



MAY *a month in review*

DEMOCRATIC GUBERNATORIAL FORUM HELD AT CAMDEN HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Greta Bishop and Iris Luce



On Saturday, May 26, a group of thirteen students from Camden Hills Regional High School, Oceanside High School, and Medomak Valley High School led a democratic gubernatorial forum, hosted by the Knox County Democrats and the Maine Teen Advocacy Coalition. Betsy Sweet, Adam Cote, Mark Eves, Mark Dion, Diane Russell, Janet Mills and Donna Dion attended the event. Each of the seven candidates were asked a series of individualized questions created by the students. These questions varied on topics including minimum wage, gun control, health care, and education.

The chair of the Knox County Democrats began the debate, and Pearl Benjamin followed

with an introduction of the Maine Teen Advocacy Coalition.

Pearl commented on the fact that there are four female candidates and three male candidates, which makes this a female majority primary. The candidates were then allowed one minute to give an opening statement before their time in the "hot seat."

Mark Dion was chosen to be the first candidate to face the student panel. In his ten minutes of questioning, he focused on passing gun control legislation with initiatives such as his Red Flag Bill. He also touched on restoring the paper industry in Maine. Dion was passionate about solving the opioid epidemic through more resources for addicts. He

enforced that addicts are not criminals.

Second was Mark Eves, who took a strong stance on improving the educational experience in Maine, including raising teachers' salaries and updating the Common Core program. He also strongly agreed to add Maine to the Paris Accord, while working to make the state 100% renewable.

Next in the hot seat was Diane Russell. She discussed her plan to end hunger in Maine, grow the Marijuana industry, and close tax loopholes in order to fund farmers. Russell also talked about bringing young people to rural areas of Maine.

The second female candidate of the debate was Donna Dion.

Dion focused on how she is the “money candidate.” She was asked to elaborate on why she has claimed to be a conservative democratic. She answered this question by saying that she sees money in every situation. She also wants to expand businesses and provide money to entrepreneurs and local businesses.

Janet Mills, the attorney general of the state of Maine, often claimed to be the most experienced candidate, was next to be questioned. Mills was asked some difficult questions surrounding her past A+ NRA rating and tension with Native American tribes. She explained her stance on gun control and clean elections, saying “Government transparency, is not the same as clean elections.”

Betsy Sweet was the final female candidate to face the panel. She claims to work at raising minimum wage to \$22. She largely focused on expanding Medicaid and taking money out of politics. Sweet advocated for making Maine a leader in green economics. She also commented on addressing racism in Maine. Sweet was asked about the fact that although she seems to be the ideal democratic candidate, she may not be able to win the general election. She responded by saying that everyone just wants a governor who will listen to the people. The last candidate to sit in the hot seat was Adam Cote. Cote is a veteran who advocates for renewable energy across Maine. He also focused on creating gun control legislation and access to the internet for people in all areas of the state.

Finally, the candidates were asked what they felt separates them from the rest of the democratic candidates. They commented on their experience, campaigns, and special skills, such as being able to work with people who disagree with them.

The Gubernatorial Primary election is on June 12, 2018. The primary decides who will be the republican and democratic candidate running for governor in the general election, which will take place in November, 2018.

Photo 1: from left to right: Greta Bishop, Meredith Luce, Betsy Sweet, Frances Ostensen, and Iris Luce

Photo 2: from left to right: Jackson Chadwick Jesse Bifulco, Pearl Benjamin, Frances Ostensen, Greta Bishop, Meredith Luce, Iris Luce, Phoebe Walsh

NET NEUTRALITY Bella Tracy

Net neutrality is the principle that all internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites. This law was set in place during the Obama-era, in 2015. This past year under the Trump Administration and the FCC (Federal Communications Commissions), has posed to repeal net neutrality, giving internet service providers the ability to charge customers for applications and content. Internet has now become a right of communication,

freedom of speech, and for many a career, creating boundaries and obstacles for anyone who uses the internet, these rights of the internet have become less of a concern for the FCC and the Trump Administration, and your internet companies due to the profit that they would be able to gain. Chairman of the FCC, Ajit Pai has called the Obama-era laws “heavy-handed” and “a mistake”. He argues that they deterred innovation and depressed investment in building and expanding broadband networks. To make things “right”, he says he’s taking the FCC back to a “light touch” approach to altering

the regulations, regarding freedom of the internet. Many companies such as Google, Facebook, as well as pioneers of the internet such as Tim Berners-Lee, say the internet as we know it may not exist without the current regulations.



RADICAL SOCIALISM AT THE FAULT OF VENEZUELA'S ECONOMIC DOWNFALL

Pearl Benjamin

Venezuela is currently going through its worst economic crisis in history, and its people are suffering. Almost 90% of its population is living in poverty, and the Venezuela's Living Conditions Survey (ENCOVI) found that nearly 75 percent of the population had lost an average of at least 19 pounds in weight due to lack of proper nutrition. Venezuela is one of the most violent countries in the world in regards to crimes, with a murder rate in 2015 being 90 per 100,000 people according to the Observatory of Venezuelan violence.

How did this happen? Venezuela has been regarded as a relatively progressive country in the past, but evidence shows that its leftist past might actually be the reason for its massive downfall. Venezuela's last president, Hugo Chávez, was a socialist leader who focused most of his efforts on improving living conditions for the poor and promoting equality in his country. However, his methods of achieving this mission led to political corruption and socioeconomic chaos.

Hugo Chávez was a reputable military officer before he was elected president in 1998. He was able to gain his majority vote through his populist

campaign and propaganda. He promised the people of Venezuela that he would put an end to poverty and social disparity, and proceeded to work towards those promises in office. However, Chávez chose a somewhat radical approach that would later tear a hole in Venezuela's wealth.

Venezuela is very rich in oil, and prior to Chávez's presidency, the country was receiving a surplus of wealth due to international high oil prices. Chávez decided to use most of this wealth in his mission to benefit the poor, resulting in a mass overreliance on oil prices. He also usurped millions of acres of land and nationalized many private businesses. In an effort to make simple goods more accessible to the poor, he dramatically lowered prices on food and household items.

Many worldwide companies no longer found it profitable to operate in Venezuela following Chavez's dramatic capping of prices on goods, and many were forced to leave due to the nationalization of private land. Venezuelans were soon left with little resources, and any wealth they had depended almost entirely on oil prices.

Chávez's administration soon fell victim to political corruption. Chávez grew power-hungry and succeeded in changing

the Venezuelan constitution in his favor- he was able to

extend his tenure as president, and later passed a referendum to end presidential term limits. He also ended all direct and pre-existing control of the military by common civilians in order to preserve his safety while his approval rates dropped among the people. He also chose his own successor- current Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro.

Following Chávez's death in 2013, Maduro was elected president by a mere 235,000 votes- a 1.5 percent margin. He promised to uphold the same values as his predecessor. In 2014, oil prices dropped sharply and the delicate balance of Venezuela's wealth was thrown into chaos. Now, Venezuelans are fleeing their country following Maduro's allegedly unfair re-election. Due to the government's willingness to print extra money in an attempt to benefit the poor, inflation rates have risen by 18,000%. Allegations of political corruption as well as the government's well-known hostility towards private businesses have alienated foreign investors, so the country has no line of support. The future for the country is looking bleak unless the people of Venezuela are able to somehow overcome the dictatorial power they are now trapped under.

A FISHY FUTURE

Frances Ostensen



Recently, a Norwegian cooperation called Nordic Aquafarms has set out plans to build the world's second largest indoor fish farm right here on the outskirts of Belfast. If the project continues as planned this company will produce 30,000 tons of Atlantic Salmon every year. This will, without doubt, bring a colossal change to Belfast, and the surrounding towns. Whether this change will have a positive or negative effect on the area is a question that is being discussed throughout the community.

Meredith Bruskin is a resident of Waldo County and a member of Local Citizens for Smart Growth, a group that has been actively voicing concerns about the salmon farm. She said she has concerns about the fish farm because indoor salmon farming of this magnitude has never been successfully done before. Her main goal is for the company to, "slow down because this is all experimental."

According to Bruskin, this is mostly due to the amount of water it will take to complete this operation. Nordic Aquafarms website states that the facility will use 1.7 million gallons of water every single day, or about 630 million gallons of water annually.

Bruskin and other community members do not believe that Nordic Aquafarm's claim that the water will be collected in a sustainable manner washes away all negative environmental impacts that

the extraction of this amount of water will have. She cautioned that here in Maine we have an abundance of clean fresh water but we cannot take that for granted, saying, "we need to be good stewards of our water."

There is also the environmental concern about the waste that a facility of this size will produce. Bruskin said, "my biggest concern is that they're putting a pipeline out into the bay to discharge waste." This is because even though the plan is that the pipeline is supposed to discharge the waste into the faster currents the reality is that nothing ever truly goes away in the cycle of the earth. The corporation did, however, make a statement that the water will go through a very stringent process and they will not use antibiotics or other chemicals in an effort to try to minimize the environmental impact that the facility will have. However, from Bruskin's point of view, the introduction of this much waste into the ocean has obvious environmental effects even without the use of chemicals and she worries that it might not only affect the marine ecosystem but also the industries that rely on it.

So, if the environmental risks are this extreme what does our area stand to gain from the introduction of this company? Samantha Paradis, the mayor of the town of Belfast said that it will boost the local economy and put the small

town on the map. The project has already invested half a million dollars in the town of Belfast and has plans to invest a total of \$450 million dollars.

"That kind of investment will allow the city to increase property tax revenue and therefore provide enhanced services," Paradis said. She went on to explain the improvements to the city's budget that the increased tax revenue that Nordic Aquafarms will bring to the town will make possible. These will include a full time harbormaster, a deputy chief of police, and an additional paramedic. Then she stated, "The Nordic Aquafarms project would allow the City to consider funding many services that are essential to City operations and provide property tax payers with relief at the same time."

Paradis also does not think that the 60 jobs that the company will directly bring to Belfast will be the only impact on employment throughout the region that Nordic Aquafarms will have. She told me that the connection between this operation and the smaller aquaculture farm further north in Bucksport will create "a local economy for land based salmon farming." She went on to say that, "this would foster many smaller service businesses to also develop, such as businesses that process fish or utilize waste."

The positive impacts on the community that will come along with the introduction Nordic Aquafarms should not

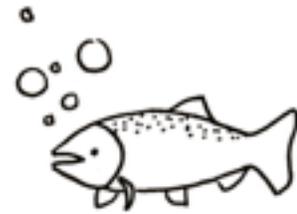




go without note, and Bruskin, along with other members of Local Citizens for Smart Growth, acknowledge that this project will not be entirely harmful to the area. Economically speaking, they have concerns that the fish, which will be sold for \$15 per pound, will not be sold locally because most people can not afford that kind of meal and this will draw resources out of the city. Overall, they want to become more involved in the process of change that will affect them greatly, and make sure that the town is not influenced too greatly by dollar signs that it turns a blind eye to the environmental implications.

Bruskin then said that she thinks that indoor aquaculture farming could be the future of environmentally efficient seafood production, but she simply does not agree with the scale of the operation and she does not think that the environmental impacts have been considered in enough detail. Saying of Nordic Aquafarms, “they’re making it seem like they know what they’re doing and I wish I could believe them.” Looking to the future, Bruskin wants the area to strive for more sustainable and innovative ways to make food. She acknowledges that Maine is not drawing in younger populations because of its economy, but she does not see

the solution as bringing in a giant corporation. Instead she thinks that the state should focus more on the gradually increasing number of small organic farms when trying to help feed and employ future generations. “When you’re talking about feeding the future generations you have to look at the carbon footprint that the production of food will have.”



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT CHRHS

Sadie Cameron

This year we welcomed seven international students during the course of our 2017-2018 school year. It has been a wonderful pleasure to (welcome) the students and create new relationships with them. The students are Shannon (Louis) Pu, China; Vincent Jakuszkin, Poland; Celine Braden, Germany; Augustin Schubert, Germany; Rami Ebn Bari, Palestine-Israel; Sebastian Laurelut, France; and Corrado Rossi, Italy. It is unfortunate that the year has come to end and it is time to say goodbye, but their journeys have just begun. Thank you all international students for

choosing our school and creating an unforgettable year for both you and the relationships you have made here at CHRHS.

Intercultural Club is a place where the students of CHRHS gather to create and spread cultural awareness. During the course of the 2018-2019 school year, the club aims to participate in activities with CHRHS students and the incoming international students as well as build ideas to promote cultural awareness. For more information and/or questions, contact:

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SCOTT PRUITT

Meredith Luce

We are at a standstill. How we choose to act within the next five years will decide how the human race will progress for the rest of our time on Earth. The actions we are making at this very moment will impact the our world hundreds of years into the future—that is, if we survive that long. If we were to view the entirety of the time that the Earth has been around as a full day, humans have only been around for about 3 seconds. This is roughly .0004 percent of Earth's history. Essentially, humans have destroyed the Earth, the only planet we know for sure can sustain human life, in 3 seconds. It is predicted that 50% of all plant and animal species will have died out by the end of the century due to habitat loss, acidifying oceans, pollution, and warming climates. If we do not begin to enact immediate change to the way we live our lives, the human race will soon follow in a mass extinction. Scientists are now calling this age the “anthropocene,” and have predicted that it is headed for a major mass extinction, the likes of which anything is unlikely to survive. This

is why America, along with most other countries, has an “environmental protection agency,” or “EPA.” This branch is put in place to defend the best interests of the environment, doing things like weighing consequences of economic decisions and fighting for the rights of the animals and the Earth itself. The current administrator of the EPA is Scott Pruitt, a man who cares more about his cushy position of power and paycheck than he does the environment and all of the life that relies on it to live. He has proven to the country time and time again that he is incapable of holding a position of power, much less a position in which he is expected to care for the livelihoods of anyone and anything but himself. Amidst his numerous scandals, such as his crusade to allow car companies to pollute more and break down the clean air standards, less attention is paid to the environment and the worsening crisis it is facing. Pruitt has shown that the work he has done for the past two years has all been an effort to

undo the hard work of the Obama administration,

removing helpful bans and protecting the rights of big corporations rather than the rights of our planet. Pruitt has been working hard to make sure that products and companies that worsen the environment have the easiest time possible. He has removed bans on car emissions, poaching, cut down on parks and monuments, and endangered the well being of multiple species.

Scott Pruitt, with his insatiable desire for power and money, has become one of the biggest threats to the environment. It is not just melting glaciers and a thinning atmosphere that our world must combat, it is the man taking orders directly from a capitalistic, chauvinist bully. The man who has proven that he is not working in the interest of the environment. It is the self proclaimed “climate change denier” who actively disagrees and debates scientific findings while the environment degrades around him. It is that man who we must add to our growing list of concerns regarding the environment. Simply put, Scott Pruitt is unfit to be the administrator of the EPA.

PLASTIC POLLUTION SUCKS!

anikka reinwand

On Monday, May 28th, the E.U suggested that Europe partake in a plastic material ban in an attempt to clear oceans and waterways of damaging waste. The ban in theory would reduce the production and

consumption of some of the most common plastic pollutants such as straws and cutlery. Not only are these pollutants deadly to marine wildlife, (over 100 million marine animals are killed annually due to plastic debris),

but the litter is also jeopardising human beings. As vice president of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, said, “We are at risk of choking our oceans in plastic, with a knock-on effect on our food chain and human

health.”
The proposal would not only immensely help marine wildlife, but it would benefit the climate as well. The E.U predicts that the ban would reduce CO2 emissions by around 3.7 million tons by 2030. By looking at data presented from various environmental organizations however, it seems like the proposal would have to be enforced firmly in order to break away from people’s wasteful habits. As a 2017 report from the Seas at Risk organization claimed, 36 billion straws are consumed annually in the E.U. The evidence of expansive waste in Europe should not cause for the E.U to shy away from their proposal, but should only drive them to commit to it as soon as possible. Unfortunately, these large scale decisions take time and the ban will most likely not be put in place until every aspect is considered. But there are

other ways European countries are attempting to reduce pollution. France and Italy both banned ultralightweight plastic bags a few years ago. Scotland, Belgium, and Denmark are planning on placing similar bans on other plastic products such as straws. These “bans” on plastic merchandise are leading to some confusion however as people are unaware of the fact that the goods being banned will still be accessible. As Timmermans explains, “I want to be very clear, these products won’t disappear, they will just be made with different materials.” The suggested materials for these new products are papers, metals, and other reusable or degradable substance. Paper and metal straws are already being manufactured and sold worldwide. Paper and metal is better for people’s health too as plastic often contains unwanted chemicals that can

be ingested by eating or drinking out of plasticware. The ban will promote a healthier lifestyle for people as well as create an economically comfortable home for Europeans. Though businesses would lose around \$3.5 billion each year due to the drop in sales, (according to a CNN report on the matter), the consumers would save around \$7.6 billion each year. Europe would also be avoiding spending \$25.6 billion on environmental damage clean up costs. The E.U wants to make the companies producing the plasticware pay for the waste management clean up cost, however this idea is secondary to the ban. If the ban on plastic products is enforced and is successful, the E.U will not only be saving marine wildlife and benefiting the European economy, but will also be paving the way for other countries and regions worldwide to decrease plastic pollution and protect the environment.



TAKE A SECOND

Alison Linares

We've all heard how time flies, and it is not until this time of year that we realize how true that is and the phrase takes form. It's weird to think that only four years ago the students marching to Pomp and Circumstances were freshman about to enter the wild world that high school is. Or weird to think that it was only five years ago I hadn't known Maine even existed. The weirdest thing of all, though, is that we can't exactly pinpoint when it all started. It's hard to remember that tiny step or change or decision that would lead you onto the path you are now and bring you the journey that you have lived. Minutes. Hours. Days. Years. Before we know it we have done and been through much more than we could have imagined, the end of that path is reached, we have to go and start walking a different path, unexpected, confusing, intriguing, and above all, new. This is worth stopping a moment, breathing in, and realizing everything that has been

around us, but that we have never truly acknowledged. Highschool life can sometimes be fast and busy and crazy and stressful, so it is hard to notice the little details. The way the snow softly fell at night and the excitement of getting the "School's canceled" phone call in the morning. Or seeing the dark blue ocean as the sun rose every morning...what better way to start a new day. This time of year brings to us those memories of when we went to class ready for that teacher to chuck the marker at someone, or the determination to win spirit week as we walked into school wearing pajamas or dressed up as cowboys. The truth is that sometimes we get so caught up in complaining too much, or being around others who do, that we miss the good things that happen. Many of us don't even come to realize any of this until it's senior year and graduation is only a week away, or we have to move and leave Maine behind.

High school is like a Rubik's cube sometimes. We go to school and deal with grades,

deal with teachers, deal with friends, deal with parents, and all the time we are so focused on figuring them out and getting all those colored squares organized that we forget to stop once in a while and enjoy the good, simple things, such as having waffles for lunch or getting a study hall instead of class. As the end of the school year draws near we come to reflect on what we did and didn't do. The risks we took, the friends we made, the things we learned, and the way we spent those days.

I invite all of you to think about this last year, and to stop and think if we spent it how we wanted to, because if not, then there's always tomorrow. My personal reflection on this is that I loved every moment for the last five years, and if I had to, I would do everything exactly the same. I now realize how great Maine and the people here are. If now I have to move on and leave behind, all I got to know over the last few years, at least I can say I don't regret a thing.

Do you?



MONTHLY
VINE
Martha

POP CULTURE DONALD GLOVER

Owen Rowkus



Donald Glover is an actor and producer in various works, including his very own award winning television show, “Atlanta,” on FX. He also goes by Childish Gambino and is a musically diverse and multifaceted artist. His musical career began in 2008, finding a flow in hip hop through various self released albums under his moniker, a randomly created name from the “Wu-Tang Clan Name Generator.” Since then he has developed his style of music through several more significant works; a rap album titled “Camp,” another hip-hop album called “Because the Internet” and a final album called “Awaken, my Love!,” based within a more alternative style of music, in which he did not rap once. Most recently, Gambino released a song and accompanying video titled “This is America.” The video has garnered over 200 million views in less than a month. It explores the truth of the American experience, especially for African American members of society. He has chosen not to comment on the meaning of the video or its symbolism. Many content producers across the internet have analyzed and searched for the deeper meaning in the music video and its lyricism. One such video states that the ways in which Gambino dances, emotes, and moves are representative of Jim Crow illustrations, along with other stereotypical traditional representations of African

Americans. Another video discusses the video’s

representation of the culture surrounding guns in America, including reference to the apparent lack of concern for gun violence, both the influence and distraction of technology and social media, and the care for guns but not the people who are consistently murdered by such weapons. The video has already significantly impacted viewers and listeners, close to all left wondering and talking about Gambino’s message. It is both musically impressive and socially impactful on the viewer due to its jarring intensity. Watch it a few times and decide what you think about it...

SPORTS

Sophie Ernst

Spring sports are coming to an end! Make sure to turn in your uniforms and thank your coaches for giving you their time for the past few months, win or lose you should be proud of the season you’ve worked hard for. If you intend on playing a fall sport such as football or soccer make sure to stay up to date on the CHRHS sports Facebook page or speak with Mr. Alex to learn more about summer practice dates.

Dear reader,

As the 2017/18 school year draws to a close, so too does the first semester of Camden Hills Gazette.

I cannot express how incredibly proud I am of everyone who has put time and effort into making this newspaper a reality. All of you writers, designers, photographers, artists, officers, and PR(ers?) make one hell of a team.

I look forward to working with each of you again next year.

I also look forward to welcoming new students onto our team. And not just the upcoming freshmen.

Perhaps you read CHG and think it’s a little one-sided. I agree, we want your opinions.

Maybe you are an upcoming sophomore and haven’t joined a club yet, come join us.

You might feel like you aren’t a good enough writer, that is dumb. You are.

Camden Hills Gazette is here to provide you with student-sourced info, a place to share your thoughts, and a way to strengthen your skills. In a world where the media is often “fake,” we will always stay real.

We also have waffle day once a month.

Sincerely,

Phoebe Walsh
Editor-in-Chief of the Camden Hills Gazette

CHIPOTLE LAWSUIT

Jesse Bifulco

In early January 2015, your average Chipotle in California was struck with an unusual ordeal. Jeanette Ortiz, local manager, hard worker, and mother of nine was accused of stealing \$636 in cash from the a safe that was on site. Whether she did it or not remains a mystery, because when evidence was to be presented her bosses claimed the security footage “had been destroyed”.

It's been three years since then and finally, now in 2018, Jeanette Ortiz has made a surprising turn of events by filing for a wrongful termination lawsuit against the Chipotle company- and even more surprisingly, winning the case. Thanks to the extremely fishy circumstances regarding her termination, the California jury awarded Ortiz with close to \$8 million dollars on the premise that she was innocent. Her damages- loss of wages (she was up for a pretty big promotion at her job, after having worked there for 50 hours a week), hurt reputation and emotional, as well as mental distress; technically could have cost her way more than the settled \$8 million, but many critics believe that it's too much to reward a “victim” of a crime she still may have committed.

As to whether Jeanette Ortiz actually did steal the original cash or not still hasn't been solved, even if it has been settled in court. Looking back, \$636 is a relatively small amount of money to steal for anyone in a manager position or higher and it's entirely



possible that managing a chain restaurant in California could have earned her some devious enemies.

According to Ortiz' lawyer, she had recently filed for worker's compensation after she suffered from carpal tunnel syndrome, presumably from her job. This is bound to upset her bosses as this disability caused her to consistently miss work. And as for the “destroyed” surveillance tape, the cameras in Chipotle have a built in feature to automatically record over old footage after 45 days. Keeping this in mind, there is a very unusual timeline regarding this specific cash. The \$636 had been placed in a locked safe in view of a security camera almost four months prior- in October. It was meant to be transferred to an armored car that never arrived, and so it sat in the safe for months.

However, in early January, Jeanette Ortiz texted her boss that the money was missing and soon afterward she was fired after being told by her managers that they reviewed the security footage and clearly saw her taking the cash. No one, including Ortiz, was allowed to see the security

footage because of “company policy” despite the fact that there is no policy regarding these circumstances. Now, three years later, the security tapes have been supposedly “destroyed” because of the security camera's overwrite functions. Strange how no one thought to take the essential evidence out of the camera in the whole of 45 days that they had it.

Now that three years have passed the footage has been lost to time, along with any semblance of hope to find the true thief, but hopefully justice has been served with this years long over-due lawsuit.



THIRTEEN REASONS WHY NOT

Annabel Parker

I recently binge-watched the second season of Netflix's "Thirteen Reasons Why" in exactly two days— not because I'm a fan of the show, but because I wanted to see if the second installment would be as much of a catastrophic mess as the first. Much to my delight—and dismay— it was so much worse. There are many reasons why this show should be taken down and destroyed unceremoniously, but I've boiled it down to just ten.

Reason One: The first episode of Season 2 begins with a disclaimer given by actors and actresses in the show. Justice Prentice who plays Bryce Walker says that "13 Reasons Why" deals with, "tough, real-world issues." Katherine Langford, Hannah Baker, goes on to say that, "By shedding a light on these difficult topics, we hope our show can help viewers start a conversation. But if you are struggling with these issues yourself, this series may not be right for you." Let that sink in for a moment. This is a show about mental illness which could be dangerous for mentally ill people to watch. This disclaimer makes it apparent that "13 Reasons" wasn't created to start a conversation about mental health, it was created purely as entertainment.

Reason Two: Further into the "we care deeply about our

viewers' mental health" pretense, the show provides a link to a website called 13reasonswhy.info after each

episode. While this site does provide information about crisis resources, none can be found in the show itself. And neither disclaimer nor website makes an appearance in the first season. The word "afterthought" comes to mind.

Reason Three: Hannah Baker never takes responsibility for her death; not in her infamous tapes nor when returning as an apparition in Season 2. In fact, she blames her suicide on thirteen people who subsequently unravel from guilt and shame. The inference that suicide is anything but the choice of the individual is a harmful stigma which should not be perpetuated.

Reason Four: When Hannah goes to her guidance counselor to report her experience with sexual assault she is turned away. This promotes the stigmatization of seeking professional help, which is entirely the wrong message for this show to be sending.

Reason Five: At the end of Season 2, Hannah's mother reveals another of her daughter's letters called "Reasons Why Not." She explains that there are only eleven reasons "why not" which fall short of the opposing thirteen reasons for committing

suicide. Here we see the decision of ending a life reduced to a brightly fonted, Microsoft Word pro/con list. This concept would almost comical if it wasn't so tragically misguided.

Reason Six: Hannah's suicide is shown in graphic, bloody detail. There aren't substantial trigger warnings.

Reason Seven: Multiple scenes of rape, including a four minute sequence of sexual violence which could only be described as torture both for the character and the viewer, are shown on screen. Again, there are no substantial trigger warnings.

Reason Eight: Clay's second-season-girlfriend, who is diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder after a suicide attempt, is shown recovering and coping with her illness in healthy and constructive ways. This is great! Props to the show for this plotline! But why wasn't this done for Hannah? Her suicide attempt could have failed and the second season could have been about her recovery. Oh, yes, because that's not entertaining.

Reason Nine: One of the main plotlines is about a school shooter. Yes, that's right. A school shooter. Considering both the prevalence of school shootings in America and the amount of times teen protesters have said that bullying should not be equated to gun violence, you'd think that the creators of this show would know better. (Not to mention a study published by Oxford University linking violent media, such as TV shows and video games, with encouraging gun brutality and terrorism.)

Reason Ten: "13 Reasons Why" is supposedly meant to start a

conversation about mental illness and sexual assault, but the show has been made in a way so it's impossible to watch for people with experiences in either. The topics of sexual assault and mental illness could have been dealt with off screen and could have remained just as effective, but they were included for the sake of sensationalism. The hypocrisy and misguided nature of this show is careless and, at times, cruel.

All in all, it's clear that "13 Reasons Why" isn't for people who have experienced sexual assault, gun violence, or mental illness. This show isn't starting a conversation about awareness for these issues, for

it is only hurting the people it's supposed to be helping. And although the creators have been urged by mental health professionals to discontinue the show, it looks like there's a third season in the works— not to help people or raise awareness for important issues, but to make money. While the "we care about the progression of mental health awareness" facade was merely used to justify the exploitation of "difficult topics," the show is right that there needs to be a conversation. People should listen to victims of sexual assault, gun violence, and mental illness with an open mind— without preconceived notions or stigma supplied by

this show. People should not be discouraged from seeking professional help because of this show. People should not be discouraged from reporting sexual assault. Teens should not be told that suicide and gun violence are options to end bullying. Shows about mental illness should be accessible to the mentally ill. Let's start a conversation where everyone can feel safe, welcomed, and listened to.

Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault:
1-800-871-7741

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

THE ARTS FINE ARTS NIGHT

Bailey Young *photography: Owen Rowkus*



On Thursday, May 31, Camden hills experienced our annual fine arts night. The event supported work from all grade levels and classes. The art ranged from all mediums and styles- clay, magazines, wire, paper-mache, and any

other form you could possibly imagine. The night also sported short films by Mr. Baeza's classes done over the course of the year. This was the twelfth year that the film festival has been a part of the night, and if you missed it, you can see the trailers for the

films on the school YouTube page. Later on, students showed us their amazing singing with a collection of songs that they have been working on for months. Congratulations to all the students involved.

THE ARTS

from left to right. first image: lighthouse and birds, Havana Lyman. second image: spirit animal, Jonathan Mahoney. third image: untitled, Lillian Dailey. fourth and fifth images: untitled, Ilianna Kahn
fifth image: fine art night, Owen Rowkus



SLIGHTLY SAGE ADVICE

HOROSCOPES

Dear Sage,

Recently I became involved with a chess club. I'm too afraid to tell anyone because I'm worried that I'm going to lose my 'cool factor'. How do I tell everyone that I'm a Chessiteer?

Sincerely,
Chic chess player

Dear Chic chess player,

First of all under, no circumstances should you call yourself a Chessiteer, your 'cool factor' was lost the second you came up with it. Honestly, you get need to gauge how much you like your friends because there is around a 70% chance that they will make fun of you, and then kick you out of their friend group. But hey, I hear other Chessiteers make great friends.

Helping with nerds' problems since 2018,
Sage
Dear Sage,

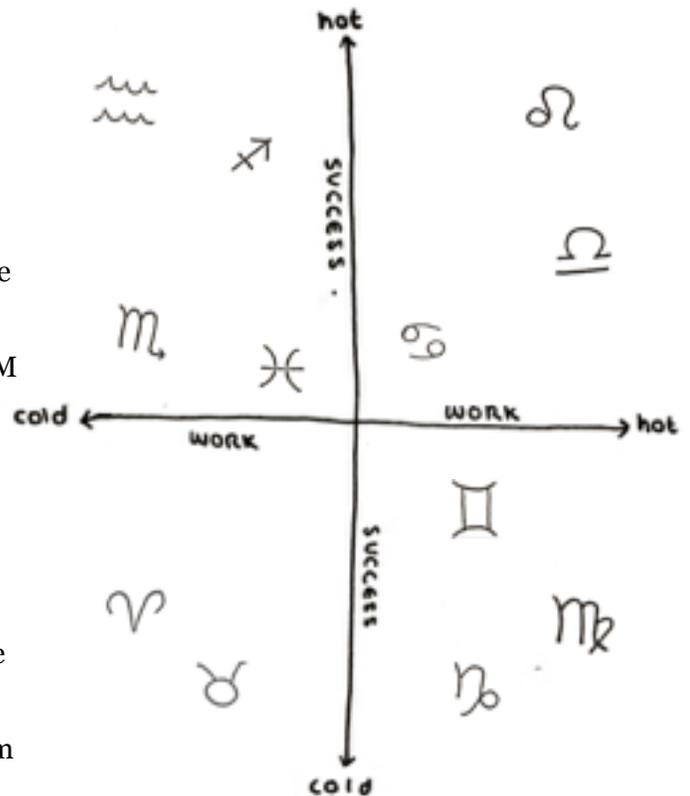
Hey, as a freshman I have never had finals before. Are they as bad as everyone says? What should I do to prepare? PLEASE HELP IM FREAKING OUT!

Thanks,
Freaking out freshman

Dear Freaky freshman (I like the name more),

Just think of finals as more important midterms that ruin your grades forever, with no way of getting them up.

Hope that helps,
Sage



- ♒ AQUARIUS: (jan. 20 - feb. 18)
- ♓ PISCES: (feb. 19 - mar. 20)
- ♈ ARIES: (mar. 21 - apr. 19)
- ♉ TAURUS: (apr. 20 - may. 20)
- ♊ GEMINI: (may. 21 - jun. 20)
- ♋ CANCER: (jun. 21 - jul. 22)
- ♌ LEO: (jul. 23 - aug. 22)
- ♍ VIRGO: (aug. 23 - sep. 22)
- ♎ LIBRA: (sep. 23 - oct. 22)
- ♏ SCORPIO: (oct. 23 - nov. 21)
- ♐ SAGITTARIUS: (nov. 22 - dec. 21)
- ♑ CAPRICORN: (dec. 22 - jan. 19)

