

The Shamrock

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John F. Kennedy High School

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SPEAK UP



RSVP Summits give a voice to all students and continue to ignite change.

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FISH OUT OF WATER



Four students jump into undiscovered waters to see how the other side lives.

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EMMY'S SEEING IN COLOR



The 69th Primetime Emmy Awards cause a stir in Hollywood as color barriers break.

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A Plan, A Pledge, A Promise

HAILEY EDMONDS

Copy Editor

On Wednesday Oct. 4, a press conference was held at the Anaheim Union High School District (AUHSD) office regarding a pledge that will change the role teachers, staff members, and parents, have on AUHSD students.

"The idea behind this pledge is we want to make sure that we have a system that exposes students to their options," Dr. Regina Zurbano, principal at Kennedy High, said. "Whether that be college, career options, or other pursuits."

College and career readiness has always been a goal faculty strive to instill in students. It has been influenced in all the major classes, such as English and math, to prepare students to be successful when they move on to college. Many curriculums and activities, have been embedded with skills students need to not only be prosperous in college, but also in their future careers.

Now AUHSD is taking it one step further. The district has teamed up with North

Orange County Community College District — including Cypress and Fullerton Colleges — Cal State Fullerton, UC Irvine, and the city of Anaheim to create more opportunities regarding colleges and careers for students. This new pledge guarantees not only that AUHSD students can get into these colleges, but that they will graduate as well. Of course, this comes with a bit of a catch.

"Every organization that is part of this [pledge]...commit resources, time, or make some commitment to make this successful," Zurbano said.

AUHSD will now be guiding their students through a six year plan. This six year plan will start in seventh grade and progress all the way through twelfth grade.

The pledge has four domains that include Academic Planning, College and Career Planning, Parent Engagement, and Professional Learning.

Academic Planning has students creating their six year plan, setting goals, growing and learning from the activities they participate in, and showing the ac-

complishments they make throughout each school year. Every year the student's plan will grow, gaining more responsibilities as they get older. Academic Planning is where students figure out what classes they have to take, when to take them to reach their goal, and what they want to do when they graduate.

The next domain, College and Career Planning, is where students find out if they are interested in college or interested in a certain type of career. Field trips to college campuses and internships are also a part of this domain, giving students the opportunity to see which college is right for them and careers they could pursue.

The city of Anaheim and AUHSD are partnering upto offer internships to students of AUHSD for the first time. Students can intern in their community, making it convenient to explore different fields of work.

Parent Engagement is also a huge part of this pledge. Parents are encouraged to go on learning walks, where they can see how students act and what they are learn-

ing in class to give the parents a better understanding of what the educational experience is like for students. Parents participate in activities such as the leadership academy, where they help other parents learn about different things that they should be aware of for students. These activities help get parents more involved and give them an insight into how to prepare their kids for their future education and careers.

The last domain, Professional Learning, ensures that all teachers are focused on giving the first best instruction (FBI) to students to make sure that every student understands what they are learning. FBI is a comprehensive system of how teachers look at the learning experience, design it, make sure they cover the standards students need, highlight the different skill sets, and measure what students have learned what they are supposed to learn.

All four of these domains ensure that students will graduate from high school with all the information and skill sets they will need for their future, whatever that may be.



NAOMI SAN JOSE /The Shamrock

(from left to right) The Anaheim Education Pledge is signed during a ceremony in the AUHSD Performing Arts Center at Kennedy High signifying a historic change for students. AUHSD Superintendent Michael Matsuda holds a press conference for student newspaper editors at the AUHSD office to discuss the specifics behind the Anaheim Education Pledge.

VEGAS STRONG

ANNIE CHUN

Editor-in-Chief

On Oct. 1, 2017, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock started his massacre at the Route 91 Harvest Festival, killing 59 and injuring 500 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Paddock was on the 32nd floor of the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino as he shot down at the mob and has officially committed what is now the largest mass shooting in United States history.

According to ABC News, Paddock used 47 weapons, including guns and explosives, but is pending further confirmation. It is speculated that the shooter used an automatic rifle, as all footage from the scene reveal quick, fast paced gunfire that surpasses human capability.

Those at the scene were oblivious to what was happening in the beginning and did not register that the noises they were hearing were gunshots.

"We were looking at the concert down below when we saw what appeared to be fireworks," witness Felipe Uribe said. "It wasn't until later on that we realized it was actual gunshots."

The shooting has caused chaos in Nevada and a greater sense of confusion within Paddock's family and peers. According to Fox News, Paddock's neighbors described him as "aggressively unfriendly" and "kept to himself." Despite their thoughts, his recent actions still left others shocked.

"We know nothing," brother Eric Paddock said. "If you told me an asteroid just fell, it would mean the same to me. There's absolutely no sense, no reason he did this."

It was also reported from Fox News that Paddock sent his girlfriend, Marilou Danley, to the Philippines several days before the shooting occurred. Danley's sisters are speculating that it was to plot the shooting without distractions.

The causes of the shooting remain unknown but, according to CNN, the FBI has come to the conclusion that there were no ties to international terrorist groups.

There is no proof that Paddock had any mental problems, but there are beliefs that bad influences in his life contributed to the cause of the shooting, as his father was a bank robber on the FBI's Most Wanted List after escaping from prison.

According to the New York Post, President Donald Trump has spoken out after the shooting, calling the incident "a miracle" that the police arrived to the situation.

This turn of events has also sparked more interest in gun control issues. Many believe that there should be stricter gun laws, but White House press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, believes differently.

"There will certainly be a time for that policy discussion to take place, but that's not the place that we're in at this moment,"

Sanders said.

According to Washington Post, despite Chicago having the strictest gun laws, they have still had many crimes committed with guns.

Paddock reportedly committed suicide in the same hotel room he was shooting from before anyone was able to find him.

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ENGAGE



EDUCATE



EMPOWER

Hurricanes Blow Records Out of the Water

JACKIE MARTINEZ

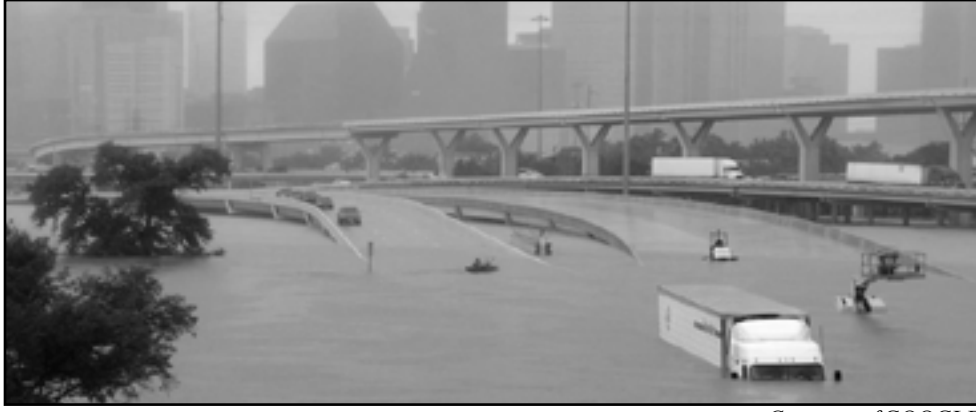
A&E Editor

Just as the summer came to a close, the 2017 Atlantic hurricane season brought the tropical storms brewing in the Atlantic Ocean to the Southeastern coasts of the United States and the neighboring Caribbean islands. With climate change as a defining factor, this year's hurricane season saw more record-breaking extremes at the storms' peaks.

On Aug. 26, Hurricane Harvey breached the shores of Southern Texas as a Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale (SSHWS), leading to estimates of over 30,000 civilians in shelters around the Houston area, according to The New York Times. The amount of rain that the state received reached a never-before-seen 51.88 inches of rain over the two week period, breaking the previous record of 48 inches set in 1978.

"This is now turning into a deadly inland event," Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) chief Brock Long said.

As one of the most damaging natural



Courtesy of GOOGLE

Following the record breaking amount of rainfall, many cities are left flooded, calling for federal aid.

disasters in U.S. history, congressional approval is expected for about \$14.5 billion in Hurricane Harvey relief funding, according to CNN. The total cost for the storm is predicted to far surpass Hurricane Katrina from 2005.

Alongside Harvey, Hurricane Irma hit the coasts of Florida and Georgia just as the former was coming to a close. Coasting over Cuba at a Category 3 rating, once it finally landed on the American coast, Irma had reached Category 5, the highest level. Irma reached its peak over Naples, Florida, with

winds at up to 142 mph and as much as 16 inches of rain in Fort Pierce, according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). FEMA declared Hurricane Irma as a major disaster on Sept. 15, allowing disaster recovery centers to open across southern Florida.

According to CNBC, the estimated relief cost of Hurricane Irma is currently projected to be around \$100 billion. This covers unemployment periods, transportation and infrastructure damages, crop loss, and property damages.

The destructive Hurricane Maria reached

the eastern coast of Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, eventually engulfing the entire island. The Caribbean storm poured over 30 inches of rain on the eastern Puerto Rican coasts. In Yacouba Harbor, residents saw a 5.3 foot rise in sea level, which is above high tide. Isla Culebrita reached 137 mph winds, leaving the country without any electricity or power.

"The military and first responders, despite no electric, phones, roads, etc., have done an amazing job. Puerto Rico was totally destroyed," President Donald Trump said.

Hurricane Maria proved detrimental to an already suffering Puerto Rican economy. The country filed for the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. The ever present issues in the economy make it evident that the country will continue to suffer; it is unknown if the damage can be undone.

There's no doubt that this year's hurricane season has been one of the most detrimental anyone has seen. With the cost of hurricane relief, it is unknown whether the societies of Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico can be rebuilt.

New Clubs on the Scene

ORLANDO CABALO

Staff Reporter

John F. Kennedy High School is packed with many well known clubs, such as Key Club and National Honor Society (NHS), but recently our school has been completely swarmed with a rush of new clubs for everyone to join such as Best Buddies, Kababayan Club, and Fashion Club.

President of Best Buddies, junior Omni Patel racked up a total of about 150 members. With over 100 caring souls ready to help those who are less fortunate, the local hospitals will surely have a large boost in volunteers, as well as a boost in patient morale.

"I felt it was a good way for students to give back into the community and the patients of course are an inspiration," Patel said.

The Kababayan club has exploded into the school of the Fighting Irish. With the leadership of juniors Joshua DeGuzman and Ashley Amancio, the member count surpassed over 200 students in just a few days after the club was announced. Filipinos, and those interested about the culture, from all grade levels have come in mass to support the club.

The Kababayan club has many ambitious ideas and programs such as a "Kuya

program" which involves upperclassmen combining with lower classmen to help them with anything in their high school career. The Kababayan Club is also currently striving to collect supplies for people in need in the Philippines.

The Fashion Club, headed by junior Kiara Trias, provides a community where students can learn more about style. With a love of fashion, the club is sure to not only be fun, but also educational for the members.

"We do a variety of things. For one, we offer volunteer opportunities because that's what a lot of the freshmen are looking for... We work with the salvation army so we can get clothing that people would need, anything that is a collection of recycling," Trias said.

For anyone interested in style and fashion, Fashion Club is great space to volunteer, expand knowledge on fashion, and meet new friends. It is open to all students and is completely free.

With the new additions to an already great group of clubs, make sure to get out there and be involved. Kababayan Club, Best Buddies, and Fashion Club are some of the few fun ways to help and inspire your community. If you didn't join any clubs at the last club rush, be sure to sign up next semester.



NAOMI SAN JOSE / The Shamrock

During Club Rush, new clubs such as the Kababayan Club and Best Buddies show off their new members to start off the 2017-2018 school year.

Broadway Rocks!

JAKE PACIOTTA

Sports Editor

On Friday, Sept. 29, and Saturday, Sept. 30, Kennedy High choir held their first show of the year, "Broadway Rocks." The show consisted of songs that were performed on Broadway, hence the name.

The show opened with a combination of the classic Journey songs "Don't Stop Believing" and "Anyway You Want It." This was a great opener, as the energy from the singers rubbed off on the audience, and everybody was having a good time.

The energy continued with the all girls number "What I Was Born To Do" from the musical "Bring it On." Senior Alissa Farihi and junior Frances Bushnell ended the performance by showing off their cheerleading skills, tumbling across the whole stage.

The girl power continued, as senior Sofia Bernales gave a breathtaking performance of "She Used to Be Mine." Bernales is a veteran when it comes to amazing performances.

"I felt emotional...I felt their emotions and was singing for the people who ever felt the type of emotional pain the the song is about," Bernales said.

Harmonic Fusion kept the ball rolling with their "American Idiot Medley" which paid tribute to the popular punk rock band "Green Day." From fishnet gloves to eyeliner, the singers let their inner rockstars out.

The show ended just as it began, with a medley of "Journey" songs and steady applause from the crowd. Any way you want it, whether it be from touching solos to energetic group numbers, the Kennedy singers always deliver.


Dear Reader,

As the 2017-2018 school year unfolds, we at *The Shamrock* have made it our goal to encapsulate your fondest memories and most proud accomplishments in the forty-seventh volume of our school newspaper. While we had to say goodbye to our beloved senior staff members after last year, we have assembled an extraordinary group of journalists who are dedicated to delivering to you the most accurate and unbiased news possible.

Despite our small numbers, we strive to create the highest quality content, each issue better than the last. Our staff is predominantly new, but they are ready to learn and eager to represent you: the students, staff, and administrators at John F. Kennedy High. We are more than excited to shed light on school news, world news, and a variety of other topics ranging from sports to politics to the latest fashion trends.

We hope that every section of our newspaper embodies the spirit of the Fighting Irish, regardless of which classes, clubs, or extracurricular activities you might be involved with. Each staff reporter's diligent work and devotion to the newspaper is represented in the articles, photos, and layouts contained within these pages. Developing our inaugural issue of the 2017-2018 school year was a unifying experience for our staff. We look forward to bringing that idea of unity to all individuals on campus and in the greater community as we seek to incorporate each member of the Fighting Irish family in every issue of *The Shamrock*. Happy reading!

With Respect,


Mr. Corcoran
Staff Adviser


Annie Chun
Editor-in-Chief



NEW YEAR, NEW TEACHERS

ANDY GALLEGOS
Assistant Video Editor



MEGAN ROUNTREE

Megan Rountree, a co-teacher of four English classes and one Study Skills class, is currently teaching with John Adair and John Hoganson. As a co-teacher, Rountree enjoys working with struggling students and is fond of how rewarding her work is.

Before coming to Kennedy, Rountree served as a special education teacher in Texas for two years, and then moved to California a year and a half ago. Soon after, she landed her first out-of-state job teaching here at Kennedy High School.

"I really was looking to teach at a school that had a diverse group of learners succeeding at a high rate. I believe that the graduation rate is 98 percent," Rountree said.

Before coming to Kennedy, she was mentored by her high school English teacher, who helped to pave her path to higher education. After high school, Rountree attended the University of Texas and pursued a major in government. However it wasn't until she finished college, when she decided to shift gears and get certified in specialized courses to become a teacher.

She had a smooth transition getting used to her new position teaching after making some adjustments. At her arrival, she was thankful for the care and support she received from those she met.

"Enjoy your time here, take school seriously, and try to make the best of all of your classes. The teachers at this school are here for you!" Rountree said.



WILEY RITTENHOUSE

Wiley Rittenhouse, now in charge of JROTC, is a new addition to the faculty here at Kennedy High School.

Rittenhouse is currently the only teacher of JROTC. JROTC is meant to teach its students skills that he or she may not regularly learn in their normal classes, and to help students become team-oriented and lead others ahead.

Before becoming a part of the JROTC program, he was formerly a math teacher after retiring from the military for more than 22 years. He attended Kansas State University, where he got his bachelor's degree and majored in math. He got a master's degree at Tulane University for Statistics, along with enrolling in a variety of military classes.

Rittenhouse went to Long Beach State University, but dropped out before graduating. Shortly after, he went into the army and enlisted in operation Desert Storm for a combat tour. When he got back, he joined a program created by the army that took people from enlisted service with the right qualifications and placed them into a senior college level ROTC to earn their officer's commission.

Getting a sense of what works and what doesn't work was a challenge. He allows class to be run by senior cadets in order to ensure that they have the resources necessary. He is not one to shy away from a challenge, and when he sees room for improvement, he will act quickly and effectively. He envisions a brighter future for the program and hopes to see its growth.



ROBYN PARRATTO

Robyn Parratto, a new Culinary teacher to the campus of Kennedy High School, was recruited by the district and by former Principal Jennifer Brown. When asked, Paratto was eager to accept her new challenge.

Parratto attended Long Beach City College after high school for four years to obtain her associate's degree. She then continued for two more years of her education for two more years at Cal State Long Beach to get her bachelor's degree in history. Shortly after that, she attended National University for two years to get her teaching credential in history and home economics.

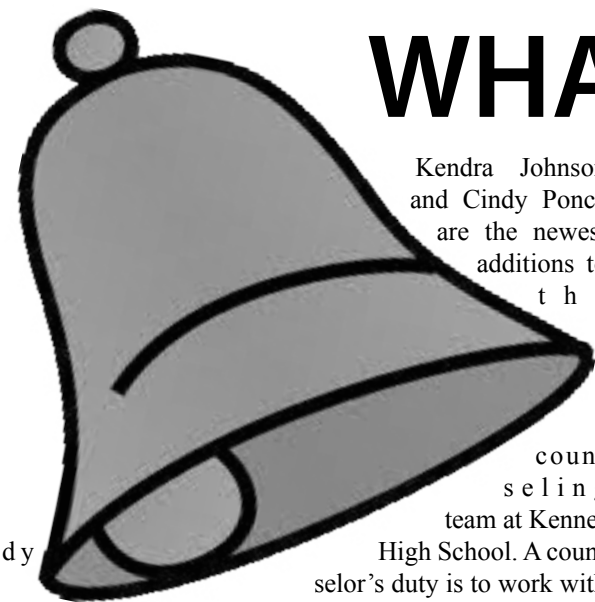
"I love the kids and the staff. People here could not be more welcoming to a new girl in town," Parratto said.

The next year she got her master's degree in cross cultural education. In 2015, she earned her second master's degree in human behavior. Before coming to Kennedy, Parratto taught home economics at Lexington for 10 years.

She enjoys assisting her students, helping them find their hidden passions and talents in the kitchen. In addition, she loves seeing a student smiling after their visions become a reality in the kitchen. She loves the kids and the staff who received her with such a warm welcome and is delighted to be a new addition to Kennedy High School.

Pictures: ANDY GALLEGOS/ *The Shamrock*

WHAT'S ON THEIR SCHEDULE?



Kendra Johnson and Cindy Ponce are the newest additions to the

dy

counseling team at Kennedy High School. A counselor's duty is to work with students to help them meet their personal, social, academic, and career oriented goals by providing the support and the resources necessary to assist those students.

Before coming to Kennedy High School, Ponce attended Cal State Fullerton and majored in human services with a small concentration in mental health. Soon after, she took a year off to work and returned to continue her education in school counseling at the University of La Verne.

Johnson attended Cypress Community College right after high school and transferred to San Diego State University where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and shortly after, went to Azusa Pacific University where she stud-



ANDY GALLEGOS/ *The Shamrock*
Pictured Kendra Johnson

ied educational counseling.

Ponce enjoys helping students achieve their goals and working close with families, and one of her challenges about coming to Kennedy High School was getting situated to staying on a new campus. Johnson and Ponce love the school spirit and culture shared among the students, it and culture shared among the students, teachers and staff. "You are capable of amazing things! Keep working hard and never give up on your dreams!" Johnson said.



ANDY GALLEGOS/ *The Shamrock*
Pictured Cindy Ponce



NEW FACE OF THE FIGHTING IRISH

ORLANDO CABALO

Staff Reporter

With Principal Russell Earnest leaving last year and replaced by his assistants, we finally have a new principal leading the operation, Dr. Regina Zurbano. Having a PhD in educational leadership and having been house principal at Santa Monica High School for three years has molded Zurbano into the great principal we have today.

"I think it is important to talk to not just the teachers, but the students, parents, support staff and the community to understand what is really important to them and what do they look to the school for support," Zurbano said.

This is of course promising seeing Dr. Zurbano's perspective, hard at work to not only collaborate with teachers, but with the students too. Of course, the question of what to do to improve the education, engagement, and the empowerment of students is crucial for any principal of Kennedy.

"I think it is really important to be able to understand what is available in the community," Dr. Zurbano said. "A lot of parents and our families are well connected to different supports and so getting the chance to meet people to help bring these opportunities here is quite simple."

However, work is only one side of Dr. Zurbano. To really understand who she is, you must delve into her hobbies and her favorite activities.

"I am an avid reader of fun books, not



Courtesy of REGINA ZURBANO

The 2017-2018 school year marks Zurbano's first appearance as principal of Kennedy High School. She highlights her great intentions to improve the school collectively.

just the stuff that I have to read for work. I like to drive and take road trips and travel with my parents," Zurbano said.

Many people use television as a pastime to relax and waste a couple hours just to unwind. Zurbano has a quite interesting choice in television.

"My most favorite TV show of all time was "How I Met Your Mother" because it was just a funny show and I also like "Seinfeld" and "Big Bang Theory," Zurbano said.

Although Zurbano doesn't have any children of her own, her nephew of two-

years-old is just like a child to her. Even though her nephew is two-years-old would he go to Kennedy in the future?

"I would hope that because of the way I help everyone get involved in the school he would want to come here too," Zurbano said.

With the students being the vast majority of the population of the school, it is crucial to know what they think of Zurbano.

"Of course Dr. Z can replace Mr. Earnest. She seems like a really nice person, and also the school is a lot cleaner from last year," sophomore Matthew Alarcon said.

However teachers, who are the bastion of knowledge and knowledge to the students must also have an opinion on their new boss. With the absence of Earnest, who to many was a dear friend, teachers must have an opinion on Zurbano.

"Yes, Principal Zurbano has what it takes to replace Russel. I think that everyone here has a level of tolerance to give everyone a chance," English teacher, Marlene Wu said.

Even though many of the students Kennedy have a lot of vocabulary to describe some of the teachers and the administration of the school, the words regular person doesn't always come to mind as the first words to describe them. However Zurbano is just like you and I. She has hobbies, watches television, reads, have family to love and care for, have hopes and fears, and are simply people.

TACKLING GENDER ROLES

JAKE PACIOTTA

Sports Editor

Football: a man's sport. Blood. Sweat. Cursing. Any stereotypical characteristic you associate with men, football has it. This doesn't affect freshman Jade Munoz, though. Munoz, the starting middle linebacker for the freshman football team, is shattering stereotypes and gender walls.

In class, Munoz is a girl amongst boys. But once the pads come on and she hits the field, she's a man amongst boys. It is due to this hard work and perseverance that she earned respect from her teammates.

"She plays like one of the guys. She has that aggressive mindset and never backs down," freshman teammate Nathan Ferguson said.

As a middle linebacker, this job is extremely important. The middle linebacker takes on lead blockers and goes head up with charging linemen, fullbacks, and running backs to help the team. Middle linebackers are almost the captain of defense, as they echo the defensive playcall, and make sure everyone is in check.

Some see the position as the hardest for any male to play, let alone a female. Due to the game and position's intensity, Munoz must always stay alert, as at any time she can get hit. She doesn't let this affect the way she plays, though.

"It gets scary sometimes but I've adapted to the game because I know I'm capable to succeed," Munoz said.



JAKE PACIOTTA/The Shamrock

Without the shoulder pads, Munoz is seen as an ordinary freshman girl. She raises interests as the only female on the football team and creates excitement for Kennedy Football fans this season.

This confidence that Munoz feels is one of the main reasons she's in the sport. Football, a game that takes a heavy toll on the mind, challenges one's mental strength and how much they can endure. Munoz values these qualities, and promotes everybody to try it out, especially other girls.

"I can be a positive role model for other girls as well. It's a big leadership step for me because not a lot of girls do this," Munoz said.

Facing diversity and the hardships of the sport keeps Munoz involved, and are the main reasons she works so hard.

"It's not something everyone does. I can say I'm different and the fact that I'm good at it pushes me to keep going," Munoz said.

Munoz loves the sport itself, and everything that comes with it. Football is unique, as it forces everybody on the team to come together as one to achieve a common goal. In Munoz's case, they don't just come together to play their hardest, they come together to be family.

"They treat me like I'm their little sister. They protect me but also mess with me at the same time," Munoz said. "Football is a way to build a family. We're all really close and we have each other's back."

Munoz exemplifies all the qualities of a true football player: hard work, courage, and perseverance. Munoz knows that with these by her side, she can accomplish anything on or off the field.



Raising Student Voice or Raising Expectations



NAOMI SAN JOSE
Photo Editor

Students at Kennedy High have the unique opportunity to participate in bi-yearly summits held by fellow student facilitators as part of Raising Student Voice and Participation (RSVP). During these summits, students are given a platform to present their concerns with the intention to help the campus grow and improve. Despite numerous concerns about the ineffectiveness of the organization, RSVP is in fact a respectable group of students committed to making school-wide changes that create a lasting impact on our campus.

RSVP allows facilitator positions to freshman students reiterating that the entire student body has a voice. A new RSVP officer, Tiffany Nguyen highlights her past freshman experience as Facilitator to reveal how important RSVP is to the campus.

"I was new to this school [when I joined RSVP] so it was nerve wracking," sophomore RSVP Board Member Tiffany Nguyen said. "It was good to hear new aspects of students being shared where they like or don't like certain things."

The early beginnings of RSVP summits were established through the District Ambassador Adviser at the AUHSD. The program itself is a national organization that was brought to Kennedy by AUHSD teacher and Loara Activities Director Paul Chylinski during the 2013-2014 school year.



NAOMI SAN JOSE/The Shamrock
The RSVP President Lujain Altawahrah leads a cabinet meeting in preparation for the upcoming summit on Oct. 20, 2017.

On our own campus, RSVP is a student-driven catalyst for change that seeks our suggestions and criticism from students of all grade levels. However, even as the 2017-2018 general meetings and summits are upon us, more individuals than ever explain why they believe RSVP is depicted in a negative light.

While the general belief is that the intentions behind RSVP's summits are undoubtedly altruistic, many students argue that the organization lacks the ability to create real change.

"I feel like nothing that is said during RSVP meetings actually gets done," junior Savanna Spradley said. "It sorta just gets said. Then after, nothing changes."

Another common theory revolves

around the organization being thought of as "useless" due to their lack of publicizing the actual changes made. Many times, the accomplishments of RSVP are not acknowledged by the large majority of the student body at Kennedy.

"We are looked at in a negative way because people aren't aware of what we have done," RSVP President Lujain Altawahrah said. "For example, bathroom changes. That's through our organization's people."

RSVP was successful in implementing a gender neutral bathroom on campus last school year. This not only provides easy access to a bathroom for both genders, but also creates a safe space for transgender and non-binary students.

But what about issues that they don't have authority over?

Perhaps the main reason cited for why RSVP is pointless or unhelpful is because they cannot address problems that are -- in reality -- out of their reach.

"The main concerns and desires of the students pertain to issues not possible through (our organization)," RSVP Board Member Isabel Cardenas said.

Students regularly make unrealistic requests for changes such as having an open campus during lunch or establishing a later start time for school.

"And then when we can't follow up on their requests, they paint RSVP as ineffective," Cardenas said.

Despite the complaints from uninformed students, the organization is a great use to the campus regarding the physical changes they actually are able to make. The officers in charge also address the new implementations to their program to increase efficiency and debunk the myth of an ineffective group.

"(In the past), there was usually only one person talking the whole time during in-class summits," RSVP Board Member Christina Do said. "So we reinforced that... facilitators should have more people speak. More interaction would work more."

While it is too early to see the results of the first summit of the 2017-2018 school year, further changes are expected from RSVP in the future. Change has developed slowly from within the group as they continue to extend their usefulness throughout the school.

TIMES ARE CHANGING, SO ARE YOUR DETENTIONS



DOMINIQUE LARSON
Features Editor

As of the 2017-2018 school year, detention times have changed. That's right, now there are more ways for one to suffer; for 30 minutes, one hour, or even two hours after school, Tuesday through Thursday. Despite the 30 minute option that people are elated over, it is completely unfair to take away morning detentions.

Before this school year, the schedule was much different. Detentions were all one hour each, and could be served Tuesday or Thursday after school, or before school on Monday or Friday. With the elimination of detention before school, there are less options for students who have other commitments, such as sports or clubs, than serving a detention for showing up 30 seconds after the bell.

"Some people are only available Monday or Friday after school. People have actual things to do, this just isn't fair to students," junior Jasmine Castillo said.

Castillo raises a very good point. Students' time is no less

valuable than teachers', their time should not be jeopardized just because they broke a trivial rule.

Some students who have also been at Kennedy for a few years seem to be all for the complete switch up. With the option of 30 minute detentions, even detention-prone students do not seem to mind. For example, junior Marshall Goodman, looks at this change in a positive light.

"I get more 30 minute detentions instead of one hour detentions, I like it more because they're shorter," Goodman said.

Good for him; now students who would have gotten worse consequences previously have it much easier. However, even students who are on the right side of the law see some good in this change, such as junior Kassie Hawkins.

"I think it's way more reasonable, people used to spend one hour in detention just for being a little bit late, now getting into bigger trouble equals bigger consequences," Hawkins said.

No matter the rhyme or reason, the new detention schedule is going to raise some eyebrows and bring opinions to the table. However, even if some students are all for the change, what they fail to realize is how it affects those who need the morning detentions available.



JACKIE MARTINEZ
A&E Editor

Since its establishment by President Barack Obama in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will have served over 800,000 undocumented students in the United States. DACA serves to protect and provide resources for "Dreamers" who were brought into the country as children when their parents immigrated. Its inception made it clear that the voices of undocumented students were being heard and that progressive change would be made.

On September 5, 2017, Donald Trump moved to end the 5-year-old program, giving Congress a deadline of March 5, 2018 to retaliate and make the program a federal law. Once DACA has officially ended, these students would be eligible for deportation, regardless of where they are in their education. The decision to end DACA will do nothing more than tear families apart and weaken economies.

"I think that we want to keep good educated people here in America. Why would we want them to go somewhere else?" Spanish teacher Mary Jespersen said.

While DACA might not be

#defendDACA

completely disappearing over the next six months, it is important to understand the gradual "fade-out" that will be happening by March. Starting then, DACA recipients will be unable to provide for their families since they won't be able to receive work permits of any type. By taking jobs away from DACA recipients, the government will limit the opportunity for these students to help the nation's economy; they are unable to pay income tax, as well as not receiving tax returns, since they are still undocumented residents.

However, not all Dreamers can be covered under DACA. DACA recipients require specific criteria such as being in high school or college and having arrived to the United States before 2007. According to CNN, there is hesitation in applying for the program.

"I think they're scared of what it means to be placed on a list and what it could mean in terms of being identified as undocumented, and the potential risk there is now that the government has so much information on their immigration status," counselor Cindy Ponce said.

For a nation built on the backs of immigrants, it's pretty shocking how the government treats the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the

U.S., according to the Pew Research Center. If Congress fails to pass DACA as federal law, the 800,000 students will be just as susceptible to deportation, making the nation backtrack in progress for the broken immigration system.

Those who believe that ending such a helpful program would benefit the nation make the same argument that the children covered under DACA do nothing but waste resources and take jobs from those "more deserving." With Attorney General Jeff Sessions claiming that DACA is unconstitutional, there is a clear divide between those who would like to support these students and those who would like to see these students stripped of the opportunities they earned.

"To have a lawful system of immigration that serves the national interest, we cannot admit everyone who would like to come here," Sessions said.

One of the greatest American symbols of acceptance and freedom is the Statue of Liberty. The Statue welcomes immigrants into the country. Ending DACA is like taking the iconic American symbol away from an important growing demographic, forcing undocumented citizens to continue to fear stepping outside of their own homes.



FISH OUT

6

ME, MYSELF, AND MULTIMEDIA

SABRINA SCHMACKPFEFFER

Staff Reporter

Seventh period at Walker Jr. High is anticipated by most juniors and seniors, given it's almost the end of the school day. The teachers, on the other hand, stay behind to clean up the classroom and grade papers.

For three days, I went across the street to Walker Jr. High and got a little taste of what it's like to be a teacher. Many thanks to the principal, Mrs. Brown, who welcomed me with open arms onto the campus. I was set up with a former teacher of mine, Mrs. Anderson. I was a student of her seventh period multimedia class, and the three days felt very nostalgic for me.

Multimedia is a very valuable class, teaching things like filming, editing, photoshop, typing, and even stop-motion filming. Mrs. Anderson was very happy to hear that I used the knowledge I gained from her class as soon as I entered high school.

On my first day, the kids were working on making a logo for the official Walker Jr. High t-shirt.

"Right now we're just working on making logos for the shirts using paint," eighth grader Amalia Rodriguez said.

As I walked around the class, I saw real talent. They had been spending some serious time on these designs and the effort definitely showed.

My second day in the class we brainstormed ideas for their hero project, where



SABRINA SCHMACKPFEFFER/*The Shamrock*
Schmackpfeffer interacts with her students, helping her realize that being a teacher is a tough, yet rewarding job.

they choose a person who's a hero to them and create a powerpoint on their life. A group of kids decided they would each do a person from N.W.A. and another did the famous singer with a tragic end, Selena Quintanilla-Pérez.

During my second day, I realized how quick these kids grew on me. I knew my last day would be very bitter-sweet with them. My last day started with the kids choosing their hero, and researching their life. I assisted kids who couldn't figure out who to choose as their hero and how to get to the certain websites. It was a very hectic

day towards the beginning because many kids forgot how to choose their hero, but Mrs. Anderson had amazing poise and remained professional while kids bombarded her with questions.

I began to wander around the room, and I asked a student if they would consider taking a class related to multimedia at Kennedy.

"Sure? Put a question mark after the sure," Iosia Boone said.

I also asked a group of kids their motive for taking the class, and I got an overwhelming answer: the Disneyland trip.

Towards the end of the school year, in May, the kids take a trip to California Adventure. They get to experience the process animators go through and get a behind-the-scenes look at how Disney movies are made. Then, they get the rest of the day to go on rides and hang out.

I ended my last day giving the kids a pep talk about how valuable this class will be to them later on, and what the class did for me. I really hope the kids got my message about how quick high school will go by, and to cherish every opportunity and memory you get. In the blink of an eye, you're being handed your diploma.

I made it a point to tell the kids on my last day with them that the things they learn in this class, will truly benefit them in high school.

The kids of seventh period multimedia impacted me. I felt welcome and comfortable with them, and I hope they felt comfortable with me too. I made many friends, and even got a few of their social medias to keep in touch. I came in with the attitude of, how do teachers do it? I realized it's not "how," but "why." The kids make the biggest difference.

Being a teacher is not easy at all, and I only observed three days of what it is like. Teachers are superheroes in disguise. We should respect and appreciate every teacher we come by.



FISHING FOR A LINE



An insight on what it is like to be a Kennedy Singer

JALEN DUMPHORD

Sports Editor

The bright lights, the smiling faces, and harmonic voices are the first things that stand out when you watch a choir show. I have always had the impression that being a part of choir is not hard. To me it was just dancing and singing. In my few days attending choir rehearsals and the show, my perspective on choir changed tremendously.

On the first day of rehearsal, I sat back and watched as the whole program practiced their opening number. Of course, the experienced students make the number seem effortless, but to me, this was quite difficult. With practice, this could be perfected. The stern voice of Mrs. Anderson was there to coach the kids through the performance numbers.

Being a soloist is not easy. It takes confidence, poise, and of course, a great voice. When being chosen for a solo, you know that you have to put your best foot forward, or else you will choke under the lights.

"This is my first solo and it's for the first



Courtesy of DARIEN RORICK
Senior Aaron Abadilla leads Harmonic Fusion during their "American Idiot" medley.

show and it's intimidating," junior Mikaela Lopez said. "I just want to go out there and prove myself."

A lot of students believe that choir is an easy A at first glance. As long as you sing and dance you get a good grade. This is not the case as show week is one of the most stressful times for the Kennedy Singers. Showing up ten minutes late to a rehearsal

is an automatic ten point deduction from your rehearsal grade, which is a large portion of their total grades.

"Being late to a rehearsal is a choir sin," senior Sijun Hwang said. "I try my best to get there as soon as possible but sometimes football gets in the way."

The Kennedy Singers are very serious about their work. They want to make sure

that the best product is put out there. I noticed this a lot as many times, the singers would get frustrated when they missed a dance move or a lyric in a song. These mistakes may seem unnoticeable in such a big class of students, but there is one class where these mistakes can not be accepted: Harmonic Fusion.

Harmonic Fusion is a class of the best 38 to 40 singers in choir and they take on the hardest songs, and most difficult dance moves that other classes could not pull off. No disrespect to the other classes, but you can tell the difference when Harmonic is on the stage.

"It's a bittersweet feeling because I've been in the program for four years," senior Aaron Abadilla said. "It's overwhelming but at the same time a lot of fun because my first show as a freshman feels like it was just yesterday."

My time with choir was very interesting because I got to get a glimpse into the lifestyles of the Kennedy Singers. I realized that choir is much more than it seems. It even made me possibly want to join in on the fun in the future.



COUNSELING A NEW VIEW

JACKIE MARTINEZ

A&E Editor

As a senior, I've had a fair share of time spent with my counselors. Always asking questions about grades and classes, I thought that their position was mostly limited to schedule changes and graduation requirements. I soon learned that other students think the same things. To try and debunk this generalization, I spent a week with one of our new counselors, Kendra Johnson, gaining useful insight into what it means to be a counselor.

At the beginning of the year, as most students know, our counselors visit our classes and remind us of the graduation and A-G requirements, all while encouraging college readiness among students. While it may seem easy for anyone to repeatedly give the same presentation, imagine having to keep a class full of sophomores engaged, as they see college as so far away and think that they can put all thoughts of it off until their senior year. I sat in on this presentation in a sophomore class, and was pleasantly surprised to see that Johnson was able to keep the students engaged while offering resources and encouraging



JACKIE MARTINEZ/*The Shamrock*
Johnson guides Martinez through the basics of being a counselor at Kennedy High School and the importance of her position.

visits to the counseling offices for any sort of insight.

Throughout the week I sat in Johnson's office as she called in students for basic things like scheduling, and help with SAT scores and where to send them. It was then when I learned that she had to make a list of students that need their credit recovery

done off-campus at Gilbert, while checking in with other counselors to make sure everything right.

"Some days are more eventful than others," Johnson said.

While this may be true, there was nothing to suggest any dullness throughout the time I spent in the counseling office.

From looking at international transcripts and learning how to gauge international grading scales, to keeping in contact with the district social worker in order to see what's in a student's best interest, a counselor's role is much more than occasionally changing schedules and telling seniors that they cannot drop classes due to senioritis.

At the end of my experience in the counseling center, it struck me that our counselors seem to be underappreciated, because all they seem to be known for is schedule changes.

"No one takes into account the work that goes into being a counselor. Aside from the small amount of IB students, they really are in charge of everyone on campus, so I feel their job is very important," senior Isabel Cardenas said.

My hope for this experience is to bring light to everything our counselors do just to make sure we're getting the resources we need and that we're prepared for anything that's yet to come. Make sure the next time your counselor calls you up to their office, you thank them for keeping you on track for your future.

TEACHING WITH TEUTIMEZ

NAOMI SAN JOSE

Photo Editor

At John F. Kennedy High School, there is a wide variety of classes that provide different learning opportunities amongst the students, in addition to catering to the different skill sets each student may possess. Classes aimed at teaching students in need of special education are also a large part of the school's diversity in courses. Often times students are unaware of what our educators are capable of.

When I had first sat in JT Teutimez's classroom to sit and observe, I noticed immediately the small group of students in the classroom. These students are all involved in the special education classes provided here at Kennedy which are guided by Teutimez. Right away, I was impressed by the interaction and enthusiasm he had while he taught all of them in the classroom setting. After observing his work with his students I had been largely curious about his start in this type of teaching.

"In high school, thinking and looking back at when I started, I worked with these students that had differences. I had PE teacher credentials, but my interests and passion are with these students. So the, I got my credentials in this field, I've been here now for 16 years," Teutimez said.

I mainly learned from Teutimez that each student needs to be catered to with different annual goals and objectives. Teu-



NAOMI SAN JOSE/*The Shamrock*
Teutimez and the class pose for a picture at the end of San Jose's week with them.

timez's job includes assessing what their goal will be by using a baseline test determining their current skills in reading, writing, math, science, and communication.

With some understanding of Teutimez's work, he allowed me to interact one on one with a student to help her reach academic goals. Freshman Annisa is a student in these Special Education classes whom I was able to help. One of her math goals included counting money; the objective was to differentiate amongst dollar bills. She used dollar bills with different values to

show me her identification of each. In her mistakes and success I found that encouragement was important to her education.

Furthermore, I worked with Annisa to achieve a communication skill where she learned about safety. I listened to what she had to demonstrate for me. I let her prove to me she is reaching a good level of communication. Then, she wrote out her name, address, and other personal information from memory repeatedly on paper to show me her ability to communicate. She had done this to show me she achieved her goal

and I had a greater understanding of how Teutimez allows individuals to grow in this classroom.

During my experience in their classroom setting, Teutimez also gave me a rundown of the daily schedule from breakfast all the way to goal practices. Teutimez demonstrated that all these hands on activities are to create more efficient learning techniques. A teacher's assistant from their second period, senior Jake Holl gave further insight on what special activities his students are able to do.

"These kids get to work in the garden every Friday, communication is important for them so we get to interact in the garden on those days. Also, they get to express themselves through art projects such as the trees they made," Holl said.

With my short experience in Teutimez's classroom, I had been more exposed to the different type of learning in this type of environment at school. The hands-on experience I was allowed made my view widen as to how unique it is to teach a class with these types of needs. Taking into consideration that many are unaware of what goes on in these classes, I felt as if it is important to see how education varies throughout Kennedy to really see what our school can provide through educators such as Teutimez.





KARL HAYS
Assistant Video Editor

Raging World War III

On Sept. 20, 2017, President Donald Trump, the Heat Miser himself, had threatened to “totally destroy” communist North Korea. The country has reached a major threshold in their weapon technology by launching its first intercontinental missile, capable of reaching the mainland United States. Concerns arise about the possibility of a third World War on the horizon.

This statement is just one example of the Orange Man’s lashing out against North Korea’s nuclear weapon and missile tests. Before the president took office, he favorably proposed the idea of waging an unnecessary war against North Korea. Leaders in the past have dismissed this idea and many others agree that war with North Korea is not in the best interest of the American people.

There are many ways this can play out. The first possibility is nuclear war. If there were to be a World War III, the involvement of nuclear technology is undeniably a concern. Considering that over nine countries together have the firepower of over 15,000 nu-

clear weapons, the result of this war would be devastating.

A whole country can fall in less than a day with the push of a button. With Trump behind one and Kim behind the other, who is to say what will happen?

The result of a nuclear war would come in the form of an atomic winter. This is the severe and prolonged global climatic cooling after such atomic warfare.

The loss of life would be incredibly high as well. A nuclear holocaust or nuclear apocalypse is exactly how it sounds: the end of civilization through the use of nuclear weapons. If such destruction were to

take place, the Earth itself would become almost completely uninhabitable. Those

who survive would deal with constant firestorms, and widespread radiation sickness, in addition to nuclear winter.

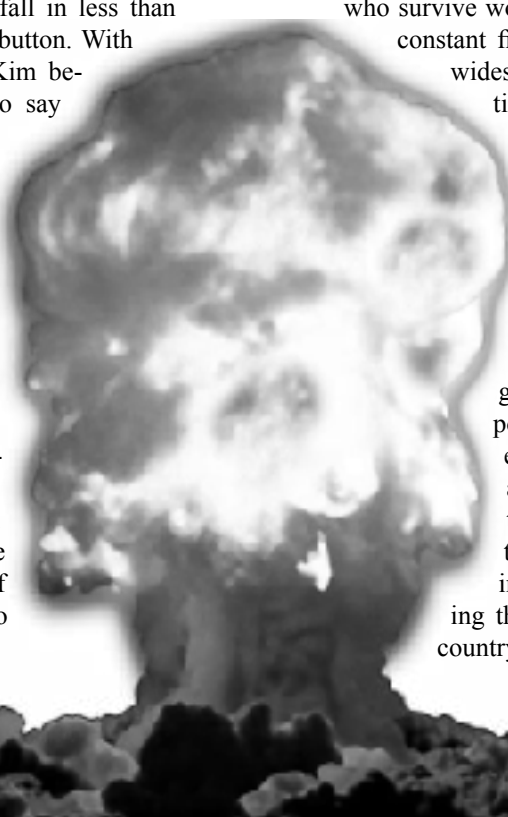
The other possible scenario would be for the two mongers of such possible war to end the feud and go back to running their countries in peace. Being the leader of a country is important

as they maintain the best interest and safety of its people.

If the two leaders decide to continue with attacking each other and their countries, they can settle it the old fashion way: a fight to the death.

Before the fight, counties can build up a huge support for this fight between the two and maybe millions of dollars boosting the economies of several countries. The UN can find a neutral country where the two, Kim and Trump, can fight each other to the death without destroying the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world.

For the best interest of the American people, a war between these two nuclear powerhouses should be avoided. The feud between these two counties is completely pointless. In that being the two leaders only started the conflice as they called each other a few silly names on television. A war between these two countries would have a devastating effect on the world.



Courtesy of GOOGLE

Is Boxing Down for the Count?



AUBREY BELL
Opinions Editor

Since the 1960’s, influential eras of boxing characterized by the legendary names of Muhammad Ali, Sugar Ray Johnson, and Mike Tyson, have shaped the nationalist pride within the country. Inspired by the Golden Age of Boxing, movies have mythologized the movement with films such as “Rocky,” “Creed,” and “Million Dollar Baby.” However, in light of recent events, the sport of boxing is dying as it is unable to keep up with its competitor, the UFC, and has fostered a bad reputation within its audience. Now future Rockys will have to learn mixed martial arts instead.

The whole world was tuned in when arguably the best boxer of all time, Floyd Mayweather, got into the ring with popular UFC fighter, Conor McGregor. The fight received immense attention and after various streaming issues, the fight broke records by raising the biggest financial gains in the history of sporting events.

However, the biggest question arose to be: why was the fight so highly anticipated? Why would the best fighter in boxing history be considered a good match for one of the many UFC champions? One would assume this would be because of the famous trash talk that McGregor is notorious for. Unfortunately for the reputation of boxing, the fight was well matched.

McGregor made it to the 10th round of a 12 round fight, and broke records by

landing the most punches to ever hit Mayweather. While McGregor has a decorated fighting history, he was an All-Ireland Boxing Champion at a youth level, a UFC lightweight Champion, and a former UFC Featherweight Champion, his fighting records are nowhere near the levels of other renowned UFC fighters.

With other talented UFC fighters such as, Anderson Silva, Jose Aldo, and Demetrious Johnson, McGregor shouldn’t have been considered on the level of Mayweather, a fighter with a record of 49-0 (now 50-0). Is the best boxer the equivalent to a good mixed martial artist? This raises questions regarding the actual talent and skill involved with the sport of boxing compared to the UFC’s MMA.

“I feel like boxing takes a lot of stamina and a longer time. People are less likely to wait around because of the pacing of it compared to MMA,” senior Gurpreet Tahim said.

Boxing has also faced criticism regarding the untrustworthy decisions and officials. On July 1, boxing fans were furious over the decision of the Manny Pacquiao versus Jeff Horn fight in Australia. Many made comments that Pacquiao was robbed of his win, when underdog Horn won the fight, despite that fact the Pacquiao threw and landed more punches than his opponent. With fans questioning the decisions of the sport’s officials, boxing has accumulated a bad reputation.

On Sept. 16, Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez fought for 12 rounds in the middleweight division in front of a sold-out T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas. The fight received some on the best publicity in years for the sport of boxing, raking up

attention years prior to the fight. With high expectations and the unified middleweight championship on the line, Golovkin and Alvarez gave an amazing performance that left no fan unsatisfied.

However, controversy arose when the officials announced that it was a draw. Fans were outraged that after a highly anticipated fight, they were left without a winner and a loser. Conspiracies arose saying that the fight was rigged from the beginning and that money was the only motive for the sport now.

“On Saturday I saw a great fight, but what sucks is; instead of people talking about that, they’re talking about the decision and the judges,” an anonymous fan said.

However, people may argue that the McGregor versus Mayweather fight revived the sport of boxing. With a multi million dollar revenue and worldwide

publicity, the fight brought boxing out of the dark. People have been reminded of the sport, boasting the views of fights that followed. However, publicity and money cannot cover up the internal conflicts that resonate within the sport.

“There’s still plenty of fans, there’s still plenty of money involved with the sport, but I think people are definitely shifting towards UFC,” senior Chase Madison said.

With boxing getting an increasingly bad reputation and the sport’s inability to keep up with their counterpart, the UFC, boxing seems to be nearing its end. The Golden Age of Boxing is far behind with the current judging and lack of integrity. One can only hope that it goes through a complete makeover before there are no fans left. Until then, UFC takes home the title of being the best fighting platform among American households.

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2017-18 Staff

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MARK PLECHOT/Kennedy Football

Dancing All Over Our Opponents

JAKE PACIOTTA

Sports Editor

Early touchdowns and stellar defense lead the Fighting Irish to victory in fifth consecutive homecoming game.

A week of excitement and activities lead the Kennedy High football team to their homecoming game on Friday, Sept. 15 at Handel Stadium. With all the fun from the spirit days and assemblies, the team knew what must have been done. A tailgate with family and friends welcomed the team to the field at Western High where the Fighting Irish defeated the Magnolia Sentinels, 44-7.

The Fighting Irish were led on offense by senior quarterback Louie Zamora and sophomore wide receiver Isacc Galvan who connected for three touchdowns. On the defensive side of the ball, senior free safety Jalen Dumphord contributed with an interception while sophomore defensive tackle Malik Jacobs added a fourth quarter safety.

Facing the Sentinels was a task that the Fighting Irish couldn't take lightly. Coach Sean Clark emphasized this mentality throughout the week, making sure each of his players knew what had to be done.

"It helped us because we didn't play down to their level," captain Min-ho Park said. "We focused on improving ourselves as a team."

The Fighting Irish started off strong on a great play call by offensive coordinator Dan Urbanos as junior Raymond Aldapa ran the ball 51 yards for a touchdown on only the second play of the game.

"It felt good to start off the game like that," Aldapa said. "I like how I was able to set the tone for the rest of the night and the whole school."

The Irish offense stayed hot as Zamora connected with Galvan for two first half touchdowns coming on 44- and 20-yard passes.

"I knew my parents and all of my friends were happy for me," Galvan said. "As soon

as I got the ball I was excited because I knew I had the opportunity to score and put the team in a good position."

As halftime commenced, ASB held the annual ceremony of crowning the homecoming queen and king. An "Aladdin"-themed skit kicked off the presentation during which Homecoming King, senior Jake Paciotta, was presented. The princesses took the traditional ride atop convertibles and were escorted by loved ones to the middle of the field.

The princesses' hearts raced as their aspirations and reasons for running for homecoming queen were announced. Hearts beating like the drumroll that commenced, the queen was announced.

"I was shocked," Homecoming Queen and senior Hannah Collins said. "I didn't think I was going to win because there were a lot of amazing choices on the court. Overall, I felt honored and grateful."

The crowd cheered and congratulated the king and queen as they took their ride

around Handel Stadium's track. Although the ceremony ended, the excitement stayed alive as the Fighting Irish took the field for the second half.

The show continued for the Irish as Zamora and Galvan connected for a 47-yard third quarter touchdown, solidifying their Player of the Game awards.

After allowing only one second quarter touchdown, the stellar defense, lead by Dumphord and senior cornerback Arthur Perales, shut the Sentinels out in the second half.

Captain Alonzo Pineda added to the scoring effort with a 60-yard fourth quarter touchdown run, cementing the victory for the Fighting Irish.

The show continued after the game as The Shamrock Regiment was joined on the field by colorguard for their Spanish-inspired field show, "Danza de Cabaret."

Irish nation was left feeling proud, whether it be from the victory, homecoming court, or Shamrock Regiment show.

HUSTLE, HIT, NEVER QUIT

JALEN DUMPHORD
JACKIE MARTINEZ
ANDY GALLEGOS

Sports Editor & A&E Editor
& Assistant Video Editor

On Oct. 3, the Fighting Irish girls tennis team fell to the Valencia Tigers, 15-3, in an Empire League match at Kennedy High.

The girls put up a valiant effort, giving the Tigers their all, but could not come away with the victory.

The team knew that they had to improve after this loss which followed another heartbreaking defeat at the hands of the crosstown rival Cypress Centurions.

"Although we lost to both of the teams, we are learning from our mistakes," senior Mili Nadasia said. "Our next three games will hopefully be more exciting as we usually tend to beat all the other schools."

After two consecutive league losses, it did not seem like the girls had the brightest future ahead of them. However, they were able to secure a 10-8 victory in their next match at home against the Tustin Tillers on Oct. 4.

Coach Devan Johnson, seeing potential in every player, had high expectations for her team this season. As the varsity coach, it is Johnson's job to unlock her players' potential and to make sure it is

not wasted.

"We have a very talented group of girls here," Johnson said. "We just need to tighten up a couple of things and we can really contend for the league title this year."

The varsity girls tennis team has a fan base who supports them at every match. Fans are essential to a team's success and, with this group supporting the Fighting Irish, there has been an overall feeling that this team can not be stopped.

"I know these girls work hard every day," senior Yasser Ali said. "So seeing that hard work pay off is great."

With growing confidence heading into the final few matches of the season, the Fighting Irish fought hard but failed to secure a position in the CIF-SS playoffs.



ANDY GALLEGOS/The Shamrock
Senior Brianna Wong awaits the serve in an Empire League match against Valencia.

Girls Volleyball Sets Season Expectations

DOMINIQUE LARSON
CHELSEA MARTIN
NAOMI SAN JOSE

Features Editor & News Editor & Photo Editor

On Thursday, Sept. 28, varsity girls volleyball fought hard against the school down the street, ultimately losing 3-1.

The game, which took place at Cypress, gave the Centurions the upper hand and homefield advantage in the first rivalry game of the season.

"I did feel a bit of pressure playing against our rival team, but hey, who doesn't?" senior varsity co-captain Sofia Bernales said. "However at the same time, my girls and I are so pumped and so focused that at the end of the day we play our game and we always give everything we got. I couldn't be more proud."

Following the loss to Cypress, the Fighting Irish rebounded with commanding victories over both Valencia and Western.

The girls continued their hot streak with a great comeback win against Pacifica. The team had high hopes that they would be able to carry their momentum into the next game.

"We had a lot of supporters that came out expecting that we could win against Cypress," senior varsity co-captain Simone Williams said. "But at the end of the day we just needed to play our game and

chill down the nerves."

The loss against Cypress served as a lesson for a hungry girls volleyball team hoping to learn and grow from their mistakes. They set goals of continually improving various skills on the court in preparation for their next challenge.

"I know that from this game especially I will improve on adjusting to the sets and making sure that I can jump as high as I can," Williams said.

Girls volleyball had hoped to rebound and strike back with a win in their final rivalry game of the season, but fell short on their homecourt, 3-0, on Oct. 16.

However, not even another loss to their bitter rivals could stop this team.

The girls finished the season with a league record of 6-4 and now eagerly await their playoff opponents.



NAOMI SAN JOSE/The Shamrock
Fighting Irish varsity girls volleyball gather around their coaches in between plays.



Crossing Out the Competitor

ORLANDO CABALO
Staff Reporter

Remember your first years of high school when you were in P.E. and were unenthusiastic when the mile or pacers would be the activity of the day? For a group of odd high schoolers, running is fun for them and they love running six to seven miles a day.

The Kennedy cross country team has been training throughout summer and also received a few freshmen who have unprecedented speed for their class. These magic freshmen combined with hardened, seasoned upperclassmen have made this year's team an almost unstoppable force for their competitors.

The girls team, especially, continues to cripple the competition with the ultimate trio, Sally Selengo, Elizabeth Selengo, and Gloria Chang. With the Empire League races, the most important of the year, coming up it is key to hear what the main coach thinks of the team's chances.

"Things are stacking up very well for the Empire League right now. The girl's team is gonna have a big fight for first with Valencia High School," coach Daniel Sanchez said.

Although the boys team had to make up for the loss of key varsity runners like Christopher Gutierrez and David Orosco, the team's void has been filled by a couple



ORLANDO CABALO / The Shamrock
The cross country team ends a vigorous work out in preparation for the Empire League Prelims.

of freshman sensations, Ivan Barrios and Jeffrey Vern.

"They have a great chance on going to C.I.F., Definitely in the top three as far as beating Valencia you know we do our best and see what happens, but you know you gotta be there to find out," Sanchez said.

Although the boy's team seems a bit lacking compared to the girl's team, with the addition of key runners such as Justin Sharp, Denmar Feliciano, and James Kim, anything is possible. A new day has

dawned for the Kennedy's boy's team. Kim being a key member of the varsity team is of course fast and furious, but Kim thought otherwise.

"No I don't think so, there are others who are faster than I am, but we'll still beat Valencia," Kim said.

However don't let Kim's humility confuse you, he is another beast of an athlete ready to crush not only Cypress, but also Valencia. The incredible team which has appeared out of thin air has confused many previous members, like former run-

ner Jose Munguia.

"No I had no idea the team would be so great this year, but since they are I hope they beat Valencia," Munguia said.

Although there are many unknown factors to their meteoric rise, training may be one of the most prominent.

"In the years prior we used to do a lot of weight room circuit, but in recent years I took it off. This year I brought it back. This year I'm introducing new ban workouts that improving overall sprinting," Sanchez said.

The workouts have changed from just a complete focus on running countless miles, a day to more of a balance between resistance, weight room, and long distance running. These key workout changes have seemed to work wonders lately with races like the Cow Run and the Orange County Championship. After spilling a countless amount of sweat, blood, and tears in their practices and in their meets, the Kennedy cross country team is ready for a win. Kennedy is obviously on the precipice of another league championship title, which hasn't come to fruition since 2011.



Waterpolo Opens Floodgates in Overtime Thriller

KARL HAYS
Assistant Video Editor

On Oct. 5, 2017, The Fighting Irish stormed onto the pool deck ready for war. They came ready to battle against the school-down-the-street, Cypress High School. Kennedy walked in as the underdogs and came out on top with a score of 14-12. This did not come easy however, as the game went into double overtime.

Throughout the game, the opponents were neck-and-neck by tying almost every quarter. Everyone on the team pulled together this win with everyone playing their hearts out and working together. Senior goalkeeper Michael Banda deflected everything he saw as a threat to his precious goal.

"I was pretty confident going into the game. I knew that we were the better team and if we were to play at our best I knew we were going to win. I think everyone did a great job stepping up and contributing to our win," Banda said.

Field players, senior Sebastian Banales, sophomore Eddie Baca, junior Karl Hays, and sophomore Byron Hung worked valiantly to keep the score higher than the opponents, putting the boys up by 3 in the third quarter. However, the opposing team steadily crept up to the Irish in the fourth quarter of the game.

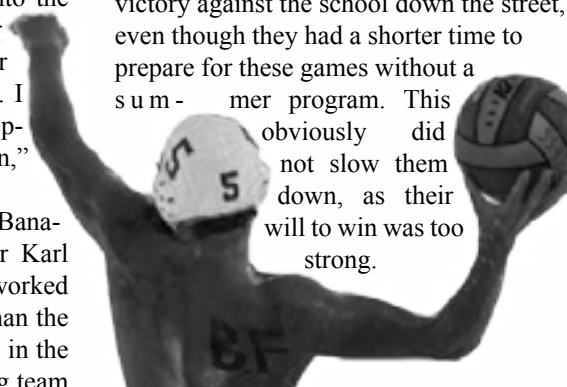
By the end of the fourth quarter the score was 10-10, sending the game into overtime. The pressure rose.

In overtime, the boys didn't give up. They didn't let the pressure get to them, as they worked together and Hays was able to score two more goals against Cypress High School. Despite the efforts, the opponent was able to secure two goals in before overtime was up.

The game was now sent to double overtime, with a score of 12-12. Baca and Banales backed up fellow team member Hays with another two goals shooting the score up to 14-12.

"It was difficult but, with hard work we were able to pull through with the win," junior Juan Anguiano said.

The boys worked hard to secure this victory against the school down the street, even though they had a shorter time to prepare for these games without a summer program. This obviously did not slow them down, as their will to win was too strong.



Courtesy of CORY WELLIVER

Follow Kennedy on Social Media

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Is Your iPhone Betraying You?

JOY PARK
Video Editor

It's no question that Apple has a monopoly over the smartphone industry, especially in the United States. However, many now theorize that the iOS updates are designed to damage older models of the iPhones and iPads, leaving the user frustrated and more likely to buy a new model, without thinking it is the software update that is the culprit of the disintegration of their expensive devices.

"It's horrible. My apps don't work. Twitter won't open," Twitter user Justin Meyer said.

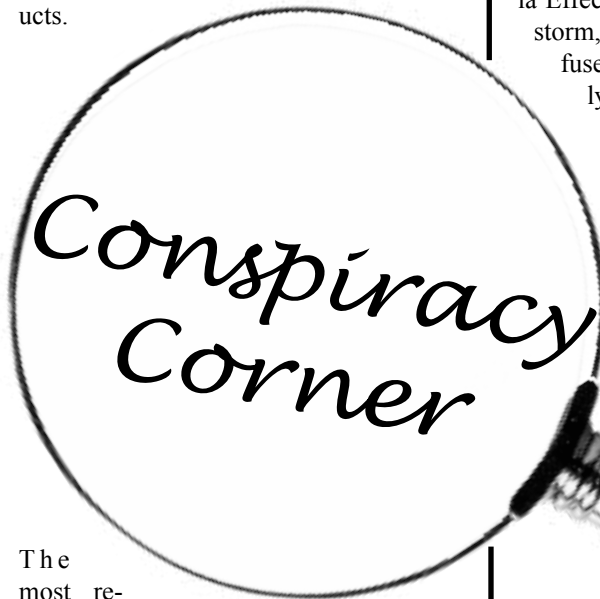
Users have testified to noticing a significant reduction in fluidity in normal functions when updating older models to new software.

"It's a form of planned obsolescence," iFixit CEO Kyle Wiens said, "General Motors invented planned obsolescence in the 1920s. Apple is doing the same thing."

To make these updates more conspicuous, Apple's value on the stock market has significantly increased within the last decade, much more than other big corporations like Samsung or Windows. The practice of this "planned obsolescence", if it is indeed to further monopolize the market, would violate Sherman Antitrust Act, which makes monopolization illegal in the United States.

The conspiracy theory has been

debunked, only in the sense that users may never know whether Apple does this to make their consumers more likely to buy new products.



The most recent update, iOS 11, is meant to support a 64-bit processor, and many older models, like the iPhone 5 and iPad 4th generation have a 32-bit processors, which will not be supported by the new update.

While the updates may or may not be to boost sales of new releases, the controversy around iOS updates exclusive compatibility with new models may never settle so long as Apple is a corporation on the market.

MANDELA EFFECT

SABRINA SCHMACKPFEFFER
Staff Reporter

The phenomenon known as the Mandela Effect has recently taken the world by storm, leaving millions of people confused and taken aback by an apparently "false memory." Things such as "mirror mirror on the wall" that people claim to remember, was never actually said.

Scientists dismiss this by saying that sometimes our mind will try to fill in the blank with false interpretations of their own memories. However, the fact that millions of people seem to remember the same "wrong" memory raises several

questions.

Theorists supporting the effect believe that there are alternate universes for every small detail in this world and our ideas occasionally collide, merging what we see as reality. Therefore, we end up with a memory of something that cannot be proven to actually have happened.

"Moreover, that some of us have moved

between those realities, hence remembering things that have been written out of our current timeline," Douglas McPherson, from the Telegraph Press, said.

It all started with the death of Nelson Mandela, a war prisoner later elected as president of South Africa. When he died in 2013, many people were confused, thinking he had passed away in the 80's as a prisoner. A wide range of people do not remember that he was even elected president, apparently never making it out of prison camp. Thus, the Mandela Effect was born.

This sparked a chain of people talking about different things they remember, but never really happened. Darth Vader never said "Luke, I am your father," and the air freshener "Febreeze" is actually spelled "Febreze." It seems that Mandela Effect believers have been awaiting a long overdue explanation.

The confusion left people attempting to make sense of such an unknown phenomenon.

Most came up with explanations closely affiliated with alternate universes. Even some extreme ideas became widely accepted, like aliens

and time travel. This new ideology is now a gateway for people's wildest ideas to possibly be proven as reality.

STRANGE COINCIDENCES

KARL HAYS
Assistant Video Editor

On Friday the Thirteenth in the month of Jan. 2013, Finnair flight 666 was on its course to HEL. No, not "H-E-Double Hockey Sticks" but HEL as in Helsinki, Finland. Funny as it seems, this is only a coincidence, nothing more. The fact that this flight number, on this day, to this specific place is only a mere coincidence. It may seem as if there is a higher force among this but it is just a random occurrence.

The speed of light, 299,792,458 meters per second, contain the same numbers as the latitude of the Great Pyramid of Giza, 29.9792458 degrees north. What does this mean? Is this a message from the past where the Egyptians were trying to tell us something? This connection is actually less random than you may think considering that we got to control where we placed the decimal point. A number of degrees this precise is not necessary when trying to locate the pyramid. This means that if we had the choice to, we wouldn't have to include anything after the fourth decimal point. It

is easy to make the rest of the numbers fit the speed of light exact with only being off by about a few meters.

These strange happenings between words moving around creating something eerie, or the connection of numbers that have a mysterious meaning showing up is called apophenia. Apophenia is the perception of connections or patterns in information. This is the the reason why instances that may seem random or coincidental, feel this way.

One type of apophenia is pareidolia. This is the seeing or hearing of things that were not meant to be there. An example of pareidolia is the hearing of your phone ringing or name being called in the sound of running water or seeing faces on things where faces weren't purposefully placed. Pareidolia can cause people to interpret patterns in things where patterns weren't meant to be. Organisms with a hyper sense of apophenia tend to live longer because they are able to point out threats to their survival.

Often times our minds are so used to looking for patterns due to apophenia, the randomness sequences and patterns don't always feel random enough. In 2012, Apple Inc. received complaints on how Apple's shuffle feature wasn't random enough. Users complained about how similar songs or songs from the same artist appeared in a string, which can be expected from randomness from time to time. To fix this problem, Apple introduced a new type of shuffle that avoided completely random sequences, that didn't seem random to our pattern loving minds.

"We are making it less random, to make it feel more random," Apple founder Steve Jobs said.

Confirmation bias is also a lead component in the connection of what seems to be too random things, being related. If you really want something to sync up, it will. We often look for the evidence that supports what we already believe and denying things against that belief.

"I wouldn't have seen it, if I wouldn't

have believed it," philosopher Marshall McLuhan said.

These biases also help explain the supposedly mind-blowing coincidence that famous movies sync up with famous albums or songs. An example of this includes playing Pink Floyd's "The Dark Side of the Moon" while watching "The Wizard of Oz," will eerily sync the two. There are large groups of people who believe that movies that sync up with music (and vice versa) are secretly planned. Although this sounds very intriguing, they are nothing but mere accidental music videos.

Our pattern hungry minds create a search for things with connections, sometimes creating them when they aren't there. The law of near enough states that two things don't have to line up exactly or literally for our minds to see a connection. This is why vague and nonspecific predictions are a great way to look psychic. What may be rare on average or when considering all possible circumstances, can be less rare for specific scenarios.



DIVERSITY'S BIG BREAK

NOW VIEWING IN MULTICOLOR

CHELSEA MARTIN
News Editor

This year's Emmy Awards may be a turning point for diversity and representation in Hollywood. Numerous firsts were achieved during the event regarding the achievements of people of color, as well as the LGBTQ+ community.

The Emmy's took place on Sept. 14, 2017 at the Microsoft Theater. Each year the ceremony recognizes excellence in the television industry in categories such as Outstanding Actor in a Drama Series to Outstanding Cinematography. This year included a record number of wins for often left out minority groups.

Winners of this year included Donald Glover, Riz Ahmed, and Lena Waithe. Each of these awards made Emmy history in their respective categories.

According to Time Magazine, Donald Glover, also known as Childish Gambino, gained a total of four nominations, winning Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series and Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series. Both of these were for his work in the show "Atlanta." Glover became the first African American director ever to win the Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series award.

"It has not sunk in at all...it feels like a dream. I don't want to make the best indie movie, I want to make the best movie. I don't believe in labels like that. I'm glad I made history, but that's not what I was trying to do...I just really wanted to make a really great show," Glover said.

Likewise, British-Pakistani actor Riz Ahmed became the first man of Asian descent to win the award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Limited Series or Movie for his work in the show "The Night Of." Being of Pakistani descent,

Ahmed was subject to racism early on in his life.

"I don't know if any one person's win of an award, or one person snagging one role, or one person doing very well changes something that's a systematic issue. I think that's something that happens slowly over time," Ahmed said. "I'm proud [of his work] that it deals with those issues in creative ways and in ways that move us forward rather than doubling down on lazy stereotypes."

It was not just racial progress that was made, but progress with gender and sexuality as well. According to CNN, Lena Waithe became the first African American woman to win Outstanding Writing in a Comedy Series for her work in "Masters of None." On top of her win adding representation for African American women, Waithe, a lesbian, also called attention to the LGBTQ+ community during her acceptance speech.

"The things that make us different, those are our superpowers," Waithe said, "[Winning the award] made me know that we as a community were really embraced by Hollywood in a real way."

In addition, "Black Mirror" episode of "San Junipero" won an Emmy for Outstanding Writing for a Limited Series, Movie, or Dramatic Special. The episode detailed the relationship between two women in a simulated reality, another win for LGBT recognition.

Many people took to Twitter in light of the representation the Emmy's brought, praising the ceremony with the hashtag, "#EmmysSoBlack." This is in stark contrast to last year's Oscar controversy where the hashtag, "#OscarsSoWhite" was used to protest how all 20 nominees for lead actor/actress were white.

However, even with the strides towards honoring diversity, some note what these historic moments really reveal.

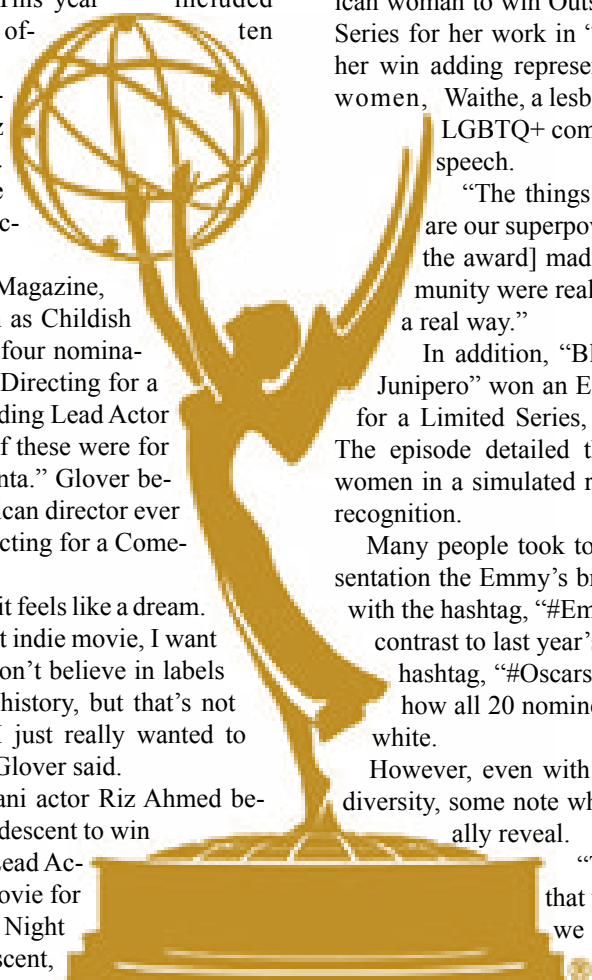
"To me it feels embarrassing that we are still in a place in which we have to note these moments. I'm hoping that people don't



Courtesy of GOOGLE
Ahmed, Glover, Brown, and Waithe pose with their Emmys on Sept. 17, 2017 at the Microsoft Theater. Their wins made television history for people of color in Hollywood.

feel satisfied because they saw a lot of people win, and then think that we're done," show writer, Shonda Rhimes said.

Hopefully, the Emmy's can serve as an example that will kickstart others to become more inclusive to all races, genders, and the LGBTQ+ community. The progress it brought should not be an all time high for diversity but rather a step up. Overtime, the dream of diversity and representation of all people in Hollywood may soon become a reality.



DID YOU KNOW?

1. Bill Cosby was the first African American man to win an Emmy Award in 1966.
2. Cicely Tyson was the first African American woman to win an Emmy Award in 1974.
3. Janet Gaynor was the first gay woman to win an Academy Award in 1927.
4. Jose Ferrer was the first Latino to win an Emmy award in 1951.
5. Laverne Cox was the first transgender woman to be nominated for an Emmy in 2014

TRENDS

ANNIE CHUN
Editor-in-Chief

Band merchandise have always been a staple piece of countless closets. However, the meaning of these shirts has definitely digressed as they are now only worn as fashion statements and hardly ever in support of the musician. Maybe one day they can be worn, both in support of an artist and as fashion, but please, don't wear Metallica or Guns N' Roses shirts when you probably don't listen to them; it's embarrassing.



BAND MERCH

THAT NEED TO END 2017 EDITION

Appropriating cultures for personal entertainment is a trend that needs to die immediately. One of the biggest aspects of Coachella is the fashion, but their attendees tend to dress offensively as they feel the need to opt for Indian headdresses and bindis. For those interested in fashion, pick something else because culture is not a trend.



All Images Courtesy of GOOGLE

CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

From terrorizing his neighborhood to abusing multiple women, it is still a question as to how this Internet star is still relevant. Brainwashing his 10-year-old fans into "dabbing on them haters" is nowhere near being considered influential, especially since his career should have died along with Vine. It isn't "Everyday Bro," just stop giving this guy the tween views he profits from so easily.



JAKE PAUL

