

# Camden Hills Gazette

STUDENT FREE PRESS

ISSUE No. 12, Vol.3

January 13th, 2020

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By the Camden Hills Gazette Sales Dept.  
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# WAR IN OUR LIVING ROOMS

*"Civilians, who only recognize war from brief clips on the news and scripted scenes from movies, realize from watching war movies that the battle overseas isn't as clear-cut as they'd been led to believe."*

By Makenzie Watts

When Americans imagine their soldiers, they picture people in uniform who salute before the red, white and blue of our flag flying high. They smile, maybe missing their families or a life they left behind. They take the horror of the world with a spoonful of sugar and stand on guard while we sleep. These decorated icons highlight our television screens on the news, commercials, shows, and movies.

Civilians, who only recognize war from brief clips on the news and scripted scenes from movies, realize from watching war movies that the battle overseas isn't as clear-cut as they'd been led to believe.

Richard Doherty watched "Saving Private Ryan" when he was eighteen, just before enlisting in the US Army, where he spent thirteen years involved in combat deployment abroad. I spent seven of those years as the daughter waiting for him to come home.

He tended to the fireplace in our living room. "I liked the film angles," he joked when I asked about the movie.

The conversation turned serious when it came to his own military experience. "Comparing my war... to World War II. Totally different."

"Saving Private Ryan" is a 1998 Steven Spielberg film that is treated as one of the most accurate portrayals of WWII. Doherty fought in the Middle East conflict, seventy

years after the Second World War.

"I think the people back then believed in what they were fighting for," Doherty said. "They believed Hitler was wrong."

Doherty said he met soldiers that weren't sure why they were deployed in the first place. They would say that these were their orders, but the political reasons were lost on them.

"I would tell them, 'No, you're here to win the hearts and minds of the Afghani population.' I'd feel stupid going somewhere, trying to kill someone or have someone kill me without knowing why."

Some soldiers don't know what they're fighting for. Some soldiers don't believe in what they're fighting for, either. Do they need to?

"No," Doherty answered. "Cause you're doing it for your country, you're not doing it for you. There's a lot of things I didn't agree with in the Army, but I still did it 'cause it's not my Army, it's America's Army."

Soldiers follow orders, even when they don't want to. That's what war is all about: accepting the challenges that come with a soldier's duty to their country. These challenges include emotional tolls and moral conflicts.

I sat my sister on the edge of my bed and talked to her about war and movies, two things we aren't often exposed to but are fascinated by. She was oddly forthcoming.

"There's always gonna be the bad team and the good team," she said, "but they're both bad 'cause they're killing each other."

She's nine years old. And, in some ways, she's not wrong. There were 4,423 US deaths in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Those soldiers won't be returning to their families. The ones that do may not return the same way. According to the Veterans Affairs, up to 20% of the soldiers who served in that operation have PTSD in a given year.

Sara Nelson, a mother of two with no affiliation with the military but a preview of Saving Private Ryan, reasoned that "[our country is] putting people in situations and making them killers who aren't killers. It's gotta be difficult to take somebody's life regardless of if they're bad or not."

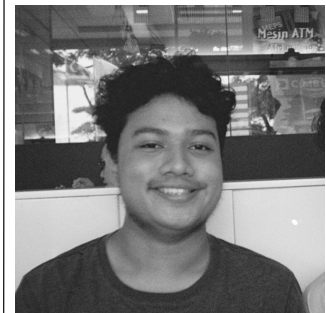
Hearing about a body count from a news report, thousands of miles from here, is an impersonal way to accept loss. Movies, even ones that betray real events, have fictional accounts and therefore put viewers in the soldier's place, forcing us to feel the weight of the phrase "kill or be killed."

Doherty asserted that there was one thing that every war movie needed in order to meet the challenge of accuracy.

Comradery.

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## THE EXTINCTION REBELLION



*Muadz Khan is a climate activist from Malaysia.*

Extinction Rebellion, also known as "XR", is a global environmental movement with the aim of using nonviolent civil disobedience to compel government action to avoid tipping points in the climate system, biodiversity loss, and the risk of social and ecological collapse. Extinction Rebellion was established in the United Kingdom in May of 2018 when around one hundred academics signed a call to action in support. By November 2018, five bridges across the River Thames in London were blockaded in protest. And by April 2019, Extinction Rebellion occupied five prominent sites in Central London, Piccadilly Circus, Oxford Circus, Marble Arch, Waterloo Bridge, and the area around Parliament Square.

Extinction Rebellion cites its inspiration from grassroots movement such as Occupy Wallstreet, Satyagraha, The Suffragettes, Gene Sharp, and the Civil Rights Movement.

*continued on page 4*

# WHY THE LEFT CHOSE BUTTIGIEG OVER HARRIS

*"I would vote for her, but my neighbor wouldn't. They aren't ready."*

By Greta Bishop

As California Senator Kamala Harris' campaign for the US presidency ended, Mayor Pete Buttigieg of South Bend, Indiana's has taken off. The end of Senator Harris' campaign for the US presidency has provoked a flood of media coverage surrounding one central question: "why?" News outlets such as the New York Times and The Washington Post have jumped to blame her flailing campaign, or her inconsistent message. These conclusions, however, do not fully explain her failure. While they undoubtedly contributed to her downfall, race and gender also played a role in Buttigieg's takeover of Harris' spot in the top tier of candidates.

As Harris' campaign failed to gain traction, Mayor Pete Buttigieg simultaneously encountered a spike in support from the Democratic Party. The mayor of South Bend Indiana has provided the race with a young presence, and one that is unjaded by national politics. While Buttigieg's campaign has experienced peaks and valleys since the beginning of the race, his recent success in Iowa may suggest a true chance at the nomination. Iowa is the first state to caucus in the presidential primary, meaning that the

results in this state often impact the other states' outcomes. The Des Moines Register Iowa Poll found that, on November 16, Pete Buttigieg was leading the race in Iowa, with 25% of people with him as their first choice candidate.

Kamala Harris, junior US Senator from California and former Attorney General of California, experienced a surge in support after the first Democratic Debate, in June. She confronted Joe Biden on his position on bussing, and saw her support go from around 7% nationally in May to 15% after the debate. Unfortunately, 15% was where Harris peaked. The question is, why did the Buttigieg campaign rise so quickly in the wake of the failure of Harris' campaign?

The two candidates look similar on multiple policies that are important to Americans, especially healthcare, which is the most pressing issue for the majority of Americans. Both candidates supported a public option, meaning that public health insurance is available, but so is private insurance.

Neither candidate, however, has been solid in their healthcare plans since they entered the race. Harris has been criticized for wavering on her positions, but in reality Buttigieg has made a similar policy switch. During a town hall in January, Harris clearly stated, "Let's eliminate all of that. Let's move on," in regards to private health insurance. She also was quick to support Bernie Sanders' medicare for all plan, which abolishes private insurance. On the other hand, Buttigieg has switched his position on health care from supporting Medicare for all, as stated in a 2018 tweet,

to his own plan: Medicare for all who want it. His new plan and Harris' new healthcare plan were similar in structure.

Electability has been a topic of discussion from the moment the race for the nomination began. The political left wants to be careful not to fully back a candidate who may ostracize the moderate Democrats, who are perceived as crucial in winning a general election. This may explain why the party has been quick to embrace Buttigieg as the rising favorite. Both he and Harris fall into a category of more moderate democrats, in part due to their positions on healthcare.

The Harris campaign has also been criticized for making blunders along the way, including her contradictory statement on bussing after the first democratic debate in June. During the debate, Harris criticized front runner Joe Biden for his position on bussing. It turned out, however, that Harris was unclear about her own position on the matter, stating that bussing is, "A tool in a toolbox," for a school district. This was just after emphasizing the role of the federal government in enforcing the practice during her confrontation with Biden. While this type of practical error does not lend itself to a successful campaign, it cannot be the only reason for failure.

In September, the Buttigieg campaign was called out for using a stock photo depicting a Kenyan woman and child in promotion of his plan to "empower black America." The woman in the

photo responded to its use with confusion as to why it was being used in an American election. The carelessness seen in the selection of the photograph is just another example of a campaign blunder that would theoretically hurt the candidate. Buttigieg, however, has recovered from his campaign's errors while Harris has not.

Both Buttigieg and Harris have struggled to find a clear message on the number one issue to Americans, and have made errors in their campaigns. In addition, they have similar policies. They are both moderates who have struggled to find their message and who have run less than perfect campaigns.

The media has been quick to blame Harris' failure completely on her weak campaign. Some, however, struggle to believe this narrative. Harris is a talented politician with years of experience who received a notable amount of positive media coverage in the early days of her campaign.

The answer that seems to jump out after all of the Buttigieg-Harris comparisons is one based mainly on her race and her gender. In an age of political polarization and racism being spouted from executive powers, is the left really as progressive as they say they are? Are they really ready for a female African American nominee, or are they

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# ADDICTED

## OPINION

### *How America's stigmatization of drugs and their users has only harmed the efforts promoted by the "War Against Drugs."*

By Meredith Luce

As we enter into 2020 and draw the past decade to a close, we are able to reflect upon the events of the last ten years. One problem remains virtually undiscussed entirely. We have all heard the whispers, seen the frightened glances and the uncomfortable body language of those either discussing or interacting with drug addicts. What our society has failed to address is the stigmatization of drug use and drug addiction, which has been deemed moral failure.

The truth is, nearly half of Americans have known or will know at least one person that has been affected by drug addiction in their lifetime. A recent study conducted by Vox revealed that over forty-six percent of Americans have a close friend or family member who has been addicted to drugs. With drug abuse being a relatively common problem, how is present day society and the current government still failing those affected?

When something

becomes stigmatized, it is an inclination of human nature to steer clear of the topic altogether or attack those who participate. The bottom line of this crisis is that no person affected by or struggling because of drug addiction is going to be impacted positively by being stigmatized.

Many of those that are unable to quit drugs have been, or are currently, affected by mental illness(es) that prevent them from feeling in control over their life and impulses. In most cases their circumstances don't make them deserving of the jailtime and criminal label they receive, which is the unfortunate belief that many Americans hold.

As long as the American taxpayers are spending roughly fifty-one billion dollars per year on the war on drugs, a much more effective system of rehabilitation and de-stigmatization should be imposed.

Countries such as Canada and Switzerland are beginning to follow the concept that drug abuse is a health issue, not a crime. Since, the statistics for

drug use and rehabilitation in their respective societies have changed drastically. According to a social justice article from the Pacific Standard, "Canada has the continent's only legal supervised injection site, where addicts can consume their drug of choice in the presence of nurses, guidance counselors, and social workers.

Switzerland has seen a reduction in crime and disease after implementing a state-sponsored heroin-assisted treatment program." This is further proof that attacking drug abuse in our society, or as president Nixon deemed it "public enemy number one" in 1971, could be much more effective if the problem was addressed from a health standpoint rather than a demoralizing criminalizing standpoint.

Beyond the overall ineffective rehab program our current government uses, there is also an apparent inequity between cases concerning white Americans and cases concerning minorities. Since Nixon's declaration, the U.S. prison population has grown by 700 percent, with many of these arrests being nonviolent crimes concerned with minorities and drugs. The majority of these cases were nonviolent..

A report from the U.S. Department of Justice claimed that over half of the inmates in federal prison are serving time for a drug related offense, while a report from the Washington post stated it as twenty percent. Though sources vary on the actual percentage, the bias against minorities is still clear. A statistic published by the NAACP states that while white individuals are five times as likely to use drugs, african american individuals are ten times as likely to go to jail for drug related crimes. This proves the injustice within the "justice system."

When we peel back the layers surrounding America's drug abuse problem, we are able to clearly see that at the heart is racial and social injustice as well as a deep rooted and systemic stigmatization of drug abuse.

# SPORTS UPDATE FOR CHRHS

By Will Gardner

The 2019-2020 winter sports have all just started and we are excited to see where this year's athletics will take us. There are a few teams with a very good chance of winning KVAC's and/or states.

The Camden Hills hockey team is looking to win a state championships! The team started the year 3-0 (3 wins 0 losses). They came back after being down 2-0 for the first two periods against Presque Isle, and then winning it 4-2. Their second game in the county was against Houlton, where the team won 3-1. This year's juniors and seniors will have to step-up as Camden Hills lost their three top scorers last year (Bryce Tyler, Micheal Blackwell, and Nate Vanlonkhuyzen).

This year in basketball the Windjammers are going 0-3. The team could make it to playoffs, but some serious reconstruction is necessary. They have yet to win a game and are looking for leadership. The team contains very skilled athletes, but they need to build chemistry. Top players on the team are Aidan Schecter, Jeremy Fraser, Ryan Clifford.

The ski team is looking to win states with most of their top racers returning as juniors or seniors. The team has not yet had a race due to a lack of snow at their local mountain, the Snow Bowl. Luckily for them, the Snow Bowl re-opened on the 21st. The team is stacked with racers such as Caellen Roberts, Oscar Horovitz, Emerson Brott, Natalie O'Neil, and Tanner Robinson.

This recaps the first few weeks of the winter sports season. Come again next month for updates on all games and to see how the girls sports are doing so far this year!



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# THE EXTINCTION REBELLION

*What is the Extinction Rebellion and why is it relevant to the climate debate?*

By Muadz Khan

*continued from page 2*

Their goal is to rally worldwide support for a common sense of urgency to tackle climate breakdown and a sixth mass extinction. Their agenda is as follows:

1. "The government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change."

2. "The government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse emissions to net-zero by 2025. Thirdly, The government must create, and be led by the decisions of, a citizens assembly on climate and ecological justice."

When the movement expanded to the United States, a further demand was added to the movement's list:

3. "We demand a just transition that priorities the most vulnerable people and indigenous sovereignty, establishes reparations and remediation led by and for black people. Indigenous people, people of color and poor communities for years of environmental injustice, establish legal rights for ecosystems to thrive and regenerate in perpetuity, and repair the effects of ongoing ecocide to prevent extinctions of humans and all species, in order to maintain a livable, just planet for all."

Extinction Rebellion is loosely networked, decentralized, and a grassroots movement. Anyone who takes action in pursuit of "XR's three goals and adheres to its 10 principles, which include nonviolence, can claim to do it in the name of XR." The Economist identified the group as using tenets of holacracy to operate more efficiently given strong state opposition.

During the "International

Rebellion" which started on 15th April 2019, actions and messages of support arrived from various sources, including a speech by actress Emma Thompson, a planned visit by school strike leader Greta Thunberg, and statements from former NASA scientist James Hansen and linguist and activist Noam Chomsky. A study conducted during the first two days of the mid-April London occupation found that 46% of respondents supported the Rebellion. However, a large opinion poll later found that support had declined and that 52% of respondents now opposed actions aiming to "shut down London" as the protest on the 17th of April blocked access to means of transportation, including subways and buses.

In May of 2019, Roger Hallam and eight other activists stood as candidates in the European Parliament elections in the London and South West constituencies as Climate Emergency Independents. Between the two of them, they won 7416 out of the 917854 total votes cast in the two constituencies.

In June 2019, 1,000 healthcare professionals in the UK and elsewhere, including professors, public health figures, and former presidents of royal colleges, called for widespread non-violent civil disobedience in response to "woefully inadequate" government policies on the unfolding ecological emergency. They called on politicians and the news media to face the facts and take action. They supported the school strike movement and Extinction Rebellion.

Ben Smoke, one of the Stansted 15, writing in The Guardian, criticized XR's tactic of mass arrests. He wrote for XR to

casually speak of imprisonment undermines the negative experiences of incarceration on black, Asian and minority ethnic people in the UK. He also wrote that for XR to be supporting peoples' court cases risks drawing significant "sources, time, money and energy" from the environmental movement, from the individuals involved, and which could otherwise be directed towards people most affected by climate change. Smoke instead recommended tactics that apply to everyone instead of the few able to afford the expense and time of arrest.

He also wrote that, though mass arrests may be intended to cause government to focus more on tackling climate change, it might instead cause government to increase anti-protest legislation.

Karen Bell, senior lecturer in human geography and environmental justice at the University of West of England, Bristol, wrote in The Guardian that environmental groups such as Extinction Rebellion are not strongly rooted in working-class organizations and communities, which she said is an issue as building the broad-based support necessary for a radical transition to sustainability requires contributions from all strands of environmentalism, especially the working class.

Though the Extinction Rebellion, like all other large scale protests, has its problems, it is a great example of how collective voice can implement important conversation. The bravery and resilience of this movement should be upheld until climate justice is served.

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# TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

## OPINION

By Charlotte Taylor

Smartboards have replaced chalk-boards, iPads have replaced paper and pen. Technology is rapidly changing the classroom atmosphere. The benefits of technology certainly outweigh the cons, but it is important that technology in the classroom is controlled and educational so students can reap all the benefits of a healthy digital workspace.

We are now living in a digital world where adapting to technology is a necessity. Understanding this tech can mean the difference between being hired by your dream employer or not. Teaching technology as part of the curriculum is crucial to future generation's success.

Even before students enter the workforce, technology will allow for a better education. It gives teachers a way to give instant feedback to students' work and grades and comments can all be uploaded to a common digital space for both students and teacher to look back on. For Camden Hills Regional High School, the use of Schoology, an app that students and teachers use to communicate information, share resources, and manage learning, has been transformative for the school. And Camden Hills

has not been the only high school to integrate a digital classroom- high schools all over the country are using similar apps to make their teaching more accessible.

An article done by The Journal in July of 2018 said that "73% of teachers said their students use tablets or laptops... 66% of respondents said the school supplies the device, with 25% saying students bring the devices themselves." All the programs and apps that technology has brought to the classroom allows teachers to be more accessible.

But as with anything new, there have been negative experience. It is commonly seen that technology in the classroom can be a distraction. Students can communicate with friends or play online games instead of doing class work.

Changes to school issued devices have been made in many schools to control this concern, such as a closed App Store, where students can only download educational apps, or teacher's laptops being able to watch the screens of their class's devices during class. This helps tremendously in keeping the majority of students focused on class work during class. But for the students who bring their own

personal devices to use in class, those boundaries don't exist.

In any class that I have ever been in there are at least a couple students who use personal laptops instead of the school issued iPads and I have never witnessed any issues. I believe that this is because the technology in class does a great job of ensuring full class participation and engaging



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students. With work being done online there is a lesser chance of losing homework because it is not a physical copy that can easily be misplaced. Which means that students grades go down on account of not turning homework, encouraging accountability.

Tech is also a benefit to shy students. Online class discussions can make it easier for them to share their thoughts without the fear of raising their hand and having to talk in front of the whole class. Teachers can track the conversation effortlessly, and see exactly who has and has not spoken.

Classes being organized around technology still scares many people. There is this idea that technology is disconnecting students, and a student's ability to have face to face social interactions will begin to dwindle due to a supposed lack of communication and cooperation taught in the classroom.

This is a valid fear because students spend an astounding amount of time using technology day to day. An article published in The Washington Post in November of 2015 that wrote about a study done by Common Sense Media. This study came to the conclusion that, on average, teens are spending about nine hours using technology, or more than a third of a day spent looking at a screen.

I thought about

this and wondered how much time my classmates and I spend using our technological devices for school. From the ten of my peers I asked asked the average amount of time they spent on technology doing school work I discovered an average of about three hours a day.

Using tech for schoolwork does add to the amount of time teens spend looking at screens. But overall, technology has made it easier for students to do their class work because there is instant access to information and an easier way to see what teachers expect from them.

Technology being part of our school day is inevitable. This is not a question of whether or not technology is influencing students, but rather making sure that technology is positively affecting students. That, in spite of the issues and concerns surrounding tech in the classroom, we recognize that it has done so many more great things to improve so many schools.

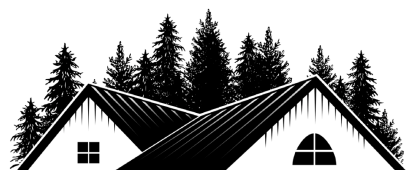
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# EFFECT OF PART-TIME JOBS ON STUDENTS

## OPINION

By Aniela Creek

The best part of growing up is gaining independence and having the ability to make your own decisions. With this gained independence, most kids have to get a job to be able to support themselves. For these students, that money is used to go out to breakfast with friends, to go on that movie date, or to get their first car.

High school students quickly realize that these things can be expensive, and even if parents give their kids an allowance, most kids want to have the financial freedom provided by a paycheck.

A first job as a high school student is usually low-skilled, and in Maine it's generally working at a local grocery store or a restaurant. Working these jobs give students a glance into the real world, beyond their school experience.

When showing up late to school, there are minor repercussions, and they can be excused by a parent or guardian. At work, students learn to show up at least five

minutes early, and showing up late burdens coworkers, and there is a good chance of losing the job if tardiness becomes a regular occurrence. Jobs also teaches students to work hard for the entirety of their shift.

Beyond the work habits gained from these jobs, students also learn how to save and spend their money responsibly. Students can decide if they want to spend their entire paycheck on food, clothing, towards a car, college, or emergency funds.

Although, not everyone is fond of their early jobs. One student, when asked about her first job, said she absolutely hated it. She made bad money, wasn't treated well by customers, had bad hours, and would get home late. But when she was asked about how she felt about the overall experience, she said she wouldn't do it differently and was so glad that she was able to get that job for the added experience and financial freedom.

When another student was asked about her summer job, where she made good money working on a boat, she said she really enjoyed it. She was glad that she was able to make such good money so she could buy herself a new phone and pay for car repairs. She enjoyed the environment provided by

multiple day excursions on the water. When she was asked about the overall experience, she said she would have still started working there, but will probably not work on a boat again because she doesn't want to start a career working in the sailing or hospitality business.

This job provided her with clarification on what type of career she doesn't want to pursue in the future.

Along with the financial freedom gained from having a first job, it can give students an insight if they would like to work in certain businesses as a career. If it doesn't give kids any help for any career ideas, it teaches students how to have common courtesy towards other workers. It allows for kids to learn the amount of stress that workers are in, and how to pay them well, either with respect or a tip.

Although being a full time student, and for most high schoolers, an athlete, working a part-time job can be too much and very stressful. But it teaches kids how to manage their time and to determine by themselves how much they are able to work in a week.

Getting a first job feels scary when it is first happening, but it is just more life experience to help kids grow up and gain more independence. This important step forward teaches kids how to become more responsible, and to be one step closer to being an adult, because it sounds like it only gets harder from here.

## WAR IN OUR LIVING ROOMS

By Makenzie Watts

*continued from page 1*

"I have people in the military that I don't see for ten years and then act like it was just yesterday. You develop a lifelong friendship, like a lifelong family... Especially when you go to war with each other. See things that nobody wants to see, but you do it together."

Captain Miller, the lead character of "Saving Private Ryan," had his second-in-command, Sergeant Horvath, who stayed loyal throughout the movie. They spent most of the movie fighting alongside each other, protecting one another, and caring if their comrade lived or died.

This is one strength that comes from a military service, and one that many veterans wouldn't give up. Through his movie, Spielberg is able to highlight the war while also empathizing with the soldiers fighting in it. Still, no one film will ever get it right, because there are many interpretations and reactions to war.

On a television screen, from the seat of their couch, civilians can watch all 2 hours and 50 minutes of "Saving Private Ryan" without understanding the meaning of sacrifice. Nevertheless, it's still important for war movies to be as accurate as possible because it helps to paint a clearer and truer picture of what our soldiers are doing for our country and what it may cost them.

Our soldiers still stand tall before our high-flying flag, but now their smiles might not seem so victorious to us. They might have trouble sleeping at night, and their families might not always recognize them when they return home. Thanks to movies like "Saving Private Ryan," even civilians relaxing in the living room can come to some understanding of war, and maybe our veteran viewers can feel more understood themselves.





# WHY THE LEFT CHOSE BUTTIGIEG OVER HARRIS

By Greta Bishop  
*continued from page 2*

too afraid of another loss to the “other side”?

The idea of electability comes back into play. “I would vote for her, but my neighbor wouldn’t. They aren’t ready,” seems to be the theme of the race. This idea, however, of finding the most perfect candidate to appeal to the entire Democratic Party (and possibly Trump voters), is slowly whittling down the field of top tier nominees to a group of white men.

While Kamala Harris’ campaign certainly struggled to maintain momentum and to develop a clear strategy, her physical identity is what finalized her inability to hold her place as a top tier candidate. While both the Harris and Buttigieg campaigns have made mistakes, Kamala Harris has been held to a higher standard. Due to the fact that she is a woman of color, she could not afford to make the same mistakes as Buttigieg.

As the democratic party continues in the search for their nominee, it should learn from Kamala Harris’ failure, and put into practice the ideas of representation and equal opportunity that it continues to promote.



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# DEBUT REVIEWS

## Sword and Shield

By Jesse Bifulco

GameFreak’s flagship franchise, Pokemon, has finally come to the modern generation of console with the newest mainline games: Sword and Shield. Being a typically handheld series, the announcement of a fully 3D Pokemon game coming to the Nintendo Switch set a high bar for fans hold Game Freak to. The arrival of the Switch brought about facelifts and reinventions for most of Nintendo’s best series with the additions of Super Mario Odyssey, Breath of the Wild, and Smash Ultimate, but Sword and Shield’s release failed to live up to the standard set by the modern gaming industry.

### The Good:

Pokemon Sword and Shield are set in the “Galar region,” inspired by England. The gym system, a staple of Pokemon games, has been greatly overhauled and given a popular athletics theme, with the gym leaders acting as celebrity challengers. Raids against massively powerful Pokemon has been borrowed over from the successful Pokemon Go mobile game (despite what Sword and Shield’s developers may claim). The game’s most reliable bonus is the number of quality-of-life improvements made from the previous games in the series. Pokemon with excellent stats appear with a golden aura in the over world, ev-training is easier than ever, and every Pokemon Center now comes equipped with a name rater, move trainer, and shop. These features make training a team of your favorite monsters for competitive play easier than ever, and allow you to spend more time playing the game than farming for the perfect Pokemon. Playing the game itself is also more enjoyable thanks to the completely original soundtrack, with a single jam composed by Undertale’s developer Toby Fox. The new music and features certainly add a level of polish to the games that the gameplay cannot attest to.

### The Bad:

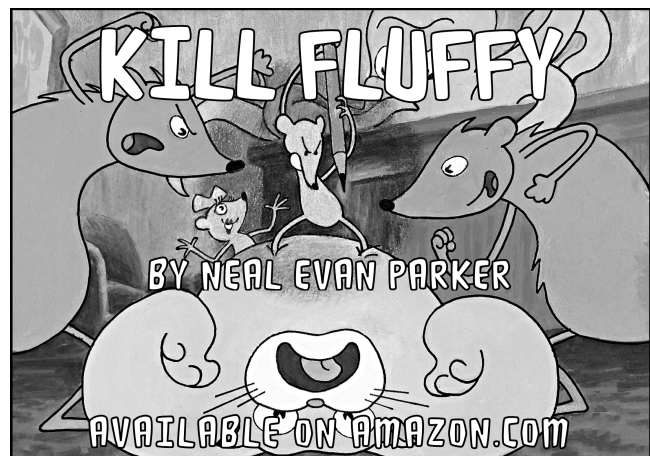
For all its improvements, Game Freak took one step forward

and ten steps backwards. Over 400 Pokemon were cut from the National Pokédex, meaning they cannot be obtained by catching or trading in the games. Fans of the series were polarized by this decision, with the most prevailing opinion being: “I wouldn’t mind, if they didn’t massively cut everything else as well.” Game Freak’s argument for the cut is that too many Pokemon would make it impossible to make quality animations for the remaining models in the game. While some of the animations are quality, so many more are simply unacceptable for a triple A, modern console game. Birds unrealistically fly with no concept of momentum at all, Pokemon “kick” by hopping 2cm off the ground, and some models turn around by rotating along their Z-axis while playing their walking animation. These flaws could have been overlooked ten years ago, but today they cannot even hold up to independent and amateur animators. The plot line is overwhelmingly shallow, with the player being actively excluded from the interesting events being hinted at simultaneously to their “adventure”. The game has no true villains, no real character conflict, and an inconsequential climax. Even Pokemon Masters, the mediocre-rated mobile spinoff game, has better dialogue, character interactions, and voice acting (a feature that puts Sword and Shield to shame; nobody wants to watch a five-minute silent cutscene of a character singing). Sword and Shield’s most

anticipated new feature, the Wild Area, is nothing more than a safari zone where the only activity is fighting pokemon. Optimization in this large, open, and empty section of the game is horrendous. Instead of using low-resolution models for far away Pokemon (a trick used by developers since 3d games first existed), Game Freak opted to only render creatures when they are within a pitiful distance from the player. The effect is monsters popping in and out of existence, while the distant landscape always looks so barren and empty. As the rest of Nintendo’s franchises continue to keep up with the times, Pokemon can’t seem to keep up with its own ambition. Being a billion dollar company and the biggest name in gaming does not guarantee quality, and hopefully Game Freak will learn from their mistakes.

### The Conclusion:

Pokemon Sword and Shield is an unfinished mess, and the small improvements cannot save it. Releasing the same basic game every year, no matter how original the gameplay might have been twenty years ago, is a ridiculous precedent that Nintendo should be ashamed of. Cutting corners at every chance, leaving out plot entirely, and marketing heavily on a hollow gimmick is just how large corporations make games in 2019. Keep your wallet tight, and wait until they release the inevitable Sword and Shield 2 with the exact same gameplay, plus some small improvements.





# THE VISUAL ARTS

JONATHAN MAHONEY

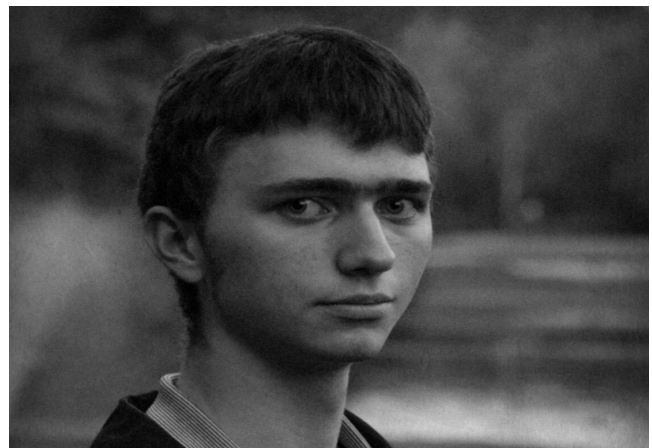


## “ANTHROPOCENE”

Inspired by a prompt about my identity now, expressed through various artistic elements. I wanted to convey my concern for the global state of the environment and my increasingly earnest role in living deliberately. This artwork reflects me standing for nature to the last, no matter what anthropogenic forces threaten. (Birch bark, plywood, pyrography, pigment)

JONATHAN  
MAHONEY-

Jonathan is a senior at Camden Hills Regional High School. A self-described “Art hobbyist,” he has excelled in the arts both in and outside of school. His hard worked paid off in 2018, winning him a Scholastic Gold Key for excellence in writing and arts.



# THE VISUAL ARTS

LILLIAN DAILEY



## “PLASTIC”

These prints are part of a collection of prints depicting plastic bags in the ocean. I created this to highlight plastic pollution because it is something that I see a lot of living in a coastal town. It is predicted that by 2050 there will be more plastic (by weight) than fish in the ocean. I wanted to highlight this issue in a visually striking way. This print is a linoleum carving, which I then printed in two colours for each print to create movement.



## LILLIAN DAILEY-

Lillian is a senior at Camden Hills Regional High School and has been a part of Camden Hills Gazette since it was started in her sophomore year. She is planning to study art in college, with a focus on textiles. Lillian is also very passionate about the environment and likes to use her art to highlight problems that she sees in the world. She has been an artist for her entire life and encourages anyone to create, especially if it helps them stand up for what they believe in.



# THE COMIC SECTION

## THE CHRONICLES OF JOSIE

By Annabel Parker



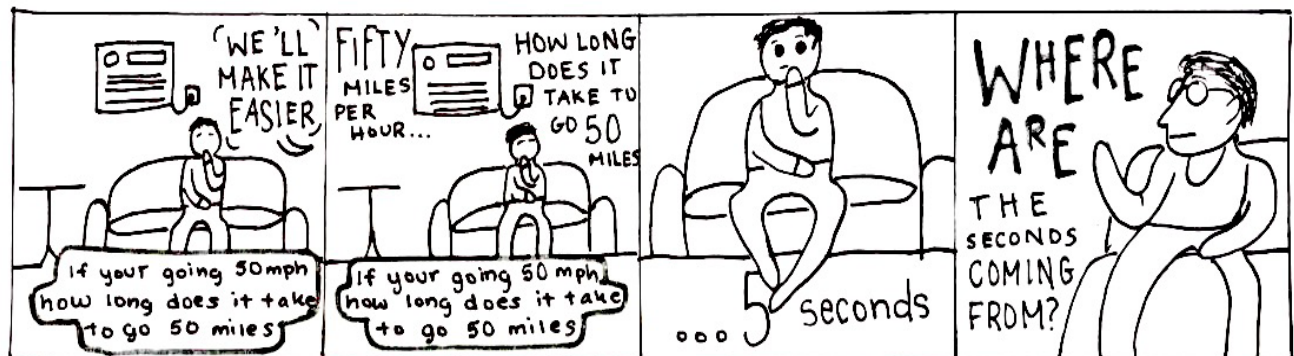
## MONTHLY VINES: TIKTOK EDITION

By Martha Aramthip

“ASMR”



“...Five Seconds”





# THE SHORT STORY SECTION

## SIREN

By Nicole Pendleton

The wind had become the orchestral conductor of the sea, sending waves into their crescendos until they slammed into the jagged rocks at the bottom of the cliffs. All around me was the perfume of the salty water, and the fine mist that reached up to the fog-shrouded top. It was as if the very heart of the storm had entered the water causing the waves to pulse and crash at its beat. Near-total darkness encompassed me as the clouds thickened, blotting out the distantly setting sun. All I could hear was the circling wind shrieking in my ears as the clouds opened up and let the rain fall. In a matter of seconds my vision was obscured by the sheets of rain. My clothes quickly became soaked and I grew cold, a cold so penetrating I could feel my bones ache.

I didn't entirely understand why I was here of all places, all I knew was that I had to get away. Where I stood was as far from anywhere and everywhere that you could get. The grass around me rippled with the force of the wind as I walked along the sheer cliffs. Through the wind, the rain, and the chaos within my head, I heard something. It came from out in the distant, chaotic, waters, yet it was calm. Through

my limited vision, I saw nothing out on the sea but the rain and wind. I waited a moment to see if it would repeat itself but the only sound I heard was the storm.

**"Having nowhere else to go I kept walking along the cliff, listening to the crashing waves, letting the rolling storm ground me."**

Having nowhere else to go I kept walking along the cliff, listening to the crashing waves, letting the rolling storm ground me. Thunder distantly sounded over the ocean, trees creaked and succumbed to the wind. And I heard that sound again, mysterious and loud, and most definitely closer. A nervous feeling crept its way up my spine as I felt the hairs on the back of my neck stand up on end. I slowly crept back from the edge, towards the safety of the trees. It sounded again, but this time it was as if someone was right behind. I turned around, looking for the source of the lulling,

soothing voice. I found nothing.

I wanted to panic, I could feel it bubbling up inside of me, but there was music in the way. I could feel a wall inside of me, blocking the panic, the fear, and the adrenaline that should be coursing through my body. I heard that voice again. It was smooth and calming, and it came from the cliff edge. Against my will, I felt my feet moving. I could feel the voice pulling at my legs and I could do nothing to stop it. At this point, I wasn't even sure if I wanted to stop myself. Everything that had been worrying me, everything that had caused me to run away to these cliffs, was melting away.

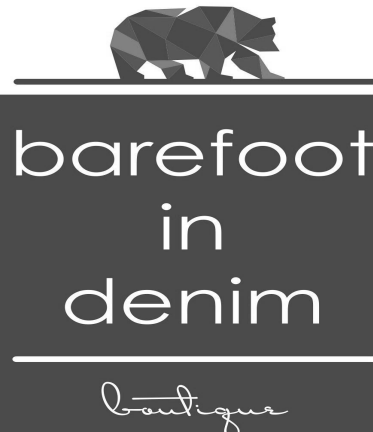
I felt a smile form across my face as I walked towards the edge. The voice called to me, telling me to follow it as it went over the edge. Some distant, forgotten part of my mind screamed at me to stop, to snap out of it. I ignored it. The storm no longer seemed to affect me, the cold no longer grounded me. The wind seemed to be trying to push me back, away from the edge, as if the sky itself saw through what I could not. But I paid it no heed as I approached the edge. Then stopped. And as the voice cooed to me, calling to me, soothing me. I stepped off.

The wind snapped at my

clothes as I tumbled over the cliff. Some piece of me realized that a fall from this height should kill me. Over 200ft is a fatal fall, the water will feel as strong as concrete when I hit it. But, once again, I ignored that forgotten part of me. I couldn't see anything as I flipped and tumbled down the cliffs. I could hear the din of the waves as I flew towards them. Within seconds I slammed into the water, I could feel bones break and yield. My breath was forced out of my chest in a massive blow, and my vision darkened at the edges as I began to sink. I could feel myself begin to slip away, but I was calm.

**"And as the voice cooed to me, calling to me, soothing me. I stepped off."**

Through my fading vision, I saw something swimming toward me. Somehow, my broken mind identified them as the voice, but I didn't care. I was so tired and sleepy, and as I slipped away, I saw a flash of dark scales. Followed by fins, and a blurred face, with very sharp teeth.



# SLIGHTLY SAGE

## ADVICE

*Need a witty answer to your problems? Ask Sage at [camdenhillsgazette.com](http://camdenhillsgazette.com)*

Dear Sage,

It's the holiday season, and while I am supposed to be all holly and jolly, I believe the education system wants me dead. I have five tests, three papers, and a presentation to do in the next week. So I ask: how I am supposed to be holly and jolly when someone is clearly out to get me?

Help,

'Bout to be Murdered Molly

Dear 'Bout to be Murdered Molly,

There is no cure. Just put on a Santa hat, drink some eggnog, shut up, and do your work.

Welcome to highschool,  
Sage

Dear Sage,

WHY THE HECK IS IT PITCH BLACK OUT AT 4 IN THE BLOODY AFTERNOON? I HAVE THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO BE, AND WHAT AM I DOING?!! TAKING A NAP! HOW DO I STOP FALLING ASLEEP?

THANK YOU,

TIRED TERRY

Dear Tired Terry,

WHY ARE YOU YELLING AT ME? I get it. You're sleep deprived and overworked, but that is not an excuse to be rude. I will still help you, though, because as everyone knows, I am an amazing person. Now, all you have to do is get a giant LED (like the ones that they use on

movie sets) and put it outside your window. What do you get? Instant daylight my dude.

Learn some manners,  
Sage

## ADVERTISE WITH US!

Dear Reader,

Camden Hills Gazette is a student-run free press operating out of Midcoast Maine. This year, CHG partnered with Courier Publications to grow from a small school newspaper into a functioning publication with upwards of thirty-five members.

Your ad will help us continue to create a space for student voice on a much broader platform!

CHG is distributed all across the Midcoast, with special copies sent across the globe to our writers in other states and countries. We guarantee that your advertisement will reach many eyes!

Find out more on our website: [camdenhillsgazette.com](http://camdenhillsgazette.com)

Or contact the head of our sales department, Sam Maltese, at [camdenhillsgazette@gmail.com](mailto:camdenhillsgazette@gmail.com) or (207)701-9967

Sincerely,  
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