



”Set in New York City in 1922, Thoroughly Modern Millie tells the story of young Millie Dillmount from Kansas, who comes to New York in search of a new life for herself. Her grand plan is to find a job as a secretary for a wealthy man and then marry him. However, her plan goes completely

awry. The owner of her dingy hotel kidnaps young girls to sell to the Far East, her wealthy boss is slow in proposing marriage and the man she actually falls in love with doesn't have a dime to his name... or so he tells her.”

-Music Theater International

South Tahoe High School's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie will be performed on the dates of January 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:00pm January 21st and 28th at 2:00pm Tickets are purchased at the door, \$10 for students, \$15 for adults. 1 free with ASB card.

Opening Night is THIS FRIDAY!

THE VIKING LONGSHIP

STAFF:

Sage Alexander: Editor
Iris Fink, Douglas Abbott,
Skylar Day: Staff Writers
Dylan E. Sanders:
 Comic of the edition
Mr. Berkshire: Staff Advisor

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

SUBMISSIONS:

Material is accepted from anyone. Anonymous submissions are accepted. Please send any writing submissions with a title, author's name, and any text that is to be included.

Email it all to sthslongship@ltusd.org and sthslongship@gmail.com

 **THE VIKING LONGSHIP**
 THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Seventh Edition

January 18, 2018

OPEN MIC NIGHT

-Sage Alexander



Last Friday, a new kind of event happened on the South Tahoe High campus. It was open mic night, an opportunity for anyone to present their art and practice public speaking (extra credit). Everyone from amateurs to experts were invited to share their stuff in ASB's dimly lit and welcoming affair. The night (located in one of the Student Union's smaller rooms) began with poetry, students trying out sharing their deep feelings through spoken word. I was very impressed with not only the writing ability of these people, but also the conviction in which they read it. Some students went to the lighter side, with stand up comedy or ridiculous acts. Senior Jenny Martinez quoted a slam poetry-parody from 22 Jump Street, bringing the mood up a little bit. It was difficult for the audience to adhere to the rule of snapping to show approval during the poetry section. Celeste Holmes played the song Bare Necessities from Jungle Book on ukulele, the only instrumental performance of the night (unless you count banging on a box to emphasize words). Following this,

students sung both with and without backing music. It was surprising to see people you wouldn't have expected to be singers bravely expose a new side of themselves. Eventually, the night had to be extended due to the number of groups that wanted to participate in karaoke. The performers and audience members alike seemed to be loving it, encouraging the shy and really getting into their acts. ASB sold hot drinks and snacks, easily accessible during the short breaks between performances. The process worked well, not too regimented to push away those easily intimidated, but enough to conduct the evening smoothly. Tables and chairs were spread out with fairy lights hanging over (remember not to touch them, because they will fall over) to give the comforting feeling of a coffee place. Tevan Martorana acted as MC, a satirical host who wanted to, like, set the vibe as smooth and calm. The night had clearly been set up carefully and was run very well, with an excellent turnout. ASB has tried something new, and appealed to a new group of students who previously didn't have this kind of outlet. It was a good time and I look forward to more events of this kind in the future!



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NOBODY FROM NOWHERESVILLE -Douglas Abbott

Chapter Five

GRACE

I walked along Bermuda Parkway, thinking about what I had done. Had I just alienated myself from Calvin forever?

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a group of regular-looking people walking closer to me, totally unaffected by the five lanes of traffic they were walking through, as the traffic was to them. I increased my pace, but readied for a fight. Those were Spectres! I hadn't seen them since I lived in Nowheresville, the night It happened. They broke into a run. As soon as they got within twenty feet of me, I grabbed a pendant hanging around my neck, and it moved...and the pedestrians' movement stopped. A dome had appeared around me, and time had stopped around the dome. Having lived in Nowheresville and gone out after dark before, I knew how to fight spiritual creatures. Spectres were relatively easy, and could be dispersed by wrapping a chain around a group of them, as they could not tolerate each other under normal circumstances, and even some abnormal circumstances.

Out of my pocket came a single link of chain, which I threw into the midst of the creatures. They stopped dead to watch it. The link passed through every one of them, and fell to the ground, where it quickly gained a snakelike form and manner, wrapping all of them easily. Suddenly, the chain vibrated and...broke. The spectres broke free, but I noticed something. These were not spectres at all! They were Gholems. Gholems are similar in construction to golems, but a ghost's soul is put into them and they behave like spectres. The only way to deal with them was to destroy the mystic circle they were made in. I began to run, sprinting as fast as I could. Once the Gholems were outside of my circle, they stopped completely, like the pedestrian traffic.

Gholems were excellent short-range fighters. They were tied to the circle that their ghost had been summoned in, and could not go outside of a mile or so from it, depending on the ghost's strength. The ghost's personality also plays a huge role in its behavior. Vengeful spirits are aggressive, while passive ones are all the more deadly for their subtlety. Those traits are transferred to the ghost's inhabited vessel.

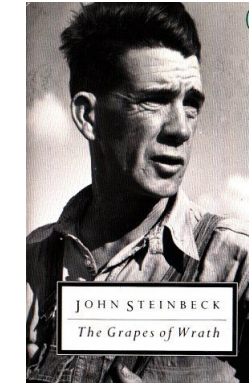
BOOK OF THE ISSUE:

THE GRAPES OF WRATH

By JOHN STEINBECK

-Sage Alexander

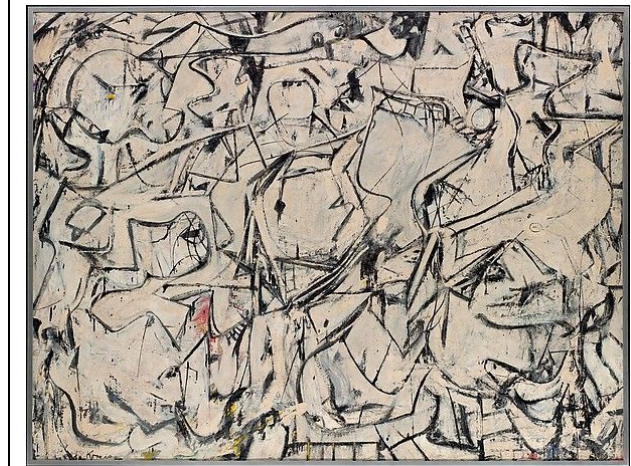
The Grapes of Wrath is a book that deals with the Great Depression. A family living in Oklahoma lose their land and their livelihood, like many other Americans at the time. They are called to California by handbills, saying jobs and land are easy to come by. This book encompasses the struggles between starving working Americans and the wealthy landowners of California, showing the labor movement for what it was. Set in a politically tense time where people with no land could work all day and go to sleep hungry, reading this book today is especially poignant. A master of words, Steinbeck expertly describes the situation in a way nobody else could, with great emotional connection between the reader and the human beings going through great strife. It is very long but riveting, emotional but humorous, and expands your perspective of the world.



"And the great owners, who must lose their land in an upheaval, the great owners with access to history, with eyes to read history and to know the great fact: when property accumulates in too few hands it is taken away. And that companion fact: when a majority of the people are hungry and cold they will take by force what they need. And the little screaming fact that sounds through all history: repression works only to strengthen and knit the repressed. The great owners ignored the three cries of history. The land fell into fewer hands, the number of the dispossessed increased, and every effort of the great owners was directed at repression. The money was spent for arms, for gas to protect the great holdings, and spies were sent to catch the murmuring of revolt so that it might be stamped out. The changing economy was ignored, plans for the change ignored; and only means to destroy revolt were considered, while the causes of revolt went on." -John Steinbeck

ART/MEDIA

A NEAT ARTIST : Willem De Kooning



De Kooning was a Dutch/American artist. The style is considered abstract expressionism, part of the modern movement. He died in 1997 at the age of 92.

A new season of Black Mirror came out on the 29th of December. This show, unlike any other, deals with technology and the not-so-perfect things that come with it. The idealist look at the developing of technology does not include any repercussions of powerful gadgets mixing with the bad parts of society, and Black Mirror opens some curtains to the possible future.



Dolores O'Riordan died this Monday at the age of 46. She was lead singer of the Cranberries. Suddenly, the meaningful songs produced by this band are even more heart wrenching.



COMIC OF THE EDITION By Dylan E Sander

Countryballs: The Story of Humanity #2 By: Dylan E. Sanders

Fertile Crescent, 10,000 years ago			
	A while later...	Soon Enough...	

Minimizing individual ‘carbon footprints’ -Sage Alexander

I have written a bit in the past about the problems with placing the burden of climate change on individual citizens. I believe the only way to halt our carbon output is strict government regulation of corporations and individuals. In general, people adapt to the society that presents itself. It’s similar to asking citizens to stop eating sugar when the only food is candy. However, to both stay consistent in our beliefs and actions, as well as to prepare for a future with less access to high carbon emitting products, we can attempt to limit the impact we have. I propose two (hopefully) reasonable ways to change your lifestyle to limit the resources you consume.

99% of farm animals are raised in ‘factory farms’ or Concentrated Animal Feed Operations (CAFOs). These are farms with a larger amount of animals per square foot than traditional farming methods, which often includes practices considered inhumane and detrimental to human health. Factory farms raise 99.9 percent of meat chickens, 97 percent of egg hens, 99 percent of turkeys, 78 percent of cattle, and 95 percent of hogs¹. Another issue with this is a lack of regulation in pollutants. The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) stated that 18% of anthropogenic greenhouse gases are sourced from Earth’s livestock, greater than the transportation sector ². Methane, the gas produced from cows as well as the cow’s feces, works more efficiently to trap heat, making it worse for the climate than CO₂. According to Food and Water Watch, 369 million tons of manure were generated by CAFOs in 2012³. This is untreated and often times is released into waterways. Ocean dead zones, areas where a high nutrient level depletes the oxygen, are often caused by animal waste. Related to water, it takes about 460 gallons of water for a 1/4 pound of beef ⁴. For a gallon of milk it takes about 4 gallons of water, according to the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy’s 2012 report. Eating meat/dairy while trying to reduce carbon emissions, water intake, and your overall impact on natural settings in other ways is illogical. Converting from eating high caloric animal products to low caloric vegetables and grains can be a difficult transition, especially when (according to marketplace) 70% of the food we eat is processed ⁵. A way to work around this is to cut one food item out at a time. Maybe eating no chicken, pork, beef, eggs, milk, marshmallows, and cheese is too difficult all at once. Replacing chicken with beef or a milk alternative with dairy milk can work to minimally change your diet without much effort. Mostly, it’s psychological.

Zero Waste is the name of a movement that works to eliminate humans garbage output. Videos can be found of supporters that generate a jars worth of trash in a year, by only buying products with recyclable packaging and shopping at bulk stores. The small size of the group of people shows how difficult it is to do so. Some tactics include carrying bowls, cups, straws, and silverware for eating out, to avoid single use oil based plastic items or to bring bags and containers for bulk items to the grocery store. Some are simple, such as getting or making paper towel and tissue substitutes, or even switching to a reusable water bottle. Others are more involved, like using beeswax paper for food, composting, or making your own toothpaste and shampoo. Whatever it may be, these are lifestyle changes. Growing up in a throwaway society, we learn to not get attached to our possessions because we can always buy a new one. The hyperfocus on food safety helps lead us to the reality that annually 40 percent of food in america ends up in the landfill ⁶. That’s 60 million tons. The USDA calculated annually that to give every hungry person in the world 2,100 calories a day you would need 11.8 million tons of grain ⁷. India wastes 21 million tons of wheat a year (according to the Institute of Mechanical Engineers) ⁸. It is apparent the issue is not in a lack of food, but a bad distribution system. Grocery stores will oftentimes toss food that is a little bruised or unattractive but perfectly edible. Packaging laws are so tight, it is very difficult to avoid wrapping food in multiple layers; we’ve all seen over-the-top packaging for food that has the same nutrients dented or nay. According to the EPA, “In 2013, Americans generated about 254 million tons of trash and recycled and composted about 87 million tons of this material, equivalent to a 34.3 percent recycling rate” ⁹. I think that it’s time to change this. From a high school perspective, I can understand how it can be very difficult to change your habits. Children are essentially at the mercy of their parents when it comes to lifestyle; they usually feed you, buy your products, and teach you how to operate in society. I still believe it’s possible to discuss these things and reach an understanding of the impact humans have.

1 USDA census of agriculture 2012 2 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) 2006 3 Food and Water Watch 2012 4 USGS Survey 5 Market Place 2013 6 USDA economic research service 7 USDA 8 Institute of mechanical engineers 9 EPA

The Focus on STEM and Grammar in School

Douglas Abbott

I am what is known to most as a ‘Grammar Nazi.’ That means I cannot tolerate bad grammar and will correct anyone who uses it (I pointed out an error in the front-page headline last issue, but unfortunately after it was printed). I am also an advocate for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). I think that our responsibility as students is to learn as much as possible in school before going out into the world and making a life for ourselves. I believe that every student should feel like this as well, but I have noticed many of my peers messing around in class, not doing their work and completely ignoring the teacher. Then there’s the other problem: grammar. Most students have bad grammar and don’t even make the slightest effort at correcting it. These are quite glaring issues in my mind, as they indicate a lack of learning. There are ways to fix it, but they mostly involve the students shaping up. I can only think of a couple right now, but here they are anyway:

This one is to the students. It is: Shape up and fly straight. Don’t talk when the teacher is talking. Just shut up and listen. The teacher has important things to say, and you should listen. The teachers are here to educate you. It is their job, their chosen profession, what they are paid for. Help them do their job. Help them help you. You *will* need the skills you are being taught now later in life. You may not think so now, but they do have practical applications.

A more annoying issue, but outside of class, is a lack of good grammar. I, for one, use correct grammar even when texting or emailing, except for when I am in an extreme hurry, like when I have only a couple minutes of charge left on my device, or when I am really tired and just can’t be bothered. If you don’t use correct grammar, then most adults won’t understand you. A common mistake is confusing “I” and “me.” A good general rule is to remove the other person from a scenario. In the sentence “him and me went to the store,” remove the ‘him and’ and you are left with “me went to the store.” That is obviously incorrect.

Sage Alexander

I don’t think that Douglas pointed out the reasoning behind grammar being so apparent in the school system, but it was implied. Teaching us to remember rules and systems that a subject must comply to is a useful tool in producing obedient members of society. MLA format, punctuation, and spelling are all additives to your writing to make it appear professional. Obedience in the way the system works is helpful for those in power to teach, especially when out of high school we will hopefully move onto meaningless jobs that generate as much profit as we can (for the owners, for the manager, for us). The most common fear among people today is public speaking. Social phobias dominate society, and yet we are given very few tools to deal with this. The emphasis on the creation of research papers rather than speech shows the lack of preparation of students for the real world. Writing an essay, something that is an enormous focus in English classes, uses the skill of processing information and generating a product. This is either an argument or a set of organized information about a topic. I would assume this is done unintentionally, and administration genuinely wants to prepare students for the real world. Teaching students to behave like machines prepares them for a society where they are expected to exist like them.

The amount of funding by multinational corporations towards STEM education creates an apparent picture of what kind of people they want in society. Depriving students of the ability to question current society does wonders for making citizens that will accept the status quo. In the 1960’s, when our society began to shift away from a production based economy and into a financial (or service) economy, jobs in the professional class (such as businessmen, scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and programmers) skyrocketed. 40% of profits in America now come from financial institutions. The question to ask should be “Is education here to create well rounded individuals, or to create people who can do jobs?” In a society that seems to be destroying itself more and more every day, maybe we need just as many individuals who can fix the mess that we’ve put ourselves in as we need computer programmers and scientists.

CORRECTION OF LAST ISSUE: Viking Television (VTV) comes out **FRIDAYS**, not Thursdays. Sorry about that.

-For students interested in photography, Mrs. Lincoln will be hosting a trip to San Francisco to photograph during the Chinese New Year in February. Make a deposit in ASB of \$25 to reserve your spot, and talk to Mrs. Lincoln for more information.

POLITICS

Donald Trump proposed to open up millions of acres in most of the offshore US for *drilling in gas and oil*. He changed the proposal to exempt Florida when Floridan Governor Rick Scott opposed it. He did not exempt any other areas. In the tax bill passed last year, it takes away protections for Alaska that stop drilling in sensitive areas. This proposal includes the entire Gulf of Mexico, as well as off the shores of most states. This is a reversal of Obama-era restrictions.

California Democratic Senator *Dianne Feinstein* released transcripts of an interview. They included statements that Christopher Steele, a spy hired to find ‘dirt’ on administrations (this time the Trump campaign), came to the FBI to inform them Trump was being blackmailed by Russians.

“The American people deserve the opportunity to see what he said and judge for themselves,” she said. “The innuendo and misinformation circulating about the transcript are part of a deeply troubling effort to undermine the investigation into potential collusion and obstruction of justice. The only way to set the record straight is to make the transcript public.”

Two scandals involving Donald Trump have surfaced recently, and both are vaguely inappropriate for a school newspaper.

According to Senator Dick Durbin, a statement by Donald Trump during a meeting about immigration included him saying that people from Haiti, Africa, and El Salvador shouldn’t immigrate to the United States because *their countries are s-holes*, and instead we want people from Norway. On other news, it turns out that infiltrating elections and overthrowing governments in order to redirect resources and power to an imperialist country makes the economy in a developing country not so great. According to Labor Notes, “In the 1980s, the U.S. funded, armed, and trained the military forces of the Salvadoran dictatorship, to the tune of a million dollars a day, in a brutal civil war against a popular liberation movement that threatened U.S. business interests.” In a later interview, Donald Trump called himself the least racist person you will ever meet, which is ridiculous.

The other scandal was that his lawyer paid over a hundred thousand dollars to a woman to keep quiet about *an affair that Donald Trump had after being married*.

Deputy Director of ICE (Immigration and Customs enforcement) Tom Homan says, "I want to see a 400% increase in work site operations," at a press conference in Washington D.C last December. "*We're not just talking about arresting the aliens at these work sites, we are also talking about employers* who knowingly hire people who are unauthorized to work." Recently, a number of undocumented activists have been detained, contacted, or deported, including Jean Montrival, Maru Mora, and Ravi Ragbir. Language like ‘aliens’ or ‘illegals’ are ways to attempt to separate these Americans from yourself, as if people from other countries (often times seeking refuge in America) are not human.

Someone who refers to themselves as the mailman delivered this note to the Viking Longship staff Wednesday. There seems to be a hidden message....

Humanity, a Species who believes they alone rule the cosmos, This is a lie. Humanity lies to itself about its importance, about how “special” they are. V

In truth, humanity will likely fall, and any species that come after will Not even realize that they exist.

End the Lie.

VYKLY VM JAOBSOB

TAHOE KEYS WATER CLEANUP -Sage Alexander

Before human urbanization, the area where Tahoe Keys is now was a natural marsh, filtering the water from the upper Truckee River. Now, the river has been physically rerouted into a straight line to the side, and the marsh was replaced with concrete and man-made canals. This takes away the chance for nutrients and sediment to settle in the slow moving marsh environment. Instead, the mostly stagnant waterways immediately collect runoff from concrete, roads, and homes, depositing with it the nutrients that fast-forward algae growth.



This area has become a breeding ground for invasive organisms, mainly aquatic weeds. In the past, one of the tactics used to combat the biological extremity has been physically scooping the curly leaf pondweed, coontail and Eurasian watermilfoil out of the water. According to keysweedsmanagement, it has cost up to \$400,000 per year to deal with this issue. Not only is this unattractive, it constantly feeds these organisms into Lake Tahoe, contaminating the larger watershed.

The plan as of now is to blockade the waterways from the lake, and treat the water of Tahoe Keys with Herbicide. Apparently, this has a half life and will be broken down by light until so small it doesn’t matter. It seems as if they have an array of scientists working on this, and the herbicide plan is approved by the TRPA and the League to Save Lake Tahoe. This will be tested on a smaller area first before releasing to the larger Tahoe Keys area.

Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association banned phosphorus (which, as I have written in the past, is a large reason why there is so much algae in Lake Tahoe). The Keys Weeds Management also states “A number of landscaping programs are being implemented, and 100 percent of storm drains within the Association have been marked ‘No Dumping, Keep Tahoe Blue.’” as if the decline in clarity is from people dumping coffee in storm drains. It’s a bit more worrying that all the nasty stuff on roads is picked up and dumped into the lake without filtration than an individual would leave dog poop in the gutter.

This will apparently start sometime this year. When we prevent natural processes from taking place and must deal with the repercussions, we have to make some sacrifices to try and prevent more disasters. Hopefully this is indeed prevention and not a disaster. Visit <https://www.keysweedsmanagement.org> to learn more.

SOCIAL MEDIA SCARE

This week, a STHS student posted threatening statements on social media (having to do with harming students at lunch on Tuesday). These were reported promptly to law enforcement. Local police have concluded the student had no intention of acting on these statements. Nobody was in a threatening situation, and the situation has been handled. All is safe in South Tahoe. Students, prepare interpretive programs about cyberbullying and lots of lectures.