

FEATURED CLUB

THE VIKING LONGSHIP

-Sage Alexander



The Viking Longship is the club that writes the newspaper. We are compiled of creative writers, journalists, poets, and more, coming together to produce a student fueled news source at South Tahoe High School. This gives an opportunity for students to develop their writing and journalism skills, as well as editing. Storytellers galore, the Viking Longship is 100% written by and for students, offering information from a different perspective than common news. We look for passionate students that have something to say, participating in this project develops skills such as writing, communication, and teamwork. Whether it be taking surveys, making comics, writing editorials, or taking pictures, there's always room for creativity and passion.



Somalia has suffered an incredible loss. Over 300 people have been murdered, and many more injured and missing. A car truck bomb went off on October 14th at a Mogadishu city block.

All articles and works contained and displayed within this publication used on permission of their respective authors, and are copyright said authors.

This Edition of the Viking Longship © 2017 South Tahoe High School Viking Longship Staff

THE VIKING LONGSHIP STAFF:

Sage Alexander: Editor

Iris Fink: Staff Writer

Douglas Abbott: Staff Writer

Destiny Bueno: Surveys/Art

Dylan E. Sanders: Comics

Mr. Berkshire: Staff Advisor

The meetings for the Viking Longship are Wednesdays in Mr. Berkshire's B-4

SUBMISSIONS:

Subject material is accepted from anyone.

Anonymous submissions are accepted.

Please send any writing submissions with a title, author's name, any text that is to be included, and a note explaining in which section of the newspaper you wish your submission to be published in.

**Email it all to 18sa3344@ltusd.org
AND sthslongship@gmail.com**

Editor's Note: The email STHSlongship@gmail.com cannot be contacted using a ltusd.org email. Any non-ltusd.org email cannot contact the ltusd.org emails. Please submit through email according to these limitations.

THE VIKING LONGSHIP

THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Third Edition

October 19th, 2017

LOUDY SKIES IN LAKE TAHOE - Iris Fink/Sage Alexander



The Napa Valley Fires have been raging in the Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa counties. In the past two weeks, about 20,000 people have been evacuated. The wind over the area was predicted to increase a massive wildfire destroying thousands of structures.

South Tahoe High School and LTCC fire academy graduate Scott Carlson works for Fallen Leaf Fire Department, and he is working on the cascade fire. This image depicts him putting out hotspots. In Northern California, 10,000 firefighters have been working around the clock, and more crews are being established in Red Flag areas. According to Mother Jones, "Between 30 and 40 percent of California's forest firefighters are state prison inmates," who "make... \$2 an hour when they're on a fire line".

In Napa Valley, a 43,000 acre fire was addressed on October 12th with a wildfire suppression line, stopping the flames from spreading any further. Low winds over the last week have allowed firefighters to approach and calm the 9,500 acre Partick fire. On Saturday, October 14th, these embers spread to Sonoma and other non-reported regions. Many neighborhoods along the Northern coast of Santa Rosa

have been reduced to rubble and thousands of people are residing in Red Cross shelters. The Tubbs and Atlas fires, started by the same embers, were reduced to half strength and the evacuation in Napa Valley has been lifted. Santa Ana winds range between 30-40mph as warm temperatures and low humidities mix into a combination that spreads fire as easy as striking a match box. Red Flag areas are issued by the United States National Weather Service stating that conditions are perfect for combustion. These warnings on October 18th are the South Laramie Range and its eastern slopes. Sonoma State, California Maritime Academy, and a plethora of other schools have been evacuated. Both colleges continued scheduled classes October 17th. Immigration officials have discontinued any development or activity in Northern California where fire is close. These officials will not deny anyone from shelters, food banks, or evacuation sites.

The death toll has risen since last wednesday to 42 people and 68 are still missing. 5,700 structures have been burnt to the ground with over 34,270 acres decimated. Many people are currently without a home to call their own. The economic situations in certain areas do not have a safety net to respond to the vast amount of people without homes. Finding affordable housing in these areas was an issue before the fires.

The Nuns fire is 82% contained, with 54,423 acres burned. The Atlas fire is 85% contained, with 51,624 acres burned. The Tubbs fire is 92% contained, with 36,432 acres burned. This is one of the worst fires in California history, and Governor Gerald Brown has declared a state of emergency. According to air quality-analyst Sean Raffuse, California fires produced as much pollution in 2 days as all the state's cars do in a year.

Nobody From Nowheresville -Douglas Abbott

Chapter Two-Part One

GRACE

“So,” I said to myself, just loud enough for Calvin to hear “There are more people in the world like me...” This could finally all be over. After all, I had felt the-I shuddered at this thought- *stirrings* again when I saw him.... I need his help.

I went home, contemplating how the future would bring us together again.

Nobody noticed me. I *am* a Nobody, just like Calvin, and for exactly the same reasons. Probably.

About five minutes after I had closed the door, someone knocked on it. That, in itself, was unusual, because I paid a bit extra on my rent for the added benefit of the landlord’s discretion. No one ever came here.

Kalvin was at the door. When I opened it, he said “Hello. One question- how did you know my name when I never even told you?”

“Well, okay mister, how did you know where I live?”

“You live right next to me,” he said, slightly dejectedly, “I see you every day. You just never noticed me. So, how *did* you know my name?”

I decided to lie. He shouldn’t know my secret, just yet, anyway, in case I was wrong about him. “I saw you one day, wondered who you were, checked the building register, and then saw you in the street just now”

“Bull. One thing I can easily find out about people, *Grace*, is whether or not they’re a good liar. You’re a good liar, but not anywhere near good enough to fool me. You knew of me, and not from the register.”

“Well, I think you may be like me.”

“What do you mean?” he asked cautiously

“Well, I mean that... if people ask you for help... it... kind of... blows up in their face. And yours. And everyone’s who is in any way involved.”

“Well,” he said, in a shocked voice “You’re right there. Does the same happen to you? I’ve been to court 15 times because of it. I escaped from jail by not being noticed for half of them. It seemed great at first, but after a while...”

“I feel ya. Listen, can you help me grow that plant on my windowsill?”

“No! Why did you do **that?! he** shouted, his arms rising regardless of his efforts to stop them. Power started to coil there, on the tips of his fingers, crackling in his hair, raising him off the ground, emitting a light both beautiful and terrible to behold. Then his voice grew deeper, like it was echoing down a tunnel from the very beginning of time: **WHICH**

ONE?

It wasn’t what I had been expecting.

BOOK OF THE ISSUE:

AND THE BAND PLAYED ON:

POLITICS, PEOPLE,

AND THE AIDS

EPIDEMIC

BY RANDY SHILTS -Sage

Alexander

And the Band Played

On is an incredibly well researched and concise book regarding the aids epidemic from the late

70s to 1987. Randy

Shilts weaves in political happenings,

personal experiences, and scientific

viewpoints to truly understand the

implications and context of the crisis. It is

written in a series of short perspectives to find the motives behind every legislation (or

lack thereof). Shilts does an excellent job in

holding not only the United States

Government but also media and society

accountable for essentially ignoring

thousands of homosexuals dying. Shilts also

identifies the problem with individuals in

that time period hiding the fact they died

of/had HIV, because media had less of an

idea of the vast number of people infected

and dying of AIDS. My favorite issue he

tackles is the term “AIDSPEAK”; people did

not want to deal with the hard hitting truth

that they had to tell gay men they could very

well die if they didn’t practice safe sex. Randy

Shilts refused to see the results of the HIV

test until he finished writing this book so as

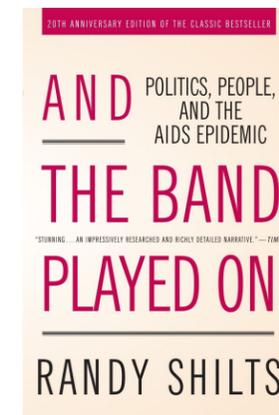
to stay objective. He died in 1994 when he

was 43 of Acquired Immune Deficiency

Syndrome. I have a copy of this book if

anyone wants to read it, shoot me an email

or come find me.



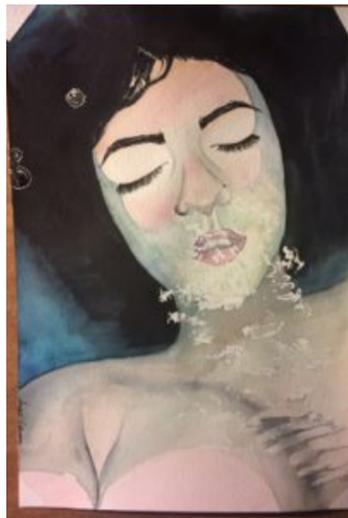
ART

“Technological progress has merely provided us with more efficient means for going backwards.” - Aldous Huxley

STUDENT ARTIST:

Sarah Edwards

Sarah Edwards is a senior at South Tahoe High School. Her art is an incredible example of taking control over one’s medium. The water is incredibly realistic, and displays her talent for creating lifelike works.

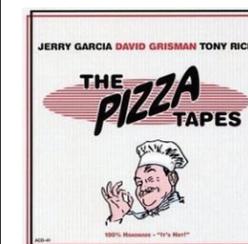


This second piece is a very mystical painting. The galaxy on the subject’s dress in contrast to the white hair and black background is striking.

To view in color, see digital version via email.

HEY, LISTEN TO THIS:

THE PIZZA TAPES -Sage Alexander



Jerry Garcia, Tony Rice, and David Grisman created a recording of them playing traditional songs. The story goes, a pizza delivery man saw this tape on a counter and snagged it while Jerry Garcia wasn’t looking. This album is an excellent road trip soundtrack and shows these three artists in their prime.

Poetry, Anyone?

Out of Time - Iris Fink

Time does not exist,
If one year is difficult, one day is a drag.
Waiting is not worth heartache if time is countless.
Hormones control and conduct emotion like an
Operetta,
And the music has been casted for a long
measure-less endeavor of confusion.
If I am not myself than who am I?
Social mistakes are endless,
So why do my choices feel wrong if the right answer
is a fictitious and illusory dream.
A web has been cast and I am stuck in the fibers of
an amount of time I can not control.

Green Subaru -Sage Alexander

Three simple haikus.
The car crash I was once in
Was quite traumatic.
You, Green Subaru.
The only thing I see now
A Dodge van impact
A bang, smoke, fluids,
Near Anderson's Bike Rental.
Insurance nightmare.

A Dream of Death -Douglas Abbott

Upon my deathbed, as with a file,
I sharpen a blade of deceit and guile,
as I draw upon my dying breath,
and prepare for the road to the hall of Death,
the halls that echo without sound,
and anything lost may yet be found,
where every color is one of night,
where the future is almost in sight,
and as I look back on my past life,
one filled with pain and strife
I see a vision rushing toward me,
of a fire-filled land,
with no men and no seas,
that had never seen water,
a world that exists at a thousand degrees...

And I awoke, into that feverish dream,
as my sanity near came apart at the seams,
to a ravaged land, burnt and withered,
And the ground shook,
as if moved by an massive hand...
At last, I awake,
to the sight of the dawn of a new day.

LET'S DEBATE: PHILOSOPHY -Douglas Abbott

We all know what one of The Questions in philosophy is- “Why are we here?”
However, I think the ancient sophists who conceived that question may have missed a few steps. A couple of better questions to ask first are “Where is here, philosophically speaking?”, “Does here exist?”, and “Do we exist?”

If you don't even know where “here” is, then why ask the reason you're there? It makes no sense to me. I don't know if anyone else feels this way, but it is perfectly reasonable, not to mention obvious.

Why ask why you're in a place if you don't even know for certain that the place exists? The world may not exist, summed up by the quote “By choosing your thoughts, and by selecting which emotional currents you will release and which you will reinforce, you determine the quality of your light. You determine the effects that you will have upon others, and the nature of the experiences of your life.” Gary Zukav from Seat Of The Soul. This means that you create what you perceive as reality inside your head. Creating reality inside your head could mean that reality as you perceive it is not real. In other words, it could be that nothing you experience is real and you are a brain in a jar being fed stimuli by a computer.

Now for the third question- “Are we real?” Who's doing the asking? If it's you, that's great, but how can others tell that you are you? In other words, how, from someone else's first person perspective, can you prove that you exist? Similarly, how can you tell from your own first person perspective, that others exist? Furthermore, how can you prove to *yourself* that you exist? You could be, as aforementioned, a brain in a jar being fed stimuli. In fact, just on Sunday (but I can't prove it...) My brother said that him having fingers proved he was real. My dad and I responded the same thing at the same time: “No, that just means you *think* you have fingers.”

Just a few things to mull over. E-mail me if you can prove that you exist!
(21douglasa1103@ltusd.net)

THE ADVENTURES OF SPUNK THE CHIPMUNK

-Iris Fink

Spunk can feel as the wind gains strength, he thinks to himself - winter is coming. Under the branches of an incense cedar, Spunk climbs down to the forest floor. With confidence he begins a long mission of finding food. Digging hole after hole his stomach, the size of a grape, growls with anticipation. Spunk checked three cedar trees within fifteen feet. Yet, not a single pine nut. Pine nuts, being his favorite meal, were a personal goal of his. “Anticipation?!” he squeaked. “I can't wait that long, I need to find my nuts! I know I hid them somewhere.” Chipmunks are notoriously forgetful and stubborn. Though, unbenounced to Spunk, a small grey squirrel was also looking for a snack. Chipmunks and squirrels have fought for generations. Blind by hate for another species, naturally, working together would be out of the question. The wind blew by once more and spunk smelled something squirrely. Indeed it was a squirrel! Spunk was seething with anger, he screamed and yelled, squealed and squeaked; “Hey you! Big, grey, ugly, food stealing, nonindigenous squirrel! Get out of my territory. I am looking for my pine nuts.” Yet with all the hate Spunk could muster, it didn't change the fact that the squirrel was indigenous and needed protein as much as he did. A glance arose behind a pinemat manzanita bush, and the squirrel felt quite awkward. As rude as the small old grey squirrel craved to be towards the tiny defenseless chipmunk, he only waited for a familiar grumble. Spunk's stomach sounded like a jet engine as his mouth watered for the relief of a bite to eat. He noticed that the squirrel was gone and in its place; a pile of pine nuts were on the ground. The unnamed rodent believes only kindness can relieve anger.

ATTENTION SENIORS

Mrs. Lincoln's photography class is offering free senior pictures to those who want them. Talk to Mrs. Lincoln in C204 to schedule a shoot!

CLOUDY SKIES IN LAKE TAHOE SOURCES:

- Bonos, Lisa, Amy B. Wang, Cleve R. Wootson Jr. "Death Toll Continues", The Washington Post. 15 October, 2017. Web. 15 October 2017
- Calfas, Jennifer. "This Map Shows", Time. 11 October, 2017. Web. 12 October, 2017
- CALFIRE crisis map, October 19th 2017
- Sahagun, Louis, et al. " Evacuations Winded As Northern", Los Angeles Now. Los Angeles Times. 12 October, 2017. Web. 12 October, 2017
- Lurie, "30 Percent of California's Forest Firefighters Are Prisoners", Mother Jones, August 14th 2015. Web October 19 2017
- Serna, Joseph, et al. " Death Toll Rises To 40", Los Angeles Now. Los Angeles Times, 15 October, 2017. Web. 15 October, 2017
- "Red Flag Warning", Watches, Warnings, and Advisories. National Weather Service. 15 October, 2017. Web. 15 October, 2017

SCHOOL LUNCH OFFERS LIMITED OPTIONS

-Sage Alexander

For vegetarians and vegans at South Tahoe High School, it can be difficult to find filling meals provided by the school lunch. As of October 2017, a sunflower butter and jelly sandwich with a cheese stick, cheese pizza, grilled cheese, and a salad are the choices for individuals who do not eat meat. These choices vary based on the day and food station. The sunflower butter and jelly sandwich without the cheese stick and the salad without the dressing are the only vegan main dishes.

Junior Taylor Luecke points out that while the lunch offers side options, “they only make a certain amount” and it can be difficult to reach the front of the line soon enough. There are multiple lines in the cafeteria, and if after waiting in the line there is none of the food item you need, you would have to wait in a different line. By that time, it is possible the vegetarian option will have run out. Individuals who rely on the school lunch for their nutrition are cheated when they cannot eat the food regularly prepared for students, or only have low calorie options to choose from.

The school offers a truly nutritious food choice; a salad bar. The plastic covered empty salad bar was in place for a good portion of the school year. It was reopened October 11th (Mysteriously, a day after the Viking Longship Staff took pictures). According to the nicely formatted signs over the body bag that was the salad bar, the closing was due to lack of respect. We are not sure what lead to the developments of closing and reopening, but there seems to be some drama between the vegetable eaters of South Tahoe and the lunch people.

The meals served in certain schools are an enormous improvement on pre-2011 food plans. In 2011, specific changes were added to the way public schools choose food items. The Department of Agriculture’s final ruling for Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs states “The proposed rule sought to increase the availability of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat fluid milk in the school menu; reduce the levels of sodium, saturated fat and trans fat in school meals; and meet the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The intent of the proposed rule was to provide nutrient-dense meals (high in nutrients and low in calories) that better meet the dietary needs of school children and protect their health,”. In South Tahoe High specifically, “at least 1 item must be a fruit or vegetable” in a student’s meal, according to the screen above the food stations. The other two components can be a protein, grain, or milk.

Hopefully, the future of STHS lunches will include healthy food as the norm, as well as food for vegetarians to eat that won’t give us heartburn when we’re forty. The students that need the nutrition of the school lunch the most are the students without access to healthy food at home. We ask the deciders of meal plans to reevaluate, to move from achieving the requirements to distributing outstanding food to the young people that will need to deal with the health effects of eating badly during their developing years.

Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs; Final Rule: USDA report, January 26 2012.



SCIENCE

LIFE OF A FUNGI - Pop and Fizz

Fungi are heterotrophic, meaning the organism can not digest or propagate like most plants or animals. Fungi spread using fragmentation, budding, or producing spores; mycelium, a fine white matter, is often spread through soil and can create new mushrooms. They use enzymes to break down organic matter to absorb the nutrients.

Local fungi such as pine drops and snow plants have an interesting relationship with their surroundings. Most tree roots have a mutual symbiotic relationship with a fungi, characterized as mycorrhiza. Pine drops and snow plants feed on the fungus that lives with tree roots. These fungi are parasitic in nature, giving no help to the hardworking roots and their fungus friends.



The funga -- referring the the species of fungus in a specific region -- of the Sierra Nevadas commonly grow in clusters beneath conifer trees. The Boletus rex-veris is an edible mushroom growing beneath montane conifers in clusters, it is also known as the Spring King. They are best found during the button stage. It is firm when young, cream white with a tinge of yellow, and a small sweet delicacy. Though a rule of thumb: if you can not identify the mushroom upon glance, do not eat it.

Arora D., Simonini. "Boletus Rex-Veris", California Fungi. 2008. Web. 12 October, 2017

CLARITY LOSS CONTINUES, CONTINUED

-Sage Alexander



This image (taken October 10th) is an example of the issue with using fertilizer on lawns. Lupine Trail, the street where this was taken, has BMPs for all urban storm drain runoff. This means this location’s runoff gets naturally filtered through the ground, and is not deposited directly into a tributary or Lake Tahoe. Unfortunately, houses and golf courses in areas without BMPs use fertilizers. Algae is an ongoing problem in the health of Lake Tahoe; “Though the value varies annually, it has shown a significant increase since measurements began in 1984,” (SOTL,74). Edgewood golf course features on-the-lake views, with unfortunate repercussions. In 2009, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency suggested Edgewood “Increase green golf course management practices to further minimize the use of fertilizers and irrigation” (Notice, 4). Edgewood is the largest landowner in the casino area, and the expansive lawn for the use of the wealthier tourists takes a large amount of water and fertilizers. It is also lakefront, with hardly any “wobble room” to allow the

pollutants to filter through the soil. This is an example of a property that simply cannot be allowed to use nutrients known to spur algae growth and impact Tahoe clarity. Environmental laws must be in place to prohibit instances such as these, and offer more solutions to clarity loss. Every urban storm drain gutter needs to direct water runoff into a BMP. Vehicles with high atmospheric pollution ratings must be restricted. Fertilizers that include phosphate or nitrogen should not be allowed in the Tahoe basin; “Nitrogen (N) is important because it, along with phosphorus (P), stimulates algal growth” (SOTL, 64). Urban shoreline must be returned to marshland. These are the things that must be done to stop clarity loss. *Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Edgewood Hotel and Golf Course Realignment Project, 2009* *State of the Lake Report, Tahoe Environmental Research Center, 2017* To find out more, the Keep Tahoe Blue Pipekeeper program accepts volunteers to collect storm drain runoff samples.

COMIC OF THE EDITION

