

# THE Grauer Gazette

No. 05

ENCINITAS, FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD, 2023

The Grauer School

## Climate Feedback Loops

By Lana L.

Climate feedback loops are the processes that maintain the natural world, using continuous cycles that help balance the environment. For example, the water cycle maintains the earth's water levels through the loop of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Feedback loops allow an environment to react to changes in a stable manner. The basics of climate change are rooted in these cycles, and determine the rate of warming trends. They are differentiated into positive and negative feedback loops. According to NASA, "A feedback that increases an initial warming is called a 'positive feedback.' A feedback that reduces an initial warming is a 'negative feedback.'" In other words, a positive feedback loop speeds up a certain process while a negative loop slows it down. When greenhouse gasses are emitted into the atmosphere, they trap in heat, which warms the planet up. This cycle happens continuously, which is the cause of global warming. Without the presence of a stronger negative feedback loop, such as plants or the oceans absorbing CO<sub>2</sub>, these warming processes will continue to increase until they hit a cascading set of tipping points. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), tipping points are "critical thresholds in a system that, when exceeded, can lead to a significant change in the state of the system, often with an understanding that the change is irreversible."

These major tipping points can be seen in all parts of the world, between land, ice, and sea. Permafrost is a layer of ground that has been completely frozen for over two years. Most prevalent in the northern hemisphere, permafrost covers 85% of Alaska, and 55% of Russia and Canada, according to Britannica. Frozen in these layers is one of the world's largest carbon stores, due to plant and animal decay over thousands of years. During the past decades, human activity and warming of the Arctic has caused the permafrost to begin to thaw. The continuation of this cycle will cause the permafrost to switch from being one of the world's largest carbon stores to releasing CO<sub>2</sub> and methane at unimaginable rates.

The collapse of Arctic and Greenland ice sheets is another example of a feedback loop. Vast expanses of ice sheets have a high albedo, which is the capacity of a surface to reflect light. Albedo is a strong negative feedback loop that limits the amount of heat stored in the atmosphere by reflecting light back into space. The rapid melting of ice means that less light is being reflected into space, while more heat is being absorbed into the ground. This causes increased temperatures, which cause more ice to melt. It is a never ending cycle that continues to be amplified.

Other ecosystems such as the Amazon rainforest, coral reefs, Atlantic ocean circulation, and boreal forests are all in danger of

reaching their own tipping points. The endless loop of global warming grows greater as the world continues to do business as usual with no sign of interruption.

## President Biden's "Fields of Dreams"

By Sarai S.

On February 7, 2023, at 6:00 PM PST, President Biden gave the annual State of the Union Address in front of the Chamber of Congress. Originally called the Annual Message, it was first presented in 1790 by President George Washington. Renamed in 1947, it is now called the State of the Union Address and is delivered some time between late February and early March. It is a speech in which the president informs Congress and the public of the current state of the country. The address also serves to give the president a place to outline their goals for the future of the United States.



CNN's record of the minutes tracked showed that Biden spent most of his speech talking about health care and the economy. He mentions his goals to boost the United States economy through producing goods manufactured within the U.S., saying, "Where is it written that America can't lead the world in manufacturing?... For too many decades we imported projects and exported jobs. Now, thanks to what you've all done, we're exporting American products and creating American jobs." Biden mentions the unemployment rate, being at 3.4%, which is a 50-year low. While this is true, the Federal Reserve is currently slowing the job market by raising interest rates in order to combat inflation. Inflation has taken a hold over the U.S. in the past year with soaring gas prices. As Biden references, some gas prices have dropped to \$1.50 per gallon. However, overall, the prices are still higher than when he took office. Biden then uses an example of a company based outside of Columbus, Ohio, which will create 10,000 new jobs. Of those jobs many don't require a college degree, which will provide job opportunities for people of all backgrounds.

Despite heckling from numerous members of the Republican Party, Biden displayed perpetual optimism throughout his speech and stuck to his ground, highlighting the dreams he has for the future, which are becoming reality everyday throughout the country. He noted, "We're seeing these fields of dreams transform the heartland."

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# Gun Violence in America

By Gavin M.

On the evening of February 13th, on Michigan State University's campus, students spent the night enjoying time with friends or quietly studying for exams. However, this peaceful evening was interrupted by an all too familiar terror. At approximately 8:30 p.m., a gunman dressed in dark clothing and armed with two legally purchased firearms opened fire on the university's Berkey Hall. After injuring and killing multiple students, the gunman walked unpursued across the university's campus, opening fire on a student union. As students across campus barricaded themselves in classrooms and dorms, hiding from the unknown terror outside, the police-led manhunt lasted another three hours before the suspect was found dead from a self-inflicted wound. When the terror had receded and police gained control of the area, three promising young students had been murdered, and another five were critically injured.

While this event temporarily terrified Americans, it quickly joined a long line of similar mass shootings in the United States. In fact, Michigan State is but one of a record-high 80 reports of American mass shootings in 2023, resulting in an average of 1.4 mass shootings per day. This astounding number represents a new level of the alarming gun violence trend in the United States. In the last three years alone, the

number of mass shootings in America has risen significantly, leaving the current decade with the most mass shootings ever to occur.

Many contributing factors have caused the uptick in American mass shootings over the last decade, yet one factor has begun to emerge above others. In 2022's mass shootings, according to available information, 43% of the events were perpetuated by an offender using an AR-15-style semi-automatic rifle. This firearm, designed initially to replace the M14 rifle in the Vietnam War, has since become available to a wide range of citizens in the United States. Since its invention over five decades ago, the weapon has developed into the incontrovertible symbol of American gun culture. While this weapon is currently banned in multiple countries and nine U.S. states, it continues to play a crucial role in the U.S.'s complex relationship with gun ownership.

This relationship has led to the death and injury of over 6,000 U.S. children in 2022, some of whom have had the unfathomable experience of living through multiple mass shootings during their childhoods. In fact, many of the students in the Michigan State shooting had already lived through previous mass shootings, such as the heartbreaking Parkland and Sandy Hook shootings. This disturbing reality not

only gives reason to write more effective legislation but brings intense emotional trauma for the survivors of these events. While many talk about the issue of mental health as it pertains to the perpetrators of violence, many forget the individuals who were left to experience these horrors and must live with the impact forever. According to a study conducted by Stanford University in 2019, on average, over 100,000 U.S. students attended a school where a shooting occurred. These students who experience mass shootings have a direct connection to increased, long-lasting depression, school dropout rates, and the chance of being unemployed in the future. These factors alone are reasons to end this violence in the United States.

While there are organizations that seek to help the victims of this violence, such as the Everytown Support Fund and the Sandy Hook Promise, there have been more mass shootings in the past two years than bills proposed in Congress over the last twenty years. The state of gun violence in America may at times seem unpreventable, but through simple yet logical steps and further education and communication, the U.S. may be able to stop the current vicious trend.

If you would like to support the survivors of the Michigan State School Shooting, please visit [givingto.msu.edu](http://givingto.msu.edu).

# Lebron James Breaks NBA Career Point Record

By Gabriel C.

On February 7, 2023, Lakers' basketball player Lebron James became the NBA's all-time leading scorer. This title was previously held by NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who set this record on April 5, 1984, with 38,387 points in his career. After his retirement in 1989, that record remained unbroken until James's game against the Oklahoma City Thunder. The common question amongst the spectators was whether or not he would beat this record. Before the game, James had 38,349 points in his career, leaving him 36 points behind the record. He finished the game scoring 38 points. When James took his shot that secured his title, the audience roared with excitement and a small commencement was held. Abdul-Jabar later congratulated him on the court.

Although the game resulted in a loss for the Lakers, this was a historic game for the NBA. NBA commissioner Adam Smith stated, "It's a towering achievement that speaks to his sustained excellence over 20 seasons in the league. And quite amazingly, LeBron continues to play at an elite level and his basketball history is still being written." (NBA)



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# Rihanna's Superbowl LVII Show

By Kai D.

Following an almost four-year break from performing and a seven-year gap since the release of her last album, Rihanna returned to the stage for the Super Bowl 57 Halftime Show. This performance was expected to be Rihanna's big comeback and a glimpse into the next phase of her career after she gave birth to her first child with her partner A\$AP Rocky last May. She wore a red bodysuit with a metal chest plate and a large coat revealing her suspected pregnant belly. This was later confirmed by Rihanna's representatives, leading some fans to wonder if this pregnancy may delay her return to the spotlight. Her 13-minute set was filled with snippets of her biggest hits, including "Umbrella," "B\*\*ch Better Have My Money", and "Work.." She also included

a song featuring her, "All of the Lights" by Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, which surprisingly got a little more screen time in the show than some of her other hits. She managed to fit 13 separate songs through her 13-minute show which often felt like too much, as many songs were cut off before the audience could take it in fully.



GROUP/PASADENA STAR-NEWS/GETTY IMAGES)

Rihanna also drew attention to herself and her dancers with their outfits. Performers were outfitted in white fluffy and astronaut-like uniforms, with viewers comparing them to marshmallows. The dancers accompanied Rihanna and the music with an intricate dance choreography complete with handstands and acrobatics. The set was performed on impressively high platforms hovering above the field which were raised and lowered throughout the show. The performance came to an end with Rihanna performing her song "Diamonds" to a grand storm of fireworks and flashing lights.

# The Importance of Platonic Relationships in High Schoolers' Lives

By Emerson G.

High schoolers should never overlook the importance of platonic relationships - a friendship between two people with no romantic or sexual involvement. Oftentimes in our daily lives, priority seems to be on seeking out our "plus one". We see this in the popularity of rom-coms and endless cultural obsessions over who's dating who across the media. This type of romanticized relationship is the "happily ever after" goal for many. Even within families, the first question from a relative might often be whether you are dating someone or not.

Early on, I realized that the conventional definition of the "significant other" was too limiting. Luckily for me, I met my best friend when we were two years old and she has been one of the most important people in my life ever since. In fact, she has been my significant other, my plus one, my partner in many adventures, my "person" for so much in my life. I've ne-

ver needed to wonder who'd go with me to school dances, Friday night plans, fun concerts, or even holiday vacations. Growing up knowing I have someone on my side in any situation has helped me through so much in my life.

Because the foundation of our friendship is so solid, there is no jealousy or anxiety of being replaced. Having a true friend has also given me confidence to pursue my interests and dreams, knowing that she will always support me. Between us, canceled plans or reshuffling schedules in pursuit of our individual goals is always understood and accepted with no hurt feelings.

Additionally, I'm also lucky to have platonic relationships with the opposite sex. Because we are so different, our friendships have taught me to develop a deeper sense of understanding for people with an alternative perspective. In fact, once we get past our differences, I've of-

ten realized how much we do have in common. I believe having these friendships is important for promoting gender equality and healthy relationships, breaking down barriers of rigid gender roles. Having a platonic relationship where we can be vulnerable without fear of being hurt allows us to develop respect, compassion and understanding.

My friendships have set me on a path of self-discovery, which has allowed me to see what is important to me. It has also helped me define what I will or won't tolerate, what my values are, and what are non-negotiable attributes in any relationship. Because I have always prioritized my relationships with my platonic friends, my "happily ever after" is already written in the stars!

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# In Defense of Comics

By Lily T.

What is considered “literature” and what is not has long been a hotly debated topic. Items accepted into the literary canon often exclude minorities, forsaking genre fiction in the name of what is considered “art” and what is considered “guilty pleasure.” Comics have often been considered lesser to other forms of writing—considered trashy, tasteless, and distractions from true works of literature. But is this fair to an entire genre?

Comics have long been more underground than their counterparts, leading to more freedom of expression when it came to taboo subjects. Zines distributed in the 1990s were one of the many ways the “Riot Grrrl” movement gave information on feminist issues and abortion resources in a time when they weren’t commonly discussed. Using art can often make a story

easier to understand and connect with; you can quite literally see yourself in the characters.

Assuming all comics are shallow and poorly written also does a disservice to the many powerful works of fiction from the medium. Works like *Maus* and *Persepolis* use the simplicity of their illustrations to convey the horrors of war from a child’s perspective. Even works from more mainstream comics hide deeper meanings within the fantastical art and action scenes. *Monstress* covers the traumas of war on marginalized communities, inspired by the author’s grandparents’ survival of the Japanese invasion of China. *The Night Eaters* is about generational trauma. *Crowded* and *Snotgirl* both serve as satire of internet culture and influencers. *Tokyo Babylon* tackles the dangers of martyrdom. *Home Sick*

*Pilots* is about marginalized communities striking back against corporations. Even superheroes can have layers; many *Batman* serials talk about finding meaning in a world full of violence, and using your past as a way to protect others. By using an engaging art style, creators are able to deliver powerful stories that fly under the radar in mainstream media.

Although typical literature is still important, disregarding media based on the format the creator uses to tell their story leads to many important stories being thrown to the wayside. The better solution is to appreciate all forms of storytelling, choosing works based on merit and not a subjective list of what constitutes “real literature.”

# Ride Review: Mickey and Minnie’s Runaway Railway

By Gabriel C.

On January 27, Mickey and Minnie’s Runaway Railway opened at the Disneyland Resort. Being under construction throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, this highly anticipated ride opened as part of the 100 year celebration of the Walt Disney Company, *100 Years of Wonder*. This attraction is part of Toontown, an area that is undergoing reconstruction. The opening of this attraction gave guests a sneak peek at the reimagined land that will fully reopen in late March 2023.

The story of the attraction is that riders are attending the grand premiere of a new Mickey Mouse cartoon, *A Perfect Picnic*. While watching the animated short, riders immediately get thrown into a thrilling adventure through the cartoon realm, where a relaxing train ride can quickly turn into a crazy one.

This ride delivers an incredible experience for Disneyland guests. Unlike other rides, Runaway Railway uses trackless ride vehicles and giant projections to portray the cartoon world. Disney Imagineers did an amazing job combining the projections and physical props throughout the ride. This is what makes the experience immersive and one of a kind. The outside theme of this attraction is stunning. When entering the attraction, guests get to enter a mini museum and see various pieces of Mickey nostalgia that reference different cartoons and shows.

As Mickey and Minnie’s Runaway Railway is one of the more technologically advanced attractions that Disney has built,

there are multiple points during the ride where it can break down and malfunction, like complications with animatronics or visual effects. On an average day, this ride will close for extended periods of time in order for operators to fix these issues. These complications aside, Runaway Railway is worth the wait.

Mickey and Minnie’s Runaway Railway is an amazing attraction and a great addition to the Disneyland Resort. Between its catchy theme song, “Nothing Can Stop Us Now,” the amazing queue line, and the experience itself, it has become one of the best and most popular rides in the park. As of writing, Runaway Railway can be accessed by waiting in a traditional standby line. Those who don’t want to wait have the option of purchasing an Individual Lightning Lane, which grants the ability to essentially “skip the line”. Mickey and Minnie’s Runaway Railway should be a requirement for everyone’s Disney visit.



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# The Waverly Restaurant Review

By Emerson G.

Along the coast of San Elijo State Beach, located next to the Seaside Market strip mall in Cardiff, is the stylish, beach-vibey Waverly. This restaurant has been open for around two and a half years and has become a go-to spot for special occasions and delicious nights out with friends for North County residents. Open all day and serving gourmet brunches, lunches, dinners, and desserts, the food at Waverly is so good and the atmosphere so amazing, it's almost impossible to get a table without booking in advance.. Although the food is very gourmet and the scene is very chic, the prices are surprisingly reasonable and your fancy outing doesn't have to empty out your bank account and the tastes are definitely worth it. Their seasonal, all-day menus provide delicious, and unique selections for every palate- even for those with dietary restrictions.

On my most recent visit to Waverly,

I was with my bestie for a pre-Galentine's brunch. Looking over all the yummy choices, it was hard to decide, but I ultimately chose the vegetarian Breakfast Bowl and my bestie selected a fried egg brioche sandwich. My breakfast bowl had freshly sliced avocado, kale, scrambled egg with delicious spices, sauteed broccolini, and shaved crispy yam over a bowl of rice with a curry aioli. All the flavors of my perfectly portioned dish were so incredible and had the most amazing color palette. My best friend's sandwich also looked and tasted wonderful, with the fluffiest pieces of brioche bread sandwiching an egg cooked to perfection. Her dish also came with a side of the pickled potatoes, which is a must-order dish as a side with any entrée. The service was efficient and the entire waitstaff was extremely courteous.

From their incredible seasonal menu choices, the cute and beachy atmosphere,

the reasonable prices, the proximity to the beach and the great service, it's hard to think of another restaurant experience that could top The Waverly!

## EMERSON'S REVIEW SUMMARY:

Food: 5 out of 5 stars

Service: 4 out of 5 stars

Atmosphere: 5 out of 5 stars

Location: 4 out of 5 stars

Recommended Dishes: Breakfast bowl and crispy potatoes.

## The Waverly

2005 San Elijo Avenue, Cardiff  
www.thewaverly.com

760-230-1682

Hours: Monday 5PM-11PM, Tuesday-Friday 11AM-11PM, Saturday 9AM-12AM, Sunday 9AM-11PM

Outdoor seating is available

# The WNDR Museum

By Livia S.

The newest tenant in the 134-year old broker's building at 4th and Market Street is the WNDR Museum. Pronounced as "wonder," the WNDR Museum is described as an "immersive art and technological experience." The museum takes a modern approach, claiming that all visitors are artists and encouraging them to interact with the different exhibits. One exhibit allows for interaction with recognizable works of art, such as Frida Kahlo's self portrait, the *Mona Lisa*, and Van Gogh's sunflowers. There is also art that is not interactive, such as Keith Haring's mural along FDR Drive in Manhattan. Still, the museum's emphasis is on interactive and

immersive displays. Another room shows an artist's eight minute presentation of a pantheon, showing God's society through its destruction. During these eight



minutes, you are seated in a room where the artist's visuals are projected on the walls. An exhibit called *Inside Out* by artist Leigh Sachwitz represents the garden shed on her family's property in Scotland. As you sit in the shed, you are transported to Sachwitz's time spent in the shed listening to the powerful thunderstorms she witnessed there. Viewed either inside or outside the shed, it is a visual as well as auditory experience. Throughout the hour you spend immersed in the different exhibits at the WNDR Museum, you are encouraged to create as well as take in the art that is present or created by other visitors.

## Info

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To view or write for the Grauer Gazette please email:  
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# Gen Z Slang

By Gabby C.

Have you ever wondered what “Gen Z” slang is? Each generation has their own slang words, but Gen Z has developed their own slang that many individuals may not understand. Some of the most common words that young adults have come up with on social media platforms such as Tiktok, Instagram, and Snapchat, have quickly evolved into part of the English language. Adults who are unfamiliar with Generation Z slang may think of these words like a foreign language, which shows how different Gen Z’ers communicate from other generations, such as the millennials, Generation X, and Baby Boomers. Millennials, Generation X’s, and Boomers; have you ever heard these terms?

**Cap:** A lie

**Slay:** Impressing an individual

**Rizz:** Having charm

**Fam:** People who you consider close friends

**Valid:** True or correct

**Bussin’:** A food that is exceptionally divine

**Guap:** Loads of money

**Extra:** Someone who seems to be putting too much effort into something in an annoying way.

**Brick:** Lack of intelligence

**Bet:** Similar to telling someone “yes”

**Trust:** To have faith

**Gang:** A group of people who are close to each other

**Dawg:** A friend of an individual

**Yo:** Similar to saying “hello”

**Purr:** Similar to saying “perfect”

**Fye:** Similar to saying “fire”, or similar to saying “cool”

**Dap Up:** A handshake

**Lit:** Similar to saying “cool”

**Goblin Mode:** To behave in the style of a goblin, usually behaving in a devious or mischievous manner.

These are just a handful of words that Generation Z uses to communicate with their peers, which may be quite confusing for individuals who are not familiar with this vernacular.

# Skinamarink Movie Review

By Lily T.

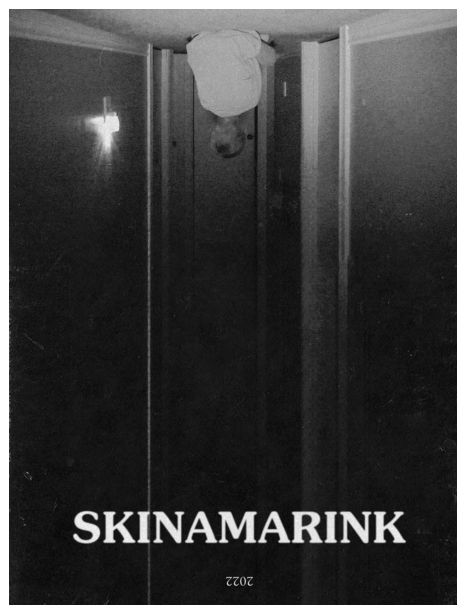
*Skinamarink* is an indie film that premiered at the Fantasia Film Festival in July of 2022, with another theatrical release six months later in January 2023, as well as a release on horror movie streaming service Shudder. Word of mouth acclaim over social media led to its re-release and popularity, grossing \$2 million on a \$15,000 budget. The film was created by Kyle Edward Ball in his directorial debut, and follows two children who wake up to discover that they are alone in their house and all of the doors and windows have vanished.

The film is extremely popular due to its divisiveness among horror fans: many are turned off from the film due to its slow burn plot and irregular cinematography. The film uses the nostalgia of childhood to deliver horror: the film is shot on what looks like a VHS camera, with the colors being oversaturated and the quality being akin to a grainy home video. You never see the faces of any of the characters, with the main actors rarely being present onscreen, their lines dubbed over shots

of Lego bricks, old cartoons, and dark hallways. The first forty minutes of the film are nothing but immersion into the world of *Skinamarink*: the director rejects the format of constant stimulation in favor of letting you slowly be lulled into these surreal circumstances. *Skinamarink* is also one

of the first major films within the analog horror genre, characterized by low-quality graphics, cryptic messages and found footage to deliver scares. The entire viewing experience feels like a bad dream from childhood: insane events happen and the characters react, while still accepting it as logical. The sense of boredom in the first half of the film leaves you completely unprepared for the horror of the second act, and without spoiling anything in this review, it is completely worth the buildup.

*Skinamarink* is a very daring film, rejecting the current cinema’s desire to provide constant entertainment in favor of creating a nightmarish walk down memory lane. Over the course of the movie, the viewer becomes a child again, and thus views the horrors that ensue through a child’s eyes. Hopefully the popularity of *Skinamarink* shows Hollywood that it is possible to reject the modern cinematic formula and still achieve box office success.



# 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](mailto:grauergazette@grauerschool.com), if you are interested in your work being featured!

## Drivers Dream

By Gabby C

What a sunny day  
All the tears have gone away  
My driving isn't the best  
But at least I got that off my chest  
Keep your eyes on the road  
It's a privilege to be alone  
I'm finally living a dream  
I no longer need to scheme  
It doesn't seem real  
Keep your hands on the wheel  
I guess I got my license  
I'm in love with this silence

## Bar Ghosts - Creative Writing

By Gabby C

It was another night, like any other. I always go to the bar. I know that heavy stench like the back of my hand. Every night, at around 7 pm after work. It's basically my second home. But the past few weeks' experiences have been a bit strange. I always go to the bathroom at the bar before I buy my drink, but one night there was a man reading a newspaper on the bathroom floor. Weird, right? I'm not usually the type to say that people are weird, but this guy was definitely something. Every time I walked into the bathroom, the man lowered his newspaper and started a conversation with me. But it's always small talk. After a few nights of having awkward little conversations with this man, I decided to finally ask him to come out and I would buy him a drink. But the man refused immediately. I left the bar that night, wondering how strange this man was and what his story could possibly be. I mean, who sits on the floor of a public bathroom at a bar?

# 5 Questions with The Grauer Gazette

By Staff

1. Which has been your favorite edition?  
20% - First  
80% - Third
2. Which is your favorite column: Poetry Play or Artists Block?  
100% - Artist Block
3. Mountain or Tropical vacation?  
100% - Tropical
4. Would you rather write an editorial or an Op-Ed?  
40% - Op-Ed  
60% - Editorial
5. Frozen yogurt or ice cream?  
40% - Frozen yogurt  
60% - Ice cream

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# New Grauer Spirit Hoodies!

Contact Johnny K. for a new Grauer Basketball Hoodie available for \$35. Additional sports coming soon!

