

Fight for a Free and Open Internet

By Casey Levitt

Katheline Vanegas /Scribe



The FCC recent decision to overturn net neutrality may affect websites like Netflix

can't charge different amounts depending on the user, website, or content. In simple terms, net neutrality is the reason why you don't have to pay to use Google.

The importance of net neutrality may be a little lost on young people today, who have grown up with the free and open Internet, but net neutrality regulations are the reason why the Internet became free and open in the first place. By denying people the option to pay more for faster service or access to popular sites, net neutrality has made the Internet a space of universal equality. Everyone, regardless of socioeconomic status, has the same opportunity to access quality information, start an online business, laugh at memes, or become a famous beauty guru.

One could also argue that net neutrality is essential in our society because it creates a level playing field for the next

generation of online entrepreneurs. This was the position taken by the Obama administration, who became champions of net neutrality, successfully pushing the FCC to implement strong rules to protect the free and open Internet in February of 2015.

It was these Obama-era regulations that recently came under attack. On Thursday, December 14, the FCC was scheduled to vote on a proposal that would overturn net neutrality rules. The

proposal held solid support from the Republican majority in the FCC, including chairman Ajit Pai, a former lawyer for Verizon.

Many became concerned that if net neutrality regulations were to be repealed, the Internet would become a pay-to-play service for both users and content providers. Fast service would be granted to big media companies and wealthy individuals, while everyone unable or unwilling to pay

(Net neutrality continues on page 8)

One Republic Performs at Tech

By Fiona Osborn

On December 8 2017, hundreds of students lined up outside of the auditorium, anxiously awaiting entrance to the security-clad auditorium where a surprise musical guest would be performing for them. For the past week, students' hopes ran high as they tried to guess who the multi-platinum artist would be, fantasizing of music icons from Beyonce to Bruno Mars coming just for them.

It wasn't Beyonce, but pop band OneRepublic. With the help of professional lighting and sound, the Tech auditorium was transformed from high school auditorium to concert hall, and for the next two hours, music and performing arts students were able to forget about the stress of school and enjoy the private concert.

It was hard to be disappointed with OneRepublic's acoustic perfor-

(One Republic continues on page 8)

mance, which included their hit songs "Counting Stars" and "Apologize", as well as Beyonce's "Halo" and Ed Sheeran's "Happier"—both of which were written by OneRepublic's lead singer Ryan Tedder. These are songs that students hear on the radio and many have grown up listening to, so hearing them live was especially exciting. To senior Tiana Chang, "Seeing OneRepublic was really cool. They're really talented."

One of the best parts of the concert was when Tech junior Nick Reeves accompanied the band, playing the signature cello line in the band's song "Secrets". The audience was very excited to see a fellow student on stage, and gave him a standing ovation while chanting "OT".

In between songs, Tedder recounted his decision to pursue music, and his journey to becoming a successful musician. It was easy for him, as going

Oprah Winfrey's Viral Speech Sparks Presidential Campaign Rumors

By Samuel Getachew

Antonia Starc/Scribe

Every news outlet was talking about Oprah Winfrey after the 75th Golden Globe Awards. On January 7th, 2018, Winfrey was awarded the Cecil B. DeMille Award for outstanding contributions to the world of entertainment. However, her award wasn't what everyone was talking about; it was her acceptance speech.

Winfrey accepted her award with an impassioned nine-minute speech on racism and sexism, specifically sexual assault, both in Hollywood and in the world. She told many stories about her life and experiences, and took viewers on a short trip through history. Winfrey

spoke about watching the Golden Globes as a child, and seeing Sidney Poitier become the first black man to win the Cecil B. DeMille Award, adding, "it is not lost on me that at this moment, there are some little girls watching as I become the first black woman to be given this same award."

Winfrey told the story of Recy Taylor, a black woman from Alabama who survived being gang raped by six white men in 1944 and never got justice. She ended her speech with a fervent cry of hope for the future, and an emotional stand in solidarity with the #MeToo movement. She addressed the young girls viewing at home directly, telling them, "I want all the girls watching here,

now, to know that a new day is on the horizon!"

Her speech occupied headlines for days following the Golden Globes, and Winfrey dominated the national conversation for the first time in a while.

Media coverage of Winfrey was largely positive, with journalists and celebrities alike praising her throughout the news cycle. Weight Watchers, a company in which Winfrey has a 10% stake, saw its stock shares increase by 13% following her speech. Her inspiring words made their way



Oprah captivated audiences at the 2018 Golden Globes.

into Oakland Tech classrooms as well, with some teachers, like Ms. Joe, showing the video of her speech in class. Winfrey's powerful speech even had many calling for her to run for President of the United States, fueled by several sources close to the superstar claiming that she would consider a 2020 bid

for the Oval Office.

While polls showed that Winfrey would win against Donald Trump, they showed that her chances would be bleak against Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders in the primaries. Her lack of political experience and celebrity status had many critics pointing out similarities

(Oprah Winfrey continues on page 8)

February School Calendar

Feb. 5-9 - Pathway acceptance interviews for 9th grade students

Feb. 10- ACT test date!

Feb. 12-15- Notification of academy/pathway placement.

Feb. 12- PTSA meeting @Tech library 7p.m.- 9p.m.

Feb. 16- "Take Back the Night" event 4p.m.- 6p.m.

Feb. 21- AASAP Observation Day

More events listed on school calendar on the Oakland Tech website

News

Op-Ed: The Surprising Prevalence of Sexual Harassment at Tech"

By Milo Cohen

Harassment is depressingly common at Oakland Tech. Nearly every female student I spoke to had either been a victim of or witness to harassment. The majority of female students said that both harassment and assault were worst during their freshman year, but it was by no means absent from other grades. Fortunately, violent assaults appear rare, but violations of students' bodies and verbal harassment are commonplace.

Typically, harassment was directed at female students by a minority of males. Alarmingly, few male students even seemed aware that harassment was a major issue for their female counterparts - I certainly was not.

Catcalling, leering, and other non-physical forms of harassment may seem mild - indeed, many of the students interviewed played down their experiences - but they add

a hostile environment in which young women are burdened with vulgar and demeaning experiences that they do not deserve. Victims' dismissal of their own experiences is worrying. One student said that the assault and harassment were not too bad because "[she] thought it would be worse." Another student argued that reporting the perpetrators was a bad idea because they did not have an "extremely negative impact" on herself and the community.

That many victims do not believe that harassment is an important problem does not delegitimize or minimize the issue - quite the opposite. It shows how far the normalization of sexism, harassment, and assault has gone. The normalization of this amoral behavior shows how little our society - and, by extension, our school - values women. The lack of value is particularly worrying in

light of the fact that the suicide rate for teenage girls has doubled since 2007. Devaluing female students and creating a hostile environment for their learning negatively impacts all students in a manner that I would argue is "extreme."

Students acknowledged that the common phrases, "hey, let me get your number," and "hey mommy," became harassment. In certain context, comments such as these may be seen as jokes or compliments, but they usually descend to harassment. The students making these comments often have no connection to the recipients, and rarely do those making the comments make them only once. They are repeated again and again, becoming daily rituals of degradation for those subjected to them.

Spoken once, neither of these comments alone makes a hostile environment, but when repetition, other sexually inappropriate behavior,

and an environment that discourages talking about demeaning experiences all work together to create one. Grades, self-esteem, and mental health can suffer in such an environment. These kind of comments also reveal the weak and twisted minds (and, I suspect, other part) of those who make them. As one student put it, "catcalls don't make you more masculine."

Assaults are less prevalent, but still numerous. More than half of the female students interviewed reported assaults on campus, most of which happened during 9th grade. Most of these assaults were nonviolent and brief, and consisted mostly of groping, slapping, pinching, or other unwanted contact.

Serious assaults do occur, but are rare. While I did not contact any victims of violent assault at their friends' request, several other students were

(Sexual Harassment continues on page 7)

able to independently verify that the assaults occurred. When asked, Mr. Diaz also admitted that 5-10 cases resulted in automatic student suspension and a referral for expulsion over the course of his administrative career. This is the strictest punitive measure available to the district, and it was heavily implied that this punishment was most often used against perpetrators of violent and sexual assault. Unfortunately, it is doubtful that the number of reported sexual violent assaults reflects the true prevalence of the problem. Too many students stated that they were unwilling or uncomfortable reporting non-violent assaults or harassment to teachers or administration. Violent assaults, in which victims often feel more pressure to keep silent, are probably even more underrepresented in official records.

Many students talked about being

February Sports Calendar 2018

Feb.1 -Boys Soccer @Castlemont JV- 4p.m. Var- 6p.m.

Feb. 2 - 6p.m. - Girls Var Soccer @Tech
7p.m.- Boys Var Basketball @McClymonds
7p.m.- Girls Var Basketball @Tech

Feb. 6- 4p.m.- Boys JV Soccer @Madison Park Academy
4p.m.- Boys Var Soccer @Leadership

Feb- Boys Basketball JV- 5:30p.m.-7:30p.m.
Var-7:00p.m.-9:00p.m. @El Cerrito

Feb. 12- 3:30p.m.- Boys Varsity Baseball vs. Saint Mary's High School @Tech

Feb. 14- Boys Baseball vs. Piedmont- JV- 3:30p.m. @Piedmont.
Var- 3:30p.m. @Tech
Boys Basketball vs. Fremont High School- JV- 5p.m. @Fremont, Var- 7p.m. @Fremont
Girls Var Basketball -7p.m. @Tech
Girls Var Soccer -6p.m. vs. TBA @TBA

Feb. 15- Boys Soccer vs. Skyline High School JV -4p.m. @Tech
Var- 6p.m. @Tech

Feb. 20- Boys Soccer vs. Castlemont High School JV -4p.m. @Tech
Var -6p.m. @Tech

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

Sexual Assault Victim Resources

By Negar Shafiei

keep in mind:

If you are in immediate danger or seriously injured, call 911 or go to your closest emergency room.

According to Rainn.org¹, sexual assault is referred to as sexual contact or behavior that occurs without the explicit consent of the victim. It can be hard to get help, but it's important to know that assault is never the victim's fault and help is out there. Many victims of sexual assault are afraid to speak out and get help in fear of being brushed off and treated differently when they should be recognized for their resilience and strength. If you have been a victim of sexual assault, it might be difficult to find places to seek guidance and treatment. Here are some things you can

Your safety is important. Are you in a safe place? If you're not feeling safe, consider reaching out to someone you trust for support. You don't have to go through this alone.

What happened was not your fault. Something happened to you that you didn't want to happen—and that's not OK; you are not to blame.

Call the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673). You'll be connected to a trained staff member from a local sexual assault service provider in your area. They will direct you to the appropriate local health facility that can care for survivors of sexual assault. Some service providers may be able to send a trained advocate to accompany you.

If you know a friend or family member that has been sexually assaulted, it is hard to watch them suffer and not know what to do. Here are some things you can do to help a victim of sexual assault heal while allowing them to move forward at their own pace:

Listen. Be there. Communicate without judgement.

If a victim of sexual assault seeks medical attention or plans to report, offer to be there. Your presence can offer the support they need.

Encourage them to get support. Share resources like the National Sexual Assault Hotline and online. rainn.org, but realize that only they can make the decision to get help.

Be patient. Remember, there is no timetable for recovering from



Christian Bardell /Scribe

The TechniClinic offers a wide range of health services trauma. Avoid putting pressure on them to engage in activities they aren't ready to do yet. Encourage them to practice good self-care during this difficult time.

If someone you care about is considering suicide, learn the warning signs, and offer help and support. For more information about suicide prevention please visit the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or call 800.273.TALK (8255) anytime, day or night.

Additional Hotlines:
1-800-273-8255

Suicide Hotline
877-455-0628 Self
Harm Hotline
888-640-5174 De-
pression Hotline
1-800-950-6264
National Alliance on
Mental Illness (NAMI)
Helpline

1 RAINN. "Steps You Can Take After Sexual Assault | RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network." RAINN | Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network, www.rainn.org/articles/steps-you-can-take-after-sexual-assault.

News

Oakland Unified School District Budget Crisis

By Bebe Aronson

In the weeks leading up to winter break, you may have seen Oakland Tech students sporting neon stickers with the words “No Cuts to Kids” printed on them. This was only one of many responses to the Oakland Unified School District’s budget crisis and proposed budget cuts. This news is practically not “news” at all, as Oakland has a long history of trouble with managing its finances. California spends less per student than most other states, and Oakland has seen a declining enrollment rate for nearly fifteen years now, which means they are receiving less money from the state but still operating nearly as many students as they were at peak enrollment.

This particular crisis developed in September, as the district was working to close out the books for the 2016-2017 school year. In doing this, there were more costs than expected to be accounted for, and in order to cover them it was

necessary to dip into savings. These savings were already low in Oakland compared to other districts due to spending much more than the predicted amounts and then dipping into savings to bridge the gaps. This school year, the savings were predicted to fall below the state required minimum of 2% of total General Fund expenditures. Falling below this measure would cause the District to go into State receivership, meaning that someone from the State government is sent to control the District, and the School Board to loses its power. This was not an appealing idea to most of the OUSD Board. As Director Jody London says, “When we were in State receivership from 2003-2009, the State did not fix the financial problems and put in new systems, which is what we are working on right now. Additionally, when the District is in State receivership the locally elected officials have no power and the State makes decisions without consulting the community.”

To solve the crisis, the Board found

themselves with a difficult decision: take money from the savings and go into State receivership, or cut what was at the time \$14.2 million, some of which would go to meet the reserve requirement and the rest of which would go to build a cushion to avoid future crises. This fall, many concerned students, parents, and community members voiced concern for how the budget cuts would affect OUSD students at the Board meetings. Most of them blamed the Board members for not having better oversight of the budget and called for “cuts from the top”, as many of the District’s top employees in the central office have the highest salaries. The echoing concern was of money being taken out of classrooms and affecting students of color or special education students. Great support was expressed for the African American Male Achievement program which works to ensure success for young African American males in OUSD. Other support was expressed for the Newcomer Program, which helps

students that are new to the district and may not have much outside support from adults. The proposed cuts were revised to \$9 million to accommodate these programs.

On December 13, the School Board passed the measure to make \$9 million in cuts with a 6-1 vote. Following this vote, the Board promised to have better oversight of the budget in the coming years, hoping to create a fiscally stable district. At the beginning of January, the District’s top financial official, Vernon Hal, resigned after being heavily criticized for his handling of the budget. Fingers have also been pointed to the previous Superintendent, Antwan Wilson, under whom many of the overspending decisions were made. However, Director London says “there’s no one person or set of events responsible.” Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell shares the same opinion, saying “it’s not productive to put the blame on any one individual. There is some collective responsibility of why we’re here.”

Oakland Public School Libraries Take Another Hit

By Claire Daly

It is no secret that the Oakland Unified School District is having major money issues. The latest development in the budget crisis has been the laying off of the district’s head librarian, Amy Cheney. This is a part of the \$9 million cut needed in order for OUSD to remain fiscally solvent and

avoid control being passed to the state government.

But Ms. Cheney’s job being cut is far from the first blow OUSD libraries have faced. Currently, 30 percent of Oakland public school libraries are closed and many that remain open are financed by donations rather than the school district. The situation is even more dire for high schools, as 14 out of

17 libraries are closed. Of the three high school libraries that have been able to remain open, all are run by a teacher rather than a credentialed librarian.

Oakland Tech’s library is one of the many nonfunctioning libraries, with shelves full of outdated books which students are unable to check out. Recently, Tech students have formed a club aiming to

help resolve the issue. The goal of The Students for Library Improvement is “to bring restoration to our school’s library and raise awareness to the district-wide issue concerning inefficient libraries,” said Katie Barr, sophomore and co-president of the club. “Our library is space that has been woefully neglected over the years. Its closure is holding students

back from resources that are well within range. We often undermine the importance of a safe and promotional space for students to study and further their learning beyond district enforced standards. This has been a huge loss of opportunity for the education and advancement of our student body and our school community as a whole.”

New Tutoring Program for Math Students

By Harry Zhu

Oakland Tech Math Department and the PTSA will be starting a new free tutoring program that will be available to everyone! Tech has provided this program for students that need help mathematics. The program officially started on January 16, 2018, in Room 236. The schedule for all year is Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays from 3:40 to 5 PM. Finals

week schedule is Tuesday, January 16, from 3:40 to 5 PM and Wednesday and Thursday, January 17 & 18, from 1:30 to 3 PM. Teachers recommend that students go to the program to catch up on math work: it is free and only a drop-in, no sign-in required! In addition, Math tutoring is staffed by high-quality math volunteers and also paid-students that passed Pre-Calculus so they are qualified to help you!

Mathematics is a skill that you need for many kinds of jobs: doctors, engineers, programmers, scientists, animators, nurses, pediatricians, surgeons, construction workers, architects and many more. Math teachers recommend that you to take math classes seriously. As math teacher Seth Zimmerman says, “The fundamental reason [for the math tutoring program] is students are having trouble with mathematics.

If the students had to choose what tutoring program to have, 75% of them would say math.” Mathematics can be difficult for students and that means Tech needs to do something about it. That is why the math tutoring program was created: to help students with learning on math subjects. In the future, Seth Zimmerman “would like to see more self-actualizing”, meaning the students should choose to believe in themselves

and that this belief will help them move forward in the long run.” The co-creator of this tutoring program says that students should be more willing to have more faith in themselves in order for their knowledge to grow and succeed. All students should take math seriously and learn as much as you can every single day. In the end, all subjects do matter and will help you in the long run. Go to math tutoring!

New State Laws Implemented in 2018

By Maya Ades

New year, new rules. Starting January 1st, 2018, several new state laws were implemented across the nation. Here are some of the most memorable ones.

Our own home state, California, has legalized recreational marijuana. You must

be 21 or older to purchase it, and to sell, businesses have to get a license from the state. In Colorado the number of plants you can grow at home has been capped at 12.

In both California and Illinois, public school districts are required to provide free feminine products to their students from grades 6 to 12.

In New York, employees will be able to take up to eight weeks of paid family leave. This is a big deal in a country where mothers are only allotted 12 weeks of UNPAID maternity leave, and paternity leave does not exist.

Pets will be treated more like children than property in event of a divorce in Illinois. If

you and your spouse have a pet together, and you get a divorce you will be able to have joint custody of that pet.

Iowa and West Virginia now require Id to be shown at voting booths, which Republicans say will prevent voter fraud at the polls.

California has raised minimum wage from \$10

an hour to \$10.50 an hour at companies with 25 or fewer employees and from \$10.50 an hour to \$11 an hour at companies of 26 or more employees.

News

Feminism: One Year After Women's March

Natalie Barr/Scribe

By Penelope Martindale

January 21, 2018 will mark one year since the Women's March on Washington, a global protest to counter the inauguration of Donald Trump that had occurred one day earlier. Protests occurred on all seven continents, making it one of the largest movements in history, and reaffirming the need for gender equality. The march also served as a call for progress regarding racial justice, LGBTQ+ rights, immigration, healthcare, reproductive rights, environmental protection, and freedom of religion. As monumental as the march was, issues regarding intersectional feminism were raised, and conversations about feminism continue to be held, including amongst students at Oakland Tech. Here are some of their thoughts.

Eleanor Godfrey-Davis is a part of the QSA (Queer Straight Alliance) at Tech, and when asked about the relationship between feminism and the LGBTQ+ community, they said they believed that "at their best, the two movements have fought for each other, bled for each other, and liberated each other," adding that it was hard for them "to think of one without the other." However, Ellie also said it is critical for feminism and feminists to include queer and trans women in their fight for equality, saying that "a lot of the time, queer people get excluded from major feminist movements... there are even groups who believe that Transgender women aren't women, and that trans women have no place in feminist spaces." They highlighted the idea of

"white feminism" and those who practice it, fighting only for white women, and excluding or ignoring the varying and diverse struggles of women of color, queer women, trans women, disabled women, Native women, and immigrant women.

Speaking more on the need for all women to be included in feminism, sophomore Tyra Wesley said, "we're all women - that's what ties us together, but our race can pull us apart at times." Tyra also said she believed feminism is about "respecting femininity and being a woman and being okay with that," as well as respecting men and their femininity and women's masculinity as well, highlighting that one goal of feminism to her is "respecting both at an equal level." Explorations and conversations about gender roles, gender expression, and the constricting and often dangerous role of toxic masculinity in society are conversations that are becoming increasingly relevant, especially with the nationwide reckoning concerning abusive power and sexual misconduct.

Expanding on the many ways feminism manifests, senior Johanna



2017 women's march recently had its one year anniversary.

Castro-Karney, the leader of the Oakland Tech Feminist Club, described feminism as "liberation from all these patriarchal structures, like the prison system, racism, capitalism, and all those things, not just gender equality."

As the first anniversary of the Women's March approaches, and discussions about feminism continue in communities across the country, it is important to remember the significance of the idea and movement. Feminism is meant to dismantle the patriarchal beliefs that men are superior to women, by lifting up women everywhere and encouraging sisterhood and solidarity between all women. That means acknowledging the oppression black

women face as women and as black people, the disenfranchisement queer women face as women and as members of the LGBTQ+ community, the exclusion disabled women face as women and as disabled people, the challenges immigrant women face as women and as immigrants, and the dehumanization transgender women face as women who are also transgender. It is about intersectionality. Feminism, at its best, is about recognizing the differences between us and how they affect the ways in which we experience life, as well as recognizing the one thing that connects us all; our identities as women.

Op-Ed: Budget Cuts

By Jessica Fan

In the weeks leading up to winter break, you may have seen Oakland Tech students sporting neon stickers with the words "No Cuts to Kids" printed on them. This was only one of many responses to the Oakland Unified School District's budget crisis and proposed budget cuts. This news is practically not "news" at all, as Oakland has a long history of trouble with managing its finances. California spends less per student than most other states, and Oakland has seen a declining enrollment rate for nearly fifteen years now, which means they are receiving less money from the state but still operating nearly as many students as they were at peak enrollment.

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Features

Tech's Lack of School Spirit

By Terashi Lee and
Corinna Basch

Oakland Technical High School is known for its many pathways and opportunities for students of all interests. With Paideia and Engineering being just the tip of the iceberg, students from the entire OUSD recognize Tech by our many distinct programs. However, Tech's very own population recognizes our school in a different way: by our school spirit.

Many believe that compared to other schools, Oakland Tech has the least school spirit in our entire district. Whether it's our half-empty rallies, lack of attendance to sporting events, or last minute spirit weeks, it doesn't surprise many that Tech is thought to have lackluster school spirit in comparison to others. Oakland Tech has even gone as far as to make rallies mandatory, as students use rally time to simply leave campus

early and go home.

Although some may be surprised at this lack of spirit, Tech's population seems to be accustomed to this attitude. When asked about the school spirit situation, an anonymous junior stated that, "there's not much of it, that's for sure." Last year, Tech's spirit week wasn't revealed to most people until the week before it happened, and the themes for the days weren't consistent with the announcements. Some point fingers to the student government and administration, as they are responsible for organizing these events and communicating to the student population when they will happen.

To a certain extent, students would be correct in blaming these people. However, that argument is a two-way street. When the administration or student council makes a well organized event that was also well advertised, and students

don't show up or participate, the students have no right to complain. Some students strive to fix this issue of consistency and rejuvenate the school spirit through fundraisers and improved school events. Corinna Basch, the junior class president, is one of those students working to alleviate this problem of the school spirit drought.

In the past 3 months, Basch has been hard at work to lower the prices of junior prom tickets and make spirit week more exciting and organized. A primary complaint from many of Oakland Tech's juniors and seniors is that prom tickets are too expensive, and they're correct;

ticket prices for senior prom often ranged from \$120 to \$140 dollars for just the tickets alone. Juniors and seniors have to pay for their suits, dresses, and transportation, which, in combination with ticket prices, quickly adds up to a total that

Antonia Starc /Scribe



Many students feel that Oakland Tech lacks school spirit.

most students aren't willing to pay out of pocket.

To solve this problem, Basch has planned many fundraisers and set a feasible goals and

deadlines of how much money to raise, in order to lower the prices of the tickets. On top of that, she's worked to improve spirit week and the organization of the student body as a whole. Not only was this year's spirit week well advertised to the population of Tech, but it was quite apparent that more students participated in each day. Although these efforts seem minor and are perhaps unrecognized by many, a little goes a long way for Tech's school spirit. Simply participating in an event, or representing Tech through wearing merch and school colors, will help Tech get back on the path to school spirit. We may be a long way from packed rallies before homecoming, but Tech shouldn't only be recognized for its pathways and opportunities in school; we should also be recognized for our vibrant, bulldog spirit!

Club Spotlight: Girl Up Club

By Cara Plumhoff and
Caroline Faucette

This year, Oakland Tech juniors Meti Sima and Mahlet Copeland started a new chapter of the United Nations campaign known as "Girl Up." The campaign's goal is to help women and girls in developing countries by providing medical and educational services. The Oakland Tech chapter of Girl

Up is focused on spreading awareness about the injustice in these countries. They also plan to fundraise to support the campaign by holding bake sales throughout the year.

In our interview, Meti explained that her and Mahlet "started Girl Up because we are both girls from developing countries and this could have been easily one of us in these situations. But because we are

not, we want to use our voices and our power to help those that unfortunately are." Despite their exciting beginning, Girl Up has faced many challenges along the way, one of the challenges being that people don't fully understand what the club is. Meti says that, "often people just think its a second feminist club, and although their work is important and necessary, we have different goals and targets."

Meti wants people to know that Girl Up focuses on equal education and resources for all, specifically girls in underdeveloped countries.

Another challenge is that the club is mostly girls at the moment. Meti and Mahlet really want to change this, because the club values everyone's point of view. They are encouraging more boys to join the club for this reason. Girl Up hopes to

raise money to buy a bicycle for the School Cycle Foundation. This organization gives girls who live in rural areas bicycles so that they can ride to school. If you believe in equal educational rights for everyone in the world, you should join this wonderful club! Girl Up meets on Thursdays at lunch in Ms. Arnoldy's room.

Review of Justice League vs Thor: Ragnarok

By Andy Gagliardi

As massive film franchises like Marvel, DC, and Star Wars have saturated movie theaters, big "summer movies" are no longer restricted to the summer. Fall 2017 saw the release of Justice League and Thor: Ragnarok, two films which, coincidentally, are nearly a perfect representation of what can go horribly wrong and what can go perfectly right with superhero films today.

Justice League went all wrong. It is the 5th film in the DC Extended Universe, a franchise that has only had one film that was consistently praised: Wonder Woman. All of the other entries in this film universe were notably weak and failed to establish a consistent setting or memorable characters. The creators behind the DCEU did not plan character arcs or even character introductions into their

film universe before this large team-up movie, which critically limited Justice League's potential. In the film, hero characters are clumsily introduced, and - with the exception of Ezra Miller's The Flash - the protagonists lack feeling and believable motivation. Justice League's Steppenwolf is arguably the worst superhero villain in years, so the audience has no characters to connect with on either side of the conflict. Wonder Woman is written as a much weaker character, and is objectified in ways that she wasn't in her own film, which adds insult to injury after all the progress made for female representation in Wonder Woman. Also, the visuals don't look remotely believable or realistic. For a film that depends on CGI for basically everything, the aesthetic and visual quality of the film seems oddly bad, almost like the movie didn't render complete-

ly. Justice League's components fail to synthesize into something enjoyable, entertaining, or frankly, good.

Thor: Ragnarok triumphs in most of the categories Justice League fails in. First, the visual effects and world design in Thor are utterly spectacular. The environments are colorful, detailed, and dynamic. The characters have been established in prior Marvel films, and Thor continues to explore these relationships, notably the one between Thor and Bruce Banner/Hulk. Marvel's decision to pair these large personality characters up for this movie flows flawlessly in hilarious dialogue, excellent and exciting action, and even a few thoughtful moments. That said, the film fails to deliver any true emotion, and there is no sense of danger for any of the characters in the movie. But none of this detracts from the film's success, which comes

down to its own self-awareness.

Director Taika Waititi was hyper-aware that he was directing one of the most ridiculous movies ever made, and used this to his advantage. He directed the actors to turn the bloated and absurd nature of the settings and characters into jokes, finding a way to poke fun at the absurdity of it all in order to make the movie entertaining and fun. Thor: Ragnarok knows how ridiculous it is, and capitalizes on it in order to improve the viewing experience. Even though Justice League is just as ridiculous, if not more



Antonia Starc/Scribe

Nifty poster advertising the new Justice League movie

so, it takes itself way too seriously to be enjoyable, and that is the single biggest reason why Justice League failed and Thor: Ragnarok triumphed.

Features

Op-Ed: Paying for AP Exams

By Theo Zarobell

All students in AP classes at Tech are required to pay for and take the corresponding exam for their class. This year, the fee is \$94 dollars per exam, and continuing Oakland Techs nonsensical subsidies for standardized tests, neither OUSD nor Oak-

land Tech are subsidizing it. Students who qualify for the free or reduced lunch program qualify for fee waivers. Oakland Tech seems to have no problem paying for all the 10th graders in the school to take the PSAT 10, which doesn't qualify the taker for National Merit Scholarships, unlike the PSAT 11, which

Tech makes juniors pay \$5 per person to take.

Oakland Tech fully subsidizes a standardized test, which has completely meaningless results that cannot be sent to colleges, while they only partially subsidizes a test that qualifies the top 7500 test takers nationwide with a scholarship of \$2500. Oakland

Tech refuses to subsidize a test that can save test takers tens of thousands of dollars in tuition at a college. To make matters worse, they don't just refuse to subsidize this test; they then force all of their students in the fifteen different AP courses throughout the school to take the test and pay for it. Tech takes arguably

the most important College Board test at the school and makes its students pay for it, while allowing any student to take the least important College Board test, the PSAT 10, for free.

Pancake Recipe

By Fiona Osborn

Pancakes are a breakfast staple, and they are a great way to show off your cooking skills and treat your family or friends to a delicious breakfast. This is a super easy and quick recipe. You can get creative with these pancakes by adding things to the batter, like blueberries or chocolate chips, or cooking them in whimsical shapes.

2 cups milk (or Buttermilk if you want to make them fancy)

2 eggs
2 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon salt
½ stick unsalted butter, melted (salted butter is okay too, just use less salt)
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
Oil, cooking spray, or butter to use while cooking
Beat the eggs in a large bowl until they are frothy.
Add the rest of the ingredients and mix until there

are no lumps of flour.

Heat a pan over medium-high heat.

Pour a ladle full of batter onto the pan.

Cook the pancake until lots of bubbles form on the top, and the bottom is golden-brown, about 2 minutes.

Flip the pancake, and cook until golden brown on the other side, about 2 minutes.

Enjoy!

Op-Ed: Net Neutrality Repeal Jeopardizes Internet Freedom

By Samuel Lin

Picture this: you've been on the Internet all day working on Google Classroom and you're eager for a break. You try to load Youtube on your browser. To your surprise, it loads very slowly. You try Netflix, and it's the same story. You're frustrated, so you complain to your Internet provider. They tell you that both Youtube and Netflix use up too much bandwidth. To load videos on Youtube, you're forced to pay an extra fee.

Now that net neutrality has been repealed, that reality could be right around the corner.

Net neutrality is the idea that Internet service providers (ISPs) should not block or favor certain websites. In 2015, under President Obama's administration, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted in favor of strong regulation to uphold net neutral-

ity in the Internet. After an indecisive decade of heated debate, it was decided that ISPs, including Verizon, Comcast, and AT&T, could not interfere with the Internet access of its customers. This was threatened to change when Donald Trump took office. President Trump appointed fellow Republican Ajit Pai as the new head commissioner of the FCC. On December 14, 2017, the FCC voted 3-2 in favor of repealing the Obama-era net neutrality rules. While this repeal must be evaluated in Congress before it takes effect, and could be overturned, the consequences are real and scary; ISPs would allowed to charge more/less for or slow down/speed up different types of content. This could be the end of a free Internet.

Repealing net neutrality could affect the information we access in drastic ways. Ricky Lam, an Oakland Tech sophomore in the Computer Academy, says, "If I want to go on a certain web-

site, then I expect access to that website like any other website on the Internet. Why should I be charged more or get a slower connection?" Indeed, the free Internet has become an integral part of our lives; forming our personalities, our opinions, and our connection to the world. Control of the Internet would influence the way we act and think.

Computer science teacher Mr. Wright is concerned that the Internet will become more profitized without net neutrality regulations. He says that "those corporations that profit from providing information on the Internet will have a monopoly. But information usually isn't provided in that context." He adds that "nonprofits and start-ups will have a hard time competing with big websites like Google, Facebook, and Amazon, who can afford to pay more to providers." Net neutrality is essential to any democratic nation. Countries like America run on innovation. Yet

by repealing net neutrality the FCC is stifling this very innovation.

Already, states have begun filing lawsuits to challenge the FCC's decision to repeal net neutrality. Congress still has the opportunity to overturn the FCC vote. However, unless net neutrality is passed as a law, the Republican party will eventually bring it to an FCC vote and repeal it again. People will have to lobby their representatives and Congress legislators to settle the score. It will require movements both in our local and global communities.

Tell your representatives how you feel about Net Neutrality: text RESIST to 50409 on SMS and it will find out who represents you in Congress, and deliver your message to them in under 2 minutes, straight from your phone. Go to resist.bot for more information.

Friendship Poem

Friendship

By Ihsan Johnson-Hagler

1/9/2018

Friendship is true and exciting

It's not about relationships or popularity

It's about loyalty, respect and faith

A lost friend is shattered pieces of your heart

A false friend is greedy and foul like vultures

A true friend is one who cares and is always there

Sometimes you may lose a friend, but there's more to find

The drifts are the troubles that come

But there's a will, there's always a way

No matter what happens, you are not alone!

Always support your friends no matter what

Because friendship is a blessing, not a curse!

Your time will come to shine!

Just do you, only you no one else!

That will give you friends for a lifetime!

Why We Should Value Friendships

By Ihsan Johnson-Hagler

1/9/2018

Why friendship needs to be valued?

Having friends is the best

Feeling in the world going out

On a first date with your crush

Or winning a championship for your

Hometown team. What makes your

Friends great is that they always

Have your back, no matter what that

Bond is never broken, you can talk to

Them about anything that's on your mind

Without playing the should I should I or shouldn't

I game because they are always showing

That they care. But I feel as thought that

People sometimes think that when they

Have something that their other friends

Don't have feels like a

House where no one is allowed

To talk or hang out with that person.

Features

Sun Sign Horoscopes For The Month of February

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

This will be a pretty chill month. Stay motivated and focus on what matters most to you. Your academic life may improve drastically this month, so work hard and you shall be rewarded!

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

Aquarius: January 19 – February 18

February is going to be your month as it is the season of the Aquarius. Use this time to be a little more "self-focused" and focus on your aspirations.

This month try to keep an open mind and let your goals drive you to achieve what you want most.

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

Pisces: February 18 – March 20

This month you'll be in your element. Your creativity will be off the charts! Try to keep a level-headed mind as it may be wise to get a second opinion every now and then. Use this month as a fresh start for your future.

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

Aries: March 20 – April 19
School-wise, February will be optimal for you. Try to seize new opportunities that will present themselves to you. But be sure to not overbook yourself, time management is key

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

Taurus: April 19 – May 20
This month will be all about

setting goals! Success is just moments within your grasp. But try not to lose sight of your end goals, for distractions may present themselves to you. As long as you keep a positive focused mindset anything will be possible.

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

Gemini: May 20 – June 20

This month is all about new adventures! Take on new projects and tasks, even try to make new friends. Who knows...this month could be the month of new beginnings!

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

Cancer: June 20 – July 22

Treat yo self! This month is all about self-reflection and self-care. It's time for you to put yourself first and cut out the negativity in your life.

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

Leo: July 22 – August 22

This month is all about academic success. Focus and your

grades and GPA and in the end all your hard work shall be rewarded!

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

Virgo: August 22 – September 22

Use this month to cut back and relax. Try not to be too nitpicky and avoid being overly critical of other people. Self-investment is important and is something that will be worth it in the end.

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

Libra: September 22 – October 23

This month is going to be your month to rise up and stand out. Use your skills to your advantage and achieve the goals you have set out to accomplish!

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

Scorpio: October 23 – November 21

This month is all about independence and self advoca-

cy. (As long as it doesn't hurt anyone) feel free to voice your opinion and stand up for what you believe in!

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

Sagittarius: November 21 – December 21

This month is all about friendship. It will be a time to evaluate your friendships and appreciate those who have supported and stood by you. You will also get a fresh look at things, and you may discover new friends and opportunities.

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

(Sexual Harassment continued from page 2)

intimidated and harassed by groups of male students when alone. It is not uncommon for "the eyes of huge groups of guys [to be] staring me up and down," a student observed. Female students also expressed their belief that the behavior of individual male students deteriorates as they form groups, and that these groups are not safe for lone young women to be around. Much of the conduct that groups of male students engage in goes beyond leering. These groups gang up on individual students or small groups of them in actively threatening or violent ways.

Group harassment often occurs in sports. While speaking to one female student, a member of the Tech Football team joked that I should avoid investigating the team because they could not afford to lose any players. It wasn't funny. The words of the joke implied that players regularly engage in vile behavior to get themselves removed, while the audacity of making it shows either horrifically bad taste or a terrible sportsman culture. In all likelihood, it's both. And while no harassment claims were made against the Tech football team, the same cannot be said of the baseball team.

During a student's freshman year (she is now a junior, so most of the offending members will have graduated), she was on the bus along with the majority of the baseball team. According to the student, as she stood up to leave "a guy on the baseball team [said], 'damn she thick with it.'" Embarrassed, she quickly exited the bus, only to have the majority of the team leering and laughing out of the back of it. Incidents such as this degrade female students, but also create a climate of fear.

It is bad when harassment is between students, but much worse when it is between students and a teacher. One teacher, who will remain anonymous, was accused by a student of sexual harassment in the form of suggestive and sexist comments. Their story has been verified by multiple other students, and the administration claims to have begun an investigation.

Several students alleged that this teacher made comments that seemed to imply sexual advances, took an inappropriate interest in his students' bodies, and had a generally "creepy" demeanor. He seemed to avoid making outright sexist comments during class, but at some point, he slipped. As the

student recounts, "a group of girls was talking in the back of the class, when [the teacher] told us that, 'women back in the day were meant to be seen and not heard.'" Sexist comments from a teacher are as inexcusable as racist ones, and those who make them cannot be trusted to deal impartially with students. They have the ability to alter grades, mark absences, and give referrals - all of which can leave a permanent mark upon that student's transcript. When used justly, these tools make sense. But they become weapons in the hands of a teacher looking to defend himself from accusations of harassment. This difference in power between teacher and student discourages those who have been harassed from sharing their experience, for fear of retaliation.

The culture at Tech is unacceptable, and a problem for everyone. But that does not mean it is unsalvageable. There are a few things that each member of the Tech community can do to improve conditions at school.

Teachers and administrators must be educators and allies to their students, even on this sensitive topic. That incidents of harassment and assault are most prevalent in 9th grade is a

reminder that most high school students are children, and that children make mistakes. While this does not excuse their actions, it shows that they can be taught. Teachers and administrators must make clear to students, especially male students, which actions are acceptable - and which are not. Every salaried employee at Oakland Tech must also use their respective office to help the reporting of these incidents. This means that administrators must simplify the process of reporting and that teachers must publicly show themselves open to talking with and counseling students.

Students at Tech also have a part to play. We cannot rely on our teachers or administrators alone to fix the problem. In an ideal world, male students would fix the problems male students created - but this is not an ideal world. Most male students don't even realize the problem exists. They need it explained to them, some may even need to examine their own behavior. When the majority of male students are willing and able to stand up for their female counterparts, then perhaps we can eliminate harassment in our community. Until then, those who care

about the issue need to be a little more vigilant than we have been in calling out harassment, and a little better at reporting it.

(New neutrality continued from page 1)

would be stuck with slow service and limited access to content. In the weeks leading up to the 14th, social media was set ablaze with efforts to raise awareness about the importance of net neutrality and push Congress to take action (the FCC is technically part of the executive branch, but members of Congress can still use their political leverage to pressure Pai to delay the vote). Prominent online personalities like Douglass called on their viewers to take action by calling their representatives. Online petitions circulated, with some gaining as many as 2 million signatures. Big name

companies like Netflix and Twitter joined several other organizations in releasing statements in support of net neutrality. As one anonymous junior put it, "It was really amazing to see everyone on the Internet come together like that to support equality. At one point, I couldn't sign a petition because so many others were trying to sign at the same time!"

The fight for net neutrality took to the streets on December 7. Thousands of protesters gathered outside of Verizon stores across the country to demand that Congress take action to save the free and open

Internet.

On December 14, 2017, in spite of all the uproar, the FCC voted in favor of repealing net neutrality. Disappointed Americans grew scared for the future of the Internet. Even more disappointing, Jack Douglass did not change his name to "LitFam."

However, the fight is not over yet. Congress still has the power to save net neutrality, and several senators are taking action. Congress can block the repeal by enacting a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to strike down new federal regulations,

requiring only a simple majority in the House and Senate. Of course, as few Republicans are likely to support the resolution, a simple majority may not be so simple. However, the fight to save net neutrality recently reached a remarkable milestone. On January 8th, Claire McCaskill of Missouri became the thirtieth senator to co-sponsor the resolution, which is enough to force a vote in the Senate. A flood of support followed McCaskill, and as of January 9th, at least 40 senators have signed onto the repeal effort.

In addition, on January 5th, an industry group representing

America's tech giants pledged to support the legal fight against the FCC's decision. This means that companies like Facebook, Netflix, and Google are throwing their reputations and resources behind the fight for net neutrality.

Net neutrality regulations have extended the American values of freedom and equality into the realm of the digital world. They have made the Internet a space where everyone has equal access to not only digital content, but to opportunity. So yes, I'd say that saving net neutrality is completely worth changing your name to "LitFam."

(One Republic continued from page 1)

to work every day and simply being involved in some part of the music industry makes him feel as though he "has won the lottery." He encouraged students to pursue their dreams and find something that they love doing, even if it is not always easy.

The concert was a part of an award that was given to Tech's music department by the

(Oprah Winfrey continued from page 1)

between her and the current president himself. Oakland Tech sophomore Ellie Kerwin is skeptical of an Winfrey bid for President, saying, "I don't know enough to say whether she should run for President... I think her activism is so inspiring for people - especially

Grammy Museum Signature Schools Program, which works to support music in public schools across the country. Tech was one of twenty public schools across the country to receive a \$5000 grant sponsored by Cisco and OneRepublic's Good Life Foundation, and the only one to get a concert.

In a press release by the Grammy Museum, Tedder explains

young people - so Oprah running for some kind of public office seems like a good idea."

Fellow Tech sophomore Aden Lounds found Winfrey's speech "extremely well written and spoken" and "powerful in that it was able to resonate with nearly everyone in some way."

the band's generous donation, saying: "we believe that music education in this country, and around the world, is extremely important and a vital way to inspire future generations of musicians and people who love music."

In addition to the money, Cisco will implement its Cisco Spark enterprise collaboration program, which will allow

She echoed some of Kerwin's sentiments, adding, "I think she could do great things for this country if she ran for office, but it is definitely not the only way she could spread her influence."

While Oprah Winfrey has demonstrated the political

for communication between students and teachers, creating a space for the innovation and collaboration integral to music. Tech's music teacher Arthur Allen believes this grant will have a huge impact on the music program, as "the grant was to bring in professional musicians to provide one on one coaching for our students as a means of closing the gap

between our highly resourced and our under-resourced students. This will help students to have more success with their instruments." He hopes that these "awards and the growth in quality [of the program] will attract more students to participate in the music program."

Globes speech showed tremendous eloquence and a natural leadership presence, but it will take a little more for Winfrey to win America over.

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THE SCRIBE

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