

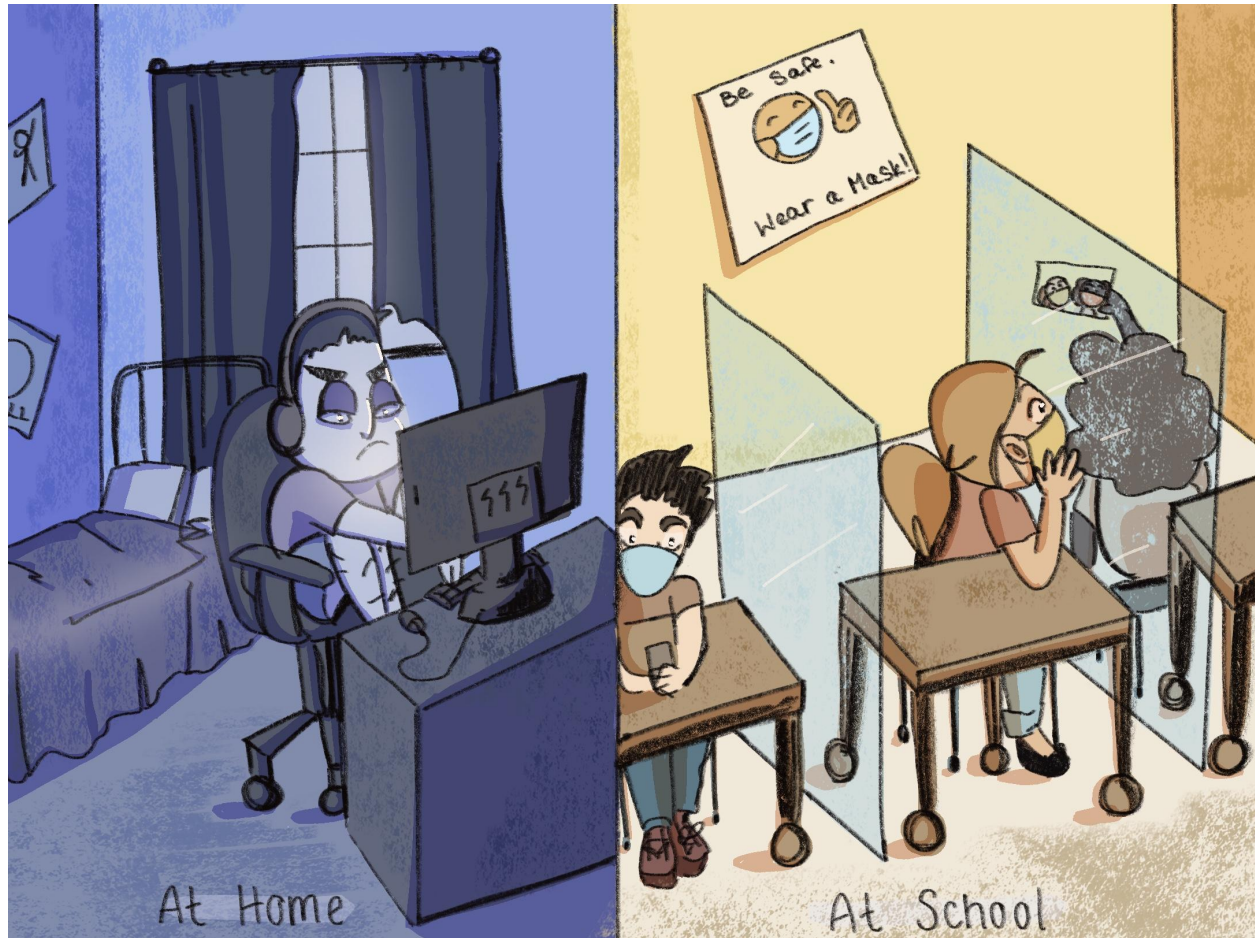
Artist of the Year Nomination - Erin Lawson

This year proved to be unique for many reasons: while it was my last year of highschool taking place during a global pandemic, it was also my first and last year being a part of the staff of the Tribal Tribune.

For the duration of the school year, I was the only graphic designer for the entire newspaper. Unknowingly, I was assigned a tenacious mission: create all the graphics for each issue of the Tribal Tribune for the 20-21 school year. I was first intimidated by this task, as I was nervous that I wouldn't be capable of creating graphics worthy of the newspaper. It had been a very long time since people had to rely on me for something important, and I was afraid to let anyone down. However, I was surrounded by people who were understanding and patient with me as I gradually caught up to the heightened pace of meeting deadlines to produce our paper. During the year, I created over 120 individual graphics, ranging from simple logos and cutouts to detailed editorial cartoons.

While I was heavily involved with the newspaper, I was also deeply devoted to my other classes, taking mostly dual-credit, honors, and even AP 2D Studio throughout the year. Thanks to my role in the newspaper, I was able to improve my time-management and maintain a consistent work ethic across all of my classes.

My devotion to the newspaper also paid off on a state-wide scale, placing first in all digital graphic categories at both SCSPA Conventions through the 20-21 school year. I also placed 3rd for Strip Cartoon and 2nd for Editorial Cartoon at the 2021 SIPA Convention. I have always had an interest in the fine arts, and being the graphic designer for a newspaper helped me expand my technical skills to a point where I can express my artistic visions clearly to an audience. Even moreso, I was accepted to the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, thanks in part to my involvement with newspapers. It taught me to appreciate my skills, my hard work, and most importantly, it showed me that I had the potential to succeed in life with my passion, when I, like many others, once doubted this dream.



This was the first editorial cartoon I made for the Tribal Tribune, meant to display the positive side of returning to school in-person with safety protocols put in place. It placed first in the "editorial cartoon" category of the 2020 Fall SCSPA Competition.



This piece was meant to convey the chaos and confusion fake news creates, specifically in context to the presidential election of 2020. It won first place in the “digital art” category of the 2020 Fall SCSPA Competition.



This piece was meant to be a simple cutout graphic in relation to Black History Month. The graphic placed first in the "Illustration Category" in the 2021 SCSPA Spring Awards.



I created this editorial cartoon in an attempt to display the effects of sexual assault, and predatory behavior towards women. I did not want to mock or glorify these issues, and I think adding in the visual element of literal objectification conveys a powerful message. This piece won first place for "Editorial Cartoon" in the 2021 SCSPA Spring Awards.



This was a cutout graphic on a feature page for someone with strong Vietnamese heritage. I looked up various references to maintain accuracy of the dragon, in order to respect the culture properly. While this may have been a graphic for just one page, I believe that all graphics deserve the highest amount of effort that I can provide.