

School Shooting in Parkland, Florida

By Samuel Getachew

On February 14th, in Parkland, Florida, a heavily-armed 19-year-old gunman opened fire at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, killing 17 and injuring 15 others. Before he began shooting, previously expelled Nikolas Cruz pulled the fire alarm to draw students out of their classrooms and into the hallways. There had already been a fire drill that day, and so the 3,000 unassuming students of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High filtered out into the hallways before Cruz opened fire on his AR-15.

Cruz was known as a troubled child, and many of his peers described him as a “strange kid,” with some even going so far as to call him

“evil.” He was known for violent outbursts and animal cruelty, attacking small animals like squirrels with rocks. His Instagram page has been part of the ongoing investigation by police, with many disturbing images depicting bloodied, dead animals and others showing Cruz with a gun in front of his face.

The FBI and local police have been under fire for their apparent lack of diligence in this case. Cruz had been identified by the FBI as a potential threat after online comments were reported where Cruz claimed, “I’m going to become a professional school shooter.” Several 911 calls were made to his home starting in 2013 due to domestic disturbances. Despite all this, Cruz was a member

of an NRA-sponsored rifle team and was able to obtain a gun of his own.

Since the shooting, copycat threats across the country have left school officials and local law enforcement shaken. In Arkansas, a Fayetteville High School student allegedly threatened to “shoot up the high school like they did in Florida” and was soon arrested. In South Carolina, a ninth grader was arrested after posting a picture of himself on Snapchat wearing a mask and what seemed to be an assault rifle, with the caption “Round 2 of Florida tomorrow.” In Massachusetts, a social media post claimed that students should be wary of a “Florida pt 2.”

According to Oakland Tech sophomore Abriella Terrazas, “News of the shooting in Flori-

da and the fact that there have been so many just in this year have made me think about my safety at school but not necessarily question it.” She adds that she doubts a school shooting could happen in Oakland, saying, “I hope nothing like this happens at Tech but it’s always good to be prepared.”

Not too long ago, a social media post warning of a school shooting the next day at Tech was determined to be a hoax and dismissed by the administration. We must learn from tragedies such as the one in Florida, and have a policy and procedure in place for school shootings, as well as take all threats seriously. School should be a place of learning - never a place where you question your safety.

Success for Tech Students at MLK Oratorical Fest

By Fiona Osborn and Claire Daly

Every year in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, OUSD holds a Martin Luther King Oratorical Festival, in which students from all grades perform spoken word pieces. This year for the 39th Oratorical Fest, Tech students were overwhelmingly successful, with many of the competing students placing first at district and moving on to the finals. Due to budget cuts—the District could not afford trophies—the finals were not a competition, as it has been in past years, but a “showcase.” According to sophomore Samuel Getachew, “That was annoying, but Tech still did great.”

Ten students from Tech went on to the

finals, performing everything from original poetry to speeches. The finalists included Milah Gammon, who performed the speech “The Art of Growing”; Tess Falkner-Kenny with a speech from Senator Kamala Harris; Samuel Getachew and Amelia Schreiber with an original poetry piece, “On the Education System”; and Joey Lovett, Alexis Lewis, Anton Walker, Micaela Davis, Sophie Hankin, Abriella Terrazas for their excerpt from “99 years”.

This competition has been incredibly meaningful to students. For senior Tess Falkner-Kenny: “I’ve been participating in the Oratorical Fest every year since kindergarten, and it has really helped me develop my public speaking and advocacy skills. I do wish that more people

(Oratorical Fest continues on page 8)

March School Calender

Mar. 2- End of marking period 4

Mar. 3- volunteer work day at school gardens

Mar. 10- SAT test date

Mar. 12- PTSA meeting

Mar. 18- OT Family Fun 5K run/walk

Mar. 21- SAT test day for Juniors

Mar. 22- Winter Sports Banquet & Award Ceremony

More events listed on school calendar on the Oakland Tech website

Tech Students Join Rally to Protect Dreamers

By Claire Daly

On February 16th, Tech students participated in a rally standing with Dreamers and refugees and calling for the impeachment of Trump. Dreamers are Americans who immigrated to the country at a young age

and receive legal protection from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, otherwise known as DACA. Due to attacks from the current administration, DACA is set to expire on March 5th unless Congress passes immigration legislation that allows Dreamers

to stay in the country. Emaan Sharif, a Tech senior who participated in the rally, said, “It was to protest ICE coming to California and how the police are cooperating with ICE even though they aren’t supposed to. It was also protesting the removal of DACA.” Participants

Natalie Barr/Scribe

in the rally joined students from fellow Oakland schools East Oakland Pride Elementary School and Edna Brewer Middle School, as well as students from University of California, Berkeley, for a total of approximately 100 people. The rally was orchestrated by the organization By Any Means Necessary, or BAMN, as part of their national “Don’t Walk on By” campaign. The goal of “Don’t Walk on By” is to prevent U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, more commonly known as ICE, from entering school campuses and communities and arresting undocumented immigrants. Emaan said the “Don’t Walk on By” program “encourages people to stop ICE if they see them and call BAMN so they can push ICE out of California.”



News

California May Face Another Drought

By Bebe Aronson

These past few weeks, students at Tech have been exchanging jackets for shorts and sandals due to temperatures rising above seventy degrees. As nice as this warm weather may be, the unseasonably warm temperatures serve as a clear example of the effect global warming is having on our world. The lack of rain places the state of California in an all too familiar position: facing the possibility of another drought. This is happening only a year after Governor Jerry Brown was able to end the state's drought state of emergency after a particularly wet winter and high snowpack in the Sierra Nevadas in 2017.

Most of us in Oakland see the Sierra

Nevada as a great place for skiing and snowboarding, but the snow in these mountains serves a larger purpose. The snow that falls in the Sierras in the winter provides one-third of the state's water when it melts throughout the spring and summer. The snow melt is the main source of irrigation for the farms in the Central Valley that provide one-quarter of the nation's food supply. As of February 1, the snowpack was at 27% of its normal levels for this time of year in the Sierra Nevadas. The high temperatures in the past few weeks, 15 degrees Fahrenheit higher than average for this time of year in Tahoe, may cause what little snow there is to melt early. The snow melting now instead of in the spring would

leave farms without a substantial inflow of water during the dry summer months. This combination of lack of precipitation and record high temperatures reflect the conditions in 2015, when California entered a state of emergency for a severe drought, but there still is hope that this will not be the case this time around.

Last year, California experienced an extremely wet winter, which brought us out of the state of emergency and filled the state's reservoirs, another important source of water. The reservoirs are still fairly full, so they will be able to supply water for the present. Additionally, we are not quite out of the rainy season yet. The season typically lasts from October to March, mean-

ing that there is still another month during which more rain could fall. However, forecasts at the moment do not look so promising. For this year, Southern California is already in a moderate drought, while Northern California is not expected to be in a drought. This may not be the case if current weather patterns continue, so we need to start saving water now. Taking shorter showers, turning off the faucet when brushing your teeth and washing your hands, and washing your car at a car wash that recycles water instead of in your driveway are all simple things that you can do to save water. If you want to go the extra mile, you can replace grass lawns with low-irrigation landscaping and install greywater

systems that recycle water from your washing machine and other appliances throughout your home.

Although we may not be in a drought yet, the signs are pointing that way and Tech students are already expressing concern. Junior Melody Rice says "I knew that we were always in a drought! They were just lying to us when they said it was over." Most students had a slightly different opinion, such as sophomore Aden Lounds, who said "I didn't know that we were facing a drought again, but that seems pretty bad." And she is right: this is pretty bad and it will only get worse unless we all start to save water.

Tech Students Take Action on Climate Change

By Cara Plumhoff and Ro'e Zaid

This year Oakland Technical High School AP Environmental Science students have been working hard to develop a way for all Oakland Unified School District students to graduate with knowledge about climate change, otherwise known as 'climate change literacy'. Climate change is the most pressing issue that our world is currently facing because it affects every single one of us in our daily lives. Climate change causes global temperatures to rise, which can lead to natural disasters including wildfires, rising sea levels, damaged habitats, animal extinction, increased pollution, alters migration of people and animals, creates conflict over limited resources, and many other threats.

Climate change is especially threatening to Oakland because it is a coastal city. Sea level rise can damage

homes and infrastructure that are imperative to the functionality of our society. Climate change affects different demographics in disap-



AP Environmental Science students working hard to fight climate change.

appropriate percentages; as one of California's most diverse cities, the consequences of climate change is a social justice issue. This creates a moral imperative for action. Many students in OUSD are aware of climate change, but do not have enough resources or opportunities to help. High school students are the future, so they must be empowered to make decisions that promote a more sustainable future.

Literacy

Creating a policy that all students are climate change literate in the district is a crucial step towards ensuring that future generations of

policymakers care about our planet.

The APES students are promoting the implementation of a policy that states that all high school students that go through OUSD are climate change literate. This means that students will have extensive knowledge on the causes and effects of climate change. This awareness include ways to mitigate the effects of climate change. In order to be successful,

students must be valued partners of the community to organize and work with community groups to implement the solutions.

Christian Bardell /Scribe

This project is derived from the Sierra Club Resolution, which was inspired by student action in Portland Public Schools. Their district agreed with their students that real, sustainable solutions must be in place to combat climate change and it starts with education. By creating this resolution, the Sierra Club hopes to set a guideline for other school districts across the country to follow suit. If this initia-

tive passes in Oakland, they will be the 4th school district to ever create this requirement.

The students are in the process of developing a detailed plan that will be presented to the Oakland school board in April. In order to safeguard Oakland's future, the school board must pass the students' Oakland Climate Change Literacy Resolution. However, the APES students cannot complete this project by themselves. They are currently reaching out to students, teachers, parents, community members, along with environmental organizations, but they would benefit from more help. If you or anyone you know would be able to offer support with endorsement, advice, contacts, or input regarding this campaign, please email roe.zaid@ousd.us or cara.plumhoff@ousd.us. There is also a petition that can be signed at goo.gl/KTAA5d.

March Sports Calendar 2018

Mar. 3 - 12p.m. - Varsity

Baseball

vs. Franklin @Tech

Mar. 6 - 3:30p.m. - Varsity Baseball

@Redwood Christian

Mar. 7 - 3:30p.m. - Varsity Baseball SCRIMMAGE

@San Lorenzo

Mar. 9 - 5p.m. - Girls Varsity Lacrosse

vs. Head Royce

@Tech

Mar. 12 - 5p.m. - Girls Varsity Lacrosse

vs. College Park

@Tech

Mar. 22 - 4p.m. - Varsity Baseball

vs. Pittsburg

@Tech

Mar. 23 - 6p.m. - Girls Varsity Lacrosse

vs. Newark Memorial

@Tech

Mar. 24 - Baseball @Antioch

JV @2p.m.

Varsity @11p.m.

For more information visit oaklandtech.com/staff/athletics-calendar

News

Tech Takes Back the Night

By Claire Daly

As part of a national campaign to end sexual assault and support survivors, Oakland Tech hosted a “Take Back the Night” event on February 16th. Johanna Castro-Karney, a Tech senior and an organizer of the event, said, “I think TBTN was a really important event to have at Tech because it gave us the opportunity to reach a lot of people

for whom women’s issues might not be a number one priority and to raise awareness among those people that sexual harassment and assault is a serious issue at Tech.” Musical performers included student bands Blue Friday and Little Debbie and the Crusaders. The event also included a variety of student performances in the form of poetry and spoken word. Senior Khadijah Jalloh, who also served as the MC for the

event, performed the piece “My Short Skirt” by Eve Ensler from the play *The Vagina Monologues*. Fellow senior Tess Falkner-Kenny performed Senator’s Kamala Harris’ speech from the 2017 Women’s March, which she previously performed at the 2018 Oakland Unified School District Oratorical Festival. Multiple support organizations for sexual assault survivors were present and offered information to students. There

were also tables where students could register to vote, make origami vulvas, and silkscreen t-shirts with graphics saying “Time’s Up” or “Get Your Filthy Laws Off My Silky Drawers.” Of those options, Johanna said, “There were a couple other tables but those were definitely the three most popular activities.”

6 Tips for Being a Better Ally

By Penelope Martindale

By definition, an ally is “a person or organization that cooperates with or helps another in a particular activity.” Throughout history, countries, political figures, and individuals have been allies, but perhaps one of the most important types of allyships is the one that is often surrounded by the most confusion. An ally is typically a person who supports a group of people who have historically been oppressed or disenfranchised. However, there is much more to being an ally than merely saying you support a community. Here are some tips to help all of us become better allies.

Listen

Listen to the stories and experiences of those who are typically silenced, marginalized, or spoken over. This means that if you’re white, you should make sure you listen to what people of color have to say. For far too long, and far too often, certain voices have been drowned out, and it is critical that those who often have the privilege of being heard listen to others.

That being said, don’t ask your friends who are people of color to tell you about their experiences being racially profiled or being the subject of racial slurs. It is not their responsibility to educate you, and resources exist out there made by people of color who undertook that responsibility. However, do let them know you’re there to listen if they ever want to share anything.

Educate Yourself

It is not the job of the marginalized to educate you on their experiences. Instead, it is your responsibility to learn about the history of oppression they have experienced. The internet is a great resource for finding essays, articles, videos, and other forms of media created by people who have dealt with some of the same forms of disenfranchisement. Don’t ask your transgender friend about their experience transitioning, but do find stories online or elsewhere from those who have gone through the same thing, so you can learn more without putting your friend on the spot or asking them to relive and share something that might

have been difficult or traumatic for them.

Hold Others Accountable

It is easier to confront those you are more comfortable with than those you don’t know that well. This is precisely why it would be easier for you to hold your friends and family accountable than it would be for someone they aren’t as familiar with. This means if you identify as male and one of your male friends is using sexist language or behaving inappropriately towards those identifying as female, hold them accountable and let them know what they’re doing or saying is not ok. Don’t yell at your friends to shut up and never speak to them again, but do ask them why they are speaking or behaving the way they are. Asking questions is a great way to hold people accountable, and gives them a chance to examine their behavior. Some starters include “Why’d you say that?” or “What do you mean?” Oftentimes, the logic behind oppressive behavior, language, and jokes falls apart when the perpetrator tries to explain it.

Don’t Try to Save Anyone

Being an ally is not about saving people. While blatant discrimination is often the face of oppression and disenfranchisement, treating others as beings incapable of standing up for themselves is also harmful, because it once again sends a message that a certain group is incapable or less than another. Instead of thinking about how you can save or help others, change your mindset to think about how you can be of service. It is common for so-called “allies” to pride themselves for standing up for others, or fetishize “helping” people of color or women. This has the adverse effect of putting themselves at the forefront of the conversation, instead of those they are supposedly allies for. Don’t think of yourself as some sort of savior for being an ally, but do think of ways you can make yourself available to be called upon for support if needed.

Understand Everyone’s Experiences are Different

Just because two people identify as part of the same group does not mean they experience everything in the

same way. If you find a story online or elsewhere about a bisexual person’s experience of coming out to their family, do not assume your bisexual friend’s experience was the same. Don’t generalize and assume, but do understand there are nuances and complexities that make everyone’s identities and stories unique.

Continue to Improve

Being an ally is not about you. At its core, being an ally is about supporting and lifting up others who have historically been pushed down. This means there is no way to be the “best” ally, because that would imply there was some end goal. Allyship is a process, one that requires constant re-evaluation and growth. Even if you believe you’re doing everything right, continue to listen, as well educate and question yourself. Do not think there is a specific point or place you should reach to be a perfect ally, but do continuously try to improve.

By Jordan Klein and Caroline Faucette

Note: *The Room* is not to be confused with the independent drama film *Room* (2015).

Commonly referred to as the “best worst movie ever made,” *The Room* (2003) is a drama film written, directed, produced, and starred in by Tommy Wiseau, who is an icon to say the least. Set in San Francisco, *The Room* centers around a love triangle between a banker named Johnny, whose fiancée, Lisa, is cheating on him with his best friend, Mark. The movie contains random plot points that are never addressed after they are introduced. A majority of the scenes could be arranged in any order, and the movie would still make relative sense. The actors and actresses give bland perfor-

mances with little emotion. Tommy’s incredibly ambiguous accent creates more unnecessary confusion. The dialogue of the movie makes no sense, which makes it so hilarious and impossible to look away. An example of this incoherent dialogue is a scene in which Johnny goes to a flower shop to buy roses.

Johnny: Hi.

Shopkeeper: Can I help you?

Johnny: Yeah. Can I have a dozen red roses, please?

Shopkeeper: Oh hi, Johnny. I didn’t know it was you.

(Pause) Here you go.

Johnny: That’s me. How much is it?

Shopkeeper: It’ll be eighteen dollars.

Johnny: Here you go. Keep the change. Hi, doggy.

Shopkeeper: You’re my

favorite customer.

Johnny: Thanks a lot. Bye!

Shopkeeper: Bye bye!

This kind of dialogue continues for one hour and thirty



Tommy Wiseau, creator and star of “*The Room*.”

nine minutes. The true gem of the film is Johnny’s impeccable fashion sense, which includes large black blazers, cargo pants,

and slicked back hair styled in a fashion which makes it appear perpetually wet. Despite being one of the worst movies ever made, *The Room* has managed to attract a major cult following, often airing at midnight screenings. James Franco recently directed and starred in a movie about *The Room* titled *The Disaster Artist*, which is based off the book that Tommy Wiseau’s friend Greg Sestero (who plays Mark in the film) wrote. *The Disaster Artist* is all about the making of *The Room*, and the on and off set drama involved in the filming.

To this day, there are still three mysteries surrounding Tommy Wiseau. The first surrounds his age. He tries to convince people that he was in his early twenties when he made *The Room*. The second concerns his hometown. He

likes to say that he is from New Orleans, and that he is an “all American guy.” Lastly, it remains a mystery how Tommy Wiseau earned \$6 million dollars to produce *The Room*. When asked this question, Wiseau never seems to be able to give a straight answer.

A fun game you can play while watching *The Room* is to count how many times Johnny and his friends go out to throw a football around, or how many times a character says “Oh hi” or “I have to go” when entering or exiting the scene. *The Room* lacks any depth or complexity, and it is impossible to take any of the characters or plot points seriously. But this cringe-worthy, cult classic, cinematic disaster is completely worth your time, and if you’re in need of a good laugh, *The Room* is the film for you!

News

Op-Ed: SZA and Cardi B Robbed at the 2018 Grammys

By Samuel Getachew

2017 was a big year for music: it saw breakout stars like Cardi B, SZA, Tyler the Creator, and Khalid hit the mainstream and albums from artists like Kendrick Lamar, Jay Z, Drake, Lorde, and Kehlani. The 60th Annual Grammy Awards aired on January 28, 2018, and this year more than ever, they failed to reflect the talent and diversity of the music industry. Seemingly in response to last year's #GrammysSoWhite controversy, the racially diverse set of nominees set the expectations for this year's awards high. However, the Grammys nominated very few women, and when the time came to give the actual awards, many felt that some of the most relevant artists of the year were snubbed. Even more so, many felt that the artists that were robbed were disproportionately women. Alessia Cara was the only woman to win a Grammy this year, and Lorde, the only woman nominated for Album of the Year, also happened to be the only woman not to be asked to perform. Furthermore, black women in particular were pushed to the margins this year more than ever.

Cardi B, nominated for two awards, made history in 2017 when she became the first female rapper to reach number one on the charts without a feature in this century, with her smash hit "Bodak Yellow." The last woman to achieve this feat was Lauren Hill in 1998. Cardi B then went on to disprove all those who dared to call her a one-hit-wonder, releasing a series of highly successful singles, including "No Limit" with G-Eazy, "Finesse" with Bruno Mars, "Bartier Cardi" with 21 Savage, and "MotorSport" with Migos and Nicki Minaj. She went on to break Beyoncé's record for the most songs simultaneously in the top ten of the Billboard Top 100. Nominated for Best Rap Song and Best Rap Performance for "Bodak Yellow," Cardi B lost both awards, and went home empty handed after her trending performance with Bruno Mars.

SZA was the most nominated woman of the night, with 5 nominations. Her debut album "CTRL" saw critical acclaim and was heavily regarded as the best cohesive album of the year. Many felt that its significance was rooted in the way that it gave women, particular-

ly black women, a voice. Still others felt that it did for music what no album had done in years in terms of its completeness, artistry, and brilliant songwriting and vocals. Oakland Tech sophomore and avid SZA fan Milah Gammon agrees with this sentiment, saying that while she tends not to listen to many albums in full, she felt that "all of the songs in SZA's album each have their own meaning and are beautiful in their own way, but also flow well together and are all connected." She adds, "I love how SZA is incredibly creative and I love her music. It evokes emotion inside of me every time I listen to one of her songs. Her music means a lot to me." While fans were raging that SZA walked away from the Grammys empty handed, Gammon has a more optimistic outlook on SZA's career; "I think that she is definitely good enough to win," Gammon says, "But she and her music have become popular in a very short amount of time. She is so talented and absolutely deserves to win a Grammy in the future as long as she keeps making music."

When asked about the lack of gender diversity at the Grammys, Record-

ing Academy President Neil Portnow put the responsibility on female artists. "It has to begin with women who have the creativity in their hearts and souls - who want to be musicians, who want to be engineers, who want to be producers, who want to be part of the industry on the executive level - to step up, because I think they would be welcome," he said. While he admitted that he doesn't face the same obstacles as women in the music industry, Portnow completely failed to address the disregard of the women who did contribute to the music world in any significant way.

However, many have hope that the music industry will adapt over time and that institutions like the Grammys will eventually recognize artistry without regard to race or gender. History has shown that patience is the most valuable virtue in situations such as these. Gammon echoed this, saying, "These things can take time, and SZA's persistence will show if she keeps doing what she's doing."

Change on the Horizon for 2018 Oscars

By Andy Gagliardi

Kevin Winter/Getty Images

The 90th Academy Awards will be celebrating what the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences believes to be the best films released in 2017. The awards ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 4th, at 5:00 PM Pacific Standard Time, and will be hosted once again by Jimmy Kimmel. Although Kimmel was entertaining and his performance felt natural at the 2017 Oscars, some of his jokes, particularly the one about a woman's name, felt out of touch and didn't resonate. Hopefully such experiences will be points of learning for Kimmel and the writers. Also, it would be nice if the correct envelope for Best Picture winner was delivered to the stage and announced. These people have one job. How hard can it be?

This year, following the #OscarsSoWhite movement in prior years, the nominees are more diverse. Considering that white people aren't the only ones making great films, this is a long-overdue and extremely welcome change. Particularly noteworthy is Jordan Peele, whose nomination for Best Director for his first film is especially uncommon. He has some stiff competition this year, particularly from Christopher Nolan for *Dunkirk*, but Peele may go down in history as the first black person to win Best Director. That said, the actor categories, although containing more minorities that in prior years, still fail to reflect America's diversity. But, the diversification of actors in Hollywood is on the rise, and hopefully future Oscar nominees and winners will be more reflective of the racial diversity in the United States and



Jimmy Kimmel to host the Oscars for the second year in a row.

in the film industry. But for now, we just have this year's nominations:

Best Picture: "Call Me by Your Name," "Darkest Hour," "Dunkirk," "Get Out," "Lady Bird," "Phantom Thread," "The Post," "The Shape of Water," "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

Director: Christopher Nolan, "Dunkirk" Jordan Peele, "Get Out," Greta Gerwig, "Lady Bird," Paul Thomas Anderson, "Phantom Thread," Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water"

Lead Actor: Timothée Chalamet,

"Call Me by Your Name," Daniel Day-Lewis, "Phantom Thread," Daniel Kaluuya, "Get Out," Gary Oldman, "Darkest Hour," Denzel Washington, "Roman J. Israel, Esq."

Lead Actress: Sally Hawkins, "The Shape of Water," Frances McDormand, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Margot Robbie, "I, Tonya," Saoirse Ronan, "Lady Bird," Meryl Streep, "The Post"

Supporting Actor: Willem Dafoe, "The Florida Project," Woody Harrelson, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing,

Missouri," Richard Jenkins, "The Shape of Water," Christopher Plummer, "All the Money in the World," Sam Rockwell, "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"

Supporting Actress: Mary J. Blige, "Mudbound," Allison Janney, "I, Tonya," Lesley Manville, "Phantom Thread," Laurie Metcalf, "Lady Bird," Octavia Spencer, "The Shape of Water"

Features

Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony

By Jessica Fan

The 2018 Pyeongchang Olympics has officially kicked off with its opening ceremony on February 9th, featuring the heartwarming and historic unity of South Korean and North Korean athletes, the (yet again) bare-chested Tongan flag bearer in 28 weather, and the elegant performances in the artistic portion, oftentimes accompanied by NBC commentator Katie Couric's timely rants about South Korea's video game addiction.

Unsurprisingly, the united march of South Korean and North Korean athletes during the Parade of Nations became the highlight of the night. South Korean bobsledder Won Yun-jong and North Korean ice hockey player Hwang Chung-Gum led athletes from their respective nations behind a single flag illustrating a unified Korean peninsula. In a historically diplomatic move, Kim Yo-Jong, sister of Kim Jong-Un and Kim Yong-Nam, N. Korean head-of-state, made an appearance at the VIP viewing box and exchanged brief pleasantries with Moon Jae-In, the president

of South Korea. The two countries have also formed a joint women's hockey team, which consists of 12 North Koreans and 23 South Koreans. During the emotional march, however, viewers at home noted that Mike Pence, the U.S. delegate

proceeded with grace. Due to Russia's government-backed doping scandal in both the 2014 and 2016 Olympics, the International Olympics Committee has banned the country's appearance in Pyeongchang. However, 169 Russians are still

ufatofua, drew attention with his choice of clothing (or lack of it). In Rio, his shirtless and oiled-up appearance garnered fame on media platforms, and now he has returned to the Olympics, not as a Taekwondo athlete, but as a cross-country

Greg Martin/IOC



Opening Ceremony held in the Gangneung Ice Arena in PyeongChang.

to Pyeongchang, did not stand, as opposed to the other leaders around him. Many are criticizing his poor manners and are interpreting his action as an ill-advised political protest.

While that served as a low note, the overall ceremony

participating as individual athletes, and they marched under a neutral Olympic flag; the medals won by Russians will not go toward the cumulative medal count of their country.

Making headlines yet again, Tonga's flag bearer, Pita Ta-

skier.

The later half of the ceremony was composed of dance and vocal performances, all centered around the theme of peace and hope. Five children from the rural Gangwon province became the stars of the

overarching storyline throughout the ceremony, symbolising Korea's rising young generation and their hopes for the future. Augmented reality was also incorporated in the event, which marked its second appearance after the 2008 Beijing Olympics. In addition, the largest drone show in history occurred at the ceremony, featuring more than 1,200 Shooting Stars powered by Intel.

The Olympic Games will last more than two weeks from February 9th to February 25th. A total of 2,952 athletes from 92 nations are expected to compete, making Pyeongchang the largest Winter Olympic Games to date. Amidst the rising domestic and international political tensions, watching the Olympics can be a chance to toss them to the back of our minds for a brief moment and instead appreciate the values of sportsmanship and amity. Let the games begin!

To track Team USA's progress and medal counts, you can visit www.nbcolympics.com/medals.

Chloe Kim: An Icon

By Maya Ades

Pyeongchang, South Korea - The American snowboarder Chloe Kim has just won the Gold Medal at the 2018 Olympic games, in the Women's Halfpipe (snowboarding.) Competing against the best athletes in the world and winning is already an incredible feat; however, there is something about Chloe Kim that makes her that much more amazing. Kim is only seventeen years old.

Chloe Kim has snowboarded from the age of four, and has left

the world in awe at her accomplishments at such a young age. She is a four-time gold medalist at the X-Games, an annual extreme sports event, where she holds several other records. At age 14, Kim beat Kelly Clark, an Olympic gold medalist herself, at the X-Games. Kelly Clark came in fourth at this year's Olympic Halfpipe.

In 2014, the winter Olympics were held in Sochi, Russia. Chloe Kim was aged 13, and yet she still was good enough to qualify for the Olympic team. The only thing holding her

back? Age restrictions at the games for snowboarding is 15, and so Kim had to wait. However, she did win gold at the Youth Olympic Games, and was able to qualify for the 2018 Olympics.

Chloe Kim has been often compared to another famous American snowboarder, Shaun White. Shaun White first went to the 2006 Olympics held in Turin, Italy, at the age of 20 years old. He won the gold medal there, and is now a three-time olympic gold medalist. The two snowboarders have similar styles, going at a faster speed

than most of their competitors, and flying up off the halfpipe much higher into the air, giving them more time to complete their insane tricks.

This Olympic Games in particular mean a lot to Chloe Kim and her family, as both of her parents are immigrants from South Korea. She and her father learned to snowboard together, and he has supported her through her entire halfpipe career. She was greeted in Pyeongchang by many fans that she didn't know she had, and has been acting as a translator for

her team in Korea.

Chloe Kim, who is becoming very popular and well-known, is known for pushing herself to do the very best she can. This work ethic was what sent her to the gold medal. At age seventeen, she is a senior in high school (taking online classes) and is one of the best snowboarders in the world. She's started to make many of us high schoolers laughingly say, "I'm her age. What have I done wrong? What am I doing with my life?"

Impressive Winter Olympic Comebacks

By Fiona Osborn

The Olympics allow athletes to compete against the best of the best. This leads to fierce competition, with every athlete working hard to win for their perspective country. Oftentimes the games are filled with upsets, with gold-medal favorites failing to medal. But there are also great underdog stories, with athletes coming back and surprising everyone with a win. Here are some of the best comeback stories of the 2018 games in Pyeongchang so far...

On Friday, the alpine skiers

competed in the women's super-g. Similar to downhill skiing, the super-g, or super giant slalom, is considered to be a speed event. Since skiers ranked in the top 20 in the event are allowed to go down first, the competition is considered to be decided once these skiers go down. This prompted announcers to call the race, saying that austrian Anna Veith had won the gold medal. However, almost 8 skiers later, Ester Ledecka, a snowboarder from the Czech Republic using borrowed skis, tore down the hill. She came to the Olympics

to make history, as she is the first person to compete at the Olympics in both skiing and snowboarding. She stunned everyone—herself included—with her fantastic gold-medal winning run, defeating Veith, the defending champion, by one-hundredth of a second. Ledecka will be competing in the snowboarding parallel giant slalom later in the games.

Earlier on in the games, norwegian Simen Hegstad Kruegar came back from dead last to win the gold medal in the men's 30 km cross-country race. At the start of the race,

Kruegar was caught up in a collision, breaking his pole and having someone's ski stuck in his race bib. Despite this, Kruegar kept racing, slowly working his way through the field of over 60 athletes. With 5 km left in the race, Kruegar took the lead, going on to win the race in his first Olympics. Norway went on to sweep the event, winning all three medals.

Finally, we have 17 year old snowboarder Red Gerard from Colorado. Competing in his first Olympic games, Gerard killed it in the men's slopestyle

competition. Despite two disappointing runs, Gerard came back on his third and final run, landing a backside triple cork 1440, which scored him an 87.16. "When that score came up my jaw dropped," Gerard said, via Team USA. "I was like, this isn't real. I would have been happy to just land a run, but to land a run and win, it's crazy." He became the youngest Olympic snowboarding champion.

Features

Blast from the Past

Edited by
Rosemary Grout

Sep 20, 1922:
Author Unknown
“Plenty of Things to Spend Nickels for at Carnival... all eatables, drinkables, and uneatables will be arranged in the form of a midway... no one with brogans over size ten will be allowed in the shin-dig as there had been complaints of bruised feet”.

Sep 23, 1942
A Victory- Seeing Eye Dog

Leads Blind Student
Not yet dressed in the purple and gold colors, as many students are, and not overly excited concerning his new surroundings is Kimbo, constant companion of Rupert Gamez.

Rupert is a blind student of Technical and a low senior. During this time he managed to get around from class to class unbelievably well. Now, however, he is independent and able to go about with the aid of his seeing-eye dog, despite his handicap.

Kimbo has proved to be not only a friend to Rupert, but to many other students as well. Being in such an entirely different surrounding has been a strain on his nerves. Nevertheless, he has not failed his master, though many students whistle and pet him. Rupert wishes to ask technicians to please ignore the dog as that makes it easier for him and Kimbo.

1942
Scribe Faces Shortage
In times like these, when

our nation is engaged in world struggle and every last resource is needed, many citizens may wonder why the school board “wastes” paper, ink and money on student publications. There are many reasons why the school paper is a worthwhile investment. During war time, a people, to win, must not only have all the weapons, but high morale as well. One of the main builders of a school’s spirit is a good school publication. Students long have had a love of school and its traditions,

and a paper, which influences the students to a surprising degree, could easily change this to a greater love of country. With each home having its “war worries” continually increased, it will be a great relief for a person to sit down and pick up a paper that is not all war. We think the Board of Education is wise in continuing these publications, at least until critical shortages make them impossible.

A Storm of Opinions

By Casey Levitt
and Nell Schafer

On February 6th, 2018, Kylie Jenner posted what would quickly become the most-liked picture on Instagram. The photo, currently with almost 15 million likes, is a close-up of Jenner’s newborn child clutching her finger. Jenner used the caption to announce the name of her child: Stormi Webster.

Tech students have mixed feelings about Jenner’s name for her child. Some, like junior Mari Takata, are in full support of the name “Stormi.” Others are confused about where the name “Webster” came from, as Stormi’s parents are named Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott. (For clarification: Jacques Webster is Travis Scott’s birth name).

Still others wondered why Jenner would choose to give her child the same name as the adult film star Stormy Daniels, whose alleged affair with Donald Trump put her name all over recent news. Daniels noticed this as well, and in

good humor, gave Jenner a word of advice: “Hang on to your heart because little girls named Stormi are known to cause trouble.”

Jenner’s cozy picture of her newborn followed an earlier post on Instagram, in which she announced the birth of her child and explained her decision to keep her pregnancy out of the public eye. The Jenner-Kardashians are known for putting their whole lives on display, so many were surprised to find that Jenner had kept her pregnancy under wraps. In the Instagram post, Jenner apologized, then explained, “I knew for myself I needed to prepare for this role of a lifetime in the most positive, stress free, and healthy way I knew how . . . I knew my baby would feel every stress and every emotion so I chose to do it this way for my little life and our happiness.”

Like everyone, Jenner has a right to privacy, but many have many opinions of how she handled this situation. Jenner implies in the post that keeping her pregnancy out of

the public eye was essential for the health of both her and her child. Many were a little upset by this because of how

nine months to ensure that her child doesn’t feel any stress, considering all the hundreds of pregnant women around the

Bob Levey/Getty Images



Kylie Jenner and Travis Scott are new parents to baby Stormi.

inconsiderate it seems to those who aren’t in such a privileged position. Tech junior Caroline Garrett thinks, “It’s ridiculous that she feels the need to close herself off from the world for

world who don’t have millions of dollars to spare, and may have to work overtime to make ends meet.”

In spite of this, many would agree that Jenner is

fully entitled to keep parts of her life private. Ms. Haugen, Tech Paideia teacher, offered the view that Jenner can’t be fully criticized too harshly for actions when she was raised in such a public family. It’s understandable that she would have wanted to keep her own child out of the scrutiny of the public eye.

Jenner’s need of privacy during her pregnancy was called into question when she posted a video on YouTube titled, “To Our Daughter,” sharing the journey of her pregnancy. This 11 minute video with over 48 million views, containing real life sounds from the birth, poses the question of whether or not Jenner really achieved privacy and got a break from the pressure of being a prominent public figure.

Although everyone has a criticism and opinion of their own, it’s important to remember that Jenner is entitled to make decisions about her life and how to raise little Stormi.

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Features

Sun Sign Horoscopes For The Month of March

By Sekayi Bardell

A little distraction for when you don't want to pay attention in class

What is a sun sign?

Also known as the "star sign," your sun sign is the position of the sun at your birth, which is then placed into one of the twelve zodiac signs. They show the core of your personality and express the emotions that you may experience throughout your daily life.

Capricorn: December 21 – January 19

Naturally, Capricorns can't help climbing to the top and achieving anything that they set their minds to, but be open to any feedback. It may be beneficial to you, however, don't let it stop you from achieving your goals. You're just doing what Capricorns do best - winning!

Most compatible signs: Pisces, Taurus, Virgo, Scorpio | Least compatible signs: Aries, Libra, Cancer

Aquarius: January 19 – February 18

This month is all about hard

work! Stay on that academic grind and your grades reflect all the hard work you put into it.

Most compatible signs: Aries, Gemini, Libra, Sagittarius | Least compatible signs: Taurus, Scorpio, Leo

Pisces: February 18 – March 20

Take charge! This month shows who's boss as you will be drawn to a leadership position. But don't worry all this hard work will pay off in the end.

Most compatible signs: Capricorn, Taurus, Cancer, Scorpio | Least compatible signs: Gemini, Sagittarius, Virgo

Aries: March 20 – April 19

This month is all about personal growth. Look inward and set personal goals that you want to achieve for yourself. Character development is key!

Most compatible signs: Gemini, Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius | Least compatible signs: Cancer, Capricorn, Libra

Taurus: April 19 – May 20

This month is all about focusing on what you want

to achieve most this month. Progress will be your biggest asset, and it will motivate you to want to continue working towards your goal.

Most compatible signs: Cancer, Virgo, Capricorn, Pisces | Least compatible signs: Leo, Aquarius

Gemini: May 20 – June 20

This month is all about creativity! Let your imagination run wild and find inspiration in places you would least expect. The sky's the limit.

Most compatible signs: Aries, Leo, Libra, Aquarius | Least compatible signs: Virgo, Pisces, Sagittarius

Cancer: June 20 – July 22

This month is all about renewal. You're ready to let go of the old to make way for the new plans! Whether it's joining a new club, hobbies, or just starting a new project, productivity will be on the rise.

Most compatible signs: Taurus, Virgo, Scorpio, Pisces | Least compatible signs: Aries, Libra, Capricorn

Leo: July 22 – August 22

This month is all about all about getting rid of the negative people in your life! You've clocked all the negative energy in your life, so it's time now to focus on all the good energy that may come your way. You've got this!

Most compatible signs: Aries, Gemini, Libra, Sagittarius | Least compatible signs: Taurus, Aquarius, Scorpio

Virgo: August 22 – September 22

Be wary of your emotions this month as they may take over. There may be some improvement in your social life, so be optimistic for the future and look for what's in store!

Most compatible signs: Taurus, Cancer, Scorpio, Capricorn | Least compatible signs: Gemini, Sagittarius, Pisces

Libra: September 22 – October 23

Watch out! Something good is coming your way this month. It may be something unexpected, something you dream of, or perhaps something else entirely. Just keep your mind open for anything that may come

your way!

Most compatible signs: Gemini, Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius | Least compatible sign: Cancer, Capricorn, Aries

Scorpio: October 23 – November 21

This month is all about looking towards the future. Let whatever is weighing you down go and open yourself up to new things.

Most compatible signs: Cancer, Virgo, Capricorn, Pisces | Least compatible signs: Leo, Aquarius, Taurus

Sagittarius: November 21 – December 21

This is the month of opportunities! You're surrounded by new offers, invitations, and opportunities this month. Take time to take a step back and evaluate your situation as it may be a bit overwhelming.

Most compatible signs: Aries, Leo, Libra, Aquarius | Least compatible signs: Virgo, Pisces, Gemini

I am not a professional and this advice should be taken with a heavy grain of salt

Poetry

By Ihsan Johnson-Hagler

Untitled

1/30/2018

I Know I am not perfect!
I've made mistakes but I kept rising!
No matter what rain or shine!
It is pain or no gain!

My ups and downs give me ambition and faith
My doubts fueled my desires to be something
Being nothing is not what I want to be
Anger is turning into ice as I roll the dice

My friends are telling me to stay true blue
As time progresses, We stick tight like glue
Just like family because we're humbled
As we rumble with our darkness.

I Am

2/9/2018

I am human
I am not perfect like a Harvard student
I am a black kid who never lacks

I am always 100% committed to my group
I am ready to show the world who I am
I am not afraid to have friends

I am a true friend who lasts like old wine
I am only starting to grow as life goes on
I am a person who cares

I am Ihsan Johnson-Hagler
I am one not two or three
I am who I am, that is me!

Boy Meets World

Reality is hard to swallow
Growing up is not the easiest
As we see fakes and snakes with knives in their hands
All you need to survive is family, good friends and love!

At night, we fight the tears inside of us
As we pray to God for hope, change and faith
The hate drives us to anger and fear
Wondering about our every move we make

The world is what we make of it
Like is the ultimate journey towards happiness
There's no promises for tomorrow
But that's or intro to the world

Boy meets World!

How to Protect Yourself from the Deadly Flu Season

By Samuel Lin

It's the end of February, and like every other year dreaded cacophonies of sneezing, wheezing, and coughing can be heard in every classroom. The flu is back! But unlike previous years, this year's flu season seems to have taken a noticeable turn for the worse. For the past month, classes have been dotted with empty seats, and there is no foreseeable end to

the droning stream of sneezing and wheezing.

Influenza, or the "flu" for short, is a disease caused by a viral infection. The flu is usually the result of the viruses influenza A and influenza B, but there are different strains of the flu virus every year. In other words, because the flu virus mutate often, people continue to suffer from the flu year after year. This year's flu strain, the H3N2 strain, is particular-

ly nasty and causes the worst outbreaks of the two influenza viruses. These outbreaks begin around November but peak in January and February. Mr. Senn, a physiology teacher at Oakland Tech, attributes these outbreaks to increased social activity. He says, "The flu is more contagious when there is increased human interactions, especially after Christmas and the holidays." During the flu season, the disease is extreme-

ly contagious and a person can become infected when flu viruses enter the body through your nose, eyes, or mouth. The flu typically attacks your lungs, nose, and throat. Although infants, children, the elderly, and pregnant women are more susceptible to the flu, for most people the flu is not deadly.

The flu is easily spread in a number of ways. Most of the time, flu viruses spread airborne through sneez-

es, coughs, and other airborne respiratory droplets. Another common method of circulation is by touch of a contaminated surface, such as a doorknob. The flu begins manifesting itself as coughs, sore throats, and muscle aches. After two days of emerging flu symptoms, symptoms will worsen and may include nasal congestion, headache, fever, fatigue, and body pains. Because the

(Flu Protection continues on page 8)

(Oratorical Fest continued from page 1)

at tech participated—we are incredibly lucky to be in a school district that has such a great opportunity for students to speak about important issues, whether in their own words or the words of others.”

The Oratorical Fest is immensely important to members of OUSD. Not only does it encourage students to develop and practice public speaking skills, but it also allows students to participate in the

dialogue surrounding issues important to them. The messages conveyed in the pieces selected often address problems students see in our society, along with calls for change and messages of hope. For example,

Tess’ piece, a speech by Senator Kamala Harris from the 2017 Women’s March, allowed her to “drive home the point that women’s issues aren’t some small collection of laws that only apply to specific wom-

en. Every issue being debated in government is relevant to women.”

(Flu Prevention continued from page 7)

flu is so contagious, if you have the flu, you should stay home and maintain a distance from others. Most of the time, the flu can be self-treated with plenty of rest and hydration. Eva Linares, a medical assistant at the Techniclinic, recommends, “A person with the flu should stay home and get plenty of bedrest. [He or she]

should return to school only after 24 hours have passed without any symptoms of fever.”

Although there is nothing to fear of the flu, you can do yourself a big favor by taking necessary precautions to prevent infection yourself. First of all, if you have not had a flu shot yet, you should get it immediately. The Techniclinic

on campus offers free flu shots at any open office hours. The flu shot will prevent a number of flu strains, and even if you do get the flu, it will limit the effects of the virus. Another crucial measure you can take is to wash your hands habitually. By touch, your hands can carry a lot of pathogens. If you know someone who has the flu, you

should maintain a distance from them. Washing and sanitizing your hands can prevent these germs from accumulating and entering your body. Finally, you can maintain a healthy body by getting sufficient sleep, eating nutritious food, and exercising regularly. As Linares describes, “A healthy body has a stronger immune system to

fight off the flu.”

In the midst of a deadly 2018 flu season, the best you can do is to prevent yourself from getting the flu. No one wants to catch the flu the day before a major test or the deadline for a major project.

Reasons Behind District Budget Cuts

By Milo Cohen

On December 13, the OUSD board of directors voted 6-1 in favor of \$9 million in cuts. Initially, \$15 million in cuts was proposed, but that number was revised down after significant protests from students, teachers, and parents. In June 2017, OUSD was in the same position as it is now, and approved \$17.6 million in cuts to considerably less outcry. In tandem with this, a report was commissioned from the Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), a state-run organization, commissioned a report identifying problems in the district and potential solutions to them. Ms. Snyder, a teacher at Oakland Tech, called the cuts, “a completely manufactured crisis,” noting that the district had known about upcoming budget shortfalls since the spring of 2017. However, the complexity and difficulty in dealing with the budget, as well as the reasons for lack of funds are often mistated to advance the agenda of a particular person or group. The following article examines the causes behind these budget cuts.

There are two basic categories of general funds for public schools: restricted and unrestricted. Restricted funds go towards programs the district

is legally required to fund such as special education, teacher training, and transportation. Restricted funds are generated through a variety of state and local sources that usually cover the entire cost of restricted programs. The unrestricted funds are used to pay for the other expenses of running a school district, with most going towards salaries and benefits (67% in OUSD). If restricted funds cannot cover the entire cost of the required programs, then the unrestricted general fund must make a contribution to the restricted general fund to cover the cost. This is known as encroachment, and takes up 18% of OUSD’s nearly \$400 million unrestricted general fund expenditures. Removing principals’ ability to create unique bell schedules and coordinating them from district headquarters would allow for \$1.1 million in annual savings.

Over the past several years the yearly district revenue increase has declined, teachers salaries have increased, and more employees have begun to claim their pensions. Neither employee pensions nor decreased revenue are the fault of the district, but the results of an aging workforce and state legislation. Teacher pay in Oakland is still significantly less than in comparative districts, and Oakland had to

increase its pay if it wanted to stop hemorrhaging teachers to these districts. Unfortunately, as these costs rose, there were no equivalent cuts to other parts of the district budget.

The third reason for the current cuts is a failure to enact position control, or the practice of ensuring an organization does not have unnecessary or financially cumbersome personnel. Antwan Wilson, the former superintendent, systematically ignored this practice and added staff without regard to the existing budget. Principals also ignored the budget, hiring staff beyond their allocated resources.

There is a structural issue at play in these improper hirings, as well as other unapproved parts of the budget. The district separates the budget and finance divisions, and - according to the FCMAT - neither has had proper leadership (Senior Business officer Vernon Hal resigned in the wake of the cuts). The separation of these departments separates the people who determine the budget from the people who dispense funds, and the lack of leadership only worsens the inter-departmental communication problems.

There are other major bureaucratic failures. In 2016-17, the business department caught an error in the excel

spreadsheet used to predict enrollment, but no adjustments were made. The overspending that resulted from this failure caused the district to pass below the required 2% of funds that are held in reserve for fiscal emergency. The FCMAT also notes that the district, prior to June, continued to have unrealistic budgets that did not conform to the true revenue and expenses.

The structure of schools in Oakland is another issue. While Oakland as a whole serves nearly the same number of students as it did in 2000 (54,000 then compared to 49,000 now) there has been a massive increase in the number of charter schools. District authorized charter school enrollment has skyrocketed from 1,000 to 12,000 over the same period, while enrollment in district run schools has decreased to 37,000. Charter schools divert funding from public schools, and, as they are not required to accept special education students, they also worsen the problem of encroachment by packing disproportionate numbers of special education students into public schools. The board tried to prevent many of these schools from emerging, but Alameda County overruled them due to lobbying from pro-charter advocates.

Oakland has too many small schools. Many of these are charter schools, and therefore out of the district’s control, but some are public. These schools cost significantly more per student to run, as each has the same administrative requirements as a much larger school. MetWest for example, has around 160 students and a per-pupil spending of \$14,000 in 2016-17. Oakland Tech’s per-pupil spending during the same fiscal year was a mere \$8500.

There are also many other, smaller issues that led to these specific cuts being enacted at this particular time. Ultimately, these budget cuts are unavoidable. The district must maintain the legal minimum in reserves, 2%, and it has to shrink expenditures to do so. However, this does not mean that the board and Kyla Johnson-Trammell, the new superintendent, cannot prevent this situation from occurring again.

THE SCRIBE

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Meetings are Mondays at lunch in room 106.

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