

The Plaid



October 23, 2024
Volume 68, Issue 1

The 2024 Presidential Election

Co-Editor-in-Chief,
Sofia Erskine

The 2024 Presidential Campaign, leading up to the election to be held on November 5th, has been largely dominated by two familiar faces: former President Donald Trump, who is heading the Republican Party and in-house Vice President Kamala Harris, who is heading the Democratic Party. There remain some independent and third-party candidates, although they have received less publicity than the Republican and Democratic candidates. Some of the significant candidates include Cornel West, of the Independent Party, Jill Stein, of the Green Party, and Chase Olive, of the Libertarian Party. With the Democratic and Republican Parties being recognized on the ballots in all fifty states, according to Ballotpedia.org's online article, "Ballot access for political parties," unlike independent and third-party candidates, Harris and Trump have the advantage of a larger number of possible voters, compared to independent and third-party candidates.

Harris and Trump met for the first time on September 10th, for their first presidential debate after the campaign suspension of current president, Joe Biden. In the time between President Biden's campaign suspension and the debate in September, Harris and Trump have each been directing their efforts towards their own campaigns. Each candidate has addressed some of America's most pressing issues, including economic policy, immigration, abortion, foreign

policy, and more.

Under the topic of immigration, both candidates placed the fault with the other for the dramatic rise in immigration across U.S. borders. Harris argued this issue was the fault of Trump's rejection to a bipartisan immigration bill, while Trump argued that the Biden/Harris border policy, which was instated on June 4 of this year and states that the border will be closed if illegal migration reaches an average of 2,500 migrants in a day- in a given week, is at fault for the unprecedented amount of illegal immigration into the United States. The issue of illegal immigration has been a topic of concern for Americans recently, placing great importance on the plan of action, which the candidates present in their campaigns. Illegal immigrants are a net fiscal drain, meaning that they receive more money in government services than they pay in taxes. Consequently, the price of taxes is raised for registered citizens.

On the topic of taxes and economy, Harris has made a point of setting out to support the middle class, which makes up a large portion of America's

Harris guarantees "A policy focused on child tax credits, small business credits and housing," and criticized Trump's policy, which permitted tax breaks on high income households and made claims that his tariff policy would only raise prices.

In response to the credibility of Harris's claims to improve the economy, Government teacher, Mr. Erick Taggart said, "One of the things that I like about Harris's policies is she's providing more backing for what she's doing. She's talking about the things that she is specifically going to do to create an opportunity economy." In defense, Trump argued that Biden and Harris are at fault for the skyrocketing inflation in the U.S. economy and claims that unchecked immigration has caused American jobs to be taken from citizens and become occupied by unregistered immigrants. Regarding Harris's claims that a mess of an economy is what was left by Donald Trump after COVID-19, Taggart said, "Trump gets a bit of a raw deal out of it, because no one could have dealt with that well. There was no good scenario."

On the topic of abortion, both candidates claim to support the idea, and it was also made clear that late-term abortion does not reside under the umbrella of their support. On the topic

of environment, Harris endorsed efforts toward a clean energy economy. While Trump has not given a recent stance on his plan of action towards environmental topics, his administration led the world in greenhouse gas emission reductions during his presidency, according to Trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov's online article, "Energy & Environment."

To finish their stances, under the topic of foreign policy, Harris emphasized her successful efforts to strengthen NATO alliances. In turn, Trump questions the strength and respectability of the Biden administration on the international stage and points to failed operations under the Biden administration such as the Russian invasion on Ukraine, among other events, which might have been prevented had the negotiations been executed appropriately. To finish his defense, Trump boosted his lasting relationships with respected political figures and leaders, such as Viktor Orbán.

With the election nearing, eligible and registered voters are encouraged to engage in the campaigns and debates and to inform themselves on the affairs of the candidates, in order to make an informed decision on election day. "If you're not voting, you're not getting listened to, because there's no reason for politicians to make more room for your voice," said Taggart. "The best thing that young people can do is actually get out and start voting."



population. According to PBS.org's online article, "Takeaways from the Trump/Harris presidential debate,"

A New ASB Director Hits Campus

Co-Editors-in-Chief,
Kaylie Berry & Lianna Smith

After Mr. McGee stepped out of the role of ASB Director, Ms. Jackie Fitzgerald became the new, permanent teacher for the student leadership program. Fitzgerald is extremely excited to start this year rolling in the right direction for the whole student body.

Ms. Fitzgerald worked at Pioneer Jr. High as an English teacher, before transitioning to the high school to be the Director for ASB. Fitzgerald said, "I have always been the friend and the family member that loves to throw birthday parties, and baby showers, and fun events, so when this job was available, Ms.

Inglima reached out to me and told me I would be perfect for this job. [...] So I applied for the position and I got the job."

Making large changes in life can often bring serious adjustments. Fitzgerald said, "The biggest adjustment for me so far would be how there are usually multiple teachers in each department, such as Math, English, and History. However, with the ASB Director position, I am the only person in the department. So, that has been a big adjustment, as I don't have anyone else on this campus to kind of rely on, like I did as an English teacher back at Pioneer."

Along with adjusting, Fitzgerald

has met with a few challenges as she said, "I have never been so busy in my entire life. I love this job so much, but there are so many things that you are planning at one time. So, sometimes. I feel like there's not enough hours in one day to get it all done. But I know in the end, we will. So, that has been the biggest challenge so far."

The struggles of the ASB program on this campus have been hard, considering the sudden passing of Mr. Lander last year and Mr. McGee's last-minute decision to take on that role. People have been wondering what plans Ms. Fitzgerald has to help ensure the program goes back to what it used to be. Fitzgerald said, "I think my

biggest vision is to bring back that class spirit, and pride of your class. We have talked about this in ASB. But I want to start this big class competition, the night time class competition that other schools are starting, just to see how it goes. It would just be some healthy competition between classes to get back that spirit that students used to have for their classes."

Leaving Pioneer must not have been an easy decision, especially since Ms. Fitzgerald has never taught ASB before. Fitzgerald said, "I never thought I would leave Pioneer. But this job is something that I think I was meant to do. So, I'm really excited to be here."



The Corpse Bride



On *The Corpse Bride*, Burton said, "I was always sort of fascinated by [them]. Growing up in a culture where death is looked upon as a dark subject and then, you know, living so close to Mexico where you see the Day of the Dead, where the skeletons and it's all humor and, you know, music and dancing and a celebration of life in a way. And that just sort of always felt more [like a] positive approach to things, you know?" (Tim-Burton.net)

Sienna Bail, Grade 11

Favorite Halloween Costumes Growing Up

Staff Writers,
Dani Varela & Perla Vargas

With Halloween around the corner, many children show up to decorated front doors with their best frightening masks or their best impression of their favorite superhero. As this wicked and haunted night approaches, it is time to reminisce on the more notable costumes

Many students have probably asked themselves, "What am I going to be this Halloween?" Some students start planning weeks in advance for the day. When trying to decide upon a costume, oftentimes, students have tried to forget the most embarrassing costumes they wore as a child, most likely because



they believe they are too old or cool for it now.

Senior, Kason Thomas, said, "Oh yeah. I wore the same Power Rangers costume for four years, since I was four. Dressing up represents your courageous side. Like as a kid, you want to be a superhero and stuff." Dressing up as a power ranger meant standing out of the crowd to Thomas and being different from the rest. Thomas said, "I don't know. It just made me feel different, like cool."

Self-expression is an important aspect of Halloween. Not only can it be shown through decorations, but also costumes. Senior, Jordin Dale said, "Yeah. Self-expression is a staple during Halloween.

It allows me to go all out and wear what I want." Jordin also has had a passion for showing off his courageous side, dressing as Spiderman. Dale said, "When I was nine, I

celebrated Halloween in a Spiderman costume because I got to shoot webs. I have worn Spiderman back to back because Spiderman was my favorite superhero growing up."

Expanding creativity and having a variety of Halloween costumes are common for many who enjoy embracing the unordinary and diverse. Senior, Isaiah Sopp, had a passion for dressing up as people he looked up to in life. Isaiah said, "I dressed up as Canelo when I was seven because I don't know, I kind of grew up watching boxing." Sopp enjoyed having variety, when it came to his costumes and picking different ones each time. Sopp said, "I have



never re-worn the same costume. It was always something different each Halloween." Sopp believes it is never too late to dress up for Halloween and that people are allowed to have fun and express themselves while doing so.

As Halloween approaches, it is the perfect time to be creative with costumes. Even if many students think they are too old or have already worn their favorite costume, it is important to do what makes them happy. Halloween lets people express themselves in unique and imaginative ways. Costumes provide the freedom to explore different personas, as well as disguise identities. They are an enjoyable way to remember the excitement of Halloweens of the past and the special moments they contain.

Artist Profile : Johannes Millan



"This is one of my favorite Tim Burton movies, so it was the first thing I thought about. [The hardest part about it was] the shading. [My favorite aspect of it would be] the characters."



Johannes Millan, Grade 9



The Nightmare Before Christmas



Is It A Christmas Or Halloween Movie?

Staff Writer,
Gianna Smith

“The Nightmare Before Christmas” is a 1983 stop-motion, animated musical movie, directed by Henry Selick and produced by Tim Burton. According to The Taft Tribune’s online article, “Review: The Nightmare Before Christmas Bringing Back the Classics,” by Bianca Sontay Vicente, it said, “A... great aspect of the movie was the overall storyline, the idea of showcasing different characteristics of both holidays is something



Ivy Cisneros, Grade 12

that you rarely saw back during its release in the 90s. As well as it still being quite rare, as you don’t really see much of different holidays being combined together in the present either. ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas’ is and will still be worth bringing back in autumn because of its many elements that are relevant to the October holiday. Classics like this movie are important because of the nostalgic feeling, the feel-good moments when watching, and the overall joy we get from them.”

The movie starts with the main character, Jack Skellington, the Pumpkin King of Halloween town, and his town has the vibe of spooky and horror. It’s filled with numerous Halloween-themed creatures and is dark and horrid. As time goes on, Jack starts to grow bored of his little town. One day, Jack goes exploring and stumbles upon a whole new world he has never seen before, which is the town of Christmas! He is introduced to this whole new theme that he has never even heard of, as the village is scattered with jolly, little elves, snow in every corner, and a beautiful, heavenly aesthetic.

The movie has elements of both

Christmas and Halloween. So, the question is, “Is The Nightmare Before Christmas a Halloween movie or a Christmas movie?” The world has wondered about this question, ever since the movie was released. Freshman, Abigail Rueles said, “Definitely a Christmas movie because of the spooky music.”



Freshman, Bianca Gonzales also agreed it was a Christmas movie. Gonzales said, “I think it’s a Christmas movie because of the different characters”

Freshman, Presley McMullen, said, “It’s a Halloween movie because of the themes of the different

settings.”

In News Record.org’s online article, “Opinion | ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas’ is not a Christmas movie,” by Isabella Zinchini, it said, “Even director Henry Selick spoke on the debate during a Q&A about the film at Colorado’s Telluride Horror Show film festival, bluntly declaring, ‘It’s a Halloween movie.’”

According to IMDB.com’s online article, “Poll: Face-Off: ‘The Nightmare Before Christmas’ - Halloween or Christmas,” by Guillen Pascal, it said the poll, “shows 50% of those who answered the poll say it is a Halloween movie. Then 25% of the poll respondents thought it should be considered a Christmas movie. Next 5% voted that the movie is neither a Christmas or a Halloween movie. Lastly 20% voted that it is both a Christmas and Halloween movie.”

Although the movie has its spooky and horrifying side, it also has its bright and joyful side. The movie does a great job of displaying the elements of both holidays, but according to many individual’s opinions, the movie, “The Nightmare Before Christmas” is indeed, a Halloween movie.



Has Halloween Lost It’s Magic?



Staff Writer,
Leilani Broussard

Adults and children alike, have fond memories of treat-or-tricking and playing pranks on family and friends. However, in the past five years, Halloween hasn’t had that same spark that many remember. For some, it’s simply because of growing older, as Patrick Barnes, Algebra 2 teacher said, “You know, over the past like fifteenish years I would say. Like for me, it hasn’t really been special. I would say. Mainly because once you get to a certain age, you’re the one handing out candy, rather than the one receiving candy.”

Even teenagers don’t see the hype around the holiday, as compared to when they were children. Senior, Audrey Aguirre said, “I don’t see people dressing up at school because you know, we’re not in elementary school. They don’t have a little parade of tiny children walking around going ‘Oh, look at my costume. Look at mine!’ Also, a little bit because at the school, they don’t even really

allow costumes . . . they just don’t allow masks and fake weapons . . . none of the fun stuff.”



Though, those are some key factors of Halloween’s downfall, the main reason for the lackluster attempts would have to be Covid. Senior, Ruben Chavez said, “The whole going outside and trying to get candy from strangers . . . you couldn’t trust strangers with candy.” Having to stay inside for months on end, all the nearby restaurants being closed down and so on, made receiving candy from a stranger sound almost unbelievable. Around that time, people just bought candy for themselves, young children who were finally old enough to actually say “Trick-or-Treat” didn’t have the chance to

do so. When quarantine was finally over, they weren’t excited to have free candy, unlike their older siblings who already experienced it.

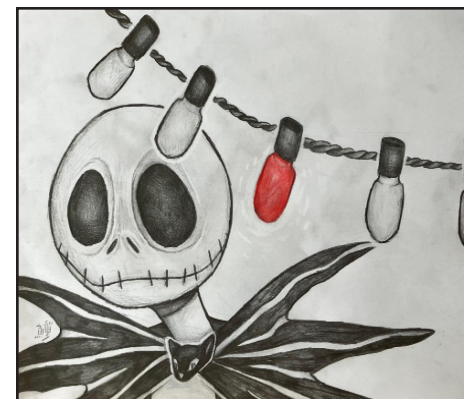
Unfortunately, a chance of catching Covid wasn’t the only reason parents were hesitant to go out and let their children trick-or-treat, as Mr. Barnes said, “If you look at crime rates and drug rates, there’s a lot of studies of Fentanyl getting into candy.” The risk of a child dying from ingesting such a deadly drug was too high for some parents. In addition, razor blades were also reported inside of some children’s candy. However, many cities and neighborhoods have taken actions for greater safety, as Barnes said, “Cities are doing a great job putting together block parties. They block off the neighborhoods, where you can go around with your family.”

Senior, Micaela Ruiz said, “I just really like the costumes and seeing what other people dress up as. I also really like seeing what other people dress their toddler as . . . It’s really funny.”

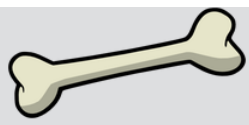
Halloween has much to offer

besides free candy. It can bring people together. Giving more freedom at school for costuming might lead to younger generations reviving the holiday, as Aguirre said, “I’d make it so the high school has a Halloween costume parade, like my old elementary school had . . . We could have a rally on Halloween and everyone could come in costumes. There would be a costume contest. It would be so fun!”

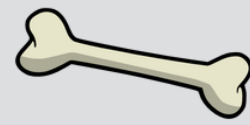
Small changes might lead to large results and Halloween might go back to what older generations remember and something the new generations could embrace in the future.



Khoi Garcia, Grade 12



Frakenweenie Pet Costumes



Staff Writers,
Sara Koussa & Isabella Ruiz

Dressing up our furry friends in adorable costumes has become a fun trend for pet owners everywhere. Whether it's for Halloween, a themed party or just for fun, pet costumes offer a distinctive way to showcase your pet's personality and creativity.

According to The Seattle Times' online article, "Americans are spending \$700M on Halloween costumes. For our pets," by Gita Sitaramiah, it said, "Americans spend \$700 million annually on costumes for their pets, the Retail Federation said. The most popular pet costumes include a pumpkin, a hot dog, a bat, a bumblebee and a spider. . ."

One of the most common costumes that people tend to dress their pets up in is a hot dog. Spanish teacher Mrs. Debbie Weatherell said, "I have one dog and I usually dress him up. I reuse the same costume every year. He was a hot dog." Weatherell added that the decision to dress up her pet was made by her daughter and her. Weatherell said, "We went to the

know if he's super excited about it but he wears it and he leave it on."

English teacher, Amie Waldo, chooses her pets' costumes based on her children's opinion. Waldo said, "Rosie is a family dog and the kids have been young, so Rosy has been young with them. It's kind of whatever the kids want to put her in." Some costumes that her children have chosen were "A cheerleader, a sombrero, and a cowboy



that had pigtails."

Involving your children in the decision-making process can make them feel valued and more connected to the family pet. It also ensures that the costume is something they are excited about, which can enhance their overall enjoyment of the Halloween festivities. Additionally, children often have creative and fund ideas that can

store and shopped around, so that we can find a costume that he feels most comfortable in."

Making sure you pick a costume that your pet is comfortable in is crucial. Pets can easily become stressed or uncomfortable if their costume is too tight, restrictive, or made from irritating materials. It's important to choose costumes that fit well and allow for natural movement, as well as to introduce the

costume gradually to your pet. Monitoring your pet's behavior while they are wearing the costume is also essential. According to the article, "A human's guide to pet-safe Halloween costumes," from Trupanion.com, it said, "Some pets just do not like dress-

ing up, no matter the occasion or material of the costume. If your dog or cat is acting anxious or just isn't having a good time, don't force things." If they seem distressed or agitated, it's best to remove the costume immediately.

When asked how her pet reacts to his costume, Weatherell said, "He is comfortable in it. He doesn't try to take it off or anything. I don't

lead to unique costume choices. By listening to their preference, you're fostering a sense of responsibility and encouraging them to care about the wellbeing and happiness of their furry friend.

English teacher, Deyon Shearer said, "I was walking through the store and it had this whole section and I saw the superman outfit and couldn't resist." In that moment, surrounded by a whimsical world of vibrant fabrics and playful designs, she realized that each costume was not just a purchase but a chance to create joyful memories with her beloved dog.

In NBCnews.com's online article, "Pet costumes are a frivolous distraction from the crumbling world around us. And I love them," by Tanya Tarr, it said, "It turns out 30 million people will spend nearly half a billion dollars on pet costumes-anything from mini superman outfits to dog hoods that look like lion manes. And, yet, I have to grudgingly admit that I can see the value of indulging in something as frivolous and diverting as dressing my dog up as a walking taco. Who wouldn't rather watch a dog waddling around in a pumpkin outfit than read stories about how we're all going to burn up and die due to climate change?"



To Clone Or Not To Clone?



Staff Writers,
Amaya Wallace & Emily Garcia

The grief and pain that losing a pet can cause often affects people in varying degrees. Some pet owners often turn to methods of preserving their pets and their memories, as a way to keep those departed pets close. With science advancing, pet owners may be able to bring their pets back from the dead through cloning. However, do the potential consequences of cloning as well as the motives behind it cause pet owners to be somewhat cautious? Biology teacher, Veronica Chavez

Barriga, when asked if she would clone her pet, pointed out that she understands why others would want to do so. Having strong at-

said, "It's very unlikely for the original pet to be hurt in the process of cloning. The pet's cells are the only thing needed." After being asked

what type of disruption cloning could cause in nature, Chavez said, "So it would impact the process of natural selection." Describing that the genes from the clone would be abnormally out of the gene pool and are now artificially remaining in the population.



of money for was if my pet was in danger of passing away."

When asked about cloning her pet, Senior, Mennah Elassaad explained that she doesn't own a pet, but she doesn't think she would. Elassaad said she feels as though the clone would be an "imposter," when compared to her real pet. When asked what scenario she would have to be in to feel the need to clone her pet, Elassaad said, "My pet would have to be in a life-threatening situation for me to clone them. There could be a possibility of radiation to my pet.

It could put it in harm's way which makes me worry."

It's evidently clear that the decision to clone a

pet is far from straightforward. The desire to revive pets stems from deep affection on the part of the pet owners. Perhaps pets really can't be replaced.



Paige Stephenson, Grade 10

tachments to animals is normal but for her, she wouldn't personally do it. When Chavez was asked how to clone, Chavez Barriga said, "So first the nucleus needs to be taken from an egg cell, then a cell from the original pet. Then put the nucleus into the egg cell. Then you would need a surrogate to then input the egg."

Chavez emphasizes that it would be an extensive process and that there is a high risk for health complications, once cloning. Chavez

Freshman, Leah Wallace, when asked if she would clone her pet, said, "I would like my dog to have more friends just like her." Wallace explained that she loves

her dog's personality and would enjoy their company. When Wallace was asked what would prompt her to clone her pet she said, "The only situation I would pay that amount



Edward Scissorhands

Conquering Rejection And Isolation

Staff Writers,
Michelle Tiang & Cesar Garcia

A student drags through the school's tiled hallway. Head hanging and heart heavy, she's gone through yet another round of rejection from her peers. Fearful she'll never make friends, she hides herself in a cocoon of doubt and rage.

Many students can find high school daunting, not only in earning good grades but also in their relationships with others. A lot of students experience rejection and isolation when they don't fit in somewhere. But it doesn't have to be this way; people can overcome

rejection and isolation and live a happier life. Sophomore, Jamie Erazo said, "Move on; you only live once." Sophomore Jonathan Hernandez said, "[...] there are going to be opportunities later."

According to school counselor, Jesscia Ahumanda, she said, "Social isolation is when someone feels rejected from their social group, whichever they should belong to, but feel like they don't belong." Maya Duson, head of the Wellness Center, said, "Social isolation is when someone doesn't want to be friends with anyone. They just want to keep to themselves or are not forming friendships like they

should."

Rejection can be caused by a multitude of factors, such as age, financial status and gender, to name a few. According to Ahumanda, she said, "[...] sometimes when we come from all these cultural backgrounds, when we mix with others,



a lot of time we don't feel a sense of belonging and that can cause it. But it can also be within the family. They have social isolation. They can feel like they don't belong or they're not wanted or they're not heard. [...] anything can really impact someone with social isolation." Moreover, bullying can give way to rejection, as Ahumanda said, "[...] bullying itself might just be a part of what triggers social isolation. This can be anything from sadness to anger to hate to jealousy, and a lot of times retaliation."

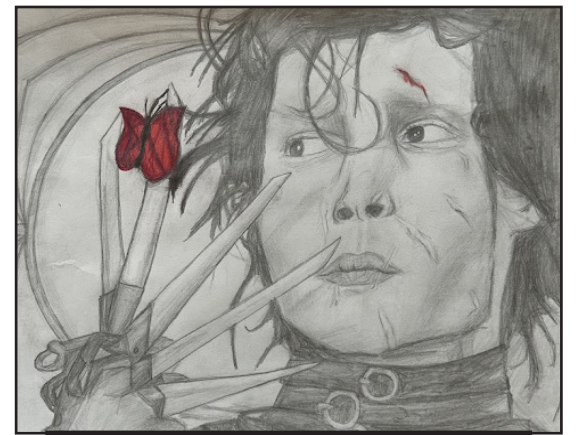
Depending on the person, rejection has varying degrees of emotional retortions, including loneliness. However, a student separating

from others can become chronic, turning into what is best defined as social isolation. Isolation from others for long periods of time can have significant mental and health complications. According to the American Psychological Association's online article, "The Risks of Social Isolation," by Amy Novotney, it said, "Hawkey points to evidence linking perceived social isolation with adverse health consequences including depression, poor sleep quality, impaired executive function, accelerated cognitive decline, poor cardiovascular function, and impaired immunity at every stage of life." Additionally, Novotney said, "Chronic loneliness is most likely to set in when individuals either don't have the emotional, mental, or financial resources to get out and satisfy their social needs or they lack a social circle that can provide these benefits."

Overcoming rejection and isolation can be a challenge, especially when self-esteem is low; but with time and patience, this hurdle can be overcome. One of the main keys is empathy, as Mrs. Ahumanda said, "Empathy solves a lot of the problems of humanity, because when you learn to empathize, you learn to think before you speak because you're going to consider

other peoples' feelings. So, I would say, if there's a cure to it, it would be empathy." Duson also said, "It's good to maintain relationships, especially when you need to lean on someone. It's also good for your mental health."

Mrs. Ahumanda provided advice on becoming involved when she said, "[...] the easiest way to get involved is to connect to a group that has the most common interests as you. [...] With the world it's really just finding the things you enjoy and connecting to them, regardless of 'I'm going to be rejected' or 'I'm not going to be good enough because that's most peoples' fears.'" Duson also added onto this idea when she said, "Putting yourself out there and trying your absolute best. And even if it doesn't work, at least you know that you tried. And you'll make a few friends along the way."



Luke Carter, Grade 10

Meet The Students Of J211

Assistant Editor,
Mayte Pompa Guerrero

Students are often encapsulated in their own friend groups and in their small bubbles. Almost everyone is in their own little world 90% of the time. What most students forget to remember is that our campus is much more than the few friends they spend each day with or the same thirty+ classmates they have in their classes. Many students do not realize that the campus takes a village to manage it or multiple small villages, who all work together, to make it as great as it is. One of these villages is Mrs. Camarena's and Mrs. Artilles's Summit Adult Transition Program.

They both are education specialists in adult transition. The program is described as a dedication to taking instruction outside the classroom. Inclusion, independent living and vocation skills are all primary goals of the program.

Although the program is described as an instructional program for managing their everyday lives, it is so much more than just that. Students of the program have opportunities to contribute to the school community, by helping out on campus. Students have certain jobs, like sorting and delivering the mail to teachers, collecting recycling, supplying teachers with school paperwork, laundry for the sports teams and so much more.

The members contribute to school events, like the Fusion Fest. They help the school district with any tasks they are given. They also help out at the local elementary schools.

During a group interview, the students were asked which job was their favorite. The majority of the classroom students responded about delivering the

mail. Students who do deliver the mail, deliver it daily or whenever the mail boxes are full. It is common to see students delivering the mail to teachers throughout the day. "What makes our students happier is when someone acknowledges them on campus and the teachers talk to them," said Mrs. Camarena. "Mrs. Artilles also said, "My favorite thing about the class is being creative with what we do."

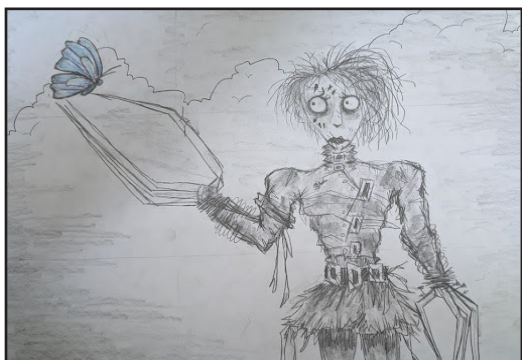
Not only do the students of Mrs. Camarena and Mrs. Artilles provide help to the campus, they also have their own activities throughout the day. Their students have jobs that they are transported to daily. Some of their students work at Smart & Final, while others stay on campus or spend their time at the YMCA. Their favorite activity to do at the YMCA changes, depending on each student. Some enjoy working

out, while others just enjoy playing soccer or basketball.

While the students do spend a lot of their time off campus, when they are on campus they are mostly busy at work, helping out wherever they can. They supply teachers with paperwork, like Motivate U slips, or sort the ID's for students

who failed to pick them up. They also have a separate room, where they can do fun activities like listen to music, play games, watch movies, or simply relax.

It is easy to forget that the world is so much bigger than it is, but it's just as easy to expand horizons and explore new aspects of life. It can be scary to meet new people, especially in a high school setting. However, if given the chance to meet the students in classroom J211, they will always welcome each and every person with welcome arms and smiles on their faces.



Matthew Carter, Grade 12



Beetlejuice

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Movie Makes Motion Picture Mayhem

Staff Writers,
Akeela Palmer & Nathen Munoz

After thirty-six years, he finally did it. Tim Burton has revived his beloved 1988 film, Beetlejuice in 2024. According to The New York Times online article, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' Hands Warner Bros. a Lifeline," by Brooks Barnes, "The movie has made roughly \$190 million in its first 10 days, giving the studio a needed hit after a summer of misfires."

According to Erin Underwood's online article, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice: Sequel Magic or Missed Opportunity? A Movie Review by Erin Underwood," from locusmag.com, she said, "As predictable as this film is, it still delivers the laughs. However, as with many sequels, the story runs a little shallow, depending more upon the characters, action,

and comedy to get us from Point A to Point B than a complex and meaningful plot. However, the film does a great job of paying off our expectations from scene to scene so



that we feel a constant sense of fulfillment throughout the movie. The other thing that Beetlejuice 2 gets right

is that it knows exactly the kind of film that it is, which allows it to lean into its strengths so that it doesn't compete with the original. As a result, Beetlejuice 2 feels additive to the story universe, giving us the space to enjoy the return of the characters we know while also getting to know Astrid better."

Juniors, Josephine Kent and Tierra Barbre recently watched the new "Beetlejuice." Kent said, "The movie was confusing and the plot was everywhere." Kent said the movie was confusing because

throughout it, too much was happening and there were multiple opportunities where they could have extended the plot or made it more interesting.

The original plot was about a couple, Barbara and Adam Maitland, who died in a car accident and were trapped in her their own home. Trying to reclaim their house, which was invaded by a new family, the Deetzes, they summoned

a bio-exorcist, named Beetlejuice. In the new movie,



Beetlejuice is, once again, summoned back to the human world, by the Deetzes to help with a problem of the undead kind. As the new family struggles, trying to balance a normal life and abnormal happenings in their new home, Beetlejuice sees the opportunity

to unleash his brand of mayhem. Barbre said, "I didn't understand what was happening, and that too many characters were coming into the movie-like the random baby."

One of the online reviews, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," from the website, Rottentomatoes.com, features Joe Lipsett who said, "There's enough plot in here for two films, but everyone is having such a good time (including a seemingly reenergized Tim Burton) that it's hard to quibble too much with this return."

Untrulyfolk.com's review, "Beetlejuice 2 Review: It's showtime, Again," said, "This sequel did not disappoint. It's packed with moments that had us all laughing out loud, and as the intro music kicked in, I couldn't stop grinning."

When it comes to the sequel, "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" seems to be vexed by its own ghoulish mayhem, as the reviews are neither here nor there. Viewers will just have to make up their own minds.

Killer Teams

Staff Writers,
Eric Corona & Ariana Escalante

Football has always been a dominant sport on campus and has earned many accolades along the way. Yet, there is a new team that has been introduced to our campus for the 2024-2025 school year. The all-women's Flag football team is on its way to garnering just as much praise as the men's football teams. As a result, there is a lot of enthusiasm and excitement about playing football on campus this year



working harder and getting that win." Segura started playing at a young age so he could grow better and more skillful over time. In describing his team's mentality, Segura said, "We are confident in winning any games because we all work together as a team and support each other."

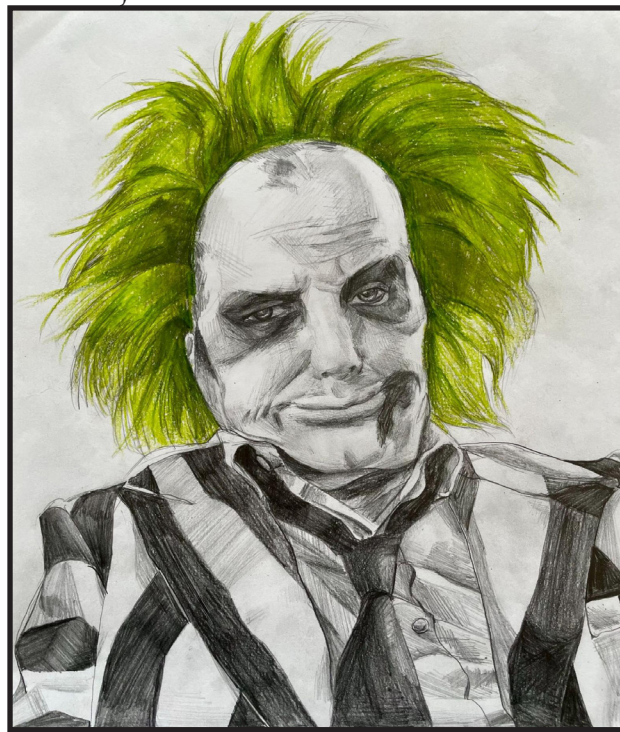
Sophomore and Flag Football player, Sienna Gorman described the team's strategy in going against Chino, when she said, "They are pretty good but I think we are better.

I think if we stick to the routes and play my keys, I think we will get the dub." When asked what she was more worried about, the defense or the offense, Gorman said, "Probably defense honesty, because I play defense more and on defense. It's more like a one-on-one situation and you have to block them from scoring and you are not trying to let the offense score on you."

Senior Donovan Brown (Deebo)

is on the Varsity Football team and has been playing the sport for many years. Brown said, "Football is an escape from reality and you have life-long benefits from it." A member of the defense and a linebacker, Donovan's game plan has been to stop throwing on defense and stop the other team from throwing points. Brown said, "The team just needs to come together as a team and just do better."

Brown's most memorable moment so far was beating Rancho or when he got the game interception against Etiwanda on Homecoming night. Brown also explained that his motivation comes from talking to himself, as well as praying. Brown said, "When we are losing against a team, I'm not in the best mood but I try not to think about it too much. I just need to focus on what I have to do."



Alex Evans, Grade 9

Artist Profile: Alex Evans



"I thought Beetlejuice would be a good example because it is one of Tim Burton's most popular characters. I like Beetlejuice's unruly kind of character."

A Tribute To Tim Burton



Tim Burton: A Visionary Of Dark Fantasy And Quirky Imagination

Staff Writer,
Ace Davila

Tim Burton, a name synonymous with gothic whimsy and imaginative storytelling, has indelibly shaped the landscape of modern cinema, with his unique blend of dark fantasy and quirky humor. Renowned for his distinctive visual style and inventive storytelling, Burton's work captivates audiences and inspires creators across various media.

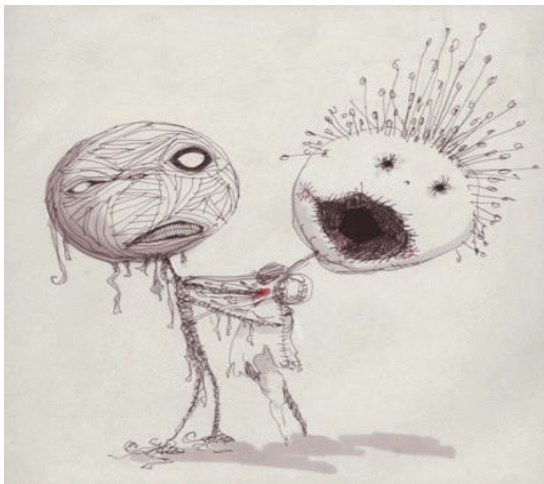
Burton's cinematic universe is characterized by a signature aesthetic: whimsical, macabre, and often reminiscent of a Tim Burton-themed fairytale gone awry. His work is punctuated by gothic elements, bizarre characters, and a striking use of color and design that create a surreal and enchanting experience. His debut feature film, *Pee-wee's Big Adventure* (1985), introduced audiences to his imaginative world, but it was *Beetlejuice* (1988) and *Batman* (1989) that solidified his reputation as a visionary director.

Burton draws inspiration from various sources, ranging from classic horror films and cartoons to German Expressionism and Victorian architecture. As Burton noted, his fascination with the macabre

and fantastical stems from a childhood love of monsters and fantasy worlds. In the *The New York Times* online article, "Tim Burton, at Home in His Own Head, Burton," by Tim Itzkhoff, it said, "I'm drawn to strange things. I think that's a good thing. I feel like we're living in a world where it's better to embrace your uniqueness."

His collaboration with composer Danny Elfman, who has scored many of Burton's films, is a testament to their synergistic creative relationship. Elfman's hauntingly beautiful compositions enhance Burton's storytelling, creating an atmosphere that is both eerie and enchanting. In *GQ's* online article, "Danny Elfman Breaks Down His

Most Iconic Scores," Elfman described his collaboration with Burton as "A dance of creativity,"



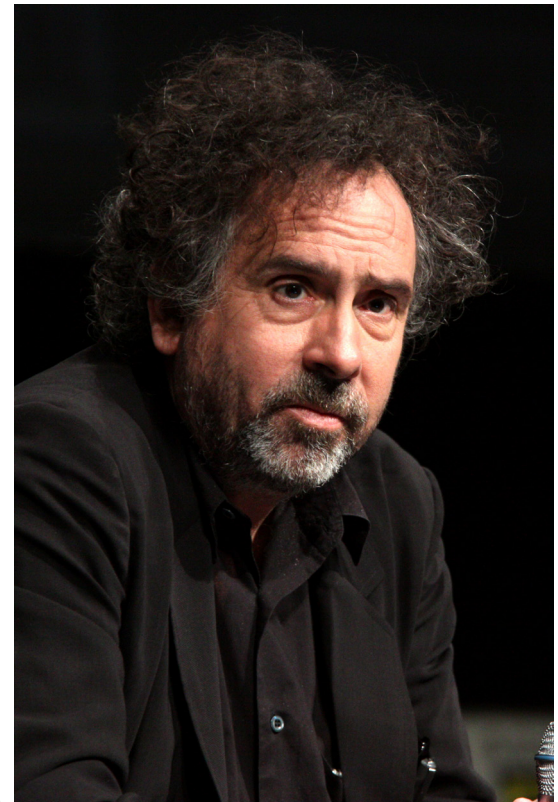
where Burton's visual ideas complement Elfman's musical genius.

Burton's collaborations with actors and artists are a testament to his distinctive directorial style. Itzkhoff points out in his article that Johnny Depp, a frequent collaborator, has said of Burton, "Tim

is a true artist, and he has a way of bringing out the best in his actors." Depp's performances in films such as *Edward Scissorhands* (1990) and *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* (2007) showcase the synergy between actor and director, creating characters that are both memorable and hauntingly beautiful. Itzkhoff also said of Helena Bonham Carter, another regular in Burton's ensemble, has praised his ability to "create these magical worlds where the rules are slightly different," adding that working with Burton allows actors to "step into a different reality" and explore complex, unconventional characters.

Burton's influence extends beyond his own films; his distinct style has left an indelible mark on the industry. His contributions have inspired a new wave of filmmakers who blend fantasy and reality, and his work has been instrumental in popularizing the genre of dark fantasy. Kim Newman, in *Empire Magazine's* article, "Tim Burton," said, "Burton has reinvented the genre with his unique approach, combining the grotesque with the whimsical in a way that

resonates deeply with audiences." Isabella Meyre's article, "Tim Burton- Celebrating the Quirkiness of Tim Burton's Style," from *Artin-context.org* said, "Burton's narratives are emotionally rich, often exploring deeper themes of belonging, love, and societal rejection. This emotional depth is combined with his



penchant for dark humor, which lightens the otherwise gloomy atmosphere in many of his films." Burton crafts a world where the grotesque is not only palatable but also poignant, allowing audiences to empathize with his misunderstood characters.

Tim Burton's work is a celebration of the unconventional, a blend of the whimsical and the macabre that continues to enchant and inspire. His impact on cinema is undeniable and his unique vision ensures that his films remain both timeless and influential.

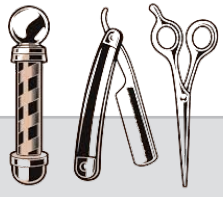


Nikolas Mancilla, Grade 10

Artist Profile : Nikolas Mancilla



"I really like the movie and I like their designs. I also didn't want to go for something too realistic. The most challenging part was the husband's face, specifically to blend it. I do really like the way the wife's face is angled and how her mouth opens. I also really like how the clothing folds."



Sweeny Todd

Little Shop of Hairdo's



Staff Writer,
Kayla Biggs

Little Shop of Hairdo's is a "Little" store located in downtown

Upland, which is known for its creepy aesthetic. It's a welcoming salon filled with horror-related props, movie decor, and pretty much anything that deals with the strange and unusual. The

name "Little Shop of Hairdo's" was inspired by the movie, "Little Shop of Horrors." Even the Little Shop of Hairdo's mascot is a piranha plant, just like in the movie. When you first walk in, you are greeted with a welcoming staff and a small gift shop area, where they sell all sorts of horror goodies, such as soaps, air fresheners, purses and much more.

Established in 2014, Little Shop of Hairdo's is a family-owned business. It has come a long way since then, from moving locations to changing mascots many times. Laura Peterson has been working at Little Shop of Hairdo's for about four years. Downtown Upland was

chosen as a place for the business since, "It worked best for them," Peterson said. The building was built in 1907 and the owner, Tam-



my Rapp said in an Instagram post, "Several weeks of jack hammers and sweat in this area alone...and I'll never do it again, but we were all thankful we had a new home that was much larger for our growing salon!"

When asked why she created the business, Rapp said, "No one had ever really done it." To this day, she still believes it was the best choice she ever made. Tammy, described by Peterson as a "horror loving weirdo" loves creepy and anything sinister-related. Ever since Tammy went with the idea of combining horror with a salon, many people have flown in from different countries and states, just to visit the

shop because of its uniqueness.

In describing Rapp, Peterson said, "She is a supportive person and she goes out and does a lot of work for the shop. She does the most networking. She takes care of all the internet-related topics." The business is advertised mostly through the internet as Peterson said, "Social media, websites, natural networking-like handing out cards, handing out fliers and word of mouth, to keep things going." Little Shop of Hairdo's also sells merchandise and has a merch website, which also helps. "Little Shop of Hairdo's can be found anywhere on the internet and on every form of social media there is," Rapp said in a previous interview.

Along with the ongoing theme of "A Tribute to Tim Burton," Little Shop of Hairdo's bathroom's theme is Tim Burton's movies, with several posters and figures from his movies on the walls. In a Facebook post Rapp said, "Who's been inside our bathroom dedicated to Tim burton?" Underneath the post, a video was made of a tour of their bathroom, which shows all their Tim Burton decorations.

Goals for the business include branching out and expanding to other places and other states. Peter-

son said, "To create a bigger community for weirdos." Little Shop of Hairdo's is a five-star business that is definitely worth checking out, especially with Halloween nearing. The employees are, "Very nice and make you feel very comfortable," as many reviewers on their website have posted. Little Shop of Hairdo's is open every day of the week, with the busiest time for the business being the weekends. The most popular month to visit starts around the end of September and continues through October because of Halloween. So, you definitely have to make sure to schedule an appointment ahead of time. You can visit their website at <https://www.littleshopofhairdos.rip/>.



Seeking Revenge And Is It Really Worth It?

Staff Writer,
Manual Contreras

Fueled by a thirst for justice and raw emotion, people seek revenge not just to settle scores, but to reclaim power over their pain. Revenge is a primal emotion that has driven human behavior for centuries. There are endless reasons to seek revenge. In the online article, "Getting Revenge and Forgiveness," professor of Psychology at the University of Miami, Michael McCullough, said, "Revenge is about reestablishing a sense of power when we've been wronged. It's a way to regain control when we feel helpless." Revenge also taps into deep emotional needs, particularly the desire for validation and justice.

AP Psychology teacher, Mrs. Courtney Bennett said, "Hatred is like baggage. You carry it around and the other person is weightless." Revenge is more of an individual issue and in order to get over it, one needs to find some way to let issues go and forgive. Whatever the wrongdoing, you have to forgive, otherwise it will ruin your sense of self.

In this world, there is no need to have revenge as emotion. It does not bring any good in this world.

The most dangerous aspect of revenge is its potential to create a cycle of conflict. When one person retaliates, the other party may feel justified in seeking revenge in return, and oftentimes, results in creating an ongoing loop of harm and retaliation.

There are prime examples of hatred and just pure revenge such as Bennet said, "I don't believe that revenge should be like an emotion in our society. I just believe it's destructive." McCullough said, "While the desire for revenge is a natural human impulse, we have also evolved systems of forgiveness that allow us to repair relationships, instead of destroying them"

There are ways to move past revenge. To not go far into revenge is to be stronger than your thoughts. You could have that first thought, but don't let it be your last. So, whatever you fill your mind with is going to leak. Therefore, make it something positive. Though the urge for revenge is strong, it raises



the important question of, "Does it bring satisfaction?"

In the Harvard.edu's online article, "The Paradoxical Consequences of Revenge," by Dr. Kevin Carlsmith, a professor of psychology at Colgate University," it said, "Most people are surprised to find

that revenge doesn't make them feel as good as they expected."

Bernard Golden, Ph.D. and author of Psychology Today's online arti-

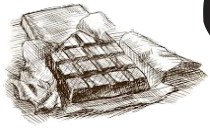
cle, "Seeking Revenge: Its Causes, Impact, and Challenge" said, "The problem is that revenge provides only a short-lived satisfaction." By choosing to let go of the desire for revenge, individuals can break free from the cycle of harm and begin the process of healing. Golden also said, "Letting go of the desire for revenge requires strengthening our rational brain to override our emotional brain. By letting go it also frees us from bearing the weight of revenge."

Bennet said that there are two parts of the brain that can control

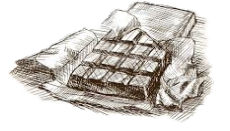
revenge, "The Amygdala is part of your brain, where the major processing center for emotions." The National Library of Medicines' online article, "Effect of Modulating Activity in the Right DLPFC on Revenge Behavior: Evidence from a Noninvasive Brain Stimulation Investigation," said, "The other part of the brain that deals with revenge is the decision-making process of revenge behavior is largely associated with the function of different brain regions in the prefrontal cortex of the brain."

However, Bennet said, "The strongest way to stop revenge is to have your moral compass. If you don't have strong morality. You would just fall into revenge."

In the end, revenge may feel like a natural response to being wrong, but its outcomes are rarely as satisfying as people hope. While it can offer a sense of justice or control, it often leads to further conflict and emotional turmoil. By choosing to let go of the desire for revenge, individuals can break free from the cycle of harm and begin the process of healing. McCullough said, "True peace comes not from revenge, but from letting go, Forgiveness is often the only way to really move forward."



Charlie and the Chocolate Factory



Best And Least Liked Candy For Halloween

Staff Writers,

Penelope Lopez & Delilah Torres

With Halloween right around the corner, it is no surprise that people are thinking about the deluge of candy available for consumption. According to Statista.com's online article, "Consumer spending on Halloween candy in the United States from 2017 to 2023," it said, "During the 2023 Halloween season, consumers in the United States (U.S.) spent about 3.6 billion U.S. dollars on candy." However, as tastes seem to change from one generation to the next, people often wonder what type of candy is considered the best and what is deemed the worst type of candy to consume or pass out to avid trick-or-treaters.

Senior, Amoree Samano believes the one candy that she thinks is the worst is Twizzlers. Her reason for the dislike is because she said they, "Taste disgusting and are not enjoyable to have."

According to the website Food-mapeveryday.com's online article, "The 10 Worst Tasting Candies Ever Made," by D. Wilson, it said Good & Plenty are, "Hard can-

dy-coated black licorice morsels, available in shades of pink and white. The aversion to black licorice is a well-documented sentiment, and the addition of a candy coating makes things worse. This is a prime example of a 'grandma candy,' even earning the unenviable title of 'America's most detested confection.'"

Also rounding out the list are Dots, Necco Wafers and Circus Peanuts. Wilson explained that Dots are not popular, due to the chewy and waxy taste, as well as, "The unpleasant chemical aftertaste." As for Circus Peanuts, Wilson said, "The recipe dates back to the 1800s and these confections elicit either adoration or intense disdain. Their reputation precedes

them: 'stale, chewy, and cloyingly saccharine;' 'foamy texture' and our favorite, 'they look and taste like Styrofoam packing peanuts.'" An honorable mention on



the Worst Candy list might be Twizzlers, which are said to be a horrible piece of candy. Its taste is confusing, between artificial and not sweet at all. Sophomore, Ximena Martinez said, "They taste like something from the doctor's office."

The best and most popular candy is Starburst, Skittles and Jolly Ranchers. The website, Candy-store.com's online article, "The

WORST Halloween Candy, and the BEST too," by Ben George, said, "If you're not downing an entire fun-sized bag of Skittles in one go every once in a while, are you even living? We all love getting Skittles during our trick-or-treat runs. Who can resist that rainbow of flavors? It's like a mini party in every pack."

People online and everywhere seem to enjoy jolly ranchers because of the source of tangy and sweetness they have while eating them. People also like Starburst. They have that sort of robust and long-lasting fruit flavor that makes people taste that sweet taste. Martinez said, "I just love the flavor and how sugary they are!"

Chocolate has had a whole problem with it either being categorized as a candy or just falls into its own branch. However, many enjoy it because of the chemicals of serotonin and tryptophan, which makes people happy. Chocolate is enjoyed by everybody around the world. Samano said that she thinks chocolate is candy, "Because it is sold in the candy section of the stores that you go to."

Rad Coffee-A Taste For Horror Enthusiasts

Staff Writer,
Vic Soto

Nestled in the heart of Upland, California, Rad Coffee has become a beloved spot for coffee lovers and all things rad. Standing out for its eclectic style and innovative drinks, Rad Coffee has quickly become a staple in the community, drawing locals and visitors alike, to its style of unique twists added to a cup of joe, tea, or lemonade.

When first stepping into Rad Coffee, you're immediately greeted by a lively and welcoming environment, with bold artwork and punk flyers hanging along the walls. There is alternative music playing, filling the background with toe-tapping sounds. Rad Coffee first opened its doors by owners Jade and Rusty Valore, in March 2015. It went viral almost immedi-

ately, due to Rad's unique spin on drinks, while still keeping it classic. What makes Rad Coffee so different, compared to the many coffee shops in Upland, is its unique vibe and approach that sets it apart. Owner Jade Valore said, "We pride ourselves on having the best customers and serving them exactly what they want— caffeine with an edge."

When creating its seasonal menu and the specialty drinks that go along with each one, a lot of the inspiration for these drinks comes from music and films both Rusty and Jade like. Valore said, "We love to blend creativity with flavors that resonate the vibe." Whether you are a traditionalist, who enjoys a classic

espresso or someone who craves the more adventurous drinks and concoctions, Rad Coffee has something for everyone, including veg-

an flavor for fall-themed drinks includes pumpkin and said, "Although it might be a bit cliché, everyone seems to love it." However,



Isabella Castillo, Grade 12

drinks. The specialty drinks are wildly popular, including its Cookies N' Screams presenting bold flavors and creative presentations.

Rad Coffee has a special menu for the month of October that features classic spins on vintage

Halloween recipes as well as the return of the annual Halloween drink, "The Beetle," a fan favorite. Rusty's idea of the best

er, Jade prefers anything green and sour.

After opening its doors, they branched out to several other locations in the Southern California area, including in Riverside, Long Beach and Covina, along with a food truck. The location of Rad Coffee, in downtown Upland adds to its appeal, as the area is bustling with activity, offering a variety of shops, restaurants and entertainment for visitors.

Rad Coffee is more than a place to seek your caffeine fix; it's a hotspot that celebrates creativity and community, with a side of exceptional coffee.



Sleepy Hollow

Black Star Canyon Trail - Ghostly Encounters?

Co-Editors-in-Chief
Kaylie Berry & Lianna Smith

If you enjoy a nice hike surrounded by a fresh breeze, beautiful flora and fauna and the sounds of haunting disembodied voices, then Black Star Canyon is the perfect place to go. As the sun sets and the shadows start to follow your every move, you can't help but be submerged by the adrenaline-pumping fear of the unknown.

The trail is located in Orange county, in a remote area of Silverado. The trail is bustling with crowds of bikers and hikers, who come to enjoy a peaceful trail and admire the scenery. The online article from Patch.com, "Haunted Black Star Canyon Still A Mystery In Orange County," by Ashley Ludwig, goes into great detail about the stories and mysteries of the trail. Ludwig said, "Black Star is a triple threat, outside of ghosts, there are reports of possible Sasquatch sightings in the national forest."

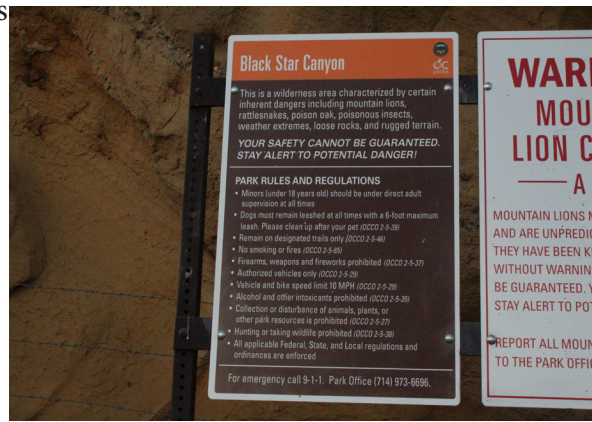
Ludwig also said, "Chris August of OC Ghost and Legends Tours talked about Black Star Can-

yon as a 'paranormal grab bag.' In the early morning hours, we've also spotted weird things in the sky." The hauntings and eeriness of the trail don't stop just there, with lots of people saying they feel a weird energy, while hiking there, as if someone is watching them.

There are legends about Native American tribes and violent events from the past, which some think might explain why so many ghosts are said to roam the area. Ludwig said, "Nighttime hikers have heard eerie real time sounds of music, tribal drums and conversation in the bushes have all been heard when August takes tours through. Screams and howls can be heard after dark, as well as faint chanting. A massacre once took place there, according to folklore. Little is known about this locale, but much local lore exists."

While looking around for some trails to visit, we came across the seemingly innocent and engaging trail of Black Star Canyon. When we arrived at the trail, there was still an hour of sunlight left to pass. As we entered the trail, we couldn't

help but notice the many "Do not Trespass" signs, as the trail is very adamant about the potentially dangerous animals and insects that



are lurking on the trail. People can expect to see large beetles and spiders on their adventures through this trail.

Having no service really added to the secluded feeling, despite the trail being populated. But as night-fall grew closer, bugs and insects were not the only creepy images left in our minds. As we made our way around and through the trail, we got the eerie feeling that we weren't alone, constantly hearing rustling sounds and the faint sounds of a woman weeping in the bushes. We

rationalized that we were just letting the rumors of the trail affect us and that the rustling was just some animal or bug moving around. It did seem to ease our nerves some but not completely.

Deciding to take a break from walking and to really listen to the sounds around us, we finally heard something that at least, at that very moment, we couldn't explain away. We heard the haunting, disembodied sounds of a faint whistle coming from the bushes next to us. Without a second thought,

we ran as quick as our legs could carry us, not wishing to turn back or return.

Although we didn't see anything physical, like a ghostly apparition or a shadow figure, which have been reported before, we heard enough to confidently say that Black Star Canyon is a weird and interesting place. For any skeptics or serious doubters out there, who find our tale a little too good to be true, we highly recommend a visit to the Black Star Canyon trail to put its mysteries to the test.

The Culture Behind Superstitions

Staff Writer,
Bruce Ly

It appears that every society and nationality have their own superstitions, which play a part in how everyone goes about living and making decisions. For instance, there is the myth that black cats bring bad luck. In the Vermilion.net's article, "The Origin of the Black Cat Superstitions," by Kaitlyn Ambrose, it said, "But it wasn't only the connection they fabricated between witches, cats, and the devil that the early Christians feared: they also saw them both as threats." In some cultures, black cats are feared as evil omens, while in others, they are seen as unlucky symbols. But it also underscores the cultural relativity of superstitions and how they forge individual practice. They are the ideas many people live by, without a shred of

rational support.

Junior, Ivory Castaneda, said, "The most common superstition most people have would be the fear towards black cats." The fear, which begins from folklore and has been passed down through years, portrays how superstitions are frequently brought up in social circles or families. After hearing those thoughts frequently in growing children or through the media, people may decide to accept them. "I think people start to develop superstitions by overhearing people around them start saying what they're afraid of, like a chain reaction," Castaneda said.

A feeling of control in an unpredictability is provided by superstitions. When someone feels powerless or vulnerable, they often resort to these beliefs. Athletes could, for instance, follow pre-game routines or dress in lucky attire because they feel these actions may improve their performance. Even though the acts themselves might not have any realizable effect, they offer psychological comfort by creating the appearance of control over uncontrollable events. "To some extent,

based on the superstition someone can have, it can affect their performance in their activities," Castaneda said, emphasizing the influence superstitions can have in a variety of contexts, particularly in high-stress circumstances like sports.

Junior, Jessie Guzman, shared his thoughts on superstitions, when he said, "People believe that playing 'Stairway to Heaven' on guitar is bad luck, but I know it's only a movie. Still, the culture still stays with me." Junior, Angel Cerna, said, "Stepping on the 'U' in the quad or splitting the pole is believed to bring bad luck." Both students point out how even minor actions, such as playing a song or walking to locations, can be linked to superstitions that remain in everyday life.

Superstition may help people feel more at ease, but they can also make them uneasy. Some people's lives are so consumed by these theories that they start to feel irrational anxieties. Making decisions can be hindered by this dependence on superstitions as people may avoid situations or activities out of concern that they would bring bad

luck. According to the American Psychological Association's article, "Speaking of Psychology: The psychology of superstition, with Stuart Vyse, PhD" Vyse said, Superstitious beliefs "Can create anxiety in the face of uncertainty, especially when the beliefs don't provide any real control over the situation."

According to the Dartmouth Undergraduate Journal of Science's article, "Professor Thomas Gilovich and the Psychology of Gratitude," it said, "Many superstitions are acquired habits that are passed down from parents or other significant persons. Learned behaviors, often transmitted by influential people in one's life." Superstitions are passed on through the generations and can become ingrained in traditions within the family or the community. The generational transfer leads to the fusion of some ideas, making them more challenging to debunk.

Slowly being exposed to the horrific events may be a very powerful tool in the fight against these strongly held beliefs. In addition, Vyse said, "Challenging superstitions does not lead to negative consequences when one confronts a feared situation without trying to avoid it." Approaching a feared event without trying to escape it, is the basic principle of exposure treatment, which is frequently used to treat phobias and irrational fears, is this approach.



Brianna Flores, Grade 9

Alice In Wonderland

Trapped! Down The Rabbit Hole: An Escape Room Experience

Staff Writers,
Marzlyn Kydd & Santana Barrera

In Trapped! “Down The Rabbit Hole,” where you go down, down, down into a completely different world, you and your friends follow your lost puppy into a whirlwind of madness and riddles. Hidden objects and puzzles will make your brain run a bit too fast, leaving you falling in a frenzied attempt to escape. The escape room is welcome

to all ages, though those under 18 years of age, will need an adult to follow. In this particular room, you are helped by the game master, who

is a lovely rabbit that resides in a rabbit hole. It helps give you clues to make an achievable escape and find your lost dog in the end.

The escape room company was established in 2015 by Richard Wilson and his wife. The family-owned escape room was first located in Upland, California and their other places include San Dimas and Las Vegas. The creation of the escape rooms has many details and aspects that allow for them to be what is presented through a short video. In

each video played, there is a story for what the escape room theme is and what is needed to be found.

There are many reasons why Trapped! Is different from other escape rooms. Manager, Nicholas Ebright, said, “The care and interest of keeping it real to help bring it alive and find the real fun with the people around you, and the family who helped create it are what makes it to be distinct and its own.” The employees of Trapped! are



AVID players, making the escape rooms special, as they're made for escape-room players.

As each escape room is built, there is fundamental creativity and real planning to make and build the escape rooms, this is how they got their idea of “Down The Rabbit Hole.” When entering the escape room, there is real detail that follows down to the very walls surrounding the escapee. Each room has antiques and different objects that are placed around some glued

and others that are able to be unmagnetized when having done the puzzle correctly. Many people have stated that the escape rooms often are hard, but there is an enjoyable satisfaction of finishing or “escaping.”

Sophomore, Gabriela Caringi said, “My escape room ex-

perience was enjoyable and rather whimsical, with the satisfaction of solving the puzzles with friends, and finding all of the mysteries hidden within ‘Down The Rabbit Hole.’” Caringi’s overall rating for “Down The Rabbit Hole” was a 6.5, as it allowed for a do-able first time, with the help of the game master involved. It still established difficulty, leaving the fun of slight ‘insanity’ and accomplishments.

The Trapped! Escape Room “Down The Rabbit Hole” is a



Elizabeth Garcia, Grade 12

one-of-a-kind, whimsical, and enchanting experience. Trapped! is renowned for its escape room venue and has been in the TOP ten most-voted experiences for three years running. There are many secrets to unlock and hidden gems to find, the deeper you go. Ready for a fun locked-in adventure with your friends? As a thorough recommendation from a personal experience, visit Trapped! and see for yourself the secrets you can uncover. Will you be able to escape?



Patrick Li, Grade 11

Artist Profile: Patrick Li

“I really liked drawing the armor and clothing a lot. I like the way the texture looks, so that is probably my favorite aspect of the drawing. I have been drawing since I was about two years old. But I just started taking art classes a few years ago.”

BEETLE NEWS

The Thrills And Chills Of The Axe Lair

Staff Writer,
Jasmin Trujillo

If you want to blow off steam from school, your work or even celebrate a birthday party, then a visit to downtown Upland's newest treasure and the Inland Empire's first-axe throwing location, The Axe Lair, is for you. Family-owned and operated by George and Jennifer Garro, it is one of two locations and a fun place to enjoy the sport safely.

The Axe Lair provides different axe, dart, and knife-throwing games, such as Zombie Hunting Mode, Tic-Tac-Toe and even a Christmas-mode for the holidays. The Axe Lair has different-themed karaoke rooms and a rage room to let out your anger and frustrations. They provide glass bottles or large items for your smashing needs, but also let you bring your own items to smash, break or destroy.

The Upland location's assistant manager, Alyssa Dixon, started axe throwing in 2019, for her birthday party. She wanted to do something different and ended up falling in love with the sport. Dixon signed up for a working position at their old location and worked her way up to managing. When asked if any of the experience scared her, Dixon said, "When I first started throwing axes, they did scare me because they are heavy and sharp. But once you throw a few, you realize that you can do it."

The Axe Lair isn't only for the older bunch. Axe throwing can be for children 12 and older. Dixon said, "Axe throwing can be for everyone. We have held kids' birthday parties, boy scouts and girl scouts... We have lighter axes, but mostly they use the same ones." The Axe Lair allows participants to bring their own axes, as long as they are regulation-based for that location. The knives that The Axe

Lair uses are standard competition knives but the axes are where it varies with standard axes, hatchets and even tomahawks.

The new location in downtown Upland hopes to start memberships and eventually, their own league for competition axe throwing. The Axe Lair has several arcade games

location but advocates for you to bring your own. They have sodas, tea and coffee for you to enjoy, however. The Axe Lair hosts birthday parties, meetings and corporate events. They have a one-hour session, which is recommended for people who have never thrown before and they are provided time

with guidance from an expert. A two-hour session is better for people coming back to axe throwing and is the best option for bigger parties.

The Axe Lair website explains the hopes of its owners, George and Jennifer Garro, when they said, "We are looking to open a



Photo By The Axe Lair

in the front of the building, as well as Mega Jenga, Connect Four and themed-karaoke rooms. The Axe Lair doesn't provide food at their

place where friends and families could come together. A way to get off your phone, have fun, and enjoy a sport anyone can do."



Isabella Castillo, Grade 10

Artist Profile : Isabella Castillo



"I wanted to make it realistic but also keep the style of Tim Burton, the way he draws his characters. I wanted to showcase their relationship by them being friends and enemies at the same time. I really liked doing her dress a lot, especially the detail in her skirt."

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