



John John

THE STUDENT VOICE OF ANTIOCH COMMUNITY
HIGH SCHOOL

LIFE WITH LOW VISION

THE EXPERIENCE OF GIRLHOOD

**NEW AND IMPROVED:
D117 RENOVATIONS**

FLORIDA V. FREEDOM

VOLUME 62 // ISSUE 2 // SEPTEMBER 2023

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D117 approved a 1.3 million dollar budget for future renovations

Check out staffer Jackson Honaker's story on page 7 to read more about district improvements.

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EDITORS NOTE:

THE ART OF RESILIENCE

Navigating the hardships of being in a leadership position.



Bittersweet. Bittersweet was the feeling I was met with when I was awarded the position of editor-in-chief. I was overly excited to be known for the great things that The Tom Tom will accomplish this year. The thought of being able to execute my definite schemes was exhilarating, to say the least; then the doubtful thoughts came flooding.

All I could think was, she was way smarter than me. How did she think of that? Why can't I be a better writer? In my opinion, this position is built around comparison. You are constantly looking at what past EICs have accomplished and how it compares to what you have produced. It all boiled down to, why am I me? That thought weighed down on my shoulders for months upon months.

My English teacher started the year off by introducing the

idea of originalism and how it really is not what it sounds like. Sure, you can go out into the world and produce some great brand new idea, but that is pretty unrealistic based on how innovative our society already is. Originality is really just about taking something that someone else did and simply adding your own spin to it.

Once I heard that information I felt more confident in myself; I came to terms with knowing that I am not worse than people who have pursued this role previously but instead I am better in my own way.

The term, "fake it till you make it" has a huge importance in my life. When I come into room 263, I sit at a computer and just start messing around with how things are placed on a spread; I repeat this process until I am left with something I am proud of. If you go and do something and act like you are an expert at it, you will eventually get the result you wanted.

If you are going into a position of leadership, or any big role at all, you may experience impostor syndrome. Learn to use that feeling of unworthiness as fuel for your dreams and ambitions. You will not progress in life if you can not come to terms with your feelings and overcome them.

As always, we hope you enjoy.

With love, your editor-in-chief

Claire Policht.

**“ASK ANYBODY DOING TRULY CREATIVE WORK, AND
THEY’LL TELL YOU THE TRUTH: THEY DON’T KNOW
WHERE THE GOOD STUFF COMES FROM. THEY JUST SHOW
UP TO DO THEIR THING. EVERY DAY**

“

TO ME IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS IN A HURRY AND THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE IT.

SENIOR CASEY RIETSCHEL



ALUMNI REMI MERRILL // photographer

On Friday, Sept. 1, around 7:10 P.M. an elderly man in his 90s, Wayne Blanchette, was struck by a Metra train while attempting to cross the train tracks to attend the Antioch Community High School football game against Zion Benton.

When Antioch Fire and Police arrived, they pronounced the man dead at the scene. The Metra, carrying passengers, was stopped for nearly two hours while both the train and tracks were being cleaned off.

Authorities temporarily closed Route 173 and McMillen Road due to an investigation. Durham provided shuttle services to transport students and families from the stadium to the sports entrance.

“It took about 20 minutes to get from the stadium back to the school,” senior Nick Day said.

Immediately following the event, superintendent Dr. Jeff Feucht sent an email out to the entire school explaining what the current situation was.

“We are sorry to share the terrible news that there was a pedestrian struck by a train at the entrance to the Antioch Community High School stadium tonight,” Feucht said.

The email followed this by informing parents how to pick up their students and how transportation would look leaving the football game.

When the elderly man was crossing the tracks there were students present heading to the football game. Many can agree that witnessing a human get hit by a train is horrible and gruesome, to say the least.

Senior Casey Rietschel was getting ready to cheer the Sequoias to victory when he witnessed the accident.

“To me, it looked like he was in a hurry and thought he was going to make it,” Rietschel said

This is not the first time train-related incidents have occurred with Metra. One month ago a 24-year-old woman was hit by the same Metra line. In December of

2022, two people were hit in their car attempting to cross tracks in Ingleside.

This incident brings up concerns with families of ACHS as students and staff cross over the Route 173 train tracks multiple times every day. Metra trains travel up to 70 MPH, while freight trains travel up to 80 MPH, with some that can travel up to 120 MPH.

Witnessing a traumatic event can impact one’s mental health; especially while the brain is still developing. According to Highland springs clinic, when the brain experiences something traumatic, a person will have chronic stress, heightened fear and increased irritation.

“During the game I was fine but once I got home that night [what I saw] really kind of hit me,” Rietschel said.

There is only so much that Metra and the Antioch Community can do to avoid accidents like these. Metra provides up-to-date crossing bars that are serviced regularly along with safety videos to know how to cross tracks safely.

Authorities are still investigating this incident but in the meantime, you can follow these steps to stay safe around trains. Always remember that when the crossing bars come down it signals that a train is at most 30 seconds away from crossing those tracks, never attempt to cross the tracks when a train is coming under any circumstances. Along with watching for the crossing bars, you can also make sure to listen and look both ways before crossing tracks. Lastly, remember to be patient; arriving at places on time is important but it is better to be safe than late.

CLAIRE POLICHT // writer and designer
 Editor-in-chief

HOMECOMING: CARDINAL RED CARPET

Oct. 14, 2023, is the official date of the homecoming dance at Antioch Community High School. Sequoits will get to participate in powderpuff football, the homecoming football game, and the parade.

Homecoming season is here and it is time for Sequoits to get ready. Sequoit Senate has already started planning bits and pieces for homecoming; such as themes, Sequoit Cup, homecoming football game, the parade, powderpuff football and more.

One notable member of the Sequoit Senate is junior Reese Igou; Igou is the spirit coordinator. She plays a role in deciding the themes, decorations and posting on Sequoit Senates instagram. Igou shares that this year's homecoming theme was not planned by the Sequoit Senate but was a vote from fellow students at ACHS.

"We had four themes that went up; under the sea, western, disco and hollywood," Igou said. "We put it on Instagram and then we had all the kids in the school vote and majority of the votes were for Hollywood."

Along with the theme for homecoming, the week leading up to it is a spirit week, this gets students excited for the dance all week.

"They are not finalized yet but we have a couple ideas," Igou said. "We're gonna do a lot more 'versus' this year because we know a lot of people liked having the options last year,"

Not only are students involved, but teachers too. One teacher, Emily Parris has the role of being the Sequoit senate class sponsor, Parris clears the air on any confusing information about homecoming this year, like rumors such as Antioch and Lakes having a combined homecoming.

"We are at Antioch, we are not combining with Lakes," Parris said. "Our date and theme is the exact same but we are having our own homecoming."

To really get into the spirit of homecoming this year, the school pep rally is the perfect way to feel involved. Attending the football game, the homecoming dance itself and other Sequoit events is a great way to show off your school spirit.

"We are keeping the same as what we've done in past years. We have performances and games that include students and staff," Parris said.

The head advisor of the Sequoit Senate, Jake House shares even more information after the Sequoit Senate meeting. In the meeting they discussed the possibility of spring sports in the parade, spirit week and more.

With all the festivities planned this year, it is sure to be a memorable week for the Sequoit community. Students are encouraged to get involved in friendly competition, athletics and dancing. Mark your calendars for a night of fun after an awesome week.

TAYLOR CLARK // writer
Tom Tom Staff



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NORA LUBKEMAN
class of '24

LAILA SALATA // photographer
Tom Tom Staff

NEW AND IMPROVED: D117 RENOVATIONS

Over the summer, District 117 renovated multiple areas across Antioch Community High School and Lakes Community High School, including repaving tennis courts, redoing concrete in front of the auditorium at ACHS and all new terrace seating at the stadium.

Recently, some intriguing renovations have been completed and even more exciting ones have been planned for next year. ACHS received new LED lights for the stadium, all-new terrace seating, new concrete in front of the auditorium and freshly re-paved tennis courts. District Superintendent of School Business and HR, Aryan Haren, recently spoke about the recent renovations and some future ones. Adding up the cost of all ACHS renovations, plus the new concrete platform at the Lakes stadium and concrete pillars at both schools, it came out to a whopping \$1.3 million.

"[Renovations are] a lot of work. That's why it was so much money, right? You're talking about a lot of areas going through [renovations,]" Haren said, "The new terrace seating allows for about 220 more seats."

The terrace seating is an impressive addition to the stadium and is something that draws attention from afar. The new LED lights are also something to watch out for, as they have,

"Flashes of light could be used for light shows," Haren said.

Not only are staff impressed with the new renovations, but students as well.

"I think the new terrace adds a modern-day design to the field," senior Ryan Swanson said.

"I think it will be cool because it will allow people to bring their camping chairs and be more comfortable than they were on the old benches that were there," senior Tristan Keuchle said.

These new additions are commendable but what is even more intriguing are future renovation plans. This fall ACHS is looking for contractors to help with a huge renovation to the cafeteria. The plan is to knock out the north wall of the cafeteria and then build over the existing courtyard. This would create much more open space and include a second floor, with stairs leading up to it.

It is expected to look similar to the commons area in Lakes with the steps and couches and would also include a large television. This area would allow for all grade levels to eat in the same cafeteria, and allow the commons to be used for other activities or classes. This project is anticipated to be completed around the start of the 2024-2025 school year. LCHS is also scheduled to have new bleachers added to their stadium, this is something that will greatly bene-

fit the students and spectators that are currently being squeezed into the seats. These bleachers are also planned to be completed around the start of the 2024-2025 school year.

The renovations add to the rich history of our district; one that is ultimately on a quest to continuously improve the community as a whole every year.

JACKSON HONAKER // writer
Tom Tom Staff

KLAUDIA DORADO // designer
Lifestyles Print Director



THE EXPERIENCE OF GIRLHOOD

“Barbie” dominated the film industry this past summer, between the nostalgia it offered to many teen girls and the discussion of gender roles, the pink movie was brought up by many.

Mattel’s Barbie doll was created in 1959 and became a new phenomenon, especially for young girls. This world-famous doll sparked something within director Greta Gerwig and with that, she created the highest-grossing film of 2023.

The movie takes us to “Barbieland,” in which women run everything. They work as The President, Nobel Peace Prize-winning authors and scientists. The Barbies are under the impression that this is how it is in the real world, that is until Stereotypical Barbie is forced to enter the real world and Ken tags along.

In the real world, the Barbie doll is stunned to find out that women are not working on construction sites and even more bewildered when she is objectified. While Barbie struggles with the harsh reality of life, Ken thrives as he realizes that men are seen as superior in the human world. With this new finding, Ken returns to “Barbieland” alone and eager to tell the others about his discovery.

Ken goes back home eager to share about patriarchy while Barbie meets America Ferrera’s character. Back in Barbie land, the Ken’s take over and the Barbies become instantly enaumered, that is until Ferrera’s character gives a moving speech about the hypocrisy of being a woman in the real world breaking the dolls out of their trance.

Eventually, the Barbies regain control as the Kens get distracted with a “beach off,” which is essentially a fight between dolls as there are no weapons in their world. The movie comes to an end with Barbie having a heartfelt moment with the creator of Barbie where Barbie decides that she wants to live as a human and feel emotions. Finally, the film closes out with a bittersweet montage of girlhood as Billie Eilish’s “What Was I Made For” plays in the background.

The feminine experience is wrapped up in one beautiful film that discusses important topics in girlhood, from the obsession of sparkles to the unsafe feeling of walking along the streets. English teacher Samantha Kanya adores the movie similarly to how I do. As a supporter of women in entertainment, Kanya enjoyed the movie and the ways it showcased the highlights and the lowlights of girlhood. With an eye for all the details, Kanya appreciated how much thought was put into every scene of this movie, and how much the originality of the doll was showcased.

“I really liked how she floats down to her car or when the clothes are being tossed in the air and it shows you the real Barbie cos-

tumes,” Kanya said.

Additionally, as an English teacher, Kanya enjoyed all the sappy moments that needed to be dissected more than other moments.

“I really loved some of the more emotional speeches getting at what it feels like to be a girl or what it feels like to be a woman, particularly in this country,” Kanya said.

The movie leaves a message for men; it is okay to watch women flourish and you do not have to take the glory, it is okay to be a background character.

Previously, Barbie was seen as something that girls could never live up to, setting unrealistic standards. This movie has the power to change those views. Now, the doll is a symbol of childhood. “Barbie” leaves an impression on viewers, from pulling at womens heartstrings to making men realize the harsh cruelty of the world. The film has an important message: we must speak up about the inequities that we face.

The movie leaves viewers questioning about how our society is structured. The film is a way to reach the average person and inform them about the massive amounts of social inequities that we as a society face. From things as large as sexism and to things as small as stereotyping. We start by seeing the film as pink, beaches, Barbies and even Will Ferrel. As the film progresses though, we now see what the film truly is, an outcry from those who have been subject to discrimination. The movie had intentions beyond just success, beyond the award shows, this movie was a way for all people to see themselves represented not only on the big screen but also on the shelves of their local stores.

JOSIE QUIRKE // writer
Lifestyles online director

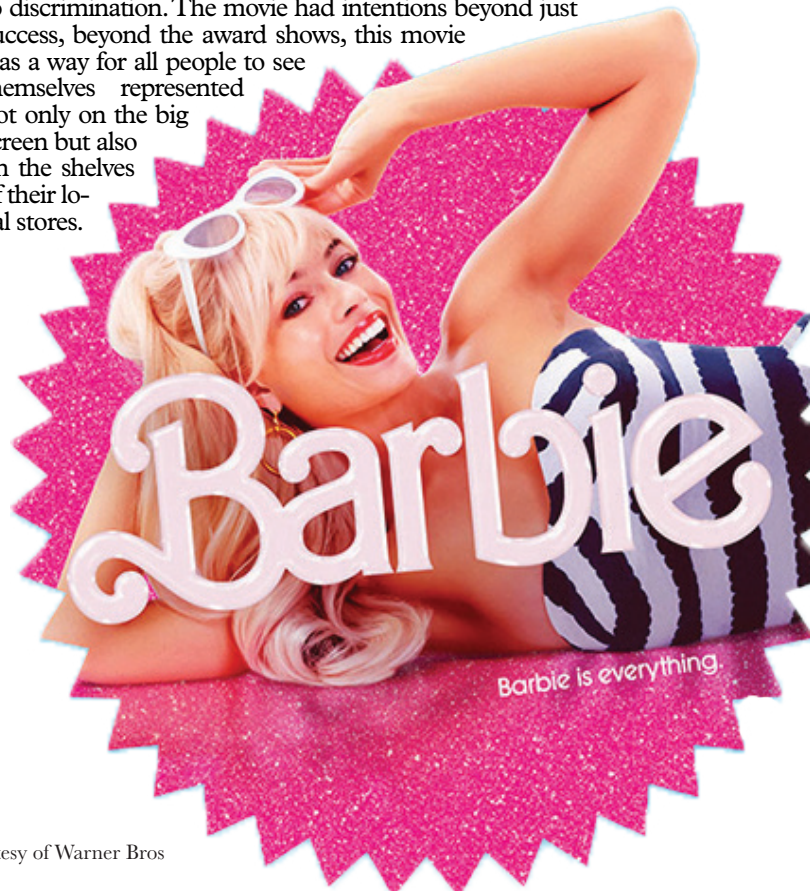


Photo courtesy of Warner Bros

FATHER OF THE ATOMIC BOMB

9

World famous director, Christopher Nolan, brought the life story of Oppenheimer, a world renowned theoretical physicist, to the big screen; is it worth a watch?

R

Robert J. Oppenheimer, “Father of the atomic bomb” was a world-renowned theoretical physicist. Oppenheimer was in charge of the Manhattan Project and built Los Alamos up from the ground.

Christopher Nolan was able to execute the story of Oppenheimer perfectly on film. Nolan is known for his ability to tell complex stories while also having outstanding cinematography that is incomparable.

Nolan starts the film with a scene of raindrops rippling in a puddle. Immediately, this represents bomb explosions hitting the earth which also connects to the closing scene. At the time Oppenheimer was studying Physics at Cambridge in England. He began to become haunted by visions of mass destruction.

Oppenheimer was the first one to introduce the U.S. to quantum physics. Nolan did a great job of including the “Red Scare” in the movie. Oppenheimer was suspected of being a communist which had a great impact on him in the movie; he was denied government clearance for a large part of the Manhattan project due to having ties to the communist party.

After Oppenheimer successfully tested the bomb “Trinity” at Los Alamos the government quickly had 2 more built to be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Once the droppings on Japan were successful Oppenheimer was filled with a feeling of guilt and tried to express that to President Truman but got belittled and shut down.

Jordan Parrott started his first year teaching US History at Antioch Community High School in 2022. Parrott enjoys watching history rich movies in his free time so seeing Oppenheimer was a must.

“There was a plaque on [his] desk that said [the buck stops here] which meant stop being weak minded” Parrott said.

Nolan did not use any CGI so all of the explosions in the movie were real. When Oppenheimer was notified that the bomb was successful on Hiroshima the film turned in a dark manner and looked as if Oppenheimer was in the explosion.

The last hour of the movie, focuses on Lewis Strauss who is played by Robert Downey Jr.. Strauss wants to ensure that Oppenheimer is not allowed government security. The reason behind this is because Oppenheimer had a private conversation with Albert Einstein in the beginning of the movie; when Strauss walks up and greets them Einstein says nothing and leaves with a concerned look on his face. Due to that interaction Strauss wanted to get Oppenheimer's clearance revoked because he thought they were talking about him in a negative manner; the whole time Albert was upset because Oppenheimer told him he has the formula to destroy the world.

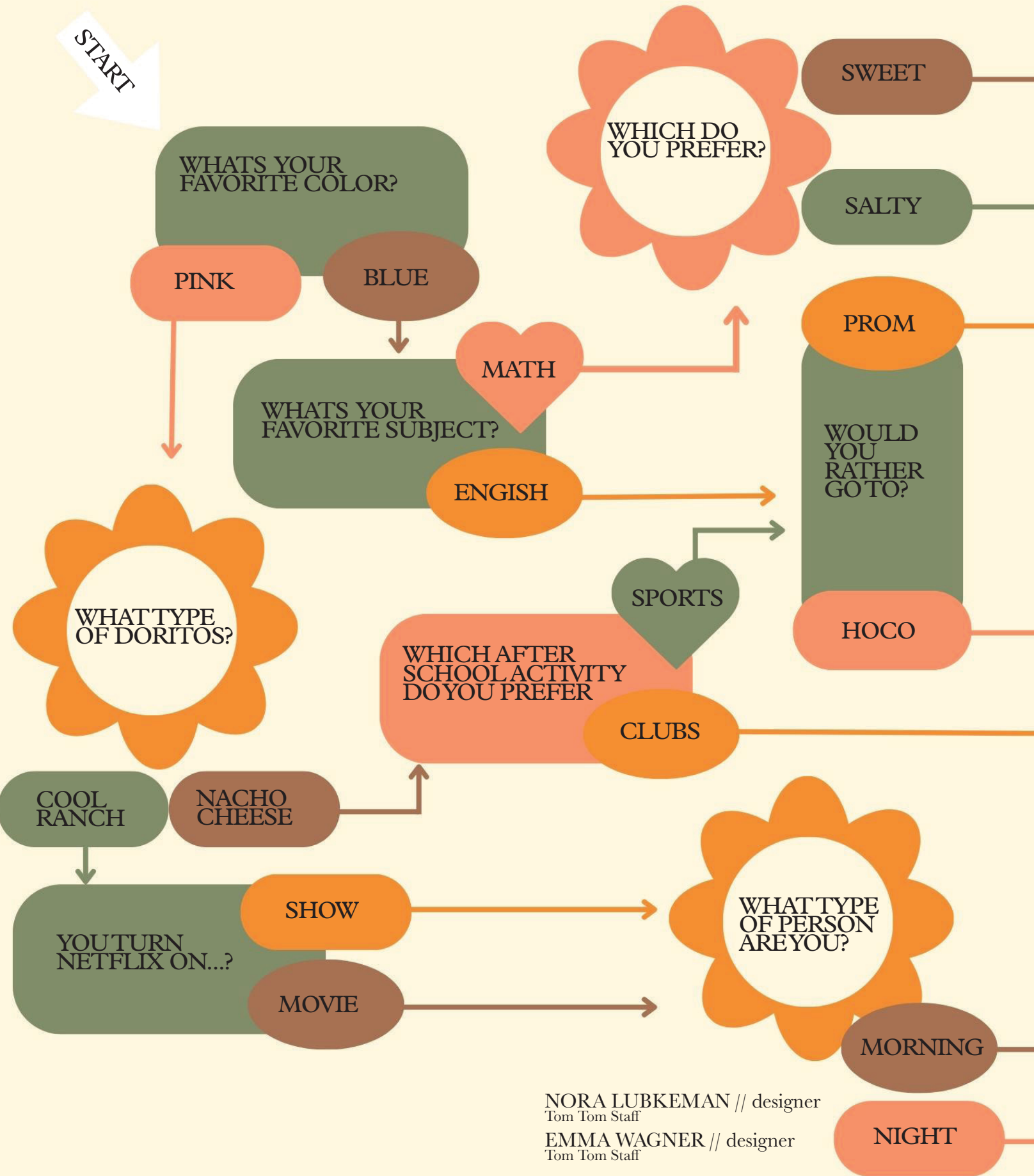
Strauss had the AEC (United States Atomic Energy Commission) hold a hearing to try and prove Oppenheimer guilty for being related to the communist party and prove that Oppenheimer did not want to pursue the H bomb. The hearing was a set up because every AEC member in the room hated Oppenheimer and was against him. Later Strauss is proved guilty for setting up that meeting in his favor

“It was pretty clear that there were three strong messages behind the whole plot” Parrott said, “A strong scientific message, the history behind the making of the bomb and the biggest emphasis was actually politics”

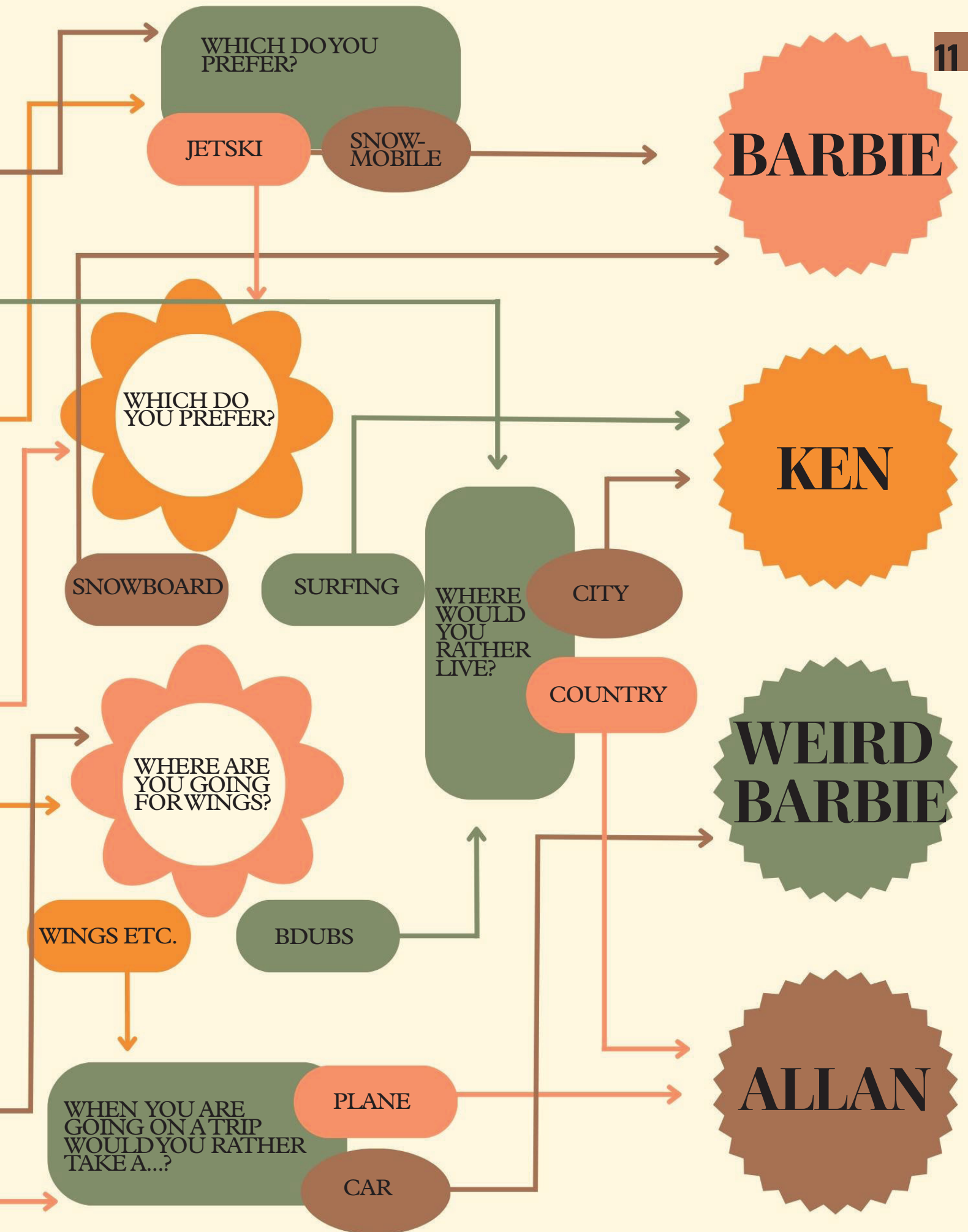
In my opinion this movie is rated an 8 out of 10. I thought the cinematography was beautiful to say the least. I found it difficult to summarize the greatness of this movie as it is 108 minutes and 9 seconds, but nonetheless it is definitely worth a watch.

CLAIRE POLICHT // writer and designer
Editor-in-chief

WHICH BARBIE ARE YOU?



NORA LUBKEMAN // designer
Tom Tom Staff
EMMA WAGNER // designer
Tom Tom Staff





Taylor Swift's Eras Tour has become the highest grossing tour to date, some have said she has become one of the most iconic women in the music industry.

Taylor Swift has recorded 11 albums, each album illustrates a different era in her life. Her albums are Taylor Swift, Fearless, Speak Now, Red, 1989, Reputation, Lover, Folklore, Evermore and Midnights. She has also re-recorded Fearless, Red, Speak Now and the 1989 re-record is being released Oct 27, 2023. In 2019 Scooter Braun bought Swift's first six album masters, this means he was profiting off her music and Swift got nothing. Therefore she is re-recording her first six albums in order to own her entire discography.

Mar 17, 2023 marked the beginning of the Eras Tour in Glendale, AZ. The concert is over three hours, 44 songs and ten acts long. Swift has sold millions of tickets, setting the record for most tickets sold in a single day. Senior Macie Volkmar was one of the million people who got to go enjoy the Eras Tour.

"It is a once in a lifetime tour with all the eras and albums," Volkmar said. "I think it is cool to see and fun to be able to say I saw Taylor Swift at the Eras Tour."

Swift is unique in the sense that she has changed genres of music throughout her entire career. Emerging in 2006 with a full country album then slowly transitioning to pop and later releasing two indie-folk albums. She has slowly influenced and changed pop culture throughout the world.

Pop culture is defined as the music, movies or any form of entertainment that the majority of people consume. In music, this has changed from Beethoven, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Whitney Houston, Micheal Jackson and more. Artists have a different style and throughout the years, the popular style has transformed. Currently Taylor Swift is a major pop culture icon and is followed by many fans who call themselves Swifties. This includes Junior Lauren Hughes who considers herself a long time Swiftie.

"I think that she has grown a lot and she is good at what she does," Hughes said. "She is a good person that spreads a good message and people want to follow that. She is good with how personal her songs can get. I feel like if you have some sort of a connection with a song, that is a reason you like it so much."

In addition to the everlasting memories from the Eras Tour, the tour has effected the economy greatly. According to Time Magazine, the tour has a projected gross of 2.2 billion in North American ticket sales alone. Each city the tour stopped in has seen an economic boost from the amount of people traveling to see Swift perform. Furthermore her listeners have increased greatly, reaching an 80% spike in the weeks after the tour started.

The Eras Tour has sold billions of tickets, however after the Ticketmaster scandal, the ticket resale prices were huge. The highest ticket resale recorded was over 20,000 dollars for one ticket. Music production teacher, Jonathan Untch, believes the Eras Tour showed the ticket selling industry what major problems need to be fixed.

"I think moving forward, one of the takeaways is that the ticket selling industry is going to have to figure out a better way to make it fair for all fans to get a crack at tickets," Untch said. "They need to prevent the absurd resale costs."

Antioch Community High School has taken inspiration from Swift by creating "The ACHS Eras Tour 2023", which you will see on the back of staff shirts and on posters throughout the school that show the history of ACHS. This allows the school to celebrate staff achievements and milestones from the past and the present. Swift has broken many records from the start of her career and is continuing to make history through her music.

LAYLA KANE // writer
Tom Tom Staff

EMMA WAGNER // designer
Tom Tom Staff

After being teased for around three years, Lil Uzi Vert's "Pink Tape" arrived on June 30. I was one of the people waiting for it from the moment he teased it, and, it is something.

After relistening, I came to the conclusion that this was an album the general public was not ready to hear. This album is a great example of switching it up. Uzi has been producing a similar genre for a long time, and for this album he decided that was over. Tracks like "Fire Alarm," "The End," "Werewolf" and more are totally out of the comfort zone (the "comfort zone" meaning generic hip-hop/rap) for most casual listeners. There are songs such as "x2," "Died and Came Back" and "Zoom," that have that classic Uzi feel, but in the midst of other songs they feel out of place, such as a "Chop Suey" cover. There is a lot of mediocre or even bad songs on this album, such as "CS," "Mama," "I'm Sorry," "That Fiya" and others.

Taking inspiration from Playboi Carti, Uzi's growls and screams

show up frequently across the album. To those that like that, it was incredible to hear that from Uzi; but for the casual listener it was weird and, "not the real Uzi"; but on a 26 track album, music can and will vary. The album keeps a consistent futuristic and chaotic feel while having songs all over the place genre-wise, and for that I give Pink Tape a lot of credit. It is not what people were expecting, but it provided a lot of exposure to new artists, styles and genres that were not as popular before. But even through all that, it is easy to tell Uzi was not faking anything for this album; Uzi made the music they wanted to make. Nothing was half-made or lazy, and they put their heart into the music. For some people, that did not land well, but for some it did. Pink Tape is going to be a controversial album for a long time, but Lil Uzi Vert VS the World 3 is projected to come soon and could be a redemption.



BLACK & PINK: THE ALBUMS OF THE SUMMER

Pink Tape & Utopia: The experiment, the new classic



It has been five years since Astroworld. "UTOPIA" has been teased for three years, and has almost dropped a numerous amount of times. Travis Scott dove back into his old trap sound after JACKBOYS, and it paid off. This album feels like something new. Travis's biggest inspirations are Ye and Kid Cudi, and it can be heard in songs like "CIRCUS MAXIMUS" and "MODERN JAM" with similar flow and voice effects as seen in Ye's "Yeezus." Kid Cudi also features at the end of "LOOOVE," a song that feels like a callback to Cudi's "Indicud" from 2013. The gritty Indicud vibes return in "LOOOVE," but Travis still kept that "UTOPIA" sound that he builds up in the album. Travis's trademark beat switches really shine again in this album, but overall each song keeps a similar feel.

Features from Playboi Carti, The Weeknd and SZA, feel perfect with the "UTOPIA" sound, but there were some other features that I did not expect. Bad Bunny, Beyonce and Westside Gunn are names I never expected to hear on a Travis album, but their performances fit despite not being typical trap artists. From the electric percussive elements in "K-POP" to the climax of "TELEKINESIS," no song sounds the same, but still flows together to make the picture that is UTOPIA. This stark difference between songs and artists' typical genres, yet that dark Utopia sound keeping them all together, showcases Travis's mastery as an artist. He has grown a lot since 2018's ASTROWORLD, and this album shows it. Out of any album that released this summer, I would rank UTOPIA above anything else.

KOSTA SAKAS // writer
Tom Tom Staff

EMMA WAGNER // designer
Tom Tom Staff

WHAT KEEPS ONE PIECE SO POPULAR?

The answer is not wealth, fame, or power.

1091 chapters. 106 volumes. 15 movies. 1074 episodes. The 22nd longest-running manga. Over 500 million manga volumes sold and the second best selling comic of all time, right behind “Superman.” Beginning in 1997, Eiichiro Oda wrote the first chapter of “One Piece” for Shonen Jump, an anthology of weekly manga releases. The anime began in 1999, and both the manga and the anime have been running weekly since then.

The “One Piece” world has its own islands, democracies, monarchies, environments, climates, natural disasters, history, ideologies and more adventures than almost any other work of fiction. The moment the Straw Hat Pirates enter a new island, it is like walking into a completely new story. Out of the hundreds of locations in the story, there is not a single place that compares to another.

The location comes with its own problems, ranging from slavery, corrupt leadership, or a food shortage. The Straw Hat Pirates have no clue where they are going next, so neither does the reader. This keeps the feeling of embarking on a grand adventure in every portion of the story. The Straw Hat Pirates generally end up fixing the main problem with each island by the time they leave, but they are not exactly heroes.

Monkey D. Luffy is the captain of the Straw Hat Pirates and his crew is considerably strange. Every character has their own personality, backstory, dreams and power. This crew trusts each other with their life and considers each other family. When the crew interacts on the ship,

it makes some of the most memorable moments in the story. This crew is fun to watch, but their motives are selfish.

They often end up liberating an island for reasons that have nothing to do with the actual island. Luffy defeated two of the strongest characters in the story simply because somebody gave him food, not because the island was enslaved by corruption. Simply because of a gifted lunch, he began over 100 chapter/episode story arcs.

Somehow this story balances the silly aspects of it with the serious, something no other series is capable of. This fight was highly anticipated for half of the story and was extremely serious but Luffy won while laughing.

It is the balance between the crew’s crazy antics, the seriousness of conflicts and the amazing things they do for the liberated people that keeps the story from becoming stale.

Exciting new adventures are still coming weekly and Netflix’s live action “One Piece” drops on Aug. 31. The fun of going to find the treasure One Piece remains entertaining, even after 1091 chapters.

The energy of this show is like nothing else; At its core, it is a fun adventure with friends going to new places and seeing new things, using their dreams as motivation to keep going.



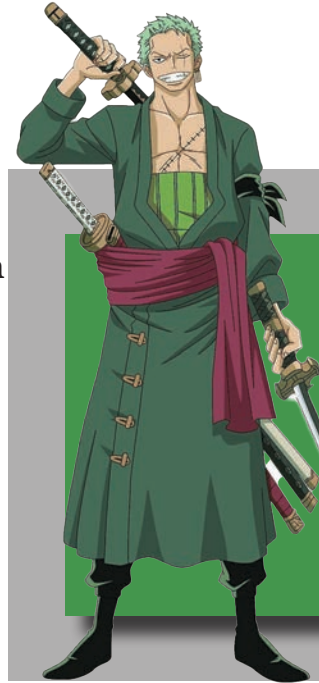


Crew Captin
 Monkey D. Luffy
 Also known as “Strawhat Luffy”
 Started the crew and is currently 10 members strong
 Goal-To be king of the pirates



Strawhat
 Logo,
 in pirate
 terms
 a Jolly Rod-
 ger

Crew Swordsman
 Rorano Zoro
 Also known as “Pirate Hunter Zoro”
 First to join the strawhats and Luffy’s right hand man
 Goal-To be the worlds strongest sworsmen



Crew Chef
 Vinsmoke Sanji
 Also known as “Black Leg Sanji”
 Fourth Member of the Strawhats to join
 Goal-To find the All Blue

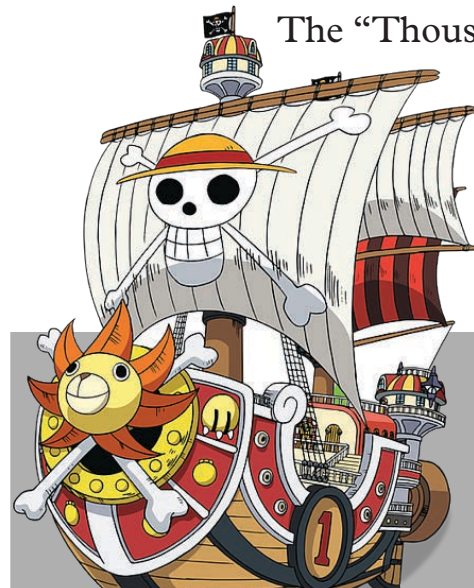
RELEASE WATCH:

Netflix’s live action “ONE PIECE” released Aug 31. As a veteran of the series, I highly recommend it to anyone looking to get into the story, as it is a great introduction to the “One Piece” world. For older fans, it stays faithful to the original while keeping a fresh

Strawhats First ship
 The “Going Merry”



Strawhats Current Ship
 The “Thousand Sunny”



KOSTA SAKAS | writer
 Tom Tom Staff
 NICK DAY | designer
 Tom Tom Staff

HOW TO: APPLE CIDER DONUTS

Enjoy a delicious treat this Fall by following this recipe by sallysbakingaddiction.com.



Reduce the apple cider: Stirring occasionally, simmer the apple cider in a small saucepan over low heat until you're left with about 1/2 cup. Start checking at 10 minutes, 15 minutes, 20 minutes, etc until you have 1/2 cup (120ml). Mine takes about 20 minutes. If there are any spices or solids on top of your reduced apple cider, leave them. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Spray donut pan with non-stick spray. Set aside.

Make the donuts: Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, apple pie spice, and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.

Whisk the melted butter, egg, brown sugar, granulated sugar, milk, and vanilla extract together. Pour into the dry ingredients, add the reduced apple cider, and whisk everything together until smooth and combined. Batter will be slightly thick.

Spoon the batter into the donut cavities—for ease, I highly recommend using a large zipped-top bag. Cut a corner off the bottom of the bag and pipe the batter into

each donut cup, filling about half-way.

Bake for 10-11 minutes or until the edges and tops are lightly browned. To test, poke your finger into the top of the donut. If the donut bounces back, they're done. Cool donuts for 2 minutes then transfer to a wire rack. Re-grease the pan and bake the remaining donut batter.

Coat the donuts: Combine the granulated sugar, cinnamon, and apple pie spice together in a medium bowl. Once cool enough to handle, dunk both sides of each donut in the melted butter, then generously in the apple spice topping.

Donuts are best served immediately. Leftovers keep well covered tightly at room temperature for up to 2 days or in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.

Ingredients

- 1 and 1/2 cups (360ml) apple cider
- 2 cups (250g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)*
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon apple pie spice*
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 Tablespoons (30g) unsalted butter, melted
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (100g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (120ml) milk, at room temperature*
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

Topping

- 1 cup (200g) granulated sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon apple pie spice*
- 6 Tablespoons (85g) unsalted butter, melted

BACK-TO-SCHOOL EXCITEMENT

Local cafe, Little Bean Coffee Company, located in downtown Antioch, introduces brand new school themed drinks thanks to the contribution of Sequoit Senate.

The Sequoits are officially two month into school. What's more exciting than celebrating with Little Bean Coffee Company's back-to-school drinks? Antioch Community High School's student council, (Sequoit Senate), decided to get more involved in town this year.

Junior, Reese Igou, led the Sequoit Senate to collaborate with Little Bean in making drinks to look forward to this school year.

"I wanted to bring some fun and spirit to the community and I thought making drinks would be a great way to get high schoolers involved," Igou said.

Little Bean had full freedom in choosing the drink flavors and naming them; they decided on a berry hibiscus Arnold Palmer, named Clueless, a cold brew with chocolate cold foam, called Bring It On and a vanilla frappe with a strawberry swirl, named Easy A.

Sophomore, Autumn McGrath, goes to Little Bean often, as they have her favorite Dirty Chai Latte. Recently, she decided to stray away from her usual and order one of Little Bean's back-to-school drinks.

"I really like the Clueless with peach," McGrath said. "I came in here one

day for my normal drink and I just saw it on the menu and I figured I had to try it."

According to Little Bean's Instagram, they plan on switching up the drink flavors throughout the school year in order to keep high school students motivated. Little Bean posted on Instagram, "Take a picture and tag us and Sequoit Senate and we will pick a winner for a free drink every month."

Be sure to try out Little Bean's back-to-school drinks before the flavors change; don't forget to tag them and Sequoit Senate on Instagram to be entered for a free drink.

KLAUDIA DORADO // writer
Lifestyles Print Director

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I WANTED TO BRING SOME FUN AND SPIRIT TO THE COMMUNITY AND I THOUGHT MAKING DRINKS WOULD BE A GREAT WAY TO GET HIGH SCHOOLERS INVOLVED.

JUNIOR REESE IGOU



KLAUDIA DORADO // photographer

UNDERSTANDING AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

With the overturn of affirmative action, colleges are now forced to use colorblind admission. So, what does this mean for the class of 2024 and beyond regarding the admissions process?

Recently, Affirmative Action was overturned by the Supreme Court, meaning that colleges are no longer allowed to consider race, religion, ethnicity or gender in the admissions process. The schools most commonly known for using Affirmative Action are very selective schools such as Ivy Leagues. These schools recognized that many minorities do not always have equal access to education. So why is this so important? According to ACHS social studies teacher Meghan McDonnell, "Students should care about this [Affirmative Action] because it was created to help minorities (race, sex) in the educational setting"

According to NPR, Affirmative Actions critics state that it causes stigma on minorities and fails to consider other key aspects of a candidate's profile such as education, income and achievements.

NPR also mentions that those in favor of Affirmative Action point out the idea of colorblind admission seems good on paper. However, in areas where colorblind admission has already been in place, there has been a decrease in minority admissions, especially African Americans at colleges. With lower minority admissions, schools lack diversity and so will many industries.

This decision not only impacts colleges, but it is expected to impact selective private high school and elementary admissions as well. It is even expected to reach sports such as the Rooney Rule in the NFL, which requires the consideration of minorities for coaching positions. It could also affect scholarships that are aimed at minority groups.

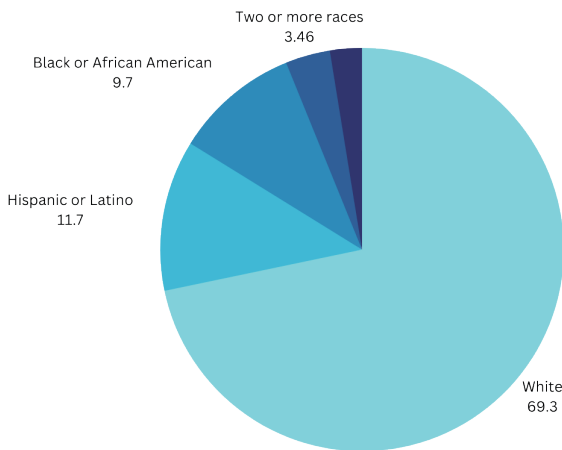
So where does this leave the class of 2024 and future generations of college applicants? According to US News, nine states including California already voted to overturn it. In these states, a survey found that minorities enrolled in top schools in states where Affirmative Action was no longer considered was 11.2% less than the amount of minority students who graduated. This number has since risen to 13.2%. For many people, college is a time to discover varying viewpoints and to discover that many students look to different diverse cultures and groups. If there is smaller diversity, then there is less exposure to these groups. It is not just minorities who will be impacted by this decision; many schools are also looking to get rid of legacy admissions which are determined by students' ancestors attending a college. Some schools are even looking at reconsidering athletic recruiting which has been seen to favor white

applicants.

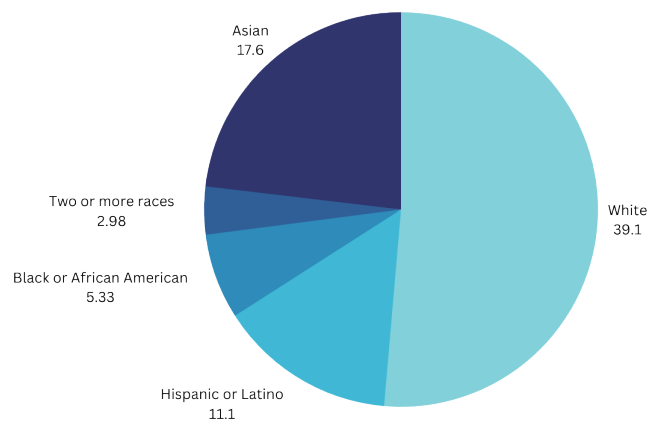
Regardless of Affirmative Action, students should still reach high and consider applying to their dream school. Minorities should not feel discouraged by this decision and find ways to shine on their application. As for students who wish to talk about race, gender, ethnicity, or religion in their essay, said McDonnell stated "I believe that it [affirmative action] will not impact it, as it is something that is personal to someone and it is part of who they are." To everyone who is applying to college in the coming years make sure to research the schools policies regarding Affirmative Action for the best and most reliable information regarding how it will impact certain schools.

MADDISON EUL // writer
Tom Tom Staff

Diversity statistics at Illinois State University and University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign



Illinois State University



University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ENGAGE IN DEMOCRACY: A VOTING GENERATION RISES

As the class of 2024 approaches the many milestones of senior year, one is lurking in the distance that not many are thinking about quite yet: voting.

All of the class of 2024 will be eligible to vote in the 2024 Presidential Election next November. The choice to participate in this milestone is up to the individual, but if they have plans to vote, there are some important things they should know before walking into the voting polls on that frosty morning next November.

The first step, if not the most important step, is to do research. While next November may seem like a long time from now, the primaries have already begun. This is when members of each party essentially compete to be the presidential candidate for their respective party. When thinking of the primaries, think of all the ads endorsing candidates on the T.V., the ads seen on social media or even sent via mail. A key way to gain major support in the primaries is to have a prominent figure in the party to endorse someone. During this stage is where the majority of people gain their information by watching the debates and reading past articles.

“The biggest thing is that [seniors] are educated,” “[Antioch Government teacher Meghan McDonnell] said. “You can do your research in a variety of ways... you can go [online] with iSidewith and it is a little test you can take and after it will give you information on each candidate.”

One common misconception that many young voters encounter is the fact that there are more than just two parties that are possible to vote for. Most are familiar with the Democratic and Republican parties, but the less notable parties such as the Green Party and Libertarian Party also usually have candidates in the presidential race. These parties are not as in the limelight as the two major parties but, just because they do not get as much media attention does not mean their values are unimportant. The values they represent might resonate more with one than the values of other parties.

“I think [voting] is a little bit nerve wracking,” Senior Jamie Healy said. “For a lot of people to be able to have that kind of power for the first time and I worry that some people won’t have the necessary civics qualifications, or willingness to care as much as some others do.”

It is important to make sure that one is officially registered to vote, in the state of Illinois if someone is going to be 18 by the time the 2024 presidential election rolls around, they

can register to vote in the Illinois primaries. One can register to vote at the DMV for example. It is simple paperwork that should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

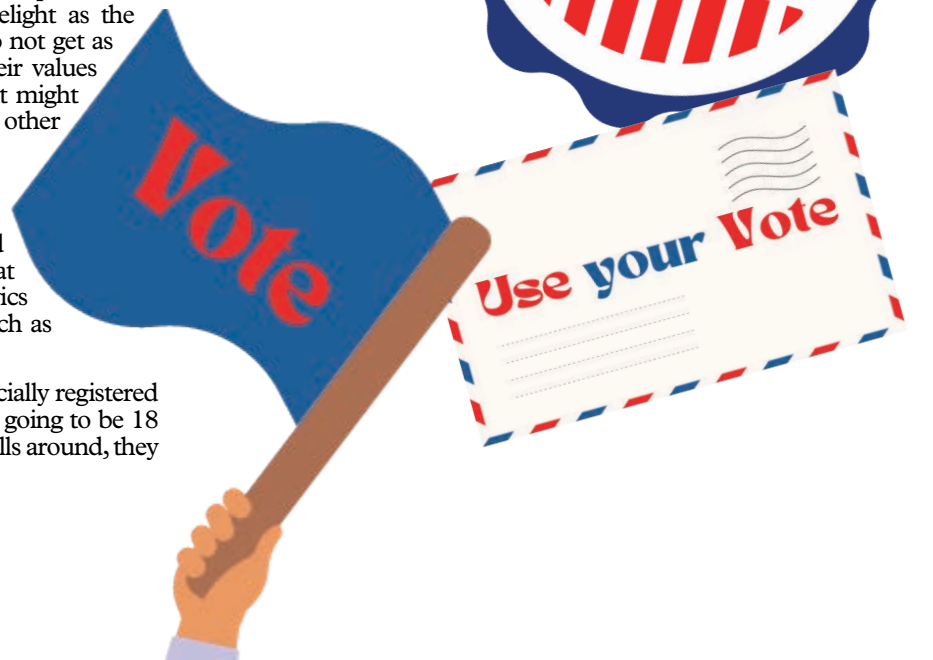
As the election slowly creeps toward the upcoming senior class, the importance to vote remains a vital part of United States culture and duty. Whether one is voting in the primaries or the much larger presidential election it is important to stay up to date with education and make sure one is ready to take on the responsibility of voting.

SOFIA TINKER // writer
Reporting manager

SIDNEY WALKER // designer
Tom Tom Staff

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I THINK
[VOTING] IS A
LITTLE NERVE
WRECKING.

SENIOR JAMIE HEALY





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SEQUOIT SNAPSHOT

Senior Laila Salata being crowned
Miss Antioch 2023.

MADELYNN SOBERANO// photographer

FRESH FACES IN EDUCATION: MEET OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

Arriving in August of 2023, the newly hired staff of Antioch Community High School prepare for the upcoming school year and prospective time at the school.

With the start of the new school year, ACHS warmly welcomes 16 new staff members. Among these additions, there are first-time teachers, individuals with over 30 years of experience and even former students of ACHS. Looking ahead to their futures as sequoit educators, they are just as excited as the community is to see their impact here.

As any school year and summer break goes, staff members move around; some may transfer to new positions or find new jobs, therefore opening up positions. Vacancies in science, counseling, CTE, special education, social studies, english, math and the athletic director role have been fulfilled by fresh faces around the building. A number of new hires means an assortment of backgrounds, a multitude of personalities and more people that students and staff are able to get to know.

Before their time here, Nicole Hebson and Will Barbanera worked at Lakes Community High School. Now, Hebson is the newest English Department Chair and Barbanera is taking on their first role as a department head, being the Science Department Chair. Although the two are ecstatic to join the sequoit family, they are thrilled to experience ACHS culture in particular. The pair has already gained a feel of the camaraderie and pride that their new school exudes.

“I’m so excited about all the tradition that’s here. The fact that the community is so involved here, just is great to me,” Hebson said. “The feeling of family that’s here is pretty real.”

Similarly, Barbanera also noted the impression of belonging and morale. “It’s been great. I’m thrilled. Yeah, it’s great. The kids are great. My team is great. And everybody that I’m working with is just making everything awesome,” he said.

Along with ACHS’s spirit and atmosphere, aims and ambition are also priorities of the newcomers. Every teacher looks to have an effect with their work, and the latest staff are certainly no exception. Whether it’s an impression upon their students, coworkers, or environment, ACHS’s new personnel are ready to make their mark.

Having graduated from Taylor University this past spring, traveling science teacher Joshua Walgren embarks upon their first teaching experience at ACHS and LCHS. Following their student teaching this past year, this is Walgren’s first endeavor teaching their own

classes and they have high hopes for establishing their presence at both ACHS and LCHS.

“I think the main [goal] is to really understand my classroom management and how I want to run the classroom in a way that supports my students academically and emotionally; and being a new teacher, there’s so much room to grow there,” Walgren said.



While it is important to build a strong foundation for oneself when starting a job, the recent arrivals want to do so while bringing their own personal touches to the process as well. The staff at ACHS is remarkably diverse, which is why it is ever-so important that Antioch educators represent themselves in whatever setting they may find themselves in. Personality in the classroom makes for that much stronger of relationships between students and teachers. The new staff members have plenty of hobbies and things they feel people should know about them; from their pet dogs to desires to be approachable, there is so much to be learned.

In particular, Ajay Cheberenchick, an Education Life Skills paraprofessional, is someone who wants students to know that they are active and engaged in and out of school. One thing to be known about them, “I love to go camping! I’m a very outdoorsy person,” Cheberenchick said.

Meanwhile, newly named post-secondary counselor Robyn Kubik wants to make it known that aside from her interests in her personal life, they are always available to help students in any way they can; they stress that anyone can stop into their office when they need to. Kubik emphasizes that they are “another resource for [students] here on the outside of the classroom.”

Naturally, a culmination of things has made up the new staff’s transition to ACHS. Wanting to make the most of their involvement here, these teachers are sure to work with what they can in order to be sure their shift to ACHS is as positive as possible.

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THE
FEELING
OF FAMILY
THAT’S
HERE IS
PRETTY
REAL

NICOLE HEBSON // ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CHAIR

SYDNEY VEGA // writer

Tom Tom Staff

ELEANOR GEER // designer

Tom Tom Staff



HALLIE MARTIN
Special Education Teacher



RENEE KANARI
Math Teacher



TAMMY JOHNSON
Special Education Teacher



BRAD KETCHMARK
Social Studies Teacher



DEBBIE JASNOCH
Student Services Counselor



MELISSA CLEARY
CTE Teacher



AJAY CHEBERENCHICK
Special Education Paraprofessional



MATT MARINO
Special Education Teacher



KELI OWENS
Special Education Paraprofessional



ROBYN KUBIK
Secondary Education Counselor



BLAKE SIEFERT
Special Education Paraprofessional

FLORIDA V. FREEDOM

Over the past few months Florida has had many new rules and laws surrounding the education system.

Between the banning of 'graphic' books to AP classes, Florida K-12 schools have been in the spotlight recently. The "Don't Say Gay" bill passed in March of 2022 prohibits the discussion and the teaching of sexual orientation and gender identity in Florida classrooms. Since then Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has been adding to that, even going as far as attempting to ban Advanced Placement Psychology and various other school related things.

The Parental Rights in Education law, better known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill's main focus is to prohibit "classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels." It also allows parents to take legal action against a school district if said school goes against the law and its rules. Not only does this affect the

students but also the teachers. Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, Doctor Jaelyn Orlov, is familiar with this bill and others that Florida has put into place and talked about.

"[Florida] staff members [who go against the bill] can have their wages taken away, some of them can lose their jobs," Dr. Orlov said.

AP classes have also had their time in the news spotlight.

Recently, DeSantis has been making all attempts to limit the discussion of gender orientation, this includes attempting to get rid of AP Psychology because of a small portion of the curriculum that mentioned gender identity and sexual orientation. This immediately sparked

conversation across the media as these classes are structured in a way that prepares students for higher education classes and curriculum. While the states have the power to control their own education system some have said this is doing no good. Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Karen Ritter is one of these people.

"Banning an advanced level class that gives the potential for students to earn college credit, I think, it only hurts kids," Dr. Ritter said.

Another concern that has been discussed is how these changes will affect the relationships between teachers and students. Most teachers strive to make the classroom an environment where every student feels comfortable and safe, part of this includes building relationships with students so they can feel safe and have someone to turn to if need be. Taking away the freedom to talk freely about these topics takes away from one's ability to build a connection and have a safe person to turn to in times of need.

All of these changes have an effect on the classroom and the learning environment as a whole. If students do not feel safe and supported they are less likely to be willing to learn. All of these changes and restrictions build up walls that educators have worked so hard to tear down and rebuild a safe learning environment and space for students. Some feel that teaching children earlier about real-world issues will better prepare them to be better understanding and supportive as they grow into adulthood; gender and sexual orientation is not something that will just disappear if people choose to ignore them, learning and educating children at a younger age allows them to grow and change as the world does.

"If we want to have humans supporting and embracing all humans in our world you have to teach those concepts earlier now," Dr. Orlov said.

As seen in the past, when one state makes a drastic change it is likely to influence surrounding states. The fear of these changes that Florida is creating spreading to other states has been talked about quite a lot. Illinois has already said they do not plan to make any changes to the curriculum and they want to protect the rights of students and society as a whole.

"Every state is going to do what it thinks is right for its students," Dr. Ritter said. "So with the increasing diversity of the student population, it is important for educators to have the flexibility to address a wide range of topics including those related to sexual orientation."

Florida making these changes can be frightening for many with fears that this could lead to other states making setbacks, even nationwide consequences. As politics get roped into educational choices more and more some have said it is hard to watch.

"It is really challenging when you have legislators making decisions about what happens in a classroom when they are not in a classroom," Dr. Orlov said.

The hope that one day children will not have to worry about politics being involved in everything they do, from going to school to just living their lives as they please is one that many people hold. The hope for all classrooms to be a safe, welcoming and accepting environment is one all teachers aspire to achieve.

LIV MARTIN // writer
Tom Tom Staff

NORA LUBKEMAN | designer
Tom Tom Staff



DON'T
SAY
GAY



SUPPORT
SOLDIERS

COURT
K...

SMALL TOWN, BIG HEART: ANTIOCH STANDS TOGETHER FOR HUNTLEY

Several fundraisers around the Village of Antioch are supporting Huntley Daniels, an Antioch resident thrown from ride in traumatic accident during Antioch carnival in the summer.

July 16, 2023

The fourth and final day of Antioch's Taste of Summer Festival—a yearly event hosted by the Antioch Chamber of Commerce in the center of town. Overpriced food, roller coaster rides and live music, the embodiment of the stereotypical US carnival were all present during Antioch's "fun for the family" weekend.

2:40 PM

Antioch's festival took an unexpected turn for the worst, ten-year-old boy, Huntley Daniels, was ejected from his seat on one of the carnival rides known as Moby Dick. The harness on the carnival ride lifted while the ride was active, and Daniels was reportedly thrown in the air around 10-12 feet. After landing, Daniels was considered unresponsive by witnesses of the event.

Minutes later, emergency responders arrived at the festival to a visibly horrifying scene. Once emergency services arrived, an emergency helicopter was called to the scene immediately. He was airlifted to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge in critical condition. He suffered serious injuries; such as broken ribs, a cracked skull, a broken jaw, a broken femur and a broken arm. Daniels was transferred to the University of Chicago's Comer Children's Hospital to undergo surgery. This ten-year-old boy was about to show the world his strength.

Huntley Daniels

Daniels happily resides in Antioch, the town in which he attends school, as well as summer camp. Daniels is an extremely bright and happy kid and he showed the other campers and counselors how much he loved to be there every day. Daniels was among many kids who expressed their excitement to attend the Antioch carnival during summer camp throughout the week.

This was noted by his head counselor, Molly Volkmar.

"He (Huntley) is the sweetest kid and so many of the campers were talking about how they were so excited to go to the carnival that weekend," Volkmar said.

This makes the case even more devastating seeing as many of Daniels peers were in attendance when the accident happened. The following week Daniels peers returned to the summer day camp, but he was not there. Many of the campers had already heard the news but those who did not learned of it quickly. The news deeply upset many of the campers who were friends with Daniels and had become accustomed to seeing him every day over the summer. Many counselors would tell you that Daniels brightened their days on a regular basis, often asking how their day had been going or if his counselors had a good weekend. Community

After the accident, Antioch Mayor Scott Gartner, shut down rides for the remainder of the carnival, however the festival was able to remain open for the rest of the final day. This was only the beginning of Antioch's response to the incident. The biggest and most successful response was the GoFundMe set up by Daniels uncle, Antioch Community High School Alum Jeffrey Pohlman. As of September 2023, the GoFundMe has raised over \$48,000, with over one thousand donations.

"I'm just glad that this situation was taken seriously and that Huntley and his family were supported by their community," Pohlman said. "I couldn't ask for more from the people of Antioch."

Matt Behrens, a junior at ACHS believes people in Antioch were empathetic to the situation because of their own families and friends being in attendance and the fact an accident like this can happen at any time.

"It could happen to anyone because a lot of people [in Antioch] go to the fair to have a good time with their families," Behrens said.



The community showed their support in several other heartfelt ways too, such as the fundraiser held by Antioch Pizza on July 19, during Wednesday night, all profits went directly to support Daniel's and his family. Family Heirloom Antiques in Antioch sold "Antioch, Small Town with Big Heart" t-shirts; five dollars from each sale was donated to Daniels' cause. The Latte Café & Bakery donated 25% of proceeds to the cause made on July 23.

Culver's in Antioch hosted a fundraising event on August 26, where a portion of the proceeds was donated to the family. Antioch dedicated the final "It's Thursday" summer concert on August 10, to Huntley Daniels, and his recovery.

"[Antioch] is such a small town, everyone cares for each other, looks out for each other, and is willing to help if someone needs it," Volkmar said. "Even if you do not know the person who is in a situation like this, you may have a friend who does know them, and everyone treats each other like family and is willing to help at any time."

Recovery

The recovery process has only begun, and only time will tell how long it will take for the Daniels family, as well as the community of Antioch to fully recover. Members of the community have already shared their opinions on the future of the Antioch's Taste of Summer Festival in the coming years, and have displayed disinterest towards stepping foot in the carnival anytime soon.

Daniels is taking big steps forward after the accident, and is hoping to recover quickly with hopes to return to his friends, classmates and teachers in his final year of elementary school.

"Huntley's a tough kid. He's still recovering from broken bones and his multiple surgeries. Despite this he's still walking with a walker and going to school," Pohlman said.

Huntley has already showed the world his strength, and is now ready to tackle his next challenge, fifth grade.

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HUNTLEY IS THE SWEETEST KID AND SO MANY OF THE CAMPERS WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW THEY WERE SO EXCITED TO GO TO THE CARNIVAL THAT WEEKEND.

ALUM MOLLY VOLKMAR

COLE LOIACANO // writer
Sports Print Director

TYLER MILLER // writer
Tom Tom Staff

KLAUDIA DORADO // designer
Lifestyles Print Director

Support Huntley

"Huntley Strong"
Bracelets For Sale Here

\$5.00 ea

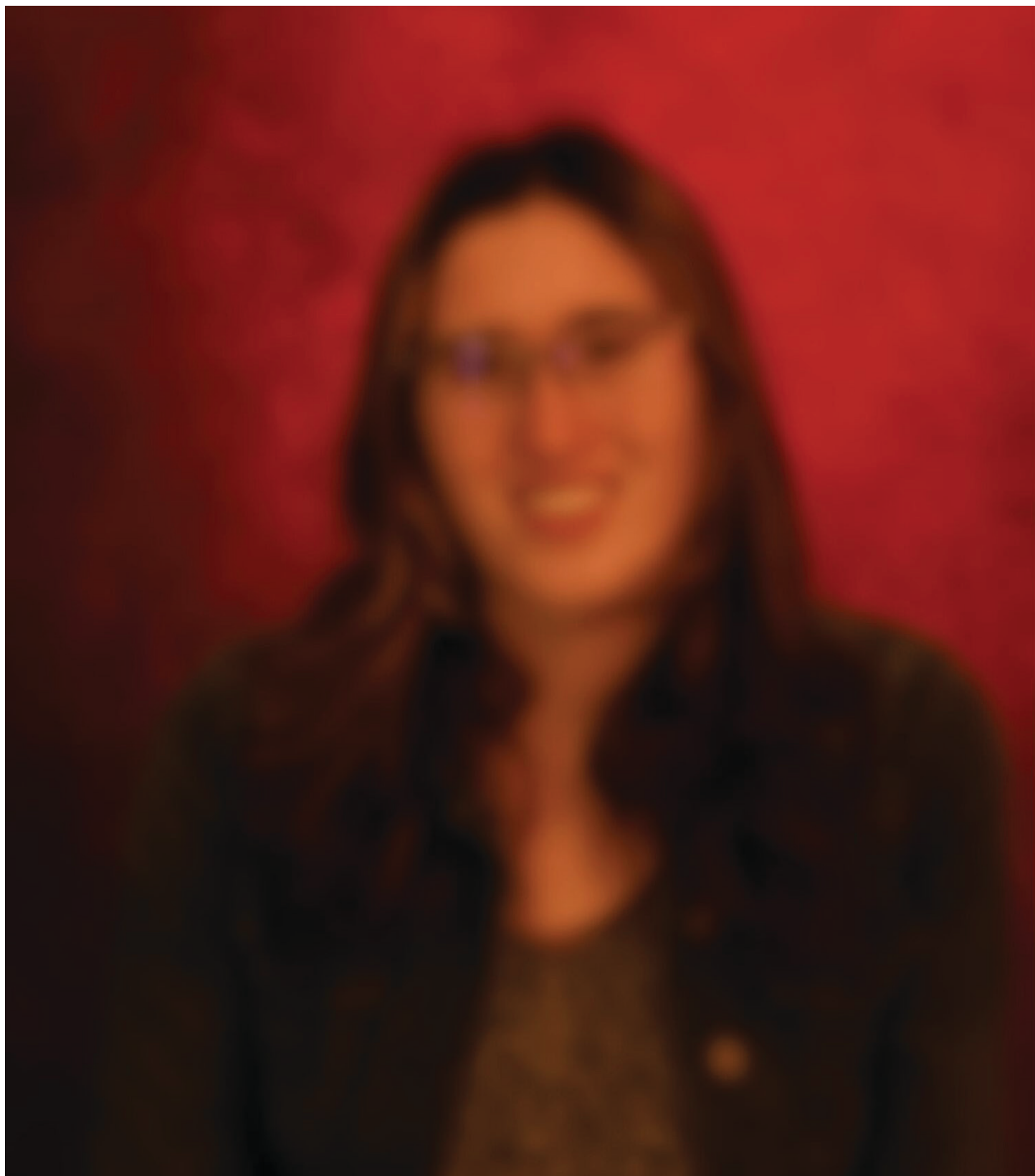
Join the Antioch community as we offer support to Huntley, the 10-year-old boy who was injured during the Taste of Antioch carnival in July of 2023.

All proceeds from the sale of these "Huntley Strong" bracelets will go directly to Huntley and his family, aiding him on his journey to recovery.

#Huntley Strong ♥

WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO **TO LIVE LIFE WITH LOW VISION**

BY MADDIE EUL



At first glance, I am your typical teenage girl; I love fashion, music and hanging out with my friends, but if you take a second glance you would notice that my eyes are not normal.

Since I was 18 months old I have been wearing glasses. When I first went to the eye doctor it was because my mom insisted that something was wrong with my eyes. Since I was about six months old, the doctor told her I could only see about 10 inches in front of my face. The doctor also told her I had a pretty bad astigmatism and a lazy eye. In an attempt to fix the lazy eye I had to wear a patch over my eye every day to try to get the eye normal.

My first few pairs of glasses were heavy and had very thick lenses, but I never complained about them. I called them “my windows to the world” because without them I could not see at all. That did not stop kids from making fun of me. I remember in kindergarten we had morning recess with all the grades out on the playground together. A second grader took my glasses off my face and threw them, leaving me standing in the middle of the playground without being able to see anything. Then in second grade a girl threw my glasses down the sewer.

When I was in fourth grade two key things happened with my vision: I got contacts which greatly improved my vision and I found out that I am at high risk for retinal detachment, this meant my retinas could detach if I were to be hit in the head. Growing up I wanted to play sports, basketball especially. I loved soccer too. In fact, that year I was planning on

asking my mom and dad to sign me up for soccer. So no contact sports or anything involving a ball. This meant I had to sit out of gym class a lot and I was left feeling left out of many activities.

Middle school is when things took a turn for the worse. In seventh grade I detached both my retinas. No one knows how I did it. I had my first retinal surgery in February that year with the second surgery a week later. I missed about eight weeks of school and the recovery process was not fun. I had to lay on my stomach face down for the majority of the day. It also caused issues with my friends. My best friend since second grade quit speaking to me when I came back to school because she was annoyed I did not tell her I was going to be out of school for that long. The retinal detachment also caused more problems, I had to have a surgery to remove a gas bubble in my eye caused by the surgery.

In the fall of my eighth grade year my family and I went to Disney World. What was supposed to be a fun filled family trip became a challenge when suddenly I could barely see out of my left eye. We called the doctor and they told us to just come in when we came back, though looking back I probably should have gone to a doctor in Florida. When we got back we went to the doctor. My eye pressure was 50 (normal eye pressure is under 20) and a cataract had rapidly developed on my eye. I had to have emergency surgery later that week. My right eye developed a cataract a month later that had to be removed and the doctors put artificial lenses in both of my eyes at that time. The artificial lenses are amazing,

they make it so I no longer have to wear really thick glasses and allow me to see some things without glasses.

My field of vision is not great but has improved. In Illinois I am eligible to drive this year because my vision has improved, but during daylight only. I also lack the ability to see 3D which also means I lack depth perception. I have a hard time telling how close things are to me.

Not everything about my vision has been negative though. Because of my vision I have learned how to adapt to things. For example, doing my makeup is something that is pretty difficult for me because I can not see well. My mom found glasses that have one lens that you can flip from side to side to help me see when I do my eyeshadow. It has also taught me to advocate for myself. I have sent numerous emails to companies and posted on social media about issues I have had with certain companies not following the ADA guidelines. For example, one website would not allow me to zoom in and I got them to change that by writing them an email. Because of my vision I have become proficient in braille.

Overall, I have learned to not let my vision define me. It is just a part of my life much like my music or school. I wish other people would see it the way I do. Once people know about my disability, they just know me as the girl who can not see and wish people would take a second glance and get to know me for something other than my eyes.

TROUBLED WATERS

Rising concerns over the safety on the Chain O' Lakes this summer draws the attention of Antioch residents and the impact of Lake County.



CASEY RIETSCHER // photographer
Tom Tom Staff

According to newportcove, the Chain O' Lakes is the busiest freshwater way in the nation, The Chain can be enjoyed in winter and the summer; In the winter there are many enjoyable activities to do such as snowmobiling, ice fishing, ice skating and more, but The Chain is mainly enjoyed in the summer as it is all about boating and being on the water. Although The Chain is all about good times all the time, sometimes accidents happen. Recently on The Chain, there have been some major mishaps.

"The question being asked is, do you think that the Chain has become more dangerous over the years and why?" Antioch resident Scott Michael said.

"Yes, all the people that are buying new boats after COVID are unskilled, untrained boaters which can be more dangerous for people that know what they are doing."

Antioch Community High School teacher Terry Dewing said. "Yes because there are more people that are renting boats."

Although Michael and Dewing are very different people they both had the same idea about people who rent boats and how they should have more certifications and should know more about The Chain in order to rent a boat because it can become very dangerous.

Both points by Dewing and Michael come together about what the Chain has become and how it is seemingly going downhill from what it used to be.

Do you know what has been happening on the chain recently, Referring the the drowning victim and the man who had a heart attack while water skiing on Lake Marie?

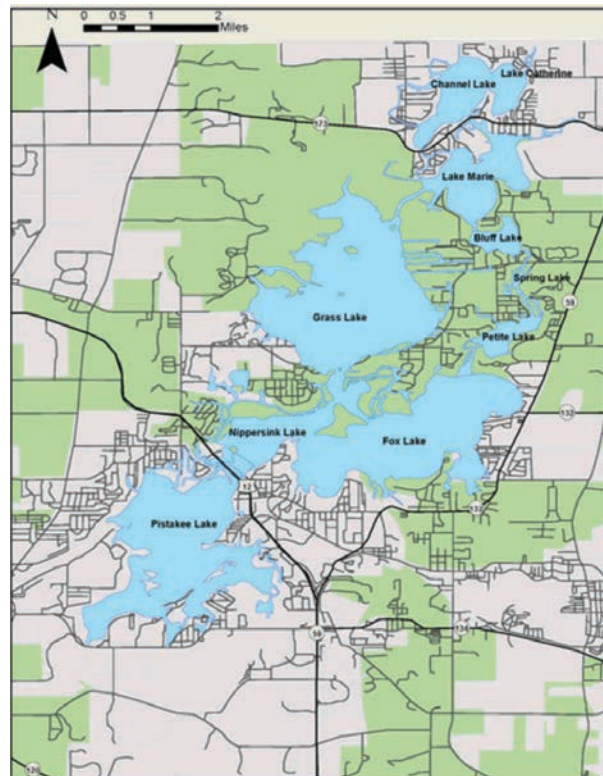
"I mean, there are accidents that happen on the chain every single year, some worse than others," Michael said.

Looking past all the bad things that happen on The Chain, there are still plenty of things and places to look forward to.

The Chain has a wide variety of restaurants including EIPuerto, Sunset Grill, The Sandbar and many more. Things to do on The Chain consist of anchoring at any of the multiple sandbars and relaxing. If you find yourself to be more athletic you can consider water sports like water skiing, wakeboarding or surfing. Before going

out on The Chain O' Lakes during the winter or summer always make sure you are educated on the watercraft or equipment you are operating and be aware of your surroundings to avoid further accidents.

CASEY RIETSCHER // writer
Tom Tom Staff



FOX CHAIN O' LAKES // photo
Department of Natural Resources

HALLOWEEN THRILLS AND CHILLS

Fright Fest brings on their adventure filled fun this year with spooky rides and excitement.

Every year Six Flags Great America hosts a Halloween-themed festival from mid-September to the end of October. The park includes actors who dress up, haunted attractions and scary props. The park helps bring the Halloween spirit to everyone in the Gurnee area.

Workers at Great America are given the opportunity to dress up for Fright Fest or work the rides. Many workers choose to dress up which has caused the park to become understaffed, but it helps bring smiles to many faces. Senior Kellen Brawner has been working at Six Flags for for six months and has explained what his favorite parts of working there are.

“I think entertaining, the thousands of people that show up every day,” Brawner said. “It’s fun to see random people and put a smile on their face.”

Many people love going to Fright Fest not only because of the spooky scares but also the rides; sometime actors will dress up and go on the ride to terrify the riders. The atmosphere of the park gives a sense of fall and Halloween, creating an exciting and thrilling experience.

Junior Madison Koukal has been going to Fright Fest with her family since she was 10 years old and explains what her favorite parts of Fright Fest are and why she chooses to come back every year.

“My favorite thing about going to Fright Fest during Halloween is the fall vibe and how they really make it feel like Halloween,” Koukal said.

Six Flags continues to do Halloween-themed shows, scary parades

and live performances. This helps families and friends make memories that they will cherish forever and make it an unforgettable event.

Sophomore Conor Flood-Cooper also explains that he has gone to Six Flags every year and explains what his favorite part about Fright Fest is. He also explains that they have rides for every age.

“My favorite thing about going to Six Flags during Halloween is watching the people who are dressed up scaring people,” Flood said. “They have big rides for older people and smaller rides for younger people.”

Six Flags Great America will continue on this Festival for as long as they can to keep the spirit alive and put smiles on people’s faces. So buckle up and get ready to make some lasting memories at Fright Fest.

KENNA SEKANY// writer
Tom Tom Staff



“IT’S FUN TO SEE RANDOM PEOPLE AND PUT A SMILE ON THEIR FACE.”

SENIOR KELLEN BRAWNER

MARA PADEK// designer
Tom Tom Staff

NIGER'S COUP D'ETAT

Niger, a country in the Sahel region of Africa, was taken over by its own presidential guard.

July 26, 2023

The Niger presidential guards, led by General Abdourahamane Tchiani, overthrew President Mohammed Bazoum. Niger's military quickly mobilized and secured strategic points in the country. Around 400 civilian Bazoum supporters demonstrated in front of the Presidential Palace, but fled due to gunfire from the presidential guard leaving one injured. Later that night Air Force Colonel-Major Adramane, surrounded by other top Niger officials, announced the coup to the world. The group explained that they removed Bazoum from power due to a deteriorating domestic security situation and bad governance. They also announced the dissolution of Niger's constitution, suspension of state institutions, closure of country borders and a nationwide curfew. Adramane would later announce suspension of all activity by political parties. The junta (new government ruled by military that took over the old government) also ended cooperation with France for violating Niger airspace when a French military plane landed in the country after the closure.

July 27, 2023

Bazoum was able to get in contact with world leaders from France, the U.S.A. and the United Nations, despite him and his family being held captive. There were rumors that being in captivity was wearing down his health. A demonstration of roughly 1,000 people voiced their support of the junta, the Wagner group, waved Russian flags and threw rocks at a passing politicians car. Other demonstrators went to the headquarters of Bazoum's PNDS-Tarayya party (Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism), stoning and setting fire to surrounding vehicles. The demonstrators then stole everything they could from inside the building and burned it down. Niger police deterred them with tear-gas, and Niger's Interior Ministry put a harsh ban on any demonstrations later that day.

July 28, 2023

Tchiani addressed on television that the coup was to stop the gradual and inevitable demise of the country. He criticized the poor national

security and the lack of collaboration with Burkina Faso and Mali, countries that have had very similar coup d'etats. Tchiani's position as the head of state would be confirmed on television by Abdramane, and went on to accuse Bazoum's government of conspiring against the junta.

Aftermath

The nationwide curfew set by the junta was lifted on Aug. 4. More demonstrations, censorship by the government, cutting electrical power and foreign powers evacuated Niger, ECOWAS (Economic Community of Western African States) made threats of military invasion and economic sanctions. Foreign and domestic tensions with Niger have been rising since.



Image by Alle Rechte vorbehalten

Aug. 10, 2023

The junta declared itself as the new government. Pressure from ECOWAS led Niger to asking other like-minded countries such as Mali and Burkina Faso for help.

Aug. 12, 2023

Niger sends a delegation to Guinea, a country who has also has a similar junta, and the delegation was well received by Guinean leader Mamadi Doumbouya.

Aug. 13, 2023

The junta announces they will prosecute Bazoum for undermining the country's security as well as high treason.

Aug. 20, 2023

Tchiani agreed to return Niger to civilian rule in three years after meeting with ECOWAS.

Aug. 22, 2023

The African Union (AU) blocked Niger from the union and warned the country from taking any action that may legitimise the junta.

Domestic & International Reactions

Those in support of Bazoum thought the coup was suicidal, while those in support cheered the junta on. Some have speculated the coup was for Tchiani's personal gain, as he never liked Bazoum. The coup was condemned by the AU, the U.N., the European Union, France and Algeria. The United States has spoken on the junta, but refused to call it a coup. The World Bank has also prevented any money flowing in or out of Niger, which means the country's funds are locked. ECOWAS made threats of economic sanction and plans for a D-Day style invasion if peace talks fail, but that would be a last resort as they are sticking to diplomatic solution.

Motives behind the coup

Tchiani never liked Bazoum, and attempted a coup back in 2021 during the presidential inauguration but failed. Bazoum planned to fire Tchiani as well as reduce the presidential guard's budget so the military budget would increase to fight terrorism. There is also rumors that Tchiani believed he should have been president instead, so he rallied a coup. The coup stated their motives were to save the deteriorating security situation and bad governance of the country.

Russia?

While Russia had no direct role in the coup, they have been running an anti-Western campaign in Niger. Niger is also an impoverished country, and has poor media literacy. Some Western countries like the US and France have military bases there. Niger has a massive uranium supply, which attracts any country making radioactive weapons, as uranium is a common source. Bazoum is also known to support Western ideologies.



Demonstrators were also waving Russian flags and supporting the Wagner group, a private mercenary group from Russia. This led some to suspect Russia may be involved, but there is no true answer yet. Most of Western media has been censored by the junta, and even before then media freedom was mediocre.

Junta countermeasure

The junta broke off all relations with France. France helped Niger fight terrorists on the borders of Mali and Burkina Faso. France was also in those countries, but France was kicked out by their juntas. This meant Niger was the last hold of French and US counter-terrorism efforts in the Sahel, but now the West has fled the country. The Nigerien junta has also accepted an offer from the Wagner group to send 1,000 troops to help fight terrorism.

What now?

Tensions with the junta are rising with every move. Niger has broken ties with Nigeria and Togo. An ECOWAS delegation sent to Niger came back with little to show for it. Bazoum described himself as a hostage and called on the international community to restore the constitutional order of the country. ECOWAS has been making plans for a military invasion, but fellow coup leaders in Mali and Burkina Faso said they would treat an invasion of Niger as a declaration of war. While a military invasion to restore the constitution could happen, it risks snowballing into a regional war.

STUDENTS MAKE A SPLASH AT THE ANTIOCH POOL

The Antioch Aquatic Center has not only been a popular place to visit during the summer, but also a popular place for high school students to work.

Living in a small town like Antioch during the summer months means that the options of places to go are limited. However, the Antioch Aquatic Center is often a popular place for people of all ages to attend on a humid summer day. Not only this, it is also a popular place for high school students to work during their time off of school. After completing about six hours of online training and close to 12 hours of in-person training, the fun begins as families from around the community gather at the Antioch Aquatic Center.

Emma Kolloff just recently graduated from Antioch Community High School this past spring and now attends the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. For three years, Kolloff has devoted most of her time in the summer to lifeguarding at the pool.

“I would recommend it to others because it is a seasonal job that gets you outside and learning a lot of valuable information that most people do not know,” Kolloff said. “My favorite memories are the ones with my co-workers because they make working 10 times better.”

The Antioch Aquatic Center is a very friendly and welcoming environment for people of all ages. There are many opportunities for lessons, parties and much more.

“The pool offers pool parties on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings,” Kolloff said. “We also offer swim lessons in two-week sessions for six weeks. Lastly, we have day camps come into the pool, some every day, others bi-weekly.”

Two new editions to the pool are seniors Carter Webb and Nora Larson. Both Webb and Larson just recently finished their first summer lifeguarding at the pool. It was a new but valuable experience for both of them.

“My favorite part of working at the pool was when it was not busy because we had hour-and-a-half breaks and we [would] just swim around for a while,” Webb said. “I also enjoyed it when the pool closed [and] we got to swim around after hours.”

Working at the pool has not only brought new friendships, but it has also taught valuable lessons along the lines of swim safety. It is easy for children to underestimate the force of hitting the water and becoming frightened when they fully submerge under the surface. This is what leads to panicking and drowning.

“Water safety is very important,” Larson said. “Kids should know how to swim regardless if

there’s a lifeguard on duty or not.”

With colder weather approaching, the 2023 season at the pool comes to a close. Without a doubt, it was a successful summer for employees, families and the community of Antioch as well.

LAILA SALATA // writer
Tom Tom Staff

CASEY RIETSCHER // designer
Tom Tom Staff



PARKING PASS AFFAIR

Upper Lot parking passes are sparking quite a controversy among students at Antioch Community High School.

The parking lots at Antioch Community High School have been an issue with students in recent years with past students recounting their hatred of the system. From the chaos of exiting the lots to the inconvenience and danger of the walk to McMillan field students are tired of the struggle.

The lots are divided between students by year. Seniors get first priority of their section in upper lot, freshman, sophomores and juniors park in the spots available at our second lot McMillan across the train tracks. Sophomore and junior students with a zero hour class get an exception to parking at McMillan by parking slightly closer in the lower lot located at the stadium.

For most students walking from the doors to their vehicle is about a eight to fifteen minute walk which on nice days can be a pleasant walk after the hustle and bustle of being at school. Illinois weather being as extreme as it is on days when it is in the high 90s or belo zero degrees this walk can feel like torture with many students not using lockers to be able to bring appropriate attire to make the walk. The kicker of this all is it is the same price to have to walk in the elements as to park in upper lot. The

school offers a bus to pick students up in the morning from the lots and bring them to the school however this bus is not used ful due to its arrival time being 7:45- 7:50am with class starting at 8:00 am. With the location of the field being on the opposite side of the tracks from the school.

To further the issue students with important after school activities such as jobs, sports practices, or family matters to attend to can not get accommodations made to be able to get to this responsibilities on time. Student who take matters into their own hands and break the rules in order to prioritize life outside of school by parking in the wrong lot or not spending the \$80 on a parking pass are threatened with your car being towed or after school detention.

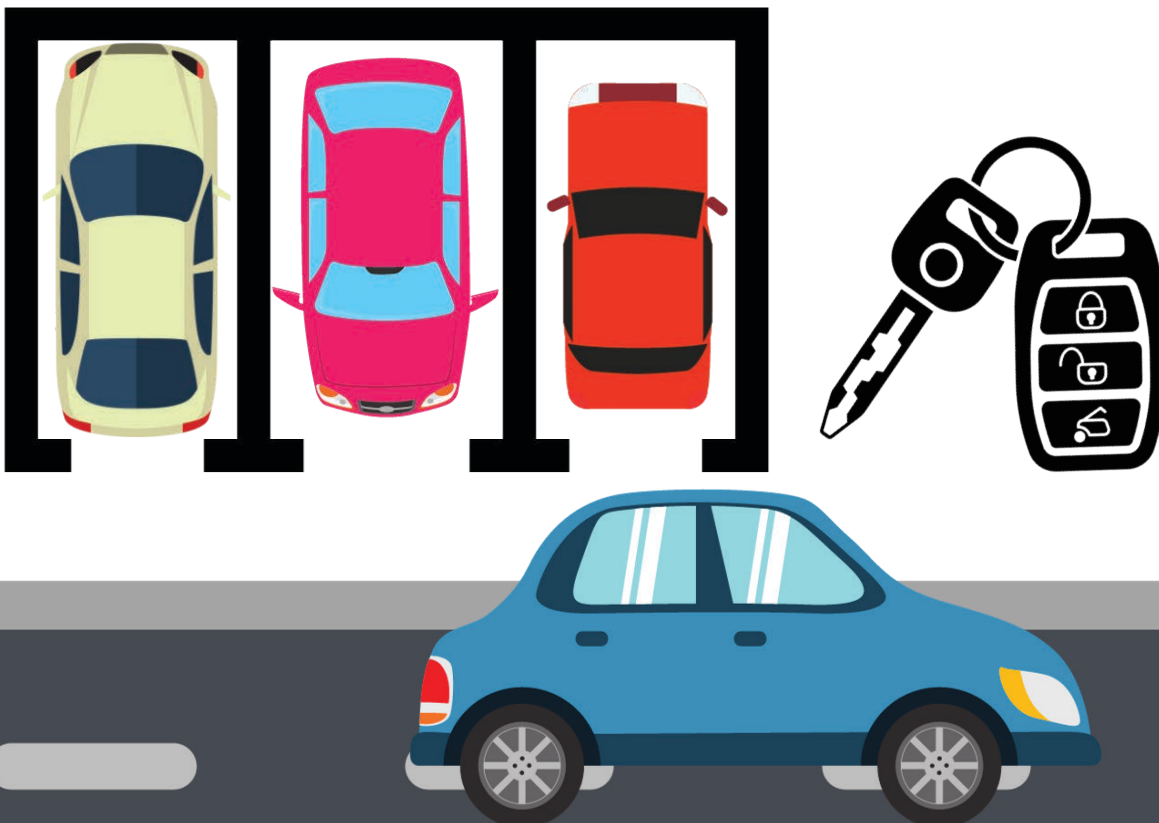
Senior Sam Klemm added her personal accounts of her experiences with parking at McMillian her sophomore and junior year, by remarking that she was late to class almost everyday due to waiting on the bus as well as felt unsafe walking across McMillian road with the frequency of cars and trucks speeding.

“We should make the parking lot spaces angled and make them one way to cause less accidents,” Klemm said.

With many of our drivers being new to the road making accommodations like these would help students succeed and limit risk while parking at the school.

Now we as students understand that there are only so many spots available and the school officials can not magically make more spots for the growing demand nevertheless, it is unfair to ask students and parents to pay the same price for such vastly different spaces to park. If there is anything Antioch Community High School lacks in it is parking and it is known throughout the district so instead of putting money into unnecessary additions we should fix where we lack.

JULIE BORDONARO // writer
Tom Tom Staff



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