

The musical, known as Thoroughly Modern Malaria to its cast, is finished. The cast/crew finished 6 performances over two weekends, featuring a live orchestra made up of students.

ACTORS

Caroline Krolicki, Madelynn Evans
Ben Wonnacott, Cole Proctor, Zyena Tolhurst,
Sammy Wright, Brian Trejo, Adam Satin,
Mariela Jimenez, Haley Lillard, Sarah Edwards,
Kylie Pilkinton, Sophia Lamore, Ridley Baker,
Sophie Stewart, Destiny Hursh, Anna Edwards

SPEED TAPPERS:

Kayla Mason, Emma Aaron, Sophie Stewart,
Sarah Edwards, Maya Harvey, Ashley Gartner,
Zoe Brosch, Briana Alamilla, Brenda Santana,
Bryce Rasmuson

SINGING CHORUS:

Bethi Wonnacott, Elisa Roberts, Leslie Cruz,
Michelle Paganini, Drew Pilkinton, Angel
Manzano, Douglas Abbott

TECH CREW:

Bailey Garon, Tristan Payne, Hayley Georguson,
Zev Balme, Alyssa Reeves, Rian Ellis, Alec
MacClean, Matthew Kallis, Ananda Maxwell,
Skylar Day, Bodie Whalen, Jackson Binns,
Tevan Martorana

The theater group is now working on the next play, *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*. This is not a musical, despite the misleading title.

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

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THE VIKING LONGSHIP THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Eighth Edition

February 6, 2018

STHS COMIC-CON

-Sage Alexander

On Wednesday the 24th, Mrs. Tilson's class hosted an event in the library. English students created superheroes (with comics to match) whose mission is to face an ongoing issue in today's world. Many were based on greek mythology, comparing gods who harbor malicious intent to super villains. The comparison of human morals that have existed for centuries to worldwide problems we face today is very powerful.



Traffic Cone Man fights human trafficking. The International Labour Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of human trafficking globally. The comic made by him and his partner included conquering Hades, the god of the



underworld. Another Superhero was based on the God-King Theseus, who founded Athens. He is seen as the bringer of a great revolution, reforming

Greece away from the social order of the past. This superhero fights poverty in the form of Plutus, the god of greed. "Income disparities have become so pronounced that America's top 10 percent now average more than nine times as much income as the bottom 90 percent." Theseus described himself as a Robin Hood of today, stealing from the rich to give to the poor.

Athena is known as the Greek goddess of wisdom. This superhero fights alcoholism. According a study in 2012 by the National Institutes of Health, 7.2 percent of American adults have an alcohol use disorder. In other words, around 27 million individuals suffer from alcoholism. Her partner and herself presented their comic in an interactive form to portray the information and Athena's journeys. Other heros included Mrs. Melanin, who combats racism, and Mr. Clean.

Mr. Steil's Film and Production class were encouraged to obtain contracts from these superheroes to make movies. They pitched their movie idea to the superhero and the sidekick, and each hero had 3 contracts to distribute to students. Student attendees were encouraged to dress up as their favorite characters, many from movies and TV shows as well as superheroes from comics. Teachers dressed up as well. To watch a stream of this event, check out Viking Televisions Youtube channel.



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NOBODY FROM NOWHERESVILLE -Douglas Abbott

Chapter Five-Part Two

The ghouls had come from the Northeast, and had been very aggressive, so I reasoned that they had come from somewhere up to about half a mile in that direction. Everyone in the magical world had a signature magical weapon and a 'survival kit.' My weapon was a spear that allowed me to control the earth, but took up a lot of energy. I rummaged through my survival kit, looking for my Magic Meter and Portal Detector. They were tools for detecting and finding magic. I analyzed the signatures throughout the city, looking for the one belonging to the magic circles. I finally found it in the basement of an abandoned building. There were plenty of those, as this was Downtown New York City. Heading for the building, I saw movement from the corner of my eye. That was impossible, unless they had summoned-no. No one was insane enough to do that, right? But it happened again, and I was certain of it this time. This was a time-defying entity known only as Ghost. Immortal, hard to control, nearly impossible to dispel, and hard to summon. Someone really wanted to kill me.

The only way to dispel Ghost was to make it see itself, which was near impossible as it had one eye, which was buried under layers of armor and was almost always closed anyways. Only when the eye was opened could it see in only one way. Ghost could see via psychic capabilities, UV, X-rays, Microwaves, Radio waves, and Gamma rays, as well as spectrums yet undiscovered by science, but known to magic for millennia.

I had my Ghost Key with her, a rare and expensive item which could unlock a Ghost Locket, an even rarer and more expensive item which opened all the layers of armor as well as the eye. I opened the locket, and with it all of the ghost's armor opened. The eyelid was quite slow to open, which was good because by the time it opened I had already shoved a mirror in front of it. Ghost seeing you before itself could kill you-or worse. It vanished with an unearthly shriek back to its realm.

I got into the basement, finding the circles still glowing. I scuffed them out and time resumed.

My pendant automatically stopped time for everyone except myself and any monsters that happened to be within 20 feet of me. It was one of many things that had come in the Nowheresville Survival Kit.

I remembered the time I got the kit. I was around the time I was ten, and it has since allowed me to defend against threats magical, mythical, and mundane.

To all female students interested in STEM!

Women in Science is hosting a summer camp in Windhoek, Namibia over the summer. Apply at <http://www.girlup.org/wisci/apply>

This camp is June 17-28, and includes lots of neat activities and learning opportunities with experts. Lodging, Food, and activities are paid for if you're accepted, and scholarships for travel costs are available if financial need. The deadline to apply is February 16th. See Mrs. Greenough for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As a final, Sophomore english students from certain classes were to submit letters to an administration locally. Each student found a topic they were passionate about and wrote a letter to spread awareness among the staff and student body. Readers will find 3 letters from different students in this edition.

BOOK OF THE ISSUE:

THE DIVINE COMEDY

BY DANTE ALIGHIERI -Sage Alexander

Completed in 1320, The Divine Comedy is a poetic story of a mortal man going through Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. It was originally written in Italian. The first book, Inferno, deals with Hell.



He is mortal, and meets souls suffering eternally that he must learn from. His guide, the Roman poet Virgil, shows "those who have rejected spiritual values by yielding to bestial appetites or violence, or by perverting their human intellect to fraud or malice against their fellowmen". This includes poets, philosophers, murderers, traitors, adulterers, gluttons, pacifists, and more. It was written in the 14th century and speaks of both past and current day (at the time) figures. Overall, it represents a soul's journey to God. The author was apparent in the Italian Political world and was exiled. He wrote the whole *Comedy* afterwards.

"The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in times of great moral crisis, maintain their neutrality." -Dante Alighieri

Many illnesses are going around. In the cast of the musical, at least 14 people were out, and opening night had to be cancelled. Influenza, the Lice Age, a bad cold, and other illnesses have stricken South Lake Tahoe. Scientists aren't entirely sure why there is a flu season, but there are some solid hypotheses with some evidence. During the cold winter months, people tend to spend more time indoors, surrounded by other people. This creates an environment where bugs can spread rapidly. In addition to this, cold weather has been shown to make mammals more susceptible to disease. 30 kids have died this season in the USA of influenza.

ART/MUSIC

A NEAT ARTIST : ANDREW WYETH



I recently saw the Andrew Wyeth exhibit in Seattle Art Museum. He was a realist painter, born in PA in 1917. His paintings have sort of a lonely feeling, using land and the people around him as his subjects. He used tempera paint and succeeded in conveying strong emotions in his work, working through the Great Depression. He died in 2009.



Woody Guthrie,

born 1912, was an American folk singer. He wrote the classic song *This Land is Your Land* and was among the people who migrated to California during the Great Depression/Dust Bowl. His music is both beautiful and empowering, where he speaks

out against inequality (his guitars were marked with the phrase "this machine kills fascists").

DEAR VIKING LONGSHIP,

It is interesting how when the city wants to make a decision, they will make it very inconvenient for residents to attend those meetings. For example, the county held a meeting regarding Meyers Corridor Operational Improvement Project-- referred to as the Meyers Project-- in Placerville. Also, the city plans to have a meeting regarding the Meyers Project in Kings Beach. Or how during the recent meeting regarding Vacation Home Rentals, the council seemed to not care what residents want and need. I am writing this letter because I want the residents to be aware of how poorly the city and county have been at running South Lake Tahoe and I don't want to send this letter directly to the city or the county telling them that they're a bunch of inconsiderate buffoons.

The problem here is that it seems the city council and the county government don't have much consideration for the residents of South Lake Tahoe and Meyers. This issue affects not just us residents, but the tourists and even the wildlife. When the city or county makes these decisions without listening to us and not considering us, it can cause economic strife and distrust for the residents. For example, by putting a cap on vacation rentals, it can stunt economic growth for residents. If the city made its decision based on what was best for residents, then that choice would have been different. The city and county are changing our town for the worse. For example, for the Meyers Project, the county plans to put in a roundabout on Highway 50, but they don't realize that roundabouts are death traps on icy roads and awfully difficult to plow. How can you make the Meyers Corridor, a safe walkable area, more walkable when six months out of the year, cars could be spinning out of control like a college student's debt. I may not be driving yet, but I've lived here all 15 years of my life and I understand the road conditions of Tahoe for all seasons.

The tourist can be affected too. An example of this the county putting in parking lots and allowing buildings to be up to 50 feet tall (these are real plans). This can cause Tahoe's ecological appeal is lost or at least reduced. Tourists come up here to experience Tahoe's beauty, rarity, nature, and open space. In the Meyers Project, the county plans on putting in a parking lot by Lake Barron, for Lake Barron. How can putting in a parking lot by Lake Baron help people experience the beauty of the Tahoe's ecosystem when people are all over Lake Baron's shore, scaring off magnificent animals and trampling beautiful flowers.

Why is the city and county trying to keep residents from having a say? It is most likely because there is some sort of ulterior motive. For example, in November of 2016-- during the city elections-- 2,500 votes were said to have not been counted. This claim can be supported because several residents have been notified that their votes weren't counted due to a clerical error. Though the may not be true. Another example of the city having an ulterior motive letting SnowGlobe to happen every year. SnowGlobe has not only brought drugs into town, but people's lives are in dangers. Snowglobe has also been a nuisance as it has closed roads and been extremely loud. Much of the residents hate it. So why does the city continue to let this happen for years? SnowGlobe doesn't pay off the damages for the field the festival it is held on, so there is a possibility that someone is paid under the table, but I digress.

Someone that would disagree may say that the city and the county do these things because it's good for the residents and tourists in the long run. How come the city still lets Snow Globe to continue to happen even though the effects are mostly negative or that a roundabout in Meyers that would be extremely dangerous during the winter. Others could say that my argument is about a fear of change. This argument does not say that change up here is bad; it's good change that the residents are on board with is what we need and what my argument supports.

With all this ranting, let's get some solutions. First we need the city and the county to better understand what we residents want and need. It should be where meetings regarding new decisions and laws be held in places where that new decision or law will affect the residents the most. As with everything, compromise is key; when the city or county and residents come together in decision making, we can make compromises that are good for residents, tourists, and wildlife. This will benefit all of us in the long run.

P.S. I just don't understand why there so many street cleaners. It mostly kicks up dust and flings pebbles, and the street cleaners themselves often get clogged with pine needles. We should only have one or two street cleaners which clean the street maybe twice or three times a year instead of once a week during the summer.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Flynn

DEAR SOUTH TAHOE HIGH STAFF,

Have you ever considered how students feel when they get dress-coded? Teachers will dress code someone because they are showing too much skin. Teachers will waste someone's class time to make them change clothes. One time a girl was taken out of class for 30 minutes because of a crop top. This is taking away from our education. Teachers will dress code a student because it makes them uncomfortable. We might feel comfortable in what we are wearing but the moment the teachers aren't, we have to change? Someone whose breasts are bigger, wearing the same things as someone who doesn't have big breasts will get dress coded because of their body. This body shaming needs to stop

Students feel self conscious of their body because teachers are personally picking them out. According to CBS News, "About 19 percent said they had considered suicide in the previous year and about 9 percent said they had attempted it." Teachers have created this problem for not only females but also males. Kids are feeling victimized. No one wants to show up to school anymore if we cant even feel comfortable in what we are wearing. A recent article has been published saying that a "13 year old had been told in the fall by a teacher that she couldn't wear yoga pants because the boys would get turned on and then be embarrassed." It's devastating that a teenager can't even wear comfortable yoga pants because someone else will get sexually disturbed. This is dehumanizing the rights women have. One time a teacher said my shirt was buttoned too low. Instead of letting me button it up, she sent me to the office to change my clothes. It took almost 20 minutes to find a shirt that actually fit me. The teacher made a comment saying, "No one wants to see your chest." This comment did not make me feel any better about myself. Another time my best friend (who is a bigger girl) was told a comment that did not make her feel confident in her body. The teacher said, "No one wants to see a girl who has cellulite in short shorts." So is a girl without cellulite allowed to wear short shorts?

The example of my friend just shows that our dress code is targeting a certain group of people and not making people feel confident in their body. It is well known that, "Body image is closely linked to self-esteem. Low self-esteem in adolescents can lead to suicide." Females are required to wear a bra every day to school. It is their own bodies. They should be able to wear what they want. This dress code also affects teachers. Some teachers do not care what the kids wear, but because they will get into trouble for not dress coding, they have to enforce it. This is wasting the teacher's time. Yes, in some cases dress code could be effective, but it is mainly causing low self confidence and body image problems.

Making people feel comfortable in their own bodies but also making the teachers happy will not be easy. Body image problems aren't only at our school; it's all over the country. One way this can be resolved is having each kid create their own dress code. This can help each kid still be school appropriate but also be in things that makes them comfortable. Another solution is us students at South Tahoe High school can make a protest and stand up for our rights. We have the right to feel comfortable in our own skin. Petitions as well as walkouts can occur to show the staff how serious we are about this situation. A great solution would to have the people who have actually felt this discrimination talk to the staff. This can really open the staff member's eyes and show them what's really going on when they tell us to go and change our shirt.

In conclusion, I believe that if teachers are more aware of how the dress code is actually affecting my fellow peers, we can make a positive change. There are many solutions to stop the dress code from making people feel this way. By committing the time to sit down and listen to the kids at our school, I guarantee we will feel not only more comfortable but happier to come to school.

Sincerely, *Bryce Rasmuson*

DEAR STHS VIKING LONGSHIP,

Have you ever considered how there are many teenage moms in California? Teenage pregnancy is a nightmare that can become reality for teens that are sexually active. Teenagers are unfit for parenting, which could leave the child with behavior disorders and mental issues. What makes teenage pregnancy rates skyrocket is that girls have little to no availability to different forms of birth control or family planning. Out of wedlock births are children who are born from a couple who is not married (“Crime Rates”). This falls into teenage pregnancy because most couples in high school who do end up conceiving a child most likely will not be together for very long (“Effect”). Some teenagers who do become pregnant are pushed out by families or even friends. We have to still remain kind to our peers even though they had made a mistake that could affect their life.

This problem specifically affects young teenage girls sometimes, it can affect the boy as well. This problem was created by young girls and boys who are sexually active and end up conceiving children at young ages. The girls get hugely affected by this problem because it lowers their opportunities for future educations and even future careers. Because they now have to parent a child, they have a higher chance of dropping out of high school to pursue parenting the child full-time. Dropping out of high school can cause major issues. If she wanted to pursue a career, the employers would most likely not hire her due to not completing high school. Health issues also affect teenage mothers as well. According to Mayo Clinic, teenage mothers have a larger risk of having premature births, high blood pressure, having low birth weight, and having postpartum depression (“Help”). It is important to help pregnant teens by giving support to them. Having a child is a major step in life and its vital that we help teens who are pregnant to support them. Such as, encouragement, suggestions, getting them tested for STIs or STDs, having them take childbirth classes, and especially avoiding risky substances such as alcohol or certain medications and drugs (“Help”).

If a young girl becomes pregnant, it is important to address other negative factors of teenage pregnancy such as birth defects. Birth defects or congenital defects are deformities in the baby that can be seen at birth (“Birth”). Having a low birth weight is one problem that can affect young girls who are pregnant. Having a low birth weight can cause a common birth defect in babies called Fetal Growth Restriction or FGR. 1 and 15 babies are affected by this birth defect (“Birth”). It is crucial to also be wary of the teen’s diet. An unhealthy diet can lead to the factor of a child having a birth defect. It is important to obtain a healthy diet during pregnancy. Diets that can be healthy and nutritious for the mother and fetus can be diets with a rich amount of calcium, diets with a good amount of iron, fruits and vegetables, lean proteins, etc (“Pregnancy”). Not only does pregnancy affect the young teenage girl, but it can also affect the teenage father as well. It is more likely that a teen who is a father to dropout of high school than it is for a teen who is not a father. Most of the time, the father is older than the mother. Often the age of the father seems to range around a year or older than the mother. Some can be charged with statutory rape for being older than the mother who could be a minor (“Teen”).

There can be some crucial solutions to this problem. We could invent other ways of educating young teens who are sexually active to avoid becoming pregnant. One solution could be to encourage abortion. Although abortion is a controversial topic, it can also prevent future teenage pregnancies from happening. We can encourage a new outlook towards prevention of pregnancies and avoiding having attitudes that could discourage a young mother who doesn’t want to be a mother. Another solution could be establishing an outlook of understanding, such as thinking about the teen mother’s feelings towards her newfound pregnancy and respect her choice on whether or not she wants to keep her child; understanding that she is in control of her own body and if she does not continue through the process of pregnancy, we must respect her. Childbirth simulations could be another solution. The simulation could be a machine that creates similar pain to what childbirth actually feels like. Teachers that teach health classes could bring in guest speakers who were teen mothers to explain the hardships of being a teenage mother. Teachers could give a lecture that is generally brutally honest about the concept of pregnancy that involves persuasion and even tactics of fear to keep the conversation inside the teens’ heads.

If we were to apply these solutions towards teen pregnancies and even shed a more positive light on the option of abortion. We could protect young girls from walking down a brutal path that she may not want to follow. We could keep more young teens to pursue education that could create a valuable milestone in their lives.

Sincerely,

Natalie Frazier

Around 400 people in South Tahoe marched on the year’s anniversary of Donald Trump’s Inauguration. Dubbed the women’s march, worldwide protests were held to combat the current administration. The largest demonstration ever occurred in Texas under the same movement. Demonstrators were focused on more women in government positions, and for women to vote more to have a greater say. Other topics included #MeToo, a pushback on the commonality of sexual abuse. Protesters also focused on environmental justice to combat the wave of climate change increasing legislation of the current administration.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FIRST YEAR

-Sage Alexander

I have heard in conversation people pointing out that Donald Trump has not followed through with campaign promises. With certain actions I agree; there’s no wall, the people who voted for him get screwed over in the tax bill, obamacare still exists, the economy isn’t growing by 4%, manufacturing isn’t increasing, planned parenthood exists, ISIS isn’t ‘defeated,’ and there’s no increase in deductions for dependent care expenses. On the other hand, Trump has succeeded in promises made to groups other than voters. The wealthy interests who support him have made quite a bit of progress. Obama-era regulations have been plowed through, especially regarding halting climate change. The tariff of solar panels was recently raised to 30%. This creates a higher dependence on coal/oil. He is in the process of a proposal to open offshore drilling everywhere off the coast except Florida. Actions like this very directly affect the entire world, not just the United States. One man having the power to hurt the entire world in this way shows a lack of democracy.

The current administration has also cracked down on immigration. ICE sees it’s support from Trump, and is using this as incentive in detaining undocumented immigrants, especially activists. Republican Congress and Trump are trying to end DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Not to mention, the tax bill is going to sink the entire nation into debt and increase wealth inequality. Corporate taxes are incredibly low, shifting the burden of running society onto poor and middle class citizens.