

# The Shamrock

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

John F. Kennedy High School

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 1

## CONSTRUCTION CRAZE

Students, parents, and staff left in a state of disarray due to campus construction.



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## ABORTION DEBATE

Pregnancy termination: a woman's choice to a new life or the killing of a potential one?



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## MARVEL MADNESS

Get the latest on America's favorite web-slinger and his notorious archenemy.



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# The Controversy Of KAVANAUGH

On Oct. 6, 2018, the Senate voted 50-48 to confirm Brett Kavanaugh as the 114th U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Kavanaugh previously served at the highest appeals court and is well-known for his involvement in controversial cases, such as the investigation of President Bill Clinton and the 2000 presidential election recount in Florida.

President Donald Trump, who nominated Kavanaugh to replace conservative Justice Anthony Kennedy on July 9, applauded Kavanaugh's confirmation.

"I applaud and congratulate the U.S. Senate for confirming our GREAT NOMINEE," Trump said. "Later today, I will sign his Commission of Appointment, and he will be officially sworn in. Very exciting!"

Kavanaugh's road to confirmation was marked with tension from the beginning. Although the prospect of his appointment would not have changed the 5-4 conservative majority in the Court, Kavanaugh is speculated to reject the status quo on issues such as abortion, LGBT rights, and healthcare during his lifetime seat.

Protesters gathered before his confirmation hearing on Sept. 4 in opposition to him.

During the hearings, senators of the Democratic Party interrupted Kavanaugh on multiple occasions to object to the withholding of documents from his days as a White House attorney during the sec-



ARIS FOLLEY/THE HILL  
Kavanaugh, and his accuser, Blasey Ford, testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

ond Bush administration.

Further controversy arose when Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, an American psychologist and professor at Palo Alto University, accused Kavanaugh of sexual assault dating back to their time in high school. This allegation further sparked outrage against Kavanaugh.

"A person in that kind of position has one of the most important jobs in the government," senior Michelle Dominguez said. "If he really did that, it gives Americans the message that that sort of behavior is okay."

Kavanaugh denied the accusations, claiming that he did not remember the incident and that witnesses did not acknowledge the event. The Senate Judiciary Committee, upon hearing both sides, entered the conclusion to postpone the hearings until an official investigation occurred. Trump approved the FBI to investigate the case for one week.

After the investigation, the FBI concluded they were unable to bring significant evidence on the case. The Senate proceeded to vote and Kavanaugh was confirmed, adding tension to the upcoming midterm elections.

Democrats predict there will be an increased number of women voters due to anger at the proceedings, while Republicans believe Kavanaugh's confirmation had built enough momentum for them to win a majority in Congress once again.

## SCORING WITHOUT SUBS

### ALIVIA GARCIA

Staff Reporter

From looking at the statistics of Kennedy's varsity boys water polo team, you would never assume that these league champions, 17-1 team, was playing every game without substitutes. Water polo has been known to be one of the most rigorous sports to many athletes; the intensity of water polo games has to do both with the physical altercations that occur under the water's surface and the non-stop flow of the game.

Most college level water polo teams have an average roster of around 20 to 25 players; having more players ready on the bench allows for the physically exhausted starters to take a break before they are ready to get back into the game. However, Kennedy's team does not have this luxury.

"It's very tiring playing without subs," junior Byron Hung said. "I believe our

team is short on players because it's mainly looked down upon in our school."

This varsity team of only 10 boys added to their winning streak at the Katella High School boys water polo tournament. They had a strong victory over Cypress, winning 16-9, which advanced them into the championship game against Laguna Hills, with a 15-4 win.

"We've only lost one game so far, so I'd say we are doing pretty good," co-captain Juan Anguiano said.

Anguiano is the team's varsity setter and has played with the team since his freshman year. This is the first year Anguiano has had to play without subs.

"Since we don't have any subs, most of us have to work harder. But I know we can pull through and still have a good season," Anguiano said.

The team's goalie, sophomore Ryan Kennedy, has been playing water polo

since his freshman year. After only one year of experience, Kennedy has already secured his place as the team's first string goalie.

"For it being my first year on varsity, I feel super welcomed by the other guys on the team," Kennedy said.

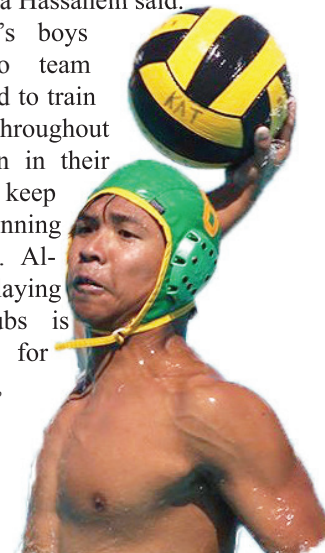
In water polo, goalies tend to never have a break since their role does not involve as much swimming as the other field positions. Since their position is less about swimming, they are more focused on being able to jerk quickly through the water and are expected to move from one side of the goal to the other in a matter of seconds.

"Since I'm a goalie, having no subs doesn't really matter too much to me, but for the other guys it looks pretty painful," Kennedy said.

As for the field players, being able to swim fast and maintain stamina is paramount; this is why having subs is critical.

"I wish we had more players on our team, but it just means that we have to work harder than all the other teams," junior Mostafa Hassanein said.

Kennedy's boys water polo team worked hard to train non-stop throughout their season in their quest to keep their winning streak alive. Although playing without subs is exhausting for the team, they .



GRANT HAYS/JFK Water Polo  
Junior Byron Hung at the Katella tournament.

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ENGAGE



EDUCATE



EMPOWER



# A Fight For The Truth

KASSIE DO  
Managing Editor

On Oct. 25, 2018, the Saudi Arabian government confirmed that Jamal Khashoggi -- a Washington Post journalist and dissident -- was killed in a planned operation at the Saudi consulate in Turkey on Oct. 2.

The announcement justified Turkish belief that Khashoggi's death had been premeditated.

Entering the consulate to secure a marriage document, witnesses claim to have not seen Khashoggi leave. There was no further investigation into his disappearance by either the Saudi or Turkish forces until his death was officially announced.

Rumored to be a quarrel-turned-fatal fistfight by the Saudi Foreign Ministry last week, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) stated that "new leaks... splashed in lurid detail" from the Turkish Intelligence conflicts with that presumption.

This prompted uncertainty toward the operation of Saudi Arabian agents in Khashoggi's interrogation and subsequent dismemberment. Though international investigations were conducted, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reported



JACQUELYN MARTIN/Associated Press  
Citizens protest the disappearance of Khashoggi outside the Saudi consulate.

the fallacy of the Saudi Arabian statement with auditory corroboration.

"Intelligence and security institutions have evidence showing the murder was planned," Erdogan said during a speech at the Turkish capital of Ankara.

Turkish intelligence officials substantiated their claim, questioning the validity of Saudi investigations. To combat contradiction, the Saudi claim of the alleged brawl was later revised to acknowledge Khashoggi's murder but no immediate address to Turkish suspicion.

Reports also verify that King Salman was advised to reconstruct intelligence services, now under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's management. This call-to-action temporarily protects Saudi Arabian presence, but the progression of opposing convictions doubted its legitimacy.

In addition to international inquiry, Khashoggi's American residency elicited U.S. examination. American intelligence suggested, with evidence, of the crown prince's involvement, detailing the leader's security detail under his consequent order, contingent

to Turkish claims.

Public apprehension about Salman's interior knowledge pressured the Saudi Arabian government to explain the divergence of the growing evidence and Saudi Arabian assertions.

"He's running things and so if anybody were going to be [informed], it would be him," President Donald Trump said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

While Turkish and American intelligence supplies the public with ratification suspecting Saudi emissary, the contrast between claims caused widespread skepticism, provoking a tenacity to bring justice to Khashoggi's death.

"They should've told Turkish officials in the first place to halt growing suspicion," senior Maureen Sobremisana said.

The credibility of preceding accounts and the consequent Saudi Arabian surrender ultimately brings forth Khashoggi's killers through investigative scrutiny. The tangibility for justice was sought and achieved; further doubt in Saudi Arabia's presence with U.S. affairs will set a precedent for future international affiliation.

## Election Excitement: 2018 Midterms

ORLANDO CABALO  
Copy Editor



Millions of Americans, from the sunny shores of Miami to the bustling boroughs of New York City and the countless coffee shops of Seattle, are expected to take to the polls to cast their ballots for the Midterm elections on Nov. 6.

This looming election has left both Democrats and Republicans in a state of fear over who will win not only in Congress, but in the state legislatures as well.

Although many political pundits have predicted that Democrats are likely to recapture the House, the Senate is expected to be a far more difficult battle for the left. The Democrats must defend many of their own seats, while most Republicans are not up for election this November.

"With strong Democratic candidates and well-oiled campaigns in over 60 districts, and recruiting still ongoing until the last filing deadline, there is no question that we will be ready to benefit from Republican dysfunction," Democratic spokesperson Meredith Kelly said.

According to predictions from CBS, due to a small number of Republican incumbents running along with the wave of Democratic candidates up for re-election, the Senate is ripe for Republicans to bolster their slim majority.

"Presidential Approval numbers are very good - strong economy, military and just about everything else. Better numbers than Obama at this point, by far," President Donald Trump said on Twitter. "We are winning on just about every front and for that reason there will not be a Blue Wave, but there might be a Red Wave!"

Although Trump's words seem encouraging to those predicting a massive Republican "Red Wave," parts of Trump's tweet have been proven false, leading to some speculation.

For example, Trump's claim of "very good" Presidential Approval ratings are misleading. According to CNBC, only President George W. Bush showed mid-term approval ratings "as low as Trump's recent sub-40 percent levels."

Despite the president's claims, as the election inches forward, the only thing certain is the immense pivotality to the government's

# Mayhem in Myanmar

JONATHAN GAD  
Staff Reporter

Since Aug. 25, 2017, nearly 700,000 Rohingya refugees have fled from their hometown, Northern Rakhine, Myanmar, in an exodus to flee persecution.

Beginning in 2014, the predominantly Buddhist country began excluding Rohingya Muslims from the national census. As of recently, the Myanmar government has begun a series of militant attacks towards its Muslim community.

A report dating back to July 2018 by Fortify Rights, an American nonprofit organization investigating human rights abuses, showed that the dilemma began when Rohingya militants

attacked dozens of Myanmar police outposts.

This led to months of meticulous and systematic planning by the Myanmar government to commit crimes against its indigenous civilians.

According to BBC News, the United Nations has labeled this as a "textbook example of ethnic cleansing" and has considered it to be the world's fastest growing refugee crisis. This crisis has been overlooked by the majority of the world news platforms, so the country of Myanmar has continued its persecution of the people of Rakhine for numerous decades.

"A United States government investigation concluded that Myanmar's military orchestrated

a 'well-planned and coordinated' campaign of violence against the country's Rohingya minority, but stopped short of labeling the atrocities 'genocide' or 'crimes against humanity,'" Time News reporter Eli Meixler said.

Although lacking the official title of a genocide, an estimated minimum of 6,700 Rohingya were killed within a month after the violence broke out. As they flee with almost no belongings to neighboring countries, most victims have been forced to settle among refugee camps in Bangladesh.

"Genocide doesn't happen spontaneously," chief executive officer of Fortify Rights Matthew F. Smith said. "Impunity for these crimes will pave the path for more violations and attacks in the future."

With no protection against the attacks of the Myanmar militia, many of the female refugees were subject to physical and sexual abuse by security forces and are being stripped away from their families and children, either to be slaughtered or raped. Methods of fatality among others were also gruesome as perpetrators would lock groups of people in buildings to burn them, fence off villages before shooting into the crowd, and sink boats filled with

hundreds of fleeing Rohingya.

Although public opinion may assume that little is being done by the U.S. or the surrounding governments to assist the victims, it's reported that immediate first aid was given by foreign nations to the distraught refugees.

On top of the provision of supplies, appeals have been made by international countries to prevent further action from the Myanmar government. Nations such as the United Kingdom, the U.S., and Bangladesh have either pledged funds to aid in the support of those fleeing the country, built more shelters among highly populated refugee sites, suspended training for the Myanmar military, or urged the Myanmar government to stop the violence and displacement of all communities.

"I call on the international community, with all its strength, to join me in urging the leadership in Myanmar to bring such military operations to an end," former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said.

For a period of time, the international community had been unresponsive to the event. However, steps have now begun in order assist and restore this nation back to its former strength.



Courtesy of GOOGLE  
Refugees flee Myanmar in an attempt to board a rescue boat to Bangladesh.





## CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS

**GLORIA CHANG**  
News Editor

After months of construction, the new-and-improved student parking lot, along with its temporary walkway, opened on October 16.

This is the first phase of Kennedy's campus beautification project to be completed, funded by the Measure H bonds allocated to the school. The second phase of the project is starting next week and fencing has been established in the front of the school to prepare for the construction.

On Nov. 4, 2014, 55 percent of voters approved Measure H, a \$249 million school bond that aims to improve facilities throughout the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD).

Measure H was a direct response to AUHSD's Facilities Master Plan which estimated that the district had a demand for facility upgrades that would cost up to \$1.2 billion. The Board of Trustees granted John F. Kennedy High School \$6.1 million out of the bond to contract Balfour Beatty Construction for the school's onsite improvement project.

The project consists of a reconstruction of the student parking lot to improve traffic flow, security fencing around the perimeter of the campus, a digital marquee, the installation of solar carports in the parking lot, landscaping improvements to the horseshoe area, and new entry canopies.

Designs submitted for the project were approved in May 2018, and construction



PATRICIA NEELY/AUHSD

*Clockwise from top: Artist renderings show expected outcome of construction outside of the Kennedy Performing Arts Center, Attendance Office, and student drop-off zone.*

officially started on July 10. Assistant Principal Rafael Santiago is excited to see the improvements that will be taking place on campus this school year.

"When the whole construction is done, the campus will definitely be more secure," Santiago said. "The whole area next to KPAC will just be beautiful and the main entry to Kennedy. I think people will really love that the most."

While waiting for the new parking lot to open, both staff and students had difficulty with finding limited parking space on the

north side of campus.

English Teacher Tiffany Weir believed that the upgrades were necessary, but she also experienced inconveniences with the temporarily-shared parking lot.

"It took me much longer to get to work and get out of campus once school was over," Weir said. "Especially when I had to take my own kids to school in the mornings."

Many students had adjusted to these changes, however, either by arriving at school earlier in the morning or letting

their parents drop them off.

"The first two weeks of school were honestly a bit hectic," senior Patrick Yang said. "I had to adapt to the change, but after those two weeks, I adjusted my schedule so I could get to school on time. Now, it does not seem that big of a deal."

With Phase 2 starting next week, however students may expect even more complications to their daily routines.

Starting Monday, the zone between the student parking lot and the attendance office, as well as the area between the band room and Room 101 along the west side of Walker Street (including the sidewalk, grass, and walkway in front of the main office) will be closed for construction crews.

As the front of the school will be closed off by fencing, the bike rack will be moved to the middle of first court.

Students in Korean class can no longer cross directly at the crosswalk in front of the main office. These students must walk through first court, out the North parking lot gates, and down Walker Street to the crosswalk.

Students in rooms 901, 902, and 903 will no longer be able to enter through the doors which line this walkway. Instead, students must enter through Room 906 and walk through Room 905 on the way to their classroom.

The boys restroom next to 901 will also be closed. Students must instead use the first court restroom.

Phase 2 construction is expected to be completed by this December.

## MATH TUTORING UPGRADE

**JESSICA LE**  
Staff Reporter

Last year, students of Kennedy High School were offered a free tutoring program for those needing assistance with math. However, in the beginning of the year, it was nowhere to be found.

Many students and staff members had thought the program was discontinued, but the math tutoring program was not cancelled. In fact, it has evolved.

Although the math tutoring program was not mentioned in the first quarter of the school year, it has not dropped. It was postponed due to the lack of tutors available. Principal Dr. Regina Zurbano explained that because the school uses college students as tutors, it is difficult to find them.

"We use college students and like to keep our previous tutors, since they know our students and system," Zurbano said. "But they might have graduated or their schedule doesn't work with our schedule anymore."

Zurbano and the Anaheim Union High School District have already found one new tutor who will be starting soon and another tutor will be going through the hiring process.

"There are four tutoring spots that I want and it's not just going to math," Zurbano said. "We are looking into hiring four more subject areas because students need help in more than mathematics."

Students rely on aid for other subjects. Former tutor and biochemistry major of Cal State Long Beach, Nathan Gonzales, was a math tutor for the program. Although his job was to tutor math, he would help students with science as well.

"I was studying biochemistry so I was not only able to help in mathematics, but I could help in chemistry and biology," Gonzales said. "We just tried to help the students in any way that we could."

With the upcoming upgrade, students are excited for the wider variety of help. The math tutoring program last year was an enormous help for students who struggled in their classes. Senior Alisha Patel was able to keep her grades high.

"They helped me a lot. They helped me maintain an A and fully understand concepts which overall helped my homework and test grades," Patel said.

The upgrade of the math tutoring program will bring more opportunities for better GPAs in the school and better education for the students.

### The Shamrock

Dear Reader,

This volume of the newspaper exists because of, and for, you: the students and staff at Kennedy High School. *The Shamrock* is simply the medium through which we, the writers and editors, report the world as it is today. Our ultimate goal is to be honest, unbiased, and uncensored in accurately reporting the news as it happens. The journalists who bring you this content are a large and diverse bunch. We are passionate about this work and dedicated to its highest quality.

The writers this year are overwhelmingly new to this, meaning they offer something new to this paper and its content. From readers of the paper to writers of its content, they are dedicated to representing the school, community, and journalism itself as accurately as they can. This is the school's newspaper. It belongs to everyone who calls themselves a member of the Fighting Irish.

The world and its happenings are often uncomfortable, and there is no way that we at *The Shamrock* will sugarcoat it. We have worked tirelessly to make this inaugural issue of 2018-2019, hoping our hard work and deep passion flows from the pages as you read these words. This paper not only presents the news to the reader, but preserves it for future generations. We make this publication to properly represent this time to future generations; whether it be how sports were doing, what trends lived and died, what media is consumed, what students opinions looked like as a response to what the world is, who succeeded, and who made our school and world what it is. Thank you for reading with an open mind. Enjoy!

Best Regards,

*Larson*

Dominique Larson  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Shamrock*  
Class of 2019





## AN AP EXAM WITH ONLY PICTURES

ASHLEY CHASTINE  
Staff Reporter

Kelly Chong has taken on the role of the new AP Art History teacher this year on top of her responsibilities as an AP U.S. History teacher.

Chong majored in both History and Art History, specializing in neoclassical art ranging from the Renaissance Era to the Impressionist Era prior to teaching. She is more than qualified to teach Kennedy High School's only AP visual and performing arts history class. Many have been curious about what the class is about, seeing that it was offered in the counseling room last year when students were setting their schedules for next year.

"I wanted to take it because it's good to have as a head start for your college curriculum if you're going to major in an art," senior Denise Garcia said.

While Garcia is taking AP Studio Art instead of AP Art History, she sees the class as an interesting and important course to take. It will definitely help students get recognized by colleges based on the difficulty of the curriculum. The College Board Advanced Placement (AP) test is based off of a set of 250 pictures where the student writes a short response.

"In our class, we look at how to see anything that's visual in a different light. We focus on all aspects of the image," Chong said. "We focus on the context, form, and any emotions the piece can provoke."

This class isn't taught like traditional classes as its curriculum doesn't follow a textbook or require much homework. However, don't think this is a course is an "easy A". When writing the response for the AP test, you will have to apply all the terminology learnt as well as the strategies used to recognize specific details and their significance.

According to Chong, the students enrolled in her class have been doing well, even if the curriculum seems overwhelming with no set guidelines.

"I do enjoy the class because I love the teacher, and it's really interesting learning about so many different artworks and their meanings behind the obvious," senior Kaitlyn Soto said. "I'm also looking forward to our trip to Greece during spring break! I believe it'll be an amazing experience and will help me visualize the artwork from Greece more efficiently, really preparing me for the exam later on in May."

The students look forward to the school year and anticipate the time they will dedicate to the class.



Courtesy of KELLY CHONG  
AP Art History students discuss various pieces of art during a class cafe presentation.

## FLIPPING GENDER ROLES

ANGELA PARK  
Staff Reporter

With last year's mention of sophomore Jade Munoz being the only female player on Kennedy's football team, sophomore Daniel Radillo is another student athlete who flipped gender roles as the only male athlete on Kennedy's cheer team.

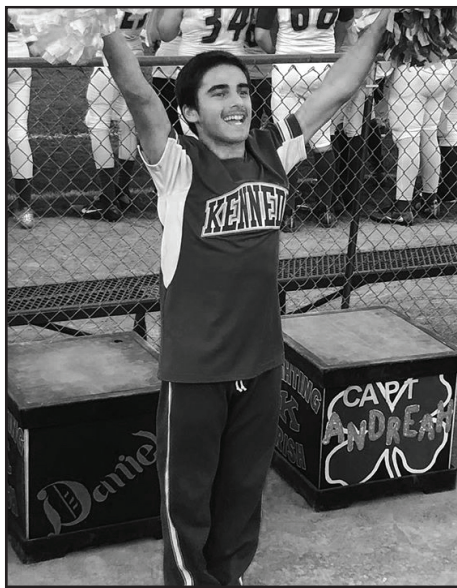
Even though cheer is stereotyped as a "girly sport," it did not hold Radillo back from doing what he was passionate about. Strangely, Radillo's cheer career didn't begin with him having an interest in cheer though. In fact, throughout junior high, Radillo's favorite hobby was solving Rubik's cubes. It wasn't until eighth grade when Radillo made a friend who did parkour, inspiring him to pursue cheerleading.

"I started practicing parkour with him after school, and it's been my main hobby ever since," Radillo said. "While I can still solve Rubik's cubes, I mostly just do parkour now."

Radillo gained experience from doing parkour which translated into his cheer career. After hearing that a spot on the cheer team was open, he began cheering last year on the JV team at Troy High School as a freshman. He started coming out to the practices and eventually became a permanent member as a flyer.

"I had fallen in love with the sport, and now I can't imagine myself not doing cheer," Radillo said.

As Radillo transferred to Kennedy for his sophomore year, he knew he was going to continue his cheering pursuit. His skills and experience ultimately landed him a po-



Courtesy of ARMANDO RADILLO  
Radillo displays courage by breaking gender stereotypes as the only male cheerleader.

sition on varsity as a base. Radillo experienced both the pros and cons of being the only male cheerleader, however.

"I definitely enjoy the attention it brings, but sometimes being treated differently isn't the best," Radillo said. "I'll get tons of compliments after rallies, but I've been made fun of for being on the team."

It's always terrifying going against social norms because of what people might say, but Radillo's passion in cheerleading has dismissed the difference of his gender. Despite the inevitable negativity, he always looked on the brighter side of everything. He was able to overcome obstacles with bravery and his love for cheer. His teammates and coaches thus recognize his

drive for improvement and took notice of how hard he works.

"He's really dedicated to succeeding in something and never settles for failure," senior spirit captain Katherine Byun said. "If he can't get a tumbling skill or a stunt as a flyer or base, he'll work forever to get it and never believe it's impossible."

Radillo is not only a hard worker, but someone who also inspires and motivates the people around him, especially his teammates.

"He pushes people to be able to go out of their comfort zone when they learn a new skill," Byun said. "Also, what's inspiring about Daniel is that he doesn't let people affect him. He's the only guy and he knows it."

Radillo pushes himself to the best of his abilities. His coaches and teammates are in awe by Radillo's dedication and effort to be able to accomplish something.

"Tumbling is a challenging skill as it is, but Daniel took his time out of practice to self-teach himself the skill," cheer coach Shantini Moore said. "It's extremely inspiring how Daniel is so goal oriented and doesn't let anyone get in his way for what he's genuinely passionate about doing."

Radillo had some ups and downs being the only male cheerleader on the team, but he continues to be resilient every day. Radillo and many other student athletes that do play specific gender affiliated sports, prove that gender roles are truly transforming; these stereotypes will soon be obsolete. Because of that hope, Radillo will continue to pursue his passion as a

## A Man of Music

SHAYLA PARKER  
Staff Reporter

On Aug. 2, 2018, Kennedy senior and drummer Adrian Manuel played a gig at the O.C. Fair. While it was far from one of his first shows, he considered it his most memorable.

"It was great really, it was like a new experience because I've always wanted to play at the O.C. Fair," Manuel said. "I definitely wanna go back there again."

To his surprise, more than a few people stopped to watch and listen. This led Manuel to feel rather energized, happy, and proud after the show.

"That's sort of like any other gig too. When it's just really high energy and everyone's sort of like feeling it, and then you can see that the crowd's getting into it too and it just feeds back," Manuel said.

He's seen big-name bands like Journey, Green Day, and The Eagles, in concert and has now kick-started his own musical career. Manuel has played more shows than he can count and collaborated with many different artists. As a fourth year member of Kennedy's Jazz Band, he has performed with the Shamrock Regiment at football games, field tournaments, the Katella Jazz Festival and Santa Barbara Jazz Festival (recognized at both as an Outstanding Soloist), and a St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ireland. Outside of school he has also

played at the Anaheim Gardenwalk House of Blues multiple times and the San Diego County Fair.

Kennedy alumni Grant Higashi described Manuel as amusing to watch. Having played with him, Higashi stated it is a different experience than that of playing with any other drummer.

"Adrian truly pours his heart out every time he plays," Higashi said.

Manuel intends to study music at the University of Southern California after he finishes high school to continue pursuing his dream of making it in the industry. He's stated that his main goal is to do what he loves.

While Manuel is more of a natural with the drums, there is a lot of work that needs to be put in for him to progress and grow.

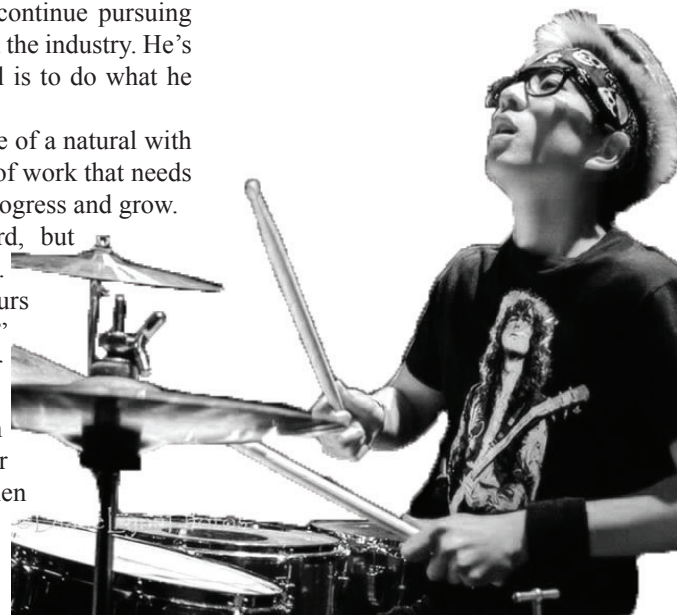
"He works very hard, but it's also a labor of love. He spends countless hours playing each week," Kennedy Band Director Dr. Parsons said.

The dream has been set in motion a bit further than just playing gigs when the opportunity arises. Adrian Manuel, Grant Higashi, and Brian Alvarez (Kennedy alumni) are beginning the process of

starting a band together as well.

"I think the basis around that is it's [the band] going to be like Green Day where there's three key members," Manuel said. "So I'm on drums, Grant's on guitar, and Brian will be on bass-- and occasionally sometimes for an acoustic set I could drop on guitar too."

Once the band gets going, he would like to inspire people with the same hopes of making it big in the music industry just as he was inspired.



Courtesy of DIANE LYNN PHOTOS  
Manuel plays along with Led Zeppelin tribute band, Led Zepagain, at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium.





## CHOIR TEACHER TURNED AP

**ASHLEY MONTERO**  
Features Editor

Sarah Anderson was elected as an assistant principal in 2017, due to the lack of staffing, along with the duties of being ASB coordinator and choir teacher. In doing so, she juggled an immense amount of work between ASB director, choir teacher and the position of assistant principal.

However, she decided that she wanted to focus on her family rather than having an overflowing amount of work so she decided to only keep the position of assistant principal in 2019.

"I miss seeing the kids everyday. I miss being in an environment where I was in a classroom situation where the kids could be more of themselves," Anderson said. "I was in an environment where they could shine in a different format regularly than a regular class setting. I miss seeing that spark."

The thing that she's going to miss the



ASHLEY MONTERO/ *The Shamrock*

*After years as ASB director and Choir adviser, Sarah Anderson moves up to Assistant Principal.*

most, however, is watching students pursue their passions and being able to help them find it. Although Anderson misses her former students, she gets to see a new variety of other children in a different light.

Anderson attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison as an undergraduate,

got her masters degree in education at Cal State Fullerton, and received her masters in choral conducting at UCLA. Anderson, being leader of choir and ASB for so many years, has become a pillar of efficiency which hasn't gone unnoticed.

"My first impression of Mrs. Anderson

was that she was hardworking and on top of things," senior Caitlin McCann said. "From the first day of choir she already knew everything we were doing for the year and had everything planned out to the last detail."

Many students were ecstatic that she remained working at John F. Kennedy High School for 15 years and counting.

There have been many fond memories of her helping teachers settle into aiding students with their passions. One specific memory from culinary teacher, Robyn Paratto, was that Anderson showed dedication to welcoming new representatives to the Kennedy staff.

"My first year at Kennedy, Mrs. Anderson came to me and was very supportive of being a new teacher on campus," Paratto said.

Anderson looks forward to the opportunity to continue influencing more staff members and students in her new role as assistant principal.

## New Teachers of Kennedy

MELISSA PERALTA  
JESSICA LE  
ASHLEY MONTERO  
Staff Reporters & Features Editor

### Choir



Imagine being in eighth grade again: introverted, anxious and not wanting to draw any attention to yourself. One day, you're talking to your friend and suddenly, she takes you by the hand and drags you along to the choir room, declaring that you were there to audition for the choir program.

This was the reality for Tanner Wilson, Kennedy's newest choir teacher, whose life was forever changed.

For Wilson, music provided him an opportunity to express himself, which was something he had a lot of trouble with growing up.

"There's easy days and there's hard days depending on where I'm at mentally," Wilson said. "I think everyone has a good day and everyone has a bad day."

Wilson makes a huge effort in making sure he knows his students' names. He says that he will sit at home studying and testing himself on seating charts, which is a huge feat, considering the hundreds of students in choir.

Wilson is looking forward to the upcoming year. He is assured that it will be a good one.

### Criminal Justice



With the departure of previous Criminal Justice teachers, a new teacher has emerged, and is no stranger to justice.

For 20 years, Robert Lavoie was in law enforcement where he fought crime as a Deputy Sheriff of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's department.

When reaching his highest point in the department, Lavoie went to Cal State Long Beach where he got his teaching credentials. After ten years of teaching Criminal Justice, Lavoie has found a home with the Fighting Irish.

"Being able to educate people, let them know what really goes on out there is my favorite part," Lavoie said.

Lavoie, so far, has made a good impression on his students.

"He's a really nice teacher. He seems to know what he's doing and he's really good at what he does," junior Amarion Strong said.

Students come to class to learn about the trials of criminal justice and how criminals, after arrest, are taken through the justice system.

Lavoie's excited for the school year to continue.

"I think it's gonna be great, I'm already enjoying it so far," Lavoie said.

### Science



Andrew Park is a new science teacher here at Kennedy High.

After spending some time working at Ball Junior High, Park yearned to teach high school once more.

"I took the opportunity to work at Kennedy because it's close to home, I'm in the community, and Kennedy has a great reputation," Park said.

This year, he is teaching chemistry for the first time in four years, and enjoys teaching it because he is able to re-learn concepts that he hasn't touched in a long time.

"What stands out for me is that my students are motivated to succeed, motivated to please a teacher, and want to do well for themselves without having a parent forcing them to," Park said.

With teaching at the high school level again and relearning a subject, Park is occupied more than ever. Despite it being a new experience, he doesn't seem to be troubled by it.

"I'm busier because I have to do a lot more grading but that's a good problem to have and it's a different culture from the previous schools I taught at in Los Angeles and at Ball,"

### English



Kayla Bruner always had positive experiences with English while attending Kennedy High School as a student.

Throughout the years, English has always stood out to her, which, led her to develop a passion for the subject.

Bruner previously taught at Savannah High School but due to lack of space, she was transferred to Kennedy. In her own words, she was ecstatic to be back at the school she graduated from.

"My sister is also a Kennedy graduate and she kept joking around saying 'oh yeah it is K-High for life because you're back,'" Bruner said.

Many of the teachers that previously taught her were surprised by her arrival as well. Some of her favorite moments since rejoining the Kennedy family have been catching up with her previous teachers.

"I remember Ms. Bruner as being a responsible, hard-working 9th grade student," English teacher Joanna Meyer said. "I enjoyed having her in my class to have her come back all these years later."

Not only was she happy to see some of her former teachers, she enjoys being back at Kennedy in general.

### Math



After teaching at various schools, Laurel Atkinson decided to settle down at Kennedy to teach her favorite subject: math.

Last year, Atkinson heard about a new position opening up at Kennedy, wating to experience a new work environment, she left her old school of Orangeview Jr. High.

For her, teaching is more than just a job; it's a passion. Atkinson has a passion for the subject because to her, math is a puzzle, which she has been fond of since childhood. It didn't occur to her that she was good at math and enjoyed it until the fourth grade.

"My teacher inspired me to appreciate math and see it as something that I could always figure out," Atkinson said. "And if I get it wrong I could always try it again."

Atkinson hopes to inspire her students as well. She wants her students to see her as a mentor and someone to look up to. Her goal is to know her students as more than just pupils, but as close consultants.

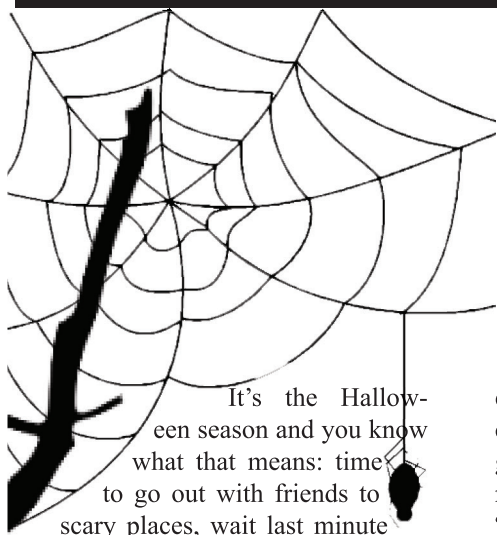
So far, Atkinson loves the school. She enjoys both her students and her fellow colleagues. She is excited for this year and is determined to be more involved this school year.





## History of HORROR

ASHLEY CHASTINE  
Staff Reporter



It's the Halloween season and you know what that means: time to go out with friends to scary places, wait last minute to make a costume you found on Pinterest, and most of all, watch scary movies. While the genre is not for everyone, there's something that makes us want to watch it over and over again, no matter the type of horror, the year released, or how cheesy the effects can look.

"I think one of the reasons it's so scary is that it seems possible," film critic and historian Leonard Maltin said. While it doesn't seem too possible that a doll can be possessed by a serial killer or that creatures have come to infect people and turn them into monsters, the way these films can get inside our minds and cause a paranoia for something that doesn't

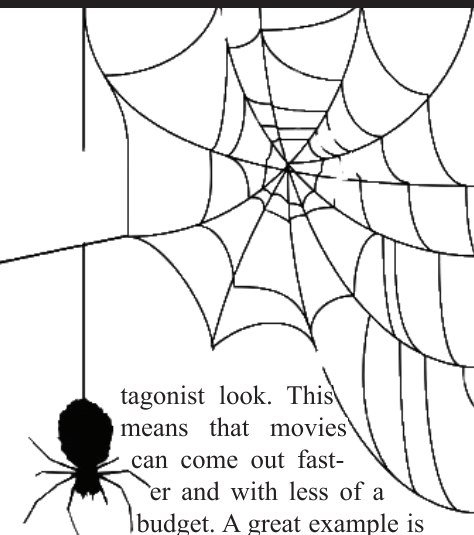
even exist is a talent acquired over the course of many decades, down to the beginning of the movie industry. One of the most famous examples is in the 1931 film, "Frankenstein." Finally creating the character that only lived in people's imaginations, Boris Karloff's interpretation of Frankenstein revolutionized the genre and made people want to see more. Within the 1930s to the 1970s, the monster genre of horror was popularized all over Hollywood, introducing many more famous characters such as Dracula, the Wolfman, the Creature from the Black Lagoon, and the Phantom of the Opera.

The expectations of horror were changed with the new subgenre of horror, the slasher. It started with John Carpenter's 1978 movie, "Halloween." Influenced by the talent of Stephen King, Carpenter went with the angle that his monster should be as shocking as possible not just showing its face, but also in building the character of the creature. In the older movies, we didn't know what the Wolfman's mindset was or how Dracula came to be how he is. Carpenter wanted to show the motivations of these characters.

"Stephen King once told me, 'Look the cliches in Hollywood are that you keep every monster in the dark. You never see the face of the devil, you never show it,' Carpenter said. "However, if you come up with something so astonishing looking on-screen, you'll hit a home run right out of the ballpark. They'll never forget it' So being stupid, I said, 'Let's do that.'"

Carpenter defined the horror film genre that would continue to come out of the 1980s. This includes some of the most famous movies of the entire horror genre. When interviewing over 150 students among the Kennedy campus, about 22.7% of those responses contained movies from this decade, including "Child's Play," "Halloween," "The Thing," "Friday the 13th," and "Nightmare on Elm Street."

As of our decade, we have moved onto the genre of occult or the supernatural built on our psy-



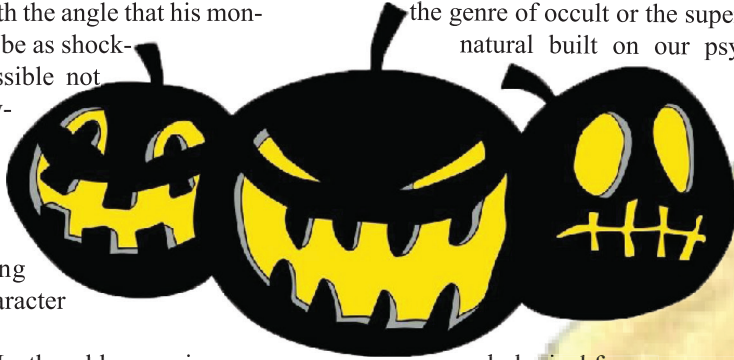
tagonist look. This means that movies can come out faster and with less of a budget. A great example is the smaller found footage genre, where most of the movies are centered around a real person holding the camera and running around, saving the company hundred of thousands of dollars they could have spent getting film equipment and operators, like in "The Blair Witch Project." The film never shows the witch, but the fear is palpable as it gives a very believable human reaction.

"Psychological is much more frightening to me than, you know, something out of the closet," main actress in the "Hellraiser" movies Ashley Laurence said.

According to our student random sample, over 25% of the students have said that their favorite genre is occult simply based on the fact that the most popular movie among Kennedy's students is "The Conjuring."

"The Conjuring' is so scary, but I love the way it ends. I'll never forget the ending and how much the ending messed me up," senior Maddy Bryan said.

Comparing this decade's movies to ones from almost 80 years ago are like comparing apples to oranges, but we have definitely developed our definition of horror in all the new method directors have changed the genre through their smaller genres.



chological fears. Expanding on Carpenter's ideas, many directors of this century have made their movies focused more on our story rather than how scary they can make their an-

## Origins of FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup>

DOMINIQUE LARSON  
Editor-in-Chief

There is nothing people love, and hate, more than fear. That is why this date lives in infamy. There is great speculation, both fact and myth, about the origins of the day and why it is dubbed "unlucky." It's not so much that the 13th day of the month being a Friday is inherently bad, but the combination of the unlucky day of the week with the unlucky number is what created this perfect storm: Friday the 13th.

In western culture, it is likely that western religion—Christianity—stirred up the fear. The professor of anthropology Phillips Stevens Jr. at Buffalo University studied the topic.

"There were 13 people at the table (at the Last Supper) and the 13th was Jesus," Stevens said. "The Last Supper was on a Thursday, and the next day was Friday, the day of crucifixion."

The fact that Jesus was crucified on a Friday is what makes the day so-called unlucky.

This superstition is ironic in western culture since the five-day work week ends

on Friday, making the day a sort of holiday and basis of worship in pop-culture.

"Overall I like Fridays," English teacher Katrina Tweed said. "Pop culture makes such a big deal about having to deal with Monday or counting down the days until the weekend."

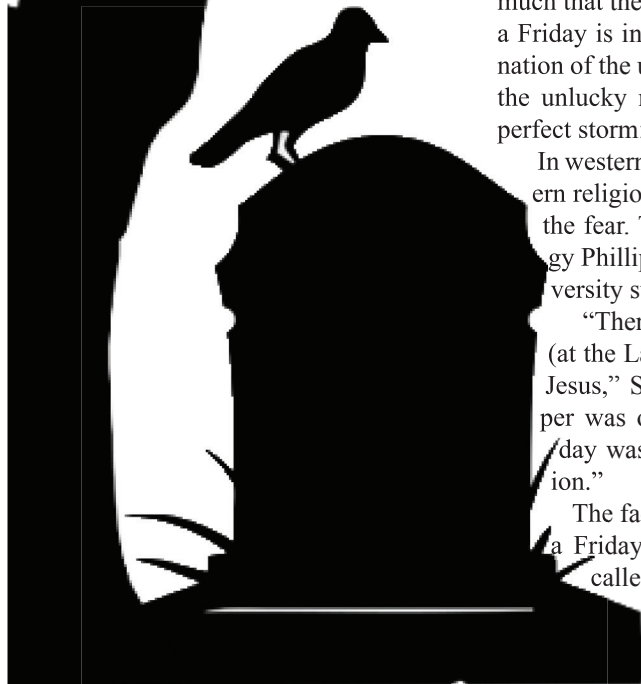
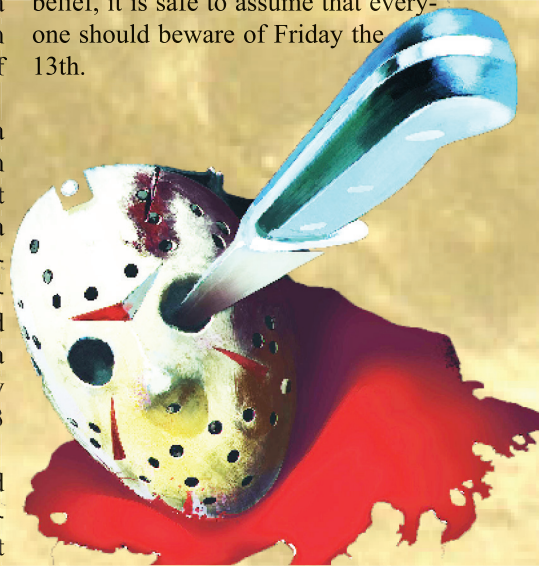
Tweed's favorite day of the week is actually Sunday, not Friday; she feels that people over-hype Fridays—disregarding the supposed "bad luck" associated with it. Because of this, Friday is no longer a condemned day on its own, but paired with the 13th day of the month, it is a day of misfortune.

It became unlucky to seat 13 people at a table because of the Last Supper, and from the fear of 13 came rampant throughout western society. This irrational fear has a name: triskaidekaphobia. This fear is ingrained into the society we live in, for example, most buildings all-together pretend not to have a thirteenth floor. This phobia may not describe a fear that is particularly commonplace, however, the belief that 13 is an unlucky number is.

"There have been situations where bad things have happened involving 13," senior Joslynn Padilla said. "So of course it

seems as if it is bad luck."

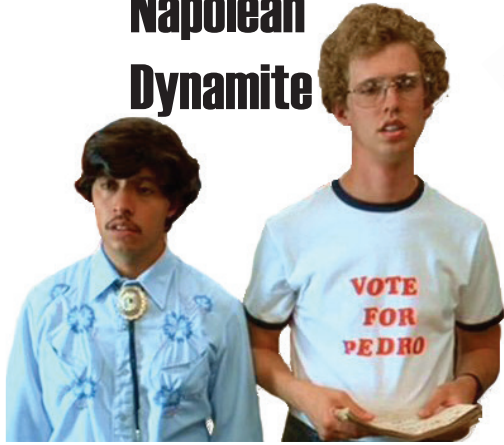
The severity of the views on Friday the 13th has changed and been reformed as society has aged. Despite the day starting as a reflection of the the crucifixion of Jesus, it has become less damning and tragic -- becoming sort of spooky, even fun. Some people get tattoos in celebration of the day or binge movies made in its honor of the date. Thirteen is even considered lucky in Chinese culture. No matter the personal belief, it is safe to assume that everyone should beware of Friday the 13th.





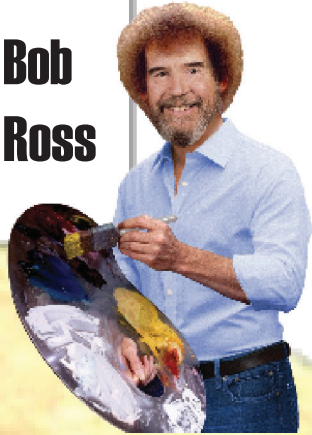
## LAST MINUTE COSTUME IDEAS

**Napolean Dynamite**



Grab a pair of Metal Clear Lens Glasses, a "Vote For Pedro" ringer T-Shirt, blue denim jeans, and some boots to put together your super sweet costume.

**Bob Ross**



Find a blue dress shirt, blue jeans, and artist's palette then you're good to go! (Add a painting for the full effect)

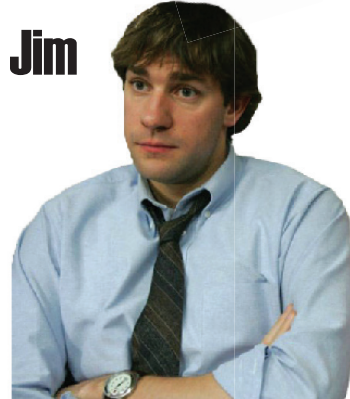
MARIA CALIXTO  
Staff Reporter

**Old School Dwayne**



Get a hold of a black turtleneck, an ice chain, a brown fanny pack, a black belt and blue denim jeans to look like Dwayne Johnson and have a laugh with your friends.

**Jim**



&

**Pam**



Grab your significant other and dress up like Jim Halpert and Pam Beesly. For Jim: Snag any blue or white dress t-shirt then add a tie and khakis. (Add 3 black circles if you'd like to dress up as "3-hole punch Jim") Referencing Season 2 Episode 5 For Pam: If you want to dress up as popular TV receptionist Pam Beesly, you can use a white shirt, a pink cardigan, a plaid skirt, and white shoes.

## SPOOKY WORD SEARCH

D E M O N T S O H G H Y S M P  
L A C E R A T I O N A R L U U  
L D E S S E S S O P L E U R M  
S E X N G P E H E C L T O D P  
H L P S O M O N D I O E H E K  
Y O T R U T N O M J W M G R I  
D U R T E Y S W K A E E W Y N  
N J S R W C E B E Y E C B G K  
A O G I O W H S M R N R S G V  
C D S Z I R H A P O E D C A S  
T E N I F F O C U R T W M S T  
S K E L E T O N T N O P O O A  
G O B L I N P G F I I C O L B  
N O S I O P F T N R W B J E F  
S P I D E R R P E I B M O Z X

### WORD BANK

- BATS
- BOO
- CANDY
- CEMETERY
- COFFIN
- CORPSE
- COSTUMES
- DEMON
- GHOST
- GHOULS
- GOBLIN
- HALLOWEEN
- HORROR
- LACERATION
- LEPRECHAUN
- MURDER
- PENNYWISE
- POISON
- POSSESSED
- PUMPKIN
- SCREAM
- SKELETON
- SPIDER
- SPOOKY
- TOMBSTONE
- VAMPIRE
- WEREWOLF
- WITCH
- ZOMBIE

Images Courtesy of Google





# CHRISTIANITY SKIPS A GENERATION



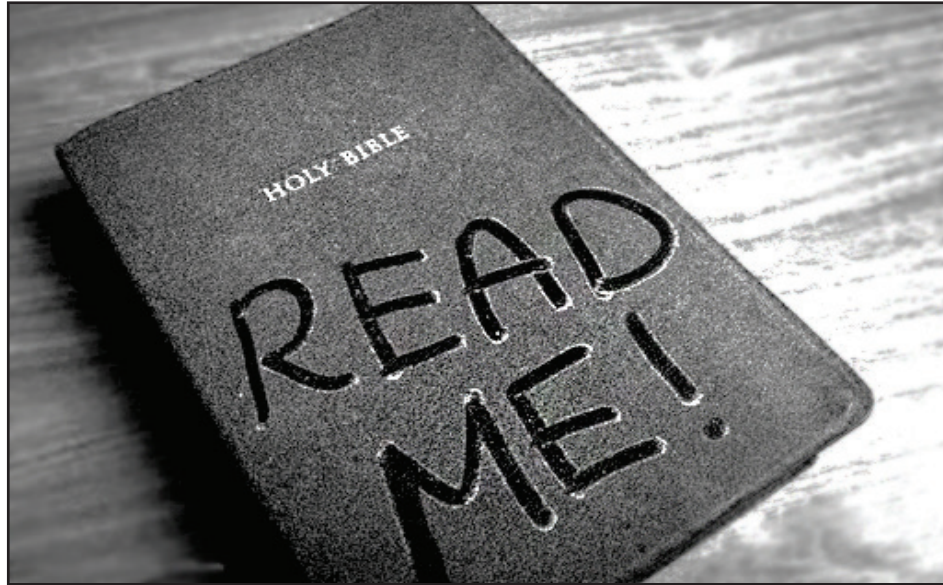
**JONATHAN GAD**  
Staff Reporter

Christianity in the U.S. has been slowly dying off and becoming less relevant in most students' personal lives. For many people in Southern California, religion has become nothing more than a vain practice. For some students, it's a concept that has never been of interest. Why is it that for so many the idea of going to church brings a subtle sense of agitation? The lack of parental integrity during child rearing and the lack of true belief in the gospel must be the answer.

"America was founded as a Christian nation under God," alumni Jonathan Rizkalla said. "I don't think it would be wrong if Christianity was taught in schools because I believe Christianity is the truth."

While some parents may say that fundamental Christian values are what they desire to see in their children, there seems to be a lack of effort to set an example for their kids to follow. With many prior generations of parents professing to Christian faith and so many millennials growing up with parents who enforced the theology of Christianity, the message of Christian gospel was never really understood and in turn, was never truly practiced.

"Back then, they forced it unto you,



Courtesy of GOOGLE

*Bibles all around America collect dust as only one in five Americans read the Scripture on a regular basis.*

and they didn't let it happen naturally," senior Joseph Byun said. "I think that's why there's such an indifference to religion with this generation, because of the previous generation. I also think that's why we have such a loose interpretation as of how to follow Christianity today."

The cycle goes: parents grow up in a Christian home in an era where Christianity is the most widely practiced religion in the world; by growing up in a culture that's so accustomed to an ideology that they assume is true, they make no effort in actually learning more about their faith, therefore never living out the example of that belief to their children. This explains why

students today grow up having no sincerity toward the faith they follow; the child will reflect the parent, never truly living as a Christian.

"It's true when a parent does not live a Christian life, it is easy for the child to have a marred view of what Christianity really is. As unfortunate as it may be, this is preventable," Rizkalla said. "While each person must come to Jesus to be saved, we can influence our kids and our community more positively by helping them establish a good foundation for the Holy Spirit to grow."

Another reason why the heart of the Christian message does not reach students

is the tendency to believe in a religion rather than the God of the Bible. The message of the Christian Gospel proposes that a person is saved by the free, undeserved grace of God. A Christian receives salvation when their faith is assured in Jesus Christ. Once someone has accepted Christ and believes what He said as the truth, then the person comes to the conscious pursuit to reflect His image. That is the purpose of a Christian: to look, act, talk, think, and be more like Jesus.

This is the reason why so many lack the conviction to become Christian; they lack an earnest belief in the gospel and the desire to be Christlike.

For students in Kennedy High, this is no different. Poor parental leadership prevents the true representation of a Christian, as well as limiting the pursuit for a relationship with Christ.

"I hear a lot of people saying that they follow God, but yet they don't read the Bible and they don't know the reason they follow," Byun said. "Christianity is all about the Bible. There's no reason to make assumptions or add any additional information, just follow what's in the Bible and it's all there."

It's only when people begin pursuing a relationship with God and start reading the Bible that religion will no longer skip generations. It's then that going to church will not just be to perpetuate a religion, but instead will be motivated by the desire to meet with God and his family.

# MONOPOLIZATION OF AMERICA



**ORLANDO CABALO**  
Copy Editor

*Unlike most developed nations, The United States has little in the way of protection against monopolistic tyranny.*

America — a capitalist utopia where titans of industry rose from poverty to become some of the most powerful men in the world — is also a land where just a few corporate entities have a stranglehold over the economic lifeblood of the nation.

Although great men of the past like Franklin D. Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, and Woodrow Wilson shattered the monopolies of their day like Standard Oil and American Tobacco, the plague of an uncompetitive market has reemerged in the form of new trusts like Monsanto and Luxottica.

Antitrust legislations, like the Sherman and Clayton antitrust acts that shielded American consumers for years has become a dead letter in the past three decades, rarely being enforced by the U.S. judicial system. This blatant negligence toward the protection of U.S. markets has resulted in

an endless list of catastrophic economic activities, the worst being the consolidation of power and wealth in just a handful of massive trusts which gouge the American people for more of their dwindling supply of hard earned dollars.

"The problem with all this consolidation in just a handful of giant firms is that they don't have to compete which means they can jack up your prices," former Secretary of Labor, Robert Reich, said.

The monopolization of these massive trusts is occurring throughout the economy from agricultural firms like Monsanto to pharmaceutical companies like Big Pharma. These monopolies are strangling the pockets of the average American from the metropolitan west and east coasts to the rural south and the heartland of our nation.

In the case of daraprim, a medicine used to treat cancer and HIV, former pharmaceutical CEO, Martin Shkreli, hiked the price from \$13.50 to an astronomical cost of \$750, overnight in 2015. This extortionist demand for more money threw many cancer and HIV patients into further debt and poverty as they fought for their lives while opportunistic lowlives like Shkreli profited off of their immense suffering.

"If there was a company that was selling an Aston Martin at the price of a bicycle, and we buy that company and we ask to charge Toyota prices, I don't think that that should be a crime," Shkreli said.

Disgusting, vile, heartless actions exe-



Courtesy of GOOGLE

*With rampant monopolization in the United States, Americans have been economically strangled.*

cuted by robber barons, like Shkreli, who leave cancer patients destitute for crucially necessary medicine because they can't afford ridiculous prices, is only possible in these laissez-faire economies. They allow for corporations to grow and strangle any competition in the market. Coupled with the rampant legal bribery, taking place within Congress, in the form of corporate lobbyists, the monopolization of American markets has become an acute plague poisoning our society to its core.

"Corporations in our society have grown too powerful and they should be

reigned in," senior Natalie Mai said.

These corporate behemoths and growing monopolies have come to strangle our economy, however, there is a solution: a concise combination of purging large donors from politics since it is a corrupting force in our government and reviving the dead letters of antitrust legislation.

This is an undeniably monumental battle, however, we the American people can overcome this struggle with political activism, petitioning, and most importantly, voting.





# The Shamrock

# OPPOSING OPINIONS 9

## A Civil Debate: Abortion

**WARNING: The content in this article contains sensitive topics. Some of the material discussed may be emotionally challenging to deal with.**



**NICOLE NGUYEN**  
Opinions Editor

Very soon the Supreme Court may make a decision that will affect women all over the nation.

The looming threat that *Roe v. Wade* imposes on the abortion debate contrasts principles on the fundamentalist ideals of pro-life. Before the legalization of abortions, women often performed these procedures in isolated corners with coat hangers. In an attempt to alleviate the dark anatomy of coat hanger abortions, many people swept it aside as a myth.

However, such procedures are just as tangible and legitimate as the name suggests. It is a physical act of piercing the amniotic sac to halt prenatal development. This agonizing procedure frequently ends in the mutilation of a uterine artery. Unfortunately, women and transgender males who execute coat hanger abortions rarely receive the appropriate treatment and in turn suffer from severe infections or bleed to death.

This is the reality of life without *Roe v. Wade*.

Since the Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision, the issue of abortion has become a debate in which pro-life supporters are labeled the martyr of inalienable rights. What pro-life supporters fail to understand is that *Roe v. Wade* wasn't intended to allow abortions; these procedures had always been performed.

"No woman wants an abortion as she wants an ice cream cone or a Porsche," author of "Real Choices" Frederica Matthews-Green said. "She wants an abortion as an animal caught in a trap wants to gnaw off its own leg."

It was *Roe v. Wade* that allowed medical personnel to execute abortions in a safe and sterile environment for the welfare of pregnant women.

There are certain cases like rape and incest where an abortion should never be denied.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI), an average of 32,000 pregnancies result from rape each year. Raped victims often resort to abortion because raising the child of her rapist is too traumatizing to cope with. However, pro-life supporters continue to ostracize and label rape victims as murderers.

This antipathy of abortion only has a repulsive reputation because pro-life supporters are consistently misinformed.

No, it is not a justification for "killing children," but it serves as a necessity to ensure survival of a pregnant individual. In horrifying circumstances involving rape and incest, normalizing the degradation of abortion because it goes against a personal belief is just as demeaning. A law that restricts mothers or transgender fathers from

receiving an abortion by legal obligation is a brutal execution of oppression towards victims that refuse to let the imitation of their rape live on.

"It's personal privacy, a personal life risk. I don't think the government should have a place in that," A.P. U.S. History teacher Jamie Pontius said. "To me, it is the equivalent to making significant medical life choices."

Contrary to popular belief, most induced abortions take place within the first trimester and rarely extend beyond the 20-week mark.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the majority of abortions take place early in gestation; 91.5% were performed at 13 weeks into the pregnancy, while a smaller number of abortions were performed at 14-20 weeks; still fewer (1.3%) were performed at less than 21 weeks into pregnancy.

A fetus in the first trimester cannot feel pain or recognize emotion. It isn't cognitive, it doesn't adopt human behavior and cannot control its own subjective tendencies. Alas, it lacks the psychological basis of a human being.

In the case of a young parent, pregnancy will have a larger effect on their life than on an expecting adult. It puts them in a position where they're forced to be responsible for not only themselves but for another human being as well.

"The researchers found that girls ranging from 15 to 19 experienced postpartum depression at a rate that was twice as high as women aged 25 and older," a report from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Resources said. "Another study reported that teen mothers face significant levels of stress that can lead to increased mental health concerns."

What the reports don't emphasize is the number of teenagers who become parents are more likely to suffer serious injury to their future prospects. In most instances, teen parents abandon an education; rely on welfare for support; are limited to careers or refrain from pursuing one; and cripple into depression or other health problems.

Young parents will never be able to experience the grace of growing into a natural course of adulthood. Often times, abortion is their only hope for obtaining a better quality of life.

The decision for pro-choice adheres to pro-liability. And a submission to end the pain of traumatic experiences is what makes *Roe v. Wade* significant.

Diminishing abortion to a "criminal homicide," while thousands of pregnant individuals in the U.S. alone are being forced to measure their priorities to the rights of a fetus, is the disturbing and yet powerful principle of the abortion debate today.



**GLORIA CHANG**  
News Editor

A cleverly-concealed genocide is being conducted in America. 60.1 million babies have been sentenced to death since 1973.

The legal definition of abortion is the "termination of a pregnancy," which is a euphemism to divert attention away from the reality. Abortion is not like a person cutting their hair or fingernails. There are bins of baby parts at Planned Parenthood waiting to be thrown out.

When a patient is 22-weeks-pregnant and gets an abortion, they undergo Suction D&E procedures. The first step the obstetrician-gynecologist (OB-GYN) takes is to enter the 14-French suction catheter through the cervix and extract the amniotic fluid. They then blindly reach inside of the uterus with a Sopher clamp and grasp onto anything that takes hold. Pulling hard, they tear out a leg. The OB-GYN proceeds once more, and rips out an arm. They keep going in, and remove the heart, lungs, intestines, and spine.

Once they feel they have the head, they crush it, releasing a white fluid. This is the fetus's brain. They must then take out the skull, piece by piece, and finally, extract the face. The OB-GYN has successfully completed a second trimester abortion which is entirely legal in 33 states.

A.P. Government teacher Steve Singley believes that abortion is one of the most hotly-contested controversies today.

"It is one of those issues where it is one person's rights against another's rights," Singley said.

This raises the question as to whether or not a fetus is a human being. The pregnant individual's so-called "right to choice" is irrelevant if the fetus is a person with rights, as every individual deserves equal protection under the law. Many pro-choice advocates believe that a fetus does not achieve personhood until birth.

"I do not believe that the fetus is human until after a certain point," senior Vianna Dang said.

There is currently no scientific evidence that can accurately define when the fetus "becomes a human." It is unarguable, however, that a human organism that emerges from fertilization is a living member of the human species, as it directs itself along a developmental trajectory that is species-specific. You cannot exclude an entire group of people just because they are small, dependent, biologically immature, or incapable of high-level biological functioning. It is an injustice of the highest order and a lethal form of discrimination.

There is a disturbing double standard in U.S. federal and state laws. If a pregnant woman is murdered and the unborn child (even in prenatal development) is also killed, 38 states condemn the defen-

dant with double homicide. It is therefore acknowledged that the fetus, even at conception, is a person with rights, which is inconsistent with the laws that legalize abortion.

According to a study done by the Guttmacher Institute on 1,209 women in the U.S. that had undergone an abortion, less than 0.5% of them had made the decision due to rape. However, an overwhelming 86% of them killed their baby because the child would interfere with their education or career; they did not want to be a single mother or could not afford the baby; they were not ready to have a child; or were done having children.

Situations in which the mother's life is endangered, or traumatic circumstances like rape, constitute a small minority and should not be used to justify the majority of abortion cases that are for convenience reasons. Let's not pretend that abortion is not considered an escape from the consequences of casual sex. Pro-life advocates do not believe that the child should have to pay for the price of the irresponsible parents.

"Abortion as a form of protection against accidental conception is ridiculous," senior Maggie Chou said. "There are so many other tools of protection that can prevent unnecessary harm to the woman and unborn child."

Abortion is derived from the same concept that recognized slavery: that the child's inherent worth can be determined before its birth by another entity. In 1662, the state of Virginia declared in Act XII that if the mother was a slave, then the child would also be a slave.

Slaves were also "three-fifths a person" according to the Three-Fifths Compromise of the Constitution. Americans did not question this, as slaves were their "property." This is dehumanization: you can kill, harm, and exploit them, since "it" is not your equal. It is also the argument that supports abortion: "it" is just a "clump of cells."

Society considers a fetus to have infinite value only when the mother wants the baby. When the mother does not, it is absurd that the baby suddenly no longer has worth. No entity, organization, nor individual should have the authority to determine whether or not another human being deserves life. Life is an inalienable right sanctioned in the Constitution itself.

The baby is not the mother's body. It is in the mother's body, and is not a property that the mother can decide the fate of. Nobody has the right to decide whether the child deserves to live or die.

If you ignore this injustice being done: Congratulations, you have just affirmed the mother's right to choose.

*Images Courtesy of GOOGLE*





## THE WRESTLING WORLD

**JONATHAN GAD**  
Staff Reporter

Among Kennedy High's diverse group of sports and extracurricular activities, one of the most challenging and engaging sports would have to be boys and girls wrestling. Comprised of physically demanding exercises such as grappling control, situation wrestling, technique drills, and intense cardio conditioning, Kennedy's wrestling program has been kept in the shadows by many students and staff.

Wrestling is meant to help students develop self-discipline, motivation and resilience to failure. It equips athletes with the kind of growth mentality that many need to combat their personal life struggles. Alongside the development of a growth mindset, it also produces grit within each wrestler that allows them to pursue and achieve their academic and personal life ambitions.

"Kennedy wrestling is one of the best places to bond with your team as you drip sweat and blood together," varsity wrestler Jacob Anaya said. "It has benefited me in ways that you can't learn in a normal life, you share hardship with everyone."

However, even though wrestling is a commonly known and famously played Olympic sport, the school program has consistently seen a lack of support. For the past few years, boys and girls wrestling has



*Kennedy wrestler gets the upper hand against his opponent with a suplex takedown for the win*  
Courtesy of GOOGLE

been underfunded due to the lack of attention and profit the sport provides for the school. This led to a stagnant operation for the team in wanting to improve upon their new found skills. With athletes and coaches unable to properly participate in wrestling tournaments and invitational events, the sport began to lose the same fervor and excitement that it once had.

"The only downside to wrestling would be that there is no support," alumni varsity

wrestler Bryan Vazquez said. "More endorsement for the sport and more publicity about the program would better help the school."

Student-athletes strive to maintain a balance between participating in a variety of challenging and difficult academic classes, never getting the chance to hear of the sport and its benefits. Students that could flourish in this different kind of competitive environment, where not only their

physical, mental, and emotional spirit will be tested, but also their willingness to be resilient and push on to victory in the face of adversity, are never able to hear of the potential that wrestling has to add to their character.

"Kennedy Wrestling is a good sport," senior Michael Leech said. "It's very hard because it teaches discipline and self-defense, and I think it's good to learn that especially in today's age."

However, with any additional course that an athlete can take on, wrestling has its hardship and disadvantages. Despite the sense of awareness it can instill within each wrestler, it's no doubt that a sport like this can take up a person's time.

Although it's true that any sport can negatively impose upon academics, that's exactly what makes joining wrestling a challenge to be undertaken. Anything worth doing requires sacrifice, and any sport that has a long-lasting influence on a person's character is worth considering.

"It's great it feels like everyone's a family and it's a great way for people to bond," JV wrestler Saif Majali said. "Personally it's helped me focus on my school and feel more confident in myself."

Despite the lack of mainstream attention from students, the boys and girls wrestling team will continue to press onward for the new season.

## SIDELINE SCRIMMAGE

**NICOLE NGUYEN**  
Opinions Editor

The Benchwarmers. They aren't the starting players, they don't get as much playing time as other team members, and they sit on the sidelines.

This stereotype may be true in the minds of the audience, but to the rest of the team, they're more than just subs filling in for an injured player.

"Their motivation is pertinent to the team members," volleyball coach Travis Warner said. "They have the ability to swing the momentum when the team isn't doing so well. They give the team that unified experience."

Despite challenging circumstances, utility players work as hard as they can to include themselves within the game and the team. Benchwarmers are continuously under-appreciated and their efforts often go unnoticed.

"A lot of people think benchwarmers aren't good athletically and are there just for moral support, but in reality most of the time they're just as good as the starters but don't have the general drive to wanna be on the court," volleyball player Coby Prowse said.

There's a fine line between loving a sport and being good at it. There's a perspective that separates a benchwarmer from the player, and in retrospect, the audience as a whole becomes the benchwarmer. That same passion for the sport, the need to want to go out there and include themselves in the game, and a susceptible emotion for the players when the complexion of the competition isn't at its best. The outcome of the game affects the fans just as

much as it does the players.

There's a certain degree of pride in being on the sidelines that not many people may notice. To be successful as a team, the ambition and motivation of each athlete needs to work towards the same goal. Of course, the goal as a team is to be faster, smarter, stronger, and better than their opponents, but when the weakest link can improve, the result as a team is celebratory.

Joseph Oh, a sophomore on Kennedy's volleyball team, has dedicated his time to playing and participating on the team. Though tryouts for the volleyball season are still occurring, Oh hopes his dedication and commitment to the team will motivate himself and his team members to usher their best into the new year.

"Just cheering on the team, so we can win," Oh said. "Accepting our improvements... and motivating each other that's the reward of my experience."

With an important prospect to the game, and to the team, the athletes on the sidelines that rarely get recognized, are just as important to the play than they believe.



*Cleveland Cavalier benchwarmers celebrate their team victory from the sidelines.*  
Courtesy of GOOGLE

## ATHLETES WANTED

**KIRSTEN FABROS**  
Sports Editor

If you were to ask someone what they thought about sports, chances are they would talk about how sports is a great way to exercise while socializing.

Sports ultimately advances a student's physical fitness, along with improving one's time management with their need to juggle additional activities.

So why then have we seen such a drastic decline in the number of students trying out for athletic teams?

"I think that the reason why sports have been declining is that students would rather use their time to be on their phones instead of exercising," football coach Kris Johnson said.

Because of this particular issue, students have become more focused on valuing after extracurriculars rather than committing to a sport.

"More and more students are choosing to not participate in playing a sport due to them having to figure out a balance between focusing on school work and then having to give it their all during practice. Which in my experience, I think is what causes students to decide that playing sports is a waste of time," sophomore Kaliya Trias said.

The Aspen Institute, an American organization that focuses on making sports available to all children, is something that young athletes should be more aware of.

This organization holds regular roundtable meetings to discuss the issues kids are facing with sports, and to discover solutions that would make youth sports better for children.

One of main reasons sports has seen a decline is due to the repetitive stress put on an athlete's body.

Currently, an annual 3.5 million children under the age of 18 require treatment for various sport related injuries.

"I believe that the main reason as to what causes student athletes to stop playing a sport is because of their busy time schedule and balancing out both school and their time to play their sport at school on their own time as well," freshman Mia Kassabian said.

More coaches should be focused on keeping the sport fun, while watching players develop necessary skills that are used life's various challenges. It wouldn't be as effective if they lacked the interaction between the athlete and their guardians' guidance.

No one can single-handedly change an entire dissolution of sports in America. However, if each and every parent, student, and coach were to start practicing good and supportive behavior then a positive change is bound to occur.



*Ashley Montero/The Shamrock*  
After years of flourishing programs, teams have seen a decline in student participation.





## SWINGING INTO YOUR PS4

**NOJITHA RANAWEERA**

Staff Reporter

With a story that feels like a fun remake of the modern era of Spider-Man comics, beautiful graphics that make you feel like you're swinging through New York City, and a score that will turn any frown upside down, Marvel's "Spider-Man PS4" will leave you entertained for hours.

Insomniac Games Inc. are no strangers when it comes to making popular games. Their most known video game trilogy, Ratchet & Clank, was a smash hit with both fans and critics.

Marvel Games Vice President, Mike Jones, confirmed that "Spider-Man PS4" was influenced from Rocksteady's Arkham series, including the game's combat style, enticing exploration, utilities and fun stories. However, the vast difference in character tone between Spider-Man and Batman makes "Spider-Man PS4" feel like a

unique game, even if it plays a lot like the Arkham games.

"In a sense, we've learned from all kinds of great storytelling in gaming," Jones said. "And the Arkham games--while we're not necessarily trying to copy any particular thing that Rocksteady has done with them--inspired us to lean into our characters and trust that nailing the uniqueness of each character experience is really what's going to make the gameplay compelling."

The game picks up with Peter Parker whose been fighting crime for quite a while. He's been Spider-Man through high school and into his adult life, while also trying to maintain a life as Peter Parker, helping his Aunt May at a homeless shelter, and working at a lab for his mentor and

idol, Dr. Otto Octavius.

Meanwhile, when Spider-Man finally achieves his long goal of putting away Wilson Fisk, also known as the Kingpin a new gang of dangerous thugs arise from the shadows. Led by the mysterious and powerful Mr. Negative, the Demons are a force to be reckoned with. It's up to Peter to figure out who Mr. Negative is, what he wants, and how to stop him.

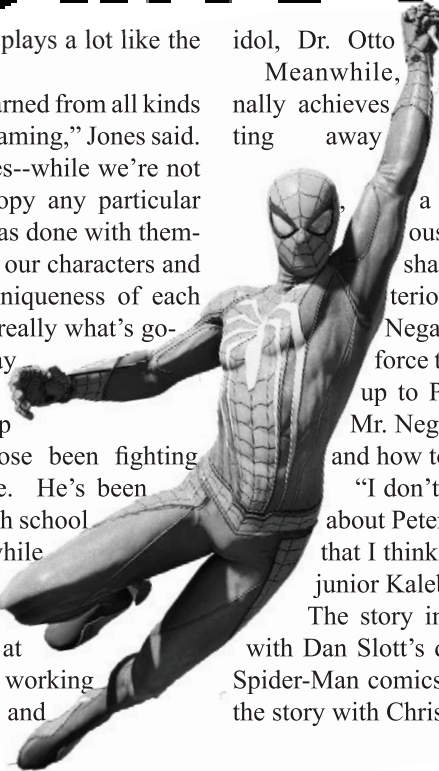
"I don't think there's one thing about Peter or the game in general that I think I can complain about," junior Kaleb Chapman said.

The story in the game plays a lot with Dan Slott's decade long run on the Spider-Man comics, in which he co-wrote the story with Christos Gage. Having writ-

ers that are familiar with the character and his world makes a huge difference, with characters that feel like they pop right out of the pages of the comics. Marvel's "Spider-Man PS4" does a great job of incorporating little details from the comics, while putting its own spin on the material as well as including references from the movies.

"There's a little something here for everyone and even if you're just a fan of the movies or a die-hard that reads the plethora of Spidey comic books, you will find something to love," Gamecrate editor, Quibian Salazar-Moreno said.

The game also introduces new twists and origins for some of his supporting characters. Aside from the comics, there are a lot of references and easter eggs to the movies and to previous renditions of Spider-Man games. These easter eggs are not important to the story, but it's nice that it's there for nerds to go crazy about.



## SYM-BYE-OTE VENOM MOVIE REVIEW

**KARL HAYS**

A&E Editor

"Venom," a film directed by Ruben Fleischer and produced by Sony Pictures in association with Marvel, is watchable at best. If you plan on entering the theaters thinking this film will be the best comic book movie of the year, you're wrong. And if you go into the theater thinking you're going to see your favorite Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) characters, you're wrong again.

Journalist Eddie Brock, played by Tom Hardy, is sent to take down Carlton Drake, played by Riz Ahmed, the notorious founder of the Life Foundation. While investigating one of Drake's experiments, Eddie's body bonds with the alien Venom, leaving him with superhuman strength and power. Twisted, dark, and fueled by rage, Venom tries to control the new and dangerous abilities that Eddie finds so intoxicating.

There are many good things about this film, but the bad definitely outweighs it. We'll start off with the good. Some of the best parts of this film are the interactions

with Brock and Venom. They're such a good buddy cop duo and the crazy thing is Hardy plays both the host, Brock, and the parasite, Venom. The humor is only good about half the time and when it does land, it gives quite a good laugh.

Many of the action scenes involving Venom are very enjoyable and lets you know that this is still a comic book movie. Many of the problems with these scenes however is that you can tell that a lot of the fighting was going to be more rated "R." This is because the film was originally set to be released as a rated "R" film, but very close to the release of the film Sony switched up their decision and gave it a "PG-13" rating to not alienate the general viewing audience, at the cost of a worse film. If the rating was not originally changed, a better movie could have been produced, since the comic book version of Venom is more graphic than his film counterpart.

Now onto the bad and nasty, and we'll start off with the set up. This version of the Venom character has a much deviated version of its origin than its comic book brother. He originally leached onto Peter Parker,

also known as Spider-Man, after a trip to space and later Venom separated itself from Parker and swore to be his enemy. The film however suffers from not having a connection to Spider-Man, and since the web-slinger is currently in the MCU, it would confuse the masses if they crossed over. To keep Venom separate from the MCU, Sony decided not to give sharing rights with Marvel Studios, as they did with Spidey, and made a totally original version of Venom which is a respectable feat but alas comes at the cost of a worse film.

Anytime Ahmed's character, Carlton Drake, interacts with any person at all, he gives off an awkward and creepy vibe that is on par with someone pretending to be an evil version of Elon Musk. In addition, Drake presents some sort of memorized speech about "the end of man and the beginning of something new" literally every time he enters a room.

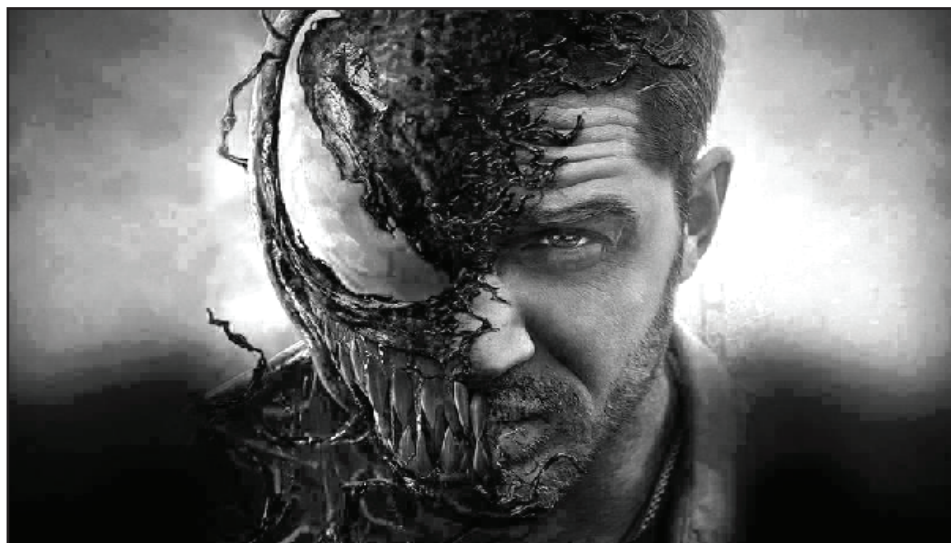
Williams character, Anne Weying, is completely one dimensional and is only in the story for Brock to have a motivation to do anything at all. Williams especially gave a bad performance, seemingly phoning in several of her lines. Only one scene

pays off her character nicely but leaves a bad taste in your mouth and probably one in the characters mouths' too.

There is only one character arc in this movie, and it was that of the title character. And no, it was not Brock with the arc, it was the symbiote itself. This arc however is barely an arc at all considering it entirely revolves around one line, that almost seems like a throwaway line.

There's a lot to nitpick about this film, even the measly mid-credits scene featuring a popular comic book character that will remain unnamed was corny and too on-the-nose. The second post-credits however does not involve this film at all and gives a look into what the next "Sony Spider-verse" film has instore. It is very enjoyable and leaves you wondering what the point of the last one hour and 52 minute run time was for.

Overall, the idea of a Venom standalone movie is not a terrible idea but the execution of that idea fell way short. Here's hope that the sequel isn't as bad as this or that they stop this Sony Universe while they still have the chance.



All Images Courtesy of GOOGLE

Spider-Man (Top) swings into PS4 while Hardy (Bottom) fights his inner demons in "Venom."

### The Shamrock

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## Disney Has **NOT** Come to Play

**KARL HAYS**  
A&E Editor

A year ago, Disney CEO Bob Iger broke the news that Disney will be launching their own streaming service, directly competing with other high-end streamers. Iger indicated that Disney Play will be the company's "biggest priority" for 2019. This says a lot about the focus on the project considering the scope of Disney's content. The entertainment company hasn't directly stated what the monthly cost will be for the service, but it has been rumored to be less than the price of Netflix's monthly payment.

Iger used the name "Disney Play" as a working title for the service. There hasn't been many details revealed on the line-up of entertainment that will be featured, but there is a general idea, and lots of rumors on what it will include. Iger said that Disney Play will be using their own Disney content, as well as everything that falls under their umbrella, such as Marvel Studios, Pixar, Star Wars, and any other Disney-specific properties.

"We don't have to be in the absolute volume game," Iger said. "It's not as though the cupboard will be bare... but it takes time to build the kind of content library that we intend to build."

Recently, rumors have surfaced that Marvel Studios was going to begin working on multiple series based on characters in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).

In a recent report from Variety, Loki and Scarlet Witch will be getting their own mini-series with others not mentioned yet. Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olson are expected to reprise their respective roles.

Naturally, new Star Wars content will make its way onto the service as well. The long-awaited seventh season of "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" will be making its way onto Disney Play, featuring the original cast reprising their roles. Recently, Lucasfilm announced at San Diego Comic Con 2018 that they will be going through with continuing the series on the service in 2019 along with a teaser trailer that swept the fandom by storm.

"Well, thankfully, [the fans] enthusiasm is relentless. Their love of these characters and stories hasn't diminished," director Dave Filoni said. "I actually think their voice has gotten louder as the years have gone by. It's been very humbling to have their support."

Along with "Star Wars: The Clone Wars," Lucasfilm is working on a live-action series directed by Jon Favreau. According to reports from the New York Times, this series will have a \$100 million budget for a 10-episode season. Previously, Favreau stated that the series will take place seven years after the events of "Star Wars Episode VI: The Return of the Jedi." The show will feature new characters set in the Star Wars universe, many of whom will be created

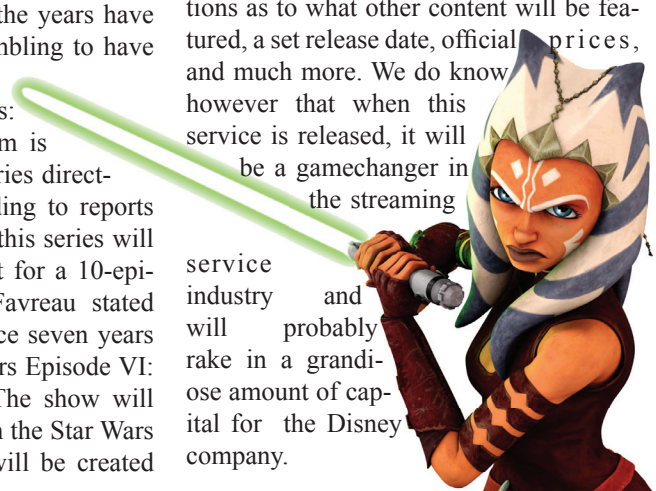
using CGI and motion-capture technology. Favreau recently posted a photo on his official media accounts featuring the plot synopsis for the show.

"The Mandalorian: After the stories of Jango and Boba Fett, another warrior emerges in the Star Wars universe. The Mandalorian is set after the fall of the Empire and before the emergence of the First Order," Favreau said. "We follow the travails of a lone gunfighter in the outer reaches of the galaxy far from the authority of the New Republic..."

It's also been rumored by some that movies that will be released around the same time as this service will be prominently featured on Disney Play including "Star Wars Episode IX," "Captain Marvel," and "Avengers: Infinity War."

There are still many unanswered questions as to what other content will be featured, a set release date, official prices, and much more. We do know however that when this service is released, it will be a gamechanger in the streaming

service industry and will probably rake in a grandiose amount of capital for the Disney company.



## COMING SOON ...

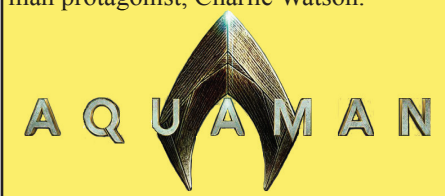
**NOJITHA RANAWEERA**  
Staff Reporter



Nov. 21, 2018 is the release date for "Ralph Breaks the Internet," the sequel to 2012's "Wreck It Ralph." This movie will be a taking place after the events of the first film; Ralph and Vanellope are ultimately set to venture into the internet to find a spare part in order to fix a videogame. With the addition of characters from Star Wars, Disney princesses, and the rest of the internet, it shows pop culture references setting the bar high.

## BUMBLEBEE

On Dec. 21, 2018 fans will get to see the Generation 1 adaptation of the popular Transformers cartoon on the big screen in the film, "Bumblebee." The film is said to take place in the 90s with a young Bumblebee first arriving to Earth after taking part in the War of Cybertron. Peter Cullen will be reprising his role as the famous Optimus Prime, alongside Hailee Steinfeld, who will be playing the movie's human protagonist, Charlie Watson.



The 6th installment of the DCEU (DC Extended Universe), "Aquaman," takes place after the events of "Justice League," with Arthur Curry, the heir to the throne of Atlantis, must step forward to lead his people against his brother, Orm, who seeks to unite the seven kingdoms against the surface world. Jason Momoa will be returning to his role as the king of Atlantis, Aquaman, alongside Amber Heard, who we got to see a glimpse of in 2017's "Justice League," as Mera. "Aquaman" will be releasing to theaters on Dec. 21, 2018.



"Spider-Man into the Spideverse" will be produced by Sony in association with Marvel, and will be the first animated superhero film brought to the big screen. On Dec. 14 2018 Peter Parker's Spider-Man, played by Jake Johnson, mentors a teenager from Brooklyn, Miles Morales played by Shameik Moore, to become the next web-slinging superhero from a parallel dimension. The film will include not one, not two, but multiple versions of Spider-Men from alternate dimensions.

All Photos Courtesy of Google

## DIVERSITY EXPLOITATION

**JENNIFER LIM**  
Staff Reporter

Recently, there has been a rise of diversity in films as greater representation of minorities are being brought to the big screen. The release of widely-loved films like "Black Panther," "Crazy Rich Asians," and "Love, Simon" are marking a change in the history of film, as these films feature protagonists from minority groups. While it is widely appreciated that characters of minority groups are appearing more on-screen, it seems that minorities are being used as protagonists for the sake of gathering more discussion and popularity.

Rather than actually trying to spread diversity, it appears that the main motive behind film producers' feature of minority groups is to attract a larger, more widespread audience. Some are appreciative of the representation brought to screen. For example, "Black Panther" is one popular film that many believe provided great representation of people in the black community.

resentation of people in the black community.

"The cast is almost entirely black, the action is set in Africa, and the movie celebrates cultural themes that perhaps haven't been touched upon in a movie of this scale," Prague movie critic Jason Pirodsky said.

"Black Panther" definitely marked an achievement for the black community thanks to its feature of a powerful, black protagonist along with an almost all-black cast, but as far as how it contributed to diversity is debatable. While most comments about the movie were positive, some critics have else to say about the community of Wakanda.

"We forget that Wakandans weren't simply protecting their country from white men. They were protecting their country from anyone who wasn't from Wakanda," movie critic Michael Harriot said. "I can't imagine knowing that a utopia exists that

can eliminate the suffering of your people, but instead of choosing to share it, they choose to keep it for themselves."

The way this movie lacks diversity is almost ironic, as it is not much different from past movies with all white casts. While it is the perfect movie to bring more light to black main characters in film, it might not be considered the movie that features much diversity.

Even for movies that feature characters from the LGBTQ community, although it helps with representation of the community, it seems that these movies focus purely on the topic of sexuality.

"Why does every movie with a gay main char have to be about them coming to terms w their sexuality as if that's the only problem gay ppl have [sic]," Twitter user @leftyan said.

It seems more as if the LGBTQ community was brought into the picture in order to create an interesting story line that would gain popularity because of its uniqueness. When movies feature characters from the LGBTQ community, these characters are often defined only by their sexuality, as if that is the main quality that defines them.

While the increasing representation of minority groups in movies lately is improving, diversity in film should not stem from using minority groups to create an interesting story line, but rather, it should be about including people from all different backgrounds where their race or sexuality isn't what defines them.

