

The Shamrock

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2019

John F. Kennedy High School

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 3

State of the Union

Trump gives a formal address to Congress at a pivotal point in his presidency.

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GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

KATHERINE GARCIA
Staff Reporter

On Dec. 22, 2018, the U.S. government experienced another shutdown, the third during President Donald Trump's term in office. The shutdown was the longest on record, lasting a total of 35 days.

The government shut down following a disagreement between President Trump and the Senate over funding for the U.S.-Mexico border wall. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stated that there would be no action taken until Senate Democrats and President Trump had come to an agreement.

"President Trump, if you want to open the government, you must abandon the wall — plain and simple," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said.

Congress refused to approve a budget of \$5.6 billion Trump requested for the wall. While the government shutdown was meant to resolve conflict in Congress, it forced many federal agencies like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to cut back on their duties and leave thousands of federal workers unpaid. Without routine food inspections, dangerous health hazards became a reality. However, many FDA workers agreed to continue to work to ensure food safety.

Other public workers however, stopped showing up. Even though it is illegal for workers to do so during a government shutdown, they called in "sick" for multiple days at a time as a form of protest. The shutdown cost the U.S. economy roughly \$2 billion a week during its duration as a result of unpaid work.

"Nancy and Cryin' Chuck can end the shutdown in 15 minutes," Trump, in a tweet, said.

Although the shutdown was primarily due to conflicts between Congress-Democrats and the Trump administration, a national emergency was declared by the president after not receiving a desired amount of money for a wall.

NEVERENDING SOUNDS OF PROGRESS

ANGELA PARK
Staff Reporter

Since the previous construction update, Phase 2, which includes additional fencing and gates to the campus with e w entry ways into the school, a re-furnished marquee, and landscape improvements, is still steadily on its way to completion.

The original date of completion of all projects was Feb. 28, 2019. However, the progression of the improvements were delayed due to the weather conditions that arose in the midst of December and January.

The rain especially resulted in hills being reduced to a muddy and slippery construction site, restricting the construction workers

from proceeding. Despite this, concrete was poured near the south parking lot at the end of January.

"Construction is going along as expected. It is exciting to know that the campus will look so different, but having the patience to see it through has proven difficult for everyone: students, staff, families, and the neighbors in our community," Principal Dr. Zurbano said.

Many students and teachers along first court and the 900 buildings are not in favor of the construction, especially since the sounds of the construction and the blockage of some of the rooms have continually affected the classes.

"I think overall, especially when they were jack-hammering, it was horrible," AP Literature teacher Kimberly Weir said. "The whole environment is demoralizing to everyone."

Around mid-to-late December, brand new fencing along first to fourth court were implemented. Although the constant drilling and jack-hammering may be disruptive, the fences being built are to ensure the security of the students and teachers.

There has also been significant progress with the fences from the girls' locker rooms expanding to the end of the PE area/baseball field.

The gates along the front of the school are still in the process of construction, but, for now, the chain link fences remain.



Courtesy of GETTY IMAGES

TAYLOR HILL/WireImages

NATIONAL EMERGENCY

GLORIA CHANG
News Editor

On Feb. 15, President Trump declared an emergency at the southern border of the U.S. This announcement came less than a month after the longest government shutdown in the nation's history over disputes surrounding a proposed border wall. Trump had demanded \$5.6 billion for its construction but agreed to sign a \$1.4 billion funding bill to end the prolonged shutdown. This declaration will divert billions of federal dollars from military construction and other purposes without requiring approval from Congress.

"We're going to confront the nation-

al security crisis at our southern border," Trump said. "We're talking about an invasion of our country."

National Emergencies Act permits the president to declare an emergency without congressional approval. Presidents have used it for many reasons like imposing economic sanctions against terrorists after 9/11. The controversy lies in whether the construction of a border wall constitutes a national emergency, as the act has no criteria.

Right after the conference, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and 16 states have stated their intentions to file suit against the emergency declaration.

Democrats have asserted that the president is overreaching his powers and that there is no real emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"The President's actions clearly violate Congress's exclusive power of the purse, which our Founders enshrined in the Constitution," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said.

There is a general consensus amongst the GOP on their firm policy against illegal immigration, but there is a division in the process of obtaining funds. Some supporters of a border wall are worried that declaring an emergency or another shutdown will

cause backlash. Some are requesting that the president wait until Dec. 2019 when he can use the threat of a sequester and get the rest of the money for his wall.

According to Senator Thom Tillis, R-N.C., others express concern that this will "create a new precedent that a left-wing president would undoubtedly utilize to implement their radical policy agenda while bypassing the authority of Congress."

The ambiguity in regards to the definition of a "national emergency" is projected to become a question that requires jurisdiction from the Supreme Court, which may drag out until the rest of the year.

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ENGAGE



EDUCATE



EMPOWER

State of the Union

ORLANDO CABALO

Copy Editor

On Feb. 5, 2019, the annual State of the Union address was held in the U.S. House of Representatives. After being compelled to reopen the federal government after a 35-day shutdown, President Donald Trump was invited by Speaker Nancy Pelosi to deliver the national address after previously being denied the opportunity by the House leader.

Trump's speech primarily focused on governing through unity; however, he had also melded some contentious topics into his annual address such as the demand for a southern border wall, jabs at abortion rights, and a call to end investigations into his administration. These controversial topics resulted in a substantially divided room, with half of the chamber standing in applause while the other sat silent, even booing on occasion.

"An economic miracle is taking place in the United States — and the only thing that can stop it are foolish wars, politics or ridiculous partisan investigations," Trump said. "If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation. It just doesn't work that way."

Other than his calls for ending investigations and building a border wall, Trump promoted the economy as well as the increase of women in the workforce. However, many of the remarks made by the president have been claimed to be "partial truths" by various news organizations such as the Associated Press.

"President Donald Trump exaggerated perils at the border, flubbed food stamp numbers and the length of wars and told partial truths on drug prices in his State of the Union speech," the Associated Press said.

In his speech, Trump championed females in the workforce where he was seen at one point congratulating the newly elected women of Congress. All elected women of the Democratic caucus also wore white to pay homage to the suffragette movement of the early 20th century.

"No one has benefited more from our thriving economy than women, who have filled 58 percent of the newly created jobs last year," Trump said.

Although it has been customary that presidents receive a bump in popularity due to the address, many analysts have speculated the weight of his speech due to the government shutdown. Because of the stark polarization in the United States, one could only wonder what the future has in store.

NEW YEAR NEW LAWS

JERRIT WOODWORTH

Staff Reporter

The new year brought new laws to California. While the government started enforcing some of the legislation on Jan. 1, other laws are expected to be administered later in the year.

Defendants under the age of 16 can no longer be tried as an adult for any violent crimes. They will face limited incarceration in juvenile facilities, but no time in prison. Similarly, children under the age of 12 will no longer be prosecuted at any level for crimes other than murder or rape. They will instead be directed to counseling, dependency court, or other services.

In an effort to curb childhood obesity, restaurants this year will no longer be allowed to automatically include soda, juice, or chocolate milk as part of a kids' meal that feature a beverage. Instead, kids meals will come with either milk or water unless the customer specifically requests otherwise. Restaurants that do not comply can be fined up to \$500 by the third violation of this law.

Most employers in the state will have to offer sexual harassment prevention training to all employees. Previous training has been required of supervisors at companies with 50 or more workers. However, by the end of next year, the rules will extend to all employers with five or more workers. The training will also be required for all workers, not just supervisors, with courses repeated once every two years.



Courtesy of GOOGLE

Many of the new laws in California have already been implemented.

California's minimum wage will increase from \$10.50 to \$11 per hour for companies with 25 or fewer employees, and from \$11 to \$12 per hour at companies with 26 or more workers. Over the course of a year, these bumps could equate to a \$1,040-\$2,080 increase in base earnings for employees who work 40 hours per week. However, this increase in minimum wage will most likely result in increased prices of goods. At certain McDonald's, a hash brown now costs \$2 instead of \$1.

Full-service dine-in restaurants will no longer provide plastic straws unless asked. While the state law does not include fast food restaurants and cafes, a Los Angeles ordinance that phases in next

year does— although drive-thru's remain exempt. San Francisco meanwhile, will ban plastic straws starting in July.

Thousands of old cannabis convictions could be expunged next year. In addition to legalizing recreational cannabis, Prop 64 passed by voters two years ago made it possible for people with past marijuana convictions to petition to have their criminal histories erased or reduced. However, in the year that Prop 64 has been in effect, few people have changed their records. The state estimates nearly 220,000 cases remain eligible for a new look. Starting next year, the burden to reexamine those old cannabis convictions will fall to the

state. The California Department of Justice will have until July 1 to proactively identify cases where sentences are eligible to be diminished or dismissed. The state will then send those cases to local prosecutors, who will have the chance to challenge the new sentences by July 1, 2020.

As of Jan. 1, you must be at least 21 to buy any type of gun in California. The state has also raised the age limit to buy shotguns and rifles from 18 to 21, a rule that is already in place for handguns. The new law banning "long-gun" purchases will not extend to members of the military, police, and licensed hunters. A long gun is a category of firearms with longer barrels than most other types. In small arms, a long gun is generally designed to be held by both hands and braced against the shoulder, in contrast to a handgun, which can be fired by being held with a single hand. Beginning next year, anyone convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence will be banned for life from owning a gun.

Californians seeking concealed weapon permits now have to complete at least eight hours of firearms safety training and pass a live-fire shooting exam to demonstrate proficiency, following a state law that recently took effect.

It is crucial that citizens of California stay up-to-date with these new laws because they affect everyone who resides in the state. These laws were brought into effect for important reasons, as are all laws.

ORANGE is the old BROWN

MELISSA PERALTA

Staff Reporter

On Jan. 7, 2019, Cyntoia Brown was granted clemency by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam. She was convicted of murder and robbery by Johnny Michael Allen and sentenced for life after being tried as an adult, despite being only 16-years-old at the time.

Brown alleges that Allen solicited her for sex for \$150 on Aug. 5, 2004. Since she felt threatened

during the encounter at his home, it catalyzed her decision to shoot him in the back of the head with a gun given to her by her boyfriend as protection.

Brown's story sparked outrage as many were angered that her sentence was too merciless. Due to the public anger, her case was taken into further consideration towards her past of homelessness, abuse, addiction, and fetal alcohol syndrome, among other

factors. Her story drew national attention and hundreds of thousands of supporters, including celebrity Kim Kardashian, who spoke out about her case.

"The system has failed. It's heartbreaking to see a young girl sex trafficked then when she has the courage to fight back is jailed for life! We have to do better & do what's right," Kardashian said.

The legal definition of clemency is the grant of a president or by the governor of a state of an amnesty that allows for the sentence of a guilty person to be shortened or reprieved. This means that Brown's sentence was able to be changed.

Brown's 51 year sentence was lightened, bringing her release date to Aug. 7, 2019 and granting her 10 years of parole.

"Imposing a life sentence on a juvenile that would require her

to serve at least 51 years before being eligible for parole consideration is too harsh, especially in light of the extraordinary steps Ms. Brown has taken to rebuild her life," Haslam said.

In prison, Brown worked hard towards earning her GED and associate's degree with a 4.0 GPA. She is currently in the process of completing requirements for her bachelor's degree. This demonstration of improvement and rehabilitation helped push the governor toward clemency.

"I am thankful for all the support, prayers and encouragement I have received," Brown said.

Brown will be released on Aug. 7, 2019 under parole supervision after spending almost half of her life behind bars. She looks forward to the rest of her life free from prison and able to build herself up again.



LACY ATKINS/The Tennessean

Brown at her clemency hearing at the Tennessee Prison for Women.



KINDNESS cookies

FAITH NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

The “Kindness Cookie” project, created by Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) students, strives to promote Anaheim as the “City of Kindness.”

Anaheim Mayor Tom Tait began this “City of Kindness” initiative out of inspiration from the “Make Kindness Contagious” effort by Anaheim community members Edward and Karins Jaievsky in 2002.

The current released flavors, chocolate chip and lemon cake batter, are made from a local student project under the provisions of Modern Gourmet Foods (MGF). A box of cookies is priced at \$5 with \$2.50 returned to the seller for each individual sale.

The process of finalizing and perfecting the program was extremely tedious. Oxford and Loara students worked together

in hopes of reaching out to a wide variety of students.

The official team, joined by Oxford senior Mindy Dang, ultimately partnered with Superintendent Michael Matsuda and Mayor Tom Tait to contact MGF, a food distribution and packaging company. With approval from the district, they were able to begin formulating the cookie recipe.

“AUHSD students took the city’s kindness initiative to heart,” Dang said. “When you purchase Kindness Cookies, not only do you help spread the message of kindness, but one hundred percent of the proceeds go toward supporting campus organizations, summer jobs, and internships for students.”

The success of the project gives the student creators valuable work experience under the district-wide internship program, Anaheim Innovative Mentorship Experience (AIME).

Although creating the fundraiser was an extensive process, ordering, selling, and buying is as simple as ever.

Many organizations on the Kennedy campus chose to participate in the fundraiser.

Club advisers passed out order forms to club members who in turn went out and sold boxes to friends, family, teachers, and members of the community.

After a certain amount of time, members had to turn in their order forms so that the sales could be totaled and the correct number of cookies ordered.

“For students to get involved, (to) sell (the cookies) and buy them, it’s a good way to show some support to the school,” ASB President Cassi Kaihewalu said. “It’s just a good way to spread some cookie love!”

Kennedy students have taken advantage of what the fundraiser has to offer. Many ASB students sell as many boxes as they can to pay off their class debts.

Clubs such as the National Honors Society and the California Scholarship Federation allow their members to sell boxes to meet the required number of volunteer hours.

The cookie sales allow both the buyer and seller to spread the “Make Kindness Contagious” mindset, moving the city of Anaheim closer towards being the “City of Kindness.”



JENNIFER LIM/The Shamrock

KENNEDY'S NEW CLUBS

JENNIFER LIM
Staff Reporter

E-SPORTS CLUB

The E-Sports Club, a community of people with similar interests in gaming, was reintroduced to Kennedy this year shortly after the start of school.

“There was an E-Sports Club but it wasn’t as successful, so we brought back a new one this year to try to make it successful,” President Benedict Saprid said.

There are a little over 100 members in the club, allowing members to connect with fellow gamers and play games with new people. The club tends to hold an activity once a month, which consists of an online tournament. The members also work to host club related activities at school, one being the Super Smash Bros tournament that happened first semester.

EDUCATORS RISING

Educators Rising is a nationwide club that hosts conferences around the country that leaders from each state attend for competition.

“We have debates on education-related topics, and there are judges who evaluate your speech and presentation,” California representative senior Omni Patel said.

At Kennedy, most of the members are in the class, Principles of Teaching and Learning. This class includes going to elementary schools like San Marino, Miller, and Los Coyotes every other day of the week to assist teachers.

“The purpose of our club is to give our members an experience of what teaching is really like and to help communities around us with educational opportunities,” Educators Rising President Alyssa Carrizosa said.

For people in the club but not in the

class, education-related volunteer opportunities are provided through after school programs at various elementary schools. For their recent Servathon project on Jan. 21, the club members went to a low-income community and helped with an after school program not directly connected with a school.

LEO CLUB

Leo Club, which stands for leadership, experience, and opportunity, is a nationwide organization that has finally made its way to Kennedy. Although it started as a community service club meant to connect to Korean culture, it shifted into a general service club to help the community.

“We leave it open to everyone to join, but we require members to complete at least six hours of community service per quarter,” Leo President Joanne Cho said.

Leo Club works to provide events for members, opening up service opportunities and spreading the heart to serve around our school.

COMPUTER CLUB

What began as more of a gaming club last year, Computer Club was revived this year with a new purpose: to focus on building computers.

“My focus is having lessons on how to build a computer. Hopefully next year we can also have coding lessons, but this year I’m more focused on hardware like the parts of a computer and how to build it,” Computer Club President Jae Kim said.

The club is open for anyone to join, and meetings are held every other week. For their recent Servathon project, the club members gathered to build computers for people in need of one, using their skills to

help fellow students.

CULINARY CLUB

Members of Culinary Club are able to share their cultures and love for food, helping them to become a small family and bond over their time spent cooking up delicious treats and savory eats.

“Culinary Club is a great opportunity to learn culinary skills, bond with new people, and socialize with new people in a different environment,” President Ashley Montero said.

The only requirement to join is filling out a safety and sanitation form provided by the club. Cooking sessions occur once a month, with one to two general meetings held before each session to go over cooking guidelines and recipes for the next session’s dish.

FILM AND LITERATURE

What began as a small idea of having a free book fair fostered into a club to

spread the enjoyment of literature and film throughout the community.

“It’s really exciting to see students form a club like this because Film and Literature are such important parts of our culture,” English teacher and club adviser Christie Bettendorf said. “It’s through books and film that we learn more about our history and society.”

Although the club was just formed, the members already have many great ideas to fulfill the purpose of their club.

“We plan to have a Harry Potter day or week where we can have trivia and prizes, and since April is poetry month, we plan on having a poetry cafe where people can read poetry aloud and enjoy coffee,” President Derek Cha said.

The club is open for everyone to join, and it is a great way to freely enjoy and share a love for literature and film.

The Shamrock

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COMEDY & CULTURE

ALIVIA GARCIA
Staff Reporter

Every senior is required to take four years of English in order to graduate. After three previous years of traditional English classes, and senioritis kicking in, seniors are ready for a change of academic scenery. English teacher John Adair, volunteered another option for an English class in contrast to the regular literature classes.

“I’ve taught English for a long time and I noticed how many novels are about death. In Macbeth ten people died, Frankenstein four people, and in Hamlet eight. I realized that there is so much more optimistic literature that we can learn from. People love to laugh and people learn through mimicry. Comedy and Culture was an untapped reservoir,” Adair said.

Adair introduced the new English class for the first time last year. The class of 2018 was the trial run with successful results on the new curriculum. These students got to experience this new style of learning and helped decide which parts of the class Adair should keep and change.

“Last year I learned more than the students about what works. It was tough to see what to leave in and leave out of the class. I had to learn what not to do before I could learn what to do. I incorporated last year students’ suggestions to make this year’s class more organized,” Adair said.



ALIVIA GARCIA / *The Shamrock*
Students from this year’s Comedy and Culture class act out their own Commedia Dell’Arte skit.

The class takes a step away from the average English class’ curriculum which consists of novels and playwrights. Adair’s goal was to create an English class that was more light-hearted and humorous, opposed to the common tragedy associated with the stereotypical novels students are expected

to read.

“It is way more interesting to read plays about comedy instead of about death because I am more interested in the story being told by the author,” senior Albert Muñoz said.

The class studies the culture behind

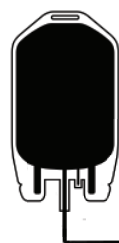
the modern-day generational comedy. The class also discusses what is considered acceptable in comedy and at what point comedians take their jokes too far.

“Nowadays people take offense to almost anything that involves making fun of people of a certain race or gender. In my comedy and culture class I have learned that in society it is only acceptable to ‘make fun’ of people if you relate to that certain thing,” senior Briana Meza said.

The class follows a curriculum designed by Adair. Since most humor of high school students is known to be vulgar at times, Adair told his students that the class is rated PG-13. This means that any joke should be school appropriate and not extremely indecent. As a way to implement standards for the class, he created a comedy caveat which includes specific stipulations and conditions for the humor that is acceptable in the class.

“My goal is for students to recommend the class to their friends and hopefully expand the program. I want students to explore the power of humor and to learn how to laugh at themselves,” Adair said.

This new addition to Kennedy’s curriculum has been great for students looking for a different style of an English class. Comedy and culture is a class that seniors should definitely consider taking for years to come.



BLOOD DRIVE



FAITH NGUYEN
Staff Reporter

On Jan. 23 2019, Kennedy High School hosted its second blood drive in the 2018-19 school year which was led by ASB members, junior Chasey Van Wie and senior Caitlin McCann. The blood drive operates under the UC Irvine Medical Center with Kennedy as one of their most successful participants, advising three drives per school year rather than the usual two.

The first drive of the school year took place on Oct. 15, with the theme slogan “Donate Blood- Save a Vampire!” Following the event, the second blood drive theme was “Are you my type?”

The drive is mainly publicized through posters, social media posts, and video announcements. Throughout these promotions, anyone willing and able to donate has the opportunity to sign up with an ASB member. Additional sign-ups took place on the stage.

For those who donated, they were able to find that the donations are not only beneficial to those receiving the blood, but also to those who donate.

“Even though I’m scared to give blood, it feels good to be able to help someone else who needs it to survive,” senior Kyhree Jordan said.

Volunteering for the event is open to faculty members, family members, and



CAROLYNE HERNANDEZ / *The Eternal Flame*
Senior Nick Piazza gets his blood drawn during the first Blood Drive of the year this past fall.

students age 17 and up. For the first blood drive, 65 students participated in donating. Because there is a limited amount of time and space for donations, the maximum amount of volunteers is 70.

Project managers Van Wie and McCann oversaw all parts of the event. They were in charge of creating the themes for the events, deciding how publicity is carried out, and collecting and managing sign-ups.

“We get the sign-ups and basically put it into a schedule,” McCann said. “We also give out snacks and tips, making sure people are healthy and ready to donate.”

The blood is collected all day from first through sixth period. After all the donations are done, the blood is sent from the collection trucks to the UC Irvine trauma center. From there the blood is used as needed.

Project coordinator Anne Marie serves as a liaison between the volunteer organizations and the UC Irvine Trauma Center.

“We collect blood for the only level-one blood trauma center in Orange County,” Marie said. “We hope to collect enough blood needed for January and February.”

For the second blood drive that took place on Jan. 23, it received over 100 applications and had over 50 donors. In addition, a 2013 study headed by the Journal of Blood medicine concluded that a regular blood donation lowered cholesterol, protected against cardiovascular disease, and fought against heart disease. Through Kennedy’s effort to contribute, our participation would end up helping donors receive health benefits, both emotionally and physically.

“Even though it may seem like a small thing, not one of the bigger events that ASB holds, it definitely is one of the more important ones,” Van Wie said. “It literally saves lives.”



AMERICA'S BORDER WALL

PRO

KRISTEN GOMEZ

Staff Reporter

Since the founding of our nation, immigration has been a conflict we have been facing. Although some notable immigrants like Alexander Hamilton and Alex Trebek have been beneficial for the country, immigrants have recently flooded our soil. Before the 1990s, there was no discussion of a barrier dividing our southern border. However, in 1994, President Bill Clinton constructed part of a boundary near Tijuana in hopes of reducing illegal crossings from Mexico into the U.S. as border patrol agents have had difficulty controlling what's coming onto the nation's soil. Donald Trump thus outlined the crucial need for a border wall. Since there is too much potential havoc that illegal immigration brings, the U.S. has the absolute right to protect our borders with this wall.

After treasonous insubordination by congressional Democrats by refusing to give Trump the desperately needed funds for a wall, his hand was forced to protect the American people by shutting down the government. The president has argued that many illegal substances have been brought to the U.S. along with human trafficking. In 2016, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) investigated 1,029 cases related to human trafficking. Out of the 1,952 arrests and 631 convictions, 435 victims were given assistance. Unfortunately, there are countless citizens who do not realize these people's intentions.

"During an earlier briefing ... Trump highlighted the prevalence of guns and drugs," Fox News writer Alex Pappas said. "The president spoke in front of a table of items ... seized, including a rifle, handguns, ... and black-taped bricks of heroin and meth."

Border patrol agents commonly look for these dangerous substances on an everyday basis near the U.S.-Mexico border. In fact, 95 percent of border patrol agents are in full support of the wall. Similarly, the Israeli government built a border wall which stopped illegal migrants from going into Israel. According to Charles Bybelezer, their border wall "is over 700 kilometers (435 miles) in total length and was built during the Second Intifada, ... There were over 70 suicide bombings—killing nearly 300 Israelis—carried out from the West Bank ... until the first significant ... section ... was completed." That border wall

completely reduced the many migrants and refugees that came from various parts of North Africa. As this same idea has helped immigration conflicts in other countries, Trump has attempted to compromise with Congress for the wall in exchange for DACA. Unfortunately, Congress has given mere peanuts at only \$1.6 billion.

"I support a wall to curtail a mass-flow of migrants across our borders," Kennedy parent Alberto Gomez said. "These secure borders will slow down the large amounts of drugs, weapons, and people coming to our country."

According to U.S. News, about 15 percent of the population are immigrants. Unsurprisingly, Mexico has the highest amount of immigrants coming into our country. Many people come here for a better lifestyle, but many fear that these immigrants won't contribute to society and are here to potentially drain their tax dollars on welfare. Immigrants need to follow the U.S. immigration laws which means they must apply for immigrant visas, refugee asylum or permanent resident status. Illegally entering our borders is not the way to go, as they are committing the crime by crossing illegally.

Even though the wall conflict is highly contested, Democratic senators supported a physical barrier, notably Senator Chuck Schumer, former Secretary Of State Hillary Clinton, and former President Bill Clinton. Senator Schumer voted for the Secure Fence Act of 2006, which was a bipartisan 80-19 vote. These particular politicians called for "comprehensive immigration reform" which implicitly refers to the ultimate construction of a wall.

"This bill before us will certainly do some good, it will authorize some badly needed funding along with our borders and that should help stem some of the tides of illegal immigration in this country," then-senator Barack Obama said.

Even though people will try to come here legally to start a better life, we have the right to secure and get rid of people who will potentially do wrong and wreak havoc in this country. No matter the price that we must pay for this wall, border security needs to be stricter than ever as this will inevitably grow. It is better to be in a safe country with stronger security rather than a country with accessible borders.

CON

ORLANDO CABALO

Copy Editor

The Wall—to some it is the solution to a "crisis" on America's southern border while others see it to be a purely political stunt propagated by a demagogue willing to fan the flames of nativism for political success in a bitterly divided nation. Unfortunately this entire debate of a wall has been nothing but a tool to incite hatred against immigrants while neglecting the simple fact that there is no actual crisis at the border.

According to PolitiFact, illegal immigration is at a 17 year low. However, before the president takes credit for this, it should be noted that according to the Washington Post, "the rate of undocumented immigrants, from Mexico, has declined each year since 2008." Not only has the number of undocumented immigrants declined immensely in the past two decades, but a substantial portion of illegal immigrants just overstay their legal visa which makes a wall comically useless.

However, as Donald Trump has often said, the wall is also about halting cartels smuggling drugs into the country.

"They are bringing drugs. They are bringing crime. They are rapists. We need to build a wall," Trump said.

Unfortunately for Trump, a 2015 study conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) concluded that drug traffickers "transport the bulk of their goods over the Southwest Border through ports of entry using passenger vehicles or tractor trailers." Even if a majority of drugs were being smuggled on remote parts of the border, where a wall would be built, most drug traffickers do actually have the knowledge of scaling the wall or just tunneling underneath. So it's utterly preposterous that we would build a multibillion-dollar wall that can just be defeated by mankind's third and fourth inventions: a rope and a shovel.

"I don't think there is a crisis on the Mexican border because immigration is at an all-time low," senior Joseph Byun said. "There are some instances of Mexicans bringing the things [Trump] says, but the way he exaggerates the topic is irrational."

Although Trump has ultimately caved on his initial demand for a \$25 billion wall and has now declared an unconstitutional emergency for a multibillion-dollar eyeglass, a single cent would be a laughable waste of taxpayer money.

In the richest and most productive nation of the world, poverty and homelessness are still rampant in our communities. According to a study by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) there are over half a million Americans sleeping on the streets, with some estimating a whopping 40 thousand veterans calling the sidewalk their home. Unfortunately series of injustices are only the beginning. Across America, infrastructure is crumbling, public schools are dying under the weight of underfunding, and the Earth only has 12 years to rapidly build a green power system before the effects of global warming are irreversible. However, as our world is on its deathbed and our fellow countrymen sleep in the bitter cold of an unsheltered night, our politicians are squabbling over a manufactured "crisis" meant to instigate hate based on our race.

"Modern weapons take food from the hungry and shelter from the homeless," former Republican president Dwight Eisenhower said. "I don't think we should spend one cent more on national defense than we have to."

Sadly, this insane plan to build a wall running the entire length of the border would not only be a disastrous waste of money, but it would also commit a whole host of other atrocities like cutting off native tribes' ancestral lands and using eminent domain to force landowners to sell their homes for the construction of an idiotic wall.

It has become obvious that the state of our nation is one where our president is a racist demagogue who is trying to force Americans to foot the bill for his hideous campaign promise.

Although some have believed this wall has good intentions, the truth is that it doesn't. The glaring fact is that this wall is a symbol of hate and ignorance that Trump is trying to erect in blatant disregard to our nation's founding. We are a nation of immigrants through which our families came here seeking opportunity. Now as refugees fleeing from violence in Central America are coming to legally seek asylum, our president has kidnapped their children, some of which may never again find their parents. When the time comes we must finally stand up to our un-American president and vote to throw him out of office.



MANDEL NGAN/Getty Images

President Donald Trump inspects border wall prototypes in San Diego.

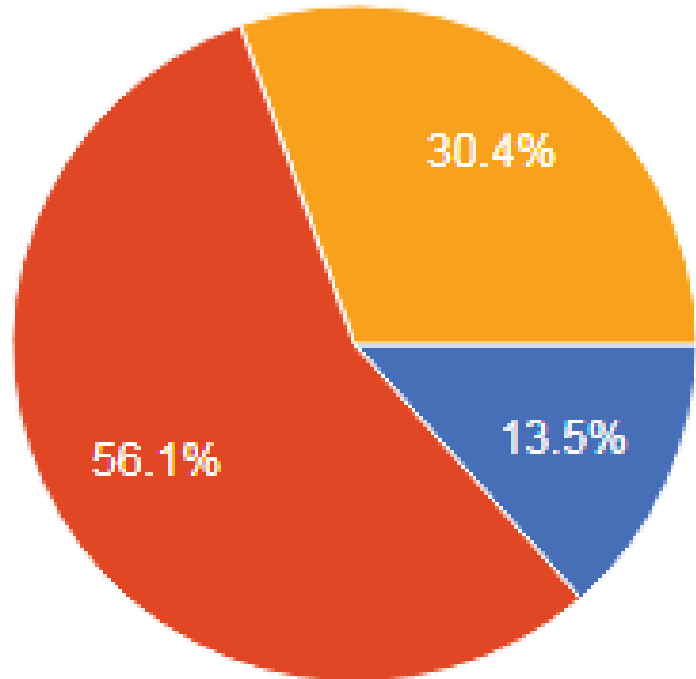


DANIEL OCHAE DE OLZA/Associated Press

Undocumented migrants evade law enforcement as they flee into the U.S.



A POLL ON POLITICS

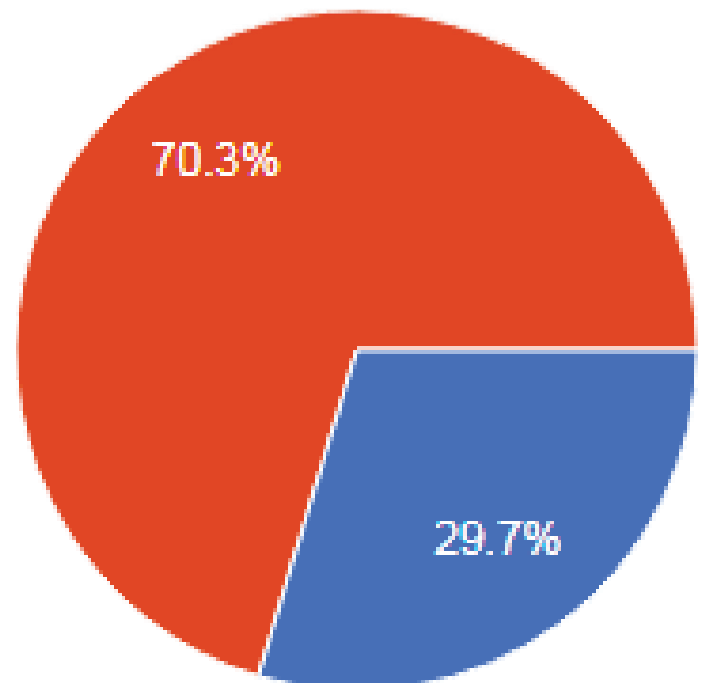
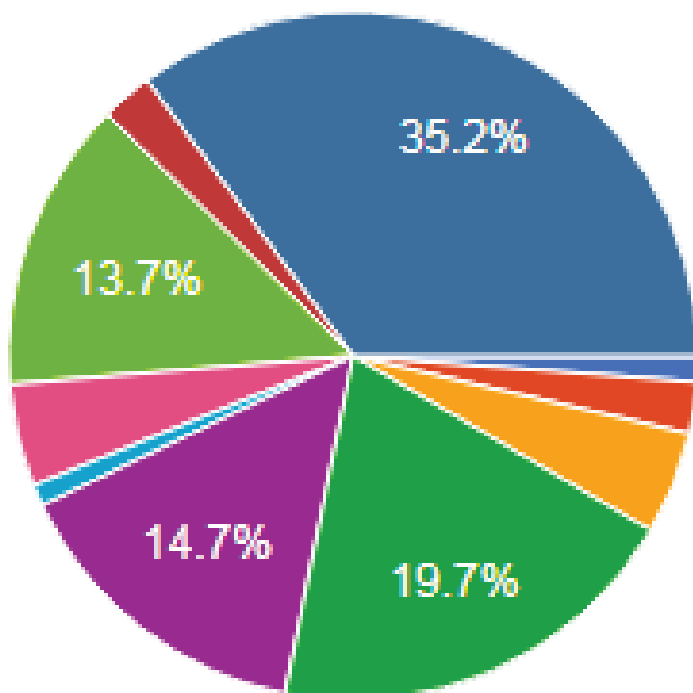


ARE YOU FOR OR AGAINST THE BUILDING OF THE WALL ON OUR SOUTHERN BORDER?

- For the wall
- Against the wall
- I agree with the wall to a certain extent

AS A STUDENT, DO YOU BELIEVE YOU HAVE A POLITICAL VOICE ON CAMPUS?

- Yes
- No



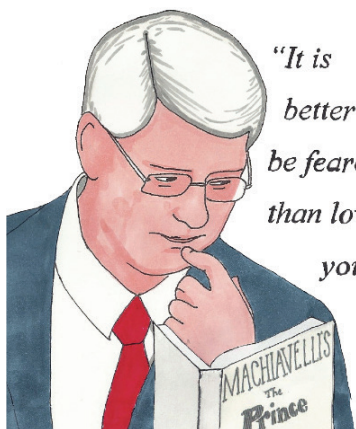
WHAT IS YOUR TOP NEWS SOURCE?

- Associated Press
- BBC
- BuzzFeed
- CNN
- Fox News
- The President's Tweets
- Other
- MSNBC
- New York Times (or other newspaper)
- Twitter

THE PRINCE AND POLITIQUE

NICOLE NGUYEN
Opinions Editor

"If an injury has to be done to a man" then it must deliver itself in the form of unproportional power. For all their so called "realism," modern politics have practiced a ruthless judgment of authority. This has resulted in politicians using deceit and a plethora of lies to ascertain control and im-



IVY JOHNSON/The Star

"It is better to be feared than loved, if you cannot be both."

munity. Often times, this is seen in communist administrations, but this is not exempt from American politics.

An embodiment of traits Niccolo Machiavelli, author of "The Prince," would have admired has appeared in modern government in the form of modern politicians; devious, relentless, and merciless.

President Donald Trump who has been respected by Machiavellians, has assumed authority in the form of political realism; in which power is the primary end of all political action. However, unceremoniously, the president's nationalistic motivations are only apprehended because his administration exercises the same callous ministerial practice. In recent years, POTUS's national interests have been disguised as moral concerns to devise the American people from combatting his patriotic spurs. To compare the government's attributes to that of Machiavelli's manifesto, in which these perpetually warring concepts of the sixteenth century

cynic has expressed, would be futile, that is if intentions remain in favor of discerning American government from "The Prince."

For Machiavelli, the practice of power included decisive judgment and not suspended on the ranks of morality. The Prince's hand must always motion for excessive force in order to perceive success. Our Commander-in-Chief has governed this with unwavering demand.

"Everyone knows how laudable it is for a prince to keep his word and live with integrity instead of by trickery. But the experience of our own time shows us that the princes who have accomplished great things are those who cared little for keeping faith with the people, and who used cleverness to befuddle the minds of men," Machiavelli said.

So much trust is well-disposed towards our government in which the antiquitous desires of the president often go unnoticed or unbothered.

A Trump shutdown tantrum charged

against cultural reform and his extremist views on integrating immigrants has all the epithets of a belittling and unjust leader.

There is enough to say about the motivations behind Trump's "Wall" campaigns. Enough to put a permanent splinter on the history of Americans who have built this country up with their own blood, sweat, and tears. But the demonstrations regarding immigration reform, in and of itself, hold true to Machiavelli's political pursuit.

"When you prosecute the parents for coming in illegally, which should happen, you have to take the children away. Now, we don't have to prosecute them, but then we're not prosecuting them for coming in illegally. That's not good," Trump said.

Trump has harbored a fickle-minded juxtaposition on the basis of Constitutional liberation. It is uncertain that what the Trump administration is imposing on the American people is plausible within the Constitution.



WALL SPECIFICS

ASHLEY MONTERO
Features Editor

In 2017, President Donald Trump addressed the public with a proposition that has become one of the largest consequential events presently occurring. The Trump administration's firm stance on his campaign promise to "build a wall" for increased border security has become one of the most significant events of the decade. As a result, its repercussions have caused the largest government shutdown in U.S. history, lasting a total of 35 days.

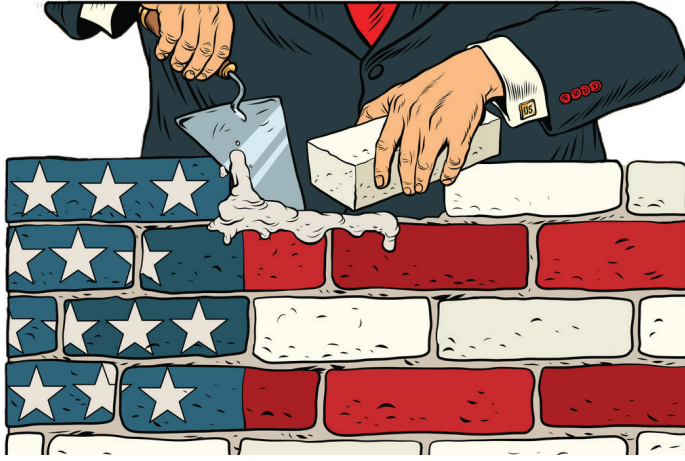
During Trump's presidential campaign, he introduced a proposition to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border as a deterrent toward illegal immigration in the U.S.

"As far as the wall is concerned, we're going to build a wall. We're going to create a border. We're going to let people in, but

they're going to come in legally," Trump said. "And it's something that can be done, and I get questioned about that. They built the Great Wall of China. That's

13,000 miles. Here, we actually need 1,000 because we have natural barriers. So we need 1,000."

This land will have to be taken from the borders surrounding California, Arizona,



Texas, and New Mexico.

Discussions about the materials needed to build the wall, obtaining owner-

ship of the private property at the border, and the amount of time it would take for the wall's construction have yet to be publicly released, as there are still unsolved disagreements back at the capital.

The total amount of money necessary to construct the wall is estimated to be over \$25 billion. However, supporters of a border wall have donated money to a GoFundMe page that is named "Trump Wall." According to the Pew Research Center, about 60 percent oppose the wall and 40 percent support it.

However, after the midterm elections, Democrats have taken back the House of Representatives. This has denied Trump the budget to build the wall and as a result, he declared a national emergency to circumvent Congress. This declaration has been met almost instantly with a series of lawsuits which will most likely keep this debate in the courts for the foreseeable future. As of recently, the House has passed a bill to block Trump's declaration of a national emergency.

Illustration Courtesy of SHUTTERSTOCK

FAKE BORDER CRISIS

DOMINIQUE LARSON
Editor-in-Chief

The United States is undergoing rapid polarization due to an alleged crisis. Many Americans are eating up the rhetoric the Trump administration feeds them in the form of out-of-context statistics; 42 percent of voters believe in the alleged crisis while another 37 percent simply see it as a problem. Unfortunately for both parties, they are mistaken. There is, in actuality, no such issue as President Donald Trump's alleged "border crisis."

Over the past 20 years, there has been a steady decline in people apprehended at the border. This trend has been followed and accounted for by economists, sociologists, and federal officials despite its direct contrast with Trump's claims. Conservatives are bursting at the seams, throwing statistics left and right to defend his presidency and their party.

"In recent years, nearly 1000 illegal immigrants have been convicted of committing sex crimes against children in the state of Texas alone," blogger and author Michael Snyder said. "Illegal immigrants have a murder rate that is 3 to 10 times higher than the general population."

These statistics, while admittedly valid, are taken completely out of context. Not only is border security more effective than ever, but the people migrating here are less likely to commit violent crime than American born citizens. Taking statistics out of context is a manipulation tactic and a form of fear mongering.

Numbers like "1000 illegal immigrants" seem substantial, but it takes away from the fact that 75 percent of sex crimes against children are committed by a family member or a close friend. That leaves less than 1000 illegal immigrants committing these crimes in Texas alone over the course of multiple years, and statistically they are most likely against their own families. These fear tactics seem almost comically out-of-context of the entire American population, for they are greatly in the minori-

ty. Not to mention the fact that according to a 2013 study, 7 percent of immigrants reside in Texas (California: 21 percent, New York: 14 percent, Florida: 13 percent) meaning they have one of the densest populations of immigrants of all 50 states.

"[The] FBI says [there are] 267,000 illegal aliens incarcerated. Who are the other two million presently incarcerated?" CEO of News Corporation Rupert Murdoch said.

The two main arguments against immigrants include job theft and violent crime, whose ideas are heavily pushed by an administration that believes adamantly in these "facts." Yet, their validity remains ambiguous.

The rhetoric of the "job stealing immigrant" is played out. Not only is it a sad regurgitation of immigrant stereotypes, but they are just as baseless now as they were when they surfaced in the 1800s. For example, it is widely regarded that Chinese immigrants built the Transcontinental Railroad. Americans repeatedly choose to hire undocumented peoples to exploit their labor, paying them less than they would a legal citizen because they know citizens can't be treated this way. Yet somehow, undocumented citizens are being blamed for the way their employers treat them.

Well into the twenty-first century, Americans are doing to immigrants now what they did to the Chinese in the 1800s: placing them in traditionally undesirable positions that pay less than minimum wage. Factories, farms, construction sites, etc. are all jobs with disproportionately high immigrant populations.

"A decade ago, Crider Inc., a chicken processing plant in Georgia, was raided by immigration agents, and 75 percent of its workforce vanished over a single weekend. Shortly after, Crider placed an ad in the local newspaper announcing job openings at higher wages," Dr. George J. Borjas said.

In addition to this quote, Borjas has blamed immigrants for the "theft" of American jobs. He believes that when undocumented immigrants are taken out of the

equation, there are more high-paying jobs available for the "Average Joe." However, this is not the case. The fact of the matter is, Americans refuse to take these jobs.

"[Immigrants ages 18-65 with little English or skills] tend to work in different occupations than U.S.-born workers — often, occupations that require little interaction with the public, that do not require licensing, and that do not require supervisory skills," Professor at the Urban Institute Dr. Maria E. Enchautegui said. "The number of U.S.-born workers with no college education has declined by almost 5 million since 2007."

This study from 2015 shows that American citizens are actually less likely to take these jobs, as they are more educated. Low-level positions such as the ones within a chicken processing plant are just not suited for American citizens today. In fact in many cases, if an immigrant doesn't take that job, no one will. "More than 55 percent of 762 farmers and ranchers surveyed in a California Farm Bureau Federation report from October 2017 said half of their land continues to go unattended because of an ongoing labor shortage direct-

ly related to U.S. immigration policy," journalist Kartikay Mehrotra said. "Although Nassif [Tom Nassif, President of the Western Growers Association] and the association have supported Trump since the early days of his campaign, he says the raids and decades-old immigration policy for farm workers are harming the industry and state economy."

These farming positions are open to the public, but as Professor Enchautegui implied, American citizens don't feel obliged to fill those positions.

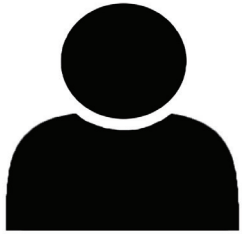
Two-thirds of all "illegal" immigrants are in America as a result of an overstayed visa; these people are here to be united with family, to have a better life, to escape and to be free. Denying people these rights is un-American, as is lying to the nation about an alleged crisis. Unlike immigrants, fear mongering has no place in a free world.



Illustration by NADIA KHUZINA



IMMIGRANT SONG



ANONYMOUS
Guest Columnist

The pressure of college applications and preparing for life after high school is a thought which has lingered in my mind since the school year started. There is a fear meeting strangers and presenting my best self in order to create a better future for myself.

And as an undocumented immigrant, I am forced to live in a constant state of fear.

Growing up, I was aware that I was different to the kids around me. In elementary I was bullied for the way I looked, the language I spoke, and for the food that I ate. Being told to “embrace your differences” was hard because my differences weren’t being appreciated. That separation caused by my differences pushed me into dark isolation. Because of the loneliness, I still refrain from being too open because I fear of rejection. Although I was able to find supportive friends, I’m still afraid that I

could lose them at any moment. There is a craving of acceptance that I want because of that separation and loneliness.

This desire grew larger when I was told that I was undocumented.

Being told as a fifth grader, it was hard to understand what that word meant. Before I found out, my only worries included crying when I couldn’t have sleepovers and looking forward to watching “Power Rangers” on the weekends. But when those words left my father’s mouth, I could feel my childhood collapsing. Since that day, I noticed how my parents treated me differently than my siblings. For example, they were able to hang out with their friends without being questioned, but as soon as I wanted to do anything it was an automatic no. I was tired of hearing “It’s for your own safety” as the same excuse.

Being undocumented made me feel less of a person and more of a secret. It felt like I had to hide from the world and because of that it robbed me of my childhood. It stole time and precious memories that I could have made with my friends. Instead of spending hours outside, it kept me locked inside my own home.

Moving to America at a young age made me struggle to find a place for myself. This country doesn’t want people like me, but how can I go back to a place

I’ve only heard about through stories with nothing there for me?

Although moving here at a young age and learning about the culture, the values, and the history I am told I am not an American. I share the American Dream of wanting to serve my community, take care of my family, and enjoy the company of my friends, but I can’t because I’m not an “American.” Despite proudly labelling myself as an American for years, I don’t have that right just because I wasn’t born in this nation.

I don’t understand why I am less. I don’t understand why people like me are portrayed negatively. My dream is the same as others in America. Being labelled as “illegal” and “job stealing” feels like my dream is being stolen from me. Every day I am crushed that I can’t speak my opinions because I am oppressed. I can only admire the people who attend rallies and protests through my screen and hope that someday I can walk beside them. My heart breaks because I am told my voice doesn’t exist in America and I don’t have rights. I only stay quiet because I was taught that speaking my voice and standing up for what I believe in is asking for trouble.

I am being pushed back into the dark, into the same corner I was in before. Where my voice doesn’t matter and I must live as

a secret. I try and pretend that I’m okay with living this way, but I am not. I want to find someone like me. I want someone to read what I’ve been through and think, “I know exactly what they mean.”

It has been a struggle to come to terms with who I am as an individual and how I want people to see me. The negative stigma around undocumented immigrants needs to be redefined.

We are not just the people you see on TV. We are not scary like the media depicts us to be. We are the people who live around you. We have families, dreams, and struggles just like every other person living in the United States.

Like most Americans, my parents looked for an opportunity to live a better life. And like most Americans, we struggle. The pressure and uncertainty of not living under a roof where we could feel secure almost drove my mother to the point where she wanted to return to her country. But she saw hope in the American life. Spreading my story has led me to amazing and supportive people and is helping me achieve things that I didn’t believe was possible before.

You shouldn’t let your struggles and situation define who you are, because you don’t know where it could lead you in the future.

THE GILET JAUNE MOVEMENT

KARL HAYS
A&E Editor

The Gilet Jaune Movement, also known as the Yellow Vest Movement, began in May 2018 when a woman from the Seine-et-Marne department of France started a petition that gained nearly 1 million digital signatures. Less than 24 hours later, two men created a Facebook group to call for the blocking of all roads in order to combat the rising fuel prices rumored as a result of tax increases. Several followers of this Facebook group decided that protesters would wear reflective yellow vests as a method to amplifying their political demonstrations.

“We should have woken up years ago. We took too long to wake up, and now we have to make up for the years we missed,” Yellow Vest activist Ghislain Coutard said.

The movement organized in a leaderless fashion. Informal leaders have emerged, but were struck down by other demonstrators through provocation in the form of threats. Though the movement was not led by any specific political organization, it spread significantly through multiple social media platforms.

“Many of the protesters are so ‘anti-politician’ that they extend their hatred to any would-be politicians who emerge from their own ranks,” French political commentator, John Litchfield said.

A significant number of misleading images and information have been circu-

lating around the Internet concerning the protests. According to Pascal Froissart, a Culture and Communications professor at the University of Paris, the leaderless aspect of the movement contributed to the dissemination of misinformation as no individual has designated the responsibility for public relations or social media messaging.

The Yellow Vest movement is a populist, grassroots movement for economic justice and reform, opposing whoever they see as the wealthy urban elite and estab-

lishment. Many of these demonstrators live in rural or outer-urban areas where weak economic growth, high unemployment, and lack of highly technical transportation is seen.

According to the BBC, cars sparked the political anger and ultimately resulted in the lack of a car becoming a status symbol in France. In the discussion of wealth, those who reside in more rural areas with lower income occupations devoid of choices, such as public transportation, fight to advocate the unfair tax system that innately

promotes economic inequality. The emphasis on the disparity between wealth shown through one’s ability to transport goods furthers the strife to combat inequity.

One of the many goals of the movement is to obtain the right to direct initiative, also known as the right to petition the government, as the protesters have already called for lower fuel taxes, a reintroduction of the solidarity tax on wealth, a minimum wage increase, and Emmanuel Macron’s resignation as the president.



Courtesy of CRIMETHINC

The Gilet Jaune movement, translated as the yellow vest movement, hold up home-made signs and march in the streets in their yellow vests.



HOW TO BE A TRACK STAR

GLORIA CHANG
News Editor

Bang! Cheering erupts from the sidelines as the athletes are released onto the track. The crowd holds their breath in anticipation, watching as the track stars compete with each other neck-to-neck. Lungs bursting and muscles screaming in agony, the athletes grit their teeth as they near the final leg of the race. The pain is momentary, but the glory will last forever.

Track and field involves many different types of skills such as long distance, sprints, jumps, and throws. Most athletes compete in several events at a time, and some even participate in events from multiple sectors of the sport. In order to prepare for each event, they devote extensive amounts of time to training and developing a competitive mentality. Sophomore Jeffrey Verne competes in the 1600M, 800M, 3200M, and long jump.

These athletes, however, do not become stars from their hardcore training alone. In order to prevent fatigue and injury, they also strive to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Their coaches remind them to sleep for at least six to eight hours each night and drink plenty of water. Track and Field athletes also commit themselves to a strict diet by avoiding foods that are enjoyed largely by their fellow peers, such as chips, soda, fast foods, ramen, white rice, candy, sugary drinks, and all other sorts of junk food. Junior Natasha Davis, who participates in a plethora of events, such as shot put, discus,



GLORIA CHANG/The Shamrock

Junior Kalel Hong, who competes in the 100M and 200M events, prepares for takeoff at the starting blocks during practice.

and sprinting, works to be in her best condition through this lifestyle.

“I regularly go to the school weight room and practice six days a week,” Davis said. “All of my meals come fresh from home every day, so they are the healthiest possible to fuel my body for afterschool practice or any competitive meet. Most importantly, I balance my schoolwork with my sport, as it allows me to sharpen my competitive mindset while throwing.”

Although maintaining a healthy lifestyle

and having consistent training sessions are essential factors in becoming a track star, the most important, yet often overlooked quality, is mental strength. It is inevitable that setbacks and injuries arise midseason, but the athletes that are able to rise above these challenges are shaped into the legends that are a part of the Kennedy Track & Field team today; all hardworking individuals that have maintained an unquenchable passion for the sport throughout their athletic careers. When asked about who were

legendary athletes that had been members of the track and field team in the past, Co-Head Coach Daniel Sanchez had a unique response.

“I would not name any athletes as ‘legends,’” Sanchez said. “The whole team, alumni included, are the legends.”

As the season continues on, we are excited to see how these athletes will perform this year. Their hard work and tenacity have definitely not gone unnoticed. Go Fighting Irish!

BASEBALL SWINGS INTO SEASON

DOMINIQUE PRADO
Staff Reporter

In the current 2019 baseball preseason, Frosh, JV, and Varsity have played a number of preseason games that helped the team prepare for what is to come during League. All three levels have already begun their regular season the first week of February. The team has been practicing since late September. Having this much time in preseason with long practices and numerous scrimmages, the team has had enough preparation to compete for the league championship and possibly go on to CIF. Baseball has a very large team with outstanding talent and winning league could be the first time since 2003.

“I think the team is ready for regular season we’ve practiced to get ready for this and worked hard to get here,” junior baseball player Ethan Oliver said.

With all the time, energy, and teamwork they have put in this year they believe they will make it far this 2019 season. Many believe that the teams can make it all the way to CIF.

“I feel that as a team we are very close and have a better sense of teamwork that will help us play better this season,” Oliver said.

No matter the past season’s scores and averages, baseball is ready to come back stronger. The teams continue to train ev-

eryday after school to prepare for what is yet to come during their regular season.

Along with the players, there is also an ongoing support system of teachers, parents, coaches, and students on campus.

“I see a hard working team that works hard both during a game or practice. The team has great work ethic and can surely be successful this season,” Kennedy coun-

selor Vaishali Bennett said.

Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Frosh played their first games on Feb.12 against Katella. This resulting in Varsity winning 4-1. JV and Frosh tied their games 6-6 and 2-2 against Katella. The Fighting Irish Baseball teams came off to a great start beating and tying the Katella Knights all across the board.

Kennedy Baseball is ready to push the limits and excel this season. It won’t be easy for the teams but it surely isn’t impossible if they want it enough. Because in the end it’s which team that wants it more than the rest, and that’s the team that will succeed. The Fighting Irish will continue to work hard leading up to their first home rivalry game on April 17.



Courtesy of KENNEDY BASEBALL
Senior Albert Munoz makes a throw from first base.



TRAVELING DOWN THE STREET

MAHAM MEMON

Photo Editor



The big rivalry game for boys basketball took place at Kennedy's home court at 6 p.m. on Jan. 31 against Cypress. After a hard-fought game, the Kennedy Fighting Irish lost 75-30 against the Centurions.

Because of tradition, the rivalry game is one of the only basketball games that many students attend where the crowd's excitement and enthusiasm remained consistent throughout the game. Regardless of the scoreboard, the cheering never stopped and the support was unchanging throughout.

"The Cypress basketball game is the only game I went to all season because of all the hype around our rivalry with Cypress and to show some school spirit," senior Valerie Pugh said.

The Fighting Irish ended off first quarter with six points, four by senior Cameron Ducree and two by senior Dontay Deese. Sophomores Sean Jusi and Robert Caranto both scored two points each in the second quarter.

"I was most proud of watching my son grow into a team leadership role throughout his time at Kennedy," Jermaine Ducree said.

The first half was the most enjoyable to watch, with our team scoring ten points.

However, the third quarter was when the crowd had the most energy. Ducree led the score with eight points of his own, followed by junior Aiden Kosaka with five, junior D.J. Williams with three, and senior Nonso Ikeji with two. The quarter added 18 points to the 10 for a total of 28 points for the end of third.

The team fought hard in the fourth quarter, but the Centurions really picked it up as time went on. Luckily, both Ikeji and Deese made one point each during the last quarter.

"Playing against Cypress is always special for me because I feel like my level of play increases when I step on the court against them," Ducree said.

The crowd felt the team's spirit through watching the game. Regardless of the scoreboard, the crowd continued to support Kennedy, with Varsity Cheer hyping up the crowd until the very last second and parents standing up in full encouragement for their children to continue the fight.

The Fighting Irish ended the game with 30 points and The School Down the Street with 75. Overall, it was entertaining to watch, as the team worked vigorously to give us a great game.



MAHAM MEMON/The Shamrock

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March 25-28, 2019
Held from 9:00-3:15pm



HOW SUPERHEROES HAVE INFLUENCED POP CULTURE

NOJITHA RANAWEERA
Staff Reporter

Writer and publisher for Marvel Comics, Stan Lee, alongside with Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko, created some of the most iconic superheroes of all time. In Lee's stories, one of the things that made the good guys so interesting to read about was their emotional vulnerability. They themselves were not always sure they were the heroes. This helped Lee's characters stand out from the other previous superheroes portrayed as perfect, unrealistic beings. Lee gave his characters real-life issues like Iron Man's alcoholism or Spider-Man's struggle to pay his bills, which made these characters more relatable. From Iron Man to Spider-Man, to Black Panther and the X-Men, these characters go on to capture the imagination and hearts of millions worldwide.

"Just because you have superpowers, that doesn't mean your love life would be perfect," Lee said. "I don't think superpowers automatically means there won't be any personality problems, family problems or even money problems. I just tried to write characters who are human beings who also have superpowers."

Superheroes played a huge role in pop culture ever since the first superhero comics came out in the late 30s and 40s. Superman, from DC Comics, is regarded as the "first" superhero who is known as an alien with special powers, god-like strength, and

a hero who fights for justice. The character made his first appearance in 1938, becoming a known figure in pop culture as of today. Born out of the pages from Marvel comics during WW2, Captain America, or Steve Rogers, was once a scrawny kid from Brooklyn, until the help of a new experimental serum makes him into a super soldier. This figure became so popular, not only as successful propaganda but as another icon in pop culture.

Comic books continued to grow in popularity as the two most dominant comic book franchises, Marvel and DC, kept creating more comic books with new characters. Each franchise branched out and created new series featuring these new heroes. This attracted more and more fans as the years went on.

The demand for comics diminished slightly, but exploded again in the 70s and 80s, as video games began to rise in popu-

larity. However, movies in the 70s and 80s were not as successful as they are now. Superheroes started to lose popularity in the cinema until characters such as the X-Men, Fantastic Four, and Spider-Man made their first live action debut on the big screen. These movies paved a way for the massive popularity of superheroes in the starting in the early 2000s.

During the 70s, 80s, and 90s, Marvel sold off the rights to many of their characters. With this leading to various heroes and villains currently being stuck with other studios. But in 1993, Marvel decided to take a more active role in their cinematic future and founded Marvel Films. However, in 1996, Marvel Films changed its name to the now known billion dollar company, Marvel Studios. Marvel Studios began working on bringing a number of characters to the big screen. Marvel Studios began life with the birth of the Marvel

Cinematic Universe (MCU).

"We always have lofty expectations for any of our films," Marvel Studios' president, Kevin Feige said. "They're very expensive and we put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into them."

The DC Extended Universe (DCEU) was created to push DC's popular characters to the big screen and to compete against the well established, MCU. However, compared to the MCU, the DCEU's first few films were criticized for its bad writing and plot holes, earning bad reviews from critics. The newer films have earned great reviews, and have shown to be wonderful superhero movies. The DCEU is still growing and is in the process of creating new content, so no one can say for sure what the future has in store for this cinematic universe.

"In my opinion the DCEU has a lot of films that I've come to enjoy," senior Chris Garcia said. "Most of their films are hated but for some reason I love them. I hope to see the DCEU grow to be as popular as the MCU because I love these characters and they deserve justice."

These movies and many more are what strengthens the superhero theme in pop culture to this day. Superheroes have a great influence on not only children and fans but even parts of history as they continue to exist. Even though comic books are still being read by thousands, movies are a new media to present the same characters to new and old audiences.



Illustration courtesy of GOOGLE

AWARD SHOW RECAP

MELISSA PERALTA
Staff Reporter

The Golden Globes were held on Jan. 6, 2019 and when it came to public opinion, they were a hit or miss. "Bohemian Rhapsody" went home with Best Picture in the Drama category, and actor Rami Malek, who played Freddie Mercury, took the award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture in the Drama category. "Spiderman: Into the Spideverse" won Best Animated Feature. "A Star is Born" won Best Original Song. "Green Book" left with the awards for Best Motion Picture in the Musical or Comedy category and Best Screenplay, with actor Maher-



Courtesy of ABC News
From left: Oscar winners Rami Malek, Olivia Colman, Regina King, and Mahershala Ali.

shala Ali taking the awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture. Sandra Oh was the first Asian-American woman to host the Golden Globes and won the award for Best Supporting Actress in a television series for "Killing Eve" — making her the first Asian woman to win in multiple categories. The night was gratifying in terms of diversity, but it left "Black Panther" fans shocked in the lack of winnings for the movie considering its box office results and smashing hit among moviegoers.

The Grammys were on Feb. 10, 2019. Donald Glover, otherwise known as Childish Gambino, won four Grammys for his song "This is America," Record of the Year, Song of the Year, Best Rap/Sung Performance, and Best Music Video. Dua Lipa won the award for Best New Artist. Lady Gaga took home two Grammys for her songs "Joanne (Where Do You Think You're Goin'?), and "Shallow," earning Best Pop Solo Performance and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance respectively. Drake won the Grammy for Best Rap Song with "God's Plan." Ariana Grande took the Grammy for Best Pop Vocal Album with her album "Sweetener," despite not being present to receive it. Cardi B won the Best

Rap Album Grammy for her album "Invasion of Privacy," to the dismay of many Mac Miller fans, including Ariana Grande, who were hoping he would receive the award posthumously.

The Oscars were held on Feb. 24, 2019 without a host after controversy with comedian Kevin Hart created due to his past homophobic tweets. "Bohemian Rhapsody" took four awards: Best Film Editing, Best Sound Mixing, Best Sound Editing, and Best Actor given to Rami Malek for his portrayal of Freddie Mercury. "A Star

is Born" won the award for best original song with "Shallow," making Lady Gaga the first woman to win an Oscar, Grammy, BAFTA, and Golden Globe in the same year. "Green Book" won the awards for Best Supporting Actor given to Mahershala Ali — which coupled his Golden Globe win in January, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Picture. Its Best Picture win was met with shock from viewers who believed the movie inadequate when compared to its competitors. It was considered a step back from the diverse advances made.

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UPCOMING MOVIES



KARL HAYS
A&E Editor

As the much anticipated conclusion to the last 22 Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) films and the sequel to 2018's "Avengers: Infinity War," "Avengers: Endgame" is the culmination of 10 years of filmmaking and storytelling. The breathtaking Third Act of "Avengers: Infinity War" resulted in cliffhangers as the audience awaits its finale. Marvel Studios' President Kevin Feige has stated that upcoming trailers will only feature moments from the first 15 minutes of the film as to not spoil later plot points and leave people guessing until opening day. The film is directed by the tight-lipped Anthony and Joe Russo, masterminds behind Infinity War. The cast stays constant to the previous film, as well as newcomers Brie Larson, Katherine Langford, and more. "Avengers: Endgame" will release on April 26, 2019, almost exactly one year after Infinity War.

"Us," directed by Jordan Peele, is Peele's second directorial debut into the horror/thriller genre. Peele's first film, "Get Out," (2017) was a smash hit admired by critics and audiences alike. This time, the film features stars Winston Duke, Lupita Nyong'o, Evan Alex, and Shahadi Wright Joseph as the Wilson family who visit their quaint beach house to enjoy time with friends. But, their serenity turns into chaos when strange visitors arrive that bare a striking resemblance to themselves. Time will tell what strange events unfold when "Us" hits theaters on March 21, 2019.

"Star Wars: Episode IX" is directed by

J.J. Abrams, the director of the first Star Wars film under the Disney regime and the seventh in the saga, "Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens." With the success of Episode VII and the fandom-splitting "Star Wars VIII: The Last Jedi," directed by Rian Johnson, many have speculated that J.J. won't be able to finish what he started after Johnson "ruined the saga," as well as Abrams's inability to cap off a proper finale for franchises. There still is hope in the galaxy, however. With this film said to be the final conclusion to the Skywalker Saga as well as being credited as "The war to end all wars" by actor John Boyega, we may be getting the largest scaled galactic adventure we have all been ready for. Episode IX comes out on Dec. 20, 2019 in a galaxy far, far away.

"Toy Story 4" is directed by Josh Cooley, and will be the surprising fourth installment of the story of Woody, Buzz, and the rest of the gang. The cast from the previous three films will reprise their roles, respectively, along with newcomers Keegan Michael Key as Ducky, Jordan Peele as Bunny, and Keanu Reeves who is fit for an unknown role at this time. Tom Hanks, the voice of Woody, has gone on record saying this film is "profound" and a "moment in history." He went on to say "If you thought you cried a lot at the end of "Toy Story 3" then you're in for another doozy." The toys are set to come back to play on June 21, 2019.

Starting from top to bottom: Images (on the left) Courtesy of WALT DISNEY STUDIOS MOTION PICTURES, UNIVERSAL PICTURES, and PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS



KARL HAYS
A&E Editor

"The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part" is directed by Mike Mitchell and is the fourth LEGO branded movie so far. After the invasion of the DUPLO aliens at the end of the last film, the town of Bricksburg is left in pieces. After five years, the citizens of Bricksburg have adapted to a more rugged and cool "Mad Max" esque look. However Emmet, voiced by Chris Pratt, seems to not have changed a bit. He is still the lovable and joyful minifigure that he has always been. His master-building girlfriend Lucy, voiced by Elizabeth Banks, thinks he should grow up like everyone else. One day, an invader from the Systar Star System comes to capture Emmet's friends, along with his beloved Lucy. From here we follow Emmet on his quest to retrieve his pals.

First off, may I start by saying that the last few LEGO movies, on paper, this sounds like nonsense. One could dismiss these ideas based off the fact alone that it's built, no pun intended, around the concept of a universe that is essentially a hour and a half commercial for kids' building block toys, but it is much more than that. It actually has very dramatic tones and you can feel empathy for some of these figures.

The amount of effort put into making this world feel real and believable is stunning. You can tell that each and everything made for this movie, whether it is real LEGO stop motion or created using a computer, was fully realized and not restrained by uncanniness. Everything feels real. The figures move in the bounds that minifigures have to move, along with other characters with unique abilities and features having some real world basis in why they are the way they are.

The humor in this movie is pretty on par with the first film, having something for both kids and adults to enjoy. However there are some jokes that don't land, but it is a rare occurrence when they don't. Another issue that some may have with the film is the amount of song and dance there is. As opposed to the first LEGO Movie, this film can almost be considered a musical. And like the first film, there are catchy songs that get stuck in your head. Quite literally, there's a song called "This Song is Gonna Get Stuck In Your Head." Many of the songs can be a bit annoying, however they are quick so they pass by and aren't too jarring.

Overall, "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part" is excellent. It has something for everybody, adults and kids alike. It is funny and charming with incredible visuals, including a great overall message.



All Images Courtesy of WARNER BROS.



All Images Courtesy of UNIVERSAL PICTURES

NICOLE NGUYEN
Opinions Editor

After 19 years and two films that have pushed Mr. Glass, David Dunn, and Kevin Wendell ever deeper into the unimaginable, director M. Night Shyamalan has completed his postmodern, comic book trilogy.

In two films over the past two decades, beginning with the gradual thriller "Unbreakable" made in 2000 and the psychological horror "SPLIT" in 2016, Shyamalan has established himself as one of the most accomplished movie talents at work today. Shyamalan is again pursuing large notions about psychiatry, anthropomorphic nature, disorientation, and manipulation, as he did in "Unbreakable," "Split," and "The Sixth Sense," as well as more personal themes about the loss of kin and search for identity. However, in "Glass," these preoccupations are disgracefully anchored to elements from the caper movie in its slow pace and isolated movement.

"It is a torrid film that you have to look through to see the motivation for its cre-

ation," Twitter user @shaunwoods said. "It makes no sense in parts and the action, direction, and dialogue are torrid and painful."

The story itself is weak, only providing a greater service with its star cast in which scenes run over and over in the promos, and are unfortunately the only parts worth watching. Extended scenes and overlaid concepts construct a more tiresome view than intended. Though Shyamalan should receive credit for trying to elicit what realities comic books impose on daily life, the overall execution was done poorly.

Most of the film is spent pent up in an advanced sanatorium, encased in white and composed with the cliché counterparts of annoyed caretakers. In fact, the entire movie is embodied within the shape and function of an abandoned asylum. In which the characters are tortured and examined to find scientific evidence that might prove their extraordinary strengths. However, the overplayed scenes, the mock-up setting, and the constant comic-book references are merely used as a wasted effort

to convince the audience that Shyamalan was "a kid who can never grow old."

In fact, this film could have been better directed by a child whose knowledge on Freud's Psychosexual Developmental Theory and of the Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID) could have made for a more fast-paced and entertaining plot.

"For whatever reason, Shyamalan lacks the gift of triangulation," Movie critic Tim Robey said. "At any given stage, his film feels like it's flatly forgotten about one of its three leads, and the chatty middle stretches are just a waiting game for the whole trio to be brought into play."

The biggest problem with Shyamalan's latest film is the pace. And with characters as vivid as Mr. Glass, David, and Kevin's multiple personalities; engineering the film in an anchored and gentle parley only does a disservice to the imagination of the characters. "Glass" proved what infantilizing fantasies Shyamalan could produce that only the likes of money could buy, and not what the gains of a talented writer could conjure.

