

*The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940 opened last weekend. This is a hilarious show well worth seeing, and the cast and crew have clearly put forward tons of time and effort.*

This weekend, the performances are **March 29th, 30th, and 31st** all at **7pm** in the theater. Doors open 6:30, admission is \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.

Eddie McCuen.....Dylan Martin  
Nikki Crandall.....Caroline Krolicki  
Helsa Wenzel.....Anna Edwards  
Elsa VonGrossenkneton.....Bethi Wonnacott  
Michael Kelly.....Cole Proctor  
Patrick O'Reilly.....Drew Pilkinton  
Ken De la Maize.....Ben Wonnacott  
Marjorie Baverstock.....Michelle Paganini  
Roger Hopewell.....Brian Trejo  
Bernice Roth.....Mari Jimenez

### Editor's Note:

The Viking Longship is a student resource for young people to share their content, not a platform for teachers/administrators to publish their personal vendettas. The anonymous letter in this edition doesn't read as a response to the student's ideas in Bryce's letter. However, the dress code and the connection to sexism is an important issue for many young people and I think this will incite meaningful discussion. We censored the foul language used in the articles so as to not get in trouble with administration.

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 © 2018 South Tahoe High School Viking Longship Staff

### THE VIKING LONGSHIP STAFF:

**Sage Alexander:** Editor

**Douglas Abbott, Evelyn**

**George, Hannah Lucas:**

Staff Writers

**Mr. Berkshire:** Staff Advisor

In This Edition: Aria D'aintree,  
Sarah Edwards, Erika Ospenson,  
Anonymous.

---

**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](mailto:sthslongship@ltusd.org)** and  
**[sthslongship@gmail.com](mailto:sthslongship@gmail.com)**

**To find this edition in print, visit Berkshire's room.**

# THE VIKING LONGSHIP

THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Tenth Edition

March 26, 2018

## Walkouts Across the Nation

by Evelyn George

On Wednesday, tens of thousands of students from cities all across the country walked out of their classrooms and gathered together for the nation-wide protest against gun violence. The demonstration was meant to show the power that young Americans hold, how student voices can bring about change, and that our nation's children have had enough. At Columbine High School in Colorado, students let loose balloons in memory of those lost in one the country's first school shootings. In Maryland, signs were held with pictures of victims. In Washington D.C., thousands marched towards the steps of the capital.

Participants claimed that the focus was not political. The topic of tighter gun control was not meant to express party preference, but simply address an issue that they believe requires immediate action. Most schools supported, and even organized, these demonstrations; however, some students faced detentions and other disciplinary punishments for leaving school. In Florida, students from Stoneman Douglas High and others, gathered around the state capitol. A bill was signed that raised the minimum age to buy a firearm to 21 and extended the waiting period to three days. A national impact has not yet been seen as the Trump administration ignores gun control proposals. However, at the very least, for the day of March 14th, students held the nation's eye as they stood in solidarity and made their voices heard.



## The Gun Control Walkout That Didn't Mention Guns

By Sage Alexander

This piece is based on my interpretation of this event. A walkout from schools was planned nationwide on March 14th. According to EMPOWER (who worked with the survivors of the Parkland shooting to organize the walkout), participants wanted to achieve the following goals: ban assault weapons, require universal background checks before gun sales, and pass a gun violence restraining order law that would allow courts to disarm people who display warning signs of violent behavior. Throughout the nation, protesters were heard chanting, "Hey, hey, NRA, how many kids did you kill today?". However, at STHS things were a little different. Speeches were reviewed beforehand by ASB to regulate the content. Any mention of gun control was not allowed. This led to speeches filled with the very jargon rejected by Parkland survivors. Delaney Tarr (a young woman from Stoneman Douglas High School) said during a speech addressing Congress, "We've had enough of thoughts and prayers...we are coming after every single one of you and demanding that you take action, demanding that you make a change." The words spoken at the circle here were about caring for each other, mental health, and saying hi to people in the halls. This is not the kind of action and change organizers across America are fighting for. According to many mental health professionals, including the American Mental Health Counselors Association, most acts of violence are committed by individuals who are not mentally ill. The over-saturation of the idea of a mentally ill boogeyman in the media and during this event is not in alignment with the facts of the matter. The deepest issue of STHS' event was that there was no purpose to it. It's insensitive to warp a movement to fit your ideals of mourning when students who watched their friends die asked specifically for people not to do this.

Walkout picture via the Tahoe Daily Tribune.



## EDUCATION

**By Sarah Edwards**

Kids are put into the American public education system at age four, are expected to give up their childhood to learn how to obey, know your place, and learn that there are people better than you. They are told to be happy about it. I am taught to gobble up information, memorize, and then regurgitate. No critical thinking is required. Individuality, creativity, and imagination are crushed. Depression and anxiety rates are at an all time high, largely due to the school

environment, a place meant to be for learning and self discovery. However, ultimately we are taught to cheat and seek the meaningless approval of someone other than ourselves.

## COMING TOGETHER

**By Hannah Lucas**

The strength of America is our flexibility to voice society's ever changing needs and issues. It is a process of identifying need, finding consensus and developing a way through democracy to address those needs. The red, white and blue represents the unifying strength



and beauty of our government representing the people. The ghost like figures are moving towards the center as they reach consensus on those needs and removing the tape is giving voice to our needs through policies and laws. To me the beauty of America is that it truly represents the people.

## ***NOBODY FROM NOWHERESVILLE*** by Douglas Abbott

### **Chapter Five, Part Three**

I remembered the time I got the kit. I was around the time I was ten, and it has since defended me against threats magical, mythical, and mundane, although the last was always the hardest, as magical weapons do not very much like going up against mundane threats.

*“Can I have it now, Gran?” I pleaded “I’ve been waiting for ages for this.”*

*“Relax, youngster. Yes, you may have it now.” She held out to me a case that, on purpose, was exactly one half of a millimeter too large to fit inside of any bread-box. I raised the lid almost reverently, gazing at its contents with wide eyes. “Come outside before opening it all the way.”*

*It was a cold evening on the cliff shores of Kilkenny, Ireland. I stood on the cliff next to my gran and opened the case. Gran took out the items one by one. She put a pendant around my neck. It was a flying creature known as a rebewilderbeast. It had the ability to freeze time, and allowed the wearer to do so almost at will. Next came the Slightly Magic Mirror, an object that was used for short-range transport, as long as you could see or envision the place you want to go.*

*The Magic Meter came next, an object which could detect, track, and identify magic signatures. The Portal Detector could locate and track portal activity, and even make a portal when hooked up to a good enough power source.*

*The last item out of the case was the one I had really been waiting for. It was the handle of my magical weapon. I gingerly removed it from the case, and it sprung to life as soon as it was out. It was a staff, a little taller than I was. I knew that it would probably someday become a spear, and then maybe even a trident. I focused entirely on the weapon, trying to determine its special power. I gasped, feeling the power and solidity of the earth flowing through me.*

*Rocks and clods of earth began to rise into the air around me. Then the staff shrunk back into the handle and they fell back to the ground that they had come from.*

I carry all of those today, and in exactly the same case as when I was ten.

## **MARCH 14TH WALKOUT**

**by Aria Daintree**

Although a great effort in theory, I felt the STHS walkout really let those of us down who are fighting for the same movement that Parkland students are. The fact that leadership took control of the walkout not only silenced each individual student, but it limited the type of speech “allowed”. Students who had a lot to say about gun laws including facts about countries who’ve banned guns etc. were not permitted to speak. The only speeches heard on March 14th were all about “loving and listening” a.k.a. giving our “thoughts and prayers” (which, if you’ve ever listened to a parkland shooter survivor, is the exact opposite of what they want to be said). Many phrases insinuating that people with mental illnesses are dangerous and violent were also spewed, which not only blocks out stats on gun violence completely, making it impossible to call out legislators in the same way parkland survivors are pushing for, but it demonizes everyone with a mental illness. Additionally, letting a select few students set up the walkout in more of a “rally” type of way takes power away from students. In order to get a movement really started the working class people (us) have to take the power from the powerful, therefore walking out of class without asking and without having to pass our speeches by some other kid. A grassroots movement like this makes the weak feel empowered by showing them that they can take that power away from the ruling class. Unfortunately we did not get to experience that feeling, and we never will if we keep, “listening to the teacher” and, “following the law because it’s the law”.

## Response to letter from Bryce Rasmussen in Volume 8

Dear Bryce Rasmussen,

I enjoyed your letter regarding students being dress coded at South Tahoe High School. You brought up many good discussion points. However, I have a few concerns about your letter as well.

Not having witnessed the “body shaming” of students by teachers, all I can say is that not everyone who gets dress coded is body shamed. We are all different people and have different ways of handling similar circumstances. Now that I’ve said that, I do agree that no one should be making derogatory comments about a person’s physique. That is just not acceptable.

Now, my favorite point on the subject; girls not being able to wear yoga pants for fear of exciting all the teenage boys. I completely agree that girls should not be told how to dress just so boys wouldn’t get “turned on”. I will say though, that many female students dress pretty scantily. Head’s up ladies, you don’t have to dress provocatively to get a guy. I’m not sure what type of guy you would get based on that tactic (Actually, I do know). I have an idea! Why don’t we teach young girls their value? Why don’t we teach boys to respect girls? They will grow into men that will respect women. Why should girls have to worry about boys sexual urges? Shouldn’t boys be able to control themselves? Along that vein, why don’t both boys and girls stop calling girls b\*\*\*\*\*s and s\*\*\*s and h\*\*s? Why don’t we all learn to respect ourselves and our bodies?

This is a much bigger issue for women than what clothes we wear, have you heard of Harvey Weinstein? Have you heard about equal pay for equal work? The oppression of women is a centuries old tale. Men doing and saying whatever they want and women putting up with it... which brings me to my last point.

I understand the need to feel like an individual and to be able to present yourself the way you feel, not the way others perceive you. But in that lies the issue. If everyone were able to dress and do whatever they liked, it would be chaos. It would be anarchy. It would be the end of civilization as we know it. Think about people wearing white hooded robes with holes only for eyes. Think of people walking around with swastikas on their arms. Think of a nudist refusing to wear clothes. Now, don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying that some girl wearing yoga pants to school is going to bring on the end of the world, but there definitely has to be boundaries. We’ve had boundaries all our lives. When you wanted candy before dinner as a child - boundary. Try to go buy alcohol as an adolescent - boundary. When you grow old and your eyesight goes bad, apply for a driver’s license - boundary.

Do I have all the answers? Absolutely not! But I rely on my common sense to know not to wear revealing clothes, spiked jewelry or five inch heels to school. Perhaps that’s what we all need; good old-fashioned common sense. The problem with common sense is that it’s not very common anymore.

**Concerned Citizen.**

---

LTCC is hosting a science expo for young kids to learn about various topics. High school students and older are invited to volunteer to help in this program. This will be held April 3rd to April 6th and many time slots are available.

Visit the following link to sign up.

**<https://tinyurl.com/SLTSciExp018>**

---

*Erika Ospenson and Sarah Edwards have both written responses to the anonymous letter in this edition. This letter was a response to Bryce Rasmussen’s piece about the school dress code in edition 8 of the Viking Longship.*

---

Dear “Concerned Citizen”,

I, as well as a couple of my friends, have found great flaws in your letter, which I will try and address in my response letter to your response letter. Furthermore, In attempt to organize my thoughts, I will be addressing your letter paragraph by paragraph.

Bryce mentions in his letter that he personally knows girls that have experienced body shaming via the dress code, and by starting off the letter by saying that you have never witnessed body shaming by teachers at STHS, and that “not everyone who gets dress coded is body shamed” is reminiscent of the “not all men” notion. It’s dismissing of the completely valid and real thing that girls go through that Bryce was trying to bring light to in the first place, and whose friends are experiencing in your very school. Then as if, one: body shaming is an acceptable way to handle girls dressing “scantily” as you say, or two: that it’s a problem with how we are dressing; you go on to say that there are “different ways of handling similar circumstances”. You finish off the paragraph by contradicting the point you started out with. Writing, you do agree that it’s wrong to make derogatory comments about someone's body, and this is only the first paragraph.

The point you bring up in the second paragraph is one I can agree with, that we should “teach young girls their value”. We need to teach girls that they hold value, not in the way they dress, or in the way that men see them, but in the fact that they are human. Boys will grow up to respect girls when they are taught to do so. That can be done in a myriad of ways, one being to let girls dress how they want to. Girls have to dress this certain way because men with power in the past have said that we’ve had to, and have deemed our bodies inherently sexual, which they aren’t. It seems like you don’t agree with your own point. The fact you think girls dress this way, only for the male gaze, which is heteronormative anyway, is uncalled for and not your place to determine the reason a girl dresses the way she chooses . Respecting your own body is very personal and different for everyone, and there isn’t a set formula on how to dress to respect your body. You also mention that “we” should stop calling girls b\*\*\*\*\*s, s\*\*\*s, and h\*\*s. To be called a s\*\*t in a negative context is to be judged for “dressing scantily”, a phrase you used to call out female students at this school. It’s incredible to be shamed for using the word “s\*\*t” while reclaiming it, and also to be shamed with a synonym of the same word I was just told not to use.

You’re completely right. The clothes girls wear is seemingly small potatoes compared to everything else the feminist movement has been trying to fight for so long. However, this is a root issue. When in school, girls as young as 10 are being shamed for developing “sexual” bodies faster than what male adults are comfortable with, because all their life they are told that breasts and the rest of the female body is only to be seen for sex, they are taken out of class and embarrassed in front of their peers and told they should cover up. Boys as young as their female counterparts are watching young girls be shamed into being ashamed of their own body, they are taught that there is something wrong with a girl who wears short shorts, and who wears tank tops, that those girls aren’t worthy of respect. Then, those kids grow up in a school system, in a society, that categorizes women as ones that are and aren’t worthy of respect. The ones who show more skin are to be judged sexually and undeserving of being treated human. This breeds monsters like Harvey Weinstein, who grow up seeing examples of why it’s OK to treat girls like this.

Next, you go on to say that “it would be the end of civilization as we know it”. Yes, the same civilization that perpetuates and creates the Harvey Weinstein's of the world. The system as we know it sucks, and needs to be changed.

**Sarah Edwards**

Senior at South Tahoe High School

I'd like to applaud you for responding in the manner of a true keyboard activist, anonymously, safe behind the same mechanical keys that Bryce Rasmusson used to openly address this issue. Bryce speaks openly not only about his experience, but also supports the experience of others in his very on-the-point letter. Not only do you build a straw man out of his sincerity, you don't even have the conviction to take a true stance. You stumble over your words and contradict yourself through your plethora of mismatched topic and closing sentences.

The condescending tone of your letter strikes true to the fact that STHS wants critical thinking only when it's a label slapped on top of complacency. Comparing Nazis to children pleading not to be sexualized is so vastly inappropriate I have a hard time comprehending how you put it on paper. The tragic death of millions is not a tool with which to silence us.

Girls are right when they're uncomfortable with being told what not to wear. Our culture bases a woman's value on the judgements made on her clothing and appearance, these cultural norms start here. They start at STHS with girls being told what's appropriate. Bryce is brave for voicing this issue and putting his name on it, more than anything else I've said, I'm disappointed that you wouldn't put your name to your grievances.

Though I have nothing good to say about your response, I would've been much more lenient with my criticisms if you'd had the same courage as a 15 year old who could've stayed silent.

**Erika Ospenson**

## THE NRA'S INFLUENCE ON GUN CULTURE

**By Sage Alexander**

The National Rifle Association is an incredibly important aspect of the gun violence discussion. This is the speech I was not allowed to make on March 14.

America has 29.7 homicide deaths from gun violence per million people, compared to 5.1 in Canada. Clearly there's a reason why our country's citizens have more guns than any other country in the world. Lobbying in Canada for example is quite different than the US. In America, The National Rifle Association contributed at least \$36.3 million into the 2016 election. Out of the 535 current members of Congress, 307 members have received direct campaign contributions from the NRA or received independent NRA spending like ADs for campaigns. This includes our house of representative member Tom McClintock, who received \$14,000 from the NRA. The bulk of the NRAs funding comes from donations from the gun industry. The NRA began as a group of independent individuals who advocated sport gun ownership, but unfortunately devolved into a lobbying association by and for companies. According to a public policy polling survey, 59 percent of gun owners feel that the NRA used to be an organization devoted to gun safety but that it has been overtaken by lobbyists and the interests of gun manufacturers. Most American gun owners aren't even in the NRA. The organization that spearheads this industry simultaneously opposes any kind of gun control including background checks for gun owners. In the 19 states that passed background check legislation, it was found that gun violence went down around 50% whether it be suicide, domestic abuse, or police murders. 90% of Americans support background checks so violent people cannot get their hands on guns, yet there are still 31 states without this measure. This shows me that gun control isn't an issue of citizens' opinions but of corporate greed and money in politics. Of course, the people lobbying for the gun industry are not the ones at risk of being shot at an elementary school. It's been shown in other countries that gun control prevents mass shootings. It's time to stop letting companies who are acting only in self interest to control whether or not a child is safe at school.

## ON THE SUBJECT OF P.E.

by Redd Fletcher

PE is a class which figures into all of our school lives. In my opinion, it is unfair. The very basis of PE is that of judging children based upon their physical fitness. Some students cannot live up to those standards because of a multitude of reasons. Some might be diabetic or have some physically debilitating illness. Some might come from much lower elevations and can hardly breathe here in Tahoe. One of my friends is such a person, and tells me that PE is exhausting quite often. He hates running the pacer, as well as timed runs around the school. These tests are designed to improve cardiovascular endurance, but although they have made me slightly stronger, they are still exhausting.

Another part is the sexist factor. Girls are often given more time *for the same runs* than the boys are. This is just unfair. Give everyone the same time to complete things. Most or all of the girls complete the run in the same time the boys do, anyway. It is unfair to give the girls more time than the boys. I do not believe any nonsense about boys being more built for endurance than girls. Even if it is true, it still should not give girls an advantage. Just how unfair this is serves only to make me sad. Just today, running deep 7's, I saw this issue. The boys had 63 seconds to run, while the girls had 70. I did not see a single girl who was not walking get a time over 63 seconds until the later sets.

These problems are easily resolved by methods such as grading PE on a personal level rather than a state level-which we definitely have the resources to do-or loosening the criteria for those students who are unable to make the grade as it stands. Come on, California.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

**TOLL FREE 1.855.DECOYCA OR VISIT WWW.DECOYCA.org**

**YOUR MISSION**  
Participate in Undercover Tobacco Operations with the help of an adult investigator of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Food & Drug Branch.

**YOUR REWARD**

- Get paid **CASH**, \$5 per store visited.
- **FREE** \$25-\$50 Gift Cards
- Community Service Credit
- Letters of recommendation, (College) (Job)
- We pay for your CA ID

**BECOME A YOUTH DECOY**

**HELP YOUR COMMUNITY**