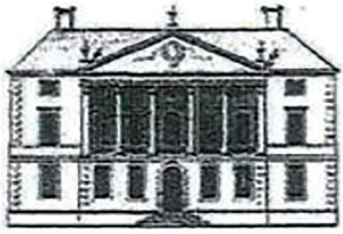


STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

DECEMBER 2019

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BY BRENNA DUPRIES



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The *Devil's Advocate* is searching for contributing writers, photographers, artists and filmmakers. Contact Editor-in-Chief Tatyana Esquilin at tatyanaesquilin@gmail.com, Opinions Editor Kennedy Cottle at kennedybcottle@gmail.com or Digital Media Editor Zachary Genus at zacharygenus301@gmail.com.

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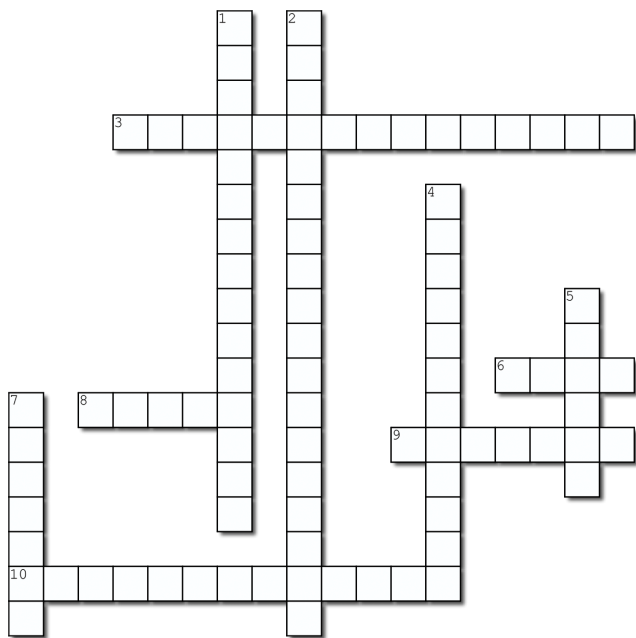
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The names, numbers and notions you need to know.

CROSSWORD CENTRAL



Across

3. The best selling Christmas Single of all time
6. Popular Christmas tree topper
8. The fifth of Santa's Reindeer
9. I made it out of clay
10. Forty-six days before Easter Sunday

Down

1. The shortest day of the year
2. The first Times Square celebration was held because of the relocation of this news publication
4. The busiest shopping day of the year
5. Eating twelve of these at midnight on New Year's Eve gives you good luck
7. 'First Fruits'

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

By EDEN KERSHNER, *Staff Artist*



FEATURED ART!



"Hot Chocolate"
Artist: Ashley Nelson, 11th

Athletic Alternatives

Rather than competing in organized sports, some Stanton students maintain a healthy lifestyle by participating in clubs and out of school activities.

By ELISE GIDEON, *Staff Writer*

Regardless of the academic demands, Stanton College Preparatory School students still manage to find the time to participate in physical activities outside of school. While sports can provide them with an outlet to alleviate stress and make connections with people who have the same interests, some students find the prospect of joining an organized sports team intimidating, with the possibility of there being a financial burden or not having any experience. There are other options for extracurricular physical activity such as clubs like Marathon High and Club Unity or participating in organizations such as Stanton's Multicultural Club.

"Marathon High is more attractive [than cross country] in the sense that it lacks the competitive aspect and is consequently a lot less stressful," said senior Craig McFarland, who joined Marathon High this year in order to stay fit.

Marathon High, a nation-wide program that challenges teenagers to complete a 13.1-mile race by the end of the year, is an alternative for students who do not wish to participate in organized sports. The club encourages students to lead a healthy lifestyle by eating healthy as well as staying active. Marathon High is not restricted to seasoned runners; it also provides an opportunity for non-experienced runners who have an inclination to start running and develop camaraderie associated with the club.

"Marathon High provides the rigor of accessible marathon training with an 'Ubuntu' approach," said Mrs. Amy Mele, one of Stanton's current Marathon High coaches. "Each group has a coach who functions not only as an accountability partner, but as a mentor students can talk to. I have seen students form strong friendships while cheering each other on."

There are other clubs at Stanton that offer athletic alternatives to sport teams besides Marathon High. Club Unity, Stanton's very own step team, uses a rigorous training and try out process to select its members. Along with the rigor, the members of Club Unity are all very close, as if they are one big family.

School step teams and the Multicultural Club are alternatives for teens who cannot pay to study dance at a studio or simply do not have

"Marathon High is more attractive than cross country because it lacks the competitive aspect."

—Craig McFarland, 12th

transportation because they practice on campus and have little transportation needs throughout the year. Club Unity is a well-known organization to the student body. Just like any other sport, applicants must undergo a week of training and learning routines to make it onto the step team.

"The demands for being in Step encourages us to be well-rounded, disciplined, and the ability to work together in practices and as a person in a community," said senior Isabelle Delosreyes.

Teams like Club Unity offer a second home like many other teams but with a more easy going atmosphere that doesn't involve constant competitions. Club Unity still competes, just not to

the degree that school sanctioned activities do.

Students can also get International Baccalaureate (IB) hours by participating in clubs such as Club Unity. Students who are enrolled in the IB program are required to earn a specific amount of CAS (Creative, Active, and Service) hours to receive an IB diploma.

"I believe CAS hours are important. People often confuse them with just another thing to do, but they get students to think about what they do and why they do it while learning to set goals for the present and future," said Mr. Benjamin Nasrallah, Stanton's IB coordinator.

Stanton's Multicultural Club, like Club Unity, gives students who do not have access to the luxuries of studio dance an opportunity to still learn dance. In addition to losing weight, dance poses as an alternative to improve heart and lung conditions, makes bones stronger, and increases muscular strength.

"I think the physical demands are having control over your body and being able to keep up and learn multiple dances," said Armani Strowbridge, the junior co-captain for the African dance group in Stanton's Multicultural Celebration.

"Although the physical demands can become more difficult, I think they can teach people more about their capabilities and it helps relax your body."

There are ways of getting the exercise needed to maintain a healthy lifestyle other than school sanctioned physical recreation. Instead of turning away from sports because of academic related stressors, students can drastically improve mental health by participating in these alternative sports. From creating endorphins to spending time with like minded people, participating in alternative sports gives students a boost in their mental well-being.



Members of the step team perform a routine during lunch.



Marathon High members pose for a picture after their 3 mile run.

THE COACHING EDGE

By FABRIZIO GOWDY, *Staff Writer*

Public school coaches often receive a lower salary and face more restrictions than private school coaches.

A key component to the success of any team is a dedicated coach who knows what they are doing. Stanton College Preparatory School employs teachers, parents, and career coaches to coach its 26 sports teams. Many of these coaches manage to put together successful seasons, despite facing a number of challenges, including low stipends and being forced to juggle their personal lives and teaching activities with their coaching duties.

"If there is a late game the same day that my students took a test then there is a good chance I won't be grading those papers that night," said Stanton varsity girls soccer coach and teacher Brian Heggood, who is in his twenty-first year of coaching at Stanton.

In contrast, most private schools, some of whom compete against Stanton, are able to hire full-time coaches who specialize in a particular sport. These highly sought after coaches include Episcopal School of Jacksonville head football Coach Mark Brunell, a former Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback and three time Pro-Bowler, and recently retired former Bolles School head football Coach Corky Rogers, who won 11 state championships in his 47 years of coaching high school football.

These coaches earn a higher salary than they would at any Duval County Public School, and in the case of Coach Brunell, do not have to teach a class, meaning they are able to focus entirely on their team. Private schools like Episcopal and Bolles are also able to offer some of their coaches on-campus housing, which is not an option for public schools.

Low pay is a major issue facing DCPS coaches. Data made public by DCPS indicates all coaches receive a coaching stipend, varying from approximately \$1,200 for "minor" sports such as cross country to about \$4,700 for "major" sports like football. These stipends have not been raised since the late 1990s — over two decades ago. Due to inflation, coaches who began coaching in the year 2000 have seen the value of their stipend decrease by about 33 percent.

Many coaches work long hours outside of games and regular practices, performing tasks ranging from organizing offseason conditioning to doing team laundry; yet, they are only paid for regular season games and practices (with the exception of Spring football). All other hours they put in are usually uncompensated.

"There are times I start doing the math and I have to stop because it's depressing," said Stanton Athletic Director and flag football Coach Chris Crider. He says it is disheartening to see coaches paid so little.

The Florida Times-Union recently estimated the average pay for a DCPS high school head football coach at \$63 per week. For 10 to 15 hours of work a week, that comes out to an hourly rate below minimum wage.

The problems Coach Crider identifies cause additional problems for coaches who find themselves in the postseason. According to Stanton boys soccer Coach Robert Fleming, being a successful coach in Duval County can lead to a diminished hourly wage.

"For the playoffs, I'm driving to games, I'm putting in time, I'm having to spend money on food and gas, and I'm not getting paid for any of this," said Coach Fleming, who has coached at Stanton since the school began offering athletics in 1990. Coaches who advance into the playoffs do not receive compensation for their postseason hours.

According to Coach Fleming, the longer a team stays alive in the playoffs, the more hours their

COACHING BY THE NUMBERS

STIPENDS

Data made public by DCPS indicates all coaches receive a coaching stipend, varying from approximately \$1,200 for "minor" sports such as cross country to about \$4,700 for "major" sports like football.

33%

Those who began coaching in the year 2000 have seen the value of their stipend decrease by about 33 percent.

\$63

Average pay for a DCPS high school head football coach per week. Working 10-15 hours a week comes out to an hourly rate below minimum wage.

These stipends have not been raised since the late 1990s — over two decades ago.

★ In 1990 a new house cost \$123,000.00 and by 1999 was \$131,700.00.

★ In 1990 the average income per year was \$28,970.00 and by 1999 was \$40,810.00.

If you have \$100 Converted from 1990 to 2005 it would be equivalent to \$153.76 today.

photography by Seth Abouhalak



Coach Robert Fleming oversees the performance of the boys' soccer team.

coach is working for the same amount of money, meaning their pay per hour is actually decreasing. Some school districts, such as St. Johns County Schools, determine their coaches' salaries based on the number of games they win, but in DCPS, a coach's success has no bearing on their paycheck. A coach whose team wins the state championship receives the same stipend as a coach whose team doesn't win a single game, so there seems to be no immediate financial incentive for coaches to win games or be successful.

Duval Teachers United, the local teachers union, is at the forefront of the push for higher wages for its members, including coaches. DTU negotiates

salaries, leave, and working conditions with the school board, but DTU president Mrs. Terry Brady claims the school board has been unwilling to raise stipends.

"We have put stipends on the table every year at negotiations and the district has basically turned it down," said Brady. She says Florida's state legislature bears responsibility as well, because it has failed to appropriate the funds necessary to raise stipends.

"The Florida legislature has given Duval County very little money to increase anything," said Brady. "The legislature is the one who needs to be held accountable. They need to generate extra revenue."

This culminates into a difficult situation for athletic directors trying to fill coaching vacancies.

Attracting good coaches to public schools is not easy when there are other, higher paying options for the best coaches. According to Coach Crider, DCPS loses many coaches to areas offering higher salaries. Former Raines High School head football Coach Welton Coffey is

a prime example of this phenomenon. After much success at Raines in the early 2000s, Coach Coffey left Jacksonville for a head coaching job at Camden County High School, in nearby southern Georgia, which offered him a significantly higher salary.

According to 2016 Florida Times-Union research, public schools throughout Georgia offer far higher stipends, with the average Georgia assistant coach making more than most DCPS head coaches. Unlike Florida, Georgia has a state income tax, which is part of the reason Georgia is able to pay its teachers and coaches higher salaries than their Florida counterparts.

Coach Micheal Healy, Stanton's head football coach since 2015, previously ran the football program at Bay High School, a public school in Panama City, Florida, where he earned \$82,000 a year and did not have to teach a class.

"That area of the state is kind of the last bastion where they pay coaches that kind of money," said Coach Healy.

According to Coach Crider, in addition to seeing many of its coaches leave to take higher paying jobs elsewhere, DCPS also loses coaches to club teams and refereeing jobs, both of which pay a higher hourly rate than public school coaching stipends.

"It is just hard for public schools to attract quality coaching talent," said Coach Crider. The pay, conditions, and hours DCPS offers cannot compete, especially when it comes to younger coaches trying to support a family.

According to Coach Crider, public schools have to deal with a lot more regulatory "red tape" and bureaucracy, because public schools must work as a collective unit, and policy is administered from the top down, whereas private schools are individual entities who only have to worry about themselves. The number of coaches a team can employ is a good example of regulations manifesting themselves into on-the-field challenges. The Bolles

School's athletics website lists 19 varsity football coaches, but Stanton's varsity squad is limited by DCPS regulations to a maximum of five coaches. DCPS limits the number of coaches a team can have based on the number of athletes, a restriction that does not affect private schools.

"We can only pay coaches based on the pot [of money] we have to pay them," said DCPS Director of Athletics Tammie K. Talley, who claimed the regulation is there for the safety of athletes.

Not everyone agrees private schools are more flexible and free from regulatory restrictions. Bolles Athletic Director Matthew Morris pushed back on this notion.

"I think we pretty much follow the same rules as most public schools do," said Morris. He claimed that Bolles has a hierarchical structure comparable to DCPS bureaucracy.

"I can't just wave a wand and change a policy. I've got my own board, it's just a board for just Bolles," said Morris.

Regardless of all the difficulties facing

DCPS coaches, at Stanton, there seems to be hope. Some, like Coach Heggood, dispute the idea private schools have any sort of edge.

"Plenty of public schools have been extremely successful in many sports," said Coach Heggood, who speaks from experience regarding this success. In 2017, he coached the Stanton girls soccer team to the 3A state title game.

However, other coaches, like Coach Healy, see the current coaching pay situation as unsustainable.

"It would be awfully hard to get exceptional coaches to coach in Duval County without paying them adequately," said Coach Healy. "There's no incentive, other than doing it for fun."

Coach Fleming shares similar doubts about the sustainability of the current situation.

"There's going to come a point where you are going to have to raise the stipends, or you are just not going to get quality coaches," said Coach Fleming.

Like Coach Healy, Coach Fleming also cites a pure love for coaching as the primary motivation for most DCPS coaches.

"The pay is terrible, but we love the sport, we love the kids, and we love what it does for them. If you have a good coach you can overcome all that stuff. If you get a coach who cares, you got something special," said Coach Fleming.

Even DTU president Brady is somewhat optimistic. This is the first year DCPS Superintendent Dr. Diana Green will be negotiating salaries, and Brady said she is hopeful there might be change.

There is not complete agreement over what extent, if any, the issues facing public school coaches make a difference on the field. For now, Stanton's coaches seem to be managing these problems, but in the long term, there is little debate among Stanton coaches that changes need to be made.

Coach Michael Healy communicates to his quarterback using his headset during the football game.





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In the Shadows

Photography by

Hannah Furry, Austin Mendillo, Prachi Misra, and Tyler Pottenburgh

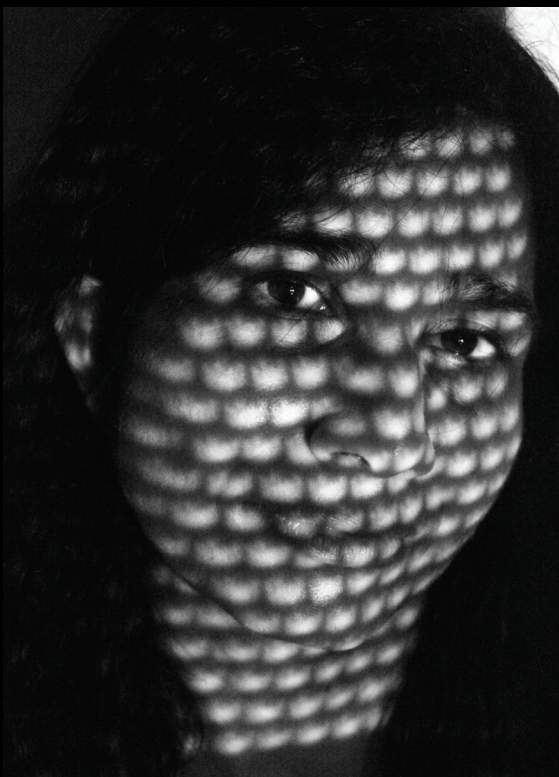


photo by Prachi Misra



photo by Austin Mendillo



photo by Tyler Pottenburgh



photo by Hannah Furry

Concerned about climate change and its effects on the environment, Stanton students are embracing activism and education in an attempt to rewrite the future.

Too Hot to Handle

By JANELLE TENGCO, Staff Writer

At Stanton College Preparatory School, environmental destruction is being fought with the collaboration of student advocates and teachers through clubs and education. The actions of the school's student activists and their call for combating climate change signifies a step toward reducing its effects.

Climate change is seen in the Earth's decline and its increasingly prevalent outcomes of rising temperatures and flash floods. Considering humans are primarily involved in the devastation and pollution of the environment, the responsibility to combat climate change rests on the shoulders of people.

"In the next 15 to 20 years, as a generation, we will see drastic changes that our current politicians won't be around to see," said sophomore Katie Carlson, a student activist at Stanton. "I always try to promote awareness of environmental justice and educate students."

UNEARTHING THE CONSEQUENCES

Greenhouse gases, which generate changes in atmospheric and environmental conditions, are a result of burning fossil fuels in industrial plants.

In August 2019, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a special report



Climate strikes are one way that students can voice their opinions about global warming and other environmental issues.

titled, "Climate Change and Land." The organization's report detailed how the growth of atmospheric carbon dioxide increased the average land temperature by 32.97 degrees more than the global mean temperature from 1999 to 2018.

Greenhouse gases, such as water vapor, nitrous oxide, methane, and carbon dioxide, are the primary gases maintaining the temperature of the planet. Frequent combustion of fossil fuels create carbon dioxide that envelops the world, providing insulation of heat.

An excess of greenhouse gases creates an array of problems including increasing global temperatures, a reduction in air quality, and worsening weather conditions. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) reports heavier rainfalls are accompanied by cataclysmic flooding from hurricanes, which damages property and contaminates drinking sources. Warmer regions face consequences such as limited access to drinking water, frequent wildfires, and excessive heat.

"Climate change does affect the rate of natural disasters and agricultural and aquacultural systems," said Mrs. Norah Betancourt, one of Stanton's Advanced Placement Environmental Science teachers. "In Florida, we are affected by hurricanes; if the water temperature is higher, there are more storms."

According to Mrs. Betancourt, damage to agricultural fields stem from unprecedented weather conditions. This deterioration extends beyond the land; ocean acidifications occurs when carbon dioxide and water combine to produce carbonic acid. The increased saturation

Illustration by Caroline Robbins



WAR ON THE PLANET

Carbon emissions increased by 2.7 percent in 2018 and are 67 percent higher than they were in 1990.

Source: joboneforhumanity.org



Carbon dioxide emissions are the highest they have been in over 3 million years.

Source: climate.gov



Compared to other human activities, deforestation causes roughly 11 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: conservation.org

The ocean has absorbed enough carbon to change the pH level by 0.1 percent, which drastically damages ecosystems.

Source: climate.gov



of the gas causes a drop in the potential of hydrogen levels and create an excessively acidic environment for aquatic life, a vital source of food for humans.

"This is [the students'] future and it's going to affect them in a variety of ways," said Mrs. Mary Fleming, who also teaches AP Environmental Science. "We're not just looking at plants but our health, the spread of diseases, and agricultural systems."

"Populations from here on out will have to deal with the same problems we are starting to be concerned about."

—Makayla Lee, 10th

The detrimental effects of global warming are not limited to the environment but impact the health of people, as well. The NRDC analyzes the repercussions of climate change by addressing the potential health risks for humans. The organization states the accumulation of liquid fog and smoke particles, known as smog, aggravates the symptoms of 29 million people with asthma in the United States, thus threatening their well-being. Surfacing effects of air pollution will be even more destructive to future generations as the effects of climate change continue to intensify.

"Due to climate change, our health is going to keep declining," said sophomore Makayla Lee. "Populations from here on out will have to deal with the same problems that we're starting to be concerned about."

STUDENT ACTIVISM AND EDUCATION

The drive to take action is not only visible in the protestors outside of school but in students who care about environmental issues. The presence of activist clubs promotes an atmosphere that encourages students to present their opinions, and freely discuss current environmental matters.

The Artistree Club is a notable example of Stanton's activist clubs, fostering environmentalism in the school's student population.

Artistree's senior club officer, Gabrielle Doctor, believes when students do not feel the need to clean up after themselves, they add to the club's responsibility to take initiative and encourage more students to preserve the world.

"[Climate change is] important because we keep on taking from the environment and we're not giving back," said Doctor. "Artistree promotes environmental awareness around the school and we also try to have neighborhood cleanups."

Climate change causes the school's activists to take action, one such individual being Katie Carlson with her student-led climate strike. Inspired by a rally in Rhode Island, Carlson took on the challenge of expanding student activism in Jacksonville.

"One of my big goals is to educate my fellow students," said Carlson.

"The youth need to band together to spread awareness and fight together to address this climate crisis."

On Sept. 20, 2019, Carlson organized and led a climate strike to garner the support of Jacksonville citizens and urge Mayor Lenny Curry to sign the Green New Deal pledge. The pledge proposes that Mayor Curry will not take a contribution of more than \$200 from fossil fuel industries. The strike's success was evident in the range of groups that attended, including Stanton's student activists.

"I only expected a few people to show up," said junior Ella Humphries, a student who attended the strike. "But there were people from different high schools and people as young as five that came. It was really inspiring because I got to see that I'm not the only one who cares about the world."

The future of the world is dependent on the actions of emerging students. With aging politicians fading from the political arena and environmental bills undergoing legislation, Jacksonville's younger generations are the ones who will be affected by the decrees combating climate change. As students continue to fight for a flourishing and unpolluted environment, the challenge of combating climate change does not seem insurmountable.

TRYING TO BEAT THE BEST

Students go to Stanton to increase their chances of going to a good college, but this creates a competitive environment that may be hard to keep up with.

By AULANI MARLEY, *Staff Writer*

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

In high school, the first semester of senior year can be an exciting and anxiety-inducing time as students begin to determine where they want to go to college. At Stanton College Preparatory School, there is a large, diverse, and intelligent population of students who spend years building their college resumes. They become involved in countless clubs, sports, and honor societies, hoping to stand out on their applications. When a majority of the student population has similar qualifications, however, they may get lost in the pool of other Stanton applicants.

For years, Stanton has been known for its academic rigor, having won countless awards and recognition at the national level. The reputation of Stanton is what attracts many academically inclined students looking for a challenging program that will prepare them for the future.

"I didn't want to go to my neighborhood school because I thought it wasn't good enough to get me anywhere," said Stanton alumni Elijah Michel, who graduated in 2019. "I applied to Stanton because the [International Baccalaureate] program [seemed like it would] help me achieve success."

Those who attend Stanton have course schedules filled with Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses as few 'standard' courses are offered. In other public schools in the state, standard classes are often taken as an alternative to the advanced and difficult classes. Although rigorous schedules are supposedly admirable to college admission officers, many Stanton students feel their achievements are less considerable when compared to the rest of their class.

"If you barely mess up with your grades, there is a huge drop in the class rank number."

—Finnley Gibbons, 10th

"I feel confident [about my college applications] but at the same time I don't because there is a lot of competition going on throughout the school," said senior Riki Throneberry.

As a result of increased competition, students have many difficult classes on their schedules as they hope to obtain the best grades possible. This creates a rivalry among students in regards to academics. When almost all students in a school have good grades, it may be difficult to stand out against other students applying from the same school.

Class rank is an important factor in some colleges, such as the University of Florida, where they may use these numbers as a way to determine the achievements of applicants. At schools such as Stanton, however, some students can have good grades or be on the honor roll, and still have a relatively low class rank. This is because a majority of the student body is academically advanced and many take courses that boost their grade point average.

"I focus on my class rank, but I feel like we

shouldn't because it doesn't tell much about a person," said sophomore Finnley Gibbons. "If you barely mess up with your grades, there is a huge drop in the class rank number."

Stanton's class rank tends to differ from other schools because of the increased competition and a larger amount of students taking advanced classes. According to Stanton's guidance department, the top 123 people in the 2020 graduating senior class obtained a grade point average of at least four point five or higher. This GPA implies these students have most likely taken multiple advanced classes, passing with higher grades throughout high school.

According to Hillside Atlanta, a mental health institution in Atlanta, Ga., students experience an increase in stress and anxiety because of the high levels of competition college applications create. Students often become more determined, in terms of grades and class rank when it comes time for college applications. This pressure can increase

dramatically when everyone is trying to attend the 'best' school; this sometimes generates stress for students who hope to obtain a seat at a college of their choice.

"I personally didn't feel [pressure to stand out], but I know a lot of people who did," said Stanton graduate Kelsey Zhu. "Stanton kids tend to be in their own bubble and focus on competing with each other."

Zhu graduated from Stanton in 2019 and now attends Vanderbilt University, which is one of the most well-known colleges in America. Zhu emphasized the importance of working and focusing on personal goals, rather than worrying about what others are doing to better their applications.

"There are over a thousand universities... and there is always going to be at least one school that's going to be a good fit for each student."

—Ms. May Ibasco

Students with specific or varying interests may appeal to a specific type of school. For instance, students who are heavily involved in theatrical productions at their school may find more interest in attending a performing arts university rather than a state university.

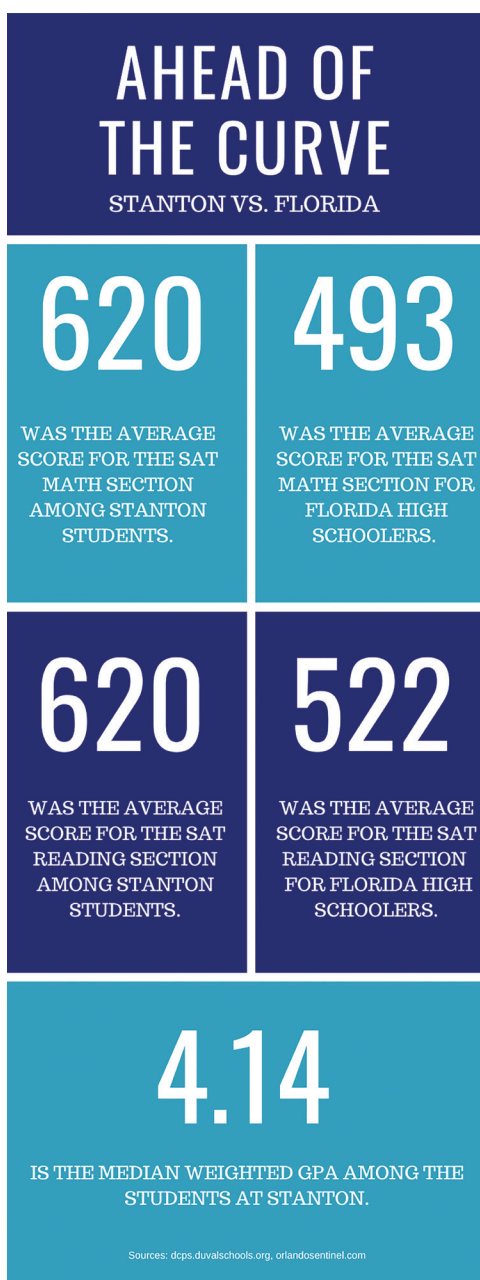
"There are over a thousand of universities... and there is always going to be at least one school that's going to be a good fit for [each student]," said Ms. May Ibasco, one of Stanton's guidance counselors.

Ms. Ibasco said since some colleges are more popular or desired than others, they tend to have more students apply there. This has an effect on the acceptance rate and, in turn, impact how selective colleges become.


Colleges such as Harvard University and Yale University have low acceptance rates, both only enrolling five to six percent of applicants. State colleges have become more selective as well, making it harder for students to obtain a spot.

According to the U.S. News and World Report college ranking, Florida State University and the University of Florida are two of Florida's most popular colleges. The majority of Florida students strive to attend these in-state colleges. FSU and UF, however, have become more particular with who they accept. UF accepts about 46 percent of the applicants, while FSU accepts 58 percent.

Schools like Stanton have increased competition and rigorous workloads that can cause the pressures of college to be even more difficult. Students often spend all four years of high school working to build their college applications with a variety of extracurriculars, achievements, and advanced classes. Despite all this, some may still struggle to stand out against their peers, especially when the majority have impressive, but similar qualifications.







As Stanton students
search for more visible
ways to express
themselves, many find
their creative outlet
through body art.

MY BODY, MY CANVAS

By BRENN DUPRIES, Staff Writer

In a society where so much emphasis is placed on finding out who you are, thousands of teens are trying to make their mark. Through outward displays of emotion, social pressure, and personal beliefs, students all over America use their appearances to showcase their individualistic differences.

At Stanton College Preparatory School, some students get tattoos or piercings to express themselves and materialize personal mementos. Others may choose to dye their hair and wear bright-colored makeup to stand out in a sea of students who tend to follow the same trends. Stanton students can also use this experimentation in an attempt to learn more about themselves, while showing others how they are individually unique.

Adolescence is often regarded as a time

of discovery and introspection as students navigate through an era of uncertainty and learn how to externally convey their feelings and beliefs. These decisions can be difficult ones because of the potential permanence associated with them, often demanding a substantial amount of personal reflection and parental consent among students.

For some, these decisions are not as challenging, allowing them to easily manifest their values and emotions physically. These physical modifications often include tattoos, piercings, extravagant makeup, and eccentric hair colors.

The human brain offers one potential source of scientific explanation for these behaviors of self-expression. The frontal lobe, which controls both logic and reasoning, continues

photo by Deo-Elyon Agnila

to develop well into adulthood and plays an essential role in influencing a teen's decisions. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry [AACAP] offers insight into the mind of an adolescent.

According to the AACAP, "Pictures of the brain in action show that adolescents' brains work differently than adults when they make decisions or solve problems. Their actions are guided more by the emotional and reactive amygdala and less by the thoughtful, logical frontal cortex."

With the various changes taking place in an adolescent brain, it is conceivable these feelings materialize in tangible ways. Aside from the biological aspect explaining the sometimes impulsive behavior exhibited in teens, these behaviors can also manifest as creative expressions.

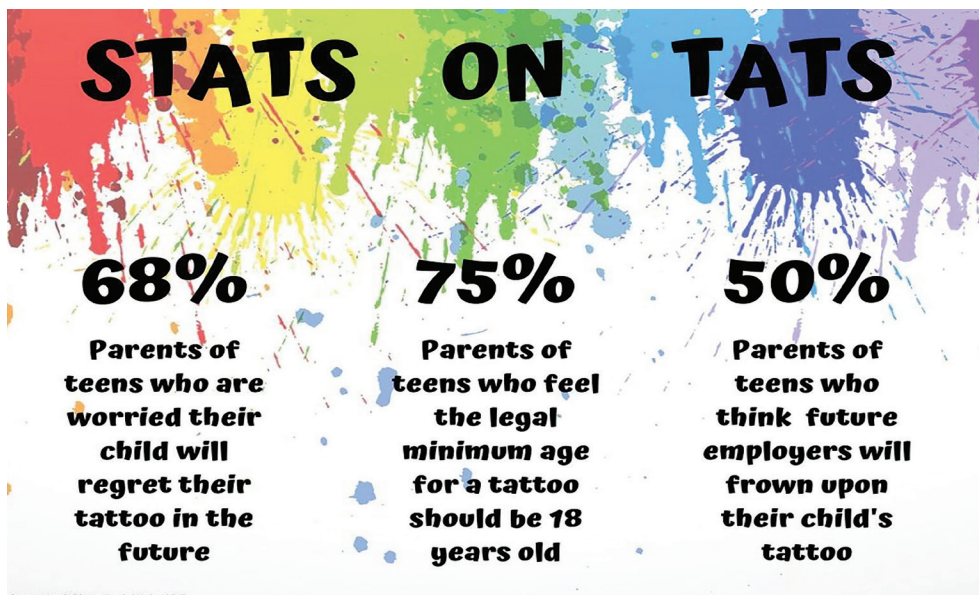
Makeup is one form of personal expression that makes a statement while still remaining temporary. This specific style of physical alteration has been around for thousands of years and is used in almost every culture in the world today. Using a wide range of colors, styles, and techniques, students use their face as a canvas for their emotions or interests.

"I use dark makeup as a way to express what interests me and to fully embody self confidence," said sophomore Aaliyah Dudney. "I personally use my makeup to resemble girl bands from the '80s and '90s."

Makeup offers a creative outlet for students, but it can simultaneously create the risk of being judged for standing out, especially when an individual chooses to change something overtly visible to others. For the people who make these semi-permanent changes, these social stigmas often pose a threat to the way students view themselves and the people around them. Some students, like Dudney, persevere through the judgement and do what they feel best represents their emotions.

"[Makeup] helps to express my personality to a greater extent than would be possible otherwise," said Dudney. "Even if I get stares I am happy with myself so I can ignore them without a second thought."

While makeup offers a temporary and easily modifiable outlet for creativity and self expression,



hair color makes these decisions slightly more permanent. This change is a particularly popular form of creative expression in high schools today.

Hair color and style also gives students a way to take advantage of what some describe as the fleeting freedom of youth. Students feel high school years offer a time to experiment before entering the workforce as full-time employees.

"Dying your hair is fun and exciting; now is the time to do it," said sophomore Piper Jones. "When you're in high school, you don't have to worry as much about whether your employer is going to judge you for the color of your hair because your age gives you leeway."

While some students like Piper Jones dye their hair willingly, others are peer pressured into the decision. Whether it be at a social gathering or online, peer pressure showcases a side of expression that is more about social victimization than self-induced creativity.

"I was at a party and all the girls wanted to dye someone's hair, so they volunteered me. They called my mother, without my permission, who

of course said yes and felt like I couldn't say no after they called her," said sophomore Lainey Rose. "Even though I am now happy that I dyed my hair, I definitely was not excited or happy when they were haphazardly trying to follow the hair dye box's directions."

Although the decision to alter one's body may seem like a personal choice, the majority of high school students are still minors and are expected to receive parental consent. Parents are often concerned for their child's professional future or current social life. This can limit a student's ability to clearly express themselves in more overtly permanent means.

"My mother was very against the idea of me dying my hair at first," said sophomore Anita Perera. "She was worried about what the people around me would think and how it would impact my chances of getting into specific colleges. It took a lot of convincing and assuring her that college was still two years away."

Using makeup and hair colors for self-expression is favorable to many because neither of these



photos by Prachi Misra

outlets are permanent. Feelings of regret can be mitigated with the reversibility of dye and makeup. However, while these options seem like enough for many, a few high school students go a step further and choose to make their self-expression a potentially lifelong commitment.

Tattoos are one example of modifications that offer a more permanent statement, showcasing an image or design that can hold emotional weight and importance for that person. Many people get tattoos because they have personal value and a unique, often important meaning behind them.



photo by Prachi Misra

Sophomore Aaliyah Dudney uses makeup to further her self-confidence and emulate styles from earlier decades.

"My mother, sister, and I all have the same tattoo on various regions of our body. It is an image of three elephants, the largest being my mother, then my sister, and the smallest is supposed to represent me," said senior Nina Negron. "All three elephants have their trunks raised symbolizing good luck and family. My father passed, so the three of us have had to stick together over the years. My tattoo definitely has an emotional connection behind it."

Elephant designs are not uncommon in the

tattoo community. They represent a wide host of symbols including good luck, wisdom, courage, and strength. Another student, senior Riley Woods, also received a matching tattoo with her mother, depicting an elephant. Woods got this tattoo because it represented her bond with her mother, something that was specific and important to her.

"Elephants are strong mothers and don't abandon their young like many other animal mothers do," said Woods. "My mom and I both got matching tattoos together to represent our close bond. My tattoo is hidden most of the time by my socks, so for me it's there for the personal meaning and connection to my mother more than anything."

Similar to students, several Stanton teachers are also inked with individual mementos. Although they are not classified as minors, some of the motives for getting a tattoo are the same.

Rather than choosing their tattoos with spontaneity, teachers like Mr. Sebastian Cardozo, a Stanton physics teacher, reflect and choose their tattoo design years before actually getting it.

"My obsession and love of astronomy began at a very young age and has continued to grow throughout my life," said Mr. Cardozo. "Since astronomy has been permanent in my lifestyle for over 20 years, I thought that it would only be fitting that it was permanent on my skin."

Because of the permanence of a tattoo, Mr. Cardozo planned out the exact design he wanted long before he received it.

"I knew I wanted to get this tattoo when I was a teen but it took me several years to plan this out because it is such a permanent thing and I didn't want to regret anything about it," said Mr. Cardozo.

Like personal interests, one's faith can also play a role in the motivation to get a tattoo. Showing a favorite Bible verse or image can remind them of their faith.

"My tattoo says 'sola fide,' meaning 'only faith.' This comes from Martin Luther's 95 Theses," said junior Xavier Holden. "He wanted everyone to know that the way to God was through faith alone. Likewise, I believe you have to have faith and be a truly good person to have this relationship with God. I wanted this to be a permanent expression in my life and on my body."



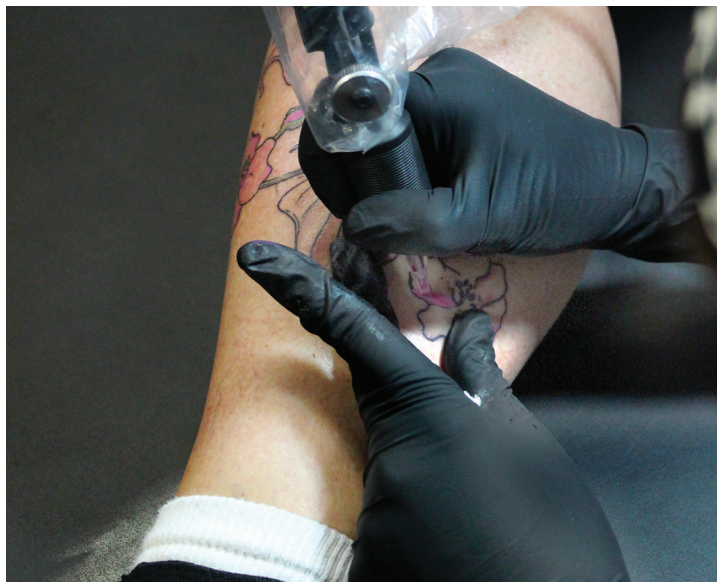
photo by Prachi Misra

Faculty members Mr. Ben Nasrallah and Mrs. Norah Betancourt show off their own tattoos that carry personal merit.

For those directly involved in the tattoo community, tattoo artists can understand both a student's desire to use this form of expression and the apprehensions that come with it. Mr. Isaiah Reed, a tattoo artist based at Jacksonville tattoo and piercing parlor, "Untouchable," hopes to spread awareness about the safety procedures involved.

"My advice would be to not get any tattoos that are trendy. It looks nice, but when the trend is over you look at yourself and ask 'why did I do this?'" said Reed. "It is also important to take care of these new tattoos, so that it doesn't get infected and you have to have portions of your skin removed."

Despite the surrounding stigma and medical issues which may arise, students still believe their body art is worth it. They value what the change adds to their life and appreciate how easily they can express their values. Whether these alterations are permanent or temporary they still impact each individual's life in a different way and act as an outlet for their expression.



photos by Prachi Misra

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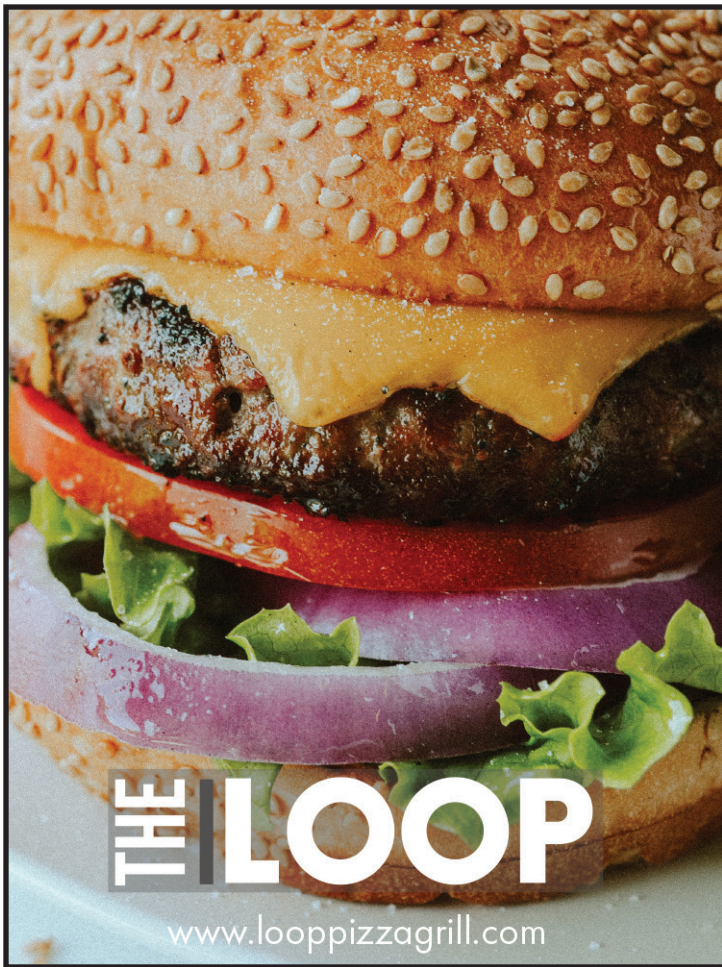
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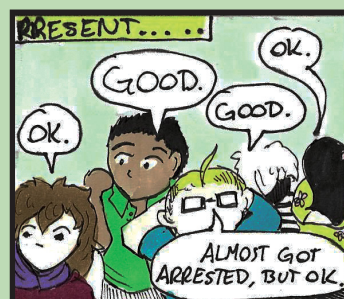
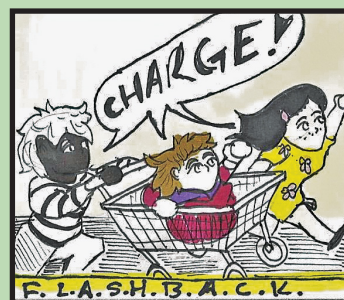
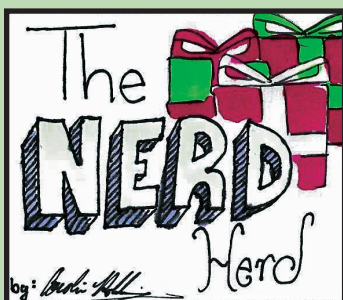
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By CAROLINE ROBBINS, *Art Director*

By EDEN KERSHNER, *Staff Artist*

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

Est. 1983 | Stanton College Preparatory School

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The *Devil's Advocate* is a public forum for student expression, which encourages free exchanges of opinions concerning controversial and non-controversial community and school related issues. The advertisements and ideas expressed within the newspaper are not necessarily those of the newspaper adviser, newspaper staff, Stanton administration or the Duval County Public School Board.

The *Devil's Advocate* accepts advertisements from all businesses in the Stanton community. The ad format can be given to the staff or the adviser, Mr. Larry Knight.

Readers may contact the staff and adviser at (904) 630-6760 ext. 012204 or at knightl1@duvalschools.org.



photo by Hannah Furry

Letter from the Editor

After what can seem like a terribly awkward transition into adolescence, teenagers look to high school as an opportunity to finally embrace their individuality. For Generation Z, common means of self-expression include many alterations or embellishments in appearance. In our cover story, staff writer Brenna Dupries explores how students at Stanton College Preparatory School express themselves. From extravagant makeup to tattoos, today's high schoolers are always finding creative ways to showcase their personalities. One increasingly popular form of self-expression for teens of our generation is permanent body modifications. Dupries also highlights the potential drawbacks of making these changes at such a young age when one's personality and interests are still developing. There are multiple possible reasons teenagers decide to make these alterations. Some believe it is due to flaws in an adolescent's decision making process, yet for many students who use body art for expression these modifications have an important meaning. Students at Stanton continue to embrace these means of self expression, using various modes of artistic modifications to reflect their identity.



cartoon by Caroline Hobbs

Pseudo-Activism

Social media platforms provide an environment of discussion and activism reactive to the changes and issues of the world. Prominent users such as celebrities and politicians have a large influence in swaying public opinion or initiating change with a large audience, especially impressionable high school students. Recently, celebrities like Rihanna and Kim Kardashian raised awareness about Rodney Reed's scheduled execution. In 1997, Reed was accused of the murder and rape of Stacey Stites and was sentenced to death by a Texas jury. Newly surfaced evidence suggests his innocence, and through social media platforms, people urged Texas Gov. Greg Abbott to exonerate Reed.

More celebrities and politicians entered the conversation, applying public pressure eventually causing the Texas Court of Appeals to halt his death sentence on Nov. 15. The movement to prevent Reed's execution demonstrates how social media provides a site for activism; however, it can also be a source of misinformation when users are quick to post or conform to opinions of others on issues they do not fully understand.

The frequency of certain hashtags used on social media platforms are often correlated to recent events that precipitate discussion. In 2006, Tarana Burke first used the phrase "Me Too" to draw attention to the sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Following sexual abuse allegations against Harvey Weinstein, the #MeToo became viral with many people coming forward about their experiences with sexual assault.

In many cases, online social movements garner a wide audience because of big-name celebrities associated with the movement. As a result of the influence of celebrity activists, people are inclined to look for information from the faces of movements rather than from experts.

Although the use of social media has allowed users to have a greater voice in societal issues, they are also susceptible to misinformation and easily convinced to blindly support social movements. A phenomenon known as "slacktivism" is the action of simply liking, retweeting, or changing a profile picture to engage in a movement. By approving social action without any actual dedication to or education about the issue at hand, users feel they have contributed to a moral cause of awareness. In the case of Rodney Reed, the petition to stop his execution garnered thousands of signatures. Yet many people were not aware of Reed's two previous allegations of sexual assault where his DNA matched those at the crime scenes. Celebrities have the capacity to draw attention to worthy social movements, but social media users must be skeptical and proactive in doing their own research when participating in online movements for true change to occur.

The Resting Note

By SAVANNAH DINH, *Contributing Writer*



Photo by Hannah Furry

Music education primarily consists of private lessons between an instructor and an individual. Within the public school sector, music education is often perceived at an elementary standard, or completely disregarded in its value. Music constantly surrounds us, and benefits our lives in ways we do not expect. Despite this, music education is experiencing a major decline in student participation, even exceeding the dropout rate of physical education.

The Music For All Foundation conducted a study in California public schools over five years that revealed a 46.5 percent drop of student participation in music classes, versus a 5.2 percent drop in Physical Education. This enormous participation drop is disappointing because although we view music as a hobby or supplemental art, music is a prominent companion that amplifies the sensations of life.

Playing music serves as a workout for the brain

as it engages and strengthens the brain's auditory, visual, and motor cortices. According to Penn Medicine, the increased stimulation that results from exercising various parts of the brain can help prevent cognitive decline and memory loss. Studies conducted by the University of Kansas have also shown that playing music improves brain plasticity, which refers to the brain's ability to adapt and change to new experiences. Practicing music yields long term benefits in addition to building up musical skills.

While practicing music has been associated with higher academic performance and long term cognitive benefits, the presence of general music education in public schools has witnessed a steady decline. The advancement of education during an era of technological innovation has resulted in the prioritisation of core subjects and left music education on the back burner. Although the No Child Left Behind Act has been replaced, its focus on core subjects along with the budget crisis that followed the recession of 2007 still leaves music education at the lowest of educational priorities. A lack of sufficient funds for music education

limits students' opportunity to enrich their lives through music. They are restricted from improved cognitive health, academic advancement, and an appreciation for the arts.

If sufficient funding is designated to music education programs in public schools, the talk about the benefits, productivity, and effectiveness of music education will flourish when students can participate in programs that promote valuable music education. Music serves as both a stress reliever and brain workout. It is offered within public education, and deserves funding to ensure its quality is rewarding to all student participants.



Cartoon by Eden Keshner

Pitchfork Stakes the Top 200 Albums

By KATHLEEN KELLEHER, *Contributing Writer*



Photo by Hannah Furry

As 2019 comes to a close, the music review site Pitchfork has begun mapping the general trends in the past ten years of music with its 2010s project. This project includes articles on developments in the 2010s that influenced the decade's music, like developing social media platforms and political trends, along with controversial lists claiming to rank the top 200 songs and albums of the decade. According to Pitchfork's editor-in-chief, Puja Patel, selections for these lists were made over a six month process of voting, debates, and editor meetings. While the lists should be recognized for their good judgements in the face of such a herculean task, they are still obviously imperfect and should not be considered definitive analyses of all the decade's best music.

In the tracks ranking, there is a greater emphasis

on radio-friendly genres like pop rap than in the albums list, which features a relatively diverse spread of genre— though the albums list has many of its own discrepancies in the context of the site's past reviews of certain albums. For example, the records that earned the top two spots on the list (Frank Ocean's "Blonde" followed by Kanye West's "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy") originally received a 9.0 and a perfect 10.0 respectively at their release. So why was Blonde ranked first in the decade list after receiving a lower score at its release than the runner-up? In the specific case of Blonde, the reasoning behind this inconsistency is probably due to an opinion that developed over time. Upon release, "Blonde" was not widely recognized by critics as a near-perfect album or expected to become as impactful to audiences as it ultimately did. It's worth noting that as music journalists are often required to review material directly after their release, it can be difficult to create a lasting analysis of an album after only a few listens and

almost no time to reflect on the material.

Further criticism of the ranking can be found on Twitter and Reddit in posts written by outraged music fans arguing that their favorite artist was unfairly excluded. Reader criticism like this highlights just how difficult it can be for music journalists to claim objectivity without disappointing their audience. Exclusions from the list may be due only to the merit of work, but some excluded albums had already received recognition in the site's original reviews (like Swans' record "To Be Kind," which received a very high score of 9.2 from the site upon its release but was left out of the top albums list). In some cases, like that of the band Sun Kil Moon, whose frontman publicly insulted a Pitchfork writer, exclusion from the list seems more likely to be due to bias. Critics of the list also found entire genres appeared underrepresented in a supposedly genre-blind list— like hardcore and shoegaze, which developed impressively in the decade and deserved more than mere mention in the ranking. The list also appears somewhat biased towards featuring Western music. However, the ranking is still somewhat progressive, and there seems to be attempts made to expand the list in more international and inclusive ways.

Overall, although Pitchfork's list had obvious issues, the magazine's ranking deserves some respect for the great effort that went into its creation. Even flawed and lacking in inclusivity, Pitchfork's top 200 lists prove that great music was produced this decade by artists exploring their genres in completely new ways.

TOP 3
ALBUMS
OF THE
2010S

NO. 1

FRANK OCEAN:
BLONDE (2016)

NO. 2

KANYE WEST:
MY BEAUTIFUL DARK
TWISTED FANTASY (2010)

NO. 3

BEYONCÉ:
BEYONCÉ (2013)

Infographic by Kennedy Cotto

Columns published in the *Devil's Advocate* represent the views of the contributors, not those of the newspaper.

Thoughts on Wellness Wednesday



"It's a great idea, but it doesn't treat the issue with the right attitude for students to take it seriously."

— John Wright Stanly, 12th



"It's clinical, stilted, and impersonal."

— Kenneth Caldeo, 12th



"I don't personally see any benefits to Wellness Wednesday, but if it helps just one person then it is worth it."

— Joshua Walls-Holmes, 10th



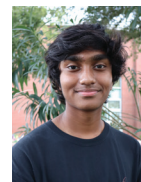
"It is not beneficial because everyone takes it as a joke and we are not encouraged to talk about how they truly feel."

— Khalid Awal, 10th



"I think it is a good source because I think it helps kids in need who don't know where to go. It gives you reassurance."

— Anaia Darius, 10th



"It's beneficial for the people who have mental health problems, but for most people who do not, they take it as a joke."

— Josh Perera, 9th

Changing Wellness Wednesday

By REEM ABDELMAGID, *Staff Writer*



Wellness Wednesday is a new instructional program introduced by the Florida legislature that requires five hours of mental health education each month. Its main goals are to educate students about mental health, encourage them to talk openly about it, and to

reduce the stigma surrounding it. The Wellness Wednesday sessions are supplemented with instructional videos created by licensed psychologists. These videos are guided by district-certified mental health professionals who encourage teachers to pause the video to prompt student discussion relating to the lesson. Some students at Stanton College Preparatory School do not take these video sessions seriously because they only provide a brief overview of complex topics and lack relatability and realism. For these reasons, I believe the seminars are not truly benefiting students.

After the first Wellness Wednesday in August, the halls were filled with people mockingly yelling to their friends, "I am calm. Are you calm?" which was a running joke for the remainder of the day. These students were clearly not taking the videos seriously. That was when I realized these seminars would not be effective in fighting mental illness stereotypes.

This stigma surrounding mental illnesses can often be found in workplaces and in schools.

In workplaces, conversations centered around mental health can be deemed "inappropriate" and are subsequently avoided. Within the Stanton community, students are generally more accepting of such issues, making mental health a relatively safe topic to discuss with peers.

As more teens become educated on a variety of mental issues, the mindset surrounding them has changed from being ashamed to understanding that talking about it is better than holding it in. Discussing mental issues with a teacher in front of a class, as promoted by the Wellness Wednesday videos, is awkward and uncomfortable.

These discussion periods are ineffective because of how they are presented. Although the seminar is designed to be interactive, the gap between student and professional creates the effect of a one-way conversation. Students are not being listened to, and are even encouraged not to talk about their personal lives. In its current state, these standardized sessions do not cater to the individual needs of each student.

Instead of half-hour videos with limited discussion, extending the period and including more student-led conversations might prove beneficial. Wellness Wednesdays have the potential to have a significant impact on the mental health of students, but changes must be made. Making the sessions longer, including more student-led discussions, and having certified professionals in the room working directly with students would be effective and beneficial to the program and its viewers.

"Students are not being listened to, and are even encouraged not to talk about their personal lives."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

School Psychologist

Dr. Katherine Amaro, Stanton's psychologist, can be found in Room 508B, in the world language building. All students can make appointments to receive free counseling when they feel they need it.

A Safe Space

All students can join Mrs. Sheila Hegggood, Ms. Tamala Simmons, and Mr. Thomas Baczkowski in Room 229 each Monday after school to discuss what's on their mind. This is a good way to relieve stress in a calm and welcoming environment.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

1-800-273-8255

The Lifeline provides 24/7 free and confidential support for people in distress as well as prevention and crisis resources.

Crisis Text Line

Text 'HOME' to 741741 to connect with a trained crisis counselor at any time and any day of the week. This service is completely free of charge, no matter how long the conversation lasts.

Sources: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Crisis Text Line

Photographs by Kennedy Cottle



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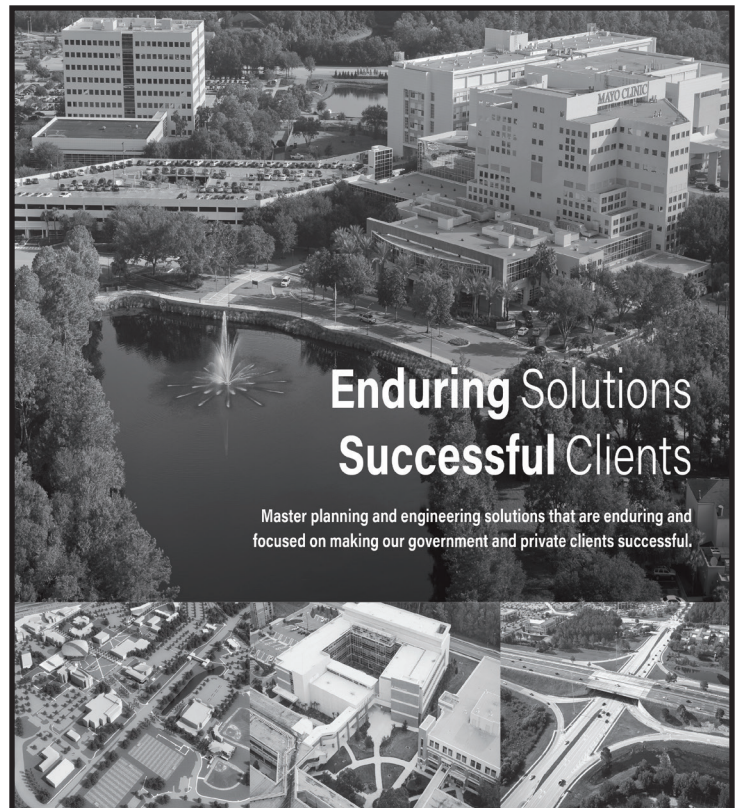
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SIGN STEALERS?

NEW EVIDENCE HAS SURFACED REGARDING WHETHER OR NOT THE HOUSTON ASTROS WERE STEALING KEY SIGNS WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN THEM AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ASTROS.

WHAT'S IN A SIGN?

SIGNS ARE USED TO COMMUNICATE A STRATEGY TO THE TEAM. STEALING SIGNS BY USING TECHNOLOGY IS AGAINST MLB REGULATIONS.

Source: foxnews.com



SPIDER-WOMAN

Aries Susanti Rahayu, an Indonesian competitive climber, broke the women's world record for speed climbing.

The height of the wall, in feet, Rahayu climbed during her record-breaking appearance.

49

6.99

Time, in seconds, it took Rahayu to scale the wall, beating the prior record of 7.10 seconds.

1

Rahayu became the first woman in the history of the sport to scale the wall in under seven seconds.



Sport climbing will make a debut at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, featuring speed, bouldering, and lead climbing as the various events within the category.

Source: apnews.com

"America and the world are safer today with the leader of ISIS dead."

— Vice President Mike Pence on the elimination of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi on Oct. 26, 2019, marking a turning point in the war on terrorism.

Source: washingtonpost.com



An exhibition featuring 160 works from revered artist Leonardo da Vinci is currently featured at the Louvre, marking the 500th anniversary of da Vinci's death.

262,000

Number of tickets sold before the exhibition opened.

Date when the exhibition will leave the Louvre.

2/24/20

10

Number of years it took to prepare the exhibition.



"Leonardo Da Vinci is one of those rare men, those personalities who fascinate us, because he was universal."

—Vincent Delieuvin, Exhibit Curator

Source: apnews.com

EDUCATION CRISIS

In over half of the United States, student reading scores decreased, prompting questions about the quality of the nation's education system.

BETSY DEVOS

The Education Secretary described the falling scores as a "student achievement crisis" and is encouraging expanding school choice as a method to combat the problem.



Source: apnews.com

FALLING SCORES

Percent of eighth graders performing at the expected level of math and reading skills.

33%

PROBLEMATIC PLATEAU

The year which saw the last significant improvement in reading scores.

1992

YOUNG STRUGGLES

Average percent of fourth graders performing on level in math.

40%



"I want justice, oceans of it. I want fairness, rivers of it. That's all I want."

— Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Representative in Congress, who passed away on Oct. 17, 2019, due to ongoing health issues. He is remembered for his boldness, strength and skill in advocating civil rights in the United States.

Source: apnews.com

The Record

photos retrieved from Google Images



The popular "emo" alternative rock band is getting back together on Dec. 20, 2019, for a reunion show in Los Angeles. They announced their plans on Halloween night.



Welcome Back to the Black Parade

My Chemical Romance, or MCR, disbanded in 2013 but their music has continued to be revered by fans across the world.

Source: cbsnews.com



IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

An official impeachment investigation has been opened regarding President Trump's interactions with foreign governments.



QUID PRO QUO

The legal term meaning only giving advantages to those who offer assistance with projects of interest in return.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The legislative body which voted to begin the official inquiry.



WHISTLEBLOWER

Term referring to the individual who provided the initial allegations of impeachable offenses.

DONALD TRUMP

The subject of the impeachment investigation, who denies the allegations.



Source: apnews.com

SAVING VENICE

The Italian government is declaring a state of emergency in Venice due to recent flooding, seeking to find necessary funding to repair the historic lagoons in the area.

1.87

Number of meters high the water reached when the streets of Venice were flooded.

4

Number of inches Venice's sea level has risen in the past 50 years.

1966

The year of the last historic flooding of Venice

Source: apnews.com



Florida Moving Fast

Brightline, a new highspeed rail system, is building a station at PortMiami, connecting the popular cruise port to Orlando, offering an alternative mode of travel.



Source: apnews.com

"VICTORY FOR DEMOCRACY"

For the first time since Oct. 13, 2019, when the elections were held, Poland's elected parliament met on Nov. 11, 2019, with the president calling for an end to the political conflict which has plagued the country in recent years.

1989

Year when Poland began transitioning to a democratic government.

44%

Percentage of votes the Law and Justice Party received, the largest percent any party has received in the last 30 years.

"TO ME, EVERYONE WHO HAS POLAND IN

THEIR HEART IS A POLE."

—Andrzej Duda, the Polish President, on the diverse nature of Polish citizens.

Source: apnews.com



No... iPhone Shutdown

Apple informed users that if an update was not installed by midnight Nov. 2, iPhone 5 and older models would no longer be able to connect to the internet.



Source: news4jax.com



"That is completely contrary to what the Vatican Secret Archive always was and intended to be."

— Pope Francis on changing the name of the Vatican Secret Archive to the Vatican Apostolic Archive to better reflect its true purpose in the church.

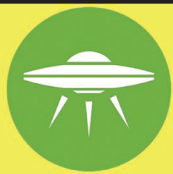
Source: apnews.com

STATIC STATISTICS?

A recent study performed by Dr. Scott Solomon is challenging the standard rule for determining statistical significance, arguing that the cutoff at p-value 0.05 should not determine the quality of an experiment's results.



Source: apnews.com



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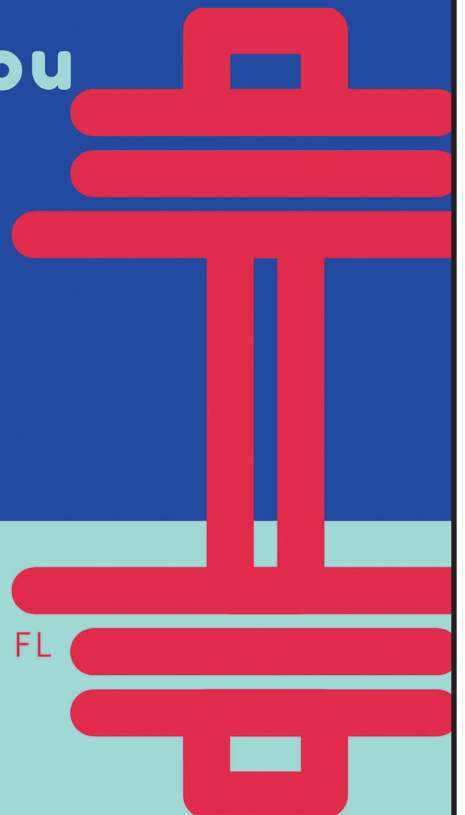
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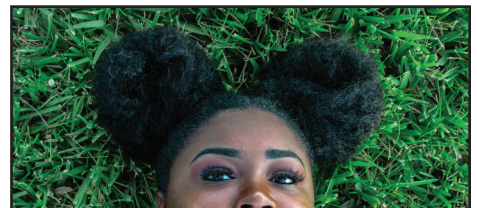


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