

# The Shamrock

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2018

John F. Kennedy High School

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 2

## Feel Strong with Kennedy Strong

Take a look at the behind-the-scenes of Kennedy's podcast with Catherine Larson and the staff.

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## Death Penalty

This highly controversial issue is debated on whether to keep or abolish capital punishment.

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## Irene Kim: Kennedy's Best

Meet 2018's Girls' Golf Empire League Champion and winner of CIF Southern Section Regionals.

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# COCOA AND CAROLS



MAHAM MEMON

Photo Editor

Kennedy Singers held their Christmas show, "Cocoa and Carols," on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8 at the Kennedy Performing Arts Center (KPAC).

The opening number, "We Need a Little Christmas" from Jerry Herman's Broadway musical "Mame," showcased all the Kennedy Singers with a total of 252 performers. The entire show consisted of 23 songs, including the annual Kennedy Singers' Christmas songs "Light a Candle," which featured soloists freshman Genevieve Morales and senior Nick Del Rosario and "O Holy Night," sang by senior Lauren Hinrichs.

Even with a new choir director, the tradition of singing these Christmas songs was upheld.

"Many families out there have their holiday traditions that bring them together," Kennedy Singer's director Tanner Wilson said. "Some bake cookies together, while others may get cozy and watch some holiday movies with loved ones. The Kennedy singers really are one very big family, and it was important to me to immerse myself in the long-standing traditions of the choir. Just singing these songs in rehearsals serves as a reminder that when we're together, we're home."

The entire show consisted of a variety of holiday songs from upbeat to downtempo as the audience expected something different each time the performers came on stage. To make the show more lively, the singers also dressed in costumes that matched the theme of each song. For example, in "Hot Chocolate," the cast dressed

as waiters from the movie "Polar Express."

"Our dancing and singing create a show, but with the costumes, we are literally bringing it to life," senior Alyssa Carrizoza said. "Costumes really add the extra 'oomph.'"

The show finished off with "O Holy Night" where the entire cast dressed in a full-white ensemble with seven dancers performing at the beginning of the song. The lead solo dancer senior Kylie Brooke danced alongside senior Frances Bushnell, sophomores Savanna Matthews, Peyton Hinojos, and Brynn Goldbori, and freshmen Caitlyn Chesney and Emma Parker.

Wilson worked vigorously to make the show a success alongside the Perfect Harmony Booster Club and the choreographer for the show, Shantani Moore. Their efforts allowed the show to run as smoothly as it did. The boosters also took care of costumes, ticket sales, and budget while Wilson handled the song choices and vocals. Moore worked hard to create all of the choreography.

"I have been attending Kennedy choir shows for many years, and I thought that this was one of the best shows I've seen over the past few years," eighth grade teacher Kelley Kerr said.

This show was the result of the hard work of all the parent volunteers, the boosters, Wilson, Moore, Kennedy Singers, and the audience. The first choir show allowed the new students to be able to become familiar with the way choir shows work, and Wilson made sure it was not too different from last year to make it less stressful on returners. Overall, the show was successful and enjoyed by the audience.

## Sounds of Progress

KARL HAYS

A&E Editor

On Oct. 16, 2018 Kennedy opened its new-and-improved student parking lot. Its completion marks the end of the first phase of Measure H, a multi-stage master plan to upgrade AUHSD facilities.

Currently, Phase 2 construction is being worked on which will include additional fencing to the campus that will create new entry ways into the school, a digital marquee sign, and landscape improvements. On Oct. 29, 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, was closed-off for construction.

The closing of these two sections of the school has resulted in the revamping of entry points into the campus. Many Kennedy staff and students had to adapt to the ongoing construction.

Those most affected by the sounds of the construction are Rooms 901, 902, and 903 as they worked to find ways around the noise.

"I have had to change my lesson plans and create more independent learning for my students because they cannot hear me and they can't hear each other," IB film teacher Christie Bettendorf said.

Other alterations to the students' and staffs' daily routines in this sector of the campus include having to walk through rooms 906 and 903 to get to their corresponding class as a result of the front hallway parallel to Walker Street being closed off.

Among other infrastructure, new fencing is being implemented along the teacher parking lot side of the courts. This fencing will replace the old one that is currently used in order to provide more security to the campus. The downside to the hard work of the construction crews in these locations is that it disrupts class time with the constant drilling and jack-hammering.

"The construction outside our classroom was noisy, but the workers just shut our door and we worked through it. We're mathematicians, we can deal with anything," math teacher Terence Rollerson said.

Phase 2 of construction is set to be completed in mid-to-late December.



All photos: MAHAM MEMON/The Shamrock



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ENGAGE



EDUCATE



EMPOWER

# Migrant Caravan Reaches the Border

GLORIA CHANG

News Editor

Since Nov. 12, thousands of members from the “migrant caravan” have reached the U.S.-Mexico border in waves. There are currently 6,000 migrants waiting to enter the U.S. as asylum-seekers in the border city of Tijuana alone. The caravan, which had peaked at roughly over 10,000 migrants, consists of Central Americans largely from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador escaping political instability, economic insecurity, and gang violence.

The first group of migrants started their journey north from the Mexico-Guatemala border on March 25. Many of them had planned for years to travel in large groups to the U.S.-Mexico border, as it would provide security from the danger of kidnapping, sexual abuse, or extortion along the way.

The migrant caravan gained considerable media coverage over the past few months before the midterm elections, leading into a national debate on immigration policies. Labeled as an “invasion,” it was rumored to harbor criminals and terrorists. The publicity died down after the midterms, however, resulting in the criticism of the conservative media for using the caravan as a means to stir up GOP voters.

“Mexico should move the flag-waving Migrants, many of whom are stone cold criminals, back to their countries,” President Donald Trump said on Twitter. “Do it by plane, do it by bus, do it anyway you want, but they are not coming into the U.S.A.”

Before the anticipated arrival of the caravan, Trump ordered his troops to assist the border patrol and fortify the fencing



PARESH DAVE/Reuters

Border Patrol used tear gas on a group of migrants who rushed the Tijuana/San Diego border.

with barbed wire. By Nov. 15, 5,800 troops had been deployed to the border, and U.S. Commander of the mission told Reuters that they would make a decision in the following weeks to either send soldiers back home or to shift border positions.

The arrival of the 6,000 migrants at the border has forced Tijuana to open up temporary shelters. According to Reuters, the shelters are unsanitary and overcrowded, the migrants are sleeping on cold floors, and torrential rains have added onto the chill. These conditions have caused the spread of illnesses such as flu-like symptoms, lice, and chicken pox, while a few cases of tuberculosis and HIV have also been confirmed.

A city official told Reuters that it was costly to host the shelters, which becomes a dilemma if taxpayers of Tijuana do not

approve of funding them. The Central Americans faced hostility from a group of Mexican border residents upon their arrival, and there have been a few reports of violent confrontations between them.

Junior Randy Lew considers the migrant caravan debate to be a “huge issue,” and believes that it is understandable for the migrants to seek refuge in order to escape violence. He does, however, also believe that the U.S. is facing a crisis of overpopulation and that it would be difficult to accommodate for them in reality with such limited resources.

“Imagine that the U.S. is your house, and there are families coming to you,” Lew said. “The thing is, would you accept them or would you not accept them? You have to sacrifice yourself for them, but you also know that if you do not let them in, they

will suffer.”

U.S. border inspectors at the main crossing only review up to 100 cases a day, so the migrants will have to wait for months outside of the border to have their cases heard. Several migrants, frustrated at the slow process of granting asylum at ports of entry, have demanded that the U.S. officials speed up the procedure.

On Nov. 26, tear gas was reported to have been utilized by the border patrol when the migrants approached the border with aggression. A group of migrants were also caught on Dec. 4 to be climbing over a low section of the fencing at the border to reach the U.S. illegally, and a splinter group has demanded that the U.S. pay them \$50,000 each if the U.S. wanted them to go home.

Many of the migrants, however, are determined to enter the U.S. by legal means, and 600 of them have applied for work permits in Tijuana. Erly Marcial of Honduras is a 21-year-old that walked the 2,800 miles to the border, while being nearly eight months pregnant. During the journey to the border, she gave birth to her baby, and is currently waiting for asylum with the rest of the migrants.

“If only God would soften his heart,” Marcial said. “Because he has a heart of flesh and blood, not of stone.”

Tensions arose when President Donald Trump requested that the migrants seek asylum in Mexico instead of the U.S. The Mexican government has expressed an interest in opening up their country, but are cautious about accepting asylum-seekers for the long-term. It is a stalemate at the border, with neither the U.S. nor Mexico giving any clear reports on how they will continue to deal with the situation.

# GOOGLE PAYS OFF SEXUAL HARRASSMENT

KIRSTEN FABROS

Sports Editor

Two of Silicon Valley’s largest technology companies, Apple and Google have announced that they will be ending their policy of forcing workers to settle sexual harassment claims through private arbitration, allowing employees to pursue those claims within a court. Google announced the termination of their policy on Nov. 8, when 20,000 employees held a walkout to protest against the company’s handlings of sexual misconduct allegations.

The company was not the first to take a risk from a controversial strategy which critics can say in some cases protect serial harassers and silence victims who might not even come forward.

“It’s taken a little bit of time for other tech companies to follow [Microsoft’s] lead, but I think it does point out the importance of corporate leadership on this issue,” senior counsel of the National Women’s Law Center Maya Raghu said.

Still, even if more corporations jump in line to try to settle their current situation, reversing an approach which has been scrutinized in the #MeToo movement era is

not clear as of this moment. However even if this happens, the new policy only then applies to individual sexual harassment or assault claims and no other discrimination or harassment claims.

Due to a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling, companies may become more motivated to include arbitration agreements into the workers’ contracts. Forced or mandatory arbitration usually occur when workers sign documents agreeing to settle disputes out of the court during the time they are being hired. An arbitrator, instead of a judge and a jury, will then decide the case on its merit.

“Certain industries like high tech are probably more receptive to that because of the competitiveness of their job market,” Fisher Phillips lawyer Benjamin Ebbink said. “Tech has been a very high-profile industry for many years now about their employment practices, and I think they’re uniquely receptive to these issues in that industry.”

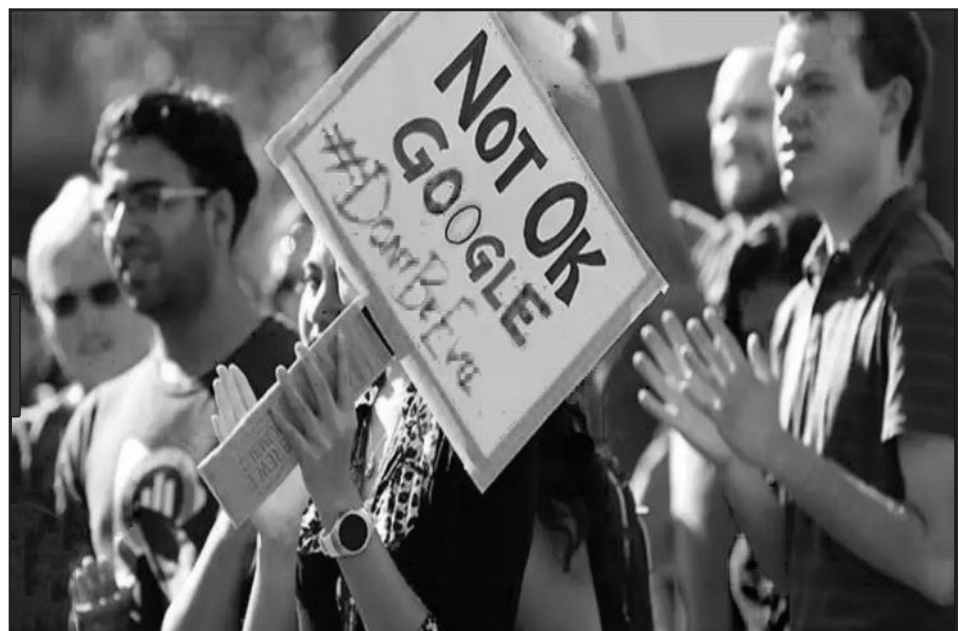
The extensiveness of such arbitration agreements can usually be difficult to pinpoint precisely due to its private nature.

“It’s just one minuscule part of one statute, but do I think it’s positive? I absolutely

think it is,” director of the Labor Law Clinic at Cornell University, Angela Cornell said. “I can’t see how enforcement of sexual harassment can be done effectively with mandatory arbitration language in place.”

With this being said, the extensiveness

of such arbitration agreements can usually be difficult to pinpoint precisely due its private nature. After further investigation, some lawyers representing their employers say that it is too early to say just how many companies will have to follow a lawsuit.



KIM KYUNG-HOON/Reuters

Google employees walk out in protest against sexual harassment.



## The Shamrock Regiment

SHAYLA PARKER

Staff Reporter

*Kennedy's Band & Colorguard made an impact during an emotional fall season of award-winning performances.*

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2018, marked a change in this year's marching season for The Shamrock Regiment. Colorguard and band also qualified as individual and unified victors at Chino Invitational.

The band took fourth place for the parade and first place for their field performance, while colorguard took first place for both parade and field show.

Together their overall combined scores earned The Shamrock Regiment the first place Grand Champion award.

"It's nice hearing the crowd cheer for Kennedy. Since our field show is about the (recent) California wildfires, it is especially meaningful," color guard captain Alexandria Botello said. "As performers, it gives us a great feeling knowing that we made at least one person forget about their troubles and made them happy. It felt great receiving all those awards for the team at the Chino show."

After their success at the Chino Invitational, The Shamrock Regiment was given the opportunity to continue competing for the season at championships.

This marks the first time in 16 years that The Shamrock Regiment earned their way to a championship title, after having the championships handed to them in 2014 --



BENJAMIN GONZALEZ & MARIA DAVIS

The Shamrock Regiment received their highest score of the season at the SCSBOA.

the last time they earned their way in was in 2002.

On Nov. 17, they attended the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association (SCSBOA) Championships. The Shamrock Regiment placed 12th with their highest score of the entire season.

"Even though we got last, just having the opportunity to perform in a college stadium in front of double the number of audience members we usually get is an amazing experience," third-year jazz band student Jessica Rodriguez said. "Personally, I felt like it was our best performance yet."

The Shamrock Regiment may have not taken any prestigious awards at SCSBOA, but being able to participate in the championships was a good way to wrap up the season. Their performances have affected both the performers and the audience.

"Watching the Shamrock Regiment this past fall season in their 2018 show was an amazing experience. Their message of community, hope, love, and unity was very inspiring, affecting many of the viewers of the tournament, as well as myself," Kennedy band parent Maria Davis said. "With their beautiful music and choreography, the show was breathtakingly beautiful and conveyed their message of finding peace after devastating destruction."

With a few losses and wins, it has been a bittersweet season for The Shamrock Regiment.

## INSPOTEEN

A FRESH, NEW TAKE ON AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

FAITH NGUYEN

Staff Reporter

InspoTeen is a program that provides a safe environment for students who prefer to stay on campus after school and need a safe place to study or hang out.

In 2017, the La Palma Community Service staff met with Walker Junior High parents to find out what the teenage residents of La Palma needed. The problem presented was that many students struggled with the rise of social media, combined with problems at home and the added stress of school, has resulted in many behavioral problems on campus.

On Feb. 6, 2018, InspoTeen was imple-



GLORIA CHANG/The Shamrock

mented in order to solve this on the Kennedy campus.

"With weekly topics such as career building, how to improve your resume, job resources, etc. We have also seen improvements in behavior, a strong trust being built with our staff to teens, and over-all, having a safe space for every teen that wants to attend the after school program," organizer Ivan San Pedro said.

Not only is a safe environment provided, but an educational one.

Every Tuesday to Thursday, seminars are held regarding different issues, usually correlating to an event at hand. For example, this past Halloween, two seminars were given regarding Halloween safety. In the week leading up to college application deadlines, all workshops focused on frequently asked questions and simply helping students complete the applications.

Brandon Alfajora is one mentor and representative of the program, who works to better establish the program on campus.

InspoTeen aims to provide an environment many students aren't given; many courses are made available with the purpose of helping students develop skills

helpful in career and education.

"Workshops would consist of writing your own resume or knowing what jobs to apply to or where to look for volunteer opportunities," Alfajora said.

Many students at both Kennedy and Walker have taken advantage of the benefits the program has to offer.

"Inspoteen is good because they pro-

vide opportunities to help you. There was one person who needed help with a job interview, and they gave him so much help and information," sophomore Jareth Valenzuela said.

If the success rate of the organization continues as is, the program will be implemented all across the Anaheim Union High School District.

### The Shamrock

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## KENNEDY STRONG



MAHAM MEMON  
Photo Editor

Catherine Larson, an English teacher at Kennedy High, is bringing something totally new and different to the table.

Larson, along with her excited group of Fighting Irish students, is producing a student-led podcast aptly named “Kennedy Strong.”

Everyone from here to Timbuktu is able to tune in and listen to what’s going on with our school and community.

They are working every day on the podcast to produce something truly special that will impact the listeners.

“It’s a place where we can house all the things that make Kennedy strong,” Adviser Catherine Larson said. “People can come and listen to students talk about things important to students.”

She truly believes once students listen to it, they will want to get involved and create their own episode. In doing so, they will be able to express to their fellow peers what is important to them.

“It is a way to come together and create a group to make a difference on campus and in our community,” one of the heads of “Kennedy Strong” junior Reyna Ontineros said.

The club allows people out of Larson’s english class to get involved in the podcast. Even to the most casual observer, Larson’s passion of making an impact while creating episodes is put on full display. She also believes it is a great way to simply inform those on campus, in the district, and in



CATHERINE LARSON/The Kennedy Strong Podcast  
Stay up to date by following @kennedystrongpodcast on Instagram.

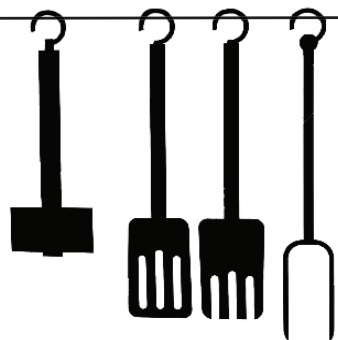
the community what exactly is going on around campus. The podcast gets the staff involved with their interviews. Akin to other notable publications like the “Eternal Flame,” the Kennedy yearbook, and “The Shamrock,” the Kennedy newspaper, it is completely student run.

The intro to the episodes includes, “We focus on the good in our school and community to spread awareness, kindness, and the strength of students. The Kennedy Strong Podcast is all student, all the time.”

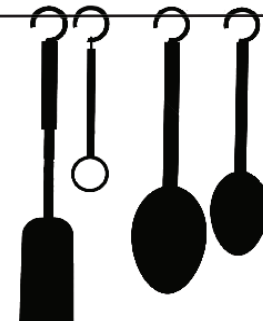
The students created the intro music by hand and scripted everything themselves. There are currently twenty episodes. They are all around 25 minutes long on average and include a variety of different characters throughout from staff to students as well as an array of topics from the midterm elections to ASB.

Along with attempting to make a difference with their listeners, their goal is to also monetize the podcast. They previously received a grant from the Education Foundation for OC Schools. The plan is to donate their wealth from sponsors back into the school truly making Kennedy strong.

Listeners simply must tune into any podcast app on their phone and subscribe to “Kennedy Strong Podcast.” A large base of support will ultimately grant them the traction they require to attract sponsors for their program and get them on Apple’s new and newsworthy list.



## CONSTRUCTION IN CULINARY



JESSICA LE  
Staff Reporter

In November 2018, the new culinary room opened its kitchen doors after months of construction. The restructuring on the room was funded by the Anaheim Union High School District’s CTE which sponsors districts around the nation.

Robyn Parratto, the culinary teacher, was given the opportunity to design the room to give it a fresh, new look. The room is designed to have more space so that it is easier for students to move around and keep organized. In the culinary room is a new kitchen station, lights, and cabinets.

It is not complete, as there is a lack of essential equipment. For example, there is camera attached to the ceiling to record Parratto teaching class recipes, but it does not work yet. However, when it does, the learning experience in the culinary classes will be much more close-up. Students are happy to have a kitchen after waiting since August.

“It feels like a real kitchen compared to being in the ASB room,” junior Melissa Meng said.

Culinary classes had to be sheltered in the ASB room while construction was going on. The ASB room, of course, had no stove or oven.

“It’s nice because now we have ovens to cook with and before we just made food without heat,” junior Isabella Patel said.

Students needed to be resourceful and prepare sushi or use a microwave as a source of heat. There was not much space to work with also. With two large programs being in the same classroom, it was

challenging for ASB and culinary to work around each other.

“We would try to be cooking but they had posters that needed to be made or they had to make posters and we would be in the way,” Parratto said.

Parratto does thank ASB for their accommodations while they were in need of a space to work and learn in.

Parratto and her students are satisfied with the outcome of the construction and hope that it will enhance the future culinary students’ learning experience.



MAHAM MEMON/The Shamrock



## SPECIAL ATHLETES

ASHLEY MONTERO  
Features Editor



MAHAM MEMON/ *The Shamrock*

*Kennedy students playing in the Special Olympics Basketball, showing school spirit and having fun while doing it!*

On Nov. 16, 2018 American Sports Center hosted one of four Special Olympics games of the season. The Special Olympics is a competition between over 30 schools in the Anaheim Union School District featuring students with mental and physical disabilities. Schools team up against each other to play a friendly game of basketball. The games were publicized around each school to find participants who wished to compete. Most schools had their very own cheerleaders ranging from students to parents supporting their own classmates.

"It's an opportunity for our students to show their athletic skills in an environment that is as natural as it can be with support from peers, which is fantastic," educational specialist John Teutimez said.

There were many organizations sponsoring the event to support the kids, such as the local hospital.

Kennedy students were excited to play

and compete with other students from different schools which helped them to make new friends. The event contained a large support group that motivated the children into participating and playing as best as they could. Sports medicine students, parents, and other chaperones were there to encourage these special athletes.

The sports medicine students were given the opportunity to tag along on the field trip to encourage those taking part in the sporting event, giving them the chance to gain more experience with the atmosphere. Many of them felt that the event helped them to meet the other kids and acknowledge their athletic skills.

"Overall it's just a good experience...I feel that the opportunities opened up between them and us a way to build a stronger connection," senior Jordan Bautista said.

There are numerous events held in and

around the community like this one that are just not as popularized. Just to go out to one of these events opens many bystanders eyes to certain things that they may not feel comfortable talking about.

"There's not enough good words to actually describe it. In one single word, outstanding...to get [Kysen Nakano] out here to play any type of team event. I think it's not only good for him, but good for everyone," father Kurt Nakano said. "In general, just to have team building. They see each other in class every day, but to come and participate as a team, representing their school, this is something that they otherwise wouldn't have a chance to do."

Although Kennedy High School lost to Katella High School by a few points, the students had a fun time playing against each other in the games with over 700 students. For the volunteers, the chance to see the kids enjoying themselves made it all

worth it for them in the end.

"I got to see everyone having fun in an athletic and healthy way and also see their smiles," volunteer Jeanette Shinghlee said.

Such year-round games occur throughout Cypress, such as Champion Baseball, providing special needs children the options of learning and playing baseball. They also have local youth baseball and softball teams buddy up with these kids to play in a fun, safe, and monitored environment. This helps to advertise and open more opportunities for those interested in being involved in the community.

The next game will be a track and field meet held on Feb. 22 at Savanna High School. After that, the Hope Cup will take place on March 22 at Hope School and the CSUF Special Games on May 3 at the Cal State University of Fullerton, so make sure to be there to support your fellow Kennedy Students.

## FILL A BAG, FILL A HEART!

FAITH NGUYEN  
Staff Reporter

Founded in 2005, Bags of Hope is a charity that gives high quality gifts to children of low-income families. Kennedy High school been a proud participant of the organization since 2014.

Every year, the Hope Community Church of Anaheim reaches out to high schools and volunteer associations that wish to help.

"Bags of Hope originally began as an organization focused on collecting gifts for the children, but since 2005 we have grown and even started collecting donations for homeless teenagers and adults," Bags of Hope project director Penny Tucker said. "We aim to spread joy, to let people have those moments of opening a gift and actually getting what they want."

In 2017 the project organizers for Kennedy were Ashley Amancio and Theinan Nguyen. This year Kennedy High School juniors Alex Sunga and Lucia Jung have taken over. The new motto for Bags of Hope planned for 2018 is "Fill a bag, fill



FAITH NGUYEN/ *The Shamrock*

*Sunga (left) and Jung (right) setting up the stage in preparation for donations.*

a heart!"

Each year the leaders in charge provide an estimated amount of how many duffel bags will be prepared throughout the student body. The cause is opened to the entire school community, with different themes, this year's motivation being 'Clear the Tree.'

From Nov. 26 to Dec. 7, a Christmas

tree was set up on the stage, decorated with ornaments. The ornaments had gifts listed on them like stuffed animals and board games. Students were encouraged to come up on stage, take an ornament and bring it back within two weeks with the gift listed.

"Hopefully, it [ornament tree] will motivate students to take off ornaments and bring in more gifts," Jung said.

In 2017 Kennedy collected 50 bags; this year the goal is 60.

Jung and Sunga hope to bring in more donations by focusing on certain groups instead of simply the student body. These groups can then provide their own incentive, such as volunteer hours and extra credit.

"This year we chose to branch out and call other organizations and bigger classes such as choir, IB, band, and clubs," Sunga said.

The program allows students to not only get involved, but contribute to a great cause that ultimately helps the less fortunate.

"Not only do I get [volunteer] hours for donating, I also have the benefit of doing something for the greater good," junior Isabella Patel said.

At Kennedy High School alone, over 65 bags were raised. In the entire organization there were over 400. The bags were then collected and distributed by a network of volunteers all over Orange County. Since 2005 over 2,000 low-income families were impacted.



# 17 and Taxed



**JERRIT WOODWORTH**  
Staff Reporter

Being 17 is about being a kid and finding yourself. It's about surrounding yourself with your friends and family. However, being 17 is not about becoming an adult prematurely. No 17 year-old should be forced into filing their own taxes at such a young age.

According to the California Franchise Tax Board, if you are a dependent under 65 whose income is higher than your standard deduction you must file a California income tax return- usually meaning that if you make more than \$1050, which is a standard deduction for dependents, you will have to file your taxes. This law pushes kids to not only file their own taxes, but forces them to grow up too fast.

While some feel that this is a good idea, the reality about this is that it adds stress to a teenager's already stressful life, which are derived from college applications, finals, and getting good grades. Adding another stressful task of filing their taxes could stress some teenagers out even more than they already are.

Unfortunately most teens don't know

the difference between a 1040ez and a 1040A. These numbers face an irrelevance to students who aren't trained to understand, the only alternative would surface as a program to teach the difference. As it turns out, Kennedy has the program. The newly named Career, Finance, and Technology course (formerly called, Business and Systems Technology) offers students the opportunity to learn which forms are the correct ones to fill out.

"I think it's an interesting concept, but I also think that 17 is awfully young," teacher Linda Turshman said. "They're not even legal adults yet, but they're expected to have the responsibility of an adult by filing a tax return. I wonder what the consequences would be if they didn't do it correctly, or didn't report something accu-

rately. We have a whole unit on taxes, and I actually have them file 1040ez's and we use the tax tables."

Although some adults feel that kids doing their taxes on their own is a good idea, various students feel that they're not even adults yet, so why should they be forced to take on "grown-up" responsibilities?

"It shouldn't be that way because most of us aren't taught how to pay taxes or we don't remember how," senior Cedric Amoranto said.

A number of adults support the idea of having teenagers file their taxes because they perceive that it is a good way to help the nation's youth mature. A myriad number of this generation is much more immature compared to the previous generations. Maybe forcing this generation to file taxes

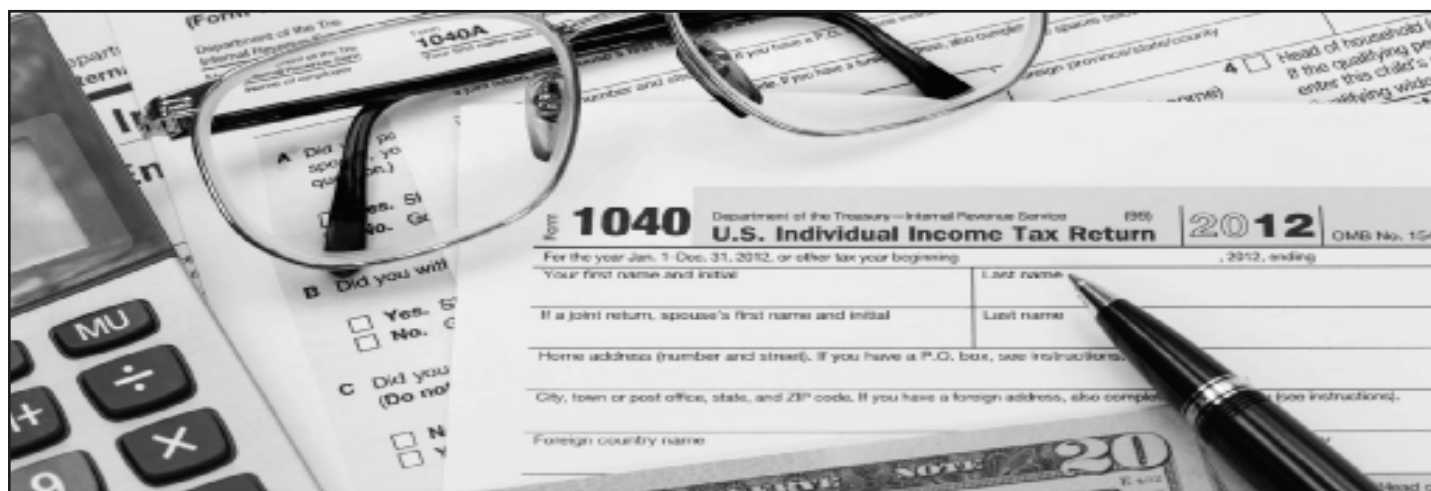
will actually make them mature a little.

On the other hand, filing taxes requires a lot of responsibility. It requires teenagers to be able to keep records of everything and balance checkbooks among other things.

If teenagers are responsible to handle money in this fashion, then hypothetically speaking, they should be able to do other things that only adults can do.

Gambling, drinking, smoking and legally driving with minors in a vehicle are some of the activities that adults can do but minors can not. So if young adults can file tax forms, then they should be able to engage in various "adult activities."

Many teenagers aren't ready, nor are they mature enough. They should remain dependants to their parents and shouldn't have to file taxes without having jobs.



Courtesy of GOOGLE

*The whole purpose of life before coming-of-age is to reflect what you did in your younger years, this law says differently.*

# Should the Drinking Age Be Lowered?



**SHAYLA PARKER**  
Staff Reporter

At which age are U.S. citizens really considered an adult-- 18 or 21? Laws involving the most adult activities like mutual sexual consent, driving, and marriage differ among the 50 states, however they are all at 16 to 18 years of age. Therefore it is unreasonable that the drinking age would be set at 21, three years after you become an adult.

At 18, you can vote, can go to war-- you're even required to register if you are a male. In California you can have your driving license by the age of 16 and will no longer need permission from a parent or guardian to get married at 18.

Other parts of the world, such as Australia, China, and Egypt currently have a drinking age of 18. Some regions even permit legal drinking at 16; some of these include Hati, Italy, and Sudan.

"I believe the drinking age should be lowered again to 18," French teacher Catarina Banales said. "In Europe, you see that



ASHLEY CHASTINE/The Shamrock

*The ongoing debate of whether the drinking age either should be 18 or 21 in the U.S.*

many 16-year-olds are allowed to drink legally."

Originally the drinking age was 21, as was the drafting and voting age. This dates back to the old English common law that one becomes a full adult at the age of 21-- when one was allowed to vote and could become a knight. At that time, it only made sense for the drinking age to remain at 21. With that kind of logic, since one is legally labeled as an adult by the age of 18 in

America, it only makes sense to lower the drinking age as well.

"Once someone turns 18 they are able to vote and when someone turns 16 they are able to drive-- those are such huge points in your life," junior Isabel Alcala said. "Once you turn 18 you are seen as an adult that no longer needs help from guardians and if we are given these rights, I just don't see why we shouldn't be able to drink at 18."

In 1984, the National Minimum Drink-

ing Age Act was passed -- a federal act that required states to prohibit under age drinking in exchange for highway funds. This was an attempt to combat drunk driving. As a result, states that chose to lower their drinking age below 21 lost up to 10 percent of their highway funding.

"The age of 18, which is the age of most high school seniors, many of us still have a reckless and free spirited behavior," junior Eduardo Baca said. "That, paired with the little experience that most have with driving at that age, drinking at the same age would be problematic."

According to BacTrack, an alcohol breathalyzer website, between 1991 and 2011, the percentage of high school aged teens driving under the influence decreased 54 percent. In addition, nine out of 10 teens from 16 to 18 did not drink and drive in 2011. There is a clear improvement, but the issue has not fully gone away. These statistics prove that regardless of the legal age, teens will find a way to obtain alcohol when they want it.

"Any sort of age limit or law never stops people from going out and getting what they want. Putting the age down to 18 would probably lessen the amount of kids going behind their parents backs or against the law," junior Maya Simpson said.

With almost all other rights of a full adult in the U.S. granted at 18, it no longer makes sense to withhold drinking until 21.





## Study Tips for Finals Week

NOJITHA RANAWEERA  
Staff Reporter

### 1. Clarify the exam content

Find out what the test is going to cover. Once you begin studying, remember to bring any questions you have to your teachers. They are there to help!

### 2. Be efficient!

Set aside time during the week to organize your notes and think about tactics to tackle studying. Create a study plan for yourself that caters your time and academic needs.

### 3. Learn how you study best

Just because your friend makes color-coded outlines doesn't mean that's the best way for you to study too. For example, change the lyrics of a song you know to help you memorize the formulas for math. Any studying is good studying so do it the way that works best for you.

### 4. Know when to stop studying

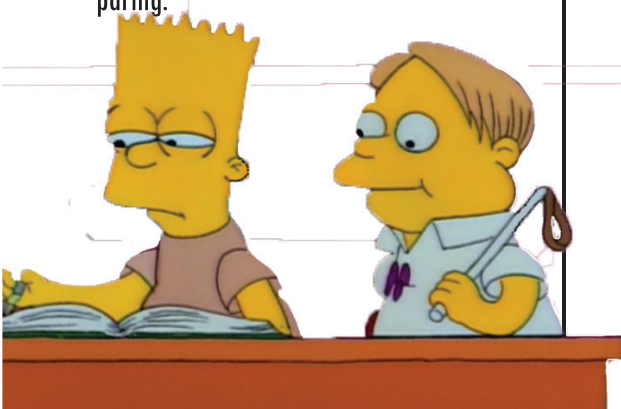
You're not going to learn a lot of new content. The likelihood of stressing yourself more than necessary is higher. For procrastinators, flashcards can be a good resource. They can earn you a few more points on test day and is a much healthier way than starting at page one of the textbook all over again.

### 5. Get a good night sleep

Eight hours is ideal for the night before an exam. It may be tempting to stay up late studying, but remember that you're going to need energy and maintain focus while you're taking your exam!

### 6. Relax!

You've survived final exams before, you'll survive this time too. If you're feeling nervous, take slow, steady breaths. Remind yourself of the hard work you put into preparing.



Illustrations Courtesy of GOOGLE

# CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

JESSICA LE  
Staff Reporter

## AUGUST



**SARAH ITO**: "Home cooked food is the best kind of food."

**NICK PIAZZA**: "Make hard work a habit."

## SEPTEMBER



**GABRIEL TREJO**: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

**MAHAM MEMOM**: "Why fall in love when you can fall asleep?"

## OCTOBER



**LEITON PINTO**: "Failure is not just a setback, it is a chance to begin again with the knowledge needed to succeed."

**CRYSTAL DIAZ**: "Be kind always!"

## NOVEMBER



**NICK DEL ROSARIO**: "Live life. Breathe air. I know somehow we're gonna get there."

**ASHLEY KUWAHARA**: "Scholar, not a baller."

## DECEMBER



**CASSI KAIHEVALU**: "You only get to experience high school once so get involved, work hard, and always look for the positives!"

**RAJIV BHATTACHARYA**: "It's not about the triumph, it's about the struggle."



Natalie Mai & Annie La/THE ETERNAL FLAME







## YOUTUBE OR COLLEGE



ANGELA PARK  
Staff Reporter

The rise of influencers on social media and YouTube have generated the recurring question in many young people of whether they want to pursue a YouTube career for good pay or attend college for an education. What these aspiring individuals don't realize is that the modern world that we live in today is absorbed in the influence of YouTube and social media. Therefore, the reason for certain YouTubers' success was granted by two fundamental factors: time and luck. College is something that is expected for today's generation to experience due to the high competitiveness that is derived from college that will supposedly guarantee a successful future. Nevertheless, receiving a greater education beyond high school will be beneficial in the long run.

"Any high school graduate, in my opinion, should attend college," assistant principal Rafael Santiago said. "However, I think anyone should pursue their dreams whatever it may be that will benefit their career."

Individuals feel inclined to pursue a YouTube career because of how "easy" they believe it is to make money off of YouTube. Beneath the simplicity of creating a channel, making videos, and up loading them onto the site, there's time, luck, and connections a YouTuber really needs in greater hopes of success. The most popular YouTube stars didn't get famous in a day, month, or year; it took time.

"If you think today you're going to get on YouTube and make money, the chances are pretty slim because everyone does it," father of YouTube star and history teacher Gerard Steele said. "My daughter started when she was 10 and that's when youtube first started. She was on the bottom so to speak, she got kind of popular, then it took off and she rode that wave."

Amanda Steele started on YouTube in 2010 with her channel "MakeupBy-Mandy24," posting makeup and fashion content. Since then, she's been making a career off of YouTube and has even progressed by making money off of advertisements on other social media platforms such as Instagram.

Knowing this, there's no guarantee for success when an individual starts a Tube channel in 2018 because of how normalized YouTube has become throughout the years. Everyone has done everything

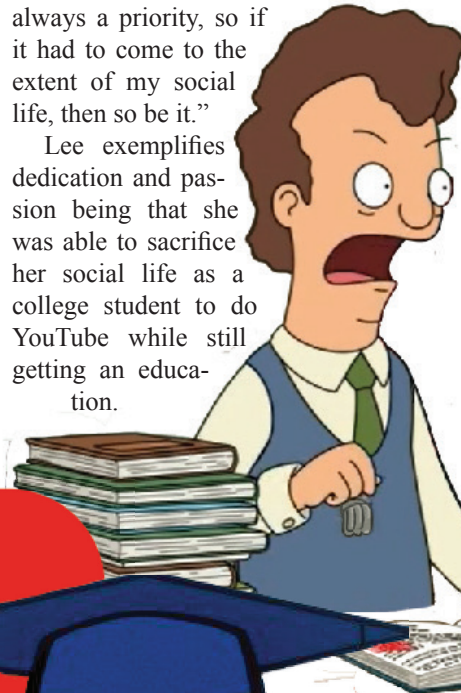
on YouTube whether it's gaming, makeup, fashion, and almost anything and everything else.

There's no doubt that college will be initially detrimental to students who can't afford going which is why they would automatically turn to trying to pursue a career in YouTube. It's just a matter of time that the individual has to sacrifice in order for them to actually make a sufficient amount of money off of YouTube in order to establish it as a career.

"College is not for everyone but if you're capable of going to college, you should do that because Youtube is a long shot that you're going to make money in," Steele said. "I think for most people, a college degree is worth more because at

artistically so I learned how to allocate my time," Lee said. "For me, youtube was always a priority and school was always a priority, so if it had to come to the extent of my social life, then so be it."

Lee exemplifies dedication and passion being that she was able to sacrifice her social life as a college student to do YouTube while still getting an education.



the end of four years you're going to have something. You many have nothing after four years of Youtube."

There's always the case where influencers would do YouTube to afford going to college or simply as a hobby until they graduate from college. Youtube influencer, Amy Lee from "Vagabond Youth", created style and fashion videos on YouTube as a hobby while attending college at UCLA soon proving that it is 100% possible to do both YouTube and college.

"For me, going to a traditional institution like UCLA where it is so academia based was actually so fulfilling in a sense that it gave me so much knowledge, but I just felt like I was dying



JENNIFER LIM  
Staff Reporter

When thinking of a library, you typically think of a quiet, calm environment. Libraries have always been a place people go to in order to get away from distractions, and they are designed for this type of quiet working environment. However, this expected image isn't reflected by the Kennedy library. When walking into the school's library before school, at lunch, or after school, you'll enter into a room full of noise and people standing around. Everyone is aware that libraries are meant to be a quiet place, but at Kennedy, students seem to forget about this universal rule. Rather, the library has become an indoor hangout place for friends to gather and chat, making it a distracting and bothersome environment for those who actually want to work.

Year by year, the noise level in the library has been getting louder, marking a huge contrast between the library today compared to the library just a few years ago. When asked about this change, the librarian refused to comment.

"It's a place for people to socialize and be comfortable with their friends," senior IB student Ismael Ortega said. "But I wish there was a designated area where some students can study on their own because there's only one study room that you have to ask to use, and even the cubicles by the computers are noisy, making it difficult to concentrate."

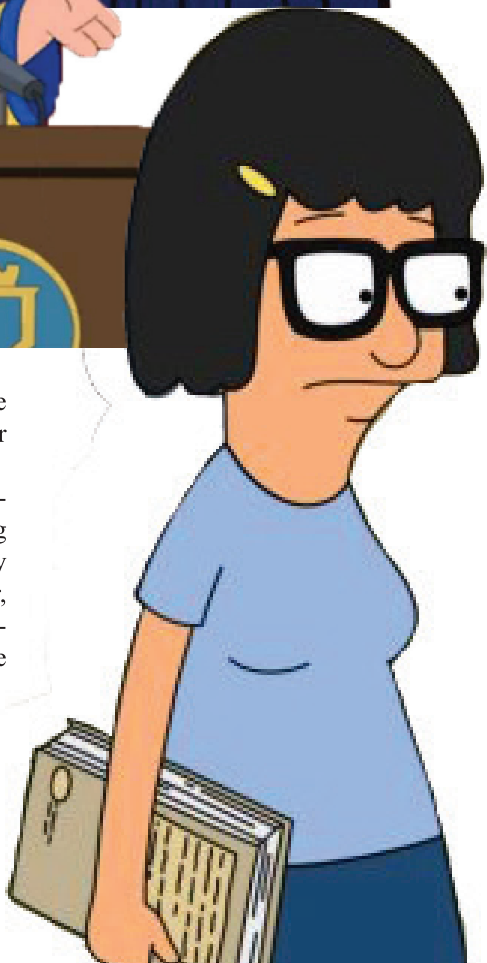
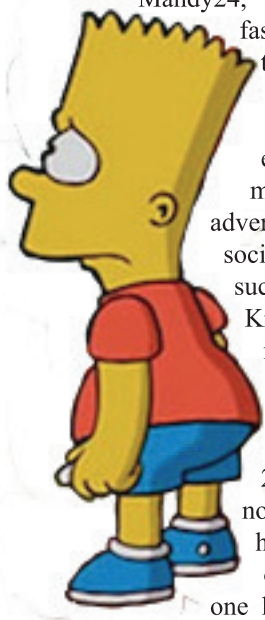
For students like Ortega who tutor after school, it is often times difficult to concentrate with all the noise, leading him to even move to the counseling center to continue his sessions.

"It's definitely become more of a meeting place rather than a place to work," senior Valerie Pugh said. "I don't have a problem with it though, and I think it's fine."

Roz Warren, librarian and journalist for the New York Times, posted an inquiry on her Facebook platform, asking her fellow librarians how quiet a public library should be.

"Libraries have evolved. These days they're culture and community centers where people can gather, enjoy programs and get information. Patrons who expect absolute quiet need to adjust," a librarian said.

Of course, there is no problem with the library being a place for friends to gather and socialize. In fact, it's great that the library has become a place of comfort for students to interact with each other, representing a well-bonded school community. However, people should respect those who do go to the library to get work done, rather than expecting them to "adjust." Realistically, it's easier for the ones who want to socialize to adjust to those who want a more quiet environment. Socializing and interacting are still possible even when talking with indoor voices, just as students are still able to talk in classrooms without disturbing the entire class. If students feel the absolute need to socialize loudly, maybe they should find a different social place to gather.



# CONSERVATIVE COMMENTATORS

## THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH



**KRISTEN GOMEZ**  
Staff Reporter

For years, the nation has explored different ideas of certain political issues, such as climate change, the First Amendment, same-sex marriage, abortion, health care, etc. Many have seen political commentators, mainly conservatives, such as Ben Shapiro, Milo Yiannopoulos, and Steven Crowder state their opinions about these issues. These commentators hold several disparities against liberal college students. Since most students there are very liberal, most believe that conservative commentators should be silenced, just because these students disagree with their opposing ideas. However, these conservative commentators have their full and respective rights under the First Amendment, therefore, these commentators should not be silenced.

To be fair, some of the way that conservative commentators word their opinions are very controversial, but when using facts or sources to support their claims. For example, Shapiro uses facts and statistics when backing up his opinions or when

someone challenges him with a response. However, when discord arises among conservative commentators, they are further labeled as “racist,” “sexist,” “homophobic,” and the list goes on.

“There is no such thing as ‘your truth.’ There is the truth and your opinion” editor-in-chief of The Daily Wire Ben Shapiro said.

Under the topic of Ben Shapiro, he speaks at college campuses and debates with people and/or politicians, about the topic of “conservative ideas,” or rather the ideas that liberals don’t agree with. On Tuesday, Nov. 13, when he went to Ohio State University, he was met with protesters at the university, and they chanted statements like, “Reagan’s dead,” and “John McCain’s dead,” as he arrived at the campus.

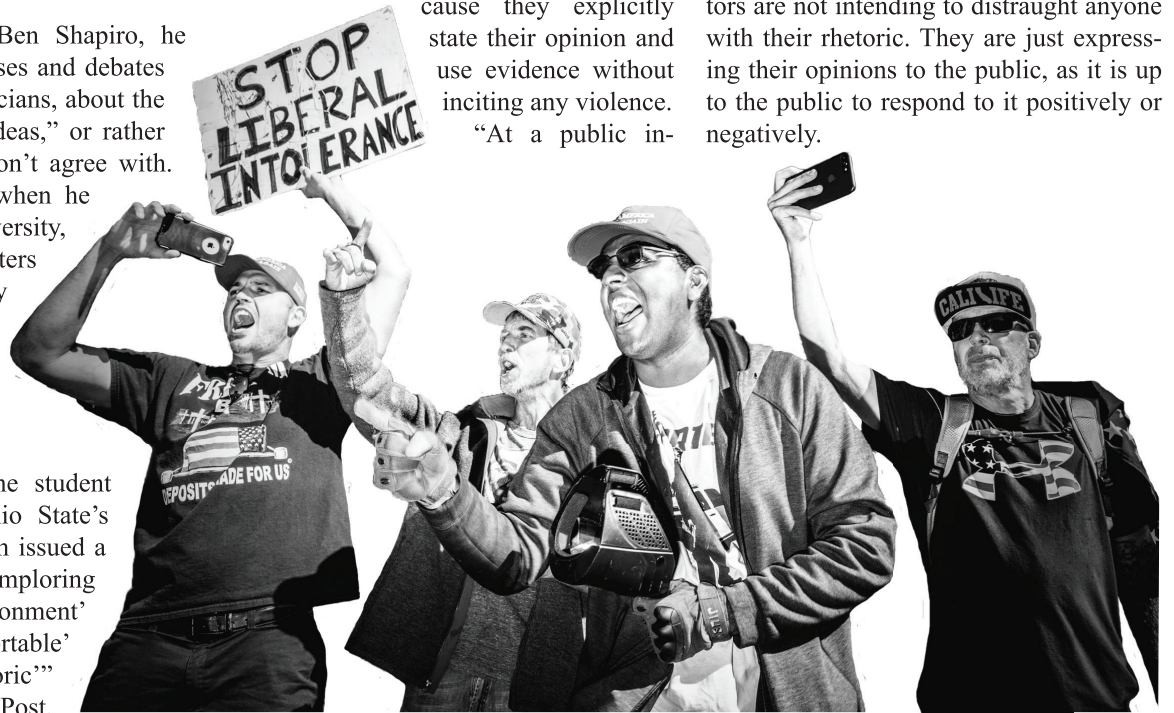
“Before the event, the student advisory council of Ohio State’s Morrill Scholars Program issued a message to the students imploring them to ‘seek a safe environment’ if they ‘do not feel comfortable’ around Shapiro’s ‘rhetoric,’” writer to The Huffington Post, Jenna Amatulli said.

In a sense, Shapiro and the rest of these

commentators have opinions about these political and social issues, it makes sense why a person from the other side in politics would find them contradictory, even to the point of offending them. However, once things go too far on the difference of free speech and hate speech, these commentators are not using “hate speech” because they explicitly state their opinion and use evidence without inciting any violence. “At a public in-

stitution, cancelling a speech because of what the speaker might say is called prior restraint, and the courts have generally deemed it unconstitutional” writer to the New Yorker, Andrew Marantz said.

Speech without the intent of violence is still free speech that is stated and protected in the U.S. Constitution, these commentators are not intending to distraught anyone with their rhetoric. They are just expressing their opinions to the public, as it is up to the public to respond to it positively or negatively.



MARK PETERSON/The New Yorker  
Outside of UC Berkeley, protestors hold up signs to end intolerance of free speech.

# HOME-GROWN TERRORISM



**DOMINIQUE LARSON**  
Editor-in-Chief

Terrorism—the word itself incites fear. Often accompanied by the mental image of what one considers the stereotypical “terrorist.” What many Americans seem to overlook in the issue of terrorism is the most prevalent threat: Neo-Nazis, the home-grown terrorists.

White supremacists are murdering minority groups in the name of pseudoscience almost daily, and the “tolerant left” matched with the “alt-right” groups who allow for these terrorists to voice their opinions of hate and wishes for genocide are enabling the continuance of one of America’s greatest problems today.

The enabling of such people to act as they please has resulted in that group of people feeling comfortable to share their harmful ideas and incite violence. During the midterm election, nine candidates were neo-Nazis. One of which, Arthur Jones, has very similar views as the late Adolf Hitler. He is the former leader of the American Nazi Party who refused to release information about his donors.

“I’m not going to give the Jews an opportunity to harass my supporters until af-

ter the election,” Jones said.

The 2017 Hate Crime Statistics released by the FBI state that hate crimes are up 17 percent in America. Neo-Nazis generally attack people based on the person’s religion (non-Christian) or race (non-White). The race/ethnicity/ancestry-based hate crimes are up 60 percent and religion-based up 21 percent. Their main targets are minorities who are subject to most oppression in America.

According to The Anti-Defamation League’s Center on Extremism, 71 percent of the extremist-related deaths in the United States from 2008-17 were committed by members of the far right or white supremacists. White supremacists are the most dangerous, most active, and most accepted terrorist group that threatens the United States. White privilege is the reason these terrorists are not treated with the same retribution as other extremist groups that threaten national security.

“We’re actually seeing all the same phenomena of what was happening with groups like ISIS, same tactics, but no one talks about it because it’s far-right extremism,” national-security strategist P.W. Singer said.

This entitlement is even demonstrated by the president, who has made it very clear that he does not see Neo-Nazis as a legitimate threat. After the riot in Charlottesville, VA where white supremacists were rioting for their right to violent hate, President Donald Trump made a statement

completely lacking condemnation to these terrorists.

“You had many people in that group other than neo-Nazis and white nationalists ... You also had some very fine people on both sides,” Trump said.

This validation goes a long way for those who want desperately to wave their privilege above the heads of the less-privileged. From actual pain-inflicting terrorists to snarky, privileged, white, teenage boys, the freedom to incite passionate racism is seen throughout society today.

An example of this unfiltered privi-

lege-flashing happened in 2017 during prom pictures at Baraboo High School in Wisconsin when a group of primarily white male students held up Nazi salutes with the same ease and confidence one would use holding up a peace sign or a thumbs-up.

There are no “fine” or even “adequate” neo-Nazis. There will be no equality in America until every violent group is treated with equal punishment. White privilege is preserving the reputations and the livelihoods of neo-Nazis. Nazi is a bad word, describing a bad person with bad intentions; it is about time it is treated that way.



PETER GUST/Wheel Memories  
A group of primarily white male students of Baraboo High School in Wisconsin pose for prom photos in front of city hall, holding up various white-power hand signals.



DEATH PENALTY

Pro

ASHLEY MONTERO  
Features Editor

According to the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. constitution, “cruel and unusual punishments [shall not be] inflicted.” What is the meaning of this? There is no actual definition to the morality of this amendment, so ultimately, the death penalty shouldn’t be abandoned.

Commonly used methods for the death penalty consists of lethal injection, electrocution, lethal gas, hanging, and firing squads. About 54 percent of Americans say that they support the death penalty, while an entire 46 percent of the nation believes that it is not imposed enough.

Those put on death row are generally there for a good reason, from treason to murder to genocide, they are monsters. Murderers like Jeffrey Dahmer and Clarence Ray Allen were sentenced to death for the slaughter of over 30 men, women, and children.

The families that are tragically damaged by the death of their loved ones are not at fault for demanding the blood of these murderers. All these families want is justice for the misery inflicted upon them.

These murderers and traitors are also assumed to be innocent in a public trial due to court precedents set by the Fifth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments. To be frank, murderous criminals on death row are exhaustively tried and ultimately convicted by an impartial jury of their peers. They must answer for their hideous crimes.

“I agree with the death penalty because I believe that it is wrong to keep certain people alive for heavy crimes as in serial killer or sexual assault because you are not a good being,” senior Ahriana Zamano said.

When punishment is justified, it is either too severe or too lenient for Americans, depending on the severity of their crime. These debates usually revolve around those who get either a life sentence or are put on death row. Research shows that with the death penalty enacted, crime rates have lowered.

Very rarely are there mistaken deaths or wrong executions, especially with new advancements in technology. About 20 incarcerated inmates have been found to be wrongfully executed since 1992.

“Against it in that it has been proven time and time again that we execute innocent people until we can figure out how to not execute innocent people. We can’t really have it [sic],” teacher Steven Singley said.

Each criminal put on death row is given a fair trial. The justice system is implemented for a reason. Even with the miniscule amount of wrongful deaths, the system still does so much good through putting down a slew of murders.

There are some things to consider before rejecting the death penalty. First off, there’s always this common misconception that men put in jail will come to regret their irreversible crimes. However, the belief that these men or women will voluntarily reform based off of their supposed “guilt”

is too flimsy to risk. So, what then? We, the people, get to decide if we want murders, pedophiles, or drug-traffickers in the same world with our sisters, brothers, mothers, fathers, or friends.

A life for a life. It isn’t fair to let a criminal be able to get away with any punishable crime by allowing them to leisurely be fed three meals a day with the option of getting recreational time, all being paid by taxpayers. All the while families who have had their kin stolen away from them is subjected to the constant trauma of having a monster remain breathing the same air as them.

By keeping the death penalty, it allows families to feel the safety of knowing that the offender is no longer having the choice of conducting another kidnapping, rape, or murder. There is always a limit. Every human being should have the knowledge of not crossing that line.

“It’s just society saying that there are limits and if you cross these limits then there is an ultimate price to pay. We’re gonna vote you off the island,” Singley said. “I think it gives people some boundaries. There’s a limit as to what I can do. Not just live my life out in a prison.”

Evolutionists relate to the theories regarding natural selection that human beings develop throughout time. They believe that the death penalty should be abolished because punishment should be evolved along with society’s perceptions, as social standards change. However, it should

remain constant as the Constitution did allow it to continue. The creators of our founding documents intended to keep those pertaining to the sentence, in order to show that there should be limitations.

Most criminals are left on death row for years. The preparations are obscenely specific to make sure that the executioners do not violate any regulations along with confirming that the crime fits the sanction.

Don’t risk the chance of being a victim or having someone you love be at lost.

Con

KASSIE DO  
Managing Editor

The death penalty strives to assume a position of humane status, rebelling against the harsher, past inflictions. But in reality, there is one specific reason to abolish it entirely.

The purpose of injecting multiple barbiturates, or sedatives, prioritizes the insurance of the inducement process as a constitutional immediacy of death. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, since 1976, lethal injection has been recognized as the most viable option in carrying out capital punishment because its representation as the more “humane” method in retrospect with previous alternatives: electrocution, firing squad, lethal gas, and hanging. The modern implementation in

comparison to past death-by-hanging creates a rift in their extremities, setting a precedent that mellows the severity of lethal injection now. So by default, it is believed to comply with the Eighth Amendment: “... nor cruel and unusual punishments [shall be] inflicted.” Due to the broadness of capital punishment’s only plausible restriction, its perpetuation enabled it to maintain a front whose utilization is not “cruel and unusual” in correspondence with the preceding “cruel and unusual” methods.

“Whatever the arguments may be against capital punishment...the death penalty has been employed throughout our history, and, in a day when it is still widely accepted, it cannot be said to violate the constitutional concept of cruelty,” Chief Justice Earl Warren said.

However, there’s no regard to the adaptability of the Eighth Amendment in contingency to the caliber of modern society. But nearly

50 subsequent years and execution is okay, only because history didn’t declare it wrong. Death penalty’s relativity was derived to enforce constitutional punishment, but stretching the Eighth Amendment as validation is a stagnated attempt at disguising the reason to terminate it.

The dependence on written precedents is to limit the likelihood of evolutionary deconstruction. Because of this, the Constitution acts as a blueprint; a plan, but not a totality.

But due to the amendment’s unclear connotation, “cruel and unusual” can be flexibly reasoned.

An example of this is convict Doyle Hamm. In 1987, after being charged for the first-degree murder of a clerk during a robbery, he was assigned death row. On Feb. 22, 2018, he was finally prepared for lethal injection and trusted the notion that it will permit an immediate death. But the first injection, supposedly aimed to heavily sedate him, failed to properly function. Its faultiness enabled him to be conscious during the antecedent and more painful injections. Despite the value of rendering one comatose, lethal injection presented a recent violation of the “cruel and unusual” litigation. Hamm had to endure the reason as to why lethal injection is “lethal.” This reality, if constitutional, shouldn’t have to come with a cautionary “Can Wake Up” sign after a near five decades. “Cruel” should extend to how there’s still space for error for lethal injection to breach its own purpose and the “unusual” close occurrence of this circumstance. Despite the faithful intention of the carrying-out process, it’s what actually happens that we could judge it upon — accountability.

“Today’s administration of the death penalty involves three fundamental constitutional defects: (1) serious unreliability, (2) arbitrariness in application, and (3) unconscionably long delays that undermine the death penalty’s penological purpose,” the *Glossip v. Gross* Supreme Court decision said.

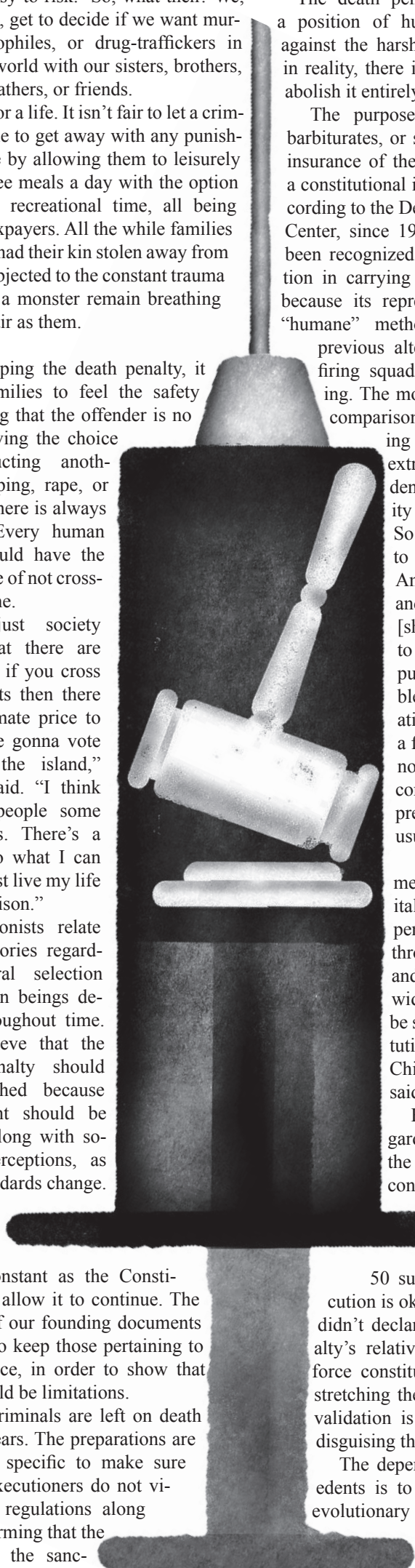
The dignity of supporting capital punishment, especially now, is undermined by the wideness of its restrictions. The Eighth Amendment aimed to establish a standard for punishable-by-death crimes as it sustains our united morality, and the present application of its endeavors depicts an uncivilized infliction of manslaughter. The government permits this continuation; there’s no red light. There’s no chronological equivalency to crimes because value changes, but committing injustice of the law doesn’t.

“The death penalty should be removed because it is a waste of resources and... doesn’t lower crime rate. By abolishing the death penalty we can use resources to better treat the prisoners in our prison system,” senior Maureene Sobremisana said.

Capital punishment must be held accountable under the obligations it intended. If it doesn’t completely abide constitutional limitations nor is properly convenient, consider the prevalence of sentiment — it adapts, like people. And we are all people fortified under the same law that reinforces the progressiveness of our morality. If we can’t stand by that, then the loyalty to our constitutional upbringing works to attribute a past of crimes not definitive of moral fulfillment that disregards advancing constitutional integrity, as well as basing judgment upon its intentionality but not the more liable implementation.

Take it like this. A voice back then doesn’t speak for an action now — don’t let it.

Illustration: Yarek Waszul/New York Times



## TIME TO END NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY



**NICOLE NGUYEN**  
Opinions Editor

For 29 years, the prospect of LGBTQ rights has continued to prevail and grit the backbone of homosexual discrimination, but in a restored generation the tolerance to social aberrants is now widespread.

Back in the 1980s, when gays were unknown to the public, homophobia perdured. Coming out to the public was a peaceful counter demonstration of that time. Their activism challenged conventional ideas by showing that gays and lesbians were now a part of everyday life.

Moving forward, America has now become a safer place in 2017.

“The majority of Americans (56%) remain satisfied with the acceptance of gays and lesbians in the U.S., as they have been for the past five years, News Gallop journalist Justin McCarthy said, “amid victories in the movement to legalize same-sex marriage... The 23% of national adults who are dissatisfied because they desire greater acceptance.”

Same-sex marriage is legal in all 50 states, student LGBTQ clubs and organi-

zations are funded by public high schools. However, none of this signifies perfection.

Rhetorically, coming out reinforces the idea that homosexuality is far from the norm. This day only enforces that being gay is a social aberrant to all LGBTQ supporters and enemies, alike. Reminding the world of the discrimination we received as homosexuals and proclaiming it only makes heterosexuality appear as normal as possible.

Imagine if we assumed everyone was gay. Oct. 11 would be the day for straight people to announce their sexuality. Until a little girl comes out and nonchalantly asks your friend if she has a girlfriend. I can only suspect that your friend would find this disappointing, assuming she’s straight. Her reaction is understandable. Having one’s sexuality misinterpreted is alienating to one’s identity.

Or if we reimagined National Coming Out Day as an occasion for everyone, whether gay, straight, bisexual, queer, or curious, this day could be a landmark for everyone to broadcast their orientation.

“These alternatives would be absurd. But they make clear that sexuality is no way to organize our judgments about people and that no particular sexuality should be the expected default...” Ohio State University professor Matthew H. Birkhold said, “clinging to a belief that a certain sex-

ual orientation is normal and natural marks those who fall outside it deviant.”

Undoubtedly, the symbol of coming out raises awareness of the community and re-surfaces their rights to equal opportunity.

“I think it’s now, as opposed to being more of a person against society type of thing, it’s more of a personal empowerment. Saying that I’m coming to terms with myself, I’m coming to terms with my sexuality. I am coming to terms to loving myself and allowing myself to live,” senior Lauren Hinrichs said.

But, paradoxically, coming out and its methods of celebration underlines a normative ideal that only injures our reputation. By making our problems visible, we are only marginalizing ourselves.

It’s a healthier alternative to refuse this implicit assumption that heterosexuality is the norm. Appraising the sufferings and remembering our discrimination takes part in a larger noxious resolve: that our celebration has become a parade that reinforces our victimization.



Courtesy of GOOGLE  
Members of the LGBTQ community march in a Pride Parade in Los Angeles.



**ANGELA PARK**  
Staff Reporter

Conversion therapies—also referred to as reparative therapy—strive to change the sexual orientation and gender identity of a homosexual or transgender individual. These individuals, predominantly ranging from ages 13 to 17, undergo such practices to abide by their parents’ hopes to “cure” them of this so called “mental illness” called homosexuality.

What people don’t know is the horrid actuality that the conversion therapies claim to accomplish. In truth, the extreme measures of treatments, some including prayer, hypnosis, and aversive therapy, result in the damages of the individual’s mental and physical state which demonstrate the danger and ineffectiveness of conversion therapies.

“I feel like a lot of what they do in these conversion therapy camps are not publicized to the world,” senior Anh Tran said. “They give the parents a pamphlet minimizing any of what really goes on.”

A statement from The American Psychiatric Association (APA) in opposition of homosexuality being a curable illness, let alone an illness itself, takes a stand against such practice as a strife to emphasize its harmful wrongdoing.

“Psychotherapeutic modalities to convert or ‘repair’ homosexuality are based on developmental theories whose scientific validity is questionable,” APA said. “In the last four decades, ‘reparative’ therapists have not produced any rigorous scientific research to substantiate their

## PRAY YOUR GAY AWAY

claims of cure. Until there is such research available, we recommend that ethical practitioners refrain from attempts to change individuals’ sexual orientation, keeping in mind the medical dictum to first, do no harm.”

Despite this, numerous conversion therapy organizations sustained their procedures disregarding the potential risks and the impossibility of discovering a treatment that can cure an otherwise sufficient healthy human being.

The severity of some treatments that are part of conversion therapies risk the mental and physical state of the youth resulting in depression, anxiety, and loneliness. One of the treatments that can be physically damaging is aversion therapy which includes electroshock therapy or vomit inducing chemical compounds in efforts to minimize the same-sex attraction. Some even say that conversion therapies require the individuals to snap a rubber band around their wrist whenever they have a sexual arousal for the same sex.

The new film “Boy Erased” tackles this subject to heavily touch base on the psychological torture inflicted on minorities who go through the treatments and its emotionally and mentally damaging effects. The film is based on a true story about a conversion therapy survivor, Garrard Conley who was enrolled in a program called “Love in Action” (LIA) in Memphis, Tennessee after coming out to his parents in hopes that his homosexuality can be suppressed. The film’s depiction of Conley’s experience shows the severity of the treatments and the detrimental impact it had on himself and other survivors.

“They knew that I saw myself as gay,

and they made me do these things called moral inventories which were long speeches given to the whole group at “Love In Action” where we had to talk about our sexual experiences or thoughts,” Conley said. “That first moment was also when I was shamed about my feelings, so it was an incredibly harmful practice to do to becoming into your own, understanding what that means, and at the same time aligning that with your shame and guilt.”

Conley’s enrollment to LIA was evidently out of his control being that he was a son of a Baptist pastor who couldn’t bear having a son who went against the fundamental beliefs of their religion. However, Conley’s mother discusses in an interview for “INSIDER” that she continues to live in extreme guilt due to ignorance of the actual procedures that severely risked her child’s mental state.

“You do it because you think you’re

saving your child and you love your child,” Martha Conley said.

The parent’s naivety in sending their child to conversion therapy comes from a desire to protect their child from discrimination whether in an environment such as work, school, or any public setting. Their hopes of “curing” their child is actually in hopes of allowing them to live as a normal individual.

“I want my child to just grow up without anyone believing that they’re different for other people,” Michelle Tran said. “Sexual discrimination at school and in the future can really detriment someone.”

The intentions of the child’s parent is in no way trying to harm them; however, the damage it has already done to the individuals who have experienced the treatments is unforgiving. 36 states in the United States have still not banned conversion therapies.



Courtesy of GOOGLE  
A woman holds up a sign at a Pride Parade in Los Angeles.



## IRENE KIM: KENNEDY'S CURRENT LEGACY

ALIVIA GARCIA  
Staff Reporter

Eddie Pleasant, Garrett Sabol, Ryan Kao, Rhema McKnight, and Vince Church are just a handful of Kennedy's most celebrated athletes. The most current of these athletes is senior Irene Kim. Making a name for herself, Kim is the captain of Kennedy High School golf team.

On Oct. 16, Kim became the 2018 Girl's Golf Empire League Champion, just the beginning of Kim's winning streak as she went on to win at the CIF Southern Section Regionals in Oxnard, California.

Kim became a part of the Southern California Golf Association (SCGA) and CIF Southern Regional Champion on Nov. 8, at Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena, California. Kim shot a 5-under 68, and placed first overall.

A week later, on Nov. 14, Kim competed at the CIF State Championship at Victoria Golf Club in Riverside, California. She shot a total gross of 76; just eight points higher than the current State cham-



pion, Brianna Navarrosa from Mater Dei High School.

"Irene was a blessing to coach. She is an athlete that has exceptionally great hand/ eye coordination, upper/ lower body strength, and mobility to swing a golf club," coach John Teutimez said. "She earned every bit of her success. Her work ethic is top notch."

Teutimez coached Irene since her freshman year when she came to him with prior golf knowledge. Teutimez said that Irene taught him that consistency is a great quality in golf.

Her accomplishments have undoubtedly been celebrated throughout these past few months on campus. From morning announcements to Instagram posts, Kim's wins never went unnoticed.

"The support from the campus has been amazing," Kim said. "The teachers and students also never failed to show their support for me all four years."

As a standout athlete, many already consider her as one of Kennedy's best. Although it is difficult to compare athletes among different sports, some have already begun to make the argument that she is the best athlete at Kennedy.

"No one sees how much she practices, she is always at the driving range practicing

her golf swings," athletic director Dean Wang said. "Irene adds to the great athletes that Kennedy has had."

Kennedy also has many athletes that have also gone on to do great things. In 2006, Eddie Pleasant was Kennedy's superstar running back. He went on to play for the Houston Texans for five years and he currently plays for the Arizona Cardinals.

"Eddie was a team player, a leader, and a kid that saw the game differently than most high school football players. Eddie scored all the touchdowns (4) in our CIF Finals win against Anaheim in 2006," sports med teacher Ian Sabala said.

With so many amazing athletes graduating from Kennedy each year, it is true that it is nearly impossible to pick the best. More and more athletes make their mark on the court, in the pool, and on the field at Kennedy everyday; the bar is constantly being raised.

"To try to name a best athlete in Kennedy history is impossible. I will say this without reservation- Irene Kim is the best girls' golfer we have ever had compete at this school," athletic director David Janowski said.

"Playing at Kennedy made me a better player because although I was getting good results, the experience humbled me because I knew that without the support of everyone, I wouldn't be able to come this far," Kim said.

Kim plans to continue her golfing career, signing with Northwestern University on Nov. 14.

The best athlete or not, Kim has definitely made her mark here at Kennedy High School.

## Successful Kennedy Athletes

ALIVIA GARCIA  
Staff Reporter



### Eddie Pleasant

Kennedy's 2007 star running back and linebacker. After spending seven seasons in the NFL with the Houston Texans, Pleasant now plays for the Green Bay Packers.



### Ryan Kao

Kao swam for Kennedy from 2011-14. He was a five-time CIF champ and three-time Empire League MVP. He finished his swim career at University of California-Berkeley.



### Rhema McKnight

McKnight graduated from Kennedy in 2002. He went on to play for Notre Dame, later signing with the New Orleans Saints in 2007.



MATT MASIN/ Orange County Register

## BOYS WATER POLO MAKES HISTORY

KATHERINE GARCIA  
Staff Reporter

During Kennedy Boy's Water Polo 2018-19 season, the team rewrote history as they made it to the CIF southern section semi-finals. In the last two years, Kennedy's Boys Water Polo team have failed to make it past the first round. However they pushed through to make it to the final four this past season. The team features just two seniors, a majority of juniors, and three sophomores, two of whom are in the

starting line-up.

"Personally, I think our record was pretty amazing considering how little subs we had," sophomore Ryan Kennedy said.

Iron-manning every game, including the playoffs, the team endured intense conditioning to build up stamina in order to be able to play every game without a break. This ultimately made them stronger and accustomed to the tough conditions as the season progressed. Despite losing in semi-finals, the boys made it farther than any previous team before, working ex-

tremely hard to make it there.

"I'm really proud of our season. This is the best team I've ever played with. We had a lot of ups and downs but we pushed through all of it to get where we want to be," junior Byron Hung said.

The Boys Water Polo team is a close bunch, many playing with one another for years. With seniors Karl Hays and Juan Anguiano leaving for college next year, the team wanted to push their limits to succeed in CIF and league. This ultimately paid off, as they finished league undefeated cham-

pions, and made it to the final four in CIF.

"It's crazy how far we've come. I honestly didn't expect to get this far in the season, but it just shows how hard work pays off," junior Eddie Baca said.

The Water Polo team ended the season with a (19-2) record, where they seeded second going into the playoffs. Although they fell short in their semi-final game against Brentwood, they will forever go down in history for making it as far as they did, with an outstanding record.



## 2019 SIGNING DAY

DOMINIQUE PRADO  
Staff Reporter

### Halie Jamir, Biola (SOCCER)

For student athletes, committing to their dream school seems like a fantasy. For senior Halie Jamir, her dream came true on Nov. 16 when she signed to Biola.

"Biola University was my dream school," Jamir said. "For the past 3 years, I've emailed the coach to come and watch me play at any tournament that I knew she would be at."

Jamir spent years of hard work to get the offer she's been waiting for. It was difficult at times to juggle the workload of school and sports, but it was all she ever knew and wouldn't have it any other way.

"I only hoped and prayed about it. I held off other offers for the one I really wanted," Jamir said.

Jamir was recognized by the university coaches and received more help with her support system on and off the field. She treasures everyone that has helped her on her journey and says the greatest support she has is her mother.

Jamir is ecstatic about her upcoming future and words cannot describe how happy she is to be going to her dream school.

### Alivia Garcia, McKendree University (WATER POLO)

The transition to high school from middle school and trying out a new sport can be stressful. Joining a sport you know barely anything about and being surrounded by students that have more years of experience can be a bit intimidating.

"I started playing water polo my freshman year, which was pretty late for most athletes. I had a lot of catching up to do," senior Alivia Garcia said.

College takes a lot of work and for Garcia it was hard but she always saw it as a possibility. School always came first and it took time management to keep a high GPA. All of her hard work finally paid off when she got her scholarship to McKendree University.

"Along with my athletic scholarship,

I also received an academic scholarship," Garcia said.

For her, all this could not be accomplished alone. She had a strong support system throughout her years in high school. The ongoing support of her parents helped her every step of the way as she competed and visited colleges.

"Ever since I did my recruit visit to McKendree University I kinda knew it was the school I wanted to play for," Garcia said.

She is going on to McKendree University to see the result of her hard work and continue playing for a great school on a great team.

### Miranda Gallardo, Illinois at Urbana (SOFTBALL)

Miranda Gallardo recently signed to University of Illinois at Urbana. Signing to a school takes time, effort, and sacrifices and for her there were many, but in the end it paid off.

For Gallardo, managing athletics and academics was difficult at times but always a priority.

"I found out that it helps to plan my week in advance and decide which hours to dedicate to school work and softball," Gallardo said.

Even though during the season it may be difficult to finish school work, she will sacrifice some hours of sleep because she knows it will be worth it. For her it is important to put the work into school, practice, and especially recruiting.

In the beginning, Gallardo had no idea what her future held and once she began the recruiting process everything became more vivid.

"I started visiting colleges and one that stood out to me was the University of Illinois and once I stepped on the campus I felt overwhelmingly welcome by the people there. Then I knew that I wanted to attend that college," Gallardo said.

It took long hours and hard work but

her dream came true and Gallardo is very proud to be attending such an amazing university. For Gallardo it will be an experience she will never forget.

### Samantha Ferguson, Illinois Chicago (SOFTBALL)

Samantha Ferguson has been planning to play college softball since the age of nine and this put much emphasis on the things that needed to be done to accomplish her goal.

In high school the idea of time management hits students hard but for Samantha it was simpler since she has been preparing and planning this part of her life for a long time.

"I haven't put much emphasis on my social life because grades and softball came first," senior Samantha Ferguson said.

This took a great amount of support from all factors of her life. Samantha's greatest support system has always been her parents and her four siblings. For Samantha her parents were the greatest support and influence she had. Her parents never missed a game or practice and supported all the financial costs that came with it. This ongoing love and support of her family is a factor of her bright future and University of Illinois at Chicago.

Samantha did highly expect UIC because of her communication with the coach since her junior year. And even though there were at least seven other colleges following her UIC was her top choice.

"UIC was by far my first choice because of my major and their academic ranking," Ferguson said.

Committing to UIC was an outstanding accomplishment for Samantha and even though there were sacrifices involved she knows they will be worth in the long run. For Samantha college softball is just the beginning of something big in her future.

## GIRLS WATER POLO CONQUERS THE COLD

ANGELA PARK  
Staff Reporter

Despite the notion that Los Angeles County is always sunny, the average winter weather is approximately 55°F with three inches of rain.

The girls water polo season falls in the midst of winter, making it a less-than-ideal time to swim in the water. Despite the cold, rain, and wind, these athletes continue to participate in the sport and bear the unforgiving conditions through their dedication and passion.

Imagine a harsh breeze brushing through the athletes' wet hair in 55 degree weather. The only thing they can do is shiver on the bench, waiting to get back into the water. Not to mention the frequent heater malfunctioning or the time it takes for the pool to actually heat up.

Regardless, these female athletes continue to play this water sport during the coldest time of the year.

"It's obviously no fun playing when it's cold, but boys' water polo is during the fall, and then swim is during the spring," varsity water polo player Cassidy Hall said. "Since girls' water polo has the least amount of people, I guess it would be fair to have our season in the winter, even if it sucks."

This can arouse problems for individuals who believe the cold weather will result in discomfort for the players. Instead, the discomfort of playing in unfortunate weather conditions has allowed them to grow stronger as athletes and as a team.

"I think girls who do play water polo during the winter get tougher," senior boys' water polo co-captain Juan Anguiano said. "Also, having two sisters who have played water polo...have always said that they loved it and never complained about the cold weather which really surprised me."

Some water polo girls are not bothered by the weather. They believe it is more convenient to play towards the middle of the school year rather than starting in the fall when they aren't used to their academic schedules.

"The beginning of the school year is when you're trying to figure out your grades and workload," sophomore Aliceyn Johnson said. "Having water polo in the winter is actually good because you're already comfortable with your work and schedule."

The girls water polo team exemplifies strong and dedicated athletes. They allow themselves to look past the weather conditions and keep playing.



DOMINIQUE PRADO/ The Shamrock

Seniors Samantha Ferguson, Miranda Gallardo, Alivia Garcia, Halie Jamir, and Irene Kim sign commitments to each of their colleges.

## VARSITY AS A FRESHMAN

JENNIFER LIM  
Staff Reporter

Running is an activity that many do not enjoy. However, for freshman Justin Singer, running is a passion. He is currently the only freshman on varsity cross country. This past season, he placed fourth at League Champs, qualifying for CIF. Singer has been in cross country since seventh grade and has been running ever since. He doesn't limit his running career to school.

"I run 5ks, like the Angel 5k and the La Palma 5k, and I usually come in the top 3 of my age group," Singer said. "It varies depending on how many people there are."

He plans on being involved in sports all year long, going straight into basketball immediately after cross country and ending the year with track & field.

Freshman Sandra Redding plays for varsity girls water polo, which is impressive for someone who has no prior experience with the sport. As a fast swimmer and hard worker, she was able to show her natural skill in water polo and achieve varsity level not only in her first year of high school, but in her first year of ever playing the sport. Being the only freshman on the

varsity team of a sport that she has no experience in, Redding feels unfamiliar with different aspects of the sport, but doesn't let this affect her.

"Sometimes it feels awkward because they [teammates] are so much older than me and more experienced than me," Redding said. "But I'm sure throughout the season I'll feel more comfortable with them and grow closer to them and we will have a great season."

Redding looks forward to a great season ahead of her and is looking forward to the relationships she will form with the rest of her teammates.

Freshman Mia Kassabian and Shellah Gabasan were placed on the girls varsity tennis team this past season. Gabasan not only began playing tennis at only six years old, but takes private lessons outside of school and plays as part of the United States Tennis Association. Even at such a young age, she's definitely proved how great her skills are in tennis. To her tennis is more of a passion than just a hobby.

"She's always doing her best and never lets the team down," tennis team captain Grace Lim said. "She's contributed to the team's gains a lot, and I know she'll go far

in doing so for the next few years on the team as well."

In the future, she plans to become a professional tennis player, which she strongly hopes will happen.

Kassabian has been playing tennis for three years, but has already made it to varsity tennis in her first year of high school. She takes lessons with a coach outside of school in order to improve her skills and dedicate more time towards the sport. Not only does she contribute to the team with her skills, she makes sure to always have a positive attitude.

"I would be there for the girls if they were ever down or needed a little boost of encouragement before a match," Kassabian said.

Just as she is skilled in tennis, Kassabian shows teamwork skills, acting as a positive influence on her teammates within the competitive sport.

Basketball is a sport that requires speed, coordination, and lots of practice to become good at. But, these factors didn't stop freshmen Diya Tailor and Paige Yasukochi from making it onto varsity girls' basketball. Yasukochi has been playing basketball ever since fourth grade, playing inside and

outside of school as part of programs like National Youth Sports.

"I see a little of myself in Paige. I understand how nervous she can be and how scary varsity can be as a freshman for guards but she constantly proves how she's a perfect fit for the team," varsity team captain Traci Kwan said.

Alongside playing on varsity basketball, Yasukochi manages to maintain good grades in her honors courses, showing her ability to balance both academics and sports. She plans on playing basketball all four years of high school, while continuing to stay on task with school work.

Tailor started playing basketball ever since fifth grade. She played with JW Girls basketball and competed in tournaments every other weekend. Despite already being on the basketball team at school, Tailor has played with multiple travel teams, one being the Lady Aces.

"We were in the championships and I scored around 19 points," Tailor said. "We ended up winning the game."

Tailor remains humble, expressing her excitement to be part of a great team and her desire to continue working hard to contribute to the varsity team.





## Books vs. Movies



KARL HAYS  
A&E Editor

Since the dawn of the Lumiere brothers, filmmakers have had their go at turning stories from print to the big screen. From the likes of the “Harry Potter” series, “Sherlock Holmes,” “Fifty Shades of Grey,” and more, books have captivated our imagination.

As an extension of that, film has helped us visualize the narrative given to us on the page. There has been much debate about which is better, but the answer is always the same: literature is the best medium through which to tell these stories.

With books, the telling of a story isn't dependent on runtime unlike film where the length generally is about two hours. Books can be told in an extremely excruciating length of pages or within the span of just a few.

With movies however, depicting a book through film is a bit more complicated. Movies need to have a certain runtime in order to be able to experience a complete viewing. If movies went on for hours and hours without end, viewers would get bored, exhausted, and uninterested and walk out of the theaters. However, with books the reader can throw in a book mark when they hit their wall.

When runtime for movies comes into play, the ability to capture a story's full potential is limited. Elements that went into detail and were important in the book's overall plot may be lost in translation when transferred onto the big screen.

An example of this is in the “Harry Potter” books where the character, Peter Pettigrew, is an important henchman of Lord Voldemort. However, his screen time

in the movies was diminished drastically. Even Pettigrew's death was omitted from the film whereas in the book Pettigrew tries to kill Potter, but Potter reminds him that he owes him his life and instead Pettigrew kills himself.

Only in extremely rare cases have entire books been translated to film, but even then things will definitely be cut.

Another complaint held by book purists is that when giving a book the big screen treatment, a character's look may change during the translation. Books allow you to picture a character, scene, or object with your mind's eye. You are in control of what something looks like through the power of imagination. Movies may help you visualize a story better, but at the cost of being able to use your idea of what something looks like.

This is seen in the form of the wizard Gandalf from “The Lord of the

Rings” series, who presents himself as a powerful and confident figure, whereas his film counterpart is shown as an old, bitter man.

“I prefer books to movies because it gives more room for interpretation of what something looks like, as opposed to somebody else's vision in a movie,” IB English teacher Tiffany Weir said.

Another upside to books over film is that books do not require some sort of energy source to be enjoyed whereas movies require a screen, a system to play the film on, and a source to power these electronics. Books can be enjoyed anywhere, without wifi, data or cell service, or even a battery. Books can be literally enjoyed anywhere: in bed, on a beach, or in the middle of the wilderness. The only things you need are light and a bookmark.

“I think film adaptations are better than the books because movies are visually stunning and it just looks better than what you would think while

reading,” senior Chris Garcia said.

Garcia provides a great point: filmmakers have the ability to generate unique imagery.

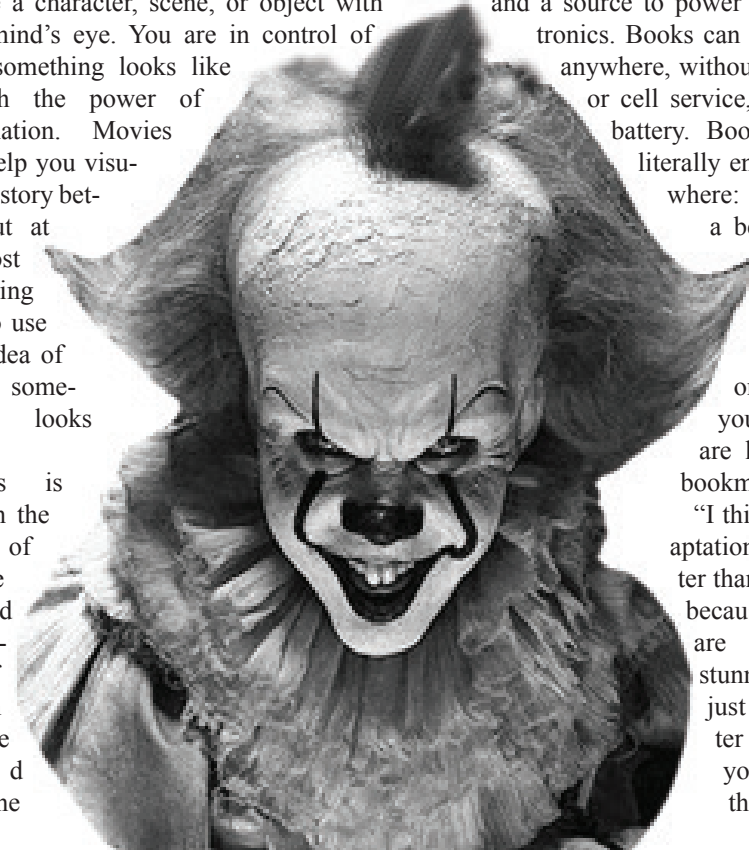
The problem with this however is that films have budget constraints and are limited as to what they can put on screen. Luckily, a vast majority of movies have succeeded in the tough task of displaying gorgeous imagery. This is evident in Peter Jackson's recently released “Mortal Engines,” that feature colossal cities on massive wheels and treads doing battle.

More recently have we witnessed instances where wonderful visuals have been displayed for us that feel more real than anything before it. As the technology improves on generating these great graphics, we will see the rise of more absurd and wondrous spectacles brought from books to movie format. For instance, in Disney's “A Wrinkle in Time,” despite being a lackluster adaptation, it brought forth technically outstanding visuals.

There are many examples of books that are better than movies. It is safe to say this is due to a multitude of outside forces looking in. One of these forces is the viewer itself.

A majority of the time, the viewer is the deciding factor between which channel is better. Movie-lovers will automatically side with the movie's telling of a story, while bookworms will immediately side with the print. However, those who don't have a preference of the story's telling will judge the tale truly through the quality of its telling.

All Images Courtesy of GOOGLE



## IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

ALIVIA GARCIA  
Staff Reporter

The film industry is infamous for its attempt at one-upping other films. This effort includes recreating original films over and over again.

Although some people argue that remakes bring a new wave of audiences to generational films, others believe that the majority of these films absolutely flop in comparison to the originals.

Recently, Universal Studios Productions came out with another adaptation of Dr. Seuss' “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” on Nov. 9, 2018. In its new animated form, “The Grinch” follows a similar storyline to that of the 2000 live action movie starring Jim Carrey.

“The movie wasn't that bad, it just wasn't the same as the original,” junior Lexi Estrada said. “The Grinch wasn't very mean, especially compared to the movie with Jim Carrey.”

Other films, such as the 2005 “Charlie

and the Chocolate Factory” remake, completely bombed compared to the original.

The 1971 version of the film received a high rating of 7.8 out of 10 on Internet Movie Database (IMDB), whereas the 2005 version only received 6.7 out of 10.

Viewers agree that studios should stop messing with their favorite flicks.

“Movies should be remade to a certain extent,” junior Tephania Constantine said. “But if the movie is good, we should keep it a classic.”

There are also a few exceptions to less successful remakes, such as the 2017 version of Stephen King's “IT,” which received higher ratings and made more money in the box office. With a film budget of \$35 million, the 2017 version brought in over \$700 million in revenue.

“If the remake is done well I don't mind it,” junior Joseph Garcia said.

With the majority of remakes being fail-

ures, audiences believe that directors and screenwriters should stick to creating original films or adapting more novels to film, bringing literature to life.

Other productions have taken a new approach to bringing original films to new audiences. One of these approaches is Broadway.

For instance, the 1996 film adaptation of Roald Dahl's “Matilda” moved to Broadway on Dec. 9, 2010. Its success has gone on to encapsulate a new Broadway-loving audience and has even won 47 international awards. Taking a step away from the film industry and onto Broadway brought new life to a childhood classic.

Trying to revamp a classic is one of the hardest tasks a film company can take on. The original fans of

the classic become harsh critics of the new version, often comparing and contrasting the new movie to the old one.

Overall, keeping classics as classics is something the film industry should stick to. Changing the memories connected to the original films is something no director should look to do.



# THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

**MADISON FREMBLING**

Staff Reporter

On Nov. 2, Disney brought back yet another retelling of “The Nutcracker and The Mouse King.” Despite the compelling visuals and bright scenery, “The Nutcracker and The Four Realms” lacked the depth and substance to be considered a “good” movie.

“Be forewarned that Disney’s latest holiday offering has reprocessed nothing but bits, pieces, slivers and chunks of Nutcrackery [sic] into a colorful, sumptuously produced confection with barely detectable nutritional value,” critic from The Wall Street Journal Joe Morgenstern said.

The plot proves to be cliché with the classic good-guy-turned-bad in an attempt to put a new spin on the holiday classic. The movie tended to slow down at most parts and gave very little recognition to the original telling of the story.

“It just seems overdone and a little cliché to be doing another Nutcracker. There are so many different stories featuring The Nutcracker and it gets



boring.”

freshman Alina Cisneros said. Although the movie claims to be a retelling of “The Nutcracker,” there is little to no dancing and the story does not follow of the original plot in the first place. This left many who are familiar with the original story very confused as to what the movie was trying to portray.

“Rather than harken back to an elegant, whimsical earlier period of history, this ‘Nutcracker’ calls to mind the early 2010s, when the success of ‘Alice in Wonderland’ led to a spate of fairy-tale characters being given swords and marched off to war with hordes of CG creatures,” movie critic from Movieline Alonso Duralde said.

Most of the movie felt as though it were missing all of the middle bits, such as parts where characters may have a meaningful conversation or where we learn more about the main character. Instead, we were shown tons of unnecessary action shots of a beautiful castle and the toy soldiers. In the end, “The Nutcracker and The Four Realms” has become another Disney movie meant to dazzle the audience with colorful costumes and CGI.

## WORST CHRISTMAS MOVIES

MELISSA PERALTA  
 Staff Reporter



### FRED CLAUS

In this movie, Santa Claus brings his older, troubled brother, Fred, to the North Pole, just in time for an evaluation by the “Board.” Santa Claus is the head honcho, he’s been at the reins of Christmas for hundreds of years, it’s doubtful that he would need the “Board” to follow his operations. This is not to mention the fact that “the Board” is never really identified. The only information that can be found out about the “Board” is through Wikipedia, where you find out that it’s the board of the Santa Claus Committee, never once mentioned in the movie. The comedy is sweet, albeit cheesy with the heartfelt moments, this movie is saved.



### SILENT NIGHT DEADLY NIGHT

In this film, a boy named Billy witnesses his parents’ death at the hands of a criminal dressed as Santa Claus. After years of trauma he grows up to mimic the killer on his own murder spree. To say the least, Santa Claus does not deserve the disrespect that is given to him in this movie. He is a cherished figure of the holiday season. There is not a single homicidal bone in that man’s body. Even seeing an image of a murdering Santa Claus has personally ruined my childhood. I will not allow his good name to be sullied by not including this movie in the list.



It’s no wonder why this movie earned Worst Picture, Actor, Screenplay, and Screen Combo at the Raspberry awards. This movie is about Kirk Cameron helping his disheartened brother-in-law understand “the true meaning of Christmas,” which you could probably assume just from its tagline “Put Christ Back in Christmas.” The movie pokes a lot at the modern celebration of the holiday, especially towards atheists. This film would be okay, were it not for horrible acting, a long introduction, exhaustively long credits with unfunny outtakes, and an unnecessary dance break.

## Holiday word search

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

- CANDYCANES
- CHALICE
- CHRISTMAS
- COCOA
- CORONATION
- DECEMBER
- DREIDEL
- ELVES
- FESTIVAL
- GINGERBREAD
- HANUKKAH
- JUBILEE
- KINARA
- LATKES
- MENORAH
- PRESENT
- SNOWFLAKE
- TOBOGGAN

