

It’s A Blue and Gold Carnival Tea

Iambakisye Richardson
Chief Editor



Charlotte Amalie High began the Saint Thomas, VI, pageant season by introducing our four portraits of excellence during the first full week of school of the second semester. As our portraits made their rounds to various galleries, the 31st of January would take 3 of the 4 to a garden tea party at Fort Christian. The tea party was awash with royalty awaiting the unveiling of just who would be in the running to earn the title of St. Thomas Carnival Ambassadorial Queen. Almost a decade ago, the Charlotte Amalie High School maintained a near 20 year (18 years to be specific) dynastic reign of queens. If the Garden Tea Party was any indication, a new dynasty might be forming in its own right. Arliesha Paul (Class of 2021) reigning Carnival Queen (2025) stood alongside not 1, not 2, not 3, but all 4 contestants at the introduction. Two current Chickenhawks; Safiah Wharton and Ajeuné Willett-Tyson (Class of 2026), stand ready alongside D’Quaña Lewis (Class of 2022) and Jahniya Williams (Class of 2025). No matter the result, the tea will be touched by Blue and Gold lined fine china and Amalian excellence.

Game & Development: A Statistical Perspective

Christopher Onate
Reflector Staff



In recent decades, video games have become one of the main forms of entertainment among children and adolescents. However, their impact on individual development remains a topic of debate. While some groups associate video games with attention or behavioral problems, various statistical studies present a more balanced view.

Research in psychology and education suggests that certain video games can enhance cognitive skills such as decision-making, hand-eye coordination, and problem-solving, particularly in strategy and moderate action games. In addition, cooperative online games may strengthen social skills like communication and teamwork.

Nevertheless, data also indicate potential risks when gaming time is excessive or lacks adult supervision. Prolonged exposure has been linked to difficulties in emotional regulation, sleep patterns, and attention, especially at younger ages.

From a statistical perspective, the impact of video games does not depend solely on content, but on factors such as time spent playing, game type, and family environment. Rather than being an inherent threat to development, video games appear to reflect the balance or imbalance within young people’s digital lives.

The key question is not whether video games affect development, but how and under what conditions they do so.

When Enforcement Becomes Fatal:

ICE’s Minneapolis Operation Faces Backlash

Kaj Baron
Reflector Staff

Minneapolis, MN — Recent immigration enforcement incidents in Minneapolis have drawn national attention after two people died during separate encounters with federal agents. Officials say the agents believed they were in dangerous situations, but many community members are asking questions and calling for investigations.

The incidents led to protests and conversations across the country about police power, accountability, and public trust. In response, federal officials announced plans to increase transparency, including wider use of body cameras.

As investigations continue, the situation has sparked ongoing discussions about immigration enforcement and its impact on communities.

ICE Incident Sparks Concern Over Use of Force

Cathen George
Reflector Staff

A recent incident involving ICE that ended in someone’s death has caused a whole lot of questions on how immigration enforcement is handled. Many people believe the situation should not have escalated to the extent it has.

ICE says officers followed their rules, but that should not matter when individuals lose their lives. When force turns deadly, it makes people wonder if there is a much safer and better way to handle the situation without violence.

Incidents like this make communities feel scared and angry, which can result in boycotts, especially immigrant families who already live with fear. Law enforcement is supposed to protect people not kill people, exacerbate the situation, and then craft a narrative to excuse culpability.

ICE exists to enforce (immigration) laws, but you can enforce those laws without having to kill somebody. This situation should lead to serious reflection and changes to the system so tragedies like this do not happen again.

Editor’s Note:

There has also been an increase in discussions on gentrification and perception affecting how such incidents are reported and responded to. In 2016 when Philando Castile was shot during a police stop with his daughter in the rear seat even after mentioning to the responding officer that he had a licensed firearm the discussion was ‘colored’ differently. This shooting happened blocks away from where both Renee Good and Alex Pretti would lose their just under a decade later. While the actors may be different, the discussions should always demand greater accountability and the besmirching of victims should not be done to paint heroic those who dangerously wield the power of the state.

Eyes on the Ocean

Rachel Sprauve
Reflector Staff

Ocean awareness is becoming very important for beachgoers in St. Thomas as both residents and visitors spend more time enjoying the island’s beautiful shoreline. While the clear waters and warm weather create the perfect setting for swimming, snorkeling, and boating, local officials and environmental groups are encouraging everyone to stay informed about ocean conditions and safety practices. Most days there are strong currents, changing tides, and occasional marine life sightings and it is important to remind beach visitors to pay attention to posted warnings, swim in designated areas, and avoid entering the water alone. At the same time, protecting the marine environment is just as critical; littering, stepping on coral, and disturbing wildlife can cause lasting damage to fragile ecosystems that support tourism and local livelihoods. Community cleanups, educational campaigns, and school programs are helping raise awareness about how small actions—such as properly disposing of trash and using reef-safe sunscreen—can make a huge. By staying alert and respecting the ocean, St. Thomas

THOUGHTS & OPINION

Financial Literacy as a Requirement

Joe’Niah Clendinen
Reflector Staff

Financial literacy should be required in schools because money is something everyone has to deal with, but not everyone is taught how to handle. Once people graduate, they’re expected to know how to budget, save, pay bills, and use credit wisely, even though many never learned these things in school. (Editors Note: Post-High School is also the moment when students are expected to take out loans or engage in other financial instruments to attain education that has grown in cost and this is often carried out with no understanding of interest rates, principle, co-signing, default, taxes, etc.) Teaching financial literacy would help students feel more prepared and less overwhelmed when they enter the real world. A big reason this matters is because so many people end up in debt simply because they don’t understand how money (and credit) works. Credit cards, loans, and interest rates can be confusing, especially when you’re young. If students learned about these topics early on, they could avoid common mistakes and make smarter financial decisions that protect their future. Financial literacy also helps students become more independent and responsible. Knowing how to manage money builds confidence and teaches people how to plan ahead instead of living paycheck to paycheck. Not everyone grows up in a home where money is talked about or explained, so making this class required would give everyone the same chance to learn important life skills. Overall, financial literacy isn’t just about money it’s about security and peace of mind. When students understand how to manage their finances, they’re more likely to succeed and less likely to struggle later in life. That’s why financial literacy should be a required part of education.

Editor’s Note:

Financial Literacy is currently offered as a class in the Virgin Islands (Public Schools) but the course is not technically a requirement. The language of the Virgin Islands Board of Education policy states that Financial Literacy can satisfy one of the 4 math requirements needed to graduate. So although the want may have been for students to take financial literacy the policy does not demand it.

Second Semester A Second Chance

Whanna Delisca
Reflector Staff

The second semester often feels like a second chance for students. It gives us a chance to improve our grades and refocus on our goals. Second semester is where some students who struggled in the first semester can learn from their mistakes by turning in assignments on time and studying more effectively. Improving grades can also help students remain eligible for sports/clubs and future academic and extra-curricular opportunities. The second semester is also a good time to develop stronger study habits, such as creating a study schedule and avoiding procrastination. Students can also benefit from asking teachers for extra help and communicating when they need support. For seniors, the second semester is especially important because it is their final chance to meet graduation requirements and prepare for life after high school. Overall, the second semester offers students a valuable second chance to bring up their grades.

EYES ON THE OCEAN CONT’D

beachgoers (and others across the Virgin Islands) can help ensure that the island’s waters remain safe, vibrant, and enjoyable for generations to come.



REFLECTOR STAFF

Faculty Editor of the CAHS Reflector

Iambakisye Richardson (Mr. Iam) is a 2003 Graduate of the Charlotte Amalie High School. Ironically while a student at his alma mater, he was not enrolled in Yearbook of Journalism, he was however a member of the spotlight team and in his senior year served as a radio host on a self-funded morning radio show on WVJZ 105.3 JAMZ. With a Bachelor of Science degree in Videogame Art and Design he has parlayed those skills to various graphic design projects both at the Charlotte Amalie High School, in the Virgin Islands, and even nationally and internationally. He has served as the faulty editor / instructor of the Reflector since 2021-2022 school year and prior served as a visual, graphic, and layout artist for the school newspaper. His interests include videogames, song, poetry, story, and scriptwriting, debate, and law. He also serves as the faculty coach for the CAHS Moot Court Team.

Readers can expect cut-ins, editor’s notes, and responses or qualifiers to student articles as well as rebus puzzles and cryptic word puzzles. Every so often the reader can also anticipate an article or editorial from his desk.

Semester 2 - 2025-2026 Reflector Staff

K’Moniece Emanuel, a 17-year-old senior at Charlotte Amalie High School is a creative individual who enjoys doing art projects. She loves to use her imagination to think of new things to create. In her free time, she loves to draw, cook, and read. Creativity plays a key role in her everyday life. For K’Moniece, creativity and coinage are one in the same, together they allow her to transform ideas into something original and meaningful. K’Moniece plans to pursue a career in architecture and interior design. She is interested in learning how to create spaces that can help shape positive emotions, experiences, and storytelling. K’Moniece sees herself primarily covering the gossip column. She is a very observant person who pays attention to how people interact with each other and can share stories that reflect the life of students in an engaging and entertaining way. Readers can expect updates on contemporary trends, school drama, and lighthearted opinions that may spark conversation while keeping it respectful and thoughtful.

Cassandra Remy is a 17-year-old senior at Charlotte Amalia High School. She likes to read, watch movies, draw, travel, go to the beach, and go out with friends. Her friends would describe her as being effervescent and a joy to be around. She is a dedicated high honors student that has been apart of the CAHS Marching Hawks for 2 years and plays the alto saxophone. When she graduates, she wants to attend college in hopes of either becoming a pediatric nurse or a pediatric dental assistant. Later in life, she wants to own her own daycare to spend her time doing what she enjoys most. As a member of the Reflector staff, Readers can expect coverage on the entertainment aspects of the school featuring exciting activities that would be taking place in and around the school. Cassandra is excited to be part of The Reflector team and looks forward to contributing work that is engaging, insightful, and entertaining for the readers.

Rihanna Burrell is a tenacious senior at the Charlotte Amalie High School who values education, personal growth, and discipline. As a student, she strives to stay focused on her goals and work hard to improve her skills. In school she has managed to achieve an A+ average from 9th to 12th grade, high honors, principal’s award, and senator awards. She is also a part of the National Honor Society and will be graduating with honors. One of Rihanna’s Strongest interests is in cosmetology. Braiding hair allows her to be creative while also building confidence in herself and others. She sees cosmetology as a skill that can provide personal growth, future career opportunities, and success. In Addition to Rihanna’s passion for cosmetology, she plans to join the military. Rihanna believes the military will help her to grow as a person by strengthening her work ethic, and sense of responsibility. In the future Rihanna hopes to continue developing her abilities, gaining knowledge, and using education to create a stable and meaningful life.

Joe’Niah Clendinen, 17, was born on St. Croix in the United States Virgin Islands and is a senior at Charlotte Amalie High School. She enjoys braiding hair and experimenting with different styles, an interest that has helped her develop patience, creativity, and strong attention to detail. Joe’Niah also plays volleyball, a sport that has taught her teamwork, discipline, and the importance of pushing through challenges. Both activities shape her character and influence how she approaches her work and responsibilities. One word that often comes to mind when Joe’Niah thinks about storytelling is alacrity, as she enjoys sharing stories with energy and purpose. She has earned recognition in school for her effort and creativity and takes pride in putting thought and care into everything she does. In the future, Joe’Niah plans to pursue careers in nursing and cosmetology, fields that allow her to help others while expressing compassion and creativity. She is interested in cinema, making people feel

confident, comfortable, and cared for. She plans to focus on real life experiences and issues that matter to individuals.

Kymora Bigby, who prefers to be called Mora, approaches writing as both a creative outlet and a way to make sense of layered emotions and complex situations. She writes with an introspective lens, focusing on details, feelings, and perspectives that are often overlooked. As a reporter for The Reflector, Kymora is especially interested in stories that explore student experiences, identity, and everyday life.

Outside of writing, Kymora enjoys drawing, listening to music, reading, playing games, and cooking. These interests shape her creativity and influence how she views the world. Drawing allows her to express ideas visually, while music and reading inspire reflection and new perspectives. She also values games for their storytelling and problem-solving elements, and cooking for the patience and experimentation it requires.

Kymora makes an effort to stay informed about current events and student conversations, both in and out of school. Readers can expect thoughtful, honest pieces that emphasize clarity, depth, and authenticity.

Cathen George is a new staff member for the Reflector. While he is new to journalism, The word he chose for the assignment was autochthonous meaning indigenous or native. Outside of school, he maintains an active lifestyle playing video games and lifting weights. Thought he loves playing games, he does not know what he wants to do after high school. He wants to finish the school year on a good note and move on to the next part of his life. He is a great baseball player, but he does not have much heart in it anymore.

Naisha Whanna Delisca is a 17-year-old junior at Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas. U.S. Virgin Islands. She is a new staff writer for The Reflector and contributes reporting that amplifies student voices across the school community. Known for her insightful approach to journalism, Naisha aims to inform, engage, and represent student perspectives through her work. Outside of the newsroom, Naisha enjoys baking, listening to music, and participating in sports. As a reporter for The Reflector, she specializes in coverage related to politics, mental health awareness, and the impact of global events on students at the local level. She is especially interested in stories that explore how larger issues directly affect student life. Naisha plans to pursue a future career in communication through journalism and/or aviation. Her work with The Reflector provides valuable real-world experience in writing, communication, and responsibility. Through her reporting, Naisha seeks to highlight underrepresented voices, cover meaningful student issues, and foster understanding and connection within the school community.

Conrad Weekes is an interesting individual who is most fascinated by technology and its influence on everyday life. Through this fascination his works focus on the digital tools introduced to civilization such as social media, as well as upcoming technologies that will one day change the way students learn, communicate, and form opinions. His interests lie on exploring the pros and cons of modern technology.

Outside of Journalism, Conrad tends to spend his free time playing video games and reading Japanese (Manga) comic books. Taking part in such activities has enhanced Conrad’s hand-eye coordination, giving him the ability to write, and type faster than a regular person. Through this Conrad has developed the ability to write down thoughts exactly as they happen; his goal is to use this skill to produce articles that are clear, engaging, and relevant. This is in hopes of inspiring readers to really think about the type of impact technology has on society.

Syria Rhymer, has a cute, unique, and special character that puts her above the rest. Growing up, she has always been shy but that slowly vanished when she would party and parlay with larger crowds. She has been on high honors for many years and was the captain for Lockhart Elementary School’s track team. She aspires to be a sales person with great confidence and communication. One thing Ms. Rhymer has learned throughout her life is that you are never finished. There’s always going to be someone above you. Someone more intelligent, athletic, or hardworking and your job is to be the best you can be. Be you and “Love Yourz.”

Joyelle George is a new student journalist writing for The Reflector. She finds writing both challenging and rewarding, especially when it comes to noticing and describing small details. Writing has helped her become more aware of people’s emotions and her surroundings.

Outside of journalism, Joyelle enjoys photography and often takes pictures of her family and friends. Music is also important to her, and she spends a lot of her free time learning new pieces for choir. For The Reflector, she plans to cover school events and community stories and doesn’t like to pontificate, instead focusing on making other people hear voices that might be overlooked.

Amia Edward is a junior at Charlotte Amalie High School and a staff writer for The Reflector. She plans to pursue a future career in forensic accounting, which shapes her interest in journalism and her belief in looking beyond surface-level narratives. Amia approaches reporting with

prepense, emphasizing intention, careful thought, and a commitment to truth.

At CAHS, Amia is a squad leader in the Marching Hawks flute section, where she has developed leadership, discipline, and teamwork. She is also an AP Scholar, reflecting her dedication to academic challenge and personal growth.

Outside the classroom, Amia enjoys dancing, reading, modeling, and the arts. As a writer for The Reflector, Amia specializes in student life and culture, focusing on opinion and features stories that examine issues beyond first impressions and approach reporting with prepense.

Christopher Máximo Oñate is a member of the Reflector staff and approaches his work with an analytical and direct eye. He is known for looking beyond the surface, prioritizing the context, causes, and consequences of what happens in his school and social environment. His journalistic focus centers on topics for reflection, human

dynamics, student culture, and critical analysis of situations that often go unnoticed. Oñate is particularly interested in content that explores behavioral psychology, silent conflicts within the community, and how systems influence people. Through his writing, he seeks to inform without unnecessary embellishment, maintaining an active, clear, and honest discourse. While on staff, his goal is to offer pieces that invite the reader to think, question, and observe reality more deeply.

K’Nai Ubiles is a 17-year-old senior at Charlotte Amalie High School with a growing interest in storytelling and student-focused journalism. Known for his calm but observant personality, K’Nai enjoys playing the steel pan and values downtime, especially sleep as a way to reset and stay balanced. As a writer for The Reflector, he plans to cover stories that highlight student life, school culture, and issues that often go unnoticed but matter deeply to the students. K’Nai is particularly interested in writing pieces that reflect real experiences, opinions, and voices within the school community. After graduating, he plans to attend college and pursue higher education in finance while continuing to develop his writing skills. Through his work with The Reflector, K’Nai hopes to inform and give students a platform to feel seen and heard.

Ta’Keyia Richards is a 16-year-old senior at the Charlotte Amalie High School and a new staff writer for The Reflector. She joined the publication with a curiosity for stories and a desire to explore how everyday moments reveal deeper insights.

In her free time, Ta’Keyia enjoys reading and watching television shows that explore human behavior, including her favorite, White Collar, as well as various sitcoms. These interests fuel her fascination with psychology and help her understand motivations, choices, and character in the stories she covers.

As a reporter, Ta’Keyia plans to focus on feature stories, student life, and opinion pieces that examine behavior, school culture, and the subtleties that shape everyday experiences. Her writing emphasizes observation, insight, and the sagacity required to connect with readers in meaningful ways.

Kayla Rogers was born on August 20, 2008 in Puerto Rico and currently lives in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. She is a 17-year-old junior at Charlotte Amalie High School, where she stays dedicated and focused on her academics. Kayla has consistently earned High Honors, showing her strong work ethic and commitment to success. Outside of school, she enjoys doing hair, playing volleyball, and working after school. Kayla hopes to become a dental hygienist and has gained experience through summer internships. A word that describes her well is resilience, meaning she keeps going even when challenges arise.

ADDITIONAL STAFF

Kaj Baron • Samyah Dowe • Jaden Frett
Rachel Sprauve

Brain Builders

Cryptic Crossword

A cryptic crossword is a word puzzle where each clue is a miniature riddle, typically composed of a direct definition and a “cryptic” wordplay element, such as an anagram, container, or pun

1.) Festival sip and a bite to eat. (3, 5)

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2.) Common denominator found between all Mean girls. (7)

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