

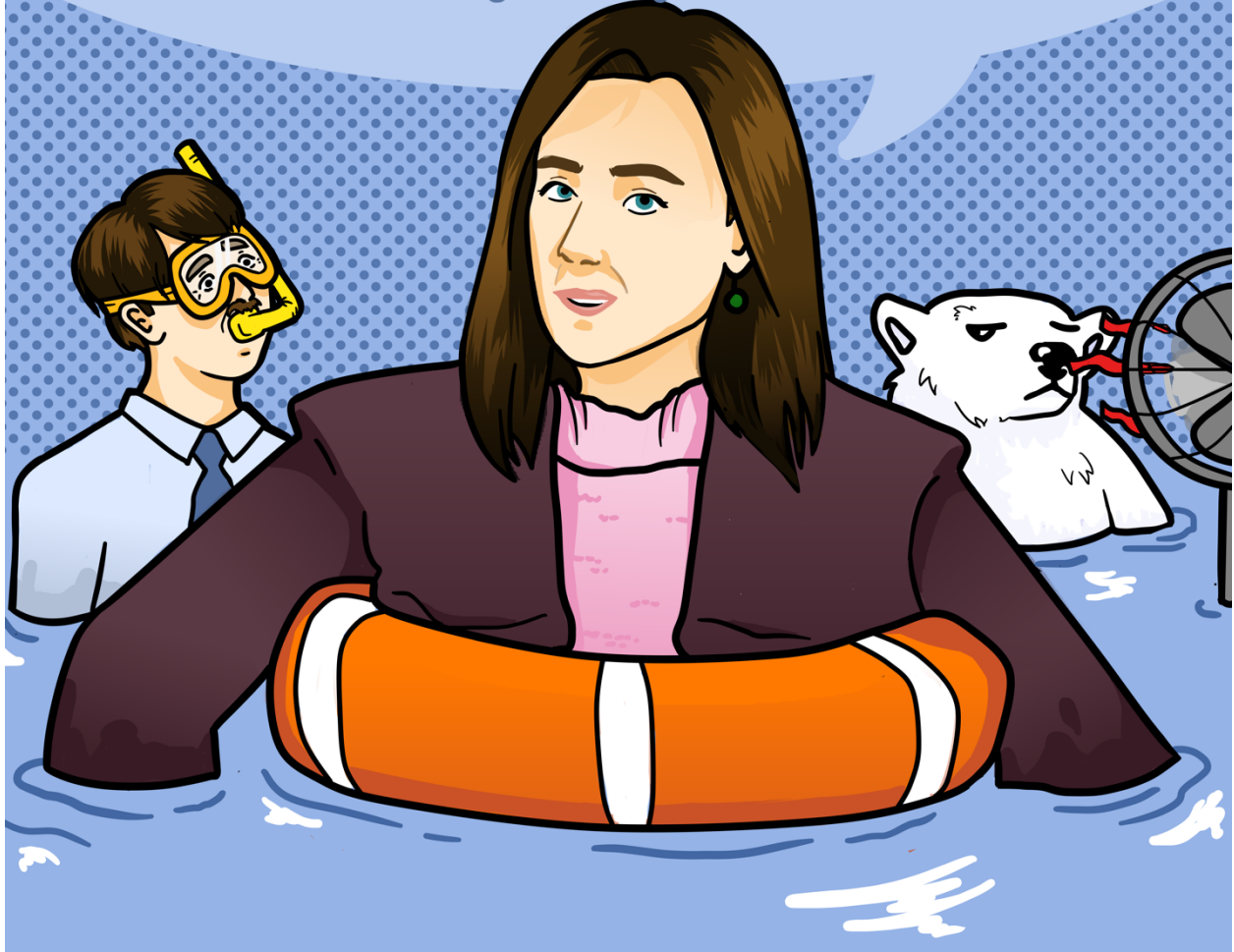
My contributions to the Harbinger at Shawnee Mission East this year have been through my weekly illustrations of editorial and political cartoons, and the technical and creative improvements that I have been able to make because of them. For the year and a half I have been on art staff, it has always been my goal to focus on defining my artistic style while also dedicating time to the stories that serve as the foundation to any cartoon. That goal is still what I am working towards for next year, and as I will be moving from staff artist to staff editor, my job will also be to ensure that all staff are confident in their abilities to represent the story they are illustrating, and on a larger scale, the Harbinger itself; something which I couldn't have hoped to accomplish without the lessons I have learned this year about the importance of prioritizing the ideas of the story in addition to visual appeal.

The importance of illustration in newspaper is a burden that falls directly to the artist; the Harbinger staff creates hundreds of excellent articles every year, the art is key to drawing the eye with a succinct visual that can attract interested readers. This is my goal when creating my pieces, and my most concrete step when beginning a piece: to get an accurate grasp of the story and everything that the author would like to reach their audience with. Without the all-important distillation of this main idea, the art can often confuse as much as clarify. This year I learned the importance of a defined message. Once I know exactly what I am trying to convey, I use the more technical skills of design and knowledge of composition to do my best to create something that will be a boon to the article. I have also attempted to improve these technical skills by searching for a defined, individual style that can be applied across all subject matters that would serve as a signature for myself, and by extension, the Harbinger. I hope that next year I will be able to continue working on my skills, both in creative thought and execution.



This piece was for an article about the importance of COVID safety precautions. I used purple as a background as complimentary color to yellow, and to contrast with the bright pink and red. It was my goal to convey urgency with the colors, in order to draw the consideration of a reader.

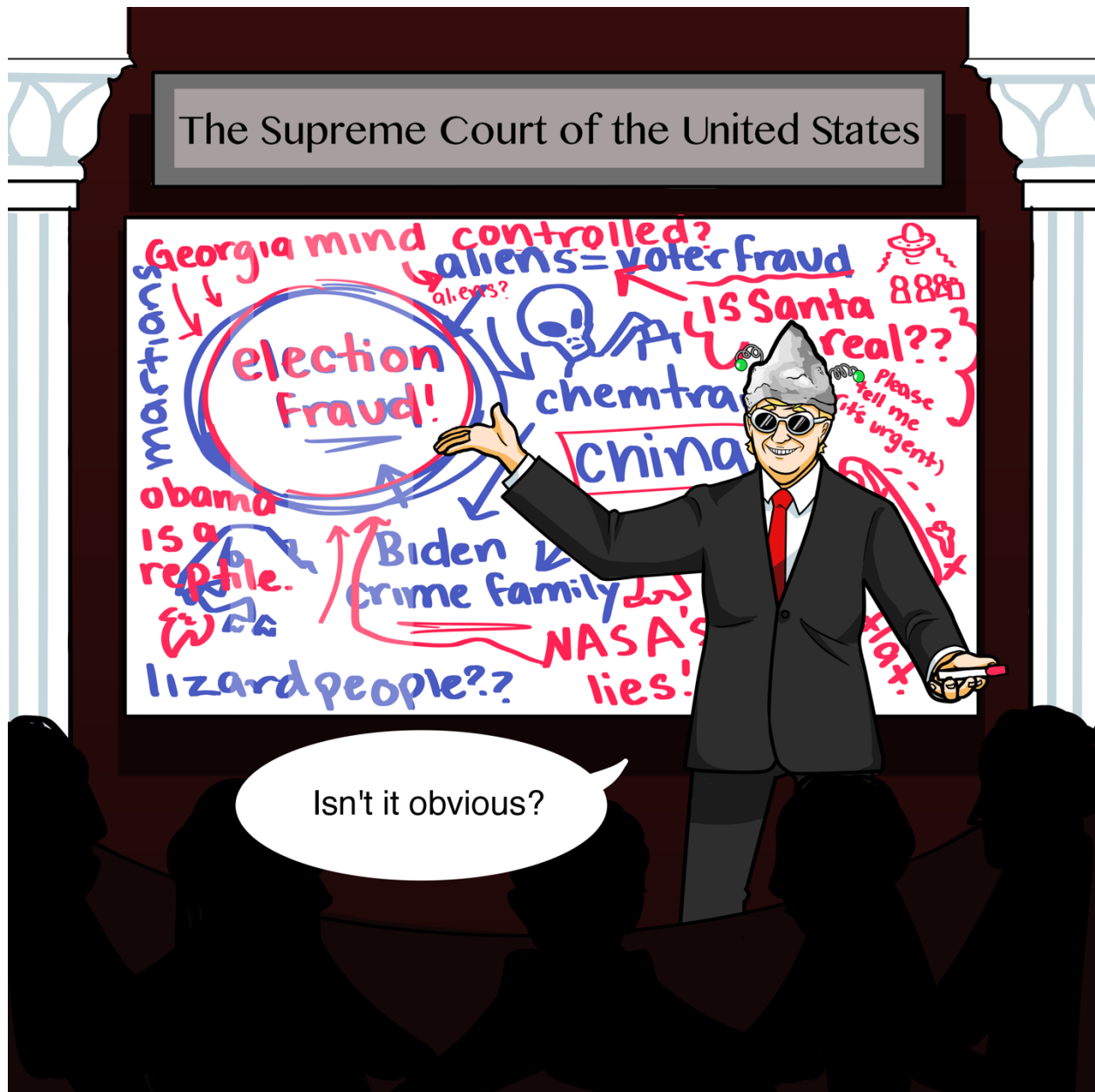
**Climate change is a very contentious
matter of public debate and I will not express
an opinion on such a controversial issue.
- Amy Coney Barrett**



This is a political cartoon with no accompanying article about the statements of at the time newly nominated supreme court justice, Amy Coney Barrett. Justice Barrett had refused to make her stance on several controversial issues, including climate change, at all clear at her hearing. I hoped to poke fun at her statements while also making the point that climate change deniers often are aware they don't have the self-evident truth in mind when making their case.



This cartoon accompanied an article about the new district sports guidelines, which seemed difficult to justify and impractical to enforce. The man in the center represents the Shawnee Mission School District, which is the logo on his shirt, and the two football players are from Shawnee Mission North and East from left to right respectively.



This cartoon didn't accompany any article, and it was published soon after the end of the 2020 election resulted in allegations of election fraud from both President Trump and his supporters. President Trump is wearing a tin foil hat and presenting his case to the Supreme Court. My goal with this cartoon was to create parallels between the idea of election fraud and other common conspiracies, such as chemtrails and flat earth.



This cartoon accompanied a graphic with statistics about how students felt about online school. Space on the sides was included for infographics and poll results. I feel this cartoon is one of my best examples of monochromatic illustration and color theory, because the lack of harsh, black lines on the student's face and the dark green glow created the feeling of melancholy and solitude.