students can't live without? Music! Throughout generations, music has evolved drastically. From the Baby Boomer's to Generation Alpha's music taste, there is such an extreme difference in preference and interest in certain genres. After interviewing my 82-year-old grandfather, I learned that his musical preference is classical music while reading the New York Times. This is very different from what the majority of teenagers listen to whilst doing their homework or studying. When I interviewed him, he happened to be listening to "Schubert Symphony No. 4". To gauge his reaction, I played the very popular rap song "Ric Flair Drip" by Offset and Metro Boomin. He said, "...it has a nice beat to it, but it doesn't make me feel peaceful or any pleasant feeling deep down in my heart or mind." I found his reaction to this song to be valid because he grew up listening to mellow musical genres, such as classical music while studying/reading, and jazz/blues while driving around

town. Next, I interviewed my mother (she declined to disclose her age). I decided it would be interesting to also play one of my generation's biggest hits, but switch up the genre. One of my favorite alternative/indie-style songs is "Scott Street" by Phoebe Bridgers. After my mom took a few moments to listen to this musical masterpiece, she said, "Overall, I thought the song had a very nice melody. I thought it was good. It wasn't my favorite, but I would listen to it again. I do not like listening to music while I am trying to concentrate on serious matters. I find music relaxing and fun, and I can't concentrate if I have music on because I want to listen to the music and enjoy it." After talking to my mom about this, I thought it was quite interesting that she felt distracted by music while working, whereas, on the other hand, my grandfather found it to be the complete opposite. I played one of my favorite folk-pop artists, Noah Kahan, for my younger sister, who doesn't listen to him very much. I played her his newly released song, "For-

ever". My sister commented, "I like one of Noah Kahan's older songs, but usually I don't like folk music. I think this song has made me have a different view of folk-style music. I like it. He has a good voice and I probably would see myself listening to one of his songs while doing my homework. I usually listen to Beyonce, Ariana Grande, 21 Savage, and SZA, but I'll add Noah Kahan to my list." I was quite surprised by my younger sister's diverse list of genres that she listens to, so when she expressed that she was open to listening to more folk-style music, that was something that made me happy to hear. Noah Kahan is one of my favorite new artists, so while interviewing her, I had to maintain an unbiased and neutral perspective to get her natural and authentic opinion. After interviewing my family members who all grew up/are growing up in such different generations, I found that music taste, preference, and appreciation have evolved so extraordinarily.



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Your Essential Reading List for Women's History Month

By Ezri R.

Since the 1980s, when Women's History Month was first created, March has been dedicated to honoring the stories and ambitions of women across the world, both past and present. What better way to pay tribute to women than to expand our worldview on what being a woman has entailed for different people across different parts of our globe? The books listed below span a variety of genres, from fiction to nonfiction, and represent both classics and newer feminist literature, so there is bound to be something for everyone's tastes.

***Breasts and Eggs* by Mieko Kawakami**

Breasts and Eggs tells a story of womanhood in Japan, recounting the journeys of three women as they overcome obstacles to achieve their desired future.

***I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou**

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings is a biography and coming-of-age memoir following Maya Angelou in her youth, as she deals with race and trauma. It illustrates the tenacity of her character and the solace she found in literature through overcoming obstacles.

***Her Body and Other Parties* by Carmen Maria Machado**

Her Body and Other Parties is a collection of interconnected speculative feminist horror short stories that explore themes of gender, sexuality, and the female experience.

***The Color Purple* by Alice Walker**

The Color Purple is a staple in American literature, exploring themes of racism, feminism, and sexuality through twenty years of letters sent between two girls in the ear-

ly 1900s.

***White Tears/Brown Scars* by Ruby Hamad**

White Tears/Brown Scars is a non-fiction book exploring the role white women and white feminism have played in perpetuating white supremacist ideals throughout history. Hamad confronts how white feminists have weaponized race against women of color by excluding them from the feminist movement.

***A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf**

A Room of One's Own is a long-form essay that discusses women's role in literature, as both authors and characters and the necessity for female representation in the previously male-dominated sphere.

***Our Women on the Ground* (Essay Anthology)**

Our Women on the Ground is an essay anthology written by nineteen Arab journalists working in the Middle East, covering their experiences reporting as women on a war front or in perilous circumstances.

***Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott**

Little Women is a classic novel loosely based on Alcott's upbringing, following four sisters in their ebbing and flowing relationship from childhood to womanhood as they experience love, loss, and conflict.

***Betty* by Tiffany McDaniels**

Betty is a coming of age novel, telling the story of a young half Cherokee girl navigating her life and identity in her small town in the Appalachian Mountains. It paints a gorgeous illustration of Cherokee history and traditions, and of one girl discovering

her path to freedom through writing.

***The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir**

The Second Sex is a seminal work in feminist philosophy, exploring how women have historically been oppressed and relegated to a secondary status in society, and calling for women to assert their autonomy and equality.

***The Vegetarian* by Han Kang**

The Vegetarian follows a woman in South Korea who decides to become a vegetarian after experiencing a series of disturbing dreams, challenging societal norms and familial expectations.

***Know My Name* by Chanel Miller**

Know My Name is a memoir recounting the author's experience as the victim in the highly publicized Stanford sexual assault case, shedding light on the trauma and struggles she faced in seeking justice and reclaiming her identity.

***The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

The Handmaid's Tale is a dystopian novel set in a future where women are oppressed and classified into rigid social roles.

***Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee**

Pachinko portrays a multi-generational Korean family living in Japan, navigating the challenges of life in a foreign land, and exploring themes of identity, family, discrimination, and resilience.

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Grauer Art Exhibit



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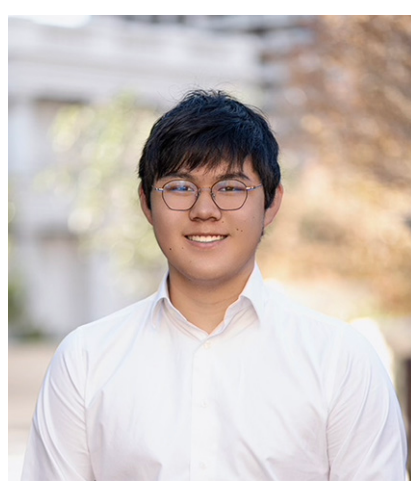
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