

Earth Day Events

Saturday, April 28, was the second annual People's Climate March here in South Lake Tahoe. Dozens of people met at lakeview commons and marched to the Earth day event at Bijou community park, brandishing different signs showing their support for mother earth. Chants included "No coal, no oil, we won't let Lake Tahoe Boil" as well critiques of the current administration's position on renewable energy. Demonstrators reminded the city of it's promise to make South Tahoe and other nearby cities use 100% renewable energy by 2032. Actions by the city have included agreements with both Vale and Liberty Mutual, the majority energy provider in South Shore.

The event at Bijou park hosted children's games, live music, food, ice cream, booths from various environmentally focused groups around the basin, the circus club at Bijou Elementary, and lots of free stickers. Two high school clubs ran booths there, including Rotary Interact raising money for sustainable development by painting faces and Generation Green/USFS educating the public about forest health. The Forest Service also handed out saplings.

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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

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

THE VIKING LONGSHIP

THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Taking Five at the STHS Jazz Music Concert

By Sage Alexander

The night of April 25th was South Tahoe High School's *first ever* jazz only concert. Students from the Jazz music class and the after school jazz group chose the songs to play in the school theater. These included I Can't Stop Loving You by Quincy Jones, Swing Swung Swung by Richard Kane, When I Fell in Love by Victor Young, and Let's Get Loud by Rich Woolworth. Solos by Lazaro Torres, Georgillis Ortega, Clarice Ferguson, Evelyn George, and Josiah Kramer were featured, many improvised. On woodwinds: Quinn Piccinonno, Georgillis Ortega, Calvin Holmes, Aria D'aintree, and Joshua Novak. On trumpet: Lazaro Torres, Tanessa Baratti, Karla Lopez, Delia Zepeda, and Brandon Wilson. On low bass: Clarice Ferguson, Oliver Lucero jr, and Alex James. In the Rhythm Section, Lauren Constantine, Jeffrey Flynn, Josiah Kramer, Evelyn George, and Adam Satin. Certain students switched instruments as needed. All of these songs were played to show the lively passion of being young, with great credit to the young musicians performing that night. I was very impressed by the talent of our student's jazz group, and look forward to hearing them play again.

The second half of the concert featured the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet from university of the pacific. This includes Evan Abounassar on Trumpet, Isaiah Collier on Saxophone, Tony Milano on Piano, Gabe Rupe on Bass, and Maya Stepansky on Drums. It was an excellent immersion into the world of jazz, and the musicians were all astounding.

This concert was planned and set up by the students themselves. You will be able to hear the STHS jazz band again at POPS, the end of year concert, along with the other music groups from STHS.

Poetry is Not a Loaded Gun

By Sage Alexander

Buddy Wakefield and Brendan Constantine taught a workshop here at the library on April 24th. They also each performed some of their work on stage in front of around 200 students. They are both poets that have published collections of their work. Brendan is a teacher of creative writing and encouraged students to share their work during the event. Dylan Martin, Tegan Dalle Nogare, and Michael Butterfield were among those in the workshop who preformed. They did an amazing job, especially for students who put together these works in such a brief period of time. Key ideas from the workshop were showing vs telling, the truth behind metaphors, and harnessing the passion of a child in writing. During the performances, I observed the level of attention was much sharper than any other event hosted on campus I had been to. Buddy noted that he usually doesn't like working at high schools, but our group was an exception! Buddy Wakefield's piece on compassion was thought provoking and avoided the belittlement that some express when speaking to young adults. Brendan Constantine spoke a poem about guns (called the opposite game) that was beautiful and interesting. These bald men have touched our hearts here at STHS. Huge thanks to Wes Berkshire and PABA for setting up this excellent event for us.



Gun control thoughts expanded

By Sage Alexander

“Our too-young and too-new America, lusty because it is lonely, aggressive because it is afraid, insists upon seeing the world in terms of good and bad, the holy and the evil, the high and the low, the white and the black; our America is frightened of fact, of history, of processes, of necessity. It hugs the easy way of damning those whom it cannot understand, of excluding those who look different, and it salves its conscience with a self-draped cloak of righteousness” -Richard Wright

In the previous edition of this newspaper, I didn't quite have the space to explain my perspective on the recent gun control march and walkout. I'm sure many of us (including me) are tired of hearing the same ideas regurgitated. Despite this fatigue, I am going to go into my interpretation of the changes regarding gun control presented by some students at Stoneman Douglas high school.

The foremost problem of limiting the use of guns by civilians is the fact that police officers will continue to be armed. If the state has an armed force to protect itself against the people, problems will arise with a nature of democracy. There was a study published in 2014 that compiled 1,779 survey questions versus enacted policies which found “economic elites and organized groups representing business interests have substantial independent impacts on U.S. government policy, while mass-based interest groups and average citizens have little or no independent influence.” There are now 26 registered lobbyists for each elected representative in Washington. If businesses have control over the state who has an armed force (police officers) representing them, where is the place for the average citizen? How do people fight for rights when officers have the ability to break up marches and strikes with deadly weapons?

I disagree with the idea that the cause of gun violence is mentally ill individuals. There are dangers of equality that come with the FBI having a list of people who have a mental illness to be persecuted. The link between mental disorders and violence is a weak one at best. Individuals with a mental illness are in fact more likely to be *victims* of violence compared to the general public. It's more common for mentally ill individuals to be homeless and to be incarcerated. Just 3-5% of violent acts are committed by mentally ill people, according to MentalHealth.gov. Comparatively, a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration study shows about 18.2% of the population overall is made up of mentally ill people. Therefore, I will not accept the solution to a culture of gun violence as a half hearted finger pointing towards something we all know is not all of the problem.

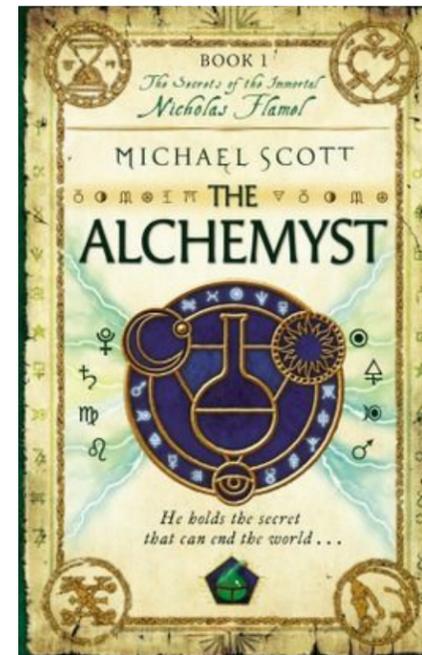
Air By Sage Alexander

Most air pollution humans generate is from burning fossil fuels. This includes coal, natural gas (A.K.A methane), and oil. This has quite the impact on our Earth, including rising temperatures due to the greenhouse effect. CO2 and methane are great at trapping heat, and have effects from hotter temperatures to rising sea levels. The depletion of the ozone layer, a collection of gases that protect the Earth from UV rays, is also caused by this practice. In 2001, 1 in 14 people had asthma. In 2009, one in 12 people had asthma. The air quality for people on earth is dropping, and the most vulnerable population is children. Our pollution is the origin of this and other life-threatening health problems. We need to seek other ways to generate energy that does not put our health at risk.

BOOK OF THE ISSUE:

THE ALCHEMYST

By MICHAEL SCOTT -Douglas Abbott



Two teens. A 5000-year-old, immortal vampire. Three people out of the distant past. One is John Dee, court magician to Queen Elizabeth the First. The others are The

Alchemist and his sorceress wife. Nicholas Flamel and his wife, Perenelle, have been hiding from Dee since the 1600s. They end up in San Francisco running a bookstore, where Josh, an ordinary teen, works. His twin sister, Sophie, works across the street. Everything went fine until Dee finally catches up to Flamel...

The twins are drawn into a huge feud between the Elders, the unimaginably ancient basis of human religions. The dark elders want to take over the world. Read this book.

ART/MUSIC



Dave Brubeck
By Sage Alexander
(I was curious, as a person who knows almost nothing about music, who the Brubeck Institute was named for)

Dave Brubeck was a composer and a pianist that lived from 1920-2012. He is known for expanding Jazz with his style. He specialized in using unusual time signatures in his music, playing with traditional styles by adding his own twist. His Alma Mater, University of Pacific, did not teach jazz, and even banned jazz from being practiced in music rooms. He went on to become a very influential and popular musician for many decades.

He spoke of being uncomfortable with his picture featured on the cover of *Time* before Duke Ellington. The media's tendency to over report on and reward white musicians in black-developed music genres is an issue even now, let alone during his lifetime (This is a reason why I found the plot of the movie *La La Land* to be counterproductive). He stood up for civil rights during segregation (in the U.S and South Africa), refusing to comply when told to avoid playing with black musicians. He shared his passion and talent with the world in the form of jazz.

OPEN MIC NIGHT 2.0

By Sage Alexander

The Friday before break, ASB leadership hosted the second Open Mic Night. This is a gathering for students to present their work. The side-room in the student union was decorated to resemble a coffee shop. Sitting under twinkling fairy lights on booth stools, sipping tea and coffee, the students of STHS enjoyed the art their fellow students performed.

Celeste Holmes wowed the audience for a second time, singing and playing Riptide by Vance Joy on the ukulele. She started the night off on the note of the sweet sounds of her voice and the accompanying uke strumming.

This event hosted two stand up comedians, each with individual content and style. The first performer spoke of the woes of society that we take for granted, including the dangers of ironing and the serving size of fig newtons. His stories sent the audience to stitches. The second offered metaphysical jokes, including “I was at dentist the other day... Wait nothing funny happened, nevermind,” and puns that offered a change from contemporary stand up routines.

Countless students sang, some in somber singular acts and others in large karaoke groups. Favorites like Gary Come Home were crooned by the audience along with the performers. A sense of unity was truly there when the Phineas and Ferb theme song played and the entire room filled with the voices of my classmates singing along. The second Open Mic night was a success! I especially liked the sign that ASB put together with neon lights. There’s something

very enjoyable that comes with a student run event where everyone feels comfortable getting involved.

Student Artist:

Sarah Edwards, Self Portrait

In a strikingly accurate portrait, senior Sarah Edwards depicts herself as creator. She submitted this painting to CSSSA, the California State Summer School for the Arts. This is a four week art program in Santa Clarita, California. The physical picture can be seen on the wall next to the music room. As always, this piece looks better in person.



April 20th Walkout

By Sage Alexander

On the anniversary of the Columbine shooting, a second gun control walkout was planned. More than 2,500 schools hosted walkouts at 10am, where students waited for 13 minutes. This is one minute for each child killed during Columbine. People everywhere wore orange to show their support. This event, organized by 16 year old Lane Murdock of Ridgefield High School, was independent of the March 14th walkout. Some students across America were punished by an unexcused absence or a grade dock.

The walkout at STHS was smaller than the previous, but incited constructive discussion. A couple dozen students walked to the circle, and many were able to voice their concerns. Others who tried to leave campus were halted by security, who seemed to have mixed orders regarding the students who walked out (some allowed, others were stopped entirely). For some reason a random employee approached groups of students and asked answer of why they were there, lecturing the crowd for being unorganized. This stopped the original discussion between students regarding our thoughts. I eventually read the speech I wrote (published last edition) to try to make her stop talking, but she did not. A separate member of the school staff, Mrs. Santana, mentioned that student representation for the next Viking meeting (April 30th) about safety would be a good outlet. The back and forth of student and authority got fairly heated. Eventually, the group had enough, and about ten of us walked to the parking lot to discuss without mitigation. I would have preferred to be able to talk where all students felt comfortable; when it became obvious the two staff members were arguing with the vocal students, many individuals went back to class to avoid this conflict. Therefore we missed out on discussion because of the agendas of the adults interrupting any student led conversation.

Our conclusion from the talk in the parking lot was that a platform for student voice in school decisions is lacking. We sought to generate a meeting space for students to have an impact. It is important to avoid meetings during lunch and after school; many students have commitments and little free time. Therefore, we wanted to plan this platform during class time. We talked with STHS principal Carline Sinkler and set up a meeting (Monday, April 23rd). During this meeting, constructive discussion outlined short term and long term goals, including setting up a student platform for control. Next meeting is to be announced.

Stay tuned if you’re interested in getting involved!

Prom 2018

Prom is May fourth in the Harvey’s Convention Center. Tickets are \$80 each, and a meal is included (there is a vegan option). Tickets must be purchased by May first. Submit a picture of your promposal to STHSPROM on instagram by May second, where the highest “liked” picture will win two free prom tickets. See VTV for more information on this event.

Check out the pride flag at the library for a bookshelf full of books with a LGBT focus.

LADY BIRD
- for -
PRESIDENT



Movie Night: Lady Bird Fly Away Home

By Sage Alexander

Once a month, a movie is shown in the screening room here on campus. This month's meeting was on April 19th. Movie night hosts academic discussion on movies for students, parents, and anyone else who wants to come. This month hosted the movie Lady Bird, a coming of age story released in November of 2017. This article has some minor spoilers!

Lady Bird is a movie that has a local atmosphere; at least, as close as we can get to one while living in Tahoe. Set in Sacramento, California, this is a story of a young woman's final year of high school. She has a tumultuous relationship with her mom, struggles through college rejection/acceptance, and

sincerely wants to leave Sacramento in exchange for a liberal arts college in New York City.

Bonnie Turnbull spoke of Lady Bird's ability to push boundaries without reservation to understand where she fits in the world. This character, played by Saoirse Ronan, is concerned with others perception of herself. In regard to her parents, she does not want to be known by her birth name. The person they have constructed in their minds is not who she feels she is. Her mother tells her that she simply wants Lady Bird to be the best version of herself; she asks in response "what if this is the best version of myself?"

Adam Satin, one that looks for the details that make the film feel special, mentioned a specific way the movie was cut. In the beginning of the film, Lady Bird is walking towards the left of the screen with her best friend Julie. This is with the backdrop of Sacramento. Towards the end she walks alone to the right, New York City behind her. I genuinely want everyone to see this movie. It is a beautiful film, and this is just a superficial peek into it.

Next month's screening will be of La La Land on May 17th. The movie starts at 6:30 in the screening room in the TADA building at STHS. All community members are welcome to watch and participate in discussion.

Nami on Campus; Mental Health Faire

May is mental health month! May 7th is a mental health faire outside of TADA put on by NAMI On Campus. NAMI stands for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and recently started a club here at STHS this year. The faire will be during lunch, 12:40 to 1:10, where student can enjoy games, giveaways, and as always learn some information about mental health. Look for exclusive interviews and a report of the event next edition.

Earth Day 2018; Elements

Students from the Longship staff wrote about the state of our planet for this earth day, celebrated April 22nd. Four elements represent four aspects of our earth that are currently feeling the impact of human involvement.

Fire

 By Evelyn George

As wildfires rage across California, leaving destruction in their wake, the effects of climate change can once again be observed. The rising temperatures make vegetation drier and better fuel for these fires.. California has always faced a drought season, but the warming of the planet has prolonged these dry periods and therefore making a longer fire season. A possible solution to these destructive events is actually more fire, but the healthy kind. With controlled burning, forests can be thinned of dry and very flammable debris and allow accidental fires to fade more rapidly. This is only one of the many solutions needed in order to put an end to the raging fires that are spreading throughout California and the United States.



Water

 By Hannah Lucas

While water temperatures are rising due to climate change, there are also many toxins in our oceans. There are islands some bigger than Lana'i, a Hawaiian island of nothing but garbage. Some countries' waste systems go straight into the oceans. With water temperatures as well as amounts of waste content, many underwater ecosystems are dying. At this point, raising awareness isn't enough, we need to take action before it's too late.

Earth

 By Sage Alexander

Topsoil is a natural system important for our world's function. As farmer and philosopher Masanobu Fukuoka writes on soil, "if nature is left to itself, fertility increases," Topsoil is the first two inches of soil, rich with microorganisms and organic matter. This is the most important part of soil for plant development. Roots are concentrated in this area and nutrients are in this layer, imperative for plant growth. Topsoil has an incredibly slow development rate, at 3 centimeters every millenium. Yet in today's world, farming practices destroy this part of soil integrity. The actions that cause this scarring are "chemical-heavy farming techniques, deforestation which increases erosion, and global warming," writes Chris Arsenault. The increasing temperatures on planet earth and heavy tilling harms microorganisms essential for the regulation of chemical balances. Doing away with the natural process of plant matter decomposition jeopardizes the soil, increasing the reliance on chemical fertilizers. Not only is this layer losing its potency, topsoil is being washed away. The tendency to clear cut areas to favor grain or grazing destroys the stability of the earth, leading to erosion and desertification.