

THE GRANITE BAY GAZETTE

Open to Interpretation

A teacher's photo collage sparks viral outrage – how do teachers and school officials navigate in an era of hyper-partisanship?

FOCUS, pages 16-17



Gazette photo /MAYA SNOW

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Students reveal their ideas for the best gifts this holiday season.
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Kanye West's recent and shocking conversion to Christianity has been a topic of controversy. **PAGE 30**

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EDITOR'S NOTE



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Appreciate the freedom you have to form your own opinions and values

Your own beliefs and opinions are a large part of your identity. Therefore in order to truly form your own identity, it is best to develop your beliefs and opinions on your own.

We live in a big world, a diverse country and a small community. The people we interact with on a daily basis and those that we interact with at least once in our lives can potentially affect our beliefs and opinions.

However, most of the time we hear of scenarios in which someone's family and friends influence a person without allowing them to develop their own set of beliefs.

Diversity is a valuable factor in a society – the more opinions, beliefs and ideas in a community, the more room there is for everyone to flourish and advance.

The opportunity for people to be able to grow with positive rather than hindering influences will help create this kind of ideal diverse society.

Although I often take it for granted, I am thankful for being able to have the freedoms of speech and expression as well as an overall opinion-tolerant country to live and thrive in.

But even in the 21st century, there are still an abundant number of places in our world in which individuals are not given these freedoms that have brought a country such as ours to advancement.

Eventually I hope we get there with rising generations.

However, even in our own small community the more we branch off from the oppressing influences imposed by groups such as our friends, family and pop culture, the more we grow individually and benefit society.

It is important to encourage people around you to express and talk about opposing viewpoints and values they have rather than being intolerant of what they believe.

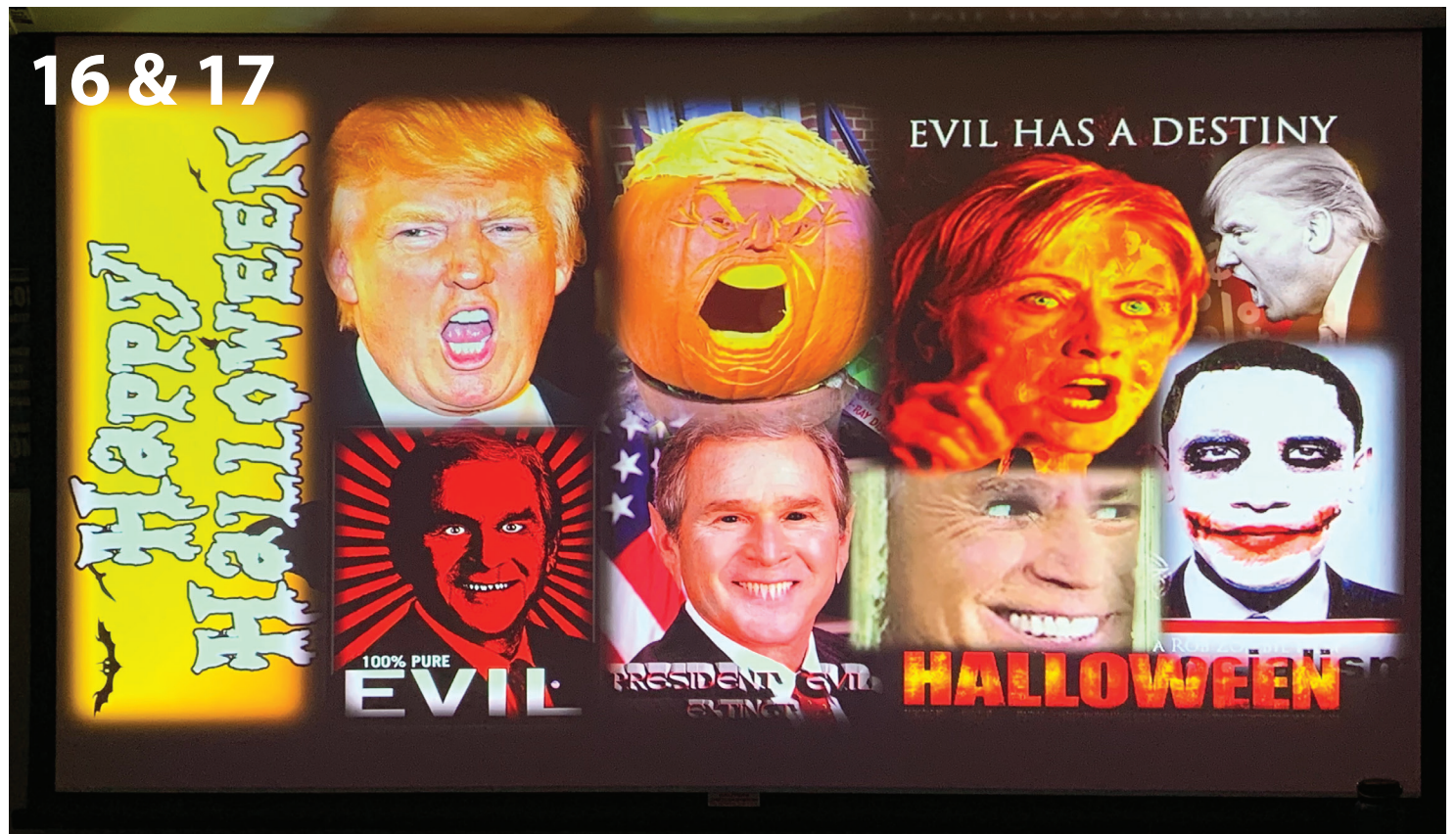
The larger the mix of ideas and values in our world, the more benefits there are to go around.

Anyway, imagine how dull of a place the world would be without differences in opinion and outlook.

Therefore, take a moment to realize the great opportunity you have to develop as an individual, and think about what impact you can potentially leave on our world with the little amount of oppression we face.

Angelina Kolosey, a senior, is a Gazette senior editor.

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Gazette photo/ANGELINA KOLOSEY



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NAMES IN THE NEWS



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Girls tennis and girls golf finish the season off with impressive wins

A huge congrats to the girls' tennis team on finishing off their fall season as section champs. They beat St. Francis at their playoff match on Nov. 14 by a score of 5-4.

After the two teams were tied up with four points each, sophomore **Ashley Ryder** won the fifth match for the Grizzlies, leading them to victory.

Our girls' golf team also had an amazing season this year. Our Grizzlies not only placed first at the Div. 1 Sac-Joaquin Section tournament, but they also won the masters championship and went to the state tournament. Great job girls!

Varsity golfer **Ellie Bushnell** contributed greatly to the team's success as only a freshman and had an amazing personal season as well.

GBHS Spanish teacher **Julia Bonilla-Leary** welcomed her new baby boy, **Lawson Leary**, into the world on December 4. We are very happy about this new addition to the Grizzly family!

The basketball season is in full swing, so be sure to cheer on your varsity boys at their first home conference game after winter break vs. Oak Ridge at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10.

The varsity girls will also be playing against Oak Ridge on Jan. 10, so show up early and support the girls at their 5:30 p.m. home game.

Spring term is around the corner, which means, among many other things, new students will become officers for the student government classes.

Becca Nelson is taking over the role of senior class vice president from **Derek Schwarze**, who did an incredible job planning class activities in the fall such as Senior Sunrise and Homecoming floats with our senior class president **Kara Kleinbach**.

Winterball was a huge success this year, thanks to an amazing committee from student government, with head commissioner **Kaylee Watson**. The theme of evening was "Night in Hollywood" and the dance was a nostalgic last one for current seniors.

Sophie Criscione, a senior, is a Gazette assistant editor.

Teachers fear they lack a voice and representation in RJUHSD

Initiatives implemented without staff consultation

BY CORI CAPPLINER

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For some teachers who work in the Roseville Joint Union High School District, the general attitude and relationship between the district and its educators is tense.

The dissatisfaction of some RJUHSD teachers isn't overwhelming, but a recent vote on a teacher contract proposal exposed some of the frustrations teachers are feeling.

Recently, all teachers across the district voted on a contract proposal that would increase teachers' pay by 2 percent.

While the proposal easily passed, the vote was quite close among teachers at Roseville High, and a majority of Oakmont teachers actually voted against the proposal.

For Roseville teacher John Coleman, the result of the district-wide vote surprised him — but he thought even more teachers would vote against the district's salary offer, and he added that the contract proposal wasn't properly handled by either the district or teachers.

"The results did not surprise me," Coleman said. "What surprised me is that there weren't more teachers who voted against the contract. It feels like we take the money and fail to negotiate better language in our contract."

The district is currently undergoing more negotiations with teachers but, according to Coleman, the purpose of voting against the contract for many teachers was to send a clear message to the district.

"I hope it was received at the district level," Coleman said. "But I feel like the district doesn't really care about the vote, as long as (it) passes and everything remains status quo."

Coleman is not alone in his belief that contract issues in the district are not communicated properly to rank-and-file teachers. He and others said teachers across the district need better opportunities to understand contract offers from the district while also taking into consideration accessibility issues when it comes to gathering teachers from across the district's five comprehensive campuses.

Granite Bay High government teacher Jarrod Westberg said he actively looks for information regarding the district's latest policies or initiatives, but other teachers complain they are left with little information and insufficient communication.

"I find out about things because I look for it, versus it being kind of opened up to everybody," Westberg said.

The problem isn't necessarily what the district

To-Do List

Of 14 initiatives, these are 7 of them:

- ☐ Wellness & Safety
- ☐ Equity & Inclusion
- ☐ College, Career & Life Ready
- ☐ Student-Centered Instruction
- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Dual Enrollment
- ☐ Math Program Expansion

Gazette illustration /ASHLEY YUNG

♦The new district superintendent has passed 14 initiatives. Teachers want these initiatives to succeed but feel they are not allowed to question them or vote on them.

is trying to implement, but rather how it goes about the process. The main argument teachers are making is the need for clearer communication from the district.

GBHS senior Ashley Lucia, who has sat in on meetings between the district and teachers, said most of the tension between the district and teachers is "rooted in a lack of overall communication, which in return leads to a misinterpretation of intent on either side."

As more and more district initiatives are put on the table, and as policies are introduced, teachers argue a lack of communication makes them feel as though their voices are not heard on the district level.

"They'll always say that they talked to the teachers, but it doesn't very often feel like they get a lot of input from us before implementing things," Westberg said.

The lack of input from teachers, and the lack of classroom teaching experience on the district administrative level creates a barrier for the new initiatives. They are often implemented but never followed through, or they don't work out because of the ever-changing school environment.

Another concern teachers have with new district policies is how long the creators of these policies have been out of the classroom. That lack of recent classroom experience, according to teacher critics, sets up many new initiatives for failure.

"Many district employees may forget who they once were — teachers — creating a lack of understanding of their position and point of view," Lucia said. "I believe some teachers feel as though

they do not have a voice in the many significant changes, and as a result have communicated they feel treated unfairly."

The whole purpose of these initiatives and policies is to improve the lives of not only students, but also teachers. And while there is frustration with their implementation, teachers are still rooting for their success.

"I just think (the initiatives would be successful) if they would actually have their initiatives be vetted through a large group of teachers," Westberg said. "Not just teachers that say yes to everything, but teachers that will question and teachers that will give them some understanding of what it looks like."

The dissatisfaction between the district can be felt on many levels, and it affects students at all the district's schools.

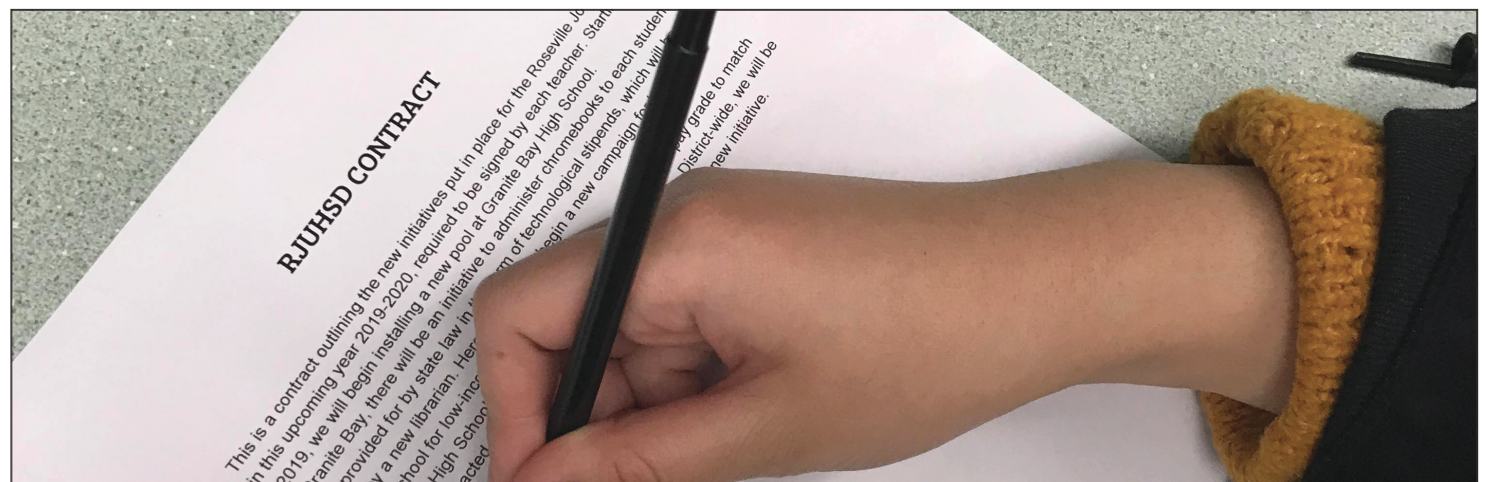
"I believe the relationship between the district and teachers significantly (affects) students, because where communication is lacking, results are inadequate," Lucia said.

This district-teacher tension is something that can be fixed, and better communication would go a long way toward improving things.

"Some good contract language would help," Coleman said. "Showing some genuine concern for the faculty and staff would be delightful."

And delighted teachers would be better for students.

"Teachers create the curriculum, work directly with students, and are instrumental in their growth and success every day," Lucia said. "Their voices deserve to be heard."



Gazette photo illustration /ASHLEY YUNG

♦Some teachers in the Roseville Joint Union High School District are dissatisfied because they believe district officials have failed to appropriately communicate new initiatives and programs to rank-and-file teachers. As a result, more teachers than expected voted against a new contract.

Students use fake IDs to drink while still underage

Counterfeit identification allows youth to purchase alcohol

BY DYLAN ROWE
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Generation after generation, teenagers have always found new ways to cause mischief. One thing that has stayed constant is the undeniable demand of some teens for alcoholic beverages that are supposed to be unavailable to them.

The law in almost every state in the United States prohibits people under the age of 21 from purchasing alcohol, which provokes young people to procure these substances in other ways.

Every business that sells alcohol is required to check the identification cards of anyone who looks under the age of 35, but young people have adapted to this restriction by producing counterfeit identification, more

commonly known as fake IDs.

"I've had a fake ID since the end of my junior year, and it's easier to get away with since I already look older," said a Granite Bay High senior boy who asked to remain anonymous. "(The ID) was \$60, but the cost was totally worth it. I can use it in high school and in college."

These cards are a hot commodity for many students, so the people who sell them can charge high prices for them.

These 'dealers' are able to sell cards with fake barcodes and real photos of underage people, assuring the purchasers that they will almost certainly get away with buying whatever they want regardless of their age.

"Making the IDs is harder than one would expect," said a former GBHS student – who requested anonymity – who makes and sells fraudulent identification cards. "It's crucial that

all of the IDs that I produce are fail proof because they could be traced back to me."

Ultimately, many teens will find ways to go around the law to procure restricted substances.

At local supermarkets, it's not unusual for young people to steal alcohol. In Granite Bay, the hotspot for this activity is the Safeway store on Sierra College Blvd., just a mile or so from campus.

"Lots of people from our school go to Safeway to get alcohol on the weekends," senior and former Safeway employee Peyton Hulsebus said.

"(Using a fake ID) is better than the alternative, which would be to steal the alcohol," a senior girl said. "At least we're paying for it."

Alcohol isn't the only thing students are illegally buying, though. They also use their IDs to purchase drugs,



Gazette illustration /KATE FERNANDEZ

paraphernalia and vape devices.

"I usually only use my ID to buy beer, but I also use it at the dispensary to buy high grade kush," said a senior boy.

Further contributing to the vaping epidemic in the United States, fake IDs also allow young people to buy nicotine products.

Sometimes this fraud doesn't go

according to plan though, which can cause some serious repercussions.

"Once I attempted to buy alcohol with my older sister's valid ID, and the employee took it and cut it up," a junior girl said. "They also threatened to call my parents. Explaining to my sister that she had to go to the DMV to get a new ID wasn't great."

Homeless population grows in Granite Bay

Students spot people carrying their belongings in shopping carts by the Safeway parking lot

BY TOMMY GRAY and GABBY MATHIS
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In the greater Roseville area, there has been an increase in the homeless population. Overall, according to the City of Roseville's website (roseville.ca.us), Placer County has had a 28 percent increase in homelessness.

While this shouldn't be terribly surprising – California has the largest homeless population in the nation – the presence of more homeless people in the Roseville area, in part because of their migration from north-state areas devastated by large-scale fires, is unusual.

Taylor Flynn, a freshman at Granite Bay High, has noticed the increase of homelessness in the area in part because of a close run-in with a homeless woman in her neighborhood.

"I live in Greyhawk, which is very close to Granite Bay, and have definitely noticed more (homeless people) in the general area," Taylor said. "I remember, just a few weeks ago, I was skateboarding around my neighborhood and noticed a woman walking with all of her stuff and a shopping cart."

"She definitely caught me by surprise and my first reaction was to be scared or nervous, but she started walking into some shrubs before I had passed by her."

There is a temporary homeless camp in the shaded open space by the Safeway parking lot on Sierra College Blvd.

Larry Basquez is a manager at the Starbucks in the Safeway shopping center, and he has encountered the homeless population at work.

"(The) homeless are treated like any other customer, so unless they are causing a disruption, asking for money or sleeping, they have to follow the same rules as any other

customer," Basquez said.

However, the number of homeless people he encounters has risen.

"I have definitely seen an increase in the amount of homeless (people) in the area within the last three years or so," Basquez said, "and I think there are a lot of contributors, such as other areas being overcrowded. The natural migration of people brought more homeless into the area and (affected) the general mental health of a lot of people."

Like Basquez, Flynn also said there are many reasons for why the number homeless in the area has been on the rise.

"Across the country, there has been an economic inflation and I think it is hard for some people to keep up," Flynn said. "Plus a lot of homeless are mentally unstable, so I think that is also a factor that causes homelessness."

Mike Vaughan, a junior at GBHS who works at the shopping center near the homeless camp, disagrees that the homeless problem is on the rise locally.

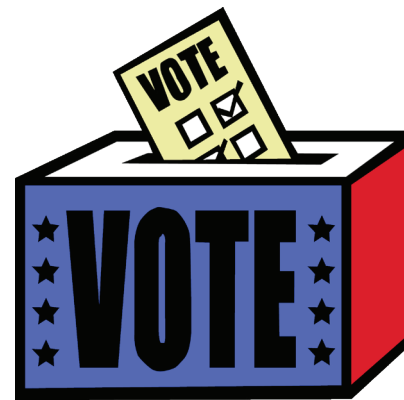
"I haven't really noticed any homeless people," Vaughan said.

He also said that if there are more homeless individuals, they haven't caused any trouble for him or his coworkers at Jack's Urban Eats.

GBHS junior Brandon Aram said everyone in the community, regardless of whether they're homeless or not, should be treated as equals.

"I think we just have to treat everyone equally," Aram said. "We don't know everything about everyone, so I don't want to label homeless people as bad. It's important to keep an open mind."

"Who knows? Maybe if you help a homeless person, it can help kick-start their life."



BY TOMMY GRAY
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The 2020 presidential election has not only introduced a new kind of politics, but it will also be the first election many Granite Bay High School students will be able to remember in great detail.

In this new realm of politics ruled by social media, personal attacks and intense rhetoric, there's a push for more young people to vote, including most of the members of the graduating class of 2020 and, in smaller numbers, the class of 2021.

This push comes via the nature of new campaigns, which often use emotion to swing opinions.

This new type of politics is very much targeted at the millennial voting body, but also appeals to teens who are aging into the voting process.

"I do think teens have a tendency to get more motivated by emotional, energetic, big idea issues," said Brandon Dell'Orto, who teaches Advanced Placement U.S. history and advises the GBHS Young Republicans club.

Dell'Orto said that during times of crisis, such as the Vietnam War or the contemporary fight over climate change, teens tend to be active and capable of swinging public opinion.

"It's like the climate walkout, we need to do something," junior Matt Hartmeier said.

The climate walkout was the series of international protests that occurred to push politicians to action against the climate crisis.

This movement has become a symbol of teen involvement in politics, as it was started and largely organized by a teen girl using social media.

Greta Thunberg, a 16-year-old from Sweden, led the climate strike and was propelled by

Students plan to vote in '20 U.S. election

Seniors will soon support their candidate of choice

the movement to the United Nations Climate Action Summit, where she delivered an impassioned speech to an audience of world leaders.

"She really made a difference you know, it's inspirational," Hartmeier said.

Another issue pushing politicians to call for young people to vote is the low number of teens who've historically voted in past elections.

Ever since the voting age was lowered to 18 in 1972, the percentage of 18-24 year olds who vote has never pushed much above 30%.

That comes in at less than the halfway mark of the 66% of people 45-65 who voted in the 2016 election.

"Being involved in politics comes with a feeling of something to lose, taxes, retirement, etcetera," Dell'Orto said.

However, junior Bradley Olsen doesn't feel the need to vote.

"I really don't care about voting," Olsen said. "It's not like my vote will really make a difference."

That attitude is mirrored by many in the Republican enclave of Granite Bay community in the otherwise very liberal state of California.

This doesn't stop large pushes from the California state government to increase the number of voters, including pre-registration to vote upon application for a driver's license and sending out lists of those who don't vote.

"About 50 percent of our population who can vote still doesn't," Dell'Orto said.

This troubles AP Human Geography teacher Kathleen Angelone, who said voting is an incredibly important duty for everyone who can.

"They are making decisions about our future," Angelone said. "They should care."

Bathroom policies updated to limit vaping

Administration posts maximum-capacity signs outside restrooms and requires doors remain open throughout the school day

BY JULIA GOLOVEY
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Vaping is a huge issue with GenZ, and Granite Bay High has tried to regulate the practice on campus as much as possible.

A new rule at GBHS requires that bathroom doors be left open with maximum capacity limits on all the student bathroom doors.

“At the beginning of the year, there were a couple of times where students would close the door,” assistant principal Levirt Griffin said. “They weren’t used to (them having to be open). Since the first week, there hasn’t been anyone closing the doors.”

However, some students purposely messed around with the maximum capacity signs.

“There were a couple of times where some students did remove the stickers as a joke,” Griffin said. “We were able to see them on camera and addressed the situation. Since then we painted the numbers on so they can’t peel them off.”

However, just because there are maximum capacity limits doesn’t mean that students necessarily follow them.

“Honestly, no one really cares about the max capacity,” sophomore Abby Peterson said. “If you’re (at the bathroom) during passing, you’ll see the chaos that goes on. It’s not because of vaping – it’s because people actually have to go to the bathroom, and

there’s always a long line to go.”

However, the doors now having to be open helps control vaping more than the bathroom capacity being capped.

“I have vaped in the bathroom, and my opinion on the doors being open is that kids won’t vape as much because they’d be to scared to get caught,” said a sophomore boy who asked to remain anonymous.

However, some students aren’t deterred by the new policy and still find the bathroom a feasible place to vape.

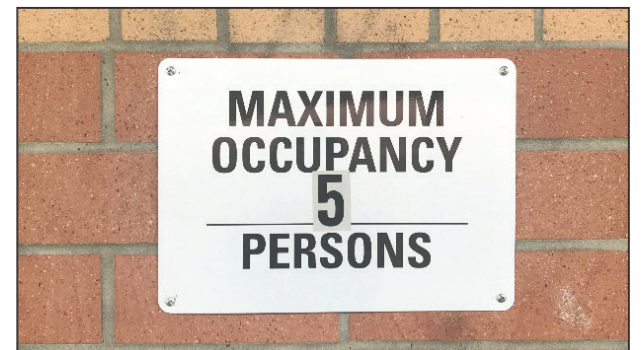
“I have vaped in the bathrooms before, and it doesn’t make a difference if the doors are open or closed,” said an anonymous senior girl. “The stalls are closed, and that’s all that matters when it comes to vaping in the bathrooms.”

While some students think the bathroom doors being open helps, others simply think it’s unnecessary.

“I mean it’s not like a lot of people even vape in the girls’ bathroom anymore,” sophomore, Alyssa Lee said. “It barely happens, so I don’t think the doors being open is even necessary. It’s (ultimately) up to the school and what they think is right.”

School officials remain confident that the doors being open and maximum capacity signs will help regulate the bathrooms.

“We want to help cut down on the vaping, and we thought that would be a positive step toward being able to control what goes on in there,” Griffin said. “(We want) to make sure (the bath-



Gazette photo /ASHLEY YUNG

♦ **Maximum capacity signs** are outside bathrooms to prevent students from vaping. However, security cameras have caught students defaced these signs.

room) is only used for the right reasons.”

Some students who don’t vape said they think the open doors are an invasion of their privacy, especially in the girls’ bathroom.

Some girls said they feel violated when guys walk by and peek in the girls’ bathroom through the open doors.

Some teachers are aware of the vaping problem at GBHS but not the actions that were taken to combat it.

“This is news to me. I didn’t even know about (open bathroom doors),” English teacher Anthony Davis said. “I heard kids making jokes and calling (the bathroom) the ‘vape room,’ but I haven’t heard of the doors being closed.”

School removes Republican posters

Club argues expressing political views is a First Amendment right

BY PIPER BACON, THOMAS GRAY
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Students across the country rarely have the opportunity to take full advantage of their First Amendment rights and make their voices heard, but it’s been happening recently for conservative students at Granite Bay High.

But just how far do these First Amendment rights go for students? Where is the limit and who makes the call?

Recently the Granite Bay Republicans club hung up posters that voiced their political views against oppressive governments. However, on the same day they put up the posters, senior Jordan Greenfelder – the club vice president – was told by principal Jennifer Leighton that the posters had to be removed.

“We put up posters because it was freedom week (and) we were sent posters regarding economic freedom,” Greenfelder said. “We were planning on speaking on it during lunch and after school as well as putting up the posters.”

According to Greenfelder, he and senior Nathan Wong, the club president, were taken out of class 20 minutes before the end of second period only to be told by Leighton that she considered the posters to be a form of hate speech.

“Because we were not talking about the benefits of our club, we couldn’t have (the posters) up,” Greenfelder said.

Greenfelder was told the posters fell under the Tinker v. Des Moines U.S. Supreme Court case, which ruled that free speech can only be restricted on a public campus when it interferes with a student’s ability to learn on a regular school day. Leighton argued the posters were inflammatory enough that they would interfere with student learning.

“These posters do not materially infringe on students’ learning,” Wong said. “In fact, these posters align with the GBHS mission statement, which is to provide different perspectives.”

Wong said he believes the crucial factor isn’t so much the left versus right politics of the situation as it is the potential violation of his club’s free speech rights.

“All of these perspectives need to blend together to create a new perspective, but what’s happening is our freedom of expression is being trampled upon, which isn’t right,” Wong said.

When Wong and Greenfelder finally met with Leighton, she told them she considered the posters to be potentially hateful speech because they described opposition to “radical leftist” viewpoints.

“All flyers and posters need to be approved by the administration before posting on a school campus,” Leighton said in an email. “It is OK to run them past club advisers as extensions of administrators, so in this case if they had run them past Mr. (Brandon) Dell’Orto, I’m sure he would have told them they weren’t appropriate for the school setting.”

Leighton told Wong and Greenfelder the language on the poster was inflammatory and could possibly infringe on the ability of some students to learn. However, Leighton confirmed the posters would not have been approved.

“Free speech isn’t quite the same for students on a public school campus as it is for adults in other environments,” Leighton said. “In other words, a school campus has to provide an environment where all feel accepted and safe. Therefore, anything that is potentially offensive, inflammatory and/or likely to cause a disruption to the learning environment can be deemed inappropriate by administration.”

Leighton learned about the posters from Theresa Landon, a physiology teacher at GBHS. While walking to her second period class, a student pulled Landon aside, and Landon said she knew immediately that her student was uncomfortable. The student told Landon about the Republican Club’s poster showing the shoveling of skulls and connected those deaths to “progressive social movements.”

This imagery made Landon’s student extremely uncomfortable, so Landon alerted Leighton.

“I found it inflammatory to talk about murder and then the images of the skulls, the graves, and the guy with the mask,” Landon said. “It was just very dark. It was alarming to me. I don’t know the intricacies of the policy (regarding the posters), which is why I passed it onto the principal (and assistant principals) to handle. ... I knew

they would know exactly what to do and trusted them to do that.”

Landon said she thought the posters sparked division on campus and therefore were disruptive to campus unity.

“We can communicate in a positive way instead ... that’s what I’m hoping that maybe all the clubs on campus can learn from this,” Landon said. “Where we educate but we do it in a way that’s respectful (and) that we embrace Grizzly Pride when we make our posters.”

Landon said she dug further into the posters the Granite Bay Republicans club put up and noticed a common trend.

The posters were produced by the Young America’s Foundation and, according to Landon, they glorified Republican political figures while demonizing and using extremes to describe leftist viewpoints. Landon suspects that because Wong and Greenfelder are not promoting their own club with the posters, they could be unintentionally posting right-wing propaganda.

Wong and Greenfelder, however, don’t believe this is the issue. For them, it’s all about free speech.

Their primary goal is to learn more about their rights as American citizens and students, and then to exercise those rights. They said that if they are in the wrong, they will accept that and move on. Both Wong and Greenfelder said they are not trying to engage in Right Wing vs. Left Wing politics.

Advanced Placement U.S. Government teacher Jarrod Westberg has taken the initiative into helping them through this process. As a government teacher, Westberg said he is always happy to engage in political discourse. When two of his students came to him wondering what their rights were, he was happy to help.

“The decision-making process is very subjective,” Westberg admits. “It’ll be really tough to choose one (poster) over another.”

According to Westberg, when Wong and Greenfelder first explained the situation, they also mentioned that other posters in favor of stricter regulations for gun ownership had been taken down as well.

“The reality is that you don’t have complete free speech rights on campus,” Westberg said. “Anything that’s labeled as disruptive to this school can be stopped by administration at any given time. It’s the law.”

“(Wong and Greenfelder) just genuinely want



Special to the Gazette /THERESA LANDON

♦ **This poster insulting left ideology** was seen by teacher Theresa Landon and reported to administration. Principal Leighton deemed it inflammatory.

to know if they’re being censored or not, and they care,” he added.

Wong and Greenfelder have contacted an attorney and are considering what possible legal actions they might pursue. On Nov. 20, Wong sent a Placer County Superior Court judge an email describing the situation. Wong said he has not yet gotten a reply, but he is determined to seek justice and not be restricted by what he sees as petty politics.

For Landon, though, the problem is the inflammatory nature of the posters, and whether they’re appropriate – in a culture that’s increasingly partisan, politicized and divided – for a high school campus.

“In this day and age, in this politically charged climate, we don’t need more things that are going to cause division,” Landon said. “There can be a different way and a better way in which to share and communicate information without getting super negative.”

ACT changes starting next school year

Beginning with the September 2020 ACT test, students will be able to take separate sections on different test dates

BY MAREESA ISLAM
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Standardized tests play an exceedingly important role for students in the college acceptance process. Both the American College Testing exam and the Scholastic Assessment Test offer a way for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills acquired over their four years of high school.

As these standardized tests do pose many stresses and challenges to students, test companies are beginning to refine their test structures.

Beginning in September 2020, students taking the ACT will be granted the opportunity to retake individual test subjects, superscore their test results, and they can choose to take an online version of the test.

The ACT made such changes to benefit the testing experience of students across the country.

The modification attracting the

most attention from students is the section retesting.

"It allows students to hyper focus on certain areas," said David Tastor, an ACT and SAT preparation workshop director and a Granite Bay High English teacher.

This modification only applies to students who have previously completed a full-length ACT, however, and will allow them to focus on and retake a specific subject, including English, math, reading, science and writing.

Shreya Holikatti, a junior prepping for the February ACT test, said she appreciates the changes.

"It seems more beneficial and less costly to be able to retake just one section at a time," Holikatti said.

The ACT and the SAT play a crucial role in the college acceptance process for many students.

The changes being made to the ACT could cause students to begin to favor the ACT over the SAT.

For example, junior Raha Elahi said the ACT's revisions might affect her standardized test preferences.

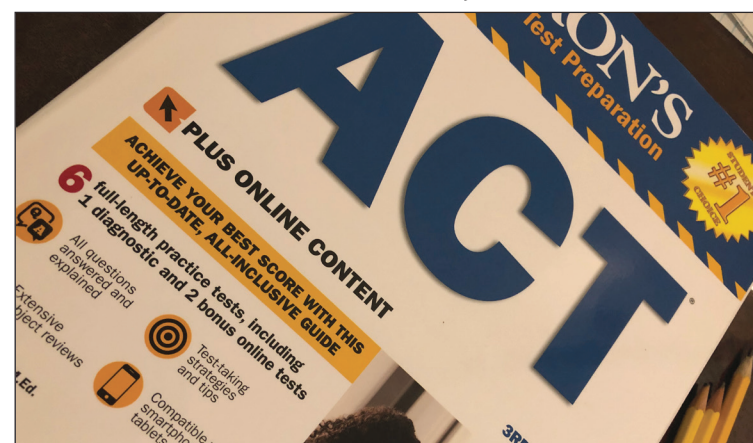
"I think section retesting is so much more efficient than retaking the entire test," Elahi said. "If I want to retake the SAT, I have to sacrifice half my day to take the test in addition to the multiple hours of studying (it takes to prepare) for all sections."

The upcoming alterations to the ACT are expected to reduce student stress that often accompanies standardized tests.

In addition, some said they think the SAT will begin to follow the actions of the ACT in order to satisfy the growing demands of students.

"I think the SAT will follow suit (in order to) make themselves valid," Tastor said.

Despite the benefits that are expected to result from the ACT modifications, there are some speculations about the effectiveness of these changes.



Special to the Gazette /SHREYA HOLIKATTI

♦ ACT prep book can be a great tool for students to study for the new test

Holikatti described concerns she has about the changes that will affect future test takers.

"For me, the biggest concern is that (currently) the ACT and SAT are pretty much weighed the same by colleges," Holikatti said. "But when the ACT starts doing section retakes, (the ACT) may lose some of its value and may not be viewed in the same way anymore."

The changes being made to the ACT exemplify how test companies are beginning to accommodate for the needs of students as college entrance tests become more demanding and challenging.

"As a preparation provider," said Tastor, "... I think (the changes) are a great thing for students to be able to have (the) opportunity to showcase what they can do."

Students react to the impeachment hearings

GBHS considers the state of Trump's presidency

High School Democrats of America club and has been following the impeachment hearings dutifully since they were announced.

"I wasn't surprised, from all the stuff we've been seeing from the past few years," said Lasko, describing her initial reaction to the impeachment inquiry.

"Every morning when I wake up, my grandma already has the TV on, and so I listen to it while I'm getting ready and then we listen to it on NPR in the car, and it's really interesting, but it makes sense," Lasko said. "It doesn't seem fictitious."

On the other end of the political spectrum lies Nathan Wong, president of the GBHS Young Republicans club. He has been following the impeachment hearings as well, and he has developed a few opinions on the whole situation.

"So there are two perspectives that I am taking, and I don't know which one is more important," Wong said. "The first one is political. I think that they shouldn't impeach and remove President Trump because it's 11 months before the election, and that would definitely disrupt the election."

"And then on the constitutional side, the government branches should be co-equal, and if President Trump is overstepping his boundaries illegally, then he should be impeached."

As for overstepping his legal boundaries, there is an abundance of information currently being reviewed by the House, which has caused even more confusion among the American people.

Prior to this confusion, however, politically active students such as Lasko and Wong had already formed solid opinions about President

Trump.

"Even if his policies were something that I agreed with, the way he carries himself and the way that he is so disrespectful towards people and allows... division and hate, and gives it a place where it's considered OK in America, I don't agree with that at all and I think it's not beneficial to anyone," Lasko said.

Other students, including Wong, do support the president in some areas.

"There are things that I disagree with him, but there are some issues that I agree with him on."

"Something that was really important to me was the Supreme Court issues and something that he's really advocating for is appointing more conservative judges and justices," Wong said.

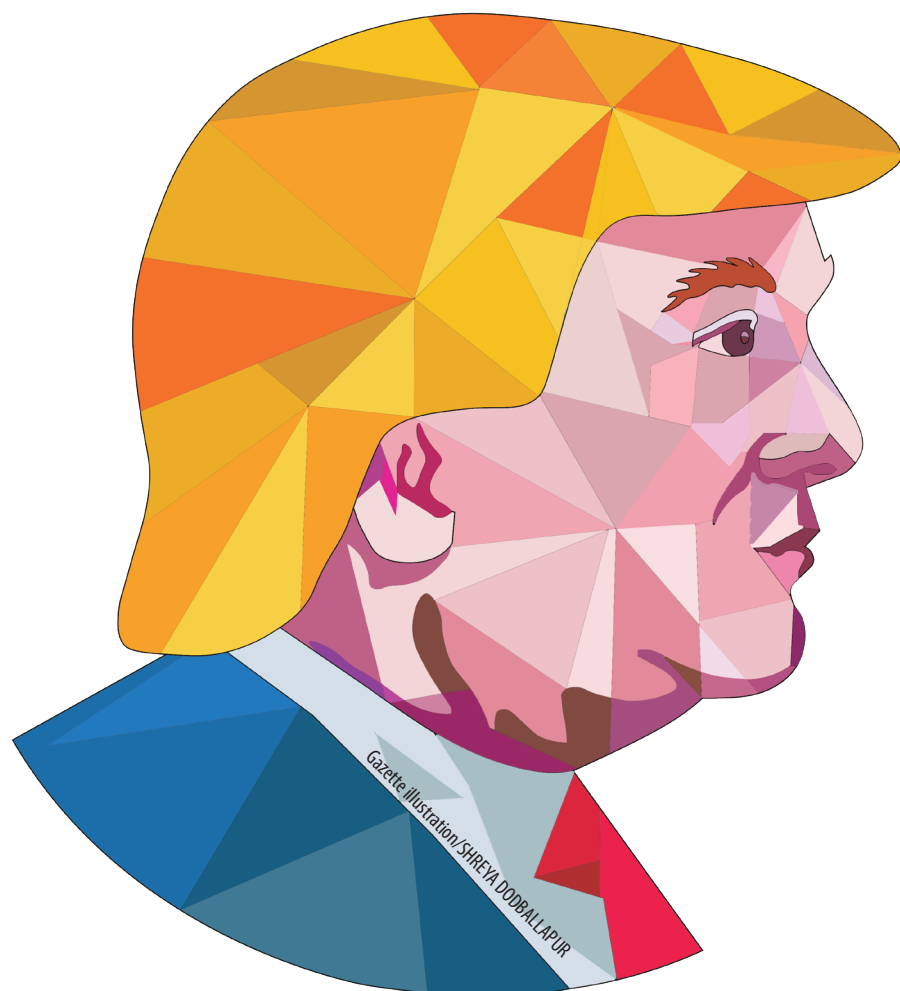
President Trump has appointed two Supreme Court

judges so far – Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh – and he will certainly have more chances to do so if he wins a second term.

"Even though President Trump, a Republican, appointed these conservative justices, they aren't always aligning with who he is," Wong said. "Like Kavanaugh – he has sided with the liberals a lot, and he has also sided with conservatives. So those are issues that are important to me, because Kavanaugh is independent from the president which makes him a better judge."

GBHS students' opinions are clearly contrasting, and remain ever-changing as the political sphere progresses.

Whether these current impeachment hearings lead to anything consequential, only time will tell. For now however, all that the American people can do is watch and wait.



BY KATE FERNANDEZ
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To say that Donald Trump's presidency has been tumultuous would be an understatement.

From the very start of his presidency, Trump has stirred up a multitude of controversies that have had political activists' heads spinning, and the rest of the general public left in a state of confusion.

Up until late September of this year, these various controversies seemingly amounted to nothing. Though the topic of impeachment was thrown around after each of these upsets, for many it was never even a valid consideration.

On Sept. 24, however, Nancy Pelosi, the

Speaker of the House of Representatives, announced that the House would be initiating a formal impeachment inquiry against the President because of his involvement with Ukraine.

"They are investigating in the House, to see if they want to move forward with it, and then they'll vote on it, and then it goes to the Senate where they'll complete the process," said Jason Rath, a government and economics teacher at Granite Bay High.

The September announcement sparked political division across the country, including among students at GBHS.

One of the students who has been involved in this political conversation is Denali Lasko.

Lasko, a sophomore, is the president of the

How effective are safety drills?

Students and faculty question whether lockdowns and fire drills actually do what they're supposed to do to keep GBHS safe

BY SANDY SONG
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Safety drills – including shelter in place, evacuation drills or lockdowns – are supposed to prepare students and staff to stay safe if a real disaster were to happen.

Schools usually conduct safety drills a few times a year, and officials tend to especially emphasize safety toward the beginning of the school year.

“Drills help teachers and students practice proper procedures and give us an opportunity to see what didn't go right,” said Gregory Sloan, an Assistant Principal at Granite Bay High School.

When GBHS had both a fire and lockdown drill during second period in the first few days of school, discussions and concern arose among students.

Some students wondered whether, overall, lockdown drills are truly effective. Of course, people have reasons to be paranoid because of recent school shootings.

The issue of the effectiveness of school drills has been briefly discussed throughout the years. However, the new procedure added to the lockdown drill seems to have become even more controversial.

“The current responses (are) identified as Run, Hide, Fight,” Sloan said.

Many students question the importance of the ‘fight’ aspect and whether or not they would choose to fight back in a real emergency.

“I believe it should be used as an extreme last resort. If anything,

run or hide,” said Danwei Zhang, a freshman at GBHS.

According to Zhang, most students would not be a match for a grown person, and if they do come down to that last resort, they will most likely lose, which could put them in danger or even death.

She wishes to stress the fact that fighting should not encourage students to defend themselves. Instead, it will put them in even more danger.

“It's last for a reason and not everyone would have the same comfort level,” Sloan said.

However, Sloan believes that if a student could not hide or run away, he/she can throw things, rush, or overwhelm an attacker that could potentially save lives.

The ‘fight’ response is part of the procedure for a reason and could make a difference depending on the individual and situation.

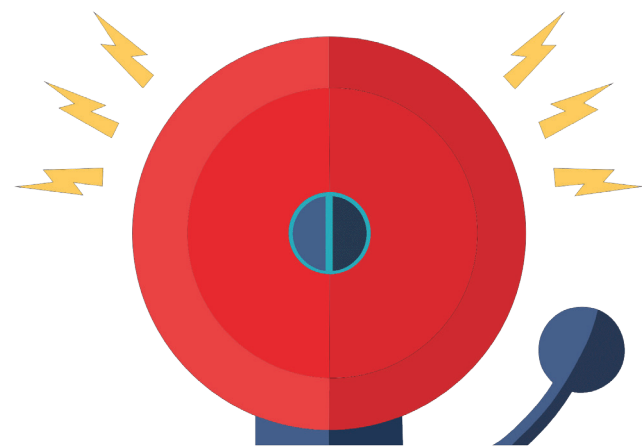
“I think (the lockdown drill) is like a give or take kind of thing where yes, it keeps us hidden better, but it also keeps us cornered,” sophomore Tiffany Granera said.

Although drills are a good way for students and faculty to practice for such situations, many feel they may ditch the procedures altogether in the moment of a crisis.

“The only thing we can't really prepare for is what we would do in the actual situation,” Granera said. “(Very few students) have been in these situations, so they don't know whether to follow the safety measures that the school has or just make a run for it.”

Zhang expresses a similar idea, but believes the safety drills may still help in the end.

“They are a form of preparation, but I don't think they are the



Gazette illustration/KATE FERNANDEZ

most effective...but it's better than doing nothing.”

Preparing for something gives people comfort that they are trying to prevent it. However, as to what or how well they are doing it, it's hard to say.

Nevertheless, not everyone believes the school safety drills are completely ineffective nor controversial.

“I would say that the drill isn't controversial, an active shooter simulation would be,” Sloan said. “We haven't had one, but there's the possibility that could become a drill in the future.”

GBHS experienced a real lockdown two years ago, and everyone followed the safety procedures correctly and were unharmed.

“There was never a need for the school to practice run, hide, or fight, and hopefully never will be,” Sloan said.

“(I think) it is a good drill, and the practices are very (important),” said Hayden Fulmer, a freshmen.

Whether students like these drills or not, one thing is for sure – they must be taken seriously.

“I think people should take them seriously (because) it is good to be prepared and know what you would do in a situation so you could prevent harm to yourself and others,” Granera said.

Structure of English AP exams changes

AP Language and Composition and AP Literature altered in an effort to improve course curriculum

BY MAREESA ISLAM
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Course curriculums are often changing and adapting to benefit students.

For example, changes have recently been made to the AP Language and Composition and AP Literature standardized tests.

Students are expected to take the updated AP exams this spring.

Shannon McCann, an AP Language and Composition teacher at Granite Bay High, described the release of these curriculum changes.

“College Board made the announcement during the 2018-2019 school year,” McCann said. “New teaching materials and the new rubrics were released (in the) summer of 2019.”

Although these changes do not significantly affect the learning progress of students enrolled in these rigorous courses, their effects are notable.

These changes made by the

College Board can be most easily recognized in the AP test rubric, which now features a similar grading process as the SAT essay rubric.

“The rubric was changed from a 9-point holistic rubric to a 6-point analytical rubric,” said Christy Honeycutt, an AP Literature teacher.

These scoring modifications are expected to generate higher overall success rates of AP test takers.

“The changes were initiated because AP Literature is considered to be the second-most difficult AP exam to pass,” Honeycutt said. “And college professors expressed to the College Board that the questions on the exam no longer accurately reflected the learning of the introductory college course.”

In addition, the material covered on the AP Literature exam will be altered in response to these changes.

“The exam hopes to include more diverse authors and titles, with a lower percentage of older texts (now using 25% pre-20th century, 50% 20th century, and 25% contempo-

rary in the multiple choice section,” Honeycutt said.

Questions regarding literary terminology and poetic meter will no longer be present on the AP Literature exam.

McCann said, despite the notable differences in the AP scoring process, these newly announced changes do not greatly affect the routine of the English class.

“There are no problems, because the course is fundamentally the same,” McCann said. “I will (however) continue to make small adaptations to the course to help familiarize students with the new scoring process.”

AP Language and Composition and AP Literature students are still being taught the same important foundations of English, including analytical and comprehensive thinking.

However, Maggie Delaney, a junior currently enrolled in AP Language and Composition, did express some concerns she has about

the new scoring rubric.


“I am a bit nervous that the College Board hasn't made the new rubric more clear because I am already more than halfway done with (AP Language and Composition) and won't have time to get practice or feedback,” Delaney said.

In AP Literature, students seem to feel adequately prepared for the upcoming AP test.


“I do feel prepared for the AP test in May,” said Matthew Wilson, a senior currently enrolled in AP Literature. “I feel like I have improved on my writing in this class especially.”

The changes have the ultimate goal of improving the overall quality of these English courses.

“It is expected,” Honeycutt said, “...that these changes will benefit students by offering them a more current course that is truly reflective of an introductory college English course.”



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OK, Boomer!

As a new trend emerges, two different generations feud about their political opinions

BY SHREYA DODBALLAPUR
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The term, “OK, boomer” has caused a minor explosion on the internet – no one could have guessed that such a simple phrase would trigger such a dramatic response.

In the past few years, both the older generation and the younger generation have gotten more confident in voicing their very conflicting opinions online. The generation gap has become both very clear and large.

This last month, when a young person felt an older person, or “boomer,” said something insensitive or outdated, they would just dismiss the comment with “OK, boomer.”

“I think it’s the funniest thing I’ve ever seen,” Granite Bay High Advanced Placement U.S. government teacher Jarrod Westberg said. “I always joke around in class about old people who are like ‘get off my lawn,’ those types of people. Outdated, especially technologically. ‘OK, boomer’ is just a priceless response that fits perfectly.”

Even before OK boomer became popular, Westberg noticed the drastic difference between the older and younger genera-

tions.

“I remember my own parents, when my kids were little and we gave them our old iPhones, they just freaked,” Westberg said. “They thought that was the most absurd thing in the world. And now what do they do? They’re on iPhones probably more than you guys are. It’s like ‘Ok, boomer.’”

Because of situations like these, many young people fell in love with how versatile the phrase is.

“It’s funny because you can use it in so many ways,” senior Bella Gennuso said. “It’s not like anyone is trying to be rude, it’s just for a good laugh.”

While young people loved the joke, some older people were very offended by it.

“I definitely feel as if they’re being overly sensitive,” Gennuso said. “I don’t mean it as an insult, more as just an addition to a joke.”

AP U.S. History teacher Brandon Dell’Orto offered an explanation as to why some older people called the phrase ageist and insensitive.

“The boomer generation prides itself on being more in touch with the youth culture,” Dell’Orto said. “I think they tried harder to act like they’re still in touch with stuff, but it is almost impossible to stay in touch with stuff. No matter

where you are, what generation you are, it’s harder as it gets farther and farther away.”

Senior Sean Turner said he’s unsympathetic to the criticism of his elders.

“The conservative older generation tend to complain about younger generations, and when given explanations as to why younger generations are the way that they are, they often ignore the explanations,” Turner said. “Millennials and Generation Z people got tired of this cycle and decided to find a way to kind of ignore the complaining of older generations.”

As the younger generation becomes less sympathetic to the older generation, the gap between them grows bigger. To reconcile, Dell’Orto said the two generations should just try to be nicer to each other.

“It’s pretty much everything every social science class tries to teach, finding a different angle on things,” Dell’Orto said. “Just try to shift your view point every once in a while.”

At the end of the day, “OK boomer” is not meant to be anything more than a lighthearted joke.

“I think we need to be able to laugh at things,” Westberg said. “And if people cannot laugh about their age or something that lighthearted, then we’ve got a serious problem as a country.”



Gazette photo / BELLA KHOR

GBHS faculty also write fiction

Teacher practices what he preaches

BY BELLA KHOR
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Despite how strange it is to imagine the teacher in the front of the room doing anything other than their daily routine during school hours, it is, indeed, a fact that they have lives and aspirations that reach beyond the classroom.

One such aspiration is writing and eventually publishing a book, as Spanish teacher Grant Adams and yearbook advisor has done.

"My book is titled, 'The King of Petén', it is categorized as historical fiction, which is actually my favorite category to read," Adams said. "It's about two friends who find themselves trapped within the Mayan culture back during the Mayan era, anywhere between 400 to 600 A.D."

The ancient Mayan civilization he explores in his novel resided in what are today Central and Latin American countries, such as Guatemala. Adams has been to Guatemala "about a dozen times" as it is the homeland of one of his best friends. He mentioned that he often visited the Mayan ruins in Tikal and experienced the urge to write something "fun to read" about the ruins.

"In fact, the main (setting) in the book is Tikal, and so when it talks about all the temples and observatories and ball game court areas (all those details) are (there) because I was there and measured and took pictures of it," Adams added.

He didn't sit down to write the book immediately, "The King of Petén" lingered in his mind for three to four years. Adams spent those years researching Mayan culture in depth and picking the brains of guides at Tikal for additional knowledge.

"Wikipedia doesn't do it," he added. "You've got to get to the hardbound stuff to get true facts."

Adams initially spent around a year putting down thoughts for mini chapters and trying out his ideas for his novel, balancing the other elements in his life, until he encountered a chance opportunity to finally double down on writing his book.

"I was working for the Elk Grove Unified

School District, (and they) were offering a writing scholarship. They don't give it now, but they did for a couple of years," Adams said. "... If you got selected by the district they would pay for you to go to a writing studio."

Adams further expanded on this part of his journey to being a published author, saying that he submitted a couple of chapters and "(the district) liked it." The writing studio was in Vermont and the scholarship was two weeks long.

"They give an office with internet and that's what you do... all you do is write," Adams said. "There's no outside world, there's no work, and soon 10,000 words turned into 50,000 words, and that's pretty much when I wrote the bulk of the book."

When it came to publishing his book, Adams had intended on having a literary agent or a publishing company pick up his book, but despite his best efforts, no one took up the opportunity.

"I think (I sent out) a total of 35 (query letters)," Adams said. "Sent and rejected."

The query letters are "like a cover letter for a job" according to Adams, including a synopsis of the book and a little bit about the author themselves, "basically whatever you read on the back of the book."

He ended up self-publishing his novel and got his manuscript consolidated into a published product.

"I chose a self-publisher, sought them out and got their help..." Adams said. "I mean really, when you think about it, anyone could sell (a book)... but it's satisfying to know that the hours that I put in (were finally) formalized (in a bound copy)."

As of now, Adams is satisfied with his first run as a published author, although he strives to improve his quality of work in his next potential novel.

"With ('The King of Petén) I wanted to just see, can I write something from start to finish..." Adams said, "I completed my goal, I was able to write a book (from) start to finish."

"I think it's a fun read, but I know I could do much better," Adams said.

Snowboarding Sensations

Local teens gain fame on social media from doing what they love most

BY SIMI SINGH
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Donner Peak Media (@donnerpeakmedia) is an instagram account run by Alfie Arnaud and Tyler Hopper. They post videos about skiing and snowboarding there, (and on their website), and currently have over twenty seven thousand followers.

Over time, they've collected a number of sponsorships (including Unit1 Gear, Praxis Skis, and Academy Snowboards), created a line of merchandise, constructed a professional website, gained a large following, and have been participating in contests and events.

"We wanted a way to show people what we were doing, and start branding ourselves," Granite Bay High School senior and

co-owner of the account, Alfie Arnaud said.

Over the course of the year and a half, having started the account June 29th of last year, that they have had the account, they've gained a large following.

They created the account after an encounter with another media company, where they first got inspiration to start their account.

"We Rowdy Ones we had a connection with a professional filmer who had a media company that was similar to ours. His was extremely successful and gave us some ideas on starting our own." Tyler Hopper, the other owner of the account, said. "We have been super stoked with all the support (of) friends, family, fans, and sponsors."

"[On the page we] originally reposted other people's content, and then we switched it up to just like, completely ours," Arnaud said.

They both have many years of experience with snowboarding, as they display on their account. "I have been snowboarding (for) as long as I could remember. My uncle always had me on any board sport from the moment I could walk," Hopper said. "My proudest milestone is placing in the top 10 in Northern California for rail jams."

According to Tyler, the two have even bigger plans for the future.

"This season we will be producing our biggest project yet. A

full film documenting our season across the US, with some of the best figures in skiing and snowboarding along with the original DPM crew." Hopper said. "We are currently working on a full length ski and snowboard documentary this 19/20 season. With support from Unit1 Gear,

Praxis Skis, Academy Snowboards we have a full line up of skilled riders and filmers ready to shred," quote from the About Us section of their website.

"We've been surprised with how much people have reached out to us and like, when we're up top people will come say 'what's up' to us and talk to us," Arnaud said.

Now that they have sponsorships, merchandise, and a number of supporters, the two are hoping to grow their account, and continue to share what they love to do.



Gazette illustration / KATE FERNANDEZ

"We wanted a way to show people what we were doing, and start branding ourselves."
— Alfie Arnaud, co-owner of the instagram account said.

STUDENT Li Dominic Camay spotlight

Q: What are you planning to do over break

A: I am planning to hang out with my family and have a family get-together with friends and do a gift exchange

Q: What is your favorite activity to do in the winter

A: "Stay at home and watch movies and drink hot chocolate and stay cozy."



Compiled by Bradyn Kesti

Siblings on campus

You think your life is hard? These guys have to see their family at school



♦ Moose Judd

Gazette photo / LINDSEY ZABELL

BY BRADYN KESTI
bkesti.gazette@gmail.com

Since whenever the cliché came from, students have allegedly been apathetic and even hateful of other students when those other students are their siblings.

Furthermore, teachers supposedly treat sibling-students the same, disregarding the siblings' individual personalities.

But are these ideas true?

As Granite Bay and its surrounding communities are becoming more and more family-orientated, more and more siblings are attending or have attended the same high school.

"I have had two siblings go to GBHS," said Matthew Berthelsen, a sophomore at GBHS.

"I have two siblings (who attend GBHS). I have my sister Trixie and my other sister Ruby," Moose said.

At the students' standpoint, they actually find it relieving to have multiple students attend the same school.

"Both my brother and sister have helped me with my spanish class," Berthelsen said.

"It's always nice because in the morning, when my mom is making breakfast, she makes a whole bunch of more food that's higher quality instead of just something like 'have a bowl of cereal'," Moose said.

Ruby Judd, a freshman at GBHS, appreciates her siblings who attend high school with her.

"They're supportive of me (at school)," Judd said.

Along with the upsides, there are downsides to having a "family name" known at school.

"There was this one disadvantage. I'm average at english, but I have an older sister who is an amazing writer and she got an A in Mrs. Badaracco's class both semesters," Moose said. "I always dreaded having english because if I got the same teacher as my sister, they would expect such a high standard for me, and it was impossible for me to achieve, so I felt like I was always letting my english teachers down."

Moose changed tone as the conversation shifted to the idea that sibling-students are treated similarly by teachers.

"I believe they have similar expectations for the students. My sister

never really messed around in class so much, so they didn't automatically place me as the troublesome kid, but I've never really noticed that much of a difference in how they treated me versus how they treated my sister," Moose said.

Judd also shares a similar ideology on the subject matter.

"Some teachers have stereotypes of you because (they know) your siblings, but the best teachers don't and try to ignore the thoughts about your other siblings."

Berthelsen's opinion is completely unique from Judd's and Moose's ideas.

"I believe most teachers treat most students similarly," Berthelsen said.

Students at GBHS may have peculiar ideas of how teachers treat their students, but those students still find satisfaction as they attend highschool with their siblings.

"It's pretty enjoyable," Moose said. "I get to see them at campus and wave to them. It's nice to have family here on campus."



♦ Ruby Judd

Gazette photo / BRADYN KESTI

Making the 'trans'ition

LGBTQ students on campus share what it's like to become who they truly are

BY JJ HILL
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Over the course of the twentieth century, traditionally underrepresented and marginalized groups have come out as victors in the battle for a place at the societal dinner table. Unfortunately, while their limelight is undoubtedly deserved, prejudice shines just as bright.

An example of such which lamentably hits close to home is with Granite Bay High School's transgender student body. In a video which aired originally on GBTV, teachers read first-hand experiences of transphobia and threats of physical harm as reported anonymously by LGBTQ+ students.

"Most of it was through social media, although there was some (harassment) face to face," said a former Granite Bay High junior girl. She openly transitioned in the middle of her freshman fall semester, allowing those who had known her before to follow along in her progress.

The proper usage of preferred pronouns can go a long way in feeling accepted as a trans student, and those who harassed her used this to their advantage. "(People were) using the wrong pronouns purposefully, giving rude and negative comments," she said. "The glares people gave me really hurt the most, but I was able to excuse the misuse of pronouns if they weren't really

aware or didn't understand."

Unfortunately, those who harassed her aren't alone in their efforts to target transgender students on campus. Jayde Barnett, a current senior, says they've experienced similar persecution, challenging their gender fluidity.

"I ignored it because I know their bullying came from an unwillingness to learn, so it was easy to brush off," they said.

"You don't have to have dysphoria to transition. (...) You can be the person you want to be without having your validity questioned."

Fortunately, Granite Bay is equipped with tools aimed at aiding LGBTQ+ students, some of which being the Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and the Wellness center. Both offer support for those who may not be receiving necessary support from friends and family.

"My family still doesn't vibe with it. It's been two years and my mom is finally realizing I'm not going to change," says Nate Stebbins, a sophomore boy who transitioned at the end of eighth grade. Despite their negativity, he knows that he made the right decision.

"Transitioning was essential for my well being. If I didn't make the changes I did, I probably would've hurt myself in complete self pity and hatred," said Nate. "I'm literally just a male. I don't know why people get so pressed about it."

While disheartening, this harassment is not the end of the story. Many classrooms are now adorned with safe space stickers for those worried about being targeted, and GSA works to make strides in acceptance of LGBTQ+ students on campus.

"Other people's opinions of your individual identity don't mean anything. You will eventually find people who accept you."

***If you really knew me,
you would know...***



mia olivera

If you really knew me you would know I've played soccer since I was five and my goal was to make the high school team, which I did this year



nick grahame

If you really knew me you would know when I get older I want to be a doctor to help people.



sidney barber

If you really knew me you would know I have been playing soccer since I was 4 years old.



josh anderson

If you really knew me you would know I like one of my dogs more than the other one.

Compiled by Emerson Ford

Counseling can be 'peer'ly inspirational

Connections program on campus provides support for all students

BY ALEXIS CRAIG
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Being a high school student can lead to many challenges, and for many students, hardships and difficulties come with everyday life.

On the Granite Bay High school campus, there are many services and resources available to students who are struggling with anything.

One of these services is the Peer Connections program, also known as 'Peer2Peer'.

"Peer2Peer' is a program run by students for students and is designed to provide emotional and psychological support to the student body," said Natalie Elkin, the program advisor.

Five years ago, this enriching resource was brought to Granite Bay High School by Elkin.

Originally a GBHS English teacher for seven years before, Elkin went back to school to obtain a psychology degree to further her career.

Soon after, Peer Connections was born.

"I wanted my therapy skills to benefit the students at GB in some way," Elkin said. "I decided the best way to do that was to start a peer counseling program."

Students involved have felt that Elkin has done a fabulous job in running the supportive service.

The two goals of the program are to equip students in the class with valuable life and communication skills and offer a supportive service for other students on campus.

Despite the great intent of Peer2Peer, not many students seem to know too much regarding the service.

"I haven't really heard that much about it," said Granite Bay High freshman Alyssa Savig.

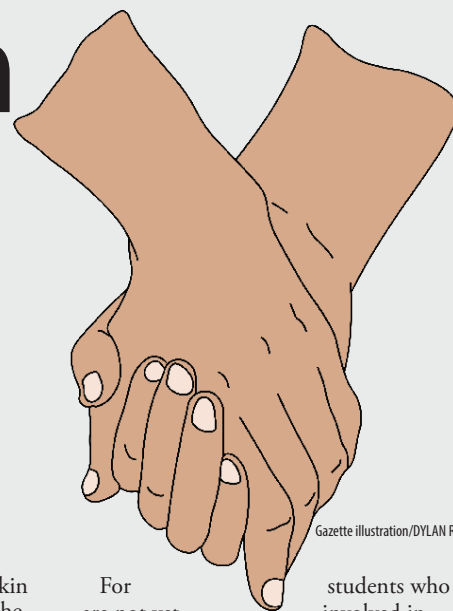
Savig suggests that the program should be more inviting so that students like her know about the program.

"I think it is pretty well known, but I have never been (to any programs) so I can't really say," freshman Audrey Atkin said.

Even if the name 'Peer Connections' may not sound familiar to some, students have most likely seen some of the productions that they have put on.

Peer Connections has been inspiring and helping students out since the first day of school.

New to the Peer Connections program to help students in need is a collaboration with the Wellness Center.



Gazette illustration/DYLAN ROWE

For students who are not yet involved in Peer Connections, Elkin recommends attending Wednesday Wellness Workshops and joining the Peer Perspectives club.

"I'm sure it is beneficial for those who have gone, I just never have," Savig said.

Becoming a peer counselor may also be of interest to some students.

To apply, students need to complete an application and attend an interview with Elkin and the program directors.

The Peer Connections program may be unheard of by some, but the easily accessible resource is leaving a lasting impact on the GBHS campus for all to see.

Both students who are peer counselors and students who seek counseling are affected in positive ways by the feeling of belonging and connection that the program brings.

"My favorite part of the program is working with the peer counselors," Elkin said, "getting to know them ... , watching them grow ... , and experiencing the sense of family that develops through bonding, team building, and trust-building activities."

2019  2020

Gazette illustration/DYLAN ROWE

LOADING...

Saying bye-bye to the '10s

As the decade comes to a close, teens reminisce on their childhood

BY SARAH RIETZ
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With 2019 coming to a close, many teenagers feel like their childhood is coming to an end - however, several other people feel like this isn't the case.

"Honestly, it just occurred to me recently that a new decade is beginning, which I actually think is kind of exciting," said Kay Bacharach, an English teacher at Granite Bay High School.

Bacharach, like many other people, agree that the end of the year is just that - the end of a year and nothing more. It's something to be excited about and a time to reflect, but it's also the same as every other new year.

With that being said, there is a common nostalgia that comes with the conclusion of the year.

"It does feel like my childhood is lowkey over because we as a generation are growing and adapting out of lifestyles," sophomore Suravi Kanugula said.

Kanugula isn't the only student at GBHS to feel this way.

"It kinda feels like my childhood is over, I will miss the toys and the music," sophomore Kalina Desai said.

Teenagers, especially the most recent generation, tend to feel an overwhelming amount of stress and many spend their teenage years worrying about school and not focusing on the fun things in their lives. Even teachers miss the simple pleasures they enjoyed as kids.

"I was a kid in the 70's--I don't remember being sad when the 80's began, but as I reflect on the 70's," said Bacharach, "I have cherished, nostalgic feelings of my childhood - Brady Bunch, Jackson 5, carefree summer days ..."

"I don't necessarily feel like it's the end of a generation, but I do kind of feel like it's a closing to my childhood because with all the Instagram and Tik-Tok videos, it makes me really sad to know that I'm too old now to watch what I used to watch and honestly when I have the time, I would rather relax," sophomore Easha Narayanan said.

Clearly, it's debatable about whether the association of the end of 2019 with the end of teenagers' childhoods is valid.

Nonetheless, it seems as though there's a common consensus for people to remember and hold close the sentimental toys, movies, memories, etc. of the past.

"I look back on all the toys I used to play with my sister," Narayanan said, "and it gives me a happy feeling but also makes me realize that I won't ever be that young again and am only getting

Students dance the night away to 'Milburn's Playlist'

Special show celebrates dance teacher's 20th year at Granite Bay High School

BY ALEXIS CRAIG
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The arts have and always will be a big part of the Granite Bay High School culture.

The choir, band, and dance programs are among these.

The GBHS dance program recently put on an extraordinary performance for the community and student body to see.

The show took place December 5th, 6th, and 7th in the James T. Prichard theater located on the Granite Bay campus.

The dancers danced in honor of their beloved teacher in the spectacular, student showcasing show.

This year's theme for the show was 'Milburn's Playlist,' celebrating Deserie Milburn's 20th year of teaching.

"I really like Mrs. Milburn. (I like how) she does a lot of one on one (teaching) with each student," said Maya Legari, a Granite Bay High dance 1 student.

Many community members, weather related to a dance student or not, came to see this jaw dropping performance of beginner and advanced dance students.

"I try to cater to all ages that come to see the show," Milburn said. "From the little kids, ... the teenagers, ... the adults, and even the grandparents."

Different styles of dances were performed among students from many different levels.

Legari said that she really enjoys the dance class at Granite Bay High School.

Legari also said that the preparation leading up to the show was stressful, but worth it.

Contemporary and lyrical dancing are among these.

For students like Legari, a freshman taking Dance 1, this show was their first as a GBHS dance student.

She said that she really enjoyed her experience.

"The show was really fun and it went well," Legari said.

There was an extensive amount of practice leading up to the show from the first day of school for the dancers.

Milburn said that they have all been working very hard and, in the end, it was worth it.

The dance show, overall, was a success according to Legari.

The only complaint that she had was that an additional rehearsal might have prepared the dancers a little bit more for their performances.

Other than that, Legari said that she believes that the show was successful.

The dance community at Granite Bay High School is quite expansive and students are very much encouraged to attend events and shows to support their classmates.



Gazette illustration/KATE FERNANDEZ

Film festival sparks excitement at GBHS

Students in Media prepare to showcase their work

BY ARMAAN SAINI
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In Granite Bay, there are several kids who express themselves through their hobbies in numerous ways on campus.

Students enjoy extracurriculars like making music in the band, playing sports, and acting in our plays.

Others participate in art, engineering, and film.

Several of the contestants in this year's Media Film Fest in the media and film programs are expressing their talents in the new movies they directed and produced for the first annual contest.

"As a film student, I'm really excited for the film festival," freshman Sofia Mariona said. "We all have been working super hard on all our projects and films, so the film festival is a great way for some of us to show off the project we have worked on."

Students put a lot of hard work and dedication into creating these films.

"I don't really understand why I like film but it's so much fun to film and see what the end result is," Mariona said. "I especially love the people I film with, they really do make filming a lot better."

Mariona said she enjoys many parts of the film-making process, but more than anything, she loves the potential to create anything she wants.

"My favorite part about film is all the stuff you can do with it," Mariona said. "You can take some footage and turn it into an interview, promo, short film, or an edit. Like I use footage from games to create all those things."

Taking video game clips and footage to convert them to other types of media is one of Mariona's specialties.

"I have been doing media for under a year and so far I really love it," Mariona said. "Creating films or filming for bulletins is something that I really love to put effort into."

Mariona said she is looking forward to presenting her hard work at the film festival.

"I'm extremely excited for the film festival not only because I get to see the films that won but also because I'm not only a film student, I'm also a media student," Mariona said. "That means I have two entries. My team and I worked really hard on both."

According to Mariona, being a part of both the film and media classes and making projects to show off is really fun, even if it is hard work for both

teams.

Another media student, freshman Lee Randolph is also looking forward to the film festival.

"I think the film festival is a good opportunity for students who wouldn't have another medium to show off their talents to show others what they can do," Randolph said.

People can really express themselves by making short films and videos by putting hard work into them.

"I like media because of the freedom and creativity we are allowed to have and the whole process is really interesting," Randolph said. "My favorite part is story boarding and watching your story unfold and showing the finished process is really interesting."

Like many of the film directors, Randolph loves seeing the film come to life.

"I feel like the film fest is a fantastic way to showcase the immense talent we have on campus," senior contestant Jake Russel said. "It's especially great because it's open entry, regardless of class enrollment."

Russel has been a part of the film program for a fairly long amount of time.

"I've been doing media since my first semester sophomore year, so about a year and a half," Russel said.

Russel said that the film festival being open to not just film students makes it more interesting. Film in general is interesting to him.

"I enjoy film media because of the structure and opportunity it gives me," Russel said. "It's one of my favorite classes because it's teaching me skills that I will be using in my future career."

Like Mariona, Russel also enjoys seeing the results of his work.

"My favorite part of media is the final product and the amount we are able to accomplish in such a short amount of time," Russel said. "It takes a lot of work to do what we do, and it feels nice when it pays off."

Russel, like his classmates, said he is really looking forward to the film festival and showcasing his talent.

"I'm super excited for the film fest because I put a lot of work and effort into my movie trailer, so I'm hoping I walk away with an award," Russel said. "Either way though, it will be a fun experience."



♦ Students dance to a rendition of Let It Go (left) and a Britney Spears mix (right).



♦ Dance teacher Deserie Milburn leads her students in the dance show's finale.

Gazette photos/SHREYA DODBALLAPUR

Q: What are you looking forward to doing over winter break?

A: What I'm looking forward to most over winter break is being with my family, being able to sleep in, binge watch some shows, do a little bit of home improvement and just relax, not have to rush in the morning and have a second cup of coffee without rushing, and going to Tahoe.

FACULTY
focus
John Thomas



Compiled by Lindsey Magno

Wellness Center interns help students

Teenagers in need have a safe space on GBHS campus to discuss how to deal with their hardships

BY JULIA GOLOVEY
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High school can be overwhelming. On top of everything at school, students might be dealing with family issues or might be having thoughts that are troubling and frustrating. To help cope with these issues, Granite Bay High School has a wellness center.

The wellness center is a place to take a mental break, and interns in the wellness center are there to give a therapy-like experience to students.

"If a student is having a hard day and need to take a break or talk to someone, they can ask their teacher for a pass and come to the wellness center," said wellness intern Michelle Mohammadian. "If a student feels as though they need more in depth support including individual therapy or group therapy they can talk to their school counselor and they will put a referral in for them."

Students that feel they need a one-on-one or a group session will need to get a permission slip signed by their parents or guardians. They will then need to meet with one of the wellness staff to discuss what works best for them and their schedule, so they are not missing anything major in class.

For most students, there would be one day each week to meet with a wellness intern. In each week, students would be called out of a different period for about 15 minutes, which is the standard for group sessions. One-on-one sessions are timed a bit different for each student, as they are more personalized.

Students on campus can find the help they

need through the wellness center. The help is personalized to each individual.

"Honestly it's been pretty helpful, especially since there's this one class that I struggle with constantly because it needs a lot of dedication which I wasn't ready for," sophomore Lisa Iodache said. "So whenever I get stressed and overwhelmed with it, I go there to take a breather from it all."

There is help available for students like Lisa who need to take a break from class whenever it gets overwhelming, as well as help for students who need a place to discuss more personal family matters.

"I go to the wellness center not that often, but I do go there whenever something happens with my family or friends that I need some help with or just someone to talk to about it," Sophomore Alyssa Lee said. "It just makes me feel better afterwards."

The interns themselves are trained to be good listeners and be kind.

"I think the wellness center provides the students with a safe space to address any of their mental health difficulties," Mohammadian said. "Whether they are experiencing something at school or outside of school, the support is here for them."

This safe space guarantees confidentiality. The wellness staff will never discuss a student's personal matters with anyone else, unless that student is a danger to themselves or others.

Mohammadian's goal at GBHS is to help kids in need.

"(I want to) provide guidance without judgement to any student in need off wellness support," Mohammadian said.

After accomplishing this goal, Mohammadian has plans for the future.

"(After GBHS, I want to) continue to work with teenagers and families, potentially at a community-based mental health non-profit or at a university to support students," Mohammadian said.

Although Mohammadian's goal for the future is to continue working with teenagers even after interning here, intern Lisa Federino has a different goal for her future.

"I'm interested in working in the hospice community (and) being a therapist that works

with people at the end of their life," Federino said.

Even though Federino plans on helping more of an older crowd in the future, she came here to intern because she likes to work with teenagers.

"I think (the wellness center) is a really good option for students that need it," Federino said. "I also think that not as many students know about it and we're trying to introduce ourselves to the freshman in health so the students know that it's an option."



Gazette photo / JULIA GOLOVEY

♦ Wellness center staffers have their photos displayed in the reception area.

'Tis the season to celebrate

'Happy Holidays' looks different to all students depending on their background

BY ARMAAN SAINI
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In modern-day America, there are several varying traditions for the holidays with all of the diversity of nationalities, religions, and races, especially in California.

So what is the "ordinary" holiday?

The epitome of Christmas is normally centered around snow, Santa Claus, and lavish evergreens decked out in ornaments.

The opinions of some differ as to how to celebrate the "typical" Christmas.

Some enjoy completely different holidays that differ from the norm because of their varying ethnicities.

Depending where your ancestors are from, the holidays people celebrate can change.

"(My) Nationality is Iraqi (and) we do have alternate holidays for Christmas," freshman Yousef Hashim said.

His heritage has a big culture with lots of different traditions.

"Our traditions don't involve Christmas trees and our alternate holiday lasts for a few days, not just one, plus a lot of food," Hashim said.

According to Hashim, the Iraqi culture doesn't celebrate with elaborate, lavishing trees and garlands, but instead with the gift of food.

"My favorite tradition would be the food," Hashim said. "The one thing I dislike is the majority of our school celebrates Christmas and I've never really experienced that."

Another student, freshman Christina Pena also has a unique way of celebrating the holidays.

"(I am) American," Pena said. "Yes, there are traditions, but there's really no name to it."

For Pena, her family celebrates their own cultural festivals along with the holiday season.

"(My favorite tradition) is when my family gets together at least every year," Pena said.

Family is a very important part of the holidays for many people, regardless of ethnic or religious differences.

In freshman Mia Wiggen's case, her family gathers and celebrate some religious aspects of the holiday.

"My grandma does a Tagalog prayer," Wiggen said.

Wiggen explained the prayer as part of her Filipino heritage on her father's side of the family.

As much as she loves being with her family, there are some aspects of her cultural Christmas that she considers to be downsides.

"I don't really like the food," Wiggen said.

There are many ways students on campus celebrate holidays. Some students celebrate a traditional Christmas while others celebrate different versions of Christmas.

Some students don't celebrate Christmas at all, and celebrate other holidays instead.

Overall, while there are many differences between any and all religions around the world, the main source of celebration seems to come from love of families. That makes any holiday feel special.



Gazette illustration / SHREYA DODBALLAPUR



AP U.S. History teacher faces a backlash after context of a political collage is misinterpreted

BY ANGELINA KOLOSEY
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Today it's not unusual for people to take situations out of context, and social media doesn't help matters much. The spread of misinformation on society's favorite social media outlets including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram has become potentially threatening to the professions of individuals and the general knowledge of readers and viewers. On Halloween, Granite Bay High Advanced Placement U.S. history teacher Brandon Dell'Orto was faced with a misinterpreted online reaction to a political image he presented to his junior students.

"I always try to put something on the overhead so that the topic for the day is kinda just there, so whenever you guys come in it's putting everything together," Dell'Orto said. "In the world of teaching, they call that set."

As students walk into class, Dell'Orto likes to focus their attention on the topics that will be discussed in the lecture for the day with photos on the smart-board along with music that correlates and relates to the time period. On Halloween, Dell'Orto put up a photo collage featuring an assortment of politicians from across the political spectrum.

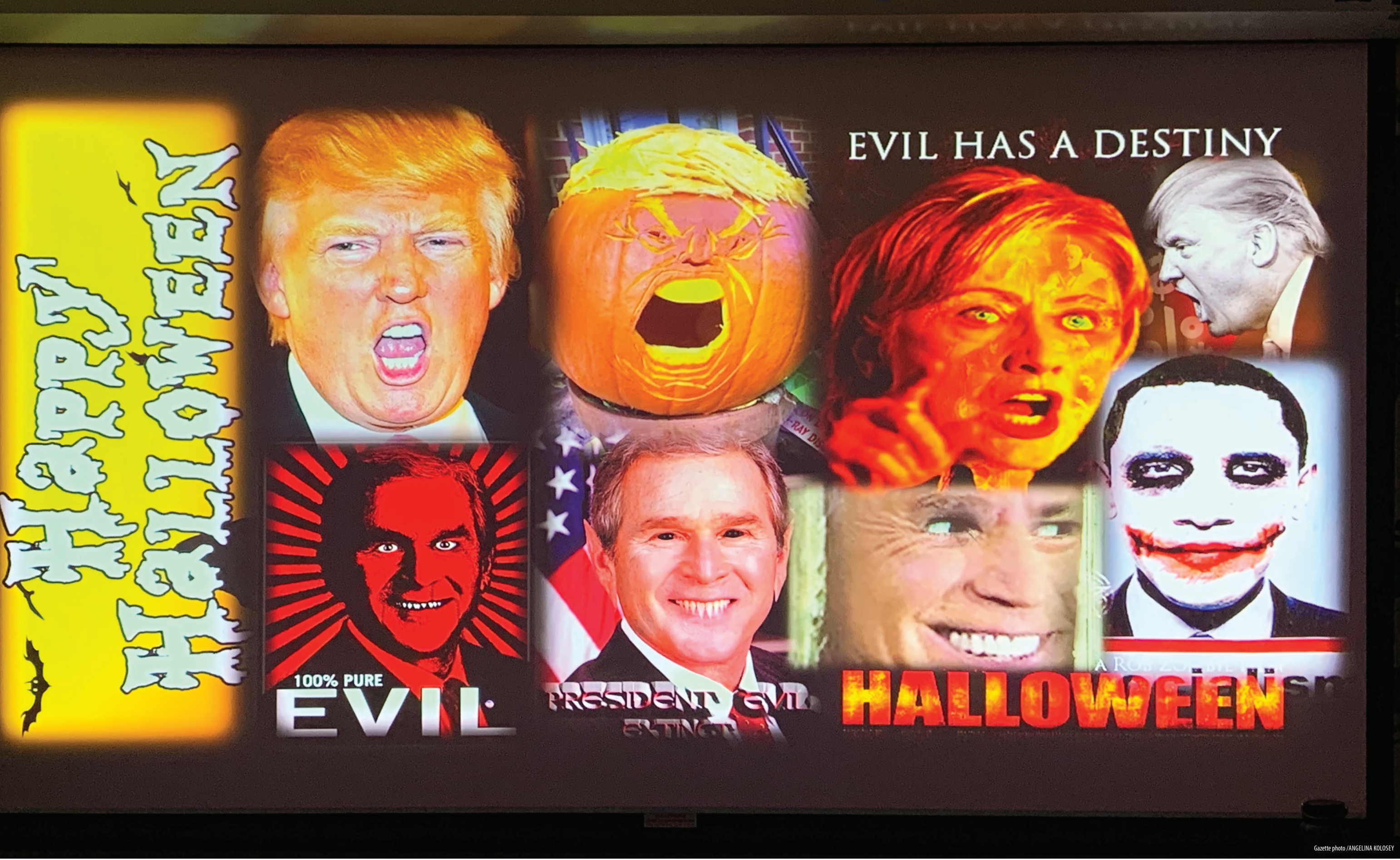
"It said Happy Halloween along the edge, all I did literally was just look at the internet for pictures of presidents/presidential candidates that look scary and that kind of stuff," Dell'Orto said. "What I try to teach kids is what we tend to do in politics lately is to push someone to the evil side so if you're on the side of Republicans, then Obama was the bad evil president, if you're on the Democrats' side, then it's Trump's evil."

The photo displayed included President Trump, former presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush, Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden. Each individual was made to look extra spooky for the sake of Halloween.

"So I teach, go onto second period, no big deal, no one says anything about it, a couple kids are laughing at it and then second period going on towards third I get a text from Mrs. (Jennifer) Leighton (the school principal) saying, 'Is this your room?'" Dell'Orto said. "Somebody (had) sent her the Facebook link that says 'Granite Bay you've got a problem' you know, that kind of stuff. 'You have an issue with your staff, disgusting, as an educator you must remain unbiased and hold yourself to a level of professionalism, this makes me ill,' and I was like OK."

According to Dell'Orto and most of his students, the photo that was posted and commented on was simply taken out of context.

Just a difference of opinion?



Gazette photo / ANGELINA KOLOSEY

"It's distinctly unbiased, it's got (supposedly) evil people from both sides, but I think from the angle (of) what they saw it as, was they just saw Trump, and they saw George Bush and they went with it," Dell'Orto said. "And so where I think the story's interesting for me is that here then comes just a slew of things on Facebook and nobody knew exactly at all what the context was, or how I was using it." When first displayed in class, a majority of students understood the political message Dell'Orto was trying to convey. "When I first saw it, I was a little confused but I thought it was funny at the same time," junior Shrina Pandey said. "I was wondering what the purpose is because usually if I'm not sure, he'll always explain it, and then he did explain that its purpose is to just show how we tend to demonize politicians on both sides and also he was trying to have fun

because it was Halloween that day." Many did not find it offensive as politicians from both parties were shown. "I thought it was pretty funny, I didn't think it was really biased because he had pictures from both sides, both parties, he was just trying to be fun with both parties in a way that he could reflect on what he teaches," junior Jack Longoria said. A student posted a snapchat photo of the smart-board display, and that photo was then posted on Facebook and aggressively commented on by individuals who were displeased. The main caption under the posted photo read, "!!! Granite Bay HS you have an issue with your staff !!! Disgusting! As an educator you must remain unbiased and hold yourself to a level of professionalism!

This makes me ill!" Overall, the photo display was found to be unlikely to offend or alter the beliefs of Dell'Orto's students. "I mean I can understand why parents would not be thrilled for their kid to be exposed to that, I personally think it's all in all harmless, I think it's a freedom of expression thing," junior Gavin Newsome said. The following day Dell'Orto decided to address his intentions with the photo display to his students. "I'm not trying to say that Trump is a bad person, I'm not trying to say Obama was a bad person, what I'm saying is our job is to hold our government accountable and then take a look at the history," Dell'Orto said. "I just wanted to make sure that everybody understood, I say this pretty much every year, I am trying to be as honest with you about my

own personal beliefs but I'm also trying to show you that I have lots of beliefs that have changed over the years. "I don't think students should think like their teachers, but I think they don't and shouldn't think like their parents, or their friends, they should think like themselves. They've got to think for themselves, they've got to look at things, they've got to be able to judge stuff based on a lot of different things." The goal, for Dell'Orto, was for students to be able to independently form their own political opinions without being influenced by politically intolerant masses of Democrats and Republicans. And maybe have a bit of a laugh along the way.



Students, staff react to jokes, offensive images sent via airdrop

BY SOPHIE CRISCIONE
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Offensive comments and discriminatory behavior has become a persistent problem at Granite Bay High and has increasingly spread over social media platforms in the form of comments, pictures and videos. Recently, this kind of misbehavior at school changed when derogatory pictures began to be jokingly airdropped to students during class.

A student had renamed his phone profile's name to Mr. (Marcus) Stevens, a social science teacher at GBHS, so it appeared as if a teacher was sending pictures of anything from harmless jokes to homework keys to derogatory racial cartoons over the course of several weeks. Marcus Stevens – the real one, not the student phone account – first heard about his name being used as a cover for airdrops months ago, in the middle of his own class. "I was right in the middle of a lecture when students kind of jokingly (asked if I was) airdropping because they knew I (wasn't), I was right in the middle of teaching (in class)," Stevens said.

Initially, no students seemed upset or offended by what was sent that day in class, leading Stevens to believe it only escalated in other classes, later on. "I'm speculating a bit, (but) I don't think anything racially inappropriate was sent out that first time in my class," Stevens said. "I imagine if it were something really bad, See **AIRDROP**, page 28

Students discuss to what degree they find some subjects insulting

BY ASHLEY YUNG
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As high schoolers are challenged to learn and discuss increasingly weighty and polarizing topics, students can often offend their peers – sometimes purposefully, and sometimes unknowingly. These offenses range from racial slurs, to political disputes to sexist comments both inside and outside the classroom. In his Advanced Placement Government class, educator Jarrod Westberg has to navigate varying student opinions and ensure that offensive behaviors are addressed. "I (try) to give (students who've offended the class) a little nudge on how to walk themselves out of certain comments," Westberg said. "As a teacher, I want people to be able to see (how they offended someone else) in a way that's not super confrontational." Westberg seldom encounters offensive comments that are said with ill-intentions. "Ten years ago when the gay marriage... debates were going on, there would be some very strong opinions," Westberg said. "People would take it too far with their wording (and) name-calling." Another very polarizing and emotional topic See **OFFENSIVE**, page 28

Snow season sends skiers on a search



Perfect ski resorts nearby offer numerous adventures for both amateurs and professionals alike

BY MAY LIN
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Only once a year do the skies turn the world into a wintry wonderland, bringing with it a new set of seasonal adventures. Some choose to stay in to keep cozy, but many take this opportunity to plan a trip in the snow.

From family friendly to more competitive ski resorts, there are plenty of locations to explore.

"I typically either go to Sugar Bowl, Boreal or Soda Springs," Granite Bay High graduate Olivia Harimoto said. "We always go to the mountains every year at least a few times per season ... it is so much fun and a great time to spend with the family. ... I would recommend going to these places because the price is pretty reasonable."

Resorts like Soda Springs or Boreal not only benefit visitors in terms of the commute because of their relative proximity to the Roseville area, but also because their gradual slopes are perfect for beginners who are interested in learning how to ski or snowboard for the first time.

However, even with the beautiful scenery and amenities around the area, the closer resorts could get boring fast with amateur terrain and limited space. Many snow enthusiasts search beyond the area to accommodate for

their advanced skills. There are a few places that rise to the occasion; the Vail resorts – Heavenly, Kirkwood and Northstar – are all located within about 40 miles of each other.

"Heavenly is the biggest ski resort in Tahoe," senior Theodore Tran said. "It has lots of different terrain, and it's pretty high in elevation so you can get a gorgeous views of Lake Tahoe. I would say it's a good balance for intermediate and advanced riders compared to Kirkwood, which has very challenging terrain for hardcore skiers and snowboarders."

No matter the type of audience these resorts target, there's one name that's known far and wide. The 1960 Winter Olympics was a winter multisport event that was held at Squaw Valley. Tourists like to come here to relive the energetic atmosphere when Olympians received their first medals or achieved world-record moments. The abnormally large campus consists of two resorts, Squaw and Alpine. It includes a variety of terrain, ranging from the most difficult to easier selections.

"Squaw has long seasons, and their rating has definitely shifted up," Tran said. "After a snowstorm, this place gets ridiculously crowded. It's expensive because of the Olympic clout."

The sunny skies, gorgeous mountain scenery and a relaxed California attitude along with the excellent snow conditions, extensive terrain and state-of-the-art ski lifts make it hard to

rival these winter wonderlands. Visitors are virtually guaranteed a memorable experience with friends or family.

"The first time I went skiing, I threw up in my helmet, in my ski mask, and I couldn't tell anyone because my face was stuffed with (vomit)," senior Rathip Rajakumar said. "I never wanted to go skiing again, but I ended going the next week."

No matter how eventful the day might've been, it's the end of the story that counts. Rajakumar has been going to these resorts since he was little with his uncle. His family's ski trip tradition turned into something valuable to both him and his friends.

"I've been to virtually all the resorts in Tahoe," he said. "I go back because of the memories I made there, so I reminisce about that. ... It's also a really fun activity to do with friends and get to know people better because you're traveling so long with someone."

Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows

♦Squaw Valley is featuring the Tahoe Super 4 Pack this season, which allows you to ski for less than \$103/day for any 4 days of the 2019-2020 season and you can reload single day lift tickets for just \$109.

♦Lift Window Ticket price: \$152-\$179

♦Restaurants Nearby: Coffee Bar, SmOke-house BBQ, Tram Car Bar

♦Shops Nearby: Alice's Mountain Market, Estelle Sports

♦Commute from Granite Bay: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Northstar

♦Northstar is featuring a new season pass called the Epic Pass that allows access to Sun Valley, Snowbasin, Rusutsu-Japan, and the 17 Peak Resorts ski areas, including Hunter Mountain and Mount Snow.

♦Lift Window Ticket price: \$112-\$137

♦Restaurants Nearby: Petra, Los Arcos Mexican Grill, Martis Valley Grille

♦Shops Nearby: 001 Oakley Concept Store, Elite Fleet

♦Commute from Granite Bay: 1 hour and 40 minutes

Soda Springs

♦Soda Springs is featuring two passes, Soda Springs Unlimited and Soda Springs Family, that are offering major discounts with unlimited lifts and visits.

♦Lift Window Ticket price: \$35-\$45

♦Restaurants Nearby: Old 40 Bar and Grill, Donner Lake Kitchen, Sierra Mountain Pizza

♦Shops Nearby: Donner Lake Gift shop, Tahoe Donner Ski Shop

♦Commute from Granite Bay: 1 hour and 24 minutes

Athletes commit on national signing day

Nine seniors gain college admission and plan to keep playing

BY SOPHIA HARIMOTO
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After high school, students may choose to follow various career paths in order to take the next steps to achieve their future goals. While some may decide to pursue the academic route or enlist in the military, many students at Granite Bay High School consider signing on to colleges via sports excellence for various reasons.

According to Tim Healy, the athletic director at GBHS, the primary benefit for student athletes who choose to commit to colleges through an athletic scholarship is the monetary compensation.

“Normally, if you are signing a (National Letter of Intent), the college has committed a certain percentage of funds to help you (pay for tuition) and to entice you to go to that university,” said Healy.

Another minor advantage is that these athletes also get preferential treatment when choosing classes as well as access to helpful resources such as tutoring.

One of the signed athletic seniors that can approve of this is Emma Broers. She has committed to play division one soccer at Sacramento State University and is excited to begin her professional soccer career there.

“Ever since I was a little girl, it has always been my dream to play collegiate soccer, and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to do so at a school I absolutely love,” Broers said. “I am most excited for the experience of getting to represent and play for my school, as well as to get to play with other amazing athletes at the highest level.”

Senior Summer Holt has also committed to play division one soccer and is planning to attend Texas Christian University. However, she did not know whether she wanted to sign on to a college until well into her high school career.

“I have been in the recruiting process since eighth grade, but I

did not know for sure whether or not I wanted to sign (on) to a college until the middle of freshman year,” Holt said. “I also received a couple collegiate offers (my sophomore year) that made me completely confident in my decision of wanting to play college soccer. I know the (soccer program at TCU) will push me to be the best athlete I can be.”

While signing on to colleges has its advantages, there are also certain circumstances that may cause an athlete reflect on their decision.

Senior Jessica Varakuta currently rows for Capital Crew, and although she is planning to continue her athletic career in college, she chose to not sign early.

“I did not consider signing early because I wanted to research and make sure I choose the college (that) would be the best fit for me,” Varakuta said. “I have always wanted to play a sport in college, (and even though) it will require a lot of work, ... I want to challenge myself not only academically, but (also) athletically.”

On the other hand, Junior Paloma Garcia, a varsity tennis player, has considered playing division one tennis in college, but decided against it due to the rigorous demands it entails.

“To my understanding, division one college tennis is like a job, (so) school is often put second,” Garcia said. “As I have developed my personality and morals, I (could not) see myself being at a college primarily to play a sport when (what I truly) want is to learn and prepare myself for the job that I want to pursue in the sciences.”

However, Garcia does not plan on letting her tennis career end after high school. One way athletes can still play their sport in college but on a less competitive level is through club and intramural sports.

“After investing a lot of time in training for the high school tennis seasons, I came to the conclusion that I don’t want my efforts to go to waste,” Garcia said. “So, club tennis seems to be the route I want to take in college (since) it is not as intense as division one tennis but not as laid-back as intramural tennis.”

While there are many ways students can play their sport in college, the demands for club and intramural athletes are incomparable to the demands for National Collegiate Athletic Association scholarship athletes.

“If you are a division one NCAA scholarship athlete, you treat that as a business — you work for the school to assist in the tuition that they are paying for you,” Healy said. “Because the university is invested in you, they want something for that, especially if you are a division one (athlete) that also generates income for that school.”

In return, most NCAA scholarship athletes spend at least 20 to 25 hours a week alone training for their sport— not including the time it takes to travel and compete. As a result, it is vital that student athletes learn to manage their time efficiently in order to maintain a healthy balance of academics, athletics, and a social life.

“What students should do is find the best combination of academic pursuits that lead to the career they want to do in combination with their passion for the sport they play,” Healy said. “There may be a point at which (your) long-term career goals are more aligned with (your) academic studies than ... with (your) athletics. Then, you might choose to give up one.”

According to Healy, however, most student athletes from GBHS that leave with an athletic scholarship have already learned the required time management skills needed in order to balance their busy schedules.

“Playing soccer in high school has absolutely helped prepare me for college,” Broers said. “As my schedule continued to get harder the older I got, the more I had to learn how to balance a harder workload.”

Ultimately, it is truly up to the student in regards to what their priorities are for their future.

“For every student athlete, there is a trade off, (and they have to) determine for themselves what the best trade off is,” Healy said. “(You have to consider) how much is your commitment to the sport interfering... with your ability to maximize your academic pursuits.”



♦Senior athletes prepare to commit to the next 4 years
From left to right:
Marli Bannai: Swim, UC San Diego
Emma Broers: Soccer, Sacramento State
Jack Gillespie: Swim, University of Tennessee
Kevin Haynes and Aiden Isola: Baseball, Sacramento State
Summer Holt: Soccer, Texas Christian University
Ashlynn Hemphill: Swim, San Diego State University
Maryssa Schulz: Crew, Oregon State University
Nolan Wilson: Baseball, University of Nevada, Reno

Grizz Quiz

Compiled by: Sophia Harimoto

Leah Conforti
Volleyball

Nick Perry
Water polo

Emma Hammack
Golf

Paloma Garcia
Tennis

Nariaki Fujita
Wrestling

Who is your favorite artist to get ready to?	Surfaces	Travis Scott	Jonas Brothers	Carlos Vara	Eminem
What is your favorite pre-game snack/meal?	Kind Bar	Fruit	Granola Bar	Chicken Salad Sandwich	Bagel
What quote do you live by?	"Good Vibes Only"	"Can't reach it, don't need it"	"There is always tomorrow"	"Leave it all on the court"	"Have fun"
If you were to try a new sport, what would it be?	Surfing	Track	Tennis	Softball	Football
Where is your ideal travel location?	Greece	Hawaii	A big city with lots to do	Anywhere as long as I am with my family	New York

Basketball captain shines on the court

BY MAY LIN

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Starring team captain and veteran athlete, Brianna Lambey has it all when it comes to playing the sport she loves — basketball.

"I really like playing and I've played for so long; I put so much time into it... I've been playing since I was four. It's fun to be in the moment on court where all your stress like about school goes away," Lambey said.

As team captain, there are certain features she focuses on for the team so they can reach their peak potential, especially with league games coming so close.

"I'm more vocal and telling people where to be on the court. I lead the stretches and what we do in warmups too," said Lambey.



Brianna Lambey
Captain of girls' varsity basketball excels as a leader and athlete

"Our official games start on January 10th. While going into the league-game season, we altered our mind sets by focusing on the wins and coming together as a team to play and ... prepping by working on our defense and communication."

According to Lambey, the team consists of 11 players but she stands alone as the only senior. Despite the expected upset of being one of the fewer upperclassmen, it doesn't stop Lambey's motivation in being the best that she can be.

"We started off a lot more stronger. I guess we had a better team chemistry this year. I'm the only senior and we have four sophomores and the rest are juniors out of a team of eleven," said Lambey. "The season started off with a 2-0 streak. Woodcreek was kind of stressful due to them being a constant rival but Nevada Union's game went smoother. We were able to win both

games."

Despite this season being Lambey's last year, she keeps pushing herself in a variety of ways in hopes of obtaining the opportunity in continuing to play.

"I want to play in college, no matter the division level. I've been sending them videos and inviting them to see me play... I usually work out with my brothers who both played basketball. We would criticize each other to help us both get better."

No matter where she ends up, the experiences from games and life lessons learned from these past four years is something Lambey will never give up.

"Freshmen year, we were playing Del Oro and it came down to a couple of seconds and it was tied. I made the game winner lay up. I didn't know what happened until my teammates were running up to me; it felt good," said Lambey.



Wrestler Talon Niimi sets standard high

Wrestling powerhouse continues his successful 2019 winter season

BY BRADYN KESTI

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Although the Granite Bay High School Wrestling program is not as popular as other sports played in the winter, sophomore Talon Niimi has made a mark in his career.

"I wrestled varsity as a freshmen," Niimi said. "I made it to sections (or masters) and if I placed top six I would've gone to state."

Talon's older brother, Kai Niimi, is a graduate from GBHS and recalled Talon's sections tournament.

"(Talon) ended up winning two matches and losing two matches at the masters tournament," Kai said.

As a freshman, Niimi stood out as he wrestled varsity and went to sections.

"Talon did very well his freshman year from my point of view and exceeded the average wrestler," Kai said. "Especially since he did better than myself when I was his age."

In comparison, as a freshman Kai only went to divisions, which is the tournament before masters.

In Talon's freshman year, he was able to wrestle alongside Kai, a senior at the time.

Alex Reuter, a sophomore wrestler at GBHS, frequently partners with Niimi during wrestling practice.

Talon puts forth effort towards becoming a better wrestler and person every day.

— Alex Reuter,
wrestling teammate



Gazette photo / BRADYN KESTI

"I've known Talon since eighth grade when I met him at wrestling practice (for Olympus Junior High School); we have been homies ever since," Reuter said.

Niimi's superior wrestling skill does not go unnoticed, as Reuter notes his impression with Niimi's wrestling skills, he also supports Niimi's moral and physical effort.

"Talon puts forth effort towards becoming a better wrestler and person every day," Reuter said.

As is evident by his wildly successful freshman wrestling season, Niimi has long practiced in the physical contact genre.

"I have been wrestling for four years, but (I've done) Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for all of my life," Niimi said.

But there's more to his success than years of practice — support is a crucial ingredient to his success.

"My brother and my dad especially, but my coaches also did support me a lot last year," Niimi said.

Although Niimi has been an athlete almost his entire life, behind the scenes these sports are "extremely difficult," Niimi said.

"Talon has not always been super positive when it comes to physical sports. I don't blame him either," Kai said. "When it's just you out there and all you can depend on is your training and skill, all the consequences of your efforts fall on you."

Despite his occasional struggles, Niimi continues to discover ways to motivate his fellow wrestlers.

"Don't give up," Niimi said. "When you give up you just screw yourself from an opportunity to be great at something."

level of dedication expected from athletes in order to be a successful member of their team.

"As a senior I have learned that giving up break helps a lot," said Jacob Schulte, a player for the varsity soccer team. "It builds momentum and gives more experience to players to be ready for the regular season."

After years of experience on the soccer team, Schulte had some wisdom to share with the more inexperienced athletes. "My advice to all athletes no matter the sport is to use this time to put in work, and make the most out of it."

The time spent makes a significant, rewarding impact on the season for the whole team. "It surely helps you get better and it really helps build a good chemistry with your teammates, which is a huge part of the season," Garman said. "Most players seem to give up break which is really great to have a lot of players out and practicing."

"My advice to all athletes no matter the sport is to use this time to put in work, and make the most out of it."

— Jacob Schulte,
varsity soccer player

Players give up winter break for practice

Athletes trade weeks of relaxation and leisure for long drills and exercise

BY HASAN ALSAKATI

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Winter sports athletes will have their commitment to their sport tested in the coming weeks as they decide whether or not to sacrifice their winter break. Christmas break is filled with practices and games as athletes prepare for their upcoming season. Unlike Christmas break, athletes have the entirety of Thanksgiving break to relax and recover.

"I have a feeling that it is a lot better to give up your break and be fully committed to your sport," said Luke Garman, a sophomore on the varsity soccer team. There is certainly a significant



Dedicating their break to their sport also impresses the coaches and staff with the players' great commitment. "I personally believe players should give up break as I do," said Blake Bentley, a junior on the varsity basketball team. "Coaches really love it and always put you first since we are showing commitment and putting our sport first."

Vinny Perry, a junior on the varsity wrestling team, has also noticed the difference in respect that coaches have for players that choose to practice over the break. "Coaches always prefer players who give up break and always notice who does."

Coaches often determine which players fill certain positions or roles. Because of this, many athletes strive to demonstrate their dedication to their coach in hopes of getting the position they want.

According to Bentley, there is more to a successful season than skill. "I believe most success in sports bases off team chemistry," Bentley said. "Having a good connection with your teammates makes everything easier and smoother, which is why I believe athletes should drop their break to work on their (team) chemistry and such for the season."

The reward of the hard work makes it all worth it for Perry. "I always give up my break for the simple reason that I love this sport and would not want to miss great opportunities to play in goof and huge tournaments across California," Perry said.

SECOND LOOK

Winter
SPORTS
Update

Boys' varsity soccer has a triumphant start

BY HASAN ALSAKATI AND SIMI SINGH
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The boys' varsity soccer team started the season with a bang, winning their first Pre-season game 3-0 against Davis High School in a home game.

They also finished the yearly Rocklin High Tournament in 2nd place after losing to Arlington High from Southern California.

"It was a tough loss after working through the group stage and reaching the final with missing and injured players," sophomore Luke Garman said.

"But we can take this as a positive and move on to the next game."

Girls' Soccer

The varsity girls' soccer team kicked off their season with a 1-1 tie against Woodcreek High. With a score of 4-0, they were victorious in their next game against Oakmont High..

"Our season has been going really well, we should definitely keep going in this way," Kelly Jones, a junior on the varsity team, said.

The junior varsity team has won both of their two games. They came out on top of Woodcreek High 1-0, and beat Oakmont High 3-2 after trailing 0-2 in the first half.

Boys' Basketball

The boys' basketball program started off slow, but the team anticipates a speedy recovery.

Six games into the season, their sole victory is defeating Del Campo High 67-58.

"Sometimes you have a really awkward start to the season but it is definitely not the end of the world," junior Blake Bentley said.

"There is a lot of time for us to improve and get better."

Junior varsity has won two of four games so far, beating Nevada Union and Woodcreek High. They lost to Oakmont High and Vacaville High by a score of 64-63.

Wrestling

The last two official matches took place at the GBHS tournament.

"This is only my second year wrestling so I've seen myself improve in many ways, mainly being that this year I have more knowledge of wrestling itself along with being stronger," Hannah Thrash said. "My hopes this season (are) to have fun and do my best, to me it's not all about winning. I want to enjoy my senior season."

Victoria Wells is another wrestler, who scored 6-0 against a senior from Del Oro on December 3rd. In the last tournament, December 8th, Wells went 5-0 and placed first.

"It was rough in the beginning being the first girl to wrestle for (Granite Bay)," Wells said. "I am hoping to make masters and just keep improving my skills as time goes on."

Girls' Basketball

Recently, basketball has competed in two pre-season games, winning both matches.

"The season is going pretty good right now. We're 2-0. We played Woodcreek and Nevada Union," said Senior Brianna Lambey, captain of the Varsity team. "We do a lot of drills and scrimmages... We also sometimes watch film that shows professional basketball games or our own games."



Special to the Gazette /ANGELINA KOLOSEY



Gazette photo /ANGELINA KOLOSEY



Gazette photo /KATE FERNANDEZ



Gazette photo /SANDY SONG



Gazette photo /KATE FERNANDEZ



Gazette photo /ANGELINA KOLOSEY



Gazette photo /BRADYN KESTI

♦**Katelyn Sitterud dribbles past** an opponent from Franklin High School in a varsity basketball game, top left. Julianne Cotterill shoots a hoop as teammates Samatha Miller and Katelyn Sitterud back her up, top right. Kate Thompson runs to steal the ball from an opponent during a varsity soccer game, second row left. Nirmal Kaluvai, second row right, dribbles the ball down the soccer field. Erica Honer, third row left, practices shooting goals during varsity practice. Katelyn Sitterud, third row right, blocks an opponent from running down the court. Talon Niimi, bottom left, wrestles an opponent to the ground in a varsity match.



Holiday Traditions Across Cultures

Several students among the GBHS campus celebrate different holidays during the winter season

BY LINDSEY ZABELL
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From lighting the menorah each night to decorating the Christmas tree, families across the Granite Bay High community each have very different ways of celebrating the holiday season.

While many celebrate Christmas, other families also celebrate holidays such as Kwanzaa and Hanukkah.

Unlike Christmas, Kwanzaa and Hanukkah are celebrated over the course of several days.

This year, Hanukkah will be observed from Dec. 22-30, while Kwanzaa takes place from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 every year.

Hanukkah has been celebrated by Jews for more than 2,000 years, and it first began as a way for Jews to celebrate their victory over a tyrant king and the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem.

Now, Jewish families all around the world celebrate by lighting the menorah for eight consecutive nights, playing games such as dreidel, or cooking food.

The symbolic lighting of the menorah represents the miracle witnessed by Jews, when oil meant to last just one night instead lasted eight full nights.

Sophomore Katie Nimtz has celebrated Hanukkah for her entire life and has many traditions within her family.

"We say a prayer every night of the eight nights, and then after my mom gives me a little gift and we do it with our family," Nimtz said.

Unlike Christmas and Hanukkah, Kwanzaa is not associated with a religion, but rather a time for people to honor their African ancestry by exchanging presents and enjoying a feast with their loved ones.

Kwanzaa was first created and celebrated in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, an activist and African-American professor of Africana studies. It was created in an effort to promote a sense of racial pride and unity within the black community.

During Kwanzaa, a candle is lit on the Kinara each night, with each candle representing one of these principles – unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith.

One of the most popular holidays among GBHS students is Christmas.

Senior Caleb Judd celebrates Christmas with his family each year.

"I celebrate Christmas because it's tradition in our family," Judd said. "We're Christian so we celebrate Christmas and we're basically celebrating the birth of Christ when he came

into the world."

In Judd's family, he and his siblings participate in a family gift exchange.

"We all draw names out of a hat and whoever you get you have to get them a present, and we have \$20 to get them a present," he said. "I always enjoy when my siblings open up their presents I got them, I always enjoy seeing their smiling faces and they always seem so happy when they get what they wanted."

Many students also use the month of December to embrace their holiday spirit as much as possible.

Senior Brent Evans is one of many students who has several annual holiday traditions for this time of the year.

"My dad makes a calendar at the beginning of the month with a different Christmas movie for each day, and we can't watch a movie until we watch it as a family," Evans said.

For many, their favorite part about the holidays is not the gifts, but rather the family time or the significance of the holiday itself.

"(My favorite part of Hanukkah is) being able to be multicultural and having the chance to celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas and learning more about it as I get older," Nimtz said.

Nextdoor App

Popular phone app allows Granite Bay neighborhoods to be connected and aware of community news

BY DIANA JONES
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The Nextdoor app is a very popular app that has surfaced around the Granite Bay community, as well as surrounding neighborhoods.

Nextdoor is the biggest social network app for neighbors and is very popular small communities across the U.S. But, like any app, this app also comes with many negatives and positives.

Several GBHS students and parents have downloaded the app in order to feel safer in the community.

"I like when it gives alerts when people commit crime in Granite Bay, like steal packages," said freshman Kaylee Price.

The app has an option for notifications about recent burglaries, lost packages and other types of minor crimes around their

neighborhoods.

Another positive of this app makes it easier for people to sell and buy products, and even sell services like babysitting and pet-sitting.

Although this feature of buying and selling products can be very helpful, many people can find it irritating.

"Some people can post really dumb or unwanted products or services," said Price.

Nextdoor also allows for people to make friends and stay connected to events happening in the community.

"I like how I know what's going on in Granite Bay," said sophomore Abby Peterson.

This app is also helpful to find lost pets. Many lost pets lookouts are posted on the Nextdoor app daily.

"My dog has ran away like 4 times and everytime we have found it by (using) Nextdoor," Peterson said.

This app has 4 out of 5 stars, which is

reflective of its popularity among the Granite Bay community.

Although the app has its positives, there are also drawbacks.

Many residents have reported people who were hanging out around their neighborhood, or suspicious encounters.

"It's kind of dumb when people just report people who aren't even doing anything bad," said Price.

This app is also a place where people like to report bad driving teens or teenagers who may be out later.

"I have seen reports of teenagers on Nextdoor," said Peterson.

There also have been reports of some online feuds on this app or some might even being cyberbullied on Nextdoor.

"I feel like not many teenagers have this app, they really need to, it's really helpful," said Peterson.



Gazette photo illustration/LINDSEY ZABELL

AirPods go pro

Granite Bay High students describe the differences between AirPods and Airpod Pros

BY LINDSEY MAGNO
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The new Airpod pros, known as the mini hair dryers that go in ears, start at \$249.99. The new features that are included in the Pros are flexible ear tips, active noise cancellation, audio transparency mode and sweat resistance.

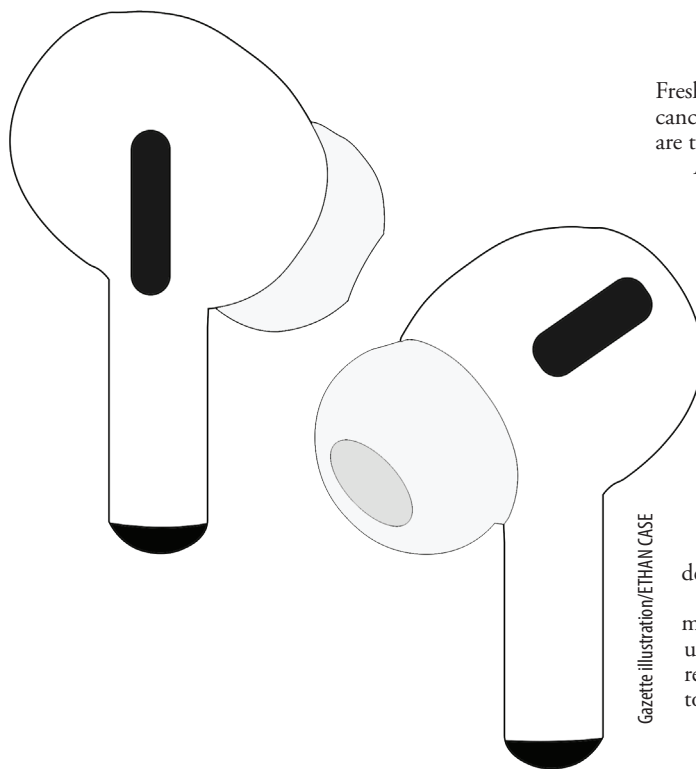
Flexible ear tips are unlike the current Airpods, that have hard end. The ear tips allowed users to have a secure fit in their ears. The ear tips are made of flexible material silicon. The different tips allow a seal around the ear for epic noise collection and transparency mode.

Active noise cancellation detects external sound to cancel out. The Pros uses two microphones which are inward and outward to get the best results for noise cancellation.

Audio transparency mode lets users hear surrounding noise while wearing them. The force sensor that controls music playback also controls audio transparency mode.

The pros are water and sweat resistant meaning they will be safe by a splash of water or sweat to come it's way. As Long as consumers don't swim with them in the pool the Airpods should be just fine.

There are many different features that stand out when comparing Generation 1 and 2.



Gazette illustration/ETHAN CASE

Freshman Valentina Alessi said "Transparency mode, noise cancellation, 24 hours of battery life with the charging case is are the major features that stand out."

Another key feature that stands out to buyers is the new look compared to the other generations.

Freshman Lakeesha Selvaratnam said "the new look of the Pro's case reminds me of an Android bot or pill case."

Adding on to the design process there is the shorter stem which serves as a microphone and switch for sound immersion. This switch is called located on the stem and acts as a force sensor.

The main difference between generations 1 and 2 is the price.

Freshman Rabeesha Rashed said "I feel like the price for the new Airpods are outrageous for minor differences in them."

Out of all models buyers have three different options to choose from. "I would personally buy the Airpod generation one because of the simple design and it works well," said Alessi.

Out of the three models an employee ranks the Pros as most popular. "Personally speaking, the Pros are more popular because of its customizable design, it's sweat and dust resistance, and its ability of replacing an overall headphones to AirPods," said Marc Stamalaky employee from Apple.



Your Guide to Giving

The Gazette helps GBHS student body
pick out the best gifts for
2019 holiday season



Special to the Gazette /Apple.com

♦ **AirPod Pros** are a great gift for anyone looking for a new apple product to flex with. They can even step up their game by getting a free engraving when purchased from Apple.com.



Special to the Gazette /Caboodles

♦ **Caboodles** are carrying cases that are easy to travel with. They are perfect to keep in a car with spare makeup, or anything else you might need. They're also great because it is an easy 'grab&go' box.



Special to the Gazette /US Treasury

♦ **Money.** Everyone loves cash. It's perfect because the receiver doesn't have to feel obligated to wear/ use the gift around the giver. But, sometimes it is nice to get people gifts more personal than



Special to the Gazette /Santa Cruz Skateboards

♦ **Skateboards.** A great gift for boys and girls. Even if the person receiving the gift hasn't ever skateboarded. Most of the fun is learning how to ride the new board with friends.



Special to the Gazette /Amazon

♦ **LED String Lights** are perfect for someone who wants to spice up their room and add some color. These lights are perfect for people who regularly like to make TikToks.

BY MAYA SNOW

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The holiday season is beginning in Granite Bay, and the scramble to find the best gifts begins.

GBHS students told the Gazette what they thought the best gifts of Christmas 2019 are.

"The thing I want most for Christmas is money," said senior Emily Craven.

Cash is always an easy gift, and the receiver will always love money because they can buy whatever they desire with it. But, the downside is that it feels less personal than a thought

out gift.

"A good gift that I would give to someone else is Airpod Pros," Craven said.

Airpod Pros are high quality, noise cancelling headphones that retail for \$249, and include a free personal engraving on apple.com.

Taylor Whalen, a senior at GBHS, said "I am giving my friends Caboodles."

A Caboodle is a carrying case that is great for travel, or just to keep in the back of a car. Students can make great additions to Caboodles by filling it with little gifts that relate to inside jokes.

Another popular gift option this year is inspired by the Tik-Tok trend. TikTokers love to use LED lights to add interesting transitions to their videos. So, if a friend is addicted to TikTok, (like many GBHS students) students can pick up some remote controlled lights to make those TikToks perfect.

Also inspired by the TikTok e-boy craze, skateboarding has become super popular in Granite Bay. A skateboard is a great for both girls and guys.

Christmas time in Granite Bay can be crazy and hectic, but with these gift ideas, hopefully, it won't be as stressful this year.

Gazette staffers share their best food, music and movies from the last month

Auntie Annie's Pretzels

BY PIPER BACON
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- ♦**Order:** One order of pepperoni pretzel nuggets
- ♦**Menu Highlights:** Jalapeño pretzel, cinnamon sugar pretzel, jalapeño and cheese pretzel dog
- ♦**Address:** 1151 Galleria Blvd, Roseville, 95678
- Quick Take:** Good snack food but a bit pricey for the content. Very buttery and greasy but was satisfying nevertheless.



Gazette photo | Piper Bacon



Out of Bounds

BY TOMMY GRAY
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- ♦**Order:** Pretzel
- ♦**Menu Highlights:** Wide assortment of comfort and tavern style foods with fresh ingredients.
- ♦**Address:** 13407 Folsom Blvd, Folsom, CA
- Quick Take:** It has a crisp outer shell encasing a breading that melts in your mouth. Paired with a trio of dipping sauces and nice coating of butter, it is my top choice for pretzels.



Out of Bounds



Find the Beat by Blueface

BY ARMAAN SAINI
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- ♦**Genre:** Hip Hop
- ♦**Producer :** Scum Beatz, FBeat Productions, Mike Crook, Synco, Sammy P, Yike Mike, Mally Mall, Scorp Diesel, Low The Great, Extendo Beatz
- ♦**Skip To:** First Class
- Quick Take:** This album sets the perfect mood for this holiday season. With revamped original songs and new music, this album creates a perfect mixture of previous songs published by Pentatonix and more.



Cash Money West



The Best of Pentatonix Christmas by Pentatonix

BY GABBY MATHIS
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- ♦**Genre:** Holiday
- ♦**Producer :** RCA Records
- ♦**Skip To:** Thats Christmas to Me
- Quick Take:** This album sets the perfect mood for this holiday season. With revamped original songs and new music, this album creates a perfect mixture of previous songs published by Pentatonix and more.



RCA Records



Frozen 2

BY JULIA GOLOVEY
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- ♦**Lead Voice Actors:** Idina Menzel, Kristen Bell
- ♦**Director:** Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck
- ♦**Favorite Moment:** When Elsa was following a voice into flames, and Anna wouldn't leave her side even when they were both in danger.
- ♦**Plot Summary:** The movie was surrounding the origins of Elsa's powers and unveils some unanswered questions



Walt Disney

from the first film.



Countdown

BY PAYTON BLEVINS
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- ♦**Lead Actors:** Elizabeth Lail
- ♦**Director:** Justin Dec
- ♦**Plot Summary:** Main character, Quinn, gets an app called Countdown. It takes control tells her amount of time she will live.. She goes on a quest to recode the app to make her lifespan longer.
- Quick Take:** Elizabeth gets an app that controls when she dies, and she tries to stop and change the death-date.



STX Entertainment



Fantasy Football

Several students and teachers participate in weekly virtual tournament

BY ETHAN CASE
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Gazette illustrations/KATE FERNANDEZ

NFL Football is in full effect and the most passionate fans partake in Fantasy Football.

'Fantasy football' is a game in which the participants serve as general managers of virtual professional football teams. The competitors choose team rosters by participating in a draft in which all players of a real football league are available. Points are based on the actual performances of the players in the real-world competition.

The Fantasy football season typically lasts the length of the NFL regular season because not all teams and/or players will be in the Playoffs.

Senior Ean Mayhew says he has been playing fantasy football for at least five years now and is dedicated to the game.

"There's three different types of 'fantasy-footballers'" Mayhew explained. "There's the try hard who does extensive research on players and uses knowledge rather than luck. Then there's the dude who doesn't really care as much because his team is filled with injuries, which tends to happen in a very physical game. The last type of player is the 'Rookie' the guy who

has ever played fantasy football before and just joins because his or her friends made him."

Fantasy football is very unpredictable. "It changes year to year. Unfortunately this year 'I am the dude who doesn't really care as much because his team is filled with injuries'. Which really sucks because my team had great potential," said Mayhew.

Senior Derek Wong thinks of himself as a 'Rookie' when it comes to fantasy football. "Yeah I guess you could say I'm new to the game," Wong said. "Even though it's my first year I feel like I knew what I was doing."

"I'm 10-3 in my first year. Things are looking pretty good this year. It looks like I might have some beginners luck and come home with a championship," he said.

Derek being a "rookie" this year shows how fantasy football is pretty much all luck and hardly any skill.

I say this because it's impossible to know how well a player is going to perform.

People and analyst can merely guess and predict a players performance by looking at their past performances.

"There's so many variables that go into picking a line-up," said Senior Cade Scirbner. "You can



do extensive research, but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll win every game."

Athletes of the sport are always getting hurt and injured which causes people to have to change their line-ups weekly "Sometimes you just get unlucky and players get hurt, some players just don't perform, or your opponent just scores more points than you," Scribner added.

Nowadays most people get really into Fantasy Football, as it's a fun activity for students to participate in each year.

GBHS Theater: What's Next?

After 'Ranked: The Musical' gained national attention, the drama program will has high hopes for its future productions

BY PIPER BACON
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As the curtain closes on the fall semester, Granite Bay High's theater program begins preparations for their next great production: "Pippin."

The extraordinary, dance-filled musical is set to follow the young Pippin, son of King Charlemagne, who has lost meaning to his life. The action begins when a group of traveling players come his way and try to convince him to join the show in hopes that it'll give his life meaning.

While the traveling players are just looking for someone to sucker into their show, Pippin is trapped in a conflict to find fulfillment in his life.

"It's a very captivating show with this idea that teenagers can really latch on to," Kyle Holmes, director of the GBHS production, said.

Holmes chose for his students to perform "Pippin" not only for the extravagance of the production, but also because he believed the message the play has to offer is perfectly fit for teenagers making their way into the world.

Holmes says that the idea that students have that their life needs to have something extraordinary in it to be need anything can often hold students back.

"(The idea) keeps students from focusing on the really beautiful things in their everyday lives," Holmes said, calling the experience "universal."

"This musical does a really good job of tackling (how to) reconcile that feeling of fulfillment," Holmes said.

Already, the students are eager for the work for the show to start.

Because of the high energy the show brings, with lots of choreography and crazy stunts, the young actors who auditioned

are all incredibly excited to be in the show, even just to make the supporting ensemble.

"Usually when you walk away from the musical, you're talking about Elsa from 'Frozen,' or you're talking about Christine in 'Phantom of the Opera,' you know, the leads," senior Solange Conley, who auditioned to be in "Pippin," said, "but with 'Pippin,' you think about the ensemble (...) it would be a great experience to be apart of the ensemble."

For all those who made the cut for the musical, the experience will be an adventure in itself due to how engaging it is with the entire cast, no matter what your role is.

"Every single person in the show is giving their all, and they have to, or else the show won't be the same" junior Annabelle Kerns said. She attributes the engagement of the audience to the intensity provided by the ensemble.

This intensity was something sought out by Holmes from day one.

This year, the auditions lasted three days, with one day for singing auditions, one day for call-backs, but before all of this there is one day for dance auditions: something that hasn't been implemented at GBHS since their production of "Guys With Dolls."

Despite this somewhat-newly added challenge, students have been eagerly stepping up and are ready to perform.

The GBHS theater community doesn't discourage people from rising to the challenge, either. The program, according to junior Mason Caserta, is very supportive and organized.

The high spirits and good-hearted message that "Pippin" has set to bring is a strong fit for the environment of the GBHS theater program, which is exactly what students love the most about it.

"As much as I love theater and performance, there's noth-



THEATREATGB.ORG

♦ Past drama productions include "Ranked, The Musical" and "She Kills Monsters".

ing that makes me happier than meeting and welcoming new people into the program every year," said senior Jack Dugoni, who is set to be performing his 7th show with GBHS.

Holmes can ensure that the music and cast will be captivating. In his words, it will be "mindblowing-ly amazing."

Opening night for the cast and crew of "Pippin" will be Thursday, April 16.

GINGERBREAD HOUSES



FOODNETWORK.COM

Christmas time is here! With Christmas time comes many festive activities, but one of the most popular activities during this time of year is building gingerbread houses. You can find a set at almost any superstore.

AIRPODS PRO



APPLE.COM

One thing that many students want right now are AirPods Pro. Especially with Christmas around the corner. Just like back in 2016 with the debut of the original AirPods, they will be at the top of everyone's Christmas list.

GOING TO THE SNOW



Gazette photo/ ANGELINA KOLOSEY

It's snowing! Going to the snow has always been a trendy thing to do this time of year. Everyone has their own place they prefer over other ski resorts.



Gazette illustration/MAYA SNOW

GBHS students react to the hit show 'The Office' leaving one of the top streaming platforms, Netflix

BY DIANA JONES
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"The Office" is one of the most beloved shows on Netflix. It has been streamed by users 52 million times and may be the most popular show on Netflix.

But this iconic show is leaving the streaming platform in 2021. The show will be going to NBC's own streaming service. The service, Peacock, will go into use in April of 2021.

The new service is coming 2020 and will contain many NBC shows. NBC is even considering making the service free to everyone.

"I will probably buy the new streaming service because it will have a lot of NBC shows," freshman Abby Lindsay said.

Netflix paid \$500 million for "The Office." But, Netflix says that they won't use money when "The Office" leaves.

Although this sitcom ended its nine season run in 2013, it has built a recent fanbase on Netflix. With "The Office" being on Netflix, it has provided a new generation of fans.

"I started watching 'the Office' last year on Netflix," said Andrew Tanner, a sophomore at GBHS.

Many Netflix users have questioned whether keeping Netflix after the show has left. Some still plan on keeping Netflix even with the loss of the Office.

"I won't cancel my Netflix Subscription because

'the Office' is leaving but I won't use it that much," said Ryen Blanco, freshman at GBHS.

While some are planning to cancel their subscription because losing this show will be such a big loss.

"Since my favorite show [the Office] is leaving, I will most likely to stop my usage of Netflix," said Sydeny Howes, sophomore at GBHS.

Throughout this year and the next, many different NBC shows are leaving Netflix. Some TV shows like "Friends", "The Good Place", "Grey's Anatomy" and more, are also leaving.

"The Office" leaving Netflix demonstrates the war of the streaming services. Services like Disney plus, Peacock and more have taken the rights to many different shows and movies.

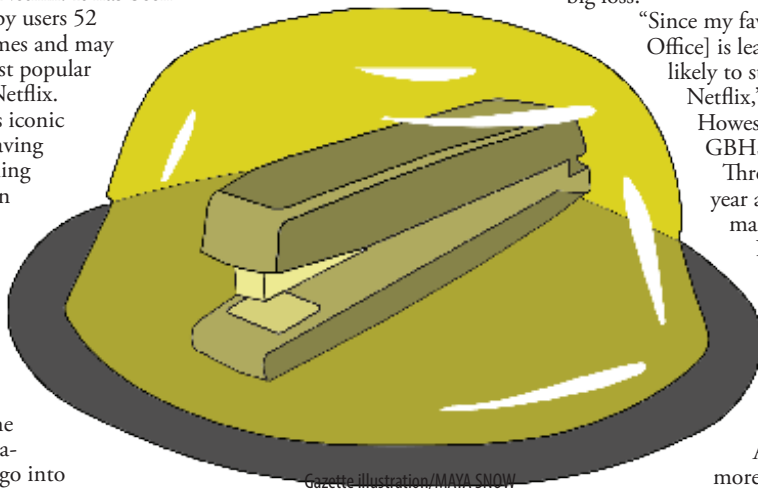
Netflix was willing to pay 90 million for the Office a year but NBC was topped the offer to 100 million a year to keep the Office.

"When there is new information about the NBC streaming service, I may consider buying it," Tanner said.

Netflix is already preparing for the loss of the sitcom by announcing the show, "Space Force."

This new show will have Steve Carrell, who plays the boss, Micheal Scott in the Office, and will be produced by Greg Daniels, who also adapted the Office and Parks and Recreation.

"The Office" is such an iconic show on Netflix, its loss will most likely leave a dramatic affect on Netflix," Howes said.



Gazette illustration/MAYA SNOW

Team rees takeover

YouTubers help the Earth by planting a tree for every dollar donated to their company

BY PAYTON BLEVINS
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If one were to wonder what Team Trees is, how to participate and additional information, this has it all.

The Team Trees press team said, "Team Trees is a viral social movement initiated by YouTube content influencers MrBeast and Mark Rober. They have engaged hundreds of other YouTube content creators and are working together to plant 20 million trees by 2020."

In other words, famous YouTubers have worked to their advantage of their fan bases to put together an annual event to raise money to plant trees. Collecting 20 million dollars with a time period.

Asking Team Trees when this was started this event they said, "Team Trees started in May of 2019 when the internet challenged MrBeast to plant 20 million trees to celebrate hitting the 20 million subscriber milestone on YouTube. MrBeast and Mark Rober released their launch videos for the campaign on October 25."

Team Trees themselves have also said, to get involved you simply to teamtrees.org and make a donation of one dollar is one tree planted.

Team Trees continued on and said, "Individuals can make donations in any amount they choose, in increments of \$1. For every dollar donated, a tree will be planted in a forest of great need."

"Making a donation on teamtrees.org is a quick process, and the transaction can be completed right on the website." As easy as a click any individual could make an improvement with planting trees.

Team Trees is also known around Granite Bay High Schools campus, student Freshman. Kilee Griffis who has participated in Team Trees said, "I

personally donated 5 dollars to team trees and I believe this has a positive take on the world because the more trees the more we can have paper. Use the paper to improve on the world."

After asking Team Trees what their top donation was they have said, "The top donations can be viewed on teamtrees.org by selecting the "Most Trees" tab over the list of donations. The largest donation is currently \$1,000,001 and was made by Tobi Lütke, CEO of Shopify."

Seeing how involved Team Trees is, if one were to wonder who's in charge of Team Trees as a whole, Team Trees said, "TeamTrees is a viral social movement initiated by MrBeast and Mark Rober. The Arbor Day Foundation is the tree planting partner for TeamTrees."

TeamTrees said that they get the word around about their event and action taken by initially spread through a variety of YouTube influencers, then it began to trend on other social channels and appear in a number of media outlets.

Freshman student Valentina Alessi, who donated this year to Team Trees said "My family and I donate 5 dollars each this year, coming out to a total of 20 dollars." She said "I honestly think it will help, knowing that I donated and helped plant trees in a way makes me happier. I see trees being cut down and it breaks my heart to know that we need trees for air, but people take it for advance sometimes."

Another freshman Rabeeha Rashed said, "I think that TeamTrees is a cool fun raiser. Really interesting how they make it a purpose to plant trees. It is useful knowing how we lose trees a lot to natural disasters, and people just taking our earth for granted." She also said, "I think donating would bring them closer to reaching their 20 mil-

Gazette illustration/MAYA SNOW

Freshman vs Senior: What is your favorite holiday tradition?

Compiled by: Dylan Rowe



limal shaji

I like decorating Christmas trees with my family.

My favorite holiday tradition is going to see Christmas lights with my friends.



meri riley

AIRDROP: Administration discusses its attempts to deal with discriminatory behavior

Continued from page 17

I think somebody would have said something.”

When concerns of inappropriate airdrops targeting students arose, it seemed to be taking place in other classes, with the same name as a cover.

“I think afterwards they took it a step further. It was quite a while, weeks, maybe over a month (after) the (initial) event happened in my class,” Stevens said.

GBHS principal Jennifer Leighton explained that a student had come to an administrator about the situation, allowing school officials to address it and take action to stop it.

“This is the first time someone has brought it to our attention,” Leighton said. “I’m sure that (this kind of behavior) happens all the time ... it just didn’t dawn on me that it had gotten so mean and discriminatory.”

Senior Saba Menilek was one of several students who received airdrops from “Mr. Stevens” at school. She,

specifically, was airdropped an offensive picture with derogatory language in it during her English 12 class in early October.

“I asked other people around me and they didn’t get the same message I received, so I know it was targeted towards me,” Menilek said.

Seeing that a classmate had sent something discriminatory sadly did not come as a surprise to Menilek, who says she hears of similar situations all the time at school.

“I was disappointed, (but) I wasn’t shocked because a lot of things like this happen here,” Menilek said. “Many students aren’t aware of it because (GBHS) is a predominantly white school, and not a lot of (students) can relate to what people of color have to (deal with) on this campus.”

The GBHS administration has made it clear that students’ safety is their top priority, especially in an environment where they should be able to learn.

“It’s just heartbreaking, we want ev-

eryone to feel safe in order to learn ... if you’re coming to school daily and getting these kinds of messages, how can that put you in a frame of mind to learn anything, which is our No. 1 goal,” Leighton said. “We want our students to treat each other in a kind way, not only on this campus but as they go out into the world (as well).”

Based on the circumstances and severity of what is airdropped, discipline for such actions can range from a warning to suspension. Another consequence being enforced is the restoring of relationships and respect for one another, through face-to-face interactions.

“We’re really encouraging things like having to write apology notes (or) sitting down with the person you’ve offended, so that (students) can’t hide behind (their) screens but actually see the harm,” Leighton said.

Menilek took matters into her own hands when it came to informing the class, as well as whoever sent the picture, how she felt and ensuring that

it won’t happen again.

“I cut the lesson and talked to the class myself (to address) it, so the message was sent pretty clearly that I don’t deal with this (kind of behavior),” Menilek said.

Despite the recent incidents with discriminatory behavior on campus and through social media, the school is making changes in an attempt to promote a more accepting school environment.

“We’re talking about more equitable practices across the board, starting with educating students and staff that it’s OK to be different from other people and to accept other people anyway,” Leighton said. “It’s part of an overall focus that we hope to get better and better at.”

Menilek said there should be zero tolerance for this type of behavior at school, and that whoever did airdrop the inappropriate messages should face expulsion.

“We are at an age where you can tell (the difference between) right and

wrong, and they knew what they were doing was wrong,” Menilek said. “I feel like the school needs to take further action in notifying parents about these certain situations and not being so (politically correct) about it (but instead) just making it completely unacceptable.”

Leighton hopes bringing light to these situations will bring about changes in the behavior and culture around campus. It is especially important, she said, for students to report to administration after witnessing forms of discrimination on campus.

“I’m asking teachers to make their expectations clear in their classrooms that this is unacceptable, and then I’m asking students to report it when it happens so we can confront it,” Leighton said.

Menilek has some advice for faculty members.

“Show that you care about your students,” she said. “All shades, all sizes, and all sexual orientations, whatever it may be.”

OFFENSIVE: Viewpoints on degrees of offensive behavior and language at GBHS vary

Continued from page 17

for students was the 2016 Presidential Election where Westberg recalls intense arguments during the days following the election.

“We’d have students that would try to ‘in-your-face’ students that were visibly upset with the election results,” Westberg said. “I had to (stop them) immediately because it was getting to a level of taunting.”

However, rather than assuming these offenses are intentionally ill-natured, Westberg tries to comprehensively gauge the situation before responding.

“I try not to immediately (perceive) a comment as off-the-charts disrespectful and an intentional jab at somebody,” Westberg said. “(I) read facial expressions and body manner. I feel that most of the time I can tell when (a student is) saying something (offensive) on purpose, just being naive, or (merely) asking a question... and has no idea what they’re saying might be seen as offensive.”

In the most extreme cases, Westberg usually talks to students after class but never goes so far as to bring these issues to the administration.

Moose Judd, a senior at GBHS, is one of Westberg’s students in AP government, a class where he actively offers his opinions during classroom discussions.

“I have been accused of offending people for comments on my position of abortion, and one time, I misspoke on illegal immigration and people got offended,” Judd said.

However, Judd said he believes he has the right to state his opinions if he

has researched these topics extensively.

“I feel like if someone has researched a topic and they have a firm opinion on it, they should be allowed to voice their opinion,” Judd said. “People should be allowed to state their opinion as long as they don’t intend to be offensive.”

Despite being accused of offending others, Judd said the offense lies not in his words but in how the receiver interprets the comment.

“I personally feel that people shouldn’t be offended because it shows lack of control over themselves and their emotions,” Judd said. “I find that when other people get offended, it’s usually because they haven’t finished developing the ability to see other people’s perspectives.”

Ishna Pandey, a junior at GBHS, said that, regardless of a person’s perspective, they should be sensitive to the current political state.

Pandey recounts hearing offensive comments about immigration.

“Immigration ... refers to real people,” Pandey said. “Sometimes people ... point fingers at others and although they’re not pointing a finger at someone (specific), they’re broadly generalizing a group of people as the cause of our problems.”

Pandey said accusing immigrants as scapegoats is only part of a much larger phenomenon of political parties blaming one another.

“What a lot of people do when I say I support a politician, they tend to associate me with them as if it taints my character,” Pandey said. “That can be offensive (to me) if they take it to extremes.”

Pandey said education is the

solution to minimizing politically ignorant comments.

Teachers are crucial to educating students on different perspectives, Pandey said, when teaching controversial issues.

“Teachers influence (students) in a lot of ways because not many kids ... keep up to date with politics,” Pandey said. “What they learn about comes from teachers. (Teachers) shouldn’t put their own viewpoint into (their work), because that’s just manipulating. They should educate on the facts, not their own viewpoints.”

However, offensive comments can also be intentional and done with malice.

Some GBHS students have been using the “n” word outside of the classroom where authority figures aren’t present.

“Absolutely nobody should use the (‘n’ word) at GBHS,” senior Brian Lambey said. “Almost no one outside a select group of people understand what the word means (historically). Many students will use offensive remarks intentionally but (say) ‘It was just a joke’ to get out of (trouble).”

Lambey would also like to see the GBHS administration take more seri-

ous action.

“I’d like to see administration have less tolerance,” Lambey said. “If there were harsher consequences, paired with some form of educational experience, the amount of ignorant individuals who misuse this word ... would (decrease).”

However, assistant principal Greg Sloan said the administration does take action to punish offensive behavior – but the punishment just can’t always be publicized.

“Sometimes, there’s an assumption that we did nothing (about offensive behavior) when we just can’t disclose,” Sloan said.

This is because students are protected under The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Assistant principal Levirt Griffin, said the privacy act is beneficial for students as they’re still young, and tarnishing their record would harm them in the future.

“With any disciplinary things, we have to keep it confidential,” Griffin said. “Students make mistakes. All students should have the right to recover and learn from their past mistakes.”

What they can disclose is that punishment is based on different factors as

outlined by the California Education Code.

“Disciplining these students is like a matrix with levels,” Sloan said. “Education Code 48900 (is) an education code for disciplining students based on (which type of offensive behavior was committed). Profanity is a letter, harassment is a letter and obscene language is another letter (under the) guidelines.”

Administrators discuss each case thoroughly and even compare current cases to previous cases.

“We ask questions (to gauge severity) of the situation,” Sloan said. “Was there malice? Because that matters. Are (they) trying to hurt someone? Every statement has its own level of harm.”

However, the situations aren’t always black-and-white.

“It isn’t always easy (because) there isn’t exactly a scale to measure harm and malice,” Sloan said. “In the case of severe harm and malice, we’ve suspended students in the past. We’ve suspended for verbal language or when a (student) crossed any conceivable line.”

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is perhaps the most important fundamental of good journalism. It’s the policy of the Gazette to correct all factual errors

that are brought to our attention ***

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Censorship keeps the truth away

History holds a valuable lesson for those who listen

I'll never forget the day we learned about the Transatlantic Slave Trade in Advanced Placement United States History, when Mr. Dell'Orto projected to our class the brutality of racism, not as some obsolete metaphor or some watered-down verbal recounting, but a stark image with intense violence and graphic nudity.

Initially, I misplaced my anger and was offended that a teacher could show such a detestable and explicit image.

But that was precisely his point in showing this video — to gain a better understanding of slavery, I must be challenged with something that evoked a visceral and fundamentally humane feeling of shame, anger and guilt for our country's previous aggressions.

The visual of America's slave trade ingrained in my memory a valuable history lesson about the vices of prejudice and greed, and the horrific ramifications.

I think so often with history we love to sympathize with victory, resonating with triumphant power struggles, booming economies and intellectual innovation.

However, when we're also exposed to the worst aspects of mankind, we must sympathize again and realize the potential we have to commit egregious acts. We must cast a lens on the best aspects of mankind, but we must also see the worst aspects. Only after we see this duality within history can we use past knowledge to shape a better future.

In that moment, and in the moment where my AP European History teacher (Mr. Valentine) showed us live footage from Auschwitz, they were protecting us from the old adage, "Those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it."

Many times in my educational career, I've been challenged with books, films and classroom discussions once considered taboo or unfit for school curriculums.

In American culture, we champion ourselves for freedom of speech and freedom of the press, freedoms that have been limited in the educational sphere through censorship, whether it be for inappropriate language or topic.

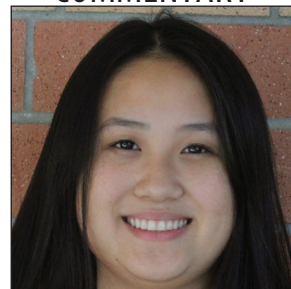
Indeed, the American past is filled with books that have been banned from high school curriculums and protested by parents.

However, these books, books such as "Beloved," "Fahrenheit 451," "1984," "Lord of the Flies," "The Color Purple" and dozens of others, are keystone literary works that truly encapsulate social and political movements and remain searingly relevant to this day.

These are the books valuable to a young person's education, allowing students to continuously question the world and challenge social norms through difficult books, films and class discussions.

Ashley Yung, a senior, is a senior editor.

COMMENTARY



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Gazette illustration/CORI CAPLINGER & KATE FERNANDEZ

Feminism is about educating

The powerful women's movement focuses on equality of genders rather than domination of certain orientations

It's always felt crazy to me that feminism is considered a controversial topic. By definition, the feminist movement stands for equality of the sexes so, to me, not being on board with feminism always meant not being on board with equality.

Lots of people see it very differently. Many men don't like feminism because they believe women's rights come at the cost of their own rights. Many women are afraid to call themselves feminists because the word has been tainted with anger, unshaven legs and hating men.

In a perfect world, "feminist" would only have one definition: a person who supports women's fight for equal rights. But it's not a perfect world, so women have to deal with the negative connotations that come with asking for equality.

Outdated, angry and annoying are all words I've heard associated with the feminist movement. I'll admit to angry, and I'll even accept annoying. At least in my case, they're true.

The way the world is right now

makes me angry. As long as women have to deal with issues like sexual harassment, rape culture and a systemic stripping of reproductive rights, I believe my anger is justified.

I can definitely be annoying in the way I deal with this anger. I discuss sexism and feminism all the time with people who probably don't want to hear about it. But I do this because I don't believe change can happen in silence. Even if it's annoying to hear about, the issues must be discussed.

The people who experience these inequalities must point them out and discuss solutions if we want things to change. We cannot expect men to feel our pain on issues that they are unaware of.

Men don't have to buy feminine hygiene products, so they have no way of knowing that they are taxed like a luxury good, while Viagra is tax-exempt.

In order for men to understand this economic oppression and join the fight against it, they must first be made aware of it. And in order for

them to become aware of it, women must be allowed to talk about it without being dismissed as annoying or angry.

It's ridiculous to hate men for creating an oppressive system when most of them aren't even aware of the ways women are oppressed. But it's also ridiculous for men to dismiss women's plight when they are oblivious to so many of the things we have to go through.

It makes sense for women to be angry, and it makes sense to want to talk about this anger. But instead of alienating men, they should be a part of the discussion and the solution. I don't believe we can attain equality unless every single person believes in it.

Until both men and women can discuss these issues seriously, feminism is still very much necessary and not at all outdated. Behind all the stigma, the purpose isn't radical; it's rational.

Real feminists don't want equality for women to come at a price for

COMMENTARY



shreya dodballapur

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men; we want equality to be pushed by men.

The movement isn't supposed to threaten men's position in society or make them feel scared for their own rights. It is supposed to help empower women and give them a voice to point out ways this world could be better.

Both men and women need to work together to make this a more equal world. When all the controversy is removed, it's clear that this is what feminism is actually all about.

Shreya Dodballapur, a senior, is an assistant editor.

Problematic or not, Kanye is reformed

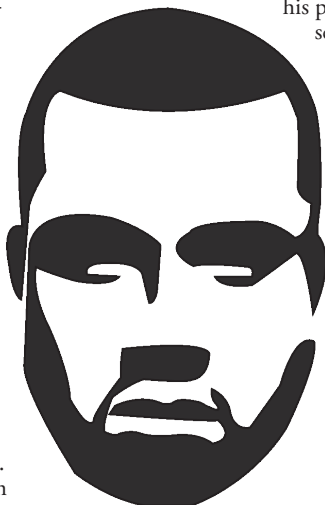
The rap mogul was once the root of much criticism, but has now changed since adopting a new religion

There was a lot of unexpected events this year, but something nobody predicted was artist/rapper Kanye West's conversion to Christianity.

Prior to his conversion this year, West had a reputation of being a controversial and impulsive figure head, and Kanye's sudden 180 from sin to faith turned a lot of heads.

On October 25th, Kanye released a new album titled "Jesus is King" along with a short film of the same name, both of which were received with moderate approval.

Kanye also started hosting Sunday services with his gospel group of the same name. Although the service is less than traditional, the message is positive and the rapper and his crew provide a modern and entertaining spin on typical worship.



Gazette illustration/CORI CAPLINGER

Some praised Kanye for his bold stance in his faith while others criticized him, saying that his position was just another marketing scheme to get his name in the news.

If it was, it certainly worked, seeing as the media relentlessly exploited his less than holy past.

So from the point of view of a religious person, is Kanye's quick conversion to Christianity a fresh start for the musician or a flagrant lie to get publicity?

Personally, I believe that Kanye's change from Yeezus to Jesus is a positive thing for the Christian faith, and I think that Kanye's discovery should not be bashed, but instead be a sign that anyone can find peace in a higher power.

As a disclaimer, I am not trying to force anyone to believe in a higher power. I am just trying to give my opinion, as a Christian, about this issue and if someone disagrees, I would be more than happy to hear their thoughts.

Regardless of your opinion of his music, anyone can see that Kanye isn't just a fake who is glanced at a synopsis of the Bible.

Kanye uses semi-obscure verses and references that someone who is faking faith couldn't possibly replicate.

This is probably a result of Kanye's priests and mentors that have been guiding him during his journey.

His pastor, Adam Tyson, is completely clean and seems to be pointing Kanye in the right direction.

Some, however, complain about the multi-platinum artist and his troubled past.

Kanye did not exactly live a life of faith, as he was often complicated in drug abuse and other destructive behaviors.

However, the same people who preach forgiveness for sins are the same people who condemn the actions of the new disciple.

Clearly it is wrong to put the newly converted Kanye on a pedestal, but it is backwards to think that Kanye isn't capable of accepting Jesus.

Of course Kanye has a sinful past, but that is the whole point: He is asking for forgiveness in God.

Kanye is providing a path to Jesus that is easier to access for the modern generation, and while his methods may not be traditional, he is getting young people interested in Christianity again.

Kanye's conversion represents a positive change to the formulaic and frankly stale path of the modern church which has been slowly losing its grasp on the youth.

Instead of immediately doubting that anything positive could happen in today's climate, we should actually be happy when something good does happen.

It is disheartening to see that Kanye is trying to talk about something he is passionate about and all people can talk about are his flaws.

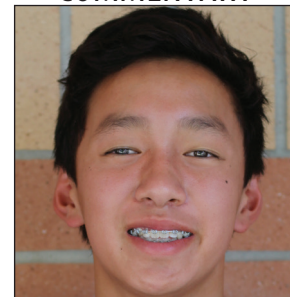
Maybe it isn't necessarily "cool" to be Christian, but it takes a lot more bravery to

speak up about something that not everyone agrees on than to please a room with semi-controversial opinions that everyone believes.

"Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven." - Luke 6:37.

Justin Ha, a freshman, is a staff writer.

COMMENTARY



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When is it too early to put up Christmas lights?

Holiday cheer can be festive and fun, but there is a time and place for sharing your seasonal spirit

I get it. Christmas lights can show joy, fun, and great Christmas spirit. But the people who think it's perfectly fine to put up their Christmas lights right after Halloween are going way too far.

People know that there is a holiday called "Thanksgiving" right? Where families get together, say what they're thankful for, eat amazing food, and do just about all of the best things ever.

You simply cannot pass up that holiday. Even though Christmas is many people's favorite holiday, you have to give at least a little respect to Thanksgiving.

There are definitely some people out there who

have their Christmas lights up from October all the way to January, and it just drives me nuts. Keeping lights up way after Christmas is just as bad as putting them up the day after Halloween.

After the hype of Christmas is over, you should take your decorations and lights down immediately.

Yes, they're pretty, they're festive, they're fun. Christmas lights are all of these things, but you have to remember that they're specifically for Christmas, not just for fun.

So you can't keep them up all year round. Christmas music goes the same way. You can not start listening to Christmas music until it's at least December.

COMMENTARY



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When you start listening to Christmas music in October or November, it just doesn't sound right yet because you are too far away from Christmas.

When people start singing Jingle Bells in the

middle of the year, it is not as joyful and as spirited as it would be if you just waited to sing it until Christmas, when it is cold and rainy and it is actually time for caroling and Christmas music.

And then there are those people who listen to Christmas music throughout the whole year, who are a disgrace. Who wants to listen to Christmas music and get all excited for Christmas, when it's not even close? You're getting all excited for nothing.

So, if you are putting your Christmas lights up before Thanksgiving, you are essentially skipping Thanksgiving, which is a big no no. You have to finish one before you start the other.

So please, leave the Christmas lights and Christmas spirit for December. No skipping ahead, and have a great Christmas and holiday season.

Drew McKown, a freshman, is a staff writer.

Corporations act more engaged

Big business fakes personability

As soon as the industrial revolution rocked the West with unprecedented production, commercialism took its part by sweeping the nation with advertisements and marketing determined to make corporations supreme. In 2019, however, those same corporations willingly lie and deceive customers in an attempt to be relatable for their own gains with seemingly zero repercussions.

This may be nothing new in the age of social media; for example, Twitter accounts run by interns at Wendy's and Pop Tarts harmlessly capitalize on meme culture to push products. While a bit ham-fisted and often out of touch, this isn't a big deal. However, while these companies truly do it just to humanize themselves, we are surrounded by megacorporations who disgustingly masquerade as friendly and progressive at surface level, then turn around and discriminate against and mistreat those who were convinced to follow.

Creators on Youtube who are associated with the LGBTQ+ community are consistently "demonetised," despite their content

being advertiser-friendly, denying paychecks from those who trusted YouTube. This emerges from algorithm training which is outsourced to countries in which homosexuality is taboo, and although Google is aware of it, they aren't willing to spend the money to correct it. Although Google is a Fortune 500 corporation,

their greed is insatiable enough to continue actively marginalizing a group they campaign for, an absolutely disgusting misdirection which tricks unaware creators into standing even more abuse.

There are numerous companies who will disparage those at their whim without a second thought. Companies such as Walmart and Nestlé have ever-growing histories of dismissing even their own employees, opening "dead peasant insurance" policies on those who work for them and naming themselves as beneficiaries so they can profit off of your death. Nike has also been exposed by Mary Cain, a former track star as being abusive to their athletes to the point of near death.

So, if companies are proven to lie about those who they support, what can you do? Unfortunately, all that can be done is demonstrate caution and call companies out on their abuse. They hold

far too much monetary and societal power for those below them to put even a dent in their schemes.

COMMENTARY



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Gazette illustration/KATE FERNANDEZ

When megacorporations lie about wanting to support you when they're just trying to profit, expose them. When Nike is allowed to be the #1 sportswear company as they simultaneously work their athletes half to death, show the world what they've truly done. We can no longer sit idly by and accept what they say at face value. The Fortune 500s have proven they are liars and the time has come to spread the word.

While companies will always want you to wear their clothes or stream their videos, they will never tell you the truth. The corporate message of fake happiness holds a deeply-rooted truth, that being that it can never exist. They don't want your satisfaction; they want your money. Keep that in mind, and you should be fine.

JJ Hill, a senior, is a staff writer.

Dedication is for the strong

It's time to focus on students' success and dreams

COMMENTARY

In recent years, we have grown accustomed to a mind-set that solely focuses on the end result, and have failed to acknowledge the lengthy road it takes to reach success.

I do believe that talent often cultivates self-confidence and may help acquire materialistic achievements. However, talent should not transcend the value of hard work.

Talent should not be viewed as an easy way out.

It is not a tactic that can be used to deceive challenges and hardships.

Immersed in an unforgiving culture, we have become obsessive over achievements and success, a trait that has blurred the value of hard work.

Successful individuals are often labeled as

talented, however, it is their hard work that brings them to such greatness.

We want to believe that affluence, happiness, or whatever else we may desire most, comes easily.

In reality, however, such a thing is not true.

I realize now that the label "talented" may just be a way for onlookers to credit those successful, without acknowledging their hard work and perseverance.

A persistence of hard work is necessary in order to reach the aspirations we dream of, and should, therefore, be more valued than the overall result.

I am sure I can speak for many students when I say that we are rarely praised for our effort and countless hours we put into our goals.



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We should acknowledge the dedication and effort it takes to reach success, instead of solely glorifying our achievements.

Mareesa Islam, a junior, is a staff writer.

Disney Plus has many benefits

The new entertainment platform offers exciting classics for families

With the stress of school and life, it's always great to get that nostalgic feeling where you can reminisce about your childhood, and Disney Plus definitely gives you that feeling.

My family is like most other cheap families, not willing to spend a penny anywhere that it's not necessary. When we originally looked into getting Disney Plus, my dad especially was not very keen on spending money on movies and TV shows we have already seen. However, we convinced him to give it a try through persistent begging.

The total came out to \$6.99 a month, or we could've done an annual subscription of \$69.99.

When we first logged into our account, it was like an ac-

tual portal opened to all things Disney. They had, "opened the vault" to movies that traditionally were only played every few years.

Truly, it was a very magical experience, as most things Disney are. Even my dad who wasn't very happy to be paying extra every month was just as excited as we clicked through the old classics that even he watched as a child.

Disney Plus has stuff for everyone, including shows, documentaries, movies, etc. that range from, "Boy Meets World," to the Discovery Channel that other streaming services.

Not only that, but Disney Plus also offers access to new shows and movies such as, "The Mandalorian," and "Noelle," as

well as special behind the scene looks on some people's favorite shows and movies.

For me, I'm most excited to

watch the new, "High School Musical," TV series. It's the perfect opportunity for my sister and I to hang out and feel like we are really kids again when she comes back from college.

The revival of all of these movies can bring you to tears with the overwhelming feelings of nostalgia and it most definitely was worth the money, unlike what some people may say.

A lot of times life feels like it's moving too fast, and even my

parents find it very comforting to watch the shows. It really takes them back and feel like they're kids again.

Given that Netflix is removing many of their most viewed shows such as "The Office," "Gossip Girl," and "Friends," which are my favorites, it further proves that Disney Plus is the best streaming service out there.

At the end of the day, I would prefer to watch endless classics on Disney Plus instead of a streaming service like Netflix that is removing my favorite shows.

Sarah Rietz, a sophomore, is a staff writer.

COMMENTARY



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Growth and acceptance is crucial

Basic human kindness is not a burden, it is a responsibility. It is the duty of each and every individual to treat others with kindness, to respect them and to accept them.

High school is supposed to be a welcoming environment. High school should give people the opportunity to grow and become better people.

The issue here is that Granite Bay High School is not living up to its standards. We pride ourselves on being successful academically and are not afraid to show off our achievements, but when did we become unwelcoming and exclusive? Have we let image become our defining characteristic?

EDITORIAL
The voice of the
Granite Bay
Gazette

It is inevitable to not be flawless, we all have flaws that we are not proud of. The solution is to try and grow and better yourself. And that's exactly what GBHS needs to do.

You can only promote your good qualities so much before your shell of an image starts to shatter.

GBHS has an issue with racism, and we've had it for awhile. With the school's demographic consisting of a

majority of white students, it's almost inevitable. And air dropping offensive material to an undeserving minority student is only one example.

Racism isn't the only issue, the meddling of adults into the affairs of teachers at our school for no justified reason is an invasion of privacy. Teachers try to educate their students in the best way possible, but when students report things for being inappropriate because they don't align with their political beliefs, when they are in a class where talking about the government is almost inevitable, they're just being overly sensitive.

These aren't hard things to correct, the campus community just needs to understand the acceptance of students,

and the acceptance of other ideas, is not unattainable.

Instead of looking for the differences in others, we should accept them for who they are. Everyone is unique in their own way, and we should never ostracize them.

There is change needed at GBHS. In order to achieve acceptance and the freedom of education we must work together, and by doing that we can make GBHS an even better place.

Education is important to be able to live our lives the way we would like to, and so we should try and make high school the best environment as possible, for everyone. Teachers, students, and others can help change things for the better.

HEARD on the BAY

What's the most unusual thing you've ever received on airdrop?

I got air dropped a picture of a rando kid holding a balloon that I have never seen before.

kate broers
freshman



This kid laying in a spilled thing of refried beans.

allan anaka
sophomore



It was like a guys head, but it was a rotisserie chicken.

karly fernandez
junior



It's a man eating a donut slowly and he's attempting to be sexy.

eva shaw
senior



Nothing.

christy honeycutt
staff



Compiled by Kate Fernandez

Second Look

Students enjoy a night in Hollywood at Winter Ball



Special to the Gazette/ GABY THOMPSON



Special to the Gazette/MARLEY MANTZ



Special to the Gazette/ KIMBERLY MORRIS



Special to the Gazette/ ETHAN CASE



Special to the Gazette/ KATIE MOLL

♦ **Senior Jack Dugoni (right) puts a corsage** on his date, Liv Thompson, top left. Center, seniors Jaiden Littell Fry (left) and Julia Morris take pictures before the dance. Freshman girls from the class of 2023 show off their corsages, bottom left. Top right, freshmen Stelio Lenakakis (left) and Braelyn Evans await the Winter Ball dance. Middle right, juniors Beau Boyan (left) and Emily Case dress in formal attire on Saturday night.