

Totan Echo

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL

Sports

Opinion

Campus

Arts &

Special

Entertainment

Features



Can you name the place where you may have seen this art piece? See page 16 for the answer.

Thought Experiment: If School Was "All Work and No Play"

By Jillian Deuel (2019), Editor-In-Chief

TITANTOWN - "School is so boring" or "school is no fun" are a couple of the polite ways students express their frustrations with the educational system. This attitude is most prominent among angst high-schoolers, and it only gets stronger the closer they get to graduating. It's understandable to feel less than elated with the routine of school and the assignments that come with it, but luckily that doesn't mean that there can't be some fun-and-games throughout the year. Dances, rallies, sports, games, ASB and club activities, and even performances presented by our fellow Titans are some of the things that many of us look forward to. They boost morale and give us a much needed break from the stress of school.

But imagine for a minute, how different our education experience would be if all these things we appreciate about school were gone. There would be no prom, pep rallies, sports, clubs, charities, or activities. It would be all classroom education, all of it, seven hours of class for 180 days, a trend some schools are considering in the

"We would be walking zombies..."

U.S. and the norm in some schools in Russia and China. The only focus would be academics. No longer would extracurricular activities cushion us from the mundane, monotonous days of classwork, homework, projects tests, and teachers. Where would that leave all our athletes, engineers, and artists? How would the student body function without the service and leadership of ASB or other clubs on campus?

I am not an alarmist. Titan Town is not leaning on this path. But, it was noted that there seemed to be less activities, pep rallies, and fun on campus this year, leading some to be disenchanting.

It's safe to say that Titan Town would be pretty drab and lifeless. School spirit and individualism would be a thing of the past, and the entire atmosphere of campus would change. Student academic performance could actually suffer if there were no activities, due to the lack of engagement.

We would be walking zombies or the over-focused maniacal character Jack Nicholson played in the horror movie, *The Shining*, where he aptly proclaimed to his victim, "All work and No Play makes Jack a Dull Boy." The hyperbole aside, consider the National Federation of State High School Associations, publishing of an article citing research done by Varsity Brands that found a link between school spirit and higher levels of achievement.

Yes, Varsity Brands does have a financial interest. The so-called "community-building" organization is affiliated with a sports uniform entity that sells to high schools. But the study makes sense, reporting that recognizing students for their academic success, engaging school staff, promoting clubs, organizations, graduation activities, and hosting social events leads to overall student happiness and prosperity.

Students can almost certainly agree with these findings. Senior **Kelly Eller** explained, "I believe that school would be less interesting if there weren't any extracurricular (activities) because then there would be nothing to go to after school."

Some teachers also recognize the benefit of a bit of fun at school. "I think it's a great thing, unless people step over the line and only focus on extracurricular activities," said Mr. **John Bunce** (English). Still, some argue that that holding on and intensely promoting these "popularity" traditions, like prom and social activities, could marginalize some shy and introverted students, creating an overall negative school experience. "It might be an equitable issue and possibly contribute to social anxiety," said Mr. Victor Morales (English).

Despite the downsides, the fact that there is time and money set aside specifically to give us students an outlet to decompress or let out some energy is something to be grateful for. Even if you don't have as much school spirit as the teens in *High School Musical*, at least acknowledge that school with some fun is a step in the right direction. All of us are required to do our time here, and as we've heard from our elders, "It doesn't get any easier." So, we might as well make the most fun out of it because big changes are coming as we transition into adults.

THE TITAN ECHO

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OUR FUTURE: GLASS HALF-FULL OR HALF-EMPTY?

By Jillian Deuel (2019) Editor-In-Chief

Our generation is tagged with an interesting characteristic. It is described as the most virtually and technologically connected generation ever. But, also, it is described as the most unprepared and out of touch with the real

world. Many older folks may think that we don't care about what's happening around us, or that we're just plain oblivious to it all. Sure, as teenagers we do have some tendencies that adults can't seem to accept. We can be centered around what's happening in our immediate social circles, fawn over celebrities and their drama, and almost always have cellphones in hand with earbuds in. However, that doesn't mean we aren't thinking about what is happening around us. After all, we're the ones who are going to inherit the consequences of the actions carried out by the preceding generations.

The bottom line is, no matter how prepared a young person might be for the transition into adulthood and starting their future, there's bound to be some bumps on the road. Nobody can possibly anticipate everything that might come their way, and life has a funny way of throwing curveballs at us just when we think we're secure. Regardless of what challenges or blessings lie ahead, time is always moving forward, so we need to do all we can to keep up or face being left behind.

Looming threats about climate change, issues regarding economic instability, and political discontentment are constantly drilled into our heads, along with the unrelenting truth that these are problems our generation is expected to fix.

Information provided by NASA predicts that temperatures will continue to rise, precipitation patterns will change, there will be more droughts and heat waves, hurricanes will become stronger and more intense, the sea level will rise one to four feet, and the arctic is likely to become ice free within the coming centu-

ries. An economic outlook provided by thebalance.com predicts a rise in inflation in the coming years, a rise in interest rates, and an increase in the cost of oil as the fossil fuel supply runs out. Statistics by the Pew Research Center reveal that since 1994, the number of individuals who hold a highly negative view of the political party that opposes theirs has more than doubled, painting a picture of a public disgruntled with the political scene. Clearly, Gen Z (often, but not officially, defined as children born between 1995-2015) has a lot of obstacles to navigate as we enter into adulthood. What do some of our fellow Titans have to say about their future concerns?

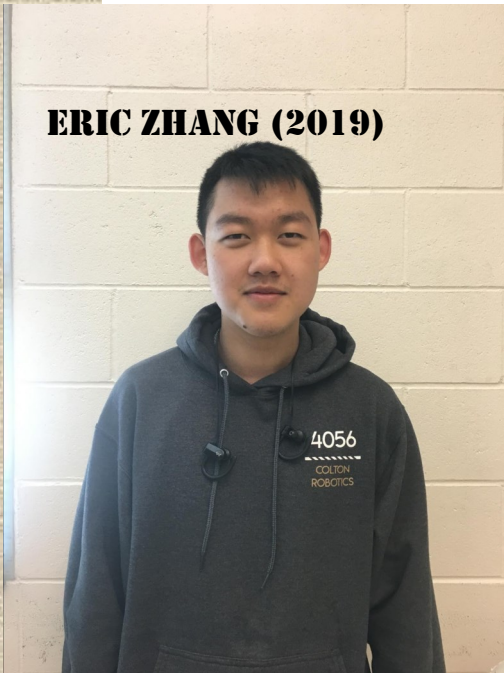
Eric Zhang, a senior, says that he's concerned about employment after college. "I know I'm going to study electrical engineering, but I don't know what kind of job I'm going to get with that. Everyone says it pays a lot, but I don't know what I'm going to do to get it. I'm also worried that engineering might be super inflated."

To get an adult's point of view, the Echo posed a series of questions to U.S. history teacher Mr. **John Chovan**. When asked if he felt well informed about the current state of affairs in the world, Mr. Chovan said yes, he felt very well informed. His concerns about the world's future include environmental degradation in the long-term, but in the short term, the lack of good job opportunities for students not attending college, along with rising income inequality. Something else that troubles him further down the road is his ability to retire. He is worried that the retirement age will rise and social security won't be sufficient enough to support his generation as they age.

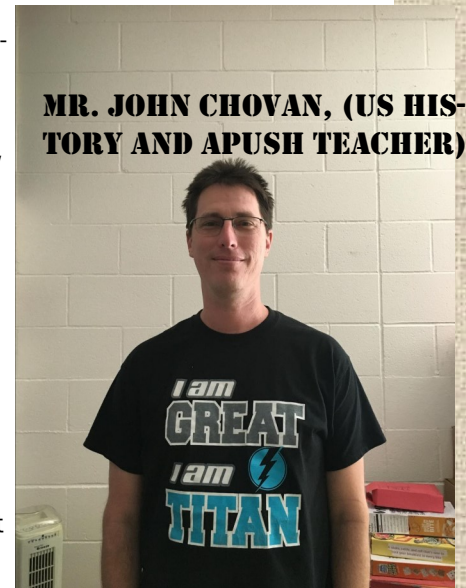
Mr. Chovan feels that all teens struggle to some extent in the transition into adulthood. However he thinks that most will find some level of success. He says that he is hopeful that our peers will be able to make positive changes to the system, and that many young people are taking action to do so. He acknowledges that GenZ does have members who can be self-centered and can lack empathy, but points out that many people said that about his generation as well. His message to students?

"Be yourself. Find your voice. Use your voice for good."

ERIC ZHANG (2019)



MR. JOHN CHOVAN, (US HISTORY AND APUSH TEACHER)



Long Time Titan Echo Staffer Will Continue to Pursue Journalism

By Victor Morales, Journalism Faculty Advisor

I am pleased to announce that Titan Echo Executive Editor **Rodri Smith** will be majoring in journalism at San Jose State University in 2019.

I first came to know Rodri when she was a freshman in 2015. She *demand*ed to be placed on the staff of the Echo. She began as a cub sports reporter, providing much-needed news coverage on wrestling and track. During this time, I noted her talent for fieldwork. She networks sources easily and possesses the tenacity to get answers to her questions.

She quickly acquired the sports editor position the following year, cultivating her news gathering and story-



Rodri's first published story in 2016.

telling techniques in stories such as "Why We Run." She provided leadership as a junior and senior by managing cub reporters while still maintaining sports coverage.

Rodri shared leadership duties with colleague **Jillian Deuel** as a senior.

Rodri plans to explore the evolving journalism field, studying

the print, digital and broadcast genres. She plans to pursue internships and freelance work during college. She would like to remain being primarily a sports reporter and will seek to land her dream job as an ESPN correspondent.

Ramadan Traditions Conflict With School

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITAN TOWN—While the Islamic calendar has 12 months just like the traditional calendar, the two calendars do not line up when it comes to holidays and days of observance. This creates several schedule conflicts for Muslims, most notably, during Ramadan.

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and many activities take place. The main feature of Ramadan is fasting. Fasting is defined as, "abstaining from all or some kinds of food or drink, especially as a religious observance."

Islamic fast lasts from pre-dawn to dusk, Muslims eat the evening meal to alleviate the hunger and thirst.

The most challenging thing about fasting in Ramadan and celebrating Eid while living in a non Muslim country is that Muslims are sometimes not excused from work and school.

Fortunately, for students, Ramadan tends to fall in the summer

months while school is out. But, this year, Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr both fall in the last days of the GTHS school year. Muslim students who fast in Ramadan will have to go to school and take finals on empty stomachs, possibly negatively impacting their performance.

"I'm literally going to come to school like a zombie because I have to wake up to eat at 3:30 am and try to get back to sleep by 4:30, then wake up an hour later at 5:30 to get to school on time and I have to show up and use my brain." said **Asiyah Medlock** (2019).

STREET SCENE



BLOOMINGTON — The House of Fadez Barbershop on Valley Blvd. has many reviews and testimonials from students. "The staff is cool and they give (tight) haircuts," said **Carlos Aguirre** (2019).

But, its more than a barbershop. There is an auto shop right across the street where they occasionally show customized cars. It's a good time. There are plenty of nice and fast cars that show up.

"The cars are cool and the people like checking them out and listen to the music they're bumping," said Carlos.

Apart from the name being clever and the cool scene, you might want to go inside and get cleaned up.

High School Culture EXPLAINED : Odd Shenanigans

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITAN TOWN - Here at Grand Terrace High School, there are a lot of activities and clubs to participate in during lunch and after school that can keep a student entertained. When those activities are not available, students may start to find new ideas to do the job. Limited only by the rules enforced by the district, the school, and teachers, some students use different resources to ensure that every day is a fun day at Titan Town.

“Shenanigan” is described as silly or high spirited behavior. Some students, whether they realize it or not, bring a “shenanigan” of some sort to school every day. Some examples of this would be a deck of cards to play with at lunch, a ball to throw around, a stuffed animal to hold, a funny sound-making instrument (such as the otamatone, the kazoo, or the slide whistle) to play.



A rubber chicken with "tattoos" is routinely brought to class by a sophomore too embarrassed to be identified, serving as the perfect example of student shenanigans. Photo by **Sakinah Storks**

“Shenanigans can be fun as well as therapeutic.”

Some might say that this generation of teenagers is so dependent on technology that we have become addicted to constant stimulation. Some claim that we can not go even a few minutes without having to do something. From the point of view of a teenager in this generation, the shenanigans are not part of an addiction to constant stimulation, but rather a conscience choice to take some of the surging brain activity and put it toward something that

can be fun as well as therapeutic.

Student shenanigans may be labeled as distractions if used at the wrong time. It is best for students to choose the moments for their shenanigans which will not call for it to be confiscated. When used correctly, student shenanigans provide stress relief and fun for students while also calling for the use of creativity and responsibility.

AVID BIDS FAREWELL TO MS. PAMINTUAN



AVID students bid goodbye to Ms. **Zoe Pamintuan** on April 26 at the AVID Stole Ceremony. Ms. Pamintuan was a long time AVID teacher and coordinator at Titan Town and Colton Middle School. She accepted a job as librarian at Terrace Hills Middle School.

Photo by **Victor Morales**

California's Wishy Washy Weather

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITAN TOWN - California (more specifically, Southern California), is known for its hot and dry Mediterranean weather. What is cold to Californians is nothing compared to the weather in some other states. Even our California winter, which consists of the occasional light rain and 55-degree mornings and nights, is no match for the heavy downpours, snow storms, and extreme weather in the South, Pacific Northwest, and East Coast. In that exact same way, the 80-degree and below summers in some other states can't quite compare to the summers in California, which can reach up to 120 degrees in the nearby Coachella Valley. Despite California's reputation as a hot and dry state, California tends to surprise its residents by switching it up, from time to time. "The weather is unpredictable. We're getting summer weather in spring," said Ms. **Olga Aguila** (Science).

The amount of rainfall this year differs noticeably from that of previous years. California had its driest weather in 2014-17 since 1895, with the most severe years being 2014 and 2015, according to credible news sources. During those four years, California lost 102 million trees due to the extreme weather. Most of those trees were lost in 2016. But, California received record rains and its extreme drought was put on pause in Winter of 2018, according to most weather experts.

If one were to look up "California weather 2018," countless articles and videos of forest fires would be the result. This is obviously the effect of the serious drought, which went on from Dec. 2011 to March 2017. While the drought has ended, California remains extremely dry compared to states that are more humid. One former GTHS student, who now lives in Florida, commented, "California is a dry heat, while Florida is an extremely wet heat. It also gets much colder and dryer in the winter."

In the Winter of 2018, California has experienced record days of rain, followed by hot and sunny days that made it appear as though the rain had never even happened. A Californian could look up at the snow covered mountains while standing on hot cement in the heat. It all depends on the location.

Climate and weather are not the same. When determining the climate of a state, meteorologists consider a state's high, low, and average weathers, precipitation, and severe weather cases. Weather is determined by heat, sunshine, wind, aridness, rain, etc. Weather defines how a certain location feels at a specific time, while climate defines how a specific place usually feels overall, on average. California's weather can appear to change on a day-to-day basis, from rainy to dry, windy to still, hot to chilly, etc. Despite the constant change in weather, California's climate remains popular, attracting many. Just get on the freeway and see for yourself.

In N Out

Interview Questions Revealed

Working at In-N-Out is one of the most desired jobs for high school students. According to Business Insider, In n Out pays a higher than average salary of \$13 an hour. One student who landed a job there recently shared the three questions he was asked at his initial interview.

1. *Why do you believe you fit in here?*
2. *What are your strengths?*
3. *Why did you pick In-N-Out out of all places to work at?*

GTHS Cheerleader Enjoys Skeet Shooting

Robbie Martin



By Alex Santos (2019,) Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN - If you spoke to friends of Robbie Martin (2019), they would likely tell you that she is a sweet cheerleader who spends her days here at school making people smile and laugh, and of course, over-achieving. However, it may come as a surprise that she also occupies herself with a unique hobby that some might consider dangerous and out of character for Robbie.

Skeet shooting, also known as just shooting, is a sport where a clay target disc is shot from a machine. The objective is to shoot and break the clay target.

"My dad has always wanted me to shoot, so I gave it a try and actually enjoyed it," Robbie said. She has always been interested in shooting ever since her father introduced it to her. It was when she was 15 years old that she gained a bigger interest in shooting and started doing it more often.

"My dad put me into competitions with adults. I actually got 3rd place one time," added Robbie.

Shooting may seem scary or dangerous but there are some serious personal benefits to it, Robbie said.

"When I first learned to shoot it made me feel safer and independent in some ways," she said. "When it came to shooting I never really prepared myself, I just saw where the (projectile) needed to go and that's where it went. I just had to have faith in myself when it came to shooting."

She uses a 12. or a 20. gauge shotgun. Shooting wasn't always a competition, it's mostly a hobby. It wasn't until junior and senior year that the shooting dialed down and school started getting serious. Today at 18 years old, she explained, "I do it on my free time, but I got busy on my junior and senior year. Shooting wasn't on the top of my list."

FEAR AND LOATHING IN GT

A Reporter's Determination to Get the Story Leads to An Interesting Journey and Epiphany

Story and Photo By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITAN TOWN - It all began when I had an idea for a story. My initial plan was to find out if teachers have students that remind them of themselves when they were in high school. I asked several teachers and it was a challenge because, I learned, some teachers are often too busy for a detailed interview and (understandably) do not like to be bothered in their free time.

Because of this, I changed my approach. I decided to ask random students if they have come across a teacher who they felt would be a friend in the hypothetical situation of being in high school at the same time. After some attempts I concluded that most were apprehensive about having their opinions about teachers published in the Echo for all to see, even though they were thoughtful and sweet.

By this time my faculty advisor, Mr. Morales, was getting impatient and said we may have to kill the story. I was stressing but I couldn't give up because I was genuinely inter-

ested if teachers saw themselves in students. In my last attempt to save the story, I created a Titan Echo Instagram (@gthstitanecho) in order to get students to share their voice digitally.

Just when the story was precariously hanging by the too few responses, a teacher put on his journalist cape and saved the day and my story. Mr. **Donn Kalogonis** (Social Science) burst from the gate with unparalleled enthusiasm.

I knew from his reputation that Mr. K is characterized as "chill" by students. So, I went to his classroom and asked him the golden question: do you have any students who remind you of yourself in high school. He thought, and he thought, and he thought some more. He then spontaneously asked his entire class, who were working diligently on an assignment.

"Who is like me," he asked. Names and descriptions shot out from all directions. I could barely keep track. In all of the chaos, Mr. K managed to get a list of names.

From there, new dilemmas were born. First, how would I find out who, of the 16 students, was the most like Mr. K? And, I was loathing Mr. Morales' reaction to the story. "What the heck kind of story is this," he would say. Ugh!

I proceeded anyway. I had too much work invested. I would figure out the angle later.

Going above and beyond, Mr. K printed copies of the list and passed it out to a couple classes to create a voting system. From there, he narrowed the list down to the top four, "K's Court."

The last step was the biggest one. I had to interview K's Court and get photos. Mr. K arrived to his classroom with the boys. I asked the boys to describe both

themselves and Mr. K, using one word. Immediately, one boy shouted out the word "bald."

Lonzel Bradford, Dylan Bowler, Malachi Compton III, Melvin Craig, Avery Lara, Aus-

tin Roberts, and Mike Stiggers were among those willing to share. The list of words included funny, outgoing, approachable, respectful, and hard.

When the discussion opened up to phrases, the boys all agreed that Mr. K, as well as themselves, were special. They described themselves as the "chosen ones" for even being compared to him.

One thing I found interesting was that all the boys felt as though they would be friends with Mr. K except for Avery Lara. He said that he would probably like Mr. K, but not hang out in the same group. But more interestingly, was that when I asked if the boys thought they had a lot in common with the other boys there. They all agreed that they *did not*. This led me to the inference that perhaps Mr. K is the ultimate common denominator?



As Viewership Declines, A Reminder of the Importance of Baseball

By Rodri Smith (2019),
Executive Editor

TITAN TOWN - Baseball haters say it should not be a sport. They say it's too boring and its relevance has run its course. USA Today reported that viewership keeps declining and cited the length of the game as one of the culprits. This is an alarming message to fans of the game. How could people question baseball? It is our national pastime.

Baseball is a competitive exiting sport and holds its value to the fan. It is the most important game in our country, starting in 1839 in in New York. Since then, it has continued to become popular. Its popularity has traveled all over the world. Mexico and Japan have adopted it into their cultures. This is the one sport that has been called an "All American Sport" or a "True American Sport." This is why thousands of fans, old and young, gather at a stadium to sit back and enjoy the game. It's common for fans to come in with a big appetite. Many will eat hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, enjoy an ice cold soda or a cold beer (or two). It doesn't get much more American than that. The activities on the stands is as much a part of the game as the game. People socialize and test their knowledge on the game with strangers. Bonds are created in the stands.

But the actual game holds value. The game of baseball is all about chance, luck, individual skill, and teamwork. Yes, it is different in that it has long pauses in between scoring opportunities. Basketball and football are fast, with scoring opportunities in between short pauses.

In baseball, there are nine innings and if there is a tie, the game keeps going. Game 3 of this year's World Series, when the Dodgers played the Red Sox, went 18 innings and more than seven hours. In every inning, the batter gets several chances to get on base, but until the pitcher strikes them out (the third strike) then it's onto the next batter. When the three outs are accumulated, both teams switch places.

Finally, playing the game is an experience, said GT's baseball coach, **Robert Quesada** (Social Sciences).

"The game of baseball teaches you a lot about life. It's not an easy an sport. If it was then everyone could do it. Life brings you ups and down just like the games can. Life can also change in an instant , like the game can. The game of baseball will humble you and make you cherish the good times you have. I have grown up around the sport of baseball all my life. The game has taught many life lessons that I share to others and players and as well as to my kids. The goal every season I have is to of course win games but also help these young men be the best versions themselves. Baseball has lead me to what I do today. If it was not for baseball, I probably wouldn't be a teacher or a coach," he said.



Should Golf Come Back to Titan Town?

By Jaycee Valadez (2020), Sports Writer



The 2013 yearbook dedicates a page to the school's golf team. Photos by Jaycee Valadez

TITAN TOWN - From the time when this school first opened in 2012, a golf team competed and represented Titan Town. This is no longer. What happened to our golf team? The school's first yearbook shows a robust team with Titan uniforms and several players. But, they have vanished.

According to Athletic Director, Ms. **Tiffany Gordon**, golf succumbed to the lack of interest and funding. In the years that it was active, it was sponsored.

"When we did have a team, it was funded by a parent booster club," Ms. Gordon said.

In its heyday, Titan Golf was competitive. They are one of the few sport teams that earned a banner up in the gym. If they were a successful team, why did it fail to gain interest?

The last team played in the Spring of 2016 and after that there has not been a team since. This team was not competing with the Sunkist League because they did not have golf. The team cross-leagued with the San Andreas League, Ms. Gordon said.

Although people have very different opinions about this sport, it is a very diverse sport. It is known to be one of the most played in the world.

Many people on campus suggested the team should come back.

"My mom watches golf and she gets excited over it so I started to get into golf," said Austin Roberts (2020).

Special Education Teacher, Mr. **Andrew Weisz** is an avid golfer.

Golf has been an interesting sport to him for a while now and enjoys playing and watching. He wishes he could see another golf team here on campus succeed just like the last one did in 2014 and would consider coaching.

"Golf is a beautiful game, requiring the rare combination of athletic power and precision, as well as, patience and mental fortitude. Anyone blessed to have spent time at a local course will learn life lessons. Hopefully, GTHS will revamp the program soon. It will only benefit the student body, staff, and Community," he said.



AUSTIN ROBERTS

LeBron James Fails to Take the Lakers to the Finals

By Jaycee Valadez (2020), Sports Writer



LOS ANGELES - LeBron Raymone James Sr. is one of the most hyped athletes in the world and arguably the most popular franchise player in recent history. The Los Angeles Lakers acquired him last year, hoping to return the "Showtime" team to its glory days. But, due to the injuries LeBron sustained, his first season with the Lakers is now over without competing in the playoffs.

LeBron played 55 games with an average of 27 points, 8 rebounds, 8 assists, according to statistics on ESPN. He hasn't missed a playoff game since the year 2004-2005.

"It is hard to sit back and watch the games go on without me. In the past eight years, I have been in the NBA Finals, and winning three championships. I really wanted this year with the Lakers to be a successful season," he said in an interview.

LeBron was the first round overall pick in 2003 by the Cleveland Cavaliers. He has the ideal size at 6'8", and his athleticism is so astonishing and his scoring statistics so high that he has become a four-time NBA MVP. Some would call him the "GOAT" (Greatest of All Time) or refer to him as "King James." One could argue that he has almost single-handedly carried his teams to championships. He has appeared in the Finals eight consecutive times. He has won three championships, one with Cleveland, his hometown, and one with Miami.



LeBron was picked for the NBA All-Star Game for the first time in 2005, and would soon go on to earn a spot in the annual showcase in each of

the next 14 seasons. And this year, he was at the helm of the Los Angeles Lakers, who failed to make the finals.

Every team that he has left is not necessarily the best without him.

"When LeBron leaves the Lakers they will be back to being very mediocre" said Junior **Austin Roberts**.

The last time the Lakers made the playoffs was in 2013, when they played the San Antonio Spurs. They played the first round and lost. This was before James was on the team. His team at the time, the Miami Heat, beat the Spurs in the Finals game and LeBron won the Finals MVP. This is a testament to why many fans say he makes a great impact on whatever team he is on.



LeBron has great potential to get the Lakers to the Finals or at least the playoffs, along with other players that they can acquire later on. "The Western Conference is the toughest competition because of the Golden State Warriors and the Houston Rockets" said Junior **Eric Sitorus**.

Rock Hall of Fame Class of 2019

By Claudia Ruvalcaba (2021), A&E Writer



BROOKLYN, NY - The 34th Annual Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony took place March 29 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Nominated artists include The Cure, Def Leppard, Janet Jackson, Stevie Nicks, Radiohead, Roxy Music, and The Zombies. According to the hall of fame website, "Inductees are recognized for having contributed over 25 years of music excellence."

Radiohead was eligible to join in 2018, but was brushed off from the induction last year, critics say. This was quite alarming to fans, considering the band is one of the most recognized rock bands.

"The whole situation was pretty 'High and Dry,' but at least finally they're getting the eligibility and recognition they deserve," said a critic online.

The Zombies were somewhat of a surprise to younger generations, considering the fact that they're a band that blew up back in the sixties. Def Leppard, to most, was very expected as they were a premier hair band in the eighties, selling out the biggest arenas. Many people probably may not have expected the success of the alternative rock bands The Cure and Roxy Music to have joined in, since they're bands that some may not be familiar with.

The Cure was the proto Emo band and was eligible in 2004. This was the second time the band was nominated.

Fleetwood Mac is already in the Hall of Fame, but many are satisfied with the recognition of their singer, Stevie Nicks as a solo artist.

"She is a legend because Fleetwood Mac inspired a ton of other bands and was one of the biggest in

the mid -to-late seventies and into the nineties and still going today," said senior **Noah Rodriguez**.

Twenty-two other artists have been honored twice like *Nicks*, but she will be the only woman to do so. Janet Jackson may not have come as a surprise, as she is the sister of king of pop, Michael Jackson. But people are astounded. It may have something to do with her not-so-rock and roll vibe.

"I think they're all pretty great. Radiohead is my favorite out of all of them. Janet Jackson doesn't belong. Neither does Roxy Music I'm sorry. But all of their music is wonderful and should be appreciated because all those people make great music," said **Nicolas Lozano** (2021).

TITAN TOWN - Each generation seems to have their ups and downs when it comes to trends. Having face tattoos was once considered taboo, but now, it's nothing new among the youth, so we own the trend.

Tattoos are a cool way for people express themselves, but there are numerous ways others look at them. Celebrities like Kat Von D and 21 Savage are among the groups of celebrities that freely show their face tattoos without a concern in the world. The reason may be that they don't have to worry about finding a steady job. Their job is to be cool.

Musicians and celebrities don't have to worry about their appearance as much (in some cases), since they have loads of money. But what about everyone else, like that guy with the face tattoo you have to nervously sit next you at the airport?

Face tattoos can be a way to make a personal statement. We shouldn't judge people by the way they want to express themselves. But take into consideration that landing job that is not at a tattoo artist or bartender won't be so easy. In fact, lots of jobs make you cover up tattoos. And, you can't cover your face, unless you're fine with a whole lot of makeup.

Teens and young adults seem to idolize face tattoos because of the musicians they idolize. It's mainly modern day rappers who seem to have their face tatted up.

Sophomore **Eric Bustamante** thinks face tattoos are useless. "The point of face tattoos are pointless if you don't really have a following or even fame. Their face tat is a symbol of them being successful. Any other reason of getting a face tattoo is really pointless, 'cause you're damaging your face."

Alivia Foley, a 24-year old tattoo artist in Seattle told CNN, "People will start treating you differently once you become a heavily tattooed person. I just don't think they're for everyone."

No one can really stop you from doing what you already have your mind set on, but consider the pros and cons. Pros include: probably getting compliments from your friends, looking cool, and you'll make that statement you wanted to put out there. The cons: include: difficulty in finding a job (and eating) and negative judgement from people (unless maybe you have a strong mentality and things like that don't bother you).

Face tattoos can be cool, but you should really think before doing so. Remember, they stay with you forever.

The Bird Box:

An Eye Opener Or Not?

By Claudia Ruvalcaba (2021), A&E Writer

Jessica's eyes were suddenly consumed with anguish. She swerved the car from side to side at such a high speed, ignoring her sister Malorie's fearful screams. It was as if she was yelling at a wall. Jessica crashed the vehicle, resulting in it being flipped over. In the process of struggling to be freed, Malorie watched her sister walk away, continuing to ignore her pleas for help. Jessica turned around and locked eyes with her sister.

Malorie got a glimpse of her sister's grief stricken face, before watching her step in front of a passing truck, instantly being killed. The source of why a normal human being would behave this way is never explained.

This is a scene of *The Bird Box*, a newly released Netflix Original Movie directed by Susanne Bier, and it was the talk of teens and young adults all over social media. It's an era where invisible and mysterious forces demolish the whole world by such inexplicitly deadly behavior. If you see them, they turn into your worst fear and you are consumed with the urge to harm yourself. To escape the deadly situation, a woman (played by Sandra Bullock) takes her two kids on a journey for sanctuary blindfolded.



The *Bird Box*'s release came with an unintended consequence that was also pretty predictable, the "Bird Box Challenge." Basically, players do a series of activities blindfolded, but some took it to the extreme. A 17-year-old girl from Utah decided that driving around with a pickup truck blindfolded was a good idea. As one would have thought, she did indeed crash the vehicle into another car. "Predictable result," the Layton Police Department wrote in a tweet.

Viewers said the *Bird Box* was an average movie and not the greatest. There were some holes here and there and questions unanswered, but maybe that was precisely the intention of the flawed plot.

"*Bird Box* was trash. It was definitely over hyped and people were only into it because everyone else was," said **Michelle Figueroa** (2021).

Common questions on social media included, "How do the creatures that are tormenting the world look like?" Another wrote, "How did these creatures even begin doing what they do?" Though recently, the first question has been answered. The "monsters" have been described as "demonic babies." They should have left it unexplained.

REMEMBERING KURT COBAIN

Claudia Ruvalcaba (2021), A&E Writer

TITAN TOWN - April 5 marked the 25th death anniversary of Nirvana guitarist and singer Kurt Cobain. Cobain was found dead on April 8, 1994 with fresh injections in his arms, a very visible head wound, and shotgun across his body. At the time, it was determined he had died three days earlier.

According to many, Nirvana is one of the most influential bands. They popularized a certain style of music, called "Grunge." Their album *Nevermind* took the music industry by surprise, (considering they only signed for small labels) and turned the whole pop culture on its heels in 1991.

Cobain said he, "wanted a name that was kind of beautiful and nice instead of a mean, raunchy punk name like the *Angry Samoans*." Before settling on the name Nirvana, they were known as Skid Row, Fecal Matter and Ted Ed Fred.

Mr. **John Bunce**, an English teacher here at GTHS, actually met Kurt Cobain and Nirvana before their fame. It was a brief encounter in June 14, 1991. He and his friends went to a concert at the Hollywood Palladium and saw them unloading backstage. Mr. Bunce and his friends told Nirvana that they were going to follow them to their next gig in Tijuana, and of course, the band responded positively, Mr. Bunce said.

"As a musician I think he's rockin'. Kinda grungy. It was a good sound," he said.

Mr. Bunce shared his first impression of the band. He said, Kurt had allegedly flipped off the crowd before playing, but as a person off stage he was calm and mellow. "He actually predicted his next album was gonna be big."

Cobain was right. *Nevermind*, upon its first release, was selling at least 300,000 copies a week. As of 2011, the album sold 30 million copies world wide.

Kurt Cobain immensely disliked all the fame he was receiving, he told rock journalists. He didn't like the fame getting out of hand and he also didn't like the way people were standing against his principles.

"At this point I have a request for our fans. If any of you in any way hate homosexuals, people of different color, or women, please do this one favor for us. Leave us the (explicit) alone! Don't come to our shows, and don't buy our records."

You've probably seen lots of students around campus sporting Nirvana band tees, most likely decorated with the yellow face with the x eyes and tongue sticking out. Cobain's music continues to make an impact on young listeners, even with the 25th year anniversary of his death now behind us.

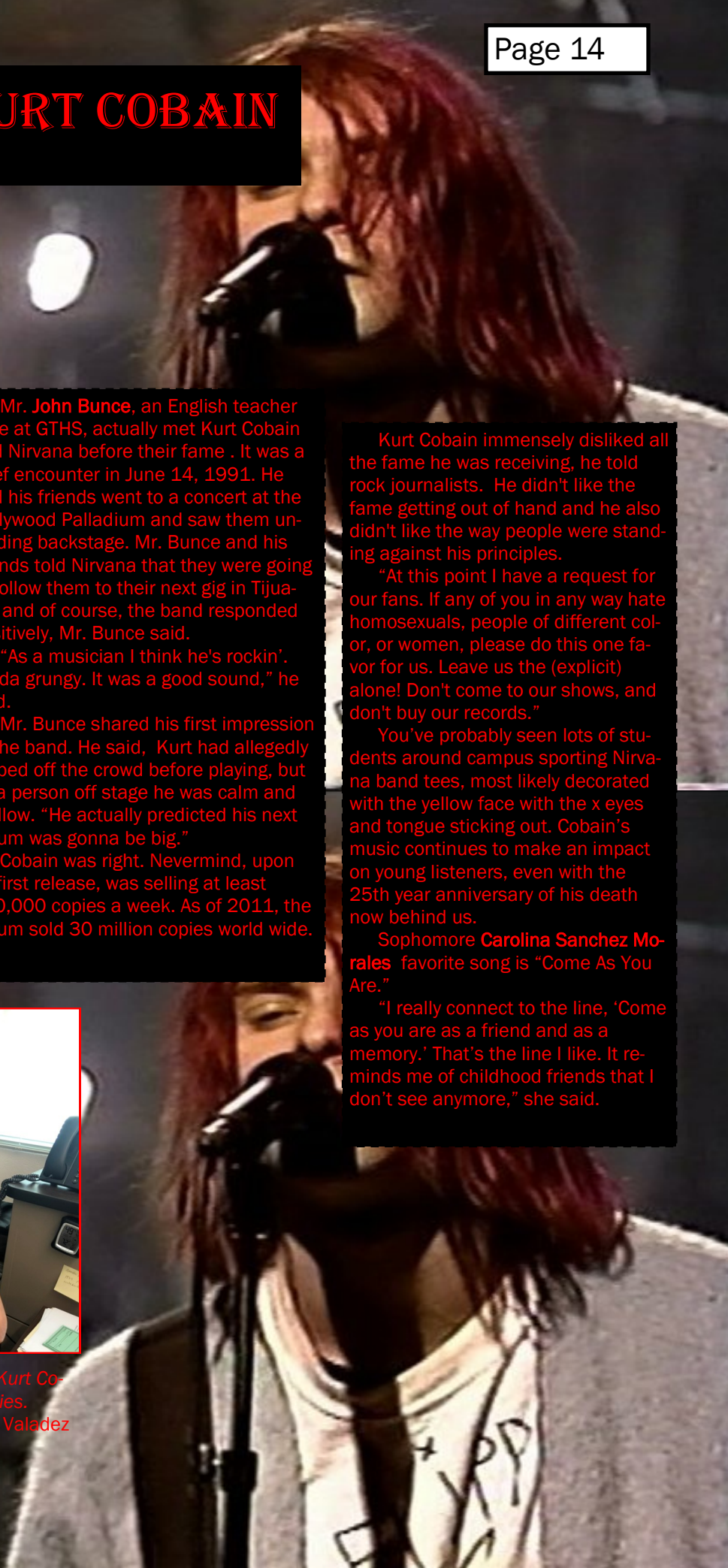
Sophomore **Carolina Sanchez Morales** favorite song is "Come As You Are."

"I really connect to the line, 'Come as you are as a friend and as a memory.' That's the line I like. It reminds me of childhood friends that I don't see anymore," she said.



Mr. John Bunce (English) met and followed Kurt Cobain in Los Angeles and Tijuana in the nineties.

Photo by Jaycee Valadez





BATES
MOTEL
VACANCY

IMDb's TOP TEN SCARIEST
MOVIES OF ALL TIME

1. Psycho
2. Rosemary's Baby
3. The Texas Chainsaw
Massacre
4. The Shining,
5. The Exorcist
6. Jaws
7. Halloween
8. Alien
9. Don't Look Now
10. The Witch

WHAT ARE WE LACKING IN HORROR MOVIES TODAY?

By Claudia Ruvalcaba (2021), A&E Writer

TITANTOWN- 2018 had a handful of fairly good horror and suspense movies. Though, maybe some were a bit stale and overrated. Movies like Halloween, A Quiet Place, and Hereditary were among the most talked about on social media. But today, it seems like horror movies are lacking the whole *horror* part of its genre.

It may have something to do with the fact that in this day and age, no one is surprised with what they see. Back in 1973, when the film *The Exorcist* was first released, there were records of people crying and fainting. One police officer working security at the time stated, "It's something different I never saw in my whole life. It's something different, and I went to a lot of movies but I've never seen anything like this one."

Sorry to say that audiences today probably will never experience the same shock value in a modern horror movie.

What is the reason behind this? As time goes by and graphic images and narratives are accessible via several mediums, people are being exposed to more and more "scary" material, beginning at a young age. They've been desensitized.

Some filmmakers have incorporated other methods to scare. There are some movies like *Lights Out*, which mainly depend on jumpscare to make the movie. Though most of the time, jumpscare are not enough and not long lasting. Some rely on gore and special effects.

The original *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* is considered one of the scariest movies of all time on some lists, including IMDb, and it doesn't really portray gore on camera.

Psychological horror seems to be the most effective, since movies like those are all about getting into people's heads. Movies like *Hereditary* and *Mother!* do a good job of doing so.

The story in general is a big part of the movie too. Films like *The Conjuring* and *The Exorcist* have a compelling story. Audiences pick some pieces here and there and put them together to create a sense of understanding and finally knowing what's going on.

Lots of people are anticipating upcoming horror films coming out in 2019. Some of them are sequels. *It: Chapter Two*, *The Cure Of La Llorona*, and *Pet Sematary* are among the list of movies expected to be released in 2019.

"I hope to see more original films rather than remakes. That's all 2018 was really about. Remakes of shows, horror movies. It's boring. I hope to see more unpredictable films, since we've basically seen everything," said Sophomore Yanet Mendez.

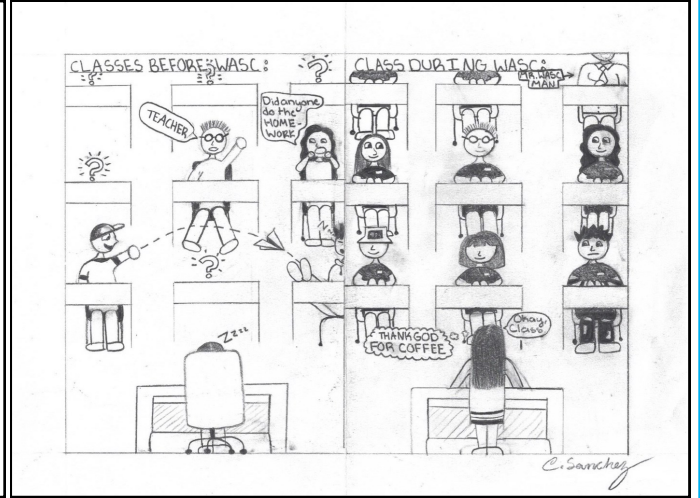
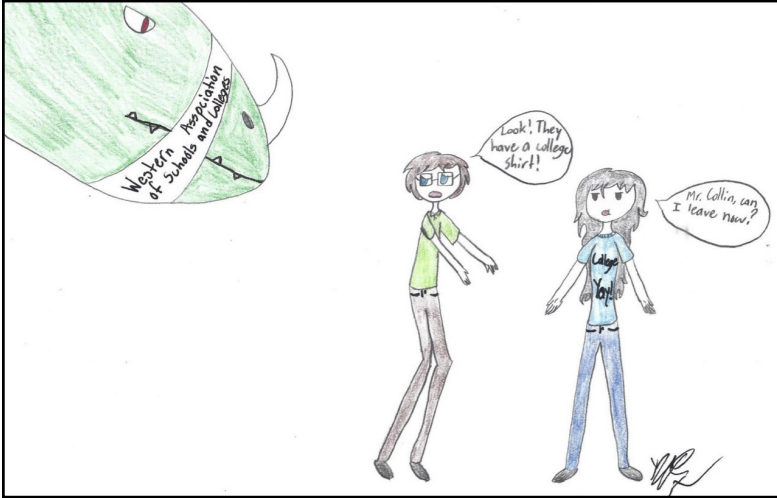
Perhaps audiences are just spoiled and have very high expectations with what they expect to see, depending on the movie. Hopefully 2019 will fulfill whatever expectations each and every one of us has.

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COVER ANSWER:
You may have seen this eye-catching sculpture pictured on the cover at prom this year, which took place at Palm Springs Art Museum on April 13.
Photos by Jillian Deuel and Alex Santos

