

# VERSUS WEEK

During the week of May 21st through the 25th, STHS hosted a “Versus Week” to rally up school spirit. This Spirit Week consisted of dress-up days and afterschool activities.

On Monday, the Spirit Day was Vans VS Converse, and manly volleyball took place.

On Tuesday, students dressed up as Socs VS Greasers, and had a blast at Mr. Viking.

On Wednesday, Tacky Tourists vs Locals was the dress up that day, and Powderpuff took place, which featured an excellent drumline.

On Thursday, students dressed for Gender Blender.

On Friday, dressed Blue VS White. The students had a blast with Versus Week.

During Manly Volleyball, a very intense game of volleyball was played, with the support of a raging crowd.

During Mr. Viking, several contestants from STHS participated in our very own pageant!

The juniors beat the seniors in Powderpuff, despite extensive cheating. It was something like 24-18.

The Talent show has been postponed to June 7th in the theater.

## THE VIKING LONGSHIP STAFF:

**Sage Alexander:** Editor  
**Douglas Abbott, Evelyn George, Hannah Lucas, Michelle Paganini:** Staff Writers

**Mr. Berkshire:** Staff Advisor

In this edition: Sage Alexander, Douglas Abbott, Michelle Paganini

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

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### 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)**

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# THE VIKING LONGSHIP

THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Twelfth Edition

June 2018

## Thomas Varner

A young person in our community passed away the night of Wednesday, May 23rd. Thomas Varner was a junior at South Tahoe High School. Individuals may have known him as an anchor on VTV, a funny and carefree young man, or as a good friend. He will be greatly missed by this community and will leave a void in many hearts for some time to come. His family has set up a space to honor him in front of their home at 2702 Armstrong Avenue. You can bring mementos or draw in a notebook for his memory.



Following is a message from Casey (Thomas’ sister) about a celebration of life for Thomas.

*We will be holding a Celebration of Life for my beloved brother Thomas Varner at Regan Beach West (the grassy area above the beach) on Wednesday June 13th from 6-8pm. All who love him and our family are welcome to join and celebrate this beautiful light being that graced our lives spreading positivity, joy, love and pure GOOF most of the time. We will celebrate him and his memory with words, pictures, videos and of course music! There will be an open mic for all to share their stories and express their feelings as they wish. We will end the service with a candlelit vigil as well. Please bring a beach chair or blanket to sit on, and purple/pink dress optional as those were his favorite colors. We all love Thomas and will miss him more than words can express, so let us gather and remember the incredible, courageous, inspiring soul that he was, and will continue to be as he carries on his Soul journey... Aloha nui!! Blessings!*

Carline Sinkler wants to let students know there is a support system if they need one here on campus; for grief counseling, call 530-721-2739.

## Track Stars

Carissa Buchholz and David Holmes demolished their opponents at the Nevada state track meet. Carissa placed first in three events and David took third in another, making it a big year for the track team. Carissa is a sophomore and got first places in the 1600, 800, and 3200. David is a Senior and ran the two mile. The remainder of the team pushed their limits and some reached personal bests.

**Editor's Note:** *This will be the last edition of the school year. I hope that the Viking Longship served its purpose as “The Voice of the Vikings” during my time as editor. I wish those who continue to work on this project well! As always, more voices is more better, please consider getting involved with this publication if you are interested in any aspect we cover. (Sage Alexander)*

# ***NOBODY FROM NOWHERESVILLE*** -Douglas Abbott

## **Chapter Six, Part One**

KALVIN

It has been two days now since I last saw Grace. She hasn't even been coming home at night. I know this because every room had a motion detector on the threshold. I managed to hack into them-no small feat-and I can now monitor the comings and goings of everyone in the complex, including the undercover Djinn living right underneath me. Anyway, I know she is probably okay, but you never really can tell.

Suddenly, I staggered back from the counter in shock. I knew that Grace was not okay, although how I knew this was a mystery. I rushed to my car, grabbing my magic bag from the pocket dimension next to me. The pocket dimension had been recommended to me by my grandmother. (The 20,000 year old sorceress, remember?) Magicians had known about nearly every one of the most recent scientific developments, including a perfection of magnetic levitation, for millennia. Science had yet to catch up with pocket dimensions.

I got in my car, pulled out of the parking lot, and sped down the street into central New York. I swerved right into the facade of a small souvenir shop-and disappeared. Outside, everyone's minds filtered out what they had just seen, because *everyone* knew that when someone crashed into a shop, they did not leave the storefront and customers unharmed and simply vanish without a trace. Everyone except occultists, that is. I was suddenly not in this world anymore. He entered a desert landscape littered with sandstone huts. I drove up to the massive temple in the middle of town and parked the car. Getting out, I proceeded into the temple, walking quickly and avoiding everyone's stares as my clothes changed into something more suitable for the desert. They were enchanted to change with the environment unless I told them not to, and plus they grew with me. Very handy. In a room behind the gigantic altar was my grandmother. She stood facing me as if she knew I would come (which she did).

Calmly, she said "You should visit more often."

"I've been busy," I replied. "I was searching for the Priest, remember?"

"I offered to help."

Well, I found her," I calmly said, masking my humiliation when she laughed. "But enough laughing. She's in trouble."

My grandmother finished laughing, wiped her eyes. Then she turned a piercing, serious gaze on me. "How do you know?"

"I'm not sure," I admitted, "But I know she is in some sort of trouble. Can you help me?"

"No," she replied "But I know someone who can."

*Sorry there was nothing last week, guys. I didn't get on top of it in time to finish before we published.*

*If you want more Nowheresville, head over to [nobodyfromnowheresville.wordpress.com](http://nobodyfromnowheresville.wordpress.com). It is still blocked by the school, which sucks, so do it on your home computer I guess.*

## *BOOK OF THE ISSUE:*

# THE BOOK OF TEA

THE BOOK OF TEA

BY  
OKAKURA-KAKUZO



NEW YORK  
DUFFIELD & COMPANY  
1906

By Okakura  
Kakuzō

-Sage Alexander  
The book of tea includes both a brief history of tea and a look into teaism. Teaism focuses on simplicity; rather than the elaborate keepsakes of the

wealthy, teaism embraced natural surfaces and simple equipment. Simple practices, like serving and drinking tea, help you reach a meditative and focused state. This is deeply embedded with the practice of wabi-sabi, or embracing aesthetic imperfection. The book includes descriptions of tea masters, flower arranging, and Japanese art appreciation that gives the reader a deeper understanding of each subject.

# ART/MUSIC

## *A NEAT PHOTOGRAPHER:*

*PETER DEVITO* is a 20 year-old



Photographer who aims to capture the beauty of diverse people in a society that stigmatizes

them. Throughout his works, Devito's celebrated acne and other skin conditions and refuted common racial and gender stereotypes. His work has been featured in several critically acclaimed magazines, like Vogue and the New York Times. By bringing his refreshing take on beauty into mainstream media, Devito is paving the way for a future filled with acceptance and self-love.

# SUGGESTION BOX

What change do *you* want to see at STHS?

Send in your suggestions to

[sthslongship@ltusd.org](mailto:sthslongship@ltusd.org) & we will publish them.

Anonymous suggestions are accepted.



## Maker Faire 2018 -Douglas Abbott



The Maker Faire is a place where people go to show off their inventions. It happened this last Friday (the 18th) to Sunday (the 20th). It is impossible to fit all of the amazing things there into one article, (unless it is a very long article) so I will only list a few. The Bay Area R2 builders (The name is fairly self-explanatory) were there as they always are. They are just one of the amazing groups who show up at the Faire. There is a darkroom

with a bunch of different-colored light exhibits. There was an entire building dedicated to augmented and virtual reality. There was even one of the three drum-spinners in Battlebots there. The point is, the place is pretty cool. Everything there is made by regular people, but they are differentiated by one thing-they are Makers. They make cool stuff, like a giant fire-breathing car, and show it off. It was a very nice event where everyone could show off their individual talents and/or inventions.

## Interview with Tracina Lfteroff - Sage Alexander

*Tracina Lfteroff is the Cafeteria Supervisor for the school food program here at STHS. They serve between 340 and 400 students for lunch, and between 260 and 300 for breakfast. Michelle Paganini and I spoke to her to learn about the lunch program.*

One of the first pieces of information we learned was that all produce comes from Sacramento. Providing local produce is a more sustainable way to eat. According to CUESA, the average plate of food travels 1,500 miles from farm to plate. This means many fruits and vegetables are picked too early and ripen away from the plant, which lessens the taste. This also requires gas for transportation. Sacramento is one of the closest areas to Tahoe for produce. She then told us that Sysco provides most of the remaining food products we eat.

When asked if the food served in the cafeteria is ideal, Tracina was quick to answer. She is not wholly satisfied with the food; she would like to see more homemade meals. We noticed that much of the food provided was premade, the exception being raw vegetables. A student is hard pressed to find meals made from fresh ingredients on site. The good news is that the kitchen on campus is well equipped for more intensive cooking and the cafeteria supervisor is completely on board with changing the way STHS serves lunches.

When asked in a survey, students overall stated there was a school waste issue on campus. In a question regarding how to reduce this problem, many said they would hesitate to throw a meal out if they enjoyed it more. Other responses indicated students would enjoys meals if they included less frozen food, vegetarian and vegan options, and more variation between meals. When asked the reason the food isn't exactly how Tracina Lfteroff wants it, she stated the resources weren't there. Further discussion with Mr. Jones also indicated that the kitchen may be understaffed. He brought up the point that many of the lunch servers aren't trained to make complicated meals in the kitchen in such a large scale. One solution could be hiring a chef to work with the cafeteria workers to make fresher meals.

The lunch staff is passionate about their jobs. Tracina told us she eats the school lunch every day, and loves her job. She has had experience working throughout the school district, and spoke to us of the enthusiasm she holds for serving all kids their lunches. Food is community and connection. This passion is so important when it comes to changing the school for the better.

## Quick Tahoe Thrift Store Guide - Sage Alexander

Living in a smaller community rends it difficult to find thrift stores that offer good products. There are a few considerations of the quality of the store. These include price, morality, the quality of items provided, and how picked through the store may be. How 'picked' the location is takes into account the cyclization of items for sale. I only list 3 stores here that I am most familiar with.

**Goodwill:** A somewhat recent addition to the South Tahoe thrifting environment, Goodwill is a multi billion dollar non profit that installed a branch in the building that once was Pier One Imports. Accused of underpaying disabled workers and profiting off of a facade of charity for the poor, the South Tahoe branch has been packed with customers ever since.

**Price:** Goodwill employees often misunderstand the quality of a product or simply don't care; this makes it easy to pick up good items for very cheap. 5/5

**Morality:** Some disabled Goodwill employees make as little as 22 cents an hour. 2/5

**Quality:** For clothes, I have not had much/any success with finding good quality items. Products are cycled through often, but there are many customers and little discrimination with what they sell, leading to large amounts of useless items to look through. Appliances, on the other hand, are easy to come by and have lots of options to choose from. 2/5

**Picked:** I find goodwill *very* picked over. I have found many nice teapots, however. 2/5

**The Attic:** This thrift store is volunteer based, has been open since 1962, and offers tax deductions for donations.

**Price:** Very reasonable prices that are accessible to all people. 5/5

**Morality:** Oh yeah! Not for profit organization. 5/5

**Quality:** I find The Attic to have a lot less useless items than Goodwill. The items for sale are on average higher quality as well. 4/5

**Picked:** There aren't *as* many choices; however the choices you get are not super lame. I have found quite a few good things here. 4/5

**Connie's:** There are two locations that Connie owns. One sells mostly furniture and appliances, the other mainly clothes, books and records. More of a vintage store than a thrift store, there are some well held together exiting items for those of us who can identify good brands. I am going to focus on the clothing store because I have more experience there.

**Price:** The owner clearly researches the 'value' of every piece along with the brand. This means it can be difficult finding a sweet deal. 2/5

**Morality:** This is a small business, but again is more of a 'vintage' store than a way to give back. 2/5

**Quality:** This store does not bother selling things that are not good quality. 5/5

**Picked:** There is a fairly small inventory at this location, but in general the items seem to be worth having. The owner works to keep a good amount of clothes that aren't overwhelming but enough variety to attract many different people. 5/5

It is well worth checking into all of these stores to snoop for some items you are looking out for. Keep in mind 3 rules of thrifting; Be picky, don't buy things that fit weird, and go in often. It can be difficult to find wardrobe basics, but specialty clothing items (especially if you fit in a common size) are easier to find.

## **Tom McClintock - Sage Alexander**

Last month, congressman Tom McClintock came to South Tahoe High School to answer questions from students here. Accused of being dismissive and dodging questions, the way he conducted himself that day has been a controversial topic for students ever since.

Cassidy Harootunian, a senior at STHS, brought up the similarities between the United States military actions in Iran, and the Iranian government killing people. She asked McClintock what he considered the differences. Rather than responding, he identified Cassidy as immoral. The United States has a bit of a tricky history with Iran, including a military coup that overthrew a democratically elected leader in favor of a dictator. Mohammad Mosaddegh, the democratically elected leader (before the 1953 overthrow) was threatening to nationalize petroleum sources. This would destroy the company that is now British Petroleum; it would no longer have an essential monopoly that benefited a tiny part of the Iranian population. The values he associates with America are apparently *so strong* that we are exempt from war crimes.

Mario Miranda, also a senior at STHS, asked him a question regarding DACA. McClintock's views included the idea that if a child enters the country they should not be punished, but an adult should. He reminded us Ronald Reagan approved the legal framework for a border wall.

McClintock, in one of his tangents, asked why humans do not treat political science like physical science. In physical sciences, we try things, they don't work, and we build on that knowledge to pursue truth. In political sciences, we try things, they don't work, and we try them again. This comes from someone who works as hard as he can to vote for things to make the oligarchs richer. This economic system creates a course that causes constant depressions and recessions. Like physical science, should we learn from the mistakes of the past of destroying the environment and move to a more sustainable model of economic existence? Or should we continue allowing a select few people to smash the world to bits?

The congressman arrived on campus 30 minutes later than scheduled, he began the questioning session with an extensive speech, and often didn't answer questions. McClintock, in other words, behaved exactly like a congressmen who cares more about the business interests who fund him than he does the people he is representing. One student reported the congressman asking "Who taught these kids?" while he exited the room. Apparently, we're not getting brainwashed thoroughly enough.

## **The Gaza Strip: A Briefing -Michelle Paganini**

The current territorial divisions of the Israeli-Palestinian are, to a large extent, due to the wars waged in 1948 and 1967. The Gaza Strip is densely populated by Palestinians, but is currently under an Israeli blockade (after withdrawing their troops in 2005). The United States is the main contributing factor to the dire situation of Palestinians. In fact, the United States has signed a 10-year military assistance deal, which will give Israel \$38 billion worth of support, which is said to be "the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign assistance since World War II", according to the Congressional Research Service. Life in the Gaza Strip is miserable for all of its inhabitants. Protests have sparked up with Palestinians fighting for the blockade to be lifted and for the U.S Embassy to move out of Jerusalem. These protests began on March 30th, and thousands are already injured and many are dead. In addition, it appears as though the Israeli military has begun targeting medics. 21 year-old volunteer medic Razan al-Najar was shot dead when trying to aid with a casualty on the front line. Despite wearing white and clearly showing she was a medic, she was brutally shot down by Israeli forces, and this caused an outrage that was felt on an international scale; however, what has failed to be discussed frequently is the power outages people living in the Gaza Strip have been experiencing since 2006, after Israel destroyed transformers at Gaza's only power plant. Although it's been partially repaired, people in Gaza still experience blackouts that can last up to 12 hours a day and affect 1.8 million Palestinians. The lack of mainstream media coverage of the suffering in the Gaza Strip is ludicrous. Since the United States is the main funder of Israel, it is our civic duty to speak up on behalf of the millions of people suffering in this barbaric battle that's lasted for decades.

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## ***Graduation is Friday, June 8th at 4pm.***

It will be held on the football field. Show up early to reserve seats if you would like to sit on the chairs close to the students.