

# PHOTOGRAPHY

Alana Wright, using a fisheye lense and photoshop, has created this image. This small world image is one of the projects Mrs. Lincoln’s digital photography class completes during the school year. A technique is used to make a panorama photograph into a wrap around circle, making the flat picture into one’s own little world. Fisheye lenses are ‘wide angle’ and capture a zoomed out picture. This picture was taken at the circle. Students spend 7 hours a day at school, making it one of our worlds. What are yours?



**Alana Wright** is a senior at South Tahoe High School.

THE  
VIKING LONGSHIP STAFF:  
**Sage Alexander:** Editor  
**Iris Fink:** Staff Writer  
**Douglas Abbott:** Staff Writer  
**Skylar Day:** Staff Writer  
**Destiny Bueno:** Surveys/Art  
**Dylan E. Sanders:** Comics  
**Mr. Berkshire:** Staff Advisor

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

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.

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# THE VIKING LONGSHIP

THE VOICE OF THE VIKINGS

Fourth Edition

November 2nd, 2017

## SOUTH TAHOE CITY COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT TO BAN STYROFOAM -Sage Alexander

In South Lake Tahoe, the use and sale of styrofoam is allowed in restaurants and grocery stores. Large styrofoam coolers are available at Rite Aid, and simply visiting on of Lake Tahoe’s beaches will show one the easy access to the material. A beach study on debris at 43 sites through the Orange County coast found styrofoam was the second most abundant form of litter (Moore). It is common along the Lake Tahoe shores to see small bits of “Expanded Polystyrene Foam” among the sand particles.

Unfortunately, styrofoam *never* biodegrades; no natural chemical process will consume it. The way it does break into smaller pieces is through force and light. In landfills, when styrofoam is so covered that it has no access to light, it will remain for the rest of eternity. The stubborn nature of this material is not redeemed by recycling. In California, of the 377,580 tons of styrofoam produced, 0.8% is recycled (Board). Styrofoam is often considered “too dirty” to recycle. The closest plant that recycles this product is in West Reno at ACH foam technologies, but does not accept food containers.

The amount of styrofoam in Lake Tahoe leads to issues in the fragile environment. Not only is styrofoam an eyesore in natural settings, fish and other wildlife often ingest the small beads leading to complications for the wildlife as well as effects on the ecosystem beyond individual creatures. When this material is present in the most vulnerable sites such as rivers, beaches, marshes, or wetland, it can become present in the ecosystem incredibly quickly.

A large portion of the styrofoam trash is from restaurants. Single use styrofoam and plastic containers are the epitome of waste for humans. Rather than offering a reusable or recyclable container, restaurants choose the easy and cheap alternative that is slowly destroying our world. Businesses that our community allows to exist turn around and hurt the inhabitants and visitors of our watershed. The companies that exist to make money should not be given the choice whether or not to pollute our basin. It is unreasonable to expect these groups to make conscious choices that benefit the whole, because they do not understand how their choices impact us, or they don’t care. Overall, the people impacted most worldwide by our throwaway culture are usually the disadvantaged countries that absorb the pollution, rising water levels, and globs of garbage.

The City of South Tahoe’s website states “According to organizations and people concerned about the impact of polystyrene on the environment, the impact on litter, lack of decomposition capability and its breakability creating small non-biodegradable pieces, banning the use of the material in the City would be a significant benefit to the environment, particularly in areas where wildlife and fish can have easy access and digest the harmful material.” The city council will look again at this issue during the next meeting on Tuesday, November 7th after evaluating the survey. The city brought up banning Styrofoam along with single use plastic bags in 2013, but the result was a focus on limiting the use of plastic bags.

It is important for the humans who live in a fragile and diverse place to protect the amazing natural resource we have. Residents in South lake Tahoe have a special responsibility to preserve and improve the natural setting to enable wildlife to thrive among humans, rather than in spite of them. The watershed’s ecosystem has many puzzle pieces, and it is our duty to protect each and every one of them. If not for us, we need to focus on improving the natural setting for future generations.

The League to Save Lake Tahoe has shown it’s support for a abolition of Styrofoam. They have spoken on the large amount of Styrofoam found on their regular beach picking, around 2,000 pieces in the 17 cleanups this year.

*If you would like to respond to the city’s request, fill out the following survey. This is one of the first steps towards legislation creation, and it is important for community to have an impact on the world they live in.*  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GKNTVSR>

# SHORT STORIES

“I practice the art of folding the spoken word, oralgami”  
-Alyosha Karamazov

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

Chapter Two, Part Two

GRACE

I expected him to simply grow the tiny plants on my windowsill. Instead of telling him so, I said “Well, actually, you don’t have to do that. I was just testing to see if I was right.”

**OH, AND YOU WERE RIGHT, LITTLE HUMAN. YOU NEARLY KILLED EVERYONE IN THIS COMPLEX TO PROVE IT.**

“Oh. Oops. Good thing I was right then, yeah?”

**DO NOT USE YOUR POWER OR HIS FOR PETTY REASONS, GIRL,** it intoned, and the voice sounded like a million coffin lids slamming. **YOU DON’T KNOW WHO-OR WHAT- YOU’RE MESSING WITH.**

*What does he mean by What? I thought maybe it means those... things... that actually caused...* I can’t think about it. Even after 20 years since it happened, the memory is too painful.

Instead of speaking my mind, I spoke up with a small “Umm.. okay.” What I actually thought was ‘go back to the Pit, demon, and get out of my life’, but I suspected that saying that would *end* my life.

**WELL, THAT’S NOT VERY NICE, SAID THE VOICE. I’M NOT A DEMON, AND I DON’T LIVE IN THE PIT. THAT PLACE IS A DUMP. BY THE WAY, I CAN READ YOUR THOUGHTS LIKE AN OPEN BOOK. UGH, HUMAN MINDS ARE SO... DISORGANISED. DON’T WORRY, I WON’T KILL YOU. YET. ANYWAY, I’D BEST BE GOING NOW. YOU KNOW HOW IT IS, PLACES TO GO, PARTIES TO ATTEND IN THE HIGHER DIMENSIONS, SUPREME BEINGS TO SEE, OR SO THEY SAY, ANYWAY. I THINK I SHALL SEE YOU LATER, LITTLE HUMAN.**

At that point, there should have been a flash of light, and Calvin would have emerged unharmed. However, he was thrown forcefully against the wall, severely denting and cracking it. He slowly slid down the wall, headfirst, onto my weights.

“What happened?” he groaned “Oh, wait. You asked me for help and I nearly blew the top off the building.” he finished, in a sarcastic, scornful voice.

“Look, I’m sorry. I just had to know if I was right,” I said. “You know you would have done the same.”

He sighed. “You’re right. I would have had to know.” He looked down. “Could you not do it again? It just gets easier every time. I only just barely prevented the plants from evolving sentience and taking over the apartment. Um. But they...might be growing a bit-” The plants all simultaneously grew an inch in under a second. “Okay, a lot faster.

“Goodbye” he said icily, with a hint of the strange voice of power. I wonder if he’s been able to do that his entire life... “I have a feeling we’ll meet again.” he finished slightly anticlimactically. And that was all. There was no hint of a possibility that he could be argued with right now. And so he simply left.

# DIRECT ACTION/LABOR UNIONS

-Sage Alexander

*Last year, I wrote an article about direct action being the real decider of change rather than voting. I am going to keep the introduction and talk about a tiny bit of historic direct action.*

Direct action is a term that has been used since the early 20th century. This is regarding the powerful influence of civil resistance. Sit ins, boycotts, protests, political revolts, and strikes are all examples of tools used that are direct action. Specifically focusing on America, the rise of industrialization came with it those who disliked the way the working class were controlled. These demonstrations are important to force companies to treat workers well.

The haymarket riot (or affair) occurred on May fourth, 1886, in Chicago. This is the origin of Labour day (in most countries except America, strangely) or International Workers day. It was a demonstration in support of the right to strike, because the day before, several workers were killed by police while peacefully striking for an eight hour day. On the fourth, a person threw a bomb at police that were attempting to violently break up the crowd. Seven policemen died, and four civilians. The convictions following included four anarchists who apparently helped make the bomb that were executed, one who killed himself in jail, and two with life sentences. These punishments were without much (if any) evidence. Whomever threw it was never found. Anti-union sentiment from government and media followed. Anarchists’ homes were raided, many were arrested, most of whom had nothing to do with the bombing. Despite state and media repression, the labor unions in Chicago and the world were strengthened from this point. The Knights of Labor doubled in size. Stark evidence of an unfair trial showed the working class as recipients of violence when only seeking reasonable working conditions.

Sacco and Vanzetti were two American-Italian anarchists in the 1920s. There was quite a bit of persecution of this group of radicals by the government; a writer for anarchist newspaper and associate of the pair Andrea Salsedo was taken into custody (for months without communication) and either was pushed or jumped out of the Bureau of Investigation’s window after being detained by the police. This was two days before Sacco and Vanzetti’s arrests. A robbery and a murder were pinned on them in a rushed trail, where the court denied stark evidence that Sacco and Vanzetti were innocent. Despite incredible public upheaval and protests in every major city, the court upheld their verdict and executed them. They were targeted by the government for being anarchists who opposed the violent and oppressive government they lived in. The labor union IWW (industrial workers of the world) organized walkouts to protest in 1927. In the Colorado coal district, 1,132 out of 1,167 miners walked out. The IWW worked with these miners to win a full dollar pay raise. The police meanwhile protected the interests of the powerful and arrested anyone they assumed to be strike leader or vagrant, and eventually shot machine guns into a group of strikers and their families, killing six.

It is important for working people to have a say as a unit. Political parties and the government power often represent the wealthier groups of people on issues that do not do much for working class Americans. The electives hand picked by the rich have nothing in common with the people voting. The common person could use a cause to band together with, and political parties are yet another facet of the rich and powerful to control the working class to continue to generate a profit for them under the facade of democracy.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 10.7% of Americans were in a union in 2016. In 1983, 20.1% of Americans were in a union. Public sector employees have union membership five times larger than private. Why is there a drop in union membership? Unions today appear to be filled with bureaucracy and uselessness. Many people don’t understand why some jobs are union required, or the history of unions. The purpose of unions is to protect workers from companies that would pay people much less without a group forcing them to be appropriate in the treatment of their employees. Unions fought for the right for weekends, children labor laws, and the minimum wage.

**THE ADVENTURES OF SPUNK THE CHIPMUNK** -Iris Fink

Spunk the chipmunk realized he had a problem. He is hateful and lonely. No longer will Spunk go to his home within the incense cedar, no longer will he face the grey squirrel which guards his emotions with kindness. For long days and short months Spunk traveled up the mountain behind South Tahoe High School. He decided it was best to leave hungry, as hunger seemed to be his only friend.

As a surprise to the dull minded, but a fact to the accepting - Spunk had cognition, and so he thought to himself; “I miss the beauty of the sun balancing delicately between the clouds in the sky. Warmth may leave Tahoe, but never my heart.” Chipmunks tend to tear up when leaving home. They are as sappy as the trees that they live in.

One step at a time Spunk walked on top of a large rotten log. The bark had shriveled and crumbled to the ground below, it was then caught by white thorn bushes and was further decomposed by squirming insects. The bugs incisive chewing annoyed Spunk to the point of bloodshot torment. He bit and clawed - throwing his tail side to side he stomped every Acorn Weevil, Bicolored Agapostemon Sweat Bee, and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. Wait.

Spunk inspected his mistake. “Stink Bug?”, he muttered. Actions had consequences, it seemed, anger was not a friend of his.

Smelling of coriander (caused by the Stink Bug) Spunk began to cry.

“Look he’s crying! You committed murder!” The birds shrieked. They were mocking him, yet Spunk didn’t speak bird fluently. He *wasn’t* embarrassed enough. Not enough to let the birds hurt him further.

So Spunk jumped.

The log made a small creak as he flung himself towards the birds in the branches high upon the Jeffrey Pine tree.

Chipmunks certainly can not fly like the birds in the sky.

What a mistake he had made.

Anger is not the solution for Spunk the chipmunk.

**Kimber Palmer and Beverly Louise Phillips**

The community of South Lake Tahoe is facing a significant loss. On Wednesday, October 18th, a cement truck crashed into a car with Kimber Palmer and her great grandmother Beverly Louise Phillips. The crash was on the passenger side of the vehicle, and Kimber passed away at the scene. Beverly succumbed to injuries the same day. The cement truck driver reportedly attempted to avoid the crash. This was at the intersection of Highway 88 and Centerville Lane, where construction on a roundabout is to begin next summer. They are the second and third people to die on this intersection this year.

Kimber attended Bijou elementary school, and South Tahoe Middle School for sixth and seventh grade. She then attended Pau Wa Lu Middle school after moving to Gardnerville NV. She was a member of her eighth grade basketball team at Pau Wa Lu.

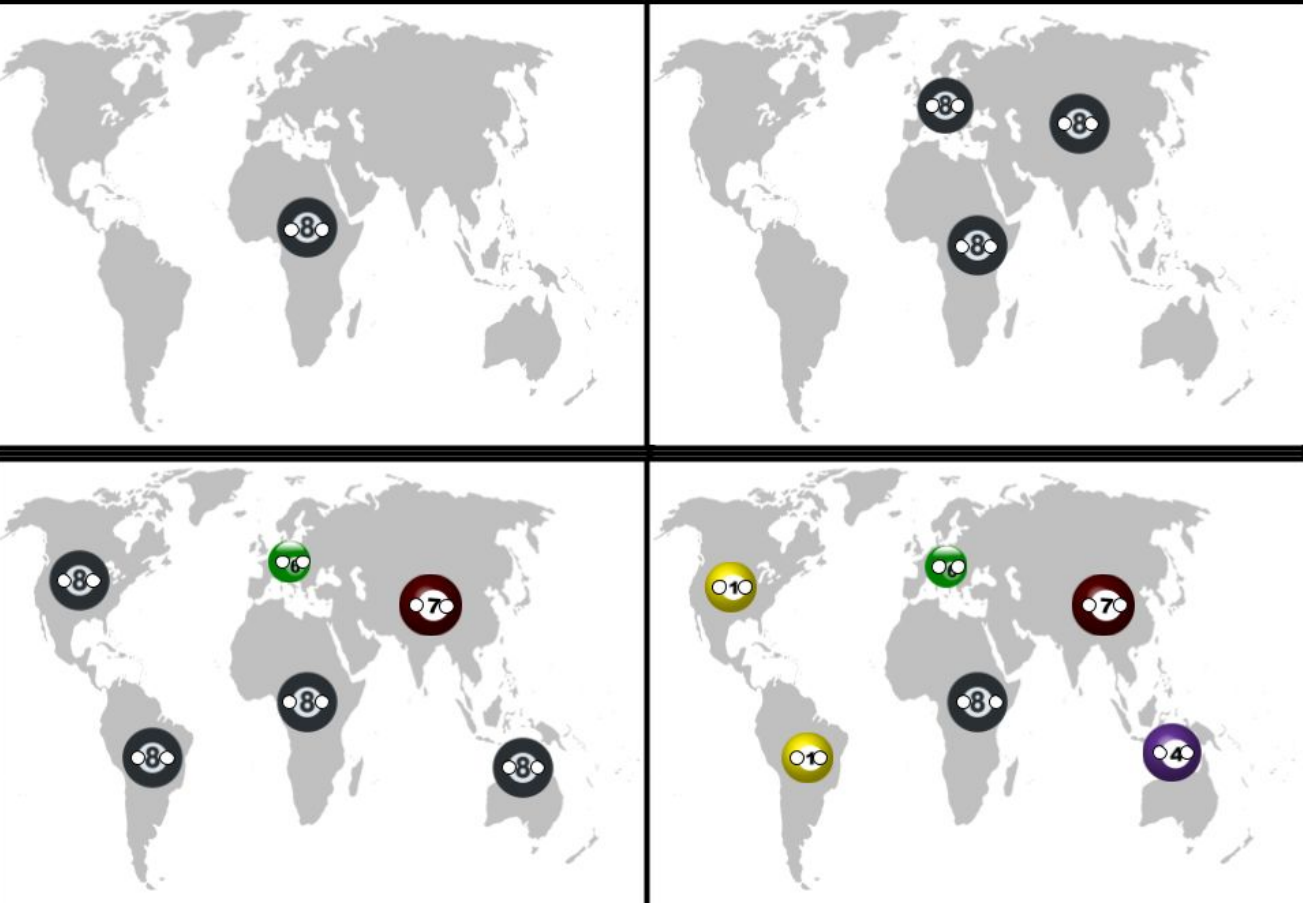
South Tahoe Middle School students wore blue and purple to honor Kimber last Monday.

Her services are November fourth at 10 AM at ST. Theresa’s church. If anyone witnessed the crash, email [kgarretson@dps.state.nv.us](mailto:kgarretson@dps.state.nv.us) to convey information

COMIC OF THE EDITION

Countryballs: Story of Humanity (#1)

By: Dylan E. Sanders



Poetry, Anyone?

Jive Turkey - Iris Fink

A loss of motivation can be the equivalent of an imbalance.  
Listening is not half the battle,  
Understanding is not the whole picture.  
That is the problem.  
Explanations are meaningless if chance is not in the favor  
of the heart.  
What is not, can not be.  
What is here, will not stay.  
Every cloud in the sky block’s reality.  
The actuality of a smile.

Moderates - Sage Alexander

Each action has an opposite and equal reaction  
The world is simple, it’s factions  
There are socialists, there are libertarians,  
Simply impassioned barbarians  
The Brave choose to stay outside the sphere  
Those who think they can change the system  
I can look onto and sneer  
(My life is fine don’t pay attention)  
Every evil deed is undone with good intention  
Both sides are pissing into the breeze  
And I’ll take my coffee *and* my tea, please

# SCIENCE

## YOUNG HAWKING -Skylar Day

Lovers of science, rejoice! Cambridge University has released the doctoral thesis of Stephen Hawking to the public. Now for anyone who may, somehow, not know who Stephen Hawking is, then I'll ask if you've ever heard of the Big Bang theory. And if you honestly thought I was talking about show, you can move on to another article. While Hawking is not the person who thought up the theory, (that distinction goes to Georges Lemaître) he was one of the leading scientists in making it universally accepted as the most appropriate, evidence rich theory on the beginning of the universe. If you're interested, you can go onto Cambridge University's website and download it for free. And don't worry if you don't understand every scientific term, or equation, that's what a textbook is for (but honestly I know you'll just use Google, trust me it's easier).

## NATIVE USES FOR LOCAL PLANTS -Sage Alexander

Historically, the Washoe people in Lake Tahoe lived with the plants and animals that live around the basin, as well as in the Carson Valley. Finding nutrients around the lake was achieved by harnessing the native plants available. The ability these people had to live among the living things without harming or abusing it is something modern people should look on as a template.

Some native plants include the Yampah plant, which is one of the few plants negatively impacted by native american's use. The root is full of nutrients and calories. It is in the Parsley family, and it is unique because it appears similar to surrounding grasses until it flowers. They live in moist areas and have white flowers.

The leaves of yarrow plants were used as a cough medicine. Yarrow was and is also used by other tribes in an incredibly diverse way. These include deodorant, fever reduction, cough suppressant, and digestive system fixes. This flower thrives in sunnier areas, and can have flowers in many different colors depending on their water intake and location.

Near Taylor Creek, one may notice a large amount of purple flowers, and a sharp smell. This is native swamp onion. This can be used as a way to add flavor to food. There are other types of onion in the same area, all with spread-out purple flowers. The root and parts of the stem have the most flavor.

Willow trees live near water sources like rivers and marshes. The bark of this tree contains acetylsalicylic acid, the medicinal component of aspirin. Chewing on this bark can release this chemical and cure headaches and other pains. This has been used for thousands of years to relieve aches and pains.

In a time where we usually aren't sure where our resources comes from, it can be interesting to consider a more sustainable alternative by using the plants that surround us.

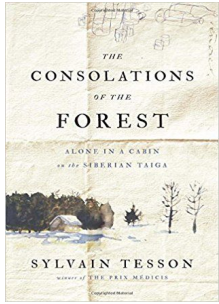


**Sources for SOUTH TAHOE CITY COUNCIL SEEKS COMMUNITY INPUT TO BAN STYROFOAM**  
*California Integrated Waste Management Board (December 2004), "Use and Disposal of Polystyrene in California: A Report to the California Legislature," Table 4, Page 14.*  
*S. Moore et al., (2001) "Composition and Distribution of Beach Debris in Orange County, California," Marine Pollution Bulletin 42.3: 241-245. Plastic pellets used to manufacture plastic products was the most abundant type of debris.*

# BOOKS OF THE ISSUE:

## *THE CONSOLATIONS OF THE FOREST*

By SYLVAIN TESSON -Iris Fink

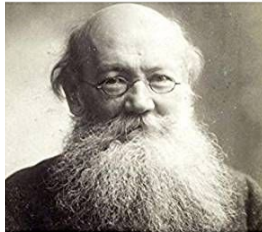


*The Consolations of the Forest* is a beautiful book. Originally written in French, Sylvain Tesson ventures out to the Taiga forest in Russia. Tesson rights accounts of his actions thoroughly. Tesson's style of writing mimics a diary entry though it flows elegantly. The art of his words can be found in the philosophy he develops after leaving civilization. He stays alone in a small cabin for about six months and writes a true description of what happens and how he perceives it. If you care to dream of a world untouched and covered in snow submersed in a funny, peaceful, and tranquil atmosphere -*The Consolations of the Forest* is your hardcover.

## *THE CONQUEST OF BREAD*

By PETER KROPOTKIN -Sage Alexander

The Conquest of Bread  
*Peter Kropotkin*



This book is an essential Anarchist Communist text. Peter Kropotkin addresses countering viewpoints, society, and why it is necessary to promote well being in all humans. I found quite a few theories not addressed by other authors in this book. Anyone newly interested in economic/political theory will find answers. This was written in 1892 in French. The author is Russian, and was recently released from French prison when he wrote this. He moved from Russia in exile after spending two years in prison there for his activism. Read the Bread Book! I have a copy of this if it sounds interesting to you.

# ART/MEDIA

*"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."*  
- Henry David Thoreau

## A NEAT ARTIST:

## ALISON BECHDEL



Alison Bechdel is an American cartoonist. She created the Bechdel test in a comic, a way to see if a work of fiction treats women as individual characters. This test requires at least two women to discuss something other than a man, and sometimes requires these two women are given names. She is the author of long running comic strip *Dykes to Watch Out For*.

## WELCOME TO NIGHT VALE -Douglas Abbott

"Weird at last, weird at last! God almighty, weird at last! Welcome to Night Vale." This is a quote from one of my favorite Nightvale episodes, "PYRAMID", episode number 9. It is the one I started on, the episode that got me hooked on the podcast in the first place.

Welcome to Night Vale is a podcast about a (mostly) peaceful desert town, with only the occasional attack by monsters from another dimension. It is an amazing podcast narrating a day in Night Vale from the viewpoint of Cecil Baldwin, a public radio station host. He excels at talking about random and weird things as if they're completely normal. It is *hilarious* to hear him talk about things like an invasion by otherworldly beings or a forbidden dog park as if they are ordinary.

Seriously, listen to this podcast.