



The Talon

Gripping News



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Onteora High School

Boiceville, NY 12412

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Midterm Election Results

Editorial by Eleanor Schackne-Martello



Over the summer a mountain of groundbreaking political events took place. First and foremost, there was a special election. As a result of this special election, there was a primary election for the office of County Executive. There was also a nail-biting primary for NY Assembly District 103. Now, we've had the midterms. Let's unpack.

The special election was a perfect storm of adults playing musical chairs and no one really understanding the redistricting that was finalized in July. To be fair, most people still don't totally get it. Antonio Delgado, previous congressman to most people in our school district, was appointed Lieutenant Governor by Governor Hochul. Pat Ryan, Ulster County Executive, and Marc Molinaro, Dutchess County Executive, faced off for Delgado's seat in August with Pat Ryan eventually winning by a concerningly small margin. Post redistricting, Pat Ryan ran again against Colin Schmitt, a Republican state assemblyman. Pat won. Again by a small margin.

At the same time, Josh Riley was facing Jamie Cheney in a primary to see who would run in the new 19th district. Riley won and went on to face Marc Molinaro. To be clear, Marc Molinaro doesn't live in the 19th district. He ran in our district as a strategic move because he knew he couldn't win in his home district. Anyway, Josh Riley's candidacy marked a step in the right direction for our community. While he wasn't the most progressive candidate we saw on the ballot this year, he showed a willingness to collaborate with people across the aisle. Despite this noble goal, he did lose. At the time of

writing this, the exact numbers haven't been released but it seems like it was a close race. With Marc as our new representative, it is imperative that we give him a warm welcome. After all, he's new to the neighborhood. For real though, many are already concerned about the intentions of our new congressman. Only time will tell what the long term ramifications are, but if Dutchess County's management is anything to go by, we may be in for a rough adjustment period.

Moving away from congressional confusion, over the summer there was a totally off the chain primary for county executive. Well, sort of a primary. It was a primary in the sense that two democrats were facing off for candidacy for one position. However, this election wasn't open to the public. The voting was limited to Ulster County's Democratic Committee members. Of course, they were "representing" real people. Some committee members had one or two hundred votes while others had fifty, depending directly on the position of the committee member and how many people in each town had voted in the previous election. The primary was between County Comptroller March Gallagher, deputy Ulster County Executive Marc Rider, and state senator Jen Metzger. For transparency's sake, I did work on March's campaign. However, all three candidates were extremely well qualified and Jen Metzger's ultimate win was fought well. She went up against James Quigley, town supervisor of Ulster and won, despite the freaky amount of money funneled into Quigley's campaign. However, it was a battle well fought, with Jen Metzger even thanking Quigley for such an honorable race in a speech made just after hearing the election results.

The primary for NY Assembly District

103 was also exciting. It was between Kevin Cahill, the incumbent, and Sarahana Shrestha, a relative newcomer to politics in this area. Sarahana won, backed by more youth than any other campaign by far. SUNY New Paltz students specifically helped deliver her to success with tireless canvassing and cold calling. Then she had to run against Patrick Sheehan. Patrick ran an interesting campaign, leaning heavily on the fact that he simply wasn't Sarahana. Seriously, one of his main statements was that he was an alternative to people who didn't want to vote for her. Which is how every election works. Every candidate, if nothing else, is an alternative to another candidate. While this campaign strategy certainly eludes my understanding, what's more interesting was his lack of campaigning. Aside from a few sorry signs in more rural, grass covered areas, I didn't hear a thing from his campaign team, a stark contrast from Sarahana's guerilla-like strategy of seemingly being everywhere. In the end, Sarahana's strategy won out. Having a self proclaimed democratic socialist in the assembly representing us may feel shocking, but it also shows us how every vote counts, old or young.

I've decided that I'm at peace with the midterm elections results, locally at least. While not the decisive, across the board win that I would have preferred, I think it should encourage us to spend more time thinking about democracy. Though we live in a relatively blue area, we should never take our representation for granted.

Supreme Court Decisions of Summer 2022

Editorial by Iris Koester

Recent changes in the balance of the Supreme Court have led to the overturning of what was previously considered settled law. With three Trump-appointed judges, conservatives now outnumber liberal judges on the court by 6–3, and decisions have been made recently that affect the entire country, especially women and minorities. While most have heard about the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 ruling that has legally protected the right for a woman to have a safe abortion, it was not the only significant ruling the Supreme Court made this summer. They have also put into motion the overruling of decisions on climate change, gun rights, the separation of the church and state, and many more possibly life-altering decisions that have upset portions of the general public.

For decades—for us high school students, our entire lifetimes—*Roe v. Wade* has federally protected women's constitutional right to their decision to have an abortion. In May a leaked draft of the decision to strike down the law upset a large portion of the country, leading to many protests, including a student-led protest here at Onteora. In June the decision was struck down in the 5–4 ruling *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. After the federal ruling many red states immediately enacted their own state rulings on abortion. These rulings greatly affect young women and families across America, making it harder for women to make their own health decisions. Women who have been raped, assaulted, or whose pregnancies have been deemed unsafe by their doctors are now being forced, in certain conservative states, to carry out unsafe pregnancies.



On the environmental front, *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency*, a 6–3 ruling on June 30, took away climate protections that limited the carbon emissions allowed at individual power plants. This ruling takes the United States backwards in fighting climate change and keeping our air clean, and is concerning to many because it undermines the country's recent efforts to go green.

Another ruling, *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, was especially shocking due to the large number of shootings that have happened across the country in recent years. This was a court ruling that struck down a gun law from over a century ago in New York. The original law had placed restrictions on carrying handguns outside of the home. This past June the 6–3 ruling held that the original law violated the second amendment, our right to bear arms. Now people will be allowed to carry handguns outside of their homes. This ruling is perceived by many as a dangerous threat to safety.

The conservative supreme court rulings have also affected matters in the separation of state and religion. A 6–3 ruling by the conservatives on June 21, 2022 was made to increase the visibility and importance of religion in public life, violating the first amendment—freedom of religion and freedom of speech. *Carson v. Makin* ruled that a program in Maine violated the first amendment by excluding religious schools from a state tuition program.

These Supreme Court rulings as a whole are perceived as pushing the country in a more radical conservative direction, a shift which, as recent polling has shown, is out of step with most Americans' wishes.

Open Letter from President Crandell

By Noelle Crandell

Greetings constituents!

As the new school year begins so does a fresh Student Government. This is our first year after implementing two year terms into our election process, and all of your representatives are eager to get to work. We are happy to continue long standing projects like our Outside Initiative, which aims to encourage outdoor education by overseeing a remodeling of our courtyard to contain two new outdoor classrooms. Student Government also hopes to hold a community planting day in the near future, so stay tuned for dates! As president, I would like to let you know that your concerns over the recently implemented physical education dress code are being heard, and that Student Government as a whole is actively working towards an environment and solution where every student feels safe and comfortable. Student Government should be used as a means to promote a learning environment where the student body is heard and represented. It is up to you to inform your representatives of your concerns as well as your hopes for Onteora. I look forward to leading projects that benefit your mental, social, and physical health.

Sincerely,
Noelle Crandell

Farewell Ms. O'Connor!

By Madeline Mills and Arely Tapia

Middle School was a big transition for most of us. It was a significant shift from the easy years of elementary school, with a break for recess and a specific time set to visit the library. To suddenly be left on your own without a line leader or a teacher to walk you everywhere you go, middle school was a scary time for most. When having to start a new school, on your own personal schedule, it's nice to have a great principal by your side.

Ms. O'Connor worked as a principal here at Onteora for 14 years. She describes the job as difficult, but her greatest joy was seeing the students returning from summer break. "I really loved seeing in September how much they have grown in just two short months; the rate of maturity every year is amazing to watch. And I'm lucky enough to have all the kids, so I can see you grow up and become seniors." She explained the most demanding part: "It is always a challenge to keep everyone on the same team and to have everyone focused." Ms. O'Connor enjoyed her profession as Onteora's middle school principal, witnessing the students put forth so much effort and work to achieve their goals. After being



asked what she has learned from this job, she stated, "It is a really hard job. It's hard because the kids want to learn; they want to come here, but there are some things I have no control over." Before becoming a principal at Onteora, she was a teacher for 18 years. She taught English at Roxbury High School to grades 7–12. She clarified that comparing them may seem easy, but the two jobs were very different and gave her completely different perspectives on the school system. She had to adapt—not just controlling her own class—but an entire school. One of her goals was keeping everyone on the same boat and making sure that everyone felt comfortable and safe. Ms. O'Connor concludes, "I think it is important to keep trying your best every single day." In the final minutes of our interview she adds advice for the upcoming principal, "Assume the best in people; he is inheriting a fantastic staff, probably the best. Stay optimistic."

Ms. O'Connor has been a great teacher and role model! Thank you for being a wonderful principal and person.

Climate Apartheid: The Flooding in Pakistan

By Caleb Frank

The following is a submission reflecting the work of Onteora High School's Eco Club. The Eco Club seeks to improve sustainability within the school and educate the student body about environmentalism. This is the first entry in a new sustainability and environmentalism column in The Talon.

Many of us have probably been witnessing a moral and environmental cataclysm: the flooding in Pakistan. The monsoon season last summer was ten times greater than average, leading to thousands of deaths, as well as billions of dollars worth of damage to homes, businesses, and other buildings.

Pakistan contributes less than 1% of the world's greenhouse-gas emissions, but is paying a catastrophically disproportionate price compared to what many other nations contribute. Pakistani citizens are facing food shortages, lost homes, spreading of diseases, lack of healthcare, and an inability to find refuge.

This tragedy is an example of a developing concept: climate apartheid. The truth is, climate disasters underscore and magnify inequity. It is much more difficult for people with low financial security to meet basic needs and escape in times of crisis. Meanwhile, the wealthy will be minimally affected by such situations because they have the financial means to flee to less-affected areas. What this boils down to is that the people contributing the least to climate change are the ones frequently forced into inescapable conditions that can destroy their livelihoods, while the people contributing the most are able to shirk the consequences.

Another major topic right now in sustainability is the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Agreement, intended to reduce the usage of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, adopted in 1987 following the rapid destruction of the ozone layer, was centered

around minimizing our usage of hydrochloro-fluorocarbons (HCFCs). HCFCs are two-hundred times more potent than carbon dioxide in terms of global warming potential. These substances were commonly used in refrigerators, air-conditioners, and foam products. However, the act had a slight oversight that was taken advantage of by many different companies. HFCs, which were introduced as a less harmful alternative to HCFCs, became a popular replacement used in refrigeration, air conditioners, aerosols, and foam products. Unfortunately, HFCs, while not depleting the ozone layer, still have very high global warming potential. In response to this, the Kigali Amendment was ratified September 21, 2022 to ensure that existing innovations besides HFCs will become more profitable to use.

Now onto a brand many of us may know. Patagonia has gained popularity since 1973. A key distinguishing factor is its mission of preserving nature. In 2012 Patagonia became a B Certified Corporation, a third party certification that, in Patagonia's definition, measures its commitment to "the community and the environment as well as [to] its shareholders." Patagonia is also a member of 1% For The Planet, pledging to donate 1% of sales to environmental goals. Recently, Yvon Chouinard retired from his position as owner of Patagonia. This posed a dilemma as he sought to forfeit control of his company. He did not want to sacrifice his company's morals by publicly trading it, but he did not see any existing options that would suit the brand. Instead he pioneered a new kind of capitalist

company and system, transferring the voting shares, which amount to 2% of total shares, to the Patagonia Purpose Trust whose goal is to maintain Patagonia's mission and ideals. The remaining 98% of shares was given to the Holdfast Collective, an environmental non-profit that will put the profits of Patagonia toward sustainability initiatives. Overall, the Purpose Trust makes the decisions, ensuring Patagonia's mission will continue past Chouinard, and the Holdfast Collective receives the profits, guaranteeing the money made from the company will go to environmental goals.

This structure, despite being truly innovative, is not without its corruption. Had Chouinard sold the company, which was valued at \$3,000,000,000, he would have been taxed approximately \$700,000,000. Given his donation of the company, he was taxed the far smaller sum of \$17,500,000. Based on the company's past, it seems that Chouinard did not make this choice due to the tax break; however, the possibility that this choice still is a profit-making venture is worth considering. Overall, the donation of Patagonia sets a precedent for sustainability and sends a powerful message to other corporations as well as consumers that a more ethical company is possible.

Examples of climate disaster abound in today's world, but there is also progress being made toward a planet that can successfully house us all. While crises mount, there are also changes being made that point us in the right direction. Information on both will be provided in this column.

Later Start Times: When Will They Begin?

By Makenzie Pratt

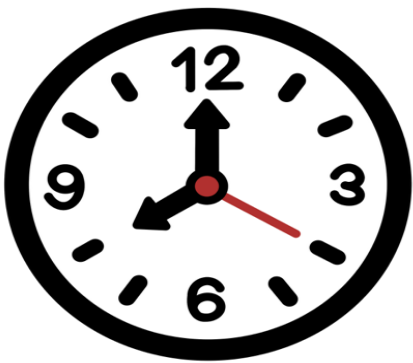
As I'm sure many of you know, the Onteora School District was supposed to implement later start times this year. This had been planned before Covid. Due to the fact that many people attended school virtually, the schedule shift was postponed until we were no longer virtual. There are many rewards of having a later start time, such as fewer car accidents caused by sleep deprivation and generally more well-rested students. The seemingly small amount of extra sleep afforded by the revised start time can prove to be very significant. Being well rested can improve mood and the amount of information absorbed in class.

While there are many benefits to having a later start time, there are a few downsides as well. Less practice time, a later arrival home for younger students, and issues concerning required amount of time in school for younger students, are all drawbacks to a later start time. Although it would be convenient if simply changing the schedule of both the high school and middle school resolved these issues, there arises additional complications with transportation, specifically timing problems going between various routes and schools. This, combined with the fact that a later start time would mean a later dismissal and sports need daylight to practice, magnifies the issue. Even if a later start time were implemented, it was decided that the late bus runs would remain at 4:20 and 5:15 p.m. This reduces the time that teams have to practice even when they stay until 5:15. These issues have acted as roadblocks in the pursuit of 20 more minutes of sleep.

In 2020 there were plans to move the start time to 8:00 a.m., supposedly scheduled to begin this year. In 2021 presentations were given that proved a later start time would be much healthier for the student body. As of now the plans have been put on hold until the school board can meet with enough representatives.

Proposed schedule for later start times.

- Period 1: 8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. 0:40
- Period 2: 8:44 a.m. – 9:24 a.m. 0:40
- Period 3: 9:28 a.m. – 10:08 a.m. 0:40
- Period 4: 10:12 a.m. – 10:52 a.m. 0:40
- Period 5: 10:56 a.m. – 11:36 a.m. 0:40
- Period 6: 11:40 a.m. – 12:20 a.m. 0:40
- Period 7: 12:24 p.m. – 1:06 p.m. 0:42
- Period 8: 1:10 p.m. – 1:56 p.m. 0:42 + 0:04 HR
- Period 9: 2:00 p.m. – 2:42 p.m. 0:42



My International Education

By Oscar Espinoza

In late December of 2021 I moved to Mexico City. It was only a semester and my intentions were simple: family, school, and reconnection. As I am sure most Onteora students are aware, the area in which we are located is predominantly white and infuriatingly isolated—if you cannot drive, you are stuck. Stuck is what I often felt, between immigrant parents who have no need for “silly American customs” and an American community that, perhaps unknowingly, expects perfect assimilation. Not to be cliché, but I felt like the “first-gen kid stuck between two overwhelming worlds.” I thought that could change if I left, or at least I would not have to worry about it for six peaceful months. But I was wrong.

I, along with my family, first went to the nation’s capital and then left for my mom’s hometown in Puebla. We reconnected with cousins, aunts, and my dear abuelitos, who I had not seen since I was eight years old. I believe it was a surreal experience for everyone. I remember climbing onto the roof of my cousin’s house at dusk on Christmas Eve to watch the sunset. Christmas lights flashed along the dim village, and the volcano, el Popocatepetl, rested high over the horizon while fireworks crackled long into the night. For two weeks everything was alright.

A week before the start of school, I traveled back to Mexico City with my mother and reconnected with my grandfather, who lived with us before he returned to Mexico three years ago. That night my mom had to return to her village with only my grandfather to guide her out of the seemingly un-navigable city. Once she was oriented, we said our goodbyes and she dropped us off.

We were on a busy street; I had to quickly follow my grandfather as he steered me through the crowd of people. It was late by then and we had just gotten on el pesero, a privately-owned bus, part of a larger network of buses that follow flexible local routes and have schedules that are inconsistent at best. The bus

was quiet and lit with a faint purple light. We hardly moved through the never-ending traffic, but with each passing minute the roads cleared up more and more. The open doors let in the crisp air as people got on and off after requesting stops. One man got on selling chocolates and another sold cheap jewelry. The further we traveled from the center of the city the roads became bumpier and the streets became narrower. I was predictably nervous in this new environment, but with my grandfather I knew that I was safe.

The following week, I arrived at my new school, PrepaTec. The campus, which was shared by both a highschool and university, was massive. The main building had a Starbucks and there were various cafes and chain restaurants over the campus.

When I got to my first class, I took my seat and introduced myself. I stated that I was American and, although I could speak Spanish, I was a little rusty. The teacher was understanding and eager to help me. After class a group who would later become my friends came up to me, introduced themselves, and asked me questions about life as an American. I was now known as “the American kid,” and as the day progressed it became clear that this would be the stark division that separated me from the other students.

It continued to feel like that for the following few days. Although it was not directly harmful and certainly not intentional, it made me reevaluate what I truly wanted. I had run so far from this discomfort that I ran headfirst into it.

Then, right before our first test everyone was stressed with last minute cramming and it reminded me of how anxious people would get at Onteora. I began to notice many other mundane similarities: people talking about their favorite music artists, watching movies as they waited for their next class, or even failing at TikTok dances.

It truly humbled me, not because I watched people suffer, as people expect me to say when I tell them I lived in Mexico, but because I realized that however far apart we are from each other, people will still be people. I witnessed a fundamental behavior that connects us all.

While I did live in privilege, I can acknowledge the reality of corruption and danger that is real in Mexico, and I can say that most people were trying to better themselves. I did not live in the best neighborhood but it was safe. My accent made me a potential victim to plenty of petty crime, and yet I was never targeted, even when I roamed the city by myself. Not everyone was given this privilege, but they made the best of what they had. I truly hope their situations will improve through social and governmental means.

Although I saw what connected us, I was able to appreciate some cool cultural differences as well. The music and food were my personal favorites, but even the values of people were different. There was more emphasis on family and tradition and, for many, religion. The school was large, and I met so many interesting people, many of whom had families from all over the world. It was freeing to accept that I was only a single story to most people at that school. Catching a glimpse of life in another country taught me that we’re all just people trying our very best; we cannot always control our situations, but we can control who we become because—or in some cases, in spite—of those circumstances.



Ukraine

By Logan Storey

On September 30, 2022, the governors of the Russian-occupied territories of Luhansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhya and Kherson Oblast were annexed by the Russian Federation. But why did this occur and what caused this to happen? Stick around because we will discuss the history of the region and get reactions from some people in our school community.

To understand these current events let's look back to the past. In 1954 the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred Crimea from the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic (or the RSFSR) to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (or the Ukrainian SSR. Almost forty years later on December 26, 1991, the General Secretary of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, resigned, marking the collapse of the union between the Russian Federation, Republic of Belarus, and most importantly the Republic of Ukraine.

Then in 2014 the Revolution of Dignity caused the ousting of the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich. This led to the Crimean Crisis of 2014. The Russian Federation took advantage of the Ukrainian Revolution and annexed the Republic of Crimea. A “referendum” made Crimea independent for a day but then they rejoined the Russian Federation. With approval from the State Duma and later Vladimir Putin, the current president of Russia, the Russian military rushed in to secure and annex the young republic into the Russian Federation.

While all of this was happening a new conflict was erupting that was later called the “War in the Donbas.” This was a conflict between the pro-Russian separatist movement, called the Novorossiia Confederation (New Russia), and the Ukrainian Government. This continued until February 14, 2022, when Vladimir Putin declared a special military operation in Ukraine as “an act of self-defense against NATO expansion.”

As of October 6th, 2022, almost 30,000 people are dead. An additional 54,000 people sustained

government and Russian oligarchs. Pro-Ukrainian protests have been going on all around the western world.

Historically neutral to geopolitics, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden submitted an application to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) on May 18, 2022. Later on September 30, 2022, the same day that Russia annexed the formal Ukrainian territories, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, sent in an application for Ukraine to join NATO as well.

Mr. Dornan, a special education history teacher, has this to say about the current conflict: “To say answering this question is complicated, is the understatement of the century. Putin’s move to annex these regions is of course wrong. It’s a move he makes in the face of the international community without fear of reprisal. Putin has made it clear that he will defend his actions and beliefs that the people in these regions ‘are now our citizens forever’ and will be defended ‘at all costs.’ Mr. Dornan has also noted, “This promise by Biden has emboldened Zelensky, who now not only asks for our best state of the art weaponry, including fighter jets, but on October 6, demanded that NATO countries carry out preemptive military strikes on Russian soil. What? Can you spell e-s-c-a-l-a-t-i-o-n?”

Although the world is chaotic, there is a way we can help. There are places that accept donations to help those in need and organizations and governments who are taking in people who are seeking asylum from both war torn countries.



non-fatal injuries and a staggering 6.6 million people have fled Ukraine. Entire cities are devastated the country has suffered billion dollars worth of infrastructural damage.

But this conflict doesn't just affect Russia and Ukraine, it affects our community as well as geopolitics as a whole. To startout, the United States government reintroduced the Lend Lease Act of 1941 and has sent over 15 billion dollars of aid to keep the Ukrainian government and their military afloat, while at the same time imposing more sanctions on the Russian

When speaking with people from our school community about this topic I've heard the following reactions to the bold move from the Russian Federation: Mr. Wall, a special education science teacher, said “Information is generally gathered by quickly watching or reading headlines of the news, rarely going in depth with the process and happenings unless there is an interesting humanitarian issue. With that said, I have more questions than answers. And it seems that the source you read can have a massive influence on one's train of thought.”



Kanye West: The Next Donald Trump?

Editorial by Trapper Van Dreason

We can only hope not. If there's one person that everyone's tired of hearing about in the news constantly, it's Kanye. Even for fans of his music, it can be exhausting to hear about another offensive outburst from him. I don't know how he does it, but he somehow makes it worse each and every time. For those not familiar, Kanye recently went on yet another Instagram rant and was banned for calling comedian Trevor Noah a slur. Following this, Ye turned to Twitter, going on another antisemitic tirade culminating with a threatening message against all Jewish people. Ye later said that he regrets those remarks, but in most people's minds, including our technological overlords at Meta, this was a step too far. This brings us back to Donald Trump, who has also had a few unsuccessful runs for presidency. In fact, he ran in 2000, and speculated about running in 2012. Everyone knows about his successful 2016 run, so apparently the third time really is the charm.

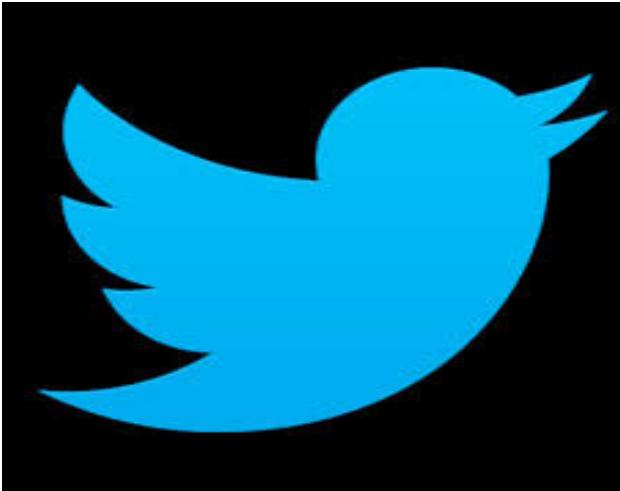
Similar to Trump, Kanye started his career as a democratic-leaning but largely socially conservative person, criticizing police brutality and Ronald Reagan era policy while still containing a healthy dose of misogyny in his music. Like many people lacking political knowledge, he now considers himself a “free thinker” and has found political refuge in conservative figures such as Candace Owens and Tucker Carlson. Being characterized this way has drastically increased his reach with a conservative audience as well as with young people as his 30 million Twitter followers shows. This begs the question: why would your grandmother care about the drama between the leaders of magazines

and fashion houses? In case you haven't noticed, Trump isn't exactly a four-wheeler riding, buck-shooting, manly man either. Many of his tweets were about how a certain fashion higher up had wronged him or his family. Melania not being put on the cover of Vogue was a big deal for a while. For the past four years, Trump has been priming his audience to care about these kinds of squabbles more than policy itself. Speaking of policy, if Trump had immigration and the wall, what does Ye bring to the table? He doesn't have much in the way of actual policy, but he does have a tantalizing promise for many downtrodden conservative laypeople: an exposé of Hollywood sickos. If there's something that everyone hates, it's that vaguely defined group of elites that are responsible for making your life suck. For me, it's the board of trustees at Collegeboard, and Kanye's going to tell me all about how they drink the blood of children to stay young looking.

Celebrity culture has infiltrated the sphere of national politics, creating an existential crisis for everyone who felt a sense of superiority because they cared about political drama rather than the Kardashians. This leaves us with two big questions going into Biden's last two years in office: will Kanye be able to pay attention to politics long enough to be elected, and is it possible to win an election with a coalition containing exactly zero women?

Elon Musk's Twitter Devolution

By Oscar Espinoza



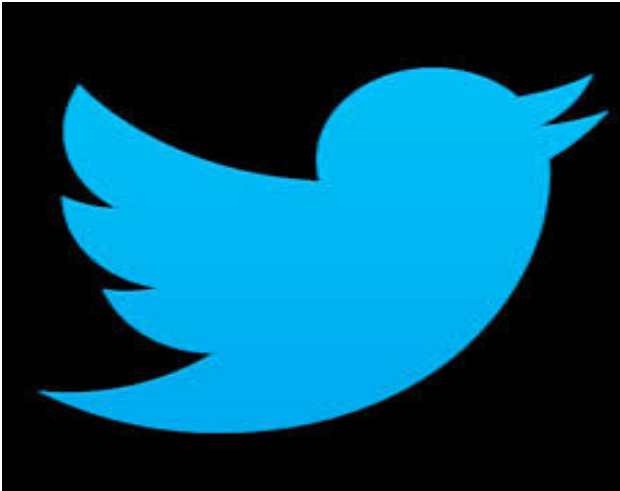
On October 27 Elon Musk closed his \$44 billion deal to purchase Twitter. This follows several months of uncertainty surrounding the fate of the company. It has also been reported that Musk fired Parag Agrawal, the chief executive of Twitter, as well as three other top executives: Ned Segal, Vijaya Gadde, and Sean Edgett. The setting of an entire company off course, as well as the destroying of stockholder value, begs the questions: What did Musk plan to gain by purchasing Twitter? In an interview with TED he stated, “having a public platform that is maximally trusted and broadly inclusive is extremely important to the future of civilization.” Musk has openly shared his opinions about free speech, and Twitter’s lack of it. In fact, it seems Musk openly critiques a lot of Twitter’s policies. When considering the lack of content from Twitter’s Top 10 most followed accounts, he tweeted, “Is Twitter dying?” This ultimately heated relations between Parag and Musk—who had recently been invited to join Twitter’s board and proposed to purchase Twitter for \$44 billion—ensuing six long months of legal and corporate drama. But how did this all begin?

The Timeline

On January 31 Musk began to buy up shares in Twitter, and later expressed his opinions on how the app should function. He also ran polls to include his followers’ opinions. The questions concerned Twitter’s transparency and moderation policies, to which his followers felt

Twitter was secretive and too strict.

On April 5, after disclosing a 9% stake in the company, Twitter announced Musk would join the board. They appreciated his incentive to improve the app and sought to work with him to implement those improvements. At first relations were friendly, deceptively appearing as if cooperation would follow through. However, after Musk’s remark about twitter dying, Parag messaged him to express his concerns on how the critiques were not helping anyone. In response the Tesla CEO refused to join the board and threatened to take it private. On April 14th Musk announced his \$14 billion bid to take over the company.



On April 25, Musk reached a merger agreement with Twitter. Despite his relative success, he put the merger agreement on hold only three weeks later. This was on the basis of waiting for details about the calculation of spam/fake accounts representing less than 5% of users. Three days later Musk showed interest in lowering the price of the company, claiming that the company was much worse than first declared.

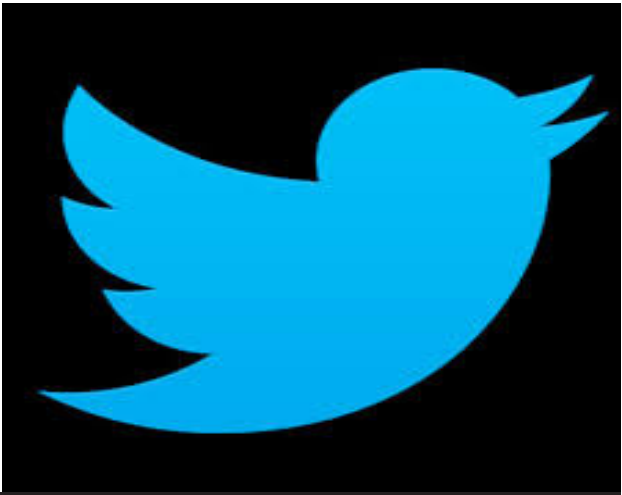
In early June Musk threatened to walk away from the deal entirely, claiming that Twitter was “actively resisting and thwarting his information rights.” A month later he officially tried to call off the deal. However, this prompted Twitter to sue Musk and force the deal to go through. Twitter claimed they did share information regarding how they handles spam/fake accounts with Musk, however, they asserted he

kept asking for more. At the end of the month Musk filed a countersuit, claiming Twitter’s data contained “misrepresentation or omissions that distort Twitter’s value.” In August a former Twitter employee filed a whistleblower complaint, claiming that Twitter does not properly count spam accounts, which further incentivized Musk to call the agreement off.

However, in a move that surprised everybody, he decided to follow through with the deal and, on October 4th, proposed closing on the original terms. The deal officially closed on the 27th, although the little blue bird, along with other platforms, have struggled amidst all the uncertainty.

Musk’s Vision of Free Speech

Musk has expressed his plan to remove the permanent ban of Donald J. Trump and will most likely continue to loosen content moderation across the platform. This is significant considering that Twitter’s guidelines sought to remove content that may depict violence or hate speech. With white supremacy running rampant, entertaining the value of limits on free speech is more relevant than ever. However, others celebrate his vision. Many Twitter users feel that the app openly suppresses their beliefs, even if their views were only moderately-conservative. There is no denying the app has a left wing bias, which may drive away many conservatives and centrist users. For now, it seems that the issue of balancing the line between free-speech and hate speech will continue to be disputed.



School Dress Codes: Necessary for Students' Education or Relics of the Patriarchy?

By Maeve Turck and Amelie Belfiore

While it may not be the most widely recognized elementary school experience, it is one of the most consequential moments in a young girl's life: her first experience of being dress coded. Whether it was a playground violation of the infamous “two-finger” tank top rule or being quickly pulled out into the hallway for a chat about the importance of wearing shorts longer than your fingertips, many girls have been taken aside and told that their clothing is a distraction to their peers and that they need to cover up.

When I was in fourth grade, I remember being pulled out of recess because my shirt, a purple tank top covered in sequins, was decidedly too revealing. As a nine-year-old, I could not fully understand the sexual implications being made about my body, but I was left with a murky sense of shame and confusion. Feeling embarrassed, I threw a hoodie over my tank top, despite the hot summer sun beaming down on me.

Most of the language in dress codes revolves around the word “distracting.” As an elementary school student, to be “distracting” was a cardinal sin, the absolute antithesis of education and a peaceful learning environment. Never mind that the main perpetrator of “distraction” was a nine-year-old girl’s shoulder. Not all schools use blatantly sexist language when justifying their dress codes, but because of the precedents set by schools across the country, it is almost impossible to implement a dress

code without harming female students.

The idea that as a woman, or rather as a girl, it is your responsibility to cover yourself to make life easier for your male peers is incredibly harmful and damaging. It teaches girls that their body is inherently sexual and something to be ashamed of. The rhetoric of school dress codes perpetuates a victim-blaming mentality that forces girls to police themselves rather than encouraging others to learn self-control. In a 2022 study, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that “an estimated 60 percent of dress codes have rules involving measuring students' bodies and clothing—which may involve adults touching students.” Because of this sanctioned need to view students in a potentially provocative way, “students, particularly girls, may feel less safe at school.”



Clubs of Onteora!



Art Club is for all the creative souls out there. Art-making is so important in our world today, and it is healthy and good for your mind and body. This club offers the space and time for students to create artwork for themselves, others, and make a positive difference in our world.

DECA is an international organization that provides business and marketing experience to high school students and provides its members with an abundance of skills, knowledge, real-world experience, connections, and exciting opportunities. Students engage in realistic business scenarios and compete with other DECA chapters. In addition, students organize service events.

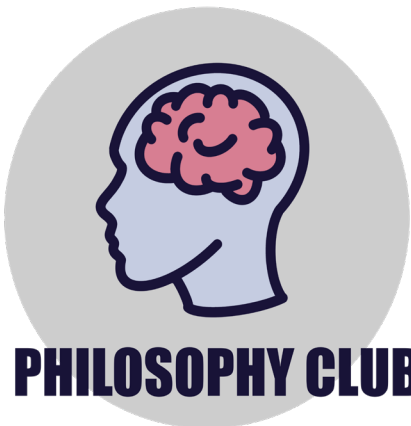


Harvard Model Congress is a legislative simulation that will happen virtually this year. Students act in their roles in the House, Senate, and special programs as they serve on committees and participate in caucuses and full sessions with the goal of passing legislation.

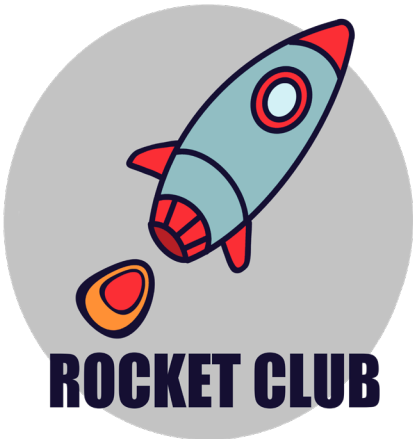


French Club promotes the French language and Francophone culture through social activities such as cooking (and eating) French food and watching French movies as well as fundraising for travel to Francophone destinations and senior scholarships. Anyone can join French club

The Talon is a group of collaborators who care deeply about putting out the best paper we can, whether that means delivering hard-hitting stories about what's going on in our world or sharing the thoughts and experiences of our students, or both. If you're looking for a creative club, newspaper is the club for you.

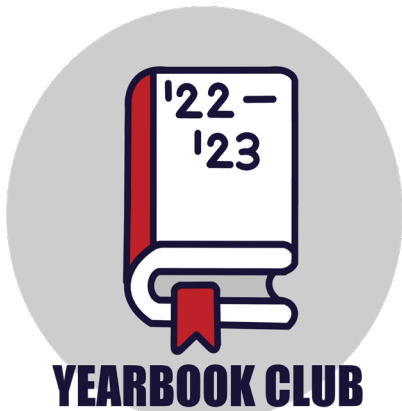


With core tenants of honesty and openness, we invite philosophy club members to decide the weekly themes of discussion and ask as many questions as needed in order to be confident in sharing their own opinions. Philosophy Club is welcoming towards anyone and everyone- the more perspectives there are at the table the richer exchange of views we can have.



The Rocket Club gives middle and high school students the opportunity to design, build and launch model rockets and hands-on experience solving engineering problems. Be part of our team to qualify for The American Rocketry Challenge. Join us!

Spanish club speaks in Spanish, presents different cultural topics, watches Spanish movies, reads Spanish stories, and fundraises for different causes every year. We focus on promoting and learning more about the wide variety of Spanish culture. Grades 9-12 are eligible to join!



The Onteora Record Yearbook is open to all students grades 9-12 and its purpose is to gather the material for and produce an original yearbook each year. This process takes the full year and students interested in photography or who are creative and organized in general would enjoy participating in this club.

Science Olympiad competes in 23 events that encompass the four main science subjects. Each event is more detailed than typical high school curricula. Several events allow students to build and design structures that need to perform task or function. This year the invitational competition is on January 7th.

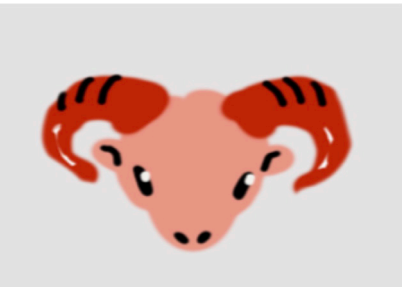


Lit Mag is a fun opportunity to come together with people who love to read, write, draw, paint, take photos, or just drink tea. We publish two editions of The Reservoir, each fall and spring to showcase student work! Students have a voice in shaping what the next edition of The Reservoir will be while spending time with friends!



Horoscopes

By Auden Stellavato



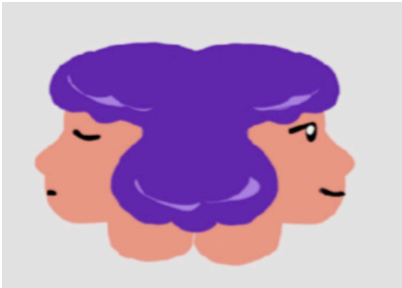
Aries: You may consider getting into geology. Rocks are very interesting, and geology could be the key to unlocking this

ancient Earth's secrets. That's much more interesting than whatever you were doing before. Plus, you may have had some anxiety lately about your place in the world. Unfortunately for you, this is not an unfounded worry. Use your time learning the secrets of Earth through the power of rocks to reflect on some secrets about yourself. Your place in the world is not to light fires, but that is what you have been doing lately. There is a lot of fire everywhere all the time. The Earth's core is molten lava (which you will know about soon as a budding geologist!) Do we really need more lava and fire? You should chill out. Study the rocks. Study their stillness. Study their coolness. Study their silence. And then you can be the rocks.



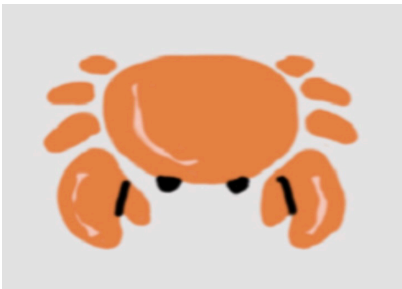
Taurus: Record your dreams this month. For in each, there will be a clue. These clues will come together to form a prophecy for

you. A prophecy that would for a layman seem insignificant and unrecognizable. But to you, it will be inevitable. Do not shy away from it. Follow its words, draw a map and set sail for the unknown. Let your unconscious mind guide you to the fountain of knowledge.



Gemini: Star-gazing is fun, but do you know what is even more fun? Not getting run over by an ice cream truck. Stop look-

ing at the sky—this world is a wild place, with many ice cream trucks. If you do not heed this warning, you may be at risk of becoming a victim to these monstrous vehicles. Tread carefully, and away from roads that look large enough for ice cream trucks to be on them. You will be in very real danger if you wander onto the wrong path. Spaghetti should be in your weekly meal rotation this month.



Cancer: You are at a high risk of being poisoned this coming winter. This upcoming season poses a threat for many of

the star signs, but you would do well to avoid imbibing on the forbidden or the unknown. For within them, there may be a deadly elixir, just waiting to claim you. Enjoy the next few months, but be wary of the danger they hold within them.



Leo: You, like the great lion your sign is named after, approach life with a loud ferocity. But if you remain too

loud, too unhearing, you may miss crucial messages. The world is full of pans playing flutes, the melodies contain your forbidden fruit. But speak over the song and you will remain unaware. Also, if you see a quarter on the street placed tails up—do NOT touch it. You will get strep if you do that.



Virgo: There will be a very large sum of money coming your way. You will not have to do anything to get it except

continue wanting money. In contrast to Capricorns, you do not have to avoid snakes. You do not have to avoid anything. This season you have an impenetrable suit of armor around you—do not be afraid to use it. Think of yourself as an immortal titan upon a great, tall mountain, and the people around you as the mice beneath your feet. Let the newfound energy you will gain flow freely. Do not shy away from power, you are meant to grow and change. Be not afraid of the future, for the future is afraid of you. Additionally, be on the lookout for fun looking bones this month.



Libra: Smell the flowers grown by thy neighbor, but do not steal them. You may be entering a kleptomaniac phase. Ignore

this—it will be better for everyone in the long run. If your hands itch to hold that which does not belong to you, then one well placed act of thievery of a pair of gloves should do the trick. Not only will you hide your evil hands from the innocent world, but those hands will be in constant contact with an oh-so-coveted item. Once anothers, the gloves on your hands will satisfy the urge to rob the world of its belongings. Avoid broken glass this month.



Scorpio: The trees can hear you this winter. Not only do they possess that ability, but they are actively listening. Be careful

what you say lest the wind carry your words to a nearby forest. Commit no crime against nature, and nature will commit no crime against you. Perhaps this makes you free, perhaps this will be a prison. But fear not, for as fall turns to winter, and winter turns to spring, as the world goes green again and new life sprouts from unfrozen soil, the ears of the forest will retreat as the leaves within it emerge.



Sagittarius: Read a book. PLEASE. There will be important information you need to receive that can only be con-

veyed through books. Lately surface level things have been distracting to you. The only way to escape this cycle of shallowness, you must turn to the intricacies of literature. Whatever book calls to you, is the book you need to read. Moving on, when looking in mirrors, do not be surprised if a lobster like creature stares back at you. Do not fear! You are not a lobster. This is but a trick of the mind. As I said, you have been distracted, your mind is trying to call you back down to reality by showing you the unreal. Accept it and move on. Do not look back.



Capricorn: Okay, you guys NEED to watch out. We may be approaching winter, but if there is one thing you can be

sure of, it is that you need to look out for snakes. This is very serious. Snakes are everywhere, and they all want to kill you. Do you have a basement? Stay away. There are snakes down there waiting for you. Attic? Snakes. Your garden? Snakes. Going on a hike? Don't—there will be snakes. Avoid any mention of snakes, burn rosemary if you even dream of snakes. Please heed this warning. If a snake wants you dead, you will end up dead, especially in December, when you least expect it. Also eat lots of citrus in the coming months.



Aquarius: Be careful, for enemies lie in plain sight. Those who claim to come as friends may be foes. Maintain

a healthy dose of suspicion about those close to you; there is betrayal in the air. But fear not: it is better to see and ascend with unclouded eyes than to stumble through your days blind and ugly. Be especially wary of those that have names beginning with 'N'. That which seems harmless to you may contain a deadly trap. Leave it behind while you still can.



Pisces: Unlike Taurus, you should under no circumstances set sail in any capacity this month. Doing so would be

very foolish, for the wind does not blow your way this month. Nor do the tides push and pull in your favor. Remain on dryland, for the depths of the sea and the eye of a hurricanes hold nothing in them but your inevitable destruction for wandering too close.

Fashion Trends of Onteora

By Suzette King

Bell Bottoms

Originally made in the 1960s, bell bottoms are mostly made of denim and spandex. Bell bottoms flare out from the bottom and are trouble-free pants to accessorize since they come in many shades and patterns. For a more casual look, they're paired with an oversized shirt or a fitted cropped top. They're fun to style and will likely stand out more than your average jeans, which helps your look by adding the subtle touch it needs!

Baggy Jeans

Most people are aware of how quickly 90s fashion is returning. Having said that, as time passes, I frequently notice clothing in bigger and bigger sizes. They have become a staple for many people's wardrobes; they go with practically anything. This attire combines a baggy t-shirt with jeans to result in a stylish look. In the 90s jeans that we see today were worn by mostly skaters and punks, but now they are worn and loved by the majority of people without this association.

Air Forces

They were created in 1982 by Bruce Kilgore, who sought out to make a shoe similar to the one used in basketball. When famous people wear or encourage a trend it typically spreads. Teenagers may feel compelled to buy shoes if they witness their favorite celebrity wearing them. Because of this, Onteora often sees people wearing these shoes, as well as various white sneakers with an Air Force-like appearance. Conversely, a huge disadvantage that can come with getting shoes like this is the color. Not everything is perfect, stains are easy to see and not creasing the shoes after they are bought is often a challenge.

Oversized Sweaters

A big inspiration for many of modern trends is past fashion statements, not only from the 1990s, but beyond. Oversized sweaters, as well as other clothing with a vintage vibe, are really popular at the moment currently, especially as fall approaches. They

can be worn with a skirt or the previously discussed baggy jeans. It not only exudes a classic aesthetic, but it also radiates comfort. Since you'll be wearing these outfits for a significant portion of the day, having comfy attire that completely engulfs you can be crucial. Given that Onteora is located in a colder environment, it is more comfortable and accessible to sport these items.

Graphic Tees/Band Tees

Starting in the 70s band t-shirts began making their way into people's hearts. Merchandise from society's favorite artists and musicians sold rapidly. Times haven't changed much and almost all famous artists with a following sell merchandise. However, many modern teens don't listen to or engage with the featured artists' work, they simply wear band tees because they feel connected with the art or aim to make a fashion statement.

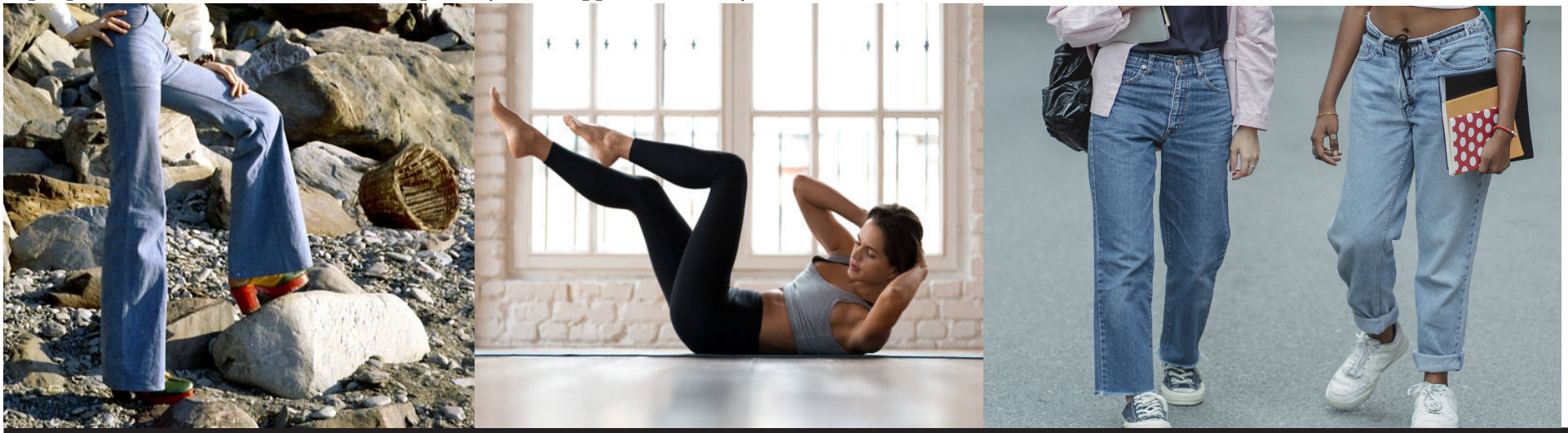
Upcoming Trends for 2023

Purple Hues

For any pastel lovers out there, I have amazing news: according to fashion experts, purple tones are expected to explode in popularity. And lilac is the main event. This is typically found in party clothes, such as beautiful cocktail dresses, or even in cozier darker shades of purple clothing. Pastel hues were reportedly a major hit during New York Fashion Week. Lighter shades just might end up becoming your go-to fashion choice, pairing the lilac tones with a more deeper rich purple for a full ensemble.

Luxury Sports Wear

Sports apparel is often considered to be casual and comfortable clothing. It's practical and easy to move around in. You can retain the sporty aesthetic in 2023, but it will be more toned down. Try selecting your favorite sports top and a blazer or bomber jacket to go with it. This combination maintains the casual sporty look, but with an added unique flare.



Material Girl

By Serena Ratcliff

I don't think materialism is a good thing but I am a Material Girl.

As the holidays are fresh in our minds, we refresh our 'For You Page' and see new items we may want or, as the influencers say, need. But do we really need hundreds of shirts, pants, jewelry, makeup and technology? From a Material Girl's perspective: YES!

I am a self-proclaimed Material Girl. This phrase has been around for nearly 50 years ever since Madonna released the song Material Girl. However, materialism has been around for hundreds of years—just ask Marie Antoinette. It has simply been resurfacing on TikTok throughout the last year.

Materialism is finding comfort in material objects. For many people, including myself, it centers around clothes.

Materialism is one, bad for my bank account, and two, bad for the environment. However, I find that every day requires a new outfit. This need to have a unique look each day has become a habit of mine. I try my best to wear different things, so I have many options including jeans, skirts, dresses, sweaters, shirts, shoes, and jewelry.

Now, let's talk about the reasoning behind needing new outfits for new days. With our TikTok 'For You' Pages, we see an excess of information showing us perspectives from all around the world. This makes it so trends cycle through fast. So you need to buy clothes even faster than the new trends surfacing. Predicting trends is difficult because one person can't guess what the whole internet will find appealing. So once the trend becomes popular because you just saw your favorite TikToker wearing it, you will run straight to the website and click order. And don't forget the express shipping! As new trends surface, old ones die. So, the new item you just bought will go straight to the bottom of your drawer after you wear it once. And on top of your drawer is your new package. Over time this builds up.

For me the comfort of new packages overflowing my closet becomes suffocating. Being a Material Girl, I previously found comfort in material objects, specifically clothes. This comfort has turned to discomfort with the overload of impractical junk. For me, materialism has gotten to a point where it's hurting rather than helping.

I don't think materialism is a good thing. This article is hypocritical and contradictory. I think that we need to start finding happiness and comfort in actions rather than items. However, since this mindset has been placed on us for decades, we can't just flip a switch and change. To revert our mindset we have to stop buying everything because it's a trend. We have to find comfort in our unique styles and not what some fashion guru suggests.

Recently, I have found I don't need to find my next clothes on Emma Chamberlain's Instagram. Instead, I find them on the rack at Worship Vintage in Glenford, or through the Depop links my friends send me. Having my own style has helped me grow into comfort with what I like and picking things based on my preferences. Not every trend works for me and not every trend can work for you. Buy clothes based on your needs, not others' wants. But then again, even as I'm writing this, my next Brandy Meville shipment comes tomorrow.

Maddy's Book Review

By Maddy Taylor

Enemies to lovers enthusiasts, sound the alarm—your next quick read is here! Violet Made of Thorns, the debut novel by Gina Chen, is a juicy high-fantasy filled with tension, twists, and scandal. Violet is a prophet and a liar, influencing the royal court with her cleverly phrased—and slightly fabricated—divinations. Honesty is for suckers, like charming Prince Cyrus, who plans to strip Violet of her official role as Seer once he’s crowned at the end of the summer. Violet’s wits may protect her in the cutthroat court, but they can’t change her fate, or what the Gods have written in her threads. And as the boundary between hatred and love grows ever thinner with the prince, Violet must untangle a wicked web of deceit in order to save herself and the kingdom, or doom them all.

The highlight of the novel is the relationship between Violet and Cyrus. Their dynamic is set from the start; Chen does what many authors fail to do while writing compelling enemies to lovers: keep them enemies first and foremost. Violet, as a protagonist, is extremely opinionated, and seeing the world and Cyrus through her eyes keeps the reader engaged. The nickname “Princy” is by far the book’s worst offense—it shows up everywhere.

As for the main plot, it was underwhelming. The story is trying to juggle an ambitious romance, magic, and a looming complex threat that all comes to a head at the end. Unfortunately, the constant twists surrounding the prince’s prophecy and the evil forces at play are underutilized and underdeveloped. So much of the word count is dedicated to the romance (deservedly so), but that in turn undermines the plot itself. Still, to be honest, nobody is reading the book because of its exquisite narrative. People read it for the drama.

The most baffling part of the whole story is the ending. Every piece comes together at once, but almost none of them make sense. They exist for either shock value or sequel bait with more out-of-character moments the closer you get to the end. It’s difficult to delve into without major spoilers, of course, but the climactic prophecy and wacky villain is by far the weakest section.

I’m hooked. This isn’t the book for readers yearning for poetry in motion, but instead for messy romance junkies. There is a sequel in the works that will hopefully tie up the loose ends and add more to the vastly underwhelming ending. For now, the ride was messy and lustful, everything I wanted from a good enemies to lovers arc. In my obviously expert opinion, I give Violet Made of Thorns three out of five big scary beasts.



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Lessons With Lily

By LilyAnn Avery



“How do you handle test anxiety?”

Well that’s a toughie because there are so many different strategies and not everything works for everyone. What I found works best for me is studying like normal leading up to the exam, but the night before give yourself a day of rest. I find that when I cram too much the night before I forget everything by the time the test starts. That night before should be a day of relaxation so you can get a healthy amount of rest.

“How do I get a boyfriend?”

That’s a loaded question, ha-ha. This is gonna sound really corny but be yourself. Don’t fake being someone that you’re not, it’s just gonna be

tiring in the end for you and the other person. You shouldn’t be too scared to go up to a person you might like to start a conversation because that’s how a relationship starts. You need to be bold. You also need to learn how to take no for an answer, not a lot of people know that these days. Try to start conversations based on something you have in common, that always helps. Also, don’t slide into someone’s DMs out of the blue, that’s kinda of weird in my opinion.

“I saw my best friends hanging out without me this weekend when both of them had said they were busy. I’m really hurt that they lied and that they didn’t invite me. What

should I say to them?”

Just be real with them. They don’t sound like really good friends in the first place. Drop these friends and get better ones. I don’t even think it’s worth confronting them. You need to know your self worth.

“What’s a good low risk way to tell someone I have a crush on them?”

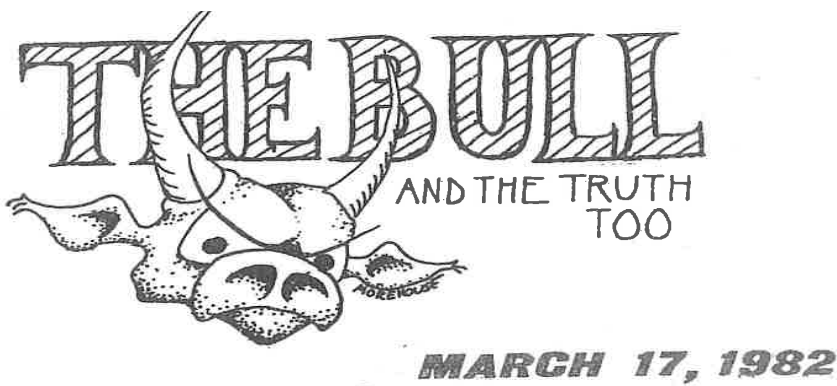
A low risk way would be to just be straightforward. Tell them how it is in the fewest words possible. Also, emphasize that you don’t want this crush to affect the already existing relationship negatively. That’s the best you can do. If they reject you and act weird later on then now you know what kind of person they are. It’s for the best.

The Yellowed Pages: Onteora in the 80s

By Makenzie Pratt

What were we doing 40 years ago? What are we doing now? Let's find out!

20 years ago in March, 1982, there was an Onteora Newspaper run by the journalism class. There were quite a few hot button issues, with the most popular being the division of the library. According to an article in the newspaper, the old head librarian, Mrs. Smith, decided to divide the library in two. Her supposed reason for doing this was vandalism. According to the article—which was written from her perspective—middle school students mingling with highschool students resulted in loud disturbances and defacement of the library's property. Shockingly, they even added a separate door for the middle school students to enter through. Everyone was to stay on their respective sides and if a resource was needed from another section across the border then a librarian would access the material for them in lieu of students crossing the border themselves. Mrs. Smith claimed that this was to keep order and had no other comments. This was not the first time that the library division was brought up in this particular issue of the school newspaper. I think that the idea is rather shocking and I doubt that it would be allowed to transpire in today's world. There is something about separating people without just cause that rubs people the wrong way. Additionally, we found an article that addresses students' desire for nuclear disarmament. Much has changed in the past forty years, and I hope you enjoyed this blast from the past.

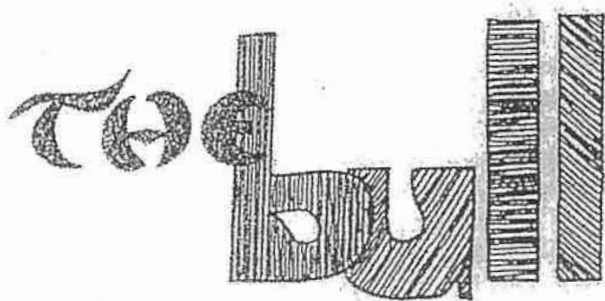


LIBRARY SPLIT BETWEEN JR-SR HIGH

Many people have been wondering why the library was closed during the first week of March. For those not aware of the situation, it is being remodelled into two sections, one for junior high and one for senior high, and there will be no mixing of the two.

According to Mrs. Reis, the head librarian, there are many reasons for the division. She told The Bull that the entire school was divided, except the library. When junior high students sat with senior high students, there tended to be more discipline problems. Also, this year, more than in the past, there has been a lot of sabotage done to the book-shelf structure. The junior high is more responsible for this, and, according to Mrs. Reis, "Each knows who he is."

Two separate entrances will be used, the main entrance for 9-12 graders and a smaller door to the left of this for seventh and eighth graders. Once in the library, all books including reference materials will be separated into the two sections, and no one will be allowed into the other regions. The librarians will



THE BULL COMMENDS CCND

We at the Bull feel that the recently formed local chapter of CCND--Children's Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is a great idea.

Something like this is long overdue--not only at OCS, but everywhere.

The students are able to learn by studying about the effects of Nuclear energy and war. This small group of students decided that something had to be done to educate others in this matter as well. They are learning how to work collectively in order to come up with something for the good of everyone. If students get involved with the Disarmament of Nuclear Arms and learn things about it today, most likely they will be more active and aware tomorrow, as adults.

Room Decor on a Budget

by Kaydence Whittaker

Your room is a big part of your life; it's a place you spend time in everyday and it's somewhere that shows your personality. Almost everyone has a dream bedroom that they cannot afford. On average, a person spends an absurd \$500-\$1000 on decor alone. Lately all the trendy room decor is more than a student can afford. It's proven that bland places can trigger depression, especially at a younger age. However, don't worry, lots of places have a more affordable clearance section.

Target, Amazon, and Five Below are great alternatives to expensive aesthetic decor. The Five Below in Kingston has an entire section dedicated to room and house decor for a fraction of the price. Amazon users pay attention because your app has great deals! Love colors and want a better vibe? A 50 foot roll of LED lights is only \$11. These will light up your room any color you desire. How cool is that? Plant lovers this is for you: a 14 pack of 98 foot fake vines for your wall is only \$12! Want a chill environment? You can get 66 feet of fairy lights for \$7, so trendy! Also, did you know that Michaels gives out coupons frequently? You can sign up for Michaels Rewards for coupons in the mail weekly and with these you can get crafts and decor for real cheap. Sometimes when you email businesses they will include a coupon in their reply so do not be afraid to try it out. There is always a cheaper option for what you want if you look close enough.





Clawsnaps



"What is your favorite holiday movie?"



Aoife Bronston, 9th: "The Snowman, me and my mom watch it every single year, it's kinda like a family tradition."

Mr. Wall, Teacher: "I'm going to say, probably Charlie Brown the Great Pumpkin. It makes me laugh, I love the characters, I love Woodstock-the little bird, I love Snoopy, it reminds me of being a little kid."

Jett Conti, 12th: "It's a wonderful

life because I watch it with my dad every year."

Ms. Joslin, Teacher: "Sound of Music, because growing up in Canada we used to always watch it during Easter."

Merideth Grant, 11th: "Muppets Christmas Carol, I think it's a fantastic film."

Pangaea Jerez, 11th: "The Nightmare Before Christmas. I like the animation and the music."

Abilene Adelman, 11th: "Arthur Christmas, it's very cute and I have good memories of watching it."

Oskar Baron, 9th: "The Mask Jim Carrey, it's just an awful movie."

Mr. Edelman: "My favorite holiday

film is Elf."

Maeve Turck, 12th: "Home Alone, iconic."

James Lynch, 11th: "Fight Club. It's very interesting."

Nico Stackpole, 9th: "The Holiday. It's just like, it's good. It gets me excited for Christmas."

Conner Gierloff, 9th: "Home alone, it's whimsical."



Delilah Lieberman, 9th: "Curious George: A Very Monkey Christmas, it's a cinematic masterpiece and it captures the curiosity of Christmas."

Ada Helm, 11th: "Arthur Christmas (2011). I can rewatch it over and over, even when it isn't Christmas."

Zoe Gabriel, 12th: "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving!"

HOMECOMING PHOTOS

By Raina Bickel



Fall Playlists

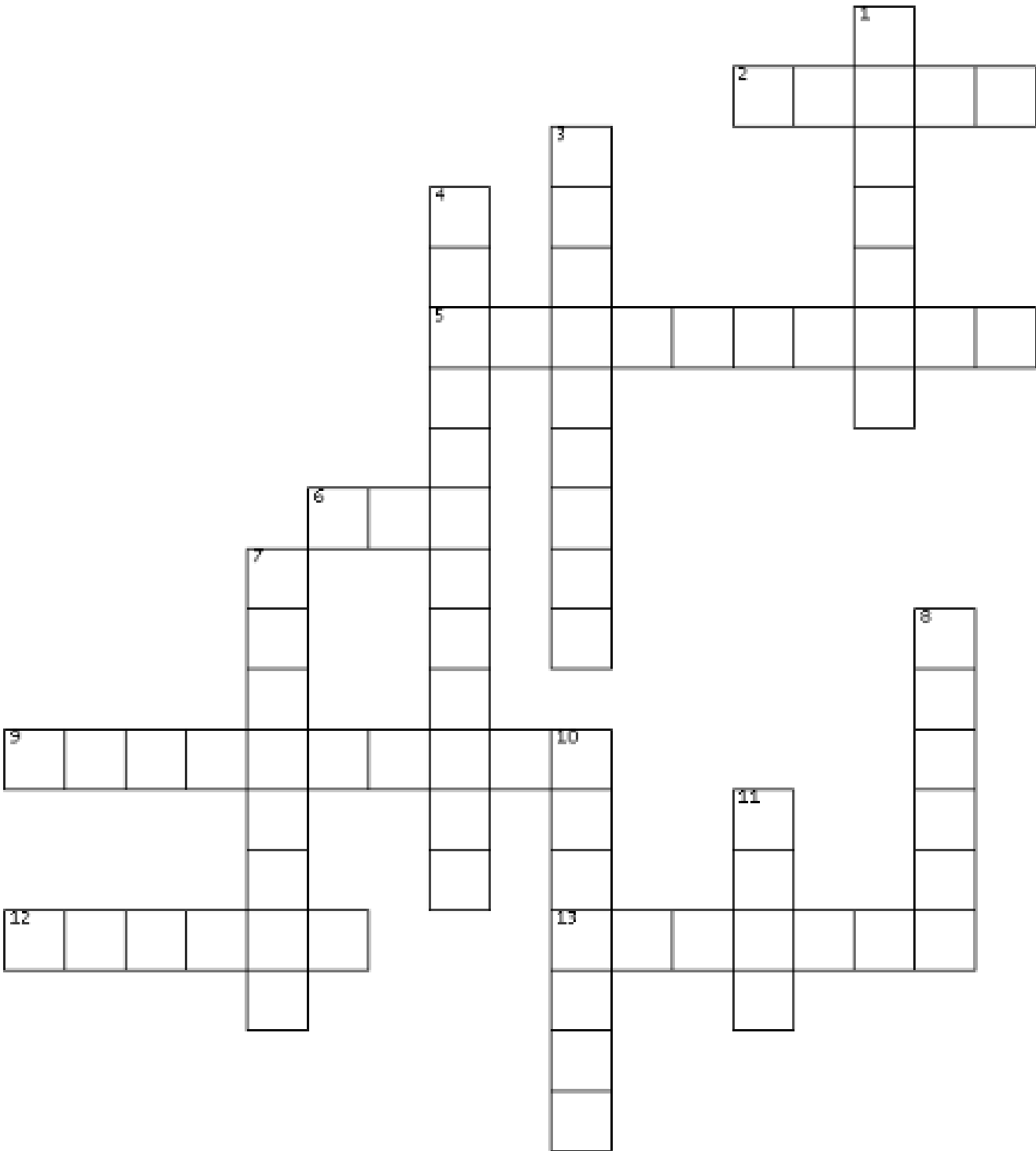
By Ada Helm



Crossword Puzzle

By Kelly Wen

Clues



- ACROSS
2. This middle school teacher is known for their acting skills.

5. In 1705, this Connecticut town postponed its Thanksgiving due to a shortage of molasses.

6. This teacher is known for wearing full-on Adidas.

9. In Greek Mythology, autumn began with the abduction of this goddess.

12. This teacher is known for referring to the self in the third person perspective.

13. Being one of the oldest chess openings, it is defined by the following moves: 1. pawn to e4, pawn to e5 2. Knight to f3, knight to c6 3. bishop c4.
- DOWN
1. “Double, double toil and trouble,” came from this Shakespearean play.

3. October 31st marks the day of __, which also initiates the season of Allhallowtide.

4. This Russian pianist was known for being able to cover a thirteenth interval on the piano.

7. Unfortunately, “New York Thursday” is not featured in this month of 2022.

8. The most “ionic” teacher in Onteora.

10. The Autumn __ falls on the 22nd or 23rd of September, marking the first day of the season.

11. In the 70s and 80s, the Onteora Talon was known as the __.