

(described in order of pdf appearance)

As we face the pandemic, we have seen a rise in hate crimes against the AAPI communities. Representing the virus of hate through the monster with protruding scales and horns reminiscent of how the COVID-19 virus is depicted, it roams the streets and breaks destroys stores - a reference to the many Asian-owned stores and restaurants that were vandalized and broken into during the pandemic. A mask-like shield protects the two people, and elder and younger, running from the virus of hate.

After the nominations of the Grammys back in November of 2020, there was questioning behind the nomination process and the clear discrimination and boxing of POC artists and musicians into their own categories (the creation of the Rap categories). The broken system is depicted through chains and bars that block out artists - namely this year, The Weeknd (the man behind the bars) and BTS (the cameo in the audience). The Grammy award presents two stickers that represent Taylor Swift (tree for Folklore) and Megan Thee Stallion (horse) - the glass enclosure around it being a subtle hint to Roddy Rich (The Box).

During quarantine and students having to face online school, many students struggle with maintaining their grades and performing well during the school year of 2020-2021. Here, a student is shown to be staying up late to cram in assignments and study during the night time as the end of the first semester approaches (as seen by the calender).

More often than not, the adult film industry is viewed in a negative light and looked down upon. This piece depicts that same feeling, workers being tied to their identity in the industry, but also the vulnerability and exposure. It can be viewed two ways; being set on display for the world to watch or being seen as an art of expression.

Because of the pandemic, the voting process this year was through a majority using the mail-in ballots. During this time, the USPS mail service was facing a lack of funding (eagles taking away money from postal workers) and issues rose within the government about the validity of the ballots.

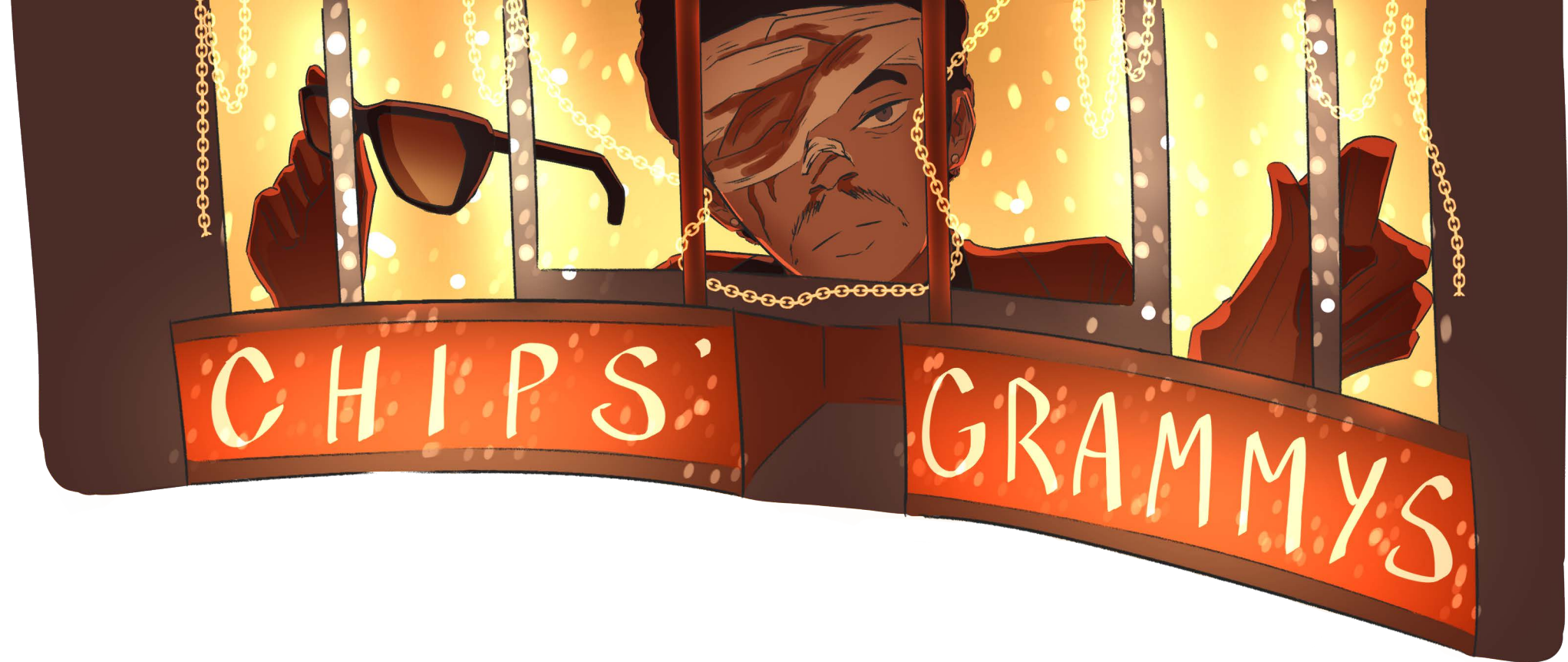
(one page statement below)

Being that this year was my first with Silver Chips, it was definitely a great learning experience - especially with the school year being online. I had previously written for small newspapers before, but this would be the first time I was creating art for a paper. Through the 5 cycles created this year, I've definitely learned that the timing of when art gets to the design team can make or break the page as a whole. It's important to complete pieces earlier than later as to accommodate for any late work that needs to be completed or if an element from an artist is dropped last minute and needs to be completed. As a person who only joined this year, I think it was especially difficult communication wise because of the physical distance in not being able to reach out to staff members easily. This last cycle was definitely a learning mountain to climb atop and conquer, as all the seniors that were on the staff the previous cycles were now leaving for graduation. To say this cycle was stress-free would be a lie, but it was a challenge that I learned a lot from. I had to manage the art staff as well as balance my own artworks to complete, all the while preparing for exams and final projects in class. I'm usually a perfectionist when it comes to my works, so it was definitely difficult to be tasked with creating many pieces of art in one day than I am normally capable of doing. I'm very glad and immensely grateful to have had the previous art editor by my side to guide me even after graduation.

The first cycle I was assigned the task of having to do a small piece - which is usually a half page article - a full page piece, and a centerspread piece. It was quite difficult being that it was my first assignment but having the art editor at the time in my zoom class was very helpful and they allowed for me to walk easily during the cycle. I took on drawing some serious topics this cycle which was a challenge, because I wanted to be able to express the words of the writer's article well through my own work. Our second cycle I create three pieces again, a full page, a half page, and now a lead ed comic. I had drawn one comic before in my freetime so it was a bit of a learning process to learn how to format and also get my own message across within the comic. I like to write with symbolism, double meanings, and metaphors/similes, so I hoped my own writing style was conveyed through the art and dialogue. The third cycle was the one I feel I had the most fun and excitement with drawing. I only had to do one piece, but that was because it was a full page. Figuring out how the art would look was the biggest hurdle to jump over, but afterwards it was just a matter of putting the idea to fruition. I had fun with it because it was about music and the process of creating the piece was a lot easier and less stress-inducing. In the fourth cycle, I created another full page, somehow looming back to a similar topic I had drawn for before. At this point, a lot of my pieces in the paper were very ambitious with the composition or how a person was drawn - but this might have been the most difficult to drawn position wise out of them all. Finally, with the last cycle of the year, I created a total of 7 pieces - which is quite the jump from the comfortable single full pages I was doing previously. I don't think I've ever created so many pieces in just one day, but this experience has definitely pushed me to work harder and prepare for the cycles to come next year. I hope to learn more during the next year in Silver Chips and further my quality and style in my art.









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