

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Writing, Photo, Multimedia Contest

2024

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Writing

WPM 2024

News

Breaking Down the Local Impacts of the Israel and Hamas Conflict

International crisis impacts the local community

Lulu Levy, Cameron Powell, Molly Connelly, Melisa Adetepe | Online Editor-in-Chief, Online Editor at Large, and Staff Writers

Due to the sensitive nature of this conflict, a student chose to remain anonymous. They are labeled "anonymous AUHSD student."

Following the recent escalation of violence in Israel, Palestine, and specifically the Gaza Strip, Acalanes community members reflect and respond to the ongoing conflict.

The region Israel currently occupies has been highly contested throughout history, affecting both Jews and Palestinians in a period of long-standing tension.

Recently, on Oct. 7, thousands of Hamas fighters, a terrorist group, entered areas in southern Israel, killing hundreds of civilians and capturing hostages in the process. The Israeli government formally declared war against Hamas on Oct. 8, setting the stage for an ongoing military operation within the Gaza Strip, a region where nearly two million Palestinians live.

Currently, Israeli officials say that the attacks have killed more than 1,400 Israelis, and injured more than 4,500 people. At least 32 of those killed in Israel are Americans, according to the U.S. State Department. According to the Palestinian Health Authority, the conflict has killed at least 3,400 people in Gaza and injured more than 12,000 civilians.

The conflict has not only prompted a widespread global response among prominent world leaders but has also led to reactions in the Lafayette community.

Local Demonstrations of Support

Large-scale protests have taken place in the Bay Area over the past weeks, supporting 2 | www.acalanesblueprint.com

both Palestinian and Israeli movements. There have been varying responses to the protests as some have incited backlash on social media and created safety concerns.

However, these local protests often offer a platform for community members to spread awareness about the war and show support for the people suffering during this time. Some Acalanes students attended these protests to voice their opinions.

"There was a protest or march for Israel in Walnut Creek a couple weeks ago that I went to and I think that was very inspiring and very powerful," senior Ori Elbaz said.

"The Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP) is one such organization hosting various protests in San Francisco. They are specifically focusing on the equality of Palestinians and working toward a ceasefire.

"We've been working with Palestinian and other community-based organizations to help plan some of the big marches that have been taking place. We participated in a candlelight vigil in San Francisco at Dolores Park that had over 1000 people. The marches have had anywhere from 10,000 to 20,000 people," JVP Bay Area Chapter Council Member Ellen Boitsky said.

Lafayette Community and School Responses

While the war is happening abroad, many community members have direct connections to those suffering in the eastern Mediterranean region.

"Having family in Gaza ... definitely has been hard [because we are] seeing all the news and not being able to communicate with them all the time. It's definitely been a very emotional time both for me and my family," anonymous Acalanes Union High School District (AUHSD) student said.

Students of both Palestinian and Israeli backgrounds share feelings of helplessness and grief for their families and lives lost in the regions.

"I am an Israeli citizen, and both of my parents are from Israel, and so all of my

family lives in Israel. I also have family in the Israeli military who are currently serving and some that [were] called back for the war. For me, it has been really sad to see what is happening to my family and what they have to go through," sophomore Omri Noiman said.

Additionally, the high level of tension around this conflict has resulted in a nationwide increase in antisemitic and Islamophobic actions. According to Time Magazine, the FBI has reported an uptick in threats against Muslim and Jewish groups. Within Lamorinda Jewish communities, individuals also raise concerns about local hate incidents occurring.

"We are seeing a meteoric rise in local incidents of antisemitism in our schools in the area, including swastikas on school grounds and antisemitic language targeted towards Jewish students. This is frightening and we need the support of our larger community to raise their voices and denounce all forms of antisemitism," Walnut Creek Congregation R'nah Tikvah Rabbi Jennie Chabon said.

The Las Lomas principle sent out a school wide email to address the antisemitic graffiti on campus from Oct. 13 and Oct. 20.

"There were two incidents of graffiti that were hate speech at Las Lomas. One was about three weeks ago. There was a small [swastika] carving in a door in the theater ... It was quickly taped over, and the door was replaced before students saw," AUHSD Superintendent John Nickerson said. "The other hate speech was a very faint graffiti on a wall on a rooftop and it said, 'Hider did nothing wrong.' Because it was on the rooftop, it was challenging to see, but you could see it from a second-story building."

These incidents influence how some choose to portray their identity.

"It's hard because I know a lot of people who don't feel safe [expressing their religion]. I think Acalanes has been pretty good about it this time but my parents don't want me wearing clothing with the Star of David on it. I know friends who aren't

Writing

News

FIRST PLACE

Lulu Levy, Cameron Powell, Molly Connelly, Melisa Adetepe, Acalanes High School, Lafayette, California

"This is one hugely difficult topic. But these journalists never wavered. They covered this story top to bottom. It is a thorough, thoughtful piece reported and written fairly and well-balanced. Readers benefit from the knowledge this group of journalists accumulated and shared. Such a well reported and well-written story."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

**Lights, camera, hope:
Kids in the Spotlight
inspires foster youth to
tell their stories**

Kids in the Spotlight gives Los Angeles based foster youth the opportunity to enter the film industry as they write, direct and act in their own films, which, once edited, are shown on the big screen at their annual "Better than the Oscars" awards show.

 By Madison Thacker, Arts/Entertainment Editor

DEC 4, 2023



Writing

News

SECOND PLACE

Madison Thacker, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“What a wonderful bright story about a project to engage children who are in foster situations to be creative and work hands-on toward careers in the film industry. Well-written and reported!”

**JOINING THE FIGHT:
From trainees to
reservists, Shalhevet
alumni suddenly called
to war against Hamas**



By Sophie Katz and Tali Liebenthal

NOVEMBER 22, 2023



Writing

News

THIRD PLACE

*Tali Liebenthal, Sophie Katz, Caroline Kbouti, Shalhevet High School
Los Angeles, California*

“This team of journalists did a thorough and extensive job of reporting on alumni of their high school who who joined Israel’s fight against Hamas. Well-written and balanced. Their work involved a lot of tracking down people and interviewing and then [putting it all together in a highly readable format.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

CIF semifinal game marred by ethnic taunts from both Shalhevet's and visitor's fans

Firehawk girls' loss in hard-fought game eclipsed by rumors, though most in Shalhevet survey saw no racism or antisemitism at all

By Benjamin Gamson, Co-Editor-in-Chief | MARCH 2, 2023



BP Photo by Evan Beller

CROWD: Fans from both schools roared in support of their teams at the girls CIF semifinal game Feb. 18. Above, Buena Park fans filled the northern section of the bleachers as the Firehawks' No. 25 Talia Tibi dribbled away from a Coyote defender.

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

FIRST PLACE

Benjamin Gamson, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“Top notch reporting from a school journalism program that does not pull punches. This story shows the ugly side of racism from more than one side involved. It reaches out to the correct sources and has strong sourcing. The writing is sharp and easy to follow. Good lessons to be learned here about good reporting and also racial stereotyping that can cause real, personal harm.”

Race resolution sunsets after a 5-2 vote

Staff Editorial
December 5, 2023

"With liberty and justice for all." This is the ending of the Pledge of Allegiance, a pledge students at Howell recite every single morning. A pledge thousands of students at schools all over the country can say by heart. A pledge seniors have said since kindergarten, reciting these words thousands of times throughout their 13 years of schooling. And yet, society is still trying to dictate who is included in the term "all."

Nowhere was this made clearer than at the July 20 school board meeting when the board members voted 5-2 that not every student attending district schools should be included in the term "all." The board members held an open meeting to discuss and vote on the sunset of all resolutions made by the prior board. While this would apply to any resolution, one in particular took the spotlight. In 2020, the Resolution In Response to Racism and Discrimination was passed in response to the death of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests occurring around the country, including areas in St. Charles. This resolution states the Francis Howell School District acknowledges the brutalities of racism and will stand firmly against any racist or discriminatory acts in order to create equality for all.

Critics of the resolution argued against its usefulness. At the July 20 meeting, treasurer Jane Puszkas said, "my thought on the policy is, what has it really done? How effective has it been? Show me proof." Although there might not be data on how many people's lives are impacted by such a resolution, it gives all people hope. It is a symbol to show the Howell community cares about standing against racism and making "all" students, faculty, and staff feel welcome. The school board has yet to examine any proof of the Pledge's usefulness, a string of words said everyday by every Howell student. What proof is there that the Pledge increases patriotism? The Pledge, just like the resolution, is a rallying point and a symbol. Symbols can have value, even without data to support them. Unlike the Pledge, which over the course of a school year takes a few hours of time that could otherwise be spent on classroom instruction, the resolution takes no time at all. Like the Pledge, the resolution is a symbol that furthers an important societal goal.

The board attempted to justify its actions by claiming the wording of the resolution made it difficult to enforce. According to CNN, the board stated words like "diversity" and "equality" can mean a variety of different things to people and therefore they should get rid of the resolution entirely. This is simply five members of the board attempting to justify their own predetermined outcome. The whole premise of the resolution was to demonstrate to students, faculty, and staff of minority groups that the Howell community supports them. While not everyone agrees on the precise meanings of "diversity" and "equality," everyone has a general understanding of these terms. This is no different than the Pledge. Not everyone will agree on the precise contours of "justice" and "equality," but everyone has a general understanding. Unsurprisingly, the Board is not seeking to strike the Pledge. The reason why the school board acted against the resolution is because of local politics, not because of poorly defined terms.

This is not to hate on The Pledge, nor say the school board has any power over the reciting of The Pledge. However, The Pledge does not receive the same amount of societal backlash or critique as the resolution has.

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

SECOND PLACE

Staff, Francis Howell High School, St. Charles, Missouri

"So few words, yet this short piece says a lot. It is strongly written editorial that uses a clever twist to turn the tables on those who don't think racism can be addressed effectively by something taught in schools."

Linnentown Lane

October 4, 2023



Hattie Thomas Whitehead, Linnentown first descendant and Athens Justice and Memory Project Co-Chair, speaks at the Linnentown Lane renaming event on Sept. 21. Whitehead and the Athens Justice and Memory Project encountered obstacles in the process of getting the street renamed, but ultimately achieved their initiative. "You can do things. There are obstacles gonna be always in front of you in life. You got to learn how to get around them, or under them, or over them or move them. Push whatever way you can when you get to these obstacles. Don't let no be no. 'Oh, you're telling me no? Really? Well, let me find another way.'" Whitehead said. Photo by Aza Khan

On Sept. 21, an event was held to commemorate the naming of Linnentown Lane.

Writing

DEI-Social Justice

THIRD PLACE

Isabella Westrich, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

"Good reporting produces good writing and this story has both. It has a variety of voices in a story from the broader community about the revival of a disappeared neighborhood. Nice work."

Building MasterPCs: Sophomore Grady Allen, disappointed with expensive and imperfect manufactured PCs, prefers to build the machines with his own hands to have the best performance

By Connor Vogel

Posted November 3, 2023

Clink, clink, thump.

Sophomore Grady Allen grimaced as his 3-millimeter screw bounced between the parts of his Windows 10 that he'd been building for the past two hours. After falling through a hole no wider than his pinky finger, Allen knew from experience that it would take at least another hour to find the screw. Allen stood over his computer with his body almost blocking out the light from his desk lamp. Flashlight and screwdriver in hand, he surgically picked apart the PC lying flat on his desk and emerged an hour later, triumphant with the jelly bean-sized screw between his fingers.

"I mean you're hunched over [the PC] the entire time," Allen said. "You can't see what's in there," Allen said. "I just put my phone flashlight on the side of the case to find the screws if I ever lost them, but that's definitely one of the worst parts."

Not wanting to rely on overpriced and sometimes defective manufactured parts, Allen has spent the last eight years fascinated by how the intricate and complex parts work together putting together his own computers.

He doesn't mind the tedious work — taking apart the machine over and over again — as long as it eventually meets his standards. Even when it means continuing to modify the same computer he's had for the last four years, installing countless replacement parts and making minuscule adjustments just to achieve a faster processing speed.

Writing

Feature

FIRST PLACE

Connor Vogel, Shawnee Mission East High School, Shawnee Mission, Kansas

"A great descriptive lead sets the scene for readers. Transitions are super and there are great quotes."



Writing

Feature

SECOND PLACE

Mackenzi Cox, Brownsboro High School, Brownsboro, Texas

“Readers can visualize what it means to believe and how important that word is to One Act play students. Great quotes help to move the story forward.”

Mini Knights Program Offers Present and Future Knights a Place to Learn



[Amelia Pierce](#)

By [McKenna Hudson](#)

Published: May 24, 2023

A line of cars wraps around the front entrance of FHN. The hallway is empty but is quickly filled by a class of childhood development students. They're there to pick up the 'babies.'

"Oh my goodness, they're just so smart and fun and funny," Sara White said. "They're just such a joy to be around and their excitement when they're coming in or trying something new is palpable."

White has been at North since 2001 and has been the childhood and development teacher for the past 11 years. This is White's second full year running the Mini Knights program, her first year in 2020 was halted by the COVID

Writing

Feature

THIRD PLACE

McKenna Hudson, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

"The writer sets the scene in the opening sentence. Using the time off day to move the story forward makes it easy to follow the events."

Writing

Profile

FIRST PLACE

Lanie Sepehri, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Enjoyed the concept of this anecdotal lead, all the way up through the brilliant idea to have the subject give vivid descriptions photo-by-photo of some of her best and most notable work. It can be tricky to balance a profile with so many layers over so many years, I thought the author did an admirable job. The story has a nice voice that flows throughout, plus so many small touches (‘simply “Ann” to Reichman’ or the story about the Queen) that tie together the reality of all the big names the subject has crossed paths with. You can see the author’s interviewing prowess translate to the page. And the result is a really well-rounded, entertaining, thoughtful profile. Good work.”



Reichman eagerly took the assignment to document the construction of an extension to the Texas Capitol building. Because of her study of art history, she felt that her photos could one day be the archival primary sources for someone's research long into the future. She documented everything from felling of giant oaks trees to clear the site to group shots of politicians standing near the giant hole that would become the extension. The access to the site gave her and her husband Jeff the opportunity to use a tripod to take this photo for the couple's 1990 Christmas card. Photo by Bette Reichman.

The start of something special

Reichman's start in photography born out of defying expectations

The year was 2000. It was the holiday season, an especially hectic time of year for photographers.

Bette Reichman was no novice to this time of year. She'd been photographing weddings, parties and events for about a decade.

Pages From the Past

Campus graduate returns as substitute, talks about childhood during the war

Josh McNeil, Editor • December 12, 2023



Substitute teacher Peter Hartstein has a brand. It starts at his signature blue jeans and red Arkansas Razorback windbreaker although it's his relaxed attitude and infectious smile, which follows him into every classroom, that establishes him as a student favorite. But what students wouldn't guess about the 86-year-old is that he spent the first ten years of his life in war-torn Europe, living under the terror of the Nazi regime.

Hartstein's family history is chronicled in a ten volume book series compiled by his cousins, which covers the family's migration from Germany to the United States in 1928.

Writing

Profile

SECOND PLACE

Josh McNeil, Little Rock Central, Little Rock, Arkansas

“Doesn't every school have that substitute every student is thrilled to see in a classroom on any given day? In this case, that teacher had a gripping, heartbreaking story that the average teenager he instructed knew practically nothing about. Until now. The author does an impressive job of balancing their voice with the subject's, the result is an important look into history, for this school and every other.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

From A to Z

Senior violist inspires, breaks barriers



Photo courtesy of Z Campbell

Campbell plays viola for their senior portrait. This fall, Campbell will attend Oberlin Conservatory where they will study viola. With classes on everything from chamber music to music theory available, Campbell believes that Oberlin will allow them to grow as a musician and person.

Ingrid Smith, co-online managing editor and co-news editor
May 22, 2023

Everyone in orchestra knows: if you're lost during a concert, just watch senior violist Z Campbell. Chances are, the audience is looking in their direction already.

On and off stage, Campbell is unapologetically themselves—a vibrant individual whose vivid self-expression is seen in their appearance and heard through their music. For Campbell, high school has been all about discovering their identity, both as a person and as a musician. From COVID to college applications, viola was Campbell's lifeline. Now, music is their connection to the world.

"When I'm performing, I feel on

Writing

Profile

THIRD PLACE

Ingrid Smith, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

"This story beautifully captures Z. Nice job balancing the story out with plenty of sources to really paint a complete picture. Particularly enjoyed the few grafs early on where you set the orchestra up as a very classical thing, then transitioned to COVID starting and Z becoming the 'real Campbell.' Descriptive, inspiring."

EDITORIAL: Elections – We can do better



Ella Hoentig

VOTE: Except for just minutes before voting, there were no active campaigns for Just Community representatives last October. Above, 10th-graders watched a candidate's video.

By [The Boiling Point Editorial Board](#) • JANUARY 30, 2024

From absolutely no campaigning by any candidates in any grades to voting links that allowed unlimited submissions, there was no aspect of this year's Just Community Representative Elections that went right.

This election seemed doomed from the start when The Fairness Committee announced elections were taking place and gave students only a week's notice to

Writing

Staff Editorial

FIRST PLACE

Tali Liebenthal, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“School election weirdness — clearly detailed, then there are specific ways forward. This editorial addresses a local election, delineates the problems that occurred, then makes specific and reasonable suggestions for changes that can fix the problems. Just an incredibly clear and logical argument that persuades without ‘flinging mud’ or attacking specific individuals. The community should be stronger if this editorial is taken seriously.”

EDITORIAL: When journalism goes wrong

By **The Boiling Point Editorial Board**

MARCH 21, 2023

“Antisemitic Incident Reported at Shalhevet Girls Basketball Game” was the headline attached to an article published by the Jewish Journal, a Los Angeles-based Jewish newspaper with a large website and Instagram following, the day after Shalhevet’s girls basketball fell to Buena Park High

School in the CIF Division 4AA semifinal game. The article, which on the day it was published almost every Shalhevet student had either read or heard about, was spreading misinformation and provoking unjustified rage against the people of Buena Park High School.

The supposed “antisemitic incident,” the story asserts, consisted of reports from two unnamed students about things that supposedly happened at the game. One example that they gave, of a girl feeling threatened when three Buena Park students “approached” her, was blatantly not anti-semitic.

The Boiling Point, using staff observations on the scene along with interviews and an anonymous

student survey, confirmed some but not all of the incidents the Jewish Journal



Writing

Staff Editorial

SECOND PLACE

Tali Liebenthal, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“Strong reporting on specific example of incomplete reporting by a local paper about the school’s basketball game and half-truths. The editorial makes no claim to ‘know the absolute truth,’ but argues compellingly that professional journalists need to do better and that the community may need to take a breath. This one editorial encompasses the very heart of disinformation in the country overall.”

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Letters to the editor are encouraged for publication. "The Tiger Print" reserves the right to edit all submissions for both language and content. Letters should be submitted to Room 518, emailed to thetigerprint@gmail.com or mailed to:

The Tiger Print
Blue Valley High School
6001 W. 159th Street
Overland Park, KS 66065



Proliferating attacks on 1st Amendment freedoms are troubling, need to end

From the newspaper raiding in Marion County, Kansas, to book burnings in Florida, censorship seems to be at an all time high across the country.

Within recent years, strategies similar to those used in the Red Scare in the '50s have cropped up.

During the Red Scare, people like then-senator Joe McCarthy used fear-mongering tactics and public accusations to silence those practicing basic free speech rights.

The term "McCarthyism" has been coined for people with similar practices of what McCarthy once did. It's no secret that similar behavior is coming back to light.

It's things like this that create that sinking feeling in your chest — the human life is short, and with that, so is our memory. You can't help but wonder is history doomed to repeat itself? New fear, new enemies, same tactics.

The Kansas Student Publications Act, which has protected students' freedom of the press since 1992, allows our paper to function.

If one of us took five minutes to drive to Missouri and tried to

be pulled for controversy and the criticism it places upon those in power. We as a publication staff are incredibly lucky to have our voices protected. Kansas is one of 17 to protect the rights of its student journalists.

Acts like this are deeply important to raise voices needing to be heard. Censorship sows hate into the world; the less you allow disparaged communities to speak the more hate enters the world.

In data collected by the FBI's Crime Data Explorer, the number of hate crimes pursued increased by more than 4,000 cases from 2013-2015 to 2019-2021. This is just cases pursued — it doesn't include cases not pursued or not reported.

The more censorship rises, the more hate does, and if we continue down this path, we will see the consequences.

No one who quibbles sensitive topics is your friend. Information is not the enemy, and it is unconstitutional to treat it like it is.

THIS STAFF EDITORIAL REPRESENTS THE OPINION OF THE TIGER PRINT STAFF.

Writing

Staff Editorial

THIRD PLACE

Harris Jones, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas

"Short, simple, mixed with praise for Kansas law and advice about valuing freedom of speech. I appreciate the clarity and concision of the message and the reminder that readers can easily take their rights for granted."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Review: Why Fortnite is an absurdist masterpiece

PUBLISHED ON 01/25/2024

By EMMITT MURPHY



The main title screen for the current season of the game, showing the three newly added game modes, LEGO Fortnite (top right), Rocket Racing (bottom right), and Fortnite Festival (bottom left). (Photo courtesy of Epic Games)

Since their inception in the 1950s, video games have cemented themselves as a cornerstone in modern day society. From the arcades to the home console, video games have become an incredibly popular form of entertainment and leisure for generations, and with each generation, there seems to be a single game that defines it.

Whether it be a game like "Street Fighter II", the title that revolutionized the fighting game genre, inspiring industry giants like "Mortal Kombat" and "Tekken" or "Super Mario 64", which was the pioneer of the 3D era, setting the industry standard seen today, or even the "Halo" series, which streamlined the first-person shooter genre, standardizing practices used in the genre.

While these games have left their mark in the history of the medium, video games have progressed far past what they now have to offer, which raises the question, what is today's generation-defining game? Many games have been brought into this argument, "Minecraft", "Call of Duty" or even "The Last of Us", but one game has really come on top in recent years due to its

Writing

Review

FIRST PLACE

Emmitt Murphy, Citrus Valley High School, Redlands, California

"Great lead that compares each generation of video games since 1950. Comparison continues throughout the review. The author points out the artistic movement of video games and connects it to Fortnite. Super transitions throughout."

Netflix's 'Painkiller' executed adequately, yet remains insightful

Zoe Karibian, Reporter

September 4, 2023

Netflix's new thought-provoking series "Painkiller" explores the harrowing origin and impact of the opioid crisis in the United States. Starring Matthew Broderick as the leading role of pharmaceutical company owner Richard Sackler, the six-episode drama weaves together four interconnected storylines to demonstrate the drug's devastating consequences in American society.

The series is based on the book "Painkiller" by Barry Meier and the New Yorker Magazine article "The Family That Built an Empire of Pain" by Patrick Radden Keefe. "Painkiller" tells the story of the Sackler family, particularly Richard Sackler who owned Purdue Pharma in the 1990s and created the opioid OxyContin.



Image used with permission from Netflix

The Netflix show "Painkiller" received 7.2 million total views following its Aug. 10 premiere, according to Netflix. The show secured the second spot in the streaming platform's top 10 list in the United Kingdom.

Possessing a nearly identical chemical makeup to heroin, OxyContin was an extremely addictive opioid that Purdue Pharma marketed as a safe, extended-release pain reliever in 1996. This deceptive promotion led to widespread prescription, unintentionally turning some patients into "pill mill" doctors, where they were prescribed opioids for non-existent or exaggerated pain, increasing addiction. The drug's innocent appearance as a painkiller also attracted street dealers, expanding the crisis to substance abusers seeking its euphoric high.

The series weaves Richard's story with three other plot lines to explore the drug's development. Edie Flowers, played by Uzo Aduba, is a lawyer determined to put an end to the drug's destruction; Shannon Shaeffer, played by West Duchovny, is a sales representative taken in by the riches and glamor of the drug-dealing business; and, Glen Kryger, played by Taylor Kitsch, is a mechanic who becomes addicted to OxyContin.

Each episode begins with a disclaimer that the series is based on real events, but some elements are fictionalized. A non-actor then shares a true story of a loved one who has been impacted by OxyContin. These stories were incredibly moving and reveal how the drug has impacted millions of users. However, the series isn't suited for lighthearted binge-watching due to its intense and distressing content.

Writing

Review

SECOND PLACE

Zoe Karibian, *The American School in London, London, United Kingdom*

"The opening paragraph sets the scene as the writer points out the success of Barbie and how it sets a precedent for future female-led stories. She compares the success of Barbie with well-known movies about men, and she never uses first person."



Wonka was released in theaters on Dec. 15, 2023, and surprised audiences with its new twist on the well-known character. (Nate Williams)

Two years after its announcement, *Wonka* was released to theaters on Dec. 15 and is expected to be released on Max by March. Initially, the public was confused as there have already been two film interpretations of the Willy Wonka story. But *Wonka* sets itself apart as a prequel to *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (1971), showing the character's development from youth and how he managed to become a successful chocolate businessman.

Many viewers had low expectations for *Wonka*, but those expectations were quickly flipped around as critics praised the film. Indeed, *Wonka* is a near perfect film, from the beautiful soundtrack to the outstanding performance of Timothée Chalamet and the eye-catching set design.

In this film, a young Willy Wonka (played by Chalamet) arrives in England with dreams of having his chocolate tasted and admired. Shortly after he arrives, he meets Mrs. Scrubbit (played by Olivia Colman), an innkeeper who scams Wonka into a lifelong contract working for

Wonka
2023 (PG); 1 hr 56 min:
Fantasy/Musical****
Directed by: Paul King
Screenplay by: Paul King and Simon

Writing

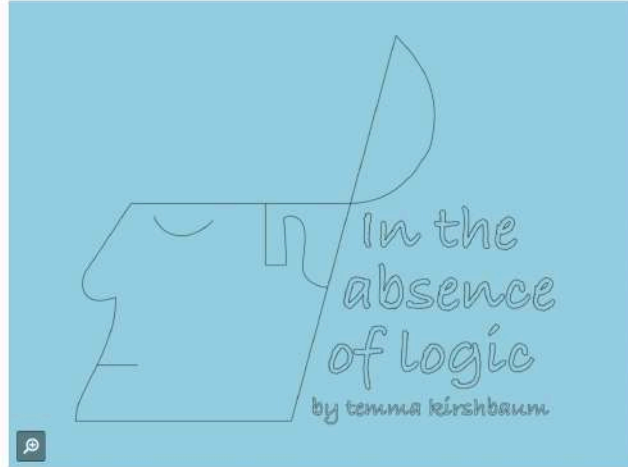
Review

THIRD PLACE

Gaby Esquivel, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The headline ‘Wonka’ delivers a scrumptious surprise is an attention-getter. The writer clearly points out all the surprises in the film. There is great comparison to other Wonka films.”

COLUMN: Sleepless nights and random tears



By **Temma Kirshbaum**, Staff Columnist • OCTOBER 23, 2023

Over the past week, I have found myself struggling to put emotions into words. Trying to find logic in a situation where you cannot rationalize another side and their motives.

Motzei Simchat Torah, like many people I opened my phone to hundreds of messages, rocket alerts and news articles. I had decided to spend the last days of chagim with my sister in Toronto to celebrate her recent engagement and my Bubbie's birthday, then head back to L.A. on Monday. What I had not expected was to be hugging my sister crying together because we did



Writing

Column Writing — Non Sports

FIRST PLACE

Temma Kirshbaum, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“The Gaza conflict with strong personal voice, compelling connections to people affected by the conflict, an emotional core that is essential. Writers can't always find themselves so personally involved in world events, but the success of this commentary lies in the reader being able to sense the emotions the writer is feeling.”

A True Senior Column HOMECOMING

STORY BY KAREEM DADKHAH

I'd like to preface all of this by telling you that things will almost never go the way you plan. However much you think you know about anything, think again.

As it happens, the date is May 1, 2023, and I'll be capped and gowned in green walking across the stage in two weeks just as everyone had planned since 11:21 p.m., December 7, 2004.

I certainly couldn't have foreseen being regarded well enough by my student body to be nominated for homecoming court, to have made such great friends, and producing one of the greatest Patriot newsmags in South history. I'm lucky in that way, to have the privilege of going to a school where people like me can do what I have done. I think stories like mine go unnoticed, and that's why they're reoccurring.

I haven't had the courage to write this story. Reflecting on this time of my life makes my heart race and stomach turn sour, but this is my final chance to say anything to SMS, to say thank you.

For the graduating class of 2023, COVID made our sophomore year really tough, but for me it was junior year that was the worst. Similar to my peers, I did my second year of high school through a computer

screen, but the difference was that I was about a hundred miles away, across the state line. A multitude of factors, COVID being one of them, drew my family and I to move. My 2021 was a blur of Zoom calls, Canvas assignments, farm animals and Republican paraphernalia.

I was sick of all of it. I knew that I couldn't stand another year of simulated education. My only choice was to try the local public school. There would be about thirty kids in my class. I told myself that it'd be charming. I told myself that it was 2022, times were changing, and that if I was quiet enough, "straight" enough, that I'd pass through just as all the rest. Again, things seldom happen as expected.

I hate the word "trauma". I hate to even think of the word in reference to myself, but I truly had never felt traumatized until spending almost a month attending that rural Missouri school.

Before even walking through the school's doors, on an August day, I was scavenging the Dollar General for school supplies. I was approached by a girl buying party supplies who looked my age. We chatted and found out we were in the same grade. We exchanged Snapchats and had the typical "local to newcomer" conversations.

She invited me to a sort of "back to school" party in a corn field (I didn't plan on attending), but later that night told me I "shouldn't



come," implying that I would be beaten up. This made going to my first day of school, four days later, all the more uninviting. These were my peers, and being new made me a magnet for persecution since I didn't have a common name, smaller nose, whiter skin and a mullet.

I didn't sleep. I didn't tell my parents about what had happened—what could they do? Why would I want them to be as scared as I was?

My mom drove me, we looked at each other nervously, I got out of the car and she was gone.

I think the only striking thing I learned during school orientation was that last year the boys didn't get to have a restroom, because someone, still at large, had repeatedly rubbed their feces on the walls.

Lunch was the worst part of the day, since the one "friend" I had made wasn't in first lunch, and there weren't any teachers to keep the peace, my peace.

One day, as I sat there with my earbuds in, looking down at my phone instead of eating, a figure appeared in my peripheral vision.

Writing

Column Writing — Non Sports

SECOND PLACE

Kareem Dadkhah, Shawnee Mission South High School, Overland Park, Kansas

"This column takes some time to 'set up,' recreating senior year highlights before taking readers back to junior year, but the author gives us a compelling story that links at least two national traumas: Covid and homophobia, plus some good old rural vs urban conflict. There's a lot going on, but the heart of this commentary is the recreation of some specific scenes."

More Than Just A Comment: Microaggressions are a big issue and they should be recognized and responded to always, instead of being overlooked and disregarded

By Luciana Mendy

Posted December 4, 2023

I stood in line at the Fairway Hen House, waiting to pay for the can of tomato sauce that my mom needed for dinner when I felt a tap on my shoulder.

"Wow sweetie, your skin is so pretty and exotic."

Turning to face a bubbly middle-aged white woman whom I've never met before, I plastered on a smile and replied with a forced "thank you."

The grin on the woman's face was so genuine that I knew she called me "exotic" as a compliment. But white, blonde, blue-eyed girls aren't the only people in America, there's nothing different, exotic or foreign about my skin color. And being called something that I've only heard used to describe fruit, tropical locations and animals feels dehumanizing.

microaggression

a statement or action that subtly perpetuates discrimination and stereotypes against members of a marginalized groups

Luciana Mendy | The Harbinger Online

Growing up Black in the Kansas City area where 71% of the population is white, according to Data USA, means grappling with microaggressions. Mocking stereotypes, the assumptions I'm not as smart as my white peers and the suspicious stares when entering a store may not seem significant individually but the key about microaggressions is that they add up. They shouldn't be considered the norm due to the impact constant discrimination, no matter how big, has on people of color.

Writing

Column Writing — Non Sports

THIRD PLACE

Luciana Mendy, Shawnee Mission East High School

Shawnee Mission, Kansas

"This commentary builds on a specific moment and explores a Black writer's views on microaggressions in white America. But the writer never strays too far from home. The voice of the writer was reserved in many ways, but the combination of logic, pathos, ethos evident makes this a compelling read."

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

Tell Me, Wy: Coaching Diversity

October 22, 2023



Coaches of a variety of races, ages, and ethnicities are pictured. Although the sporting world has made an effort to become more diverse, these attempts focus on players rather than coaches, a disparity which is incredibly detrimental to athletes at all levels. "Diversity shouldn't just be something that's practiced on the field - to truly do right by the country's athletes, minority coaches need to be given the resources to succeed just as much in the dugout as on the diamond," Lead Copy Editor Wyatt Meyer wrote. Illustration by Sam Harwell

From the high school level all the way to the pros, every level of sports would benefit from increased coaching diversity.

Almost everyone in America knows the story of Jackie Robinson, the inspirational Los Angeles Dodgers second baseman who broke the color barrier for Major League Baseball players in 1947, but who knows the story of Frank Robinson?

Writing

Sports Column

FIRST PLACE

Wyatt Meyer, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

"Wyatt uses the recognition of Jackie Robinson to propel the reader into his column and uses good research from multiple sources to drive the point home. I especially enjoyed the variety of minorities represented in his writing and research, expanding a viewpoint to different ethnicities, genders and ages while tying everything together nicely through his writing."

Mixed martial arts mayhem

Luke Cavallo, Special contributor
February 8, 2023

Months ago, I was introduced to a sport that I had never before come across, one that captured my interest with its simplicity and unique culture.

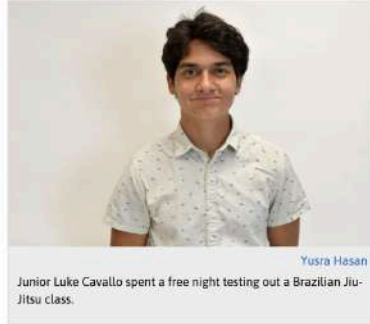
As a long-time casual fan of boxing, it was only a matter of time before I came across mixed martial arts. I paid close attention to MMA in the months leading up to the much-anticipated [Charles Oliveira v. Islam Makhachev fight of UFC 280](#), and in doing so I researched many of former Champion Oliveira's fights on YouTube.

I recall watching with surprise as Oliveira abandoned the traditional striking stance to lie on the ground and wait for his opponent to approach, before tangling him up with his arms and legs.

Whatever Oliveira was doing, it was clearly going well for him. Within seconds he managed to sink in a choke, and his opponent quickly tapped out.

Further research introduced me to the martial art of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, an art of which Oliveira happens to be a master. I was instantly hooked, and I quickly immersed myself in the vast world of [Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu](#), discovering various forms of the sport, legendary figures, and a seemingly endless catalog of positions and techniques.

After an educational period as a third-party observer, I decided that it was time to experience Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu in person. I began to research local martial arts gyms. Immediately, I found one only minutes from my home, and better yet, they offered a free trial class.



Junior Luke Cavallo spent a free night testing out a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class.

“I was shocked by how quickly and painlessly I felt myself losing consciousness. Mere seconds in the choke had me tapping out, as my vision began to fade, and I felt pressure in my head and neck.

After a brief correspondence with the gym, I set a date to try out a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu class, and because it was also offered, a free kickboxing class directly beforehand. I persuaded a friend of mine to join me for the classes, which would be on a Friday night.

As the date approached, I watched YouTube videos on proper behavior and respect in the gym, nervous but excited to experience something completely new. My friend and I arrived at the gym for the kickboxing class just before 6 p.m. After a fun and

Writing

Sports Column

SECOND PLACE

Luke Cavallo, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“Luke does a good job taking the reader on his journey into mixed martial arts fandom, describing in great detail both what he saw in televised fights and what he experienced in his first class. The story was well-written throughout and flowed nicely through the timeline of his fandom.”

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Goals of women's soccer transcend the final score

Don't jump off the bandwagon just because of one bad tournament

Story by Lee Monistere
Photo by Katie Czelusta

I have sported a U.S. Women's National Team soccer jersey since I was eight. Playing club soccer, my love for the program grew alongside my love for the sport. My family followed the team around the country, collecting black signatures that slowly covered my red, white and blue jersey. I knew the team's roster better than I knew my multiplication tables.

In 2015, my family gathered every night to watch the FIFA Women's World Cup. I watched the USWNT assert its dominance with every game, culminating in a 5-2 revenge victory over Japan, the team that had beaten them in the prior World Cup Final. They slaughtered their competitors in the 2019 World Cup, picking off elite competition game by game, the U.S. advanced to the final against the Netherlands and beat them 2-0.

The team used the influence it gained from its glory to raise awareness for inequity in women's sports. In 2016, a year after its third World Cup victory, five players demanded compensation equal to the men's team. Following its fourth World Cup title, the USWNT sued the U.S. Soccer Federation for gender discrimination, arguing that its players served the same role as their male counterparts while significantly outperforming them in their respective competition. After a six year legal battle, the U.S. Soccer Federation promised to equalize pay, improve working conditions and standardize bonuses for all games.

Surprisingly, the 2023 World Cup team barely advanced from the group stage before getting eliminated by Sweden in the Round of 16 on penalty kicks. It was the worst finish in program history, dashing all hopes for a three-peat.

Watching the team play this summer disappointed me. I felt hurt as I witnessed the team I had cheered on and stood by for almost a decade struggling to tie teams it had destroyed in previous years.

Critics argued that USWNT Coach Vlatko Andonovski's attempts to blend

the older players' styles with the younger players' technique hindered the team's success. The starting lineup's age gap affected team chemistry. The players lacked their trademark intensity. Others argued that they lost sight of playing for a cause bigger than themselves. One loser on TikTok even claimed that because they did not meet fans' expectations for this World Cup, they were the "biggest frauds in America."

The critics will insult the team and its players whether they win or lose, ignoring the big picture when they evaluate a team's achievements. But one tournament should never define the overall success of a program.

I realized that it was unfair of me to judge the whole team based on its performance this year. I grew up watching and cheering for those players, and I am ready to support them as they figure out their issues.

As much as we like to pretend winning is the most important thing a team can do for its fans, it is not. The best teams are the ones that work hard to advocate for their fans and use their platform to promote worthwhile causes. In some cases, winning can destroy a soccer program – just look at Spain, the 2013 Women's World Cup champions; after their victory, the president of the Spanish soccer federation assaulted a player, and the entire team threatened to quit.

We hold athletes to unfair standards. We love the surge of pride we get when they represent us as champions, but we turn on them the moment their performance falters. It is an impossible balancing act. It is better to stick with your team through its highs and lows than to hop on the bandwagon the moment the program reaches a winning streak.

Even though I no longer play club soccer, the USWNT still matters to me. Watching them play when I was a child inspired me on the field. As I watch the USWNT eight years later, I know that their impact goes beyond a final score.



Lee Monistere

Writing

Sports Column

THIRD PLACE

Lee Monistere, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

"Lee connects with the reader early, beginning her column with a personal anecdote about the USWNT. Throughout the piece, she ties her fandom in nicely with the recent struggles of the team, writing impartially by tying in different research points about the USWNT's impact off the field."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Individual Writing

FIRST PLACE

Annie Jones, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

“Wow! Depth, packaging, design, local angles — important topic. What put this entry over-the-top for me was the insightful and compelling reporting on young women facing eating disorder challenges. The story combined the very best in interviewing and compassion, while providing a wealth of solid facts.”

THE ONLY THING I COULD CONTROL: To combat stress and insecurity, teens turn to disordered eating. But it soon spirals out of control.



From the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical School

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ONE SIZE FITS ONE

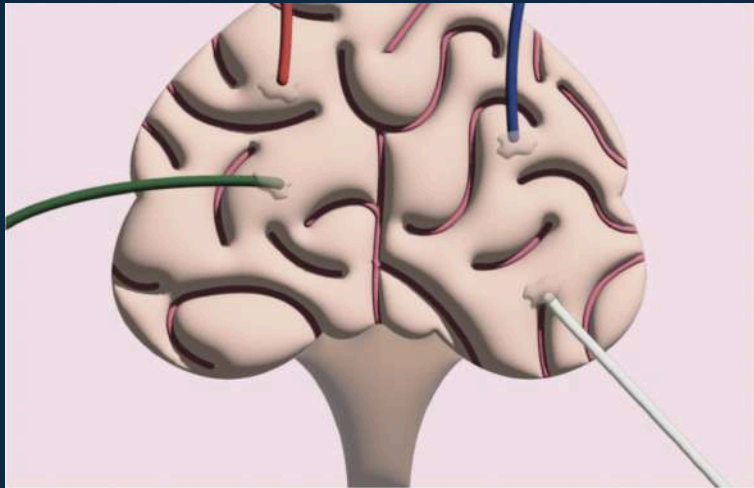
THRIVING IN ISOLATION

EVERY HOUR, EVERY DAY

LIFE BEYOND THE DISORDER

40% of diagnosed patients receive treatment

TIED TO THE NUMBERS



WIRED: Groundbreaking convenience or the end of writing? Whatever it is, ChatGPT adds shortcuts to schoolwork.

Chatbot or cheatbot? Students and teachers are finding ways to use, or not use, ChatGPT

By **Joshua Gamson**, Community Editor

JUNE 1, 2023

A **Boiling Point** survey on ChatGPT found that as of April, just five months after it was introduced, 61% of Shalhevet students responding had used it, and 21% had either turned in classwork generated by the AI program or used it in some way to cheat.

At the time, which was just after Pesach break, 49 students answered the survey on Google forms, and of

Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Individual Writing

SECOND PLACE

Joshua Gamson, Shalhevet High School

Los Angeles, California

“ChatGPT in depth with nice infographs and great depth, local sourcing. The story picked up speed as it went along and kept my interest throughout. The reporting took the challenge of ChatGPT, etc., made it personal and campus-focused.”



Protestors sit on the front steps of the Texas state Capitol at a rally organized by the Austin Ukrainian community. According to Darya Ledesma, co-founder of the nonprofit AHEAD Ukraine, Austin Ukrainians are often joined by Americans at the rallies. "I'm right there on the streets in front of the Capitol," Ledesma said. "We have cars honking, we have people who come up and express their support. I think we have the same support as we did a year ago." Photo courtesy of Kate Vitvina.

The more things change, the more they stay the same

When Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine first began, Americans across the political aisle were united in lending support to Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, America has given over \$25 billion in humanitarian, financial and military support. After the war has stretched on for a year and a half and shows no signs of ending soon, however, things have changed.

There have been calls — most notably by Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy — to decrease or stop aid to Ukraine altogether. Media outlets, which used to regularly cover the Austin Ukrainian community's rallies outside the state Capitol, rarely come anymore. In fact, according to Darya Ledesma, a prominent member of the Austin Ukrainian community who immigrated to the U.S. in 2011, the last time a news outlet covered their rallies was in February, at the gathering marking the first anniversary of the war.

But though American attitudes about the war have changed, one thing has not: the Austin

Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Individual Writing

THIRD PLACE

Lanie Sepehri, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

"Ukraine... terrific use of the online platform, with great images and strong interviewing and writing. The photos added so much emotion and personalization to the writing and the story itself never shied away from the emotional nature of the invasion and its continuing horrors. I came away better informed."

AI ADVOCATE



In a constantly advancing world of artificial intelligence and text-generating programs like ChatGPT, it can be difficult to know what the technology we're using really is. Technology Integration Specialist **Keil Pittman** has taken on the role of optimistic advocacy for the use of AI at Blue Valley.

"I think ChatGPT is an amazing resource," Pittman said. "I am looking at it more like I would look at a calculator or the internet when it first came out. As an ELA teacher, my knee-jerk reaction is always going to be, 'Oh, this is where we aren't going to teach writing anymore.' Because do we need to know how to write if it's just going to? I think the answer is yes, but being a technology-ELA guy, I've used spellcheck for a long time and I don't let spellcheck do everything. But if it underlines something I investigate it, and I make that decision."

By looking more into the way ChatGPT works, and how it responds to his prompts, Pittman discovered more than he expected.

"It's so much more well-rounded than I thought; it handles sports questions just as easily as it handles in-depth ELA research topic prompts — I'm just amazed at how much thought and content it generates," he said. "It's not always awesome, and it's not always accurate, but it can give us a lot of content to consider."

New AI technology has expanded beyond just text generation into image generation as well.

"We recently this year purchased a Canva subscription for the entire district. Well, Canva now has an AI text-to-image feature. For my job working with websites, it's far better for me," Pittman said. "Since we've had Canva, I've had more luck creating my own images, so I'm not out there trolling for images that are not mine that we're going to use for Blue Valley purposes. That's the plagiarism piece and the copyright issues. I can save time by just typing in a little bit, and I'm not an artist, but it will render something usable, and that's pretty cool."

One of the main concerns teachers and administrators might have is the difficulty of catching students using AI to write their assignments for them.

"If you copy and paste from a website, we put it

into TurnItIn.com, it's going to say 'Hey, he got that from this website,'" he said. "This doesn't do that. This has preloaded information and it is literally thinking for itself, which is why it's hard to nab because it doesn't point to any one website."

Pittman believes AI shouldn't be a shortcut for students but a tool instead.

"I look at it just like a paper: If a kid did it and said, 'This is mine, and I created it and turned it in for a grade,' I don't like the ethics of that. If you said, 'I was really struggling with the idea of how to get started so I utilized a technology,' there are very practical reasons for its use, and it is amazing technology."

As a teacher, Pittman feels it's important to understand the motivation of a student who uses AI as a shortcut for assignments as opposed to doing it for themselves.

"Is it you just don't have time? Or you've got so much pressure from your parents to make a grade that you're willing to sacrifice the understanding of how to do something for yourself for that grade," he said. "Ultimately, most of us like the feeling of knowing how to do things for ourselves. There's great power in our knowledge, and when we rely on technology to just do it for us, that's not the understanding I think we're ultimately after."



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team Writing

FIRST PLACE

Isaac Hudson, Harris Jones, Katie Kennedy, Andrew Sharber, Charley Thomas, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas

"Given the large amount of coverage ChatGPT and AI received in the media over the year, this team found new ways to cover the technology that included hyper-local sources at their own school and citations from international experts. Both proponents of the technology and those who are more wary of its use were given a voice — what a well-balanced approach! The GPT-written article at the end was an interesting twist, which can help illustrate for readers who haven't yet used AI to experience what it's capable of."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team Writing

SECOND PLACE

Tali Liebenthal, Sophie Katz, Caroline Kboudi, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“The writers took on the difficult task of covering the Israel-Gaza war by gathering first-hand anecdotes from those who are on the ground and have been called to fight. The emotional interviews/quotes paint a picture of the subjects' reactions informing the readers more of recent events from a unique perspective. The fact that those interviewed have connections to the writers' school and local families make the piece more poignant. Though it is usually undesirable to have anonymous sources, it is understandable in this case given the circumstances.”

Oct. 20, 2023

news

Central Texas wildfire risk increases due to high heat

Firefighters, environmentalists urge individuals, lawmakers to take action

Mira Patel
staff reporter

Texas has seen its fair share of extreme weather: droughts, tornadoes and even ice storms. Now one more can be added to the list: a growing risk of severe wildfires.

“The fire hazard is still with us. Fires are easy to start, and very difficult to contain.”

—Firefighter Leon Hudson

Brought on by this summer's persistent heat and low precipitation, firefighters, environmentalists and even lawmakers are urging individuals, lawmakers and the public to take action to reduce wildfire risk.

Firefighter Leon Hudson, director of the I-35 Fire Academy, is an expert in wildfire management. According to Hudson, Texas wildfires aren't unprecedented, but recent environmental factors are cause for increased concern.

“Texas has always dealt with wild-land fire risk,” Hudson said. “The past several years have increased the hazard.” The two most important factors contributing to wild-land fires are Texas’ long, scorching hot months coupled with little to no rain.

“The [combination] causes vegetation to dry out and damages infrastructure, which leads to power lines breaking and roads becoming dangerous due to debris on, resulting in automobile accidents, driving vehicles onto fields of tall grass, etc.,” Hudson said. “Just add wind, and it’s the perfect storm.”

A fire’s danger level is largely determined by the speed at which it’s able to grow. “The fire spreads rapidly, consuming the fuel that was created by the extreme heat and lack of rain,” Hudson said. “Once a fire starts, it requires resources the homeowner doesn’t have to contain it and extinguish it.”

Human activity is responsible

for the vast majority of wildfires — nearly 90%, according to the Western Fire Chiefs Association.

“This activity includes direct causes such as malfunctioning equipment, burning brush during burn bans, fireworks and abandoned campfires,” Hudson said. “The indirect activity includes power

lines, building in remote areas and allowing vegetation to grow unattended.” AP Environmental Science teacher Haobe Bobbi Graham explained how urban sprawl also contributes to wildfire risk.

“We can see this happening here in Austin as we build houses east of us, as we build houses and apartments west of us and as we built additional roads and parking lots,” Bobbi-Graham said. “It’s created more areas where we don’t have crooks running like they used to. We are starting to see the



environmental effects of Austin’s economic development.” Gov. Greg Abbott issued a wildfire disaster declaration for three-fourths of all Texas counties on Aug. 14. Since Aug. 1, at least 85,000 acres of Texas land have burned, according to a report by the Texas A&M Forest Service.

Fin Kinosh, McCallum Environmental Knights vice president, works to raise awareness about important environmental issues facing the local community, including how to reduce wildfire risk.

“One of the things we can do is be aware of our surroundings, like being careful about throwing cigarette butts out,” Kinosh said. “We also need to be aware of burn bans.”

Hudson suggests collecting and safely disposing of dead vegetation.

“Trimming the trees around our homes and buildings creates defensible space in the event a fire does break out,” Hudson said. “Trimming trees away from power lines helps prevent surging power lines being knocked down from wind.”

Even as the Texas heat begins to let up, Hudson believes vigilance is still crucial in preventing fires. “Although the temperatures are tolerable, the dry conditions still exist,” Hudson said. “The fire hazard is still with us. Fires are easy to start, and very difficult to contain.”



Graphic by Mira Patel

news 03

Writing

In-Depth Reporting/Team Writing

THIRD PLACE

Mira Patel, Maya Tackett, Alice Scott, Ingrid Smith, Francie Wilhelm, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The team coverage highlights climate change from both a local perspective (the school that lost air conditioning, the athletes who must be wary of training in triple-digit temperatures) as well as the state as a whole. Nice job of picking less-obvious topics. The mixture of reporting and editorial opinion at the end is well delineated. (The piece was also prophetic. Wildfires raged across the Texas panhandle on the day I read this).”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Mac athletes adjust to practice, game guidelines amid Texas heatwave

AISD protocols focused on student safety, wellbeing

Maya Tackett, staff reporter

September 22, 2023



Alice Scott

Football players listen to head coach Thomas Gammerdinger while hydrating throughout a break during the Taco Shack Bowl on Aug. 24.

Sweat dripped down the side of freshman Hugo Smith's face. He felt the football field turf burning into his feet. It was 106 degrees Fahrenheit outside, but to him, the ground felt at least 30 degrees hotter. Then, he started to feel dizzy and found

Writing

Sports Feature

FIRST PLACE

Maya Tackett, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

"Maya does a good job combining research with personal experience from both school officials and athletes to address the problem of rising temperatures on team practices. Accounts from sources add added value to the story, the transitions between quotes and sources provide additional information helpful to the reader. Great writing and reporting!"

GET YOUR NAME IN THE GAME

Article by David Hull

Graphic by Caden Liu and photos by Jackson Napier

For decades, college athletes have been significant contributors to a \$15 billion industry, benefiting college athletic programs, broadcasting networks and the NCAA. Until recently, college athletes were prohibited from profiting from any athletic endeavors despite generating revenue for others.

On July 1, 2021, following years of controversy surrounding athletic compensation, the NCAA altered its regulations, enabling student-athletes to profit from their name, image and likeness (NIL).

One year after this change, athletes have received an estimated \$917 million through NIL deals, and the NIL market is now valued at over \$1 billion annually.

"I think when name, image and likeness first came around it completely opened a door for athletes and it was a great opportunity," Athletic Director Collin Sullivan said.

To attract NIL deals, college athletes often partner with local businesses, restaurants or donor-driven organizations called collectives. Collectives use donor funds to create opportunities for athletes to make money. Despite only being a part of about 20 percent of NIL activities, collectives account for nearly 80 percent of athletes' compensation.

According to OpenDorse, the leading athletic marketplace for NIL, the average NIL deal for Division I athletes is worth \$1,300 while the median compensation is only \$65. The majority of athletes, especially those at non-power five schools, receive less than the average compensation of an NIL deal, so there is great inequ-

ty between higher-profile athletes and less-known ones.

Trinity alum and current USF offensive lineman Cole Best has received five NIL deals from local businesses and collectives. Over his career, Best has profited more than \$10,000 from deals with businesses including Hooters, Portillo's and the Fowler Ave Collective. Best has played against some of the top-ranked schools in the nation and recognizes that high-performing athletes deserve a higher compensation because of their appeal to both businesses and fans.

"I think everyone should have an opportunity to make something but better performance is going to pay more because it's a performance-based industry," Best said.

While performance is directly correlated to NIL earnings, social media plays a role as well.

Livvy Dunne, the highest paid female college athlete in the nation, earns almost \$3.5 million annually. Although Dunne is an excellent gymnast at one of the top programs in the nation, her fame and popularity is mostly attributed to her social media presence. In a similar sense, Bronny James utilizes the James' family name to strengthen his presence on social media. Despite barely cracking the top 20 players in his class, James earns \$6.2 million annually, making him the highest paid college athlete in the nation.

Over the past two years, trouble regulating collectives' power and extensive deals have caused doubts about the future of NILs in collegiate sports. Despite profiting from NIL, Best thinks that new guidelines are necessary to limit its effect on sports.

"It's getting a little out of hand," Best said. "I think there needs to be statutes and limitations to it."

The main critique of the current system argues that wealthy donors have a significant impact on college athletics by offering substantial benefits and perks to athletes, attracting high-level recruits to schools they wouldn't otherwise choose. For The Win 360, a collective partnered with the University of Utah, recently leased \$5 Ram trucks to all scholarship athletes on the Utes' football team. Donors in charge of the collective agreed to cover the trucks' leases as long as athletes remain on scholarship and are eligible to play. Junior baseball player and University of Virginia commit Aiden Stillman witnessed the



Writing

Sports Feature

SECOND PLACE

David Hull, Trinity Prep, Winter Park, Florida

"David does a good job painting a full picture of the NIL college industry, outlining both the positives and the discrepancies between value of high-performing athletes at Power 5 schools vs. sports that might not be revenue-generators. He uses multiple different sources on both sides of the issue and uses transition paragraphs to add his research. Great job!"

Vander-built from the ground up

Senior outside hitter Reese Armstrong will be in the first recruiting class of the Vandy volleyball team.

Story by Ann Deavel Leo Hernandez
Photos by Brandon Wilson
Design by Willow Zorn

Months later the volleyball recruiting season, senior outside hitter Reese Armstrong will be in the first recruiting class of the Vandy volleyball team.

"I was struggling with the decision between two schools, but once Vanderbilt came into the scene," Armstrong said, "I really wasn't opposed to attending there, but I just wasn't there."

This sign of faith will make her one of the first athletes to commit to Vanderbilt's reformed Division III College Athletic Association volleyball program.

"Vanderbilt had a great coach and all the players in the school, but what drew me to it was the coach," Armstrong said.

Just like other Vanderbilt volleyball fans, the coach is the reason she committed to the school, Armstrong said.

Before he was the Vanderbilt Head Coach, Johnson had led the team at other schools and he is known for personal skills coaching in Kentucky.

"We are really looking for competitive athletes, the competitive ones who are willing to handle a new team, give and progress," Aiken said.

Armstrong's playing style is what other fans would say is striking. The volleyball coaching staff wanted three main things to recruit in from the recruiting class. Each player was carefully selected based on their personality, skill and teamwork in their club level with.

Armstrong and her six teammates will spend their first year training at Vanderbilt while the program builds the ground up. The following year, six more girls will join the team, which will compete in the Southeastern Division one. Vanderbilt offered Armstrong the option of playing for an elite team to make it for the year of training.

"I'm going to live here a year and make it for my first year," Armstrong said. "Some things I haven't actually done, like dance."

For the first members, it's going to be a challenge to adjust to college life. Although the girls, her and all the recruits of her school's academic rigor.

"I know I wanted to go to a high academic institution, so I need to find the recruiting process. I

will have to improve that in my recruiting," Armstrong said.

Armstrong has followed in her footsteps and joined the campus in Kentucky, where she had in line with the program and the people.



GET TO: REESE ARMSTRONG, A COLLEGE AND VANDERBILT VOLLEYBALL TEAM.

the match with the other's direction and coaching with her general focus at Vanderbilt.

"Even though you're away from home, it's not that bad because there are 700 people, so you feel like you're not in the middle of nowhere," Armstrong said. "It's a hard one to be excited."

Armstrong's first experience is that she should be ready for the match. Part of her job is to be ready to be excited.

"I'm excited to be here because of the excitement, the team and, most importantly, the fans."

"The reason she is really not recruiting everyone is that because it's a huge risk," Armstrong said. "But the benefit of being able to have a larger and getting to be there is not so bad."

THE SEASON SO FAR

The season has not started yet. Armstrong is already expected to be a starter in volleyball. She is a committed recruit.

"She has a lot of skills and experience, which is what we need for such a strong volleyball player," said the coach. "She will be a great asset to the team and one of our best."

Aiken said that Armstrong has experienced a variety of team dynamics and the things that make up a team are not in terms of team dynamics.

"I want to be a part of a team that is not just a team, but a team that can win what she has to do," Armstrong said.

Armstrong's first experience is that she should be ready for the match. Part of her job is to be ready to be excited.

"I'm excited to be here because of the excitement, the team and, most importantly, the fans."

"The reason she is really not recruiting everyone is that because it's a huge risk," Armstrong said.

"I'm excited to be here because of the excitement, the team and, most importantly, the fans."

"The reason she is really not recruiting everyone is that because it's a huge risk," Armstrong said.

VANDERBILT VOLLEYBALL HISTORY BY THE NUMBERS

1878-1990
Ward 23 '96 before disbanding

FALL 2025
As one of 17 Division III sports, the Commodores will play in the Southeastern Conference (SEC)

6
Players in the first recruiting class, including Reese Armstrong, BUS Captain

Graphic by Emily Van

Writing Sports Feature

THIRD PLACE

Lee Monistere, Aien Du, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

"Lee and Aien did a good job intertwining Reese's relationship with school and volleyball, Vanderbilt's history and resurgence in NCAA volleyball. They used good sources and reporting to give the reader the full story, write in an interesting way to capture the reader's attention. Well done!"

CIF semifinal game marred by ethnic taunts from both Shalhevet's and visitor's fans

Firehawk girls' loss in hard-fought game eclipsed by rumors, though most in Shalhevet survey saw no racism or antisemitism at all

By Benjamin Gamson, Co-Editor-in-Chief | MARCH 2, 2023



SP Photo by Evan Beller

CROWD: Fans from both schools roared in support of their teams at the girls CIF semifinal game Feb. 18. Above, Buena Park fans filled the northern section of the bleachers as the Firehawks' No. 25 Talia Tibi dribbled away from a Coyote defender.

When the Shalhevet girls basketball team lost to the Buena Park Coyotes Feb. 18 in the Shalhevet gym, the drama didn't end with the final buzzer. Instead, reports of anti-semitic and

Writing

Sports Game/Event

FIRST PLACE

Benjamin Gamson, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

"Impressive reporting that serves as an important reminder—covering a game isn't limited to just what happens on the court. This story is well sourced (plus does a nice job of explaining how information was acquired) and vividly descriptive in its retelling of the unfortunate events that distracted from what was supposed to be an entertaining basketball game. Really nice job of digging into a story important to the school and community. Nicely done."

Emma Yeager takes the cake with new scoring record



Gallery · 10 Photos

Maya Ortiz

Senior Emma Yeager got past a defender and the goalkeeper to score in the second half of a 5-0 victory against Lufkin on Feb. 14. The goal was the 108th of her career and her second one in the game. She surpassed the all-time scoring record, which was previously 106.

Maya Ortiz, Editor-in-Chief

February 15, 2023

When senior Emma Yeager saw the bright green soccer field cake sitting on her kitchen table, she immediately turned to her mom Tuesday afternoon.

"It's going to be real awkward if I don't score tonight," Emma told her mom, Kim Yeager. "What are we doing with it?"

Her mom had a ready answer although it was clear she had confidence in Emma's ability to break a tie atop the girls soccer team's all-time scoring list.

"I guess we freeze it," Kim responded with a laugh.

Emma validated her mom's confidence.



Writing

Sports Game/Event

SECOND PLACE

Maya Ortiz, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

"Great anecdotal lede that takes readers behind the scenes and provides a human moment in what could have been a story full of just Xs and Os, followed by important context and detail of a record-breaking kick."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Boys earn return trip to State Championships

Grace Darcy, Sports Editor

October 25, 2023



Arlieigh Doehring

Senior Clay White sprints to the finish at the district cross country meet at Atascocita High School. White finished in 11th place to help lift the team to a second-place finish.

Throughout the entirety of the Regional Meet on Oct. 23, boys cross country coach Chris Elliott was constantly refreshing his phone, alongside parents of his runners. They were waiting for the final point tally to be posted.

The boys had just competed at Lynn Creek Park in Grand Prairie with a trip to the State Championships on the line.

Writing

Sports Game/Event

THIRD PLACE

Grace Darcy, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“The lead really captures the moment’s importance in a unique way and shows the depth of this story’s reporting. Good balance of necessary facts and insights from athletes.”

2024 Election: Don't worry, it's next year

Ian Reno, managing editor

November 11, 2023

Opinions



Natalie Hosto

The 2024 election is in about a year, and the top candidates are once again President Joe Biden and Former President Donald Trump.

*Opinions

We haven't even reached the quadrennial event of corn dog inhalation that is the Iowa caucus, and we already know who our candidates for president will be. A corpse who his own party doesn't want and spray tan in human form. They still have beef from when one of them tried to overturn a fair election. Prepare yourself for a rematch of epic proportions: President Joe Biden vs former President Donald Trump.

When I say we know the candidates, I'm not being completely accurate. Neither has

Writing

Political

FIRST PLACE

Ian Reno, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri

"I like the writing by Ian in this piece. It shows personality, statements defended by facts and gets to a message of younger adults needing to participate and vote. I do believe some of the sarcasm might seem over the top and could be toned down, but I like the delivery."



Writing

Political

SECOND PLACE

Sierra Pape, Diana Jachman, Molly Thompson, Connie Erdozain, Midtown High School, Atlanta, Georgia

“This was quite extensive. It was really intriguing to read the coverage of a national event seen through the eyes of the local community and school. There were so many voices! And an extensive explanation of the topic.”

New election held for JC grade-level reps after problems with ballots and tally

'Human error' on form let students vote twice for Just Community positions



Ella Hoinig

SPEECH: Eliana Vahedifar, one of two newly elected sophomore representatives to the Fairness Committee, gave her election speech in Room 305 Oct. 24. This year's campaign had mostly speeches and no signs or flyers.

By **Martzi Hirsch**, Community Editor • NOVEMBER 27, 2023

Writing

Political

THIRD PLACE

Martzi Hirsch, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“This is a very interesting topic. Martzi provided a good explanation of the issues, though it was a bit too detailed on the voting failure without yet knowing what the vote was for until late in the article.”

Staying relentless

Cancer doesn't stop Eric Covert from coaching or teaching.

Maya Ortiz, Editor-in-Chief · October 22, 2023



Maya Ortiz

Coach Eric Covert talks to players on the sidelines of the homecoming football game on Sept. 8 at Turner Stadium. The football players were the first students he told. Many of them he had coached for three years. "Seeing tears in their eyes after I told them [was hard]," Covert said. "But then afterwards every single one of them came over and gave me a hug. And I was crying by the end."

Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

FIRST PLACE

Maya Ortiz, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

"Maya's heartwarming story of teacher-coach Eric Covert's cancer journey hooked me from the opening paragraph. Kudos to Maya for her talented telling of a difficult story using powerful quotes and not letting the story get bogged down in medical jargon."

Hiding in plain sight: the daily threat of forever chemicals

BY TISHA L. LINDSAY
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY

If you're eating or drinking anything you've probably drunk or eaten something that contains forever chemicals. These are synthetic chemicals that don't break down naturally in the environment. They're called PFAS, or per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances. They're used in a wide range of consumer products, from non-stick cookware to fire-fighting gear.

The most common PFAS is a group of chemicals called perfluorinated compounds. They're used in a wide range of consumer products, from non-stick cookware to fire-fighting gear. They're also used in many industrial and commercial products, such as water-repellent clothing and stain-resistant carpets.

"We're kind of living a big experiment on ourselves if we put all this stuff in our food-chain and then wonder what its doing to us or doing to others."

—Dr. Robert M. Waymouth, Director of Environmental Science, University of California, Berkeley

PFAS have been found in the environment. They've been found in water, soil, and air. They've also been found in people's blood and breast milk. This is because PFAS are so persistent in the environment that they can travel long distances and stay in the environment for a long time.

They can also travel through the food chain. For example, they've been found in fish, meat, and dairy products. This is because PFAS are so persistent in the environment that they can travel long distances and stay in the environment for a long time.

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How is this happening?
PFAS are used in a wide range of consumer products, from non-stick cookware to fire-fighting gear. They're also used in many industrial and commercial products, such as water-repellent clothing and stain-resistant carpets.

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Even heating up food that's wrapped in plastic or getting reusable packaging will transfer PFAS into your food.

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Limiting your exposure
The best way to limit your exposure to PFAS is to avoid using products that contain them. This includes non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, and stain-resistant carpets.

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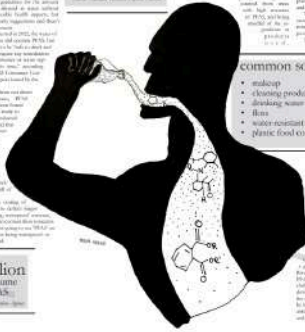
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Common sources

- makeup
- cleaning products
- drinking water
- fish
- water resistant fabrics
- plastic food containers

70 - 90 million Americans consume water with PFAS.

—Environmental Protection Agency

Writing Health, Science and Agriculture SECOND PLACE

Teagan O'Connor, Maine West High School, Des Plaines, Illinois

"Teagan uses an excellent variety of sources — including science teachers, government agencies, research universities, a student in the environmental club — to clearly explain challenges with PFAS and offer solutions to limit exposure. Good job making a complex topic easy to understand."

Best of SNO

FUELING UP

Coaches, students monitor athlete nutrition

Aubrey Lacavich and David Moss

November 3, 2023

Food ranking by protein per cup

1. Chicken (38g)
2. Almonds (30.4g)
3. Meatballs (30g)
4. Wild Rice (24g)

Melissa Burger, head cross country and girls track coach, said young people should treat themselves like they would treat a Bagatti.

"Number one, you need to value your body," Burger said. "Number two, you should be taking care of it, and number three, you should be fueling it."

Burger said focusing on nutrition and making good food.

Writing

Health, Science and Agriculture

THIRD PLACE

David Moss, Aubrey Lacavich, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

"You don't need to be a star athlete to appreciate the pearls of wisdom offered by coaches and student athletes on nutrition. Great topic, nice use of sources."

THE WORLD IS ON FIRE

As the Earth heats up, communities across the nation endure fires, air pollution and extreme heat. And it's only getting worse.



MAUL, MI

Local firefighters in Maul, Michigan, are battling a fire that has spread to a nearby residential area. The fire is believed to have started in a shed and is now threatening several homes. Firefighters are working to contain the blaze and protect the surrounding community.



NEW YORK CITY, NY

Firefighters in New York City are battling a fire that has spread to a nearby residential area. The fire is believed to have started in a shed and is now threatening several homes. Firefighters are working to contain the blaze and protect the surrounding community.

Heatwaves across the United States are causing health issues and power outages. In Houston, Texas, temperatures have reached record highs, leading to increased hospitalizations and deaths. Power companies are struggling to keep up with the demand for electricity during the peak of the summer season.



HOUSTON, TX

Firefighters in Houston, Texas, are battling a fire that has spread to a nearby residential area. The fire is believed to have started in a shed and is now threatening several homes. Firefighters are working to contain the blaze and protect the surrounding community.

TOO HOT TO HANDLE: A summer of record highs

109°
Highest recorded temperature in Houston history, August 23.

87.98°
Average summer temperature, the highest in Houston's history.

39
Number of days this year with triple-digit temperatures.

84°
Highest daily low this year, recorded August 12, 2023.

18
Longest streak of days in Houston that reached over 100° and higher in 24 days, August 1-24, 2023.



Writing

Climate and Environment

FIRST PLACE

Lauren Baker, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

"The story masterfully incorporates recent experiences from a variety of sources with connections both local and nationwide — everything from impacts of wildfires to people both near and far from the blazes, drought measures being taken (or not) and changes to high school athletic practices due to heat. These anecdotes succinctly sum up how climate change is affecting a variety of humans without getting bogged down with factoids and figures. Quotes are used just enough to get points across before moving on to new characters. What a great balance of narrative elements!"

Writing

Climate and Environment

SECOND PLACE

Katie Myckatyn, Cindy Liu, Ella Bender, Arti Jain, Ira Rodrigues, Vincent Hsiao, Mac Huffman, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“A well-researched story nicely focused on the singular subject of food production and its impacts on the environment. The colorful lede helps guide the reader into the piece. Facts and figures (which can seem overwhelming to the reader if used too much) are kept to a digestible amount while relevant quotes from local experts are used skillfully.”

Forestation

Between 2015-2017, tropical forests reduced 20%.

80% of global deforestation is linked to agriculture.

8 billion tons of carbon dioxide.

“The loss of the world’s forests is a major environmental concern. It not only affects the environment, but also the people who live in the forests. Deforestation is a major cause of climate change, and it is a major cause of the loss of biodiversity. It is a major cause of the loss of the world’s natural heritage.”

KELLY KOWALIK

Livestock

14 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions come from livestock.

15% of greenhouse gas emissions come from livestock.

26% of global greenhouse gas emissions are due to food production.

103 million tons of food are added each year.

Baking together the impacts



Writing

Climate and Environment

THIRD PLACE

Evan Michaeli, Mary Wang, Arianna Paredes, Bhart Lal, Brimmer and May School, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

“A great team effort presented in an engaging package. Reading the first-hand experiences from students who come from all over the world, who have similar opinions on the state of the environment, has added impact. It is impressive that the students reached out to others abroad to help contribute to the piece.”

District unveils tutoring app to combat learning loss



ILLUSTRATION BY A. PARULOVY/DAI

BY SARON KIM
THE LABRER STAFF

In a significant stride toward enhancing educational resources, LABRER has introduced a new initiative to combat learning loss—the student success tool app, which was made available on Sept. 16.

This initiative comes as an educational effort with the Los Angeles Public Library (LAPL) aiming to broaden the horizon of learning and success opportunities for students. LABRER is currently writing a procedure for other school districts to follow suit.

The app, available to students through their school portals, is a gateway to a plethora of resources that the LAPL offers. The ease of access ensures that students can now also log into over 500 databases that offer free one-on-one online tutoring, homework assistance and more collection of books and movies without the hassle of multiple logins or passwords.

Additionally, the app provides access to engaging magazines, text preparation materials and an integrated language learning platform, all of which lead to more accessible educational opportunities.

All LABRER students who have been enrolled for more than two weeks are eligible to utilize this tool, ensuring that all students have the ability to quickly access to educational resources. LABRER is committed to reducing barriers to education.

The app can be found under a student's personal profile, specifically in the "Student Success Center" category. By following existing navigation instructions into the student's existing online learning environment.

From language learning to course creation, students could be taken out to make use of this advantageous resource. The availability of expert tutoring, offered by The Princeton Review and the California State Library, on a wide array of subjects further recognizes the comprehensive support the app provides catering to the diverse academic needs and interests of the students.

"As a librarian," said Saron Kim, the principal librarian at LABRER, "it is my responsibility to

New insurance policy leaves Performing Arts in a lurch

BY MADISON THACKER

The unexpected COVID-19 pandemic plunge into a recession has already left thousands of workers without a paycheck. LABRER is fighting to protect its workers and the jobs program without a photographer or pianist.

"These workers aren't asked to buy the insurance," Thacker said. "LABRER is workers who are not insured or employed by the district, but are still on campus and interacting with students."

This fall, which went into effect this semester, requires all workers to carry a new insurance policy dealing with abuse and sexual harassment. While most workers have to carry some form of insurance that includes these benefits, this new addition is extremely costly and may not be paid by the school.

LABRER is not having the district pay over \$200 out of pocket to work on campus. Although the implementation of the new policy is a positive step for teachers and administrators, nobody could say they were pleased that LABRER had to create this policy. Performing Arts Coordinator Ms. Fanny Arana explains that most of the teachers were aware of the fact that LABRER is constantly getting paid.

"There's a huge sentiment that 'not school' involving Cleveland High School that cost them millions of dollars," she said.

In light of this new insurance policy, Arana believes that these workers are being treated in a way that is not

impartial. "Our insurance designer makes \$200 a semester from us, meaning that if she paid for the insurance she not only would be working for her but she would also be paying us about \$200," she said.

"The policy is strongly affecting the Performing Arts Department. The last production of 'The Glass Menagerie' and all of them... [Theater] to be 'insured or not' was toward to take place without a lighting or insurance designer."

Thacker, theater and production director Mr. Justin Rodriguez has an understanding as to how to deal with this situation.

"I had to find one person who not only could use the insurance but would work for the school."

Under this new policy, LABRER workers have to go through extensive background checks and fingerprinting as well.

The new teachers on campus, Ms. Rodriguez is not having the district pay anything for this. She is not having school admin, because they have to check but to make for the rules that overall, he is extremely upset with the situation.

"I understand why the new policy is there and that the district is trying to support and protect itself," he said. "But this treatment because they're not protected the programs that rely on so many people, and now the department and those within it are negatively

impacted by it." For their operating winter semester, the school program planned to have their last performance on stage to play music. This performance worked with them in the classroom, playing background music during rehearsal. Some students in the program, not only have to practice without a live accompanist, but will also have to perform without one, since they will be singing to pre-recorded tracks. The performance quality is guaranteed to be lower.

"This new policy plus the budget cuts are slowly killing us from the inside out."

Performing Arts Coordinator Ms. Fanny Arana

LABRER and other production teachers like Thacker hope that the district can find a way to pay for what is needed for the program to be successful.

Ms. Arana is trying to communicate with the district to see what can be done. She is working very hard on finding a solution by negotiating what can be done to make sure that the district can handle this.

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"Thank you to our programs' need. Our support staff to create great experiences for students," he said. "Without them, the students' experience of these programs will be significantly impacted."

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Writing Beginning Writer

FIRST PLACE

Madison Thacker, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

"Dynamite leads and clear enterprise reporting that is not just based on the coverage events. It's not easy to make a story about insurance interesting to young readers, but Madison nailed it!"

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor

A life of learning: from the battlefield to the classroom

Serena Li, Reporter

Oct 20, 2023



As soon as he arrives at Camp Liberty in Baghdad, the air fills with gunshots and explosions.

Suddenly, the possibility that he might lose his life looms overhead. And if he dies on the field, his daughter won't have a dad.

First-year AP Computer Science Principles teacher Trent Landry spent six years in the Louisiana Army National Guard. Landry joined the army in 2002 and stayed until 2008. He was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq from 2004 to 2005.



Writing

Beginning Writer

SECOND PLACE

Serena Li, Bellaire High School, Bellaire, Texas

“Whether writing about Baghdad or ballet, Serena did an effective job of putting the readers ‘there.’ Strong interviews lead to quality stories.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Students find a home on the rocks

Weston Benner, Copy Editor • Nov 1, 2023



Benaiah Treviño

Treviño performs a "dyno" (dynamic jump) here. Treviño practices ropes-free bouldering to prepare for an upcoming competition.

Twenty-five feet up the rocky wall, the glint of a metal ring beckons. Threading his rope through this next steel clip is imperative: it's the only way he can stay on the wall and reach the top.

He strains upward, tangling his left foot in his harness's braided nylon rope. His outstretched fist slips on the slick metal. His footing crumbles away, and the cord wrapped around his left leg tugs him downward headfirst.

He streaks towards the floor at 36 feet per second.

Five feet from possible paralysis, his partner yanks the rope taut.

Benaiah Treviño jerks back to reality.

Writing

Beginning Writer

THIRD PLACE

Weston Benner, Bellaire High School, Bellaire, Texas

"A portfolio of sports, recreation and opinion writing was home to some top-notch storytelling. Weston put us on the rocks and the 'safety school' commentary was a worthy wake-up call to college-obsessed teens."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Visual (Photo/Design)

WPM 2024



Visual

Breaking News Photo

FIRST PLACE

Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton Watkins High School St. Louis, Missouri

“Breaking news takes all forms, this one verges on a feature photo. It’s an excellent photo, which captures a news-making moment in the high school experience. The photo is technically strong, with good focus and lighting on the subject’s face at the peak of action. Nice white balance. Adding to the storytelling moment is the inclusion of the reactions of the people in the background.”



Visual

Breaking News Photo

SECOND PLACE

Eashaan Patel, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“The superintendent’s face is nicely framed by the speaker and microphone. Good use of shallow depth of field. It’s clear the photographer put some thought into taking this image.”



Visual

Breaking News Photo

THIRD PLACE

Beatrix Lozach, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Even though the subject is looking directly at the camera — maybe even posing — this is technically a strong image. The colors, contrast in the image and sharp focus on the subject's eyes make it memorable.”



Visual

Feature Photo

FIRST PLACE

Destiny Garrity, Duncanville High School, Duncanville, Texas

“Wow! I just love this photo! This picture captured my attention from the moment I saw it. One of the best photos of a what could have been a rather run of the mill assignment. There is always emotion at a graduation and the photographer here found a way to make the photo very impactful. Everything in this photo draws the viewer right to it and demands that it be looked at. My only minor criticism is that I wish the photo was exposed slightly differently. It can be tricky to expose for so many elements in one picture, but the image and thought behind the image brings it over the top for me for first place.”



Visual

Feature Photo

SECOND PLACE

Kylie Taliaferro, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“Another tremendous photo in this contest! This was tough for me to place second personally because everything in this photo draws the viewer in and makes them want to know more. Without looking at the title I had no idea what was going on, but I loved the emotion in the image, which made me want to look at it again and again. Technically speaking, this is a very sound image. My one piece of advice is that the focus is on the subject in maroon but falls off quickly, but the guy to the right is extremely emotional. If possible, give a little more depth of field. Sometimes it works out like this, but it is better to be prepared. I am all about clean backgrounds, but in this case more depth would have made this strong image even stronger.”



Visual

Feature Photo

THIRD PLACE

Mariana Arboli, Miami Arts Studio 6-12 @ Zelda Glazer, Miami, Florida

"I am really drawn to this image, it is exposed perfectly in my opinion, which I really like. This is not the easiest image to capture, but the photographer in this case nailed a tough situation and really draws the viewer into the picture with the main part of the picture being extremely sharp. I can't tell by looking at the photo if I want it to be tighter to see just the main subject or somewhat looser to see more of the people around the main subject as the light falls off. Not too sure how much time you had but it would have been great if you had time to zoom in and shoot tighter or use a different body/lens and go looser. Good work but always try to continue to work a good situation when you can."

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Visual

Sports Action Photo

FIRST PLACE

Sasha Libenzon, Wayland High School, Wayland, Massachusetts

“Sasha did a great job capturing the action. The right angle to capture the twist pretzel.”



Visual

Sports Action Photo

SECOND PLACE

Lila Vancrum, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“Great action with the ball and subject sliding into the base. This photo has the right angle to tell the story in a cloud of dust.”



Visual

Sports Action Photo

THIRD PLACE

Ankita Pandurangi, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

"Great job with the rule of thirds. The flying hair and the intense face make this image a stopper."



Visual

Sports Reaction Photo

FIRST PLACE

*Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis ,
Missouri*

“Hsiao’s image of this swim meet exhibits exemplary framing and authentic reactions, as well as tight cropping and precise exposure. He captured a winning moment with superb expressions that help tell the story well.”



Visual

Sports Reaction Photo

SECOND PLACE

Tricia Darcy, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“The simplicity of this crisp image shows the power of movement in composition. The eye is taken from the focal point of number 14’s face and cycles around to number 20 and back up again. The arms serve as both leading and framing lines. Darcy caught the epiphany moment here.”



Visual

Sports Reaction Photo

THIRD PLACE

Karissa Simmons, Francis Howell High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“Simmons captured an entertaining event using tight framing, crisp focus and accurate exposure. Compositional pattern was created with the colors and background as well as the repetition of the facial expressions of the older and younger boy. A great fan moment captured here.”



Visual

Photo Illustration

FIRST PLACE

Mady Brewer, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“This illustration combined a still character with students in motion. The motion blurs taken on meaning and the one who is acerating on the right is a very nice touch. It is likely a scene repeated every hour in school halls and this one is very effective.”



Visual

Photo Illustration

SECOND PLACE

Lila Vancrum, Blue Valley Northwest High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“Northwest High School’s Lila Vancrum took second place with an illustration that also uses motion blur but in a very different way than first place — a confrontational portrait amid the chaos — Where Do I Fit? This image required orchestration to tell the story.”



Visual

Photo Illustration

THIRD PLACE

Emma Li, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“Emma masterfully used Photoshop to mix images to suggest and illustrate a story. Well done.”



Visual

Photo Slideshow

FIRST PLACE

Sydney Ortiz, Arleigh Doehring, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“This gallery of sports photos has it all: offense and defense, action and reaction, individuals and groups. The photographers caught the players at the peak of action and included the ball in every shot where it was in play. They even included a shot from the bench at halftime. Captions are informative, with some giving the result of the action pictured. This collection is an excellent example of sports photography — and it was shot during a scrimmage, allowing the photographers to be everywhere. Super smart move.”



Visual

Photo Slideshow

SECOND PLACE

Maya Ortiz, Grace Darcy, Kingwood Park High School, Kingwood, Texas

“Nice action/reaction shots of the players as well as emotional photos of the fans during a disappointing homecoming loss make up this gallery. The complete captions made the photos that were included even more powerful.”



Visual

Photo Slideshow

THIRD PLACE

Kate Boyle, Tristen Diaz, Chloe Lewcock, Gergő Major, Lanie Sepehri, Ingrid Smith, Priya Thoppil, Camilla Vandegrift, Grace Vitale, Francie Wilhelm, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Through a variety of photos, the photographers took readers to an event many may not have been familiar with. Some sweet shots here. The well-written captions added depth to the story and made the reader feel as if they had attended the event.”



Visual

Photo Slideshow

HONORABLE MENTION

JoJo Barnard, Julia Copas, Gaby Esquivel, Shila Gill, Evelyn Jenkins, Chloe Lewcock, Helen Martin, Maggie Mass, Caroline Owen, Alice Scott, Lanie Sepehri, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Avoiding flash and using the stage lighting instead, the photographers took nice photos from varying perspectives to help tell the story of Battle of Bands. Complete captions add to the story.”



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

FIRST PLACE

Ananya Sriram, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“Effective lighting. You do a good job with the gels, you still manage the catch light in the eyes. Nice pose. What really sets this one apart is the use of props on the hand (glove) and henna tattoo, which does a nice job of illustrating the concept.”



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

SECOND PLACE

Addie Rae Allen, Nation Ford High School, Fort Mill, South Carolina

"I really like the photojournalistic quality of this portrait. You control the exposure well. Solid environmental portrait."



Visual

Profile or Environmental Portrait

THIRD PLACE

Amaya Collier, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The paint on the subject is fun, but combining the subject with the background really makes this jump.”



Visual

Beginning Photographer

FIRST PLACE

Miranda Henry, Blue Valley High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“A strong selection of images was chosen for this entry. The wrestling image is the most impressive. The photographer used the perfect lens focal length to show both competitors and the referee. The viewer is treated to see the emotion on all of their faces clearly. In other images, the photographer displayed great timing as we get to see peaks of action and emotion. One tip for improvement would be to zoom in or crop closer. For instance, the basketball image could be much tighter to focus on the action of the play. The background, court on the bottom and ceiling aren't necessary. Nice job all around and good curation skills to enter this group of photos.”



Visual

Beginning Photographer

SECOND PLACE

Fernando Kramer, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The basketball shot is the star of this selection. The photographer did a wonderful job of capturing the peak of action and exposed the image well under difficult lighting conditions. The emotion on the face of the shooter is priceless. Good timing on the football receiver photo as well, it shows a dramatic moment. The very slight drawback of this image appears to be that the focus point is on the defenders rather than the receiver as he doesn't seem to be completely sharp. Take care of focus points and also consider faster shutter speeds that might help capture the action.”



Visual

Beginning Photographer

THIRD PLACE

Parker Nordgaarden, Francis Howell High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“The putting golfer image is very strong. We see the intensity on the athlete’s face as the ball is working its way toward the hole. The photographer picked the perfect position to make this image. The angle where the swimming image was made was also perfect. The display of brilliant blue color and fast shutter speed to capture the action was well done. The other two images were also chosen to show emotion on the subject’s faces. A suggestion would be to take care to make sure to select images that are completely in focus, the one of the runners looks just a bit soft.”



Visual

Editorial Cartoon

FIRST PLACE

Charlotte Baxter, Wando High School, Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

“This cartoon clearly encapsulates the main point of the story it accompanies. Charlotte's art style is unique and visually compelling. The graphic abstracts the topic very well and the hands are beautifully executed. Great work!”



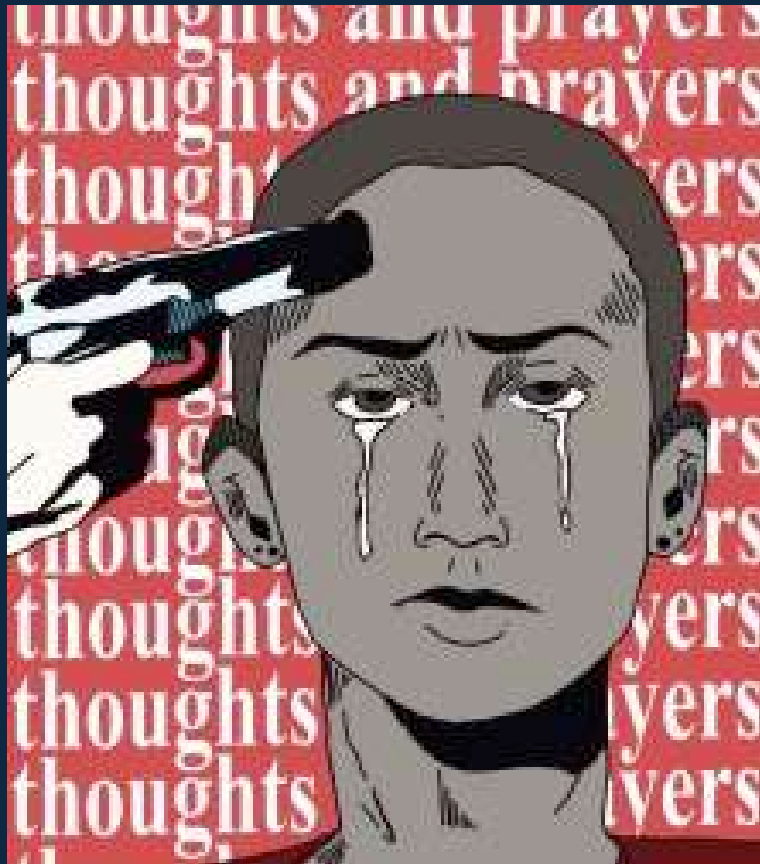
Visual

Editorial Cartoon

SECOND PLACE

Isabela Arca, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“This editorial cartoon uses the recognizable figure of Joe Biden but puts a clever twist on it. The art is masterfully executed and gets at the main point of the story well. The graphic is very detailed. Good job!”



Visual

Editorial Cartoon

THIRD PLACE

Violet Newton, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“This graphic confronts a difficult topic very well. Violet’s art style is striking and well executed. The editorial cartoon is a great visual representation of the story. Nice job!”



Visual Informational Graphic

FIRST PLACE

Caitlin Follman, Grace Guo, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana

“Tapping in to current events, this package uses easily identifiable typography and color to enhance the Barbie phenomenon impact. Sophisticated art displays the key moments in Barbie development, including the movie release in the summer 2023. Bulleted information makes the individual package material easy to digest.”



Visual

Informational Graphic

SECOND PLACE

Priya Thoppil, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Infographics do not need to be complicated to be effective. This curving road graphic sets the stage for the information package. So simple and yet so effective, the road presents road construction information in an easy to understand format. Well-organized, simple, yet effective presentation.”

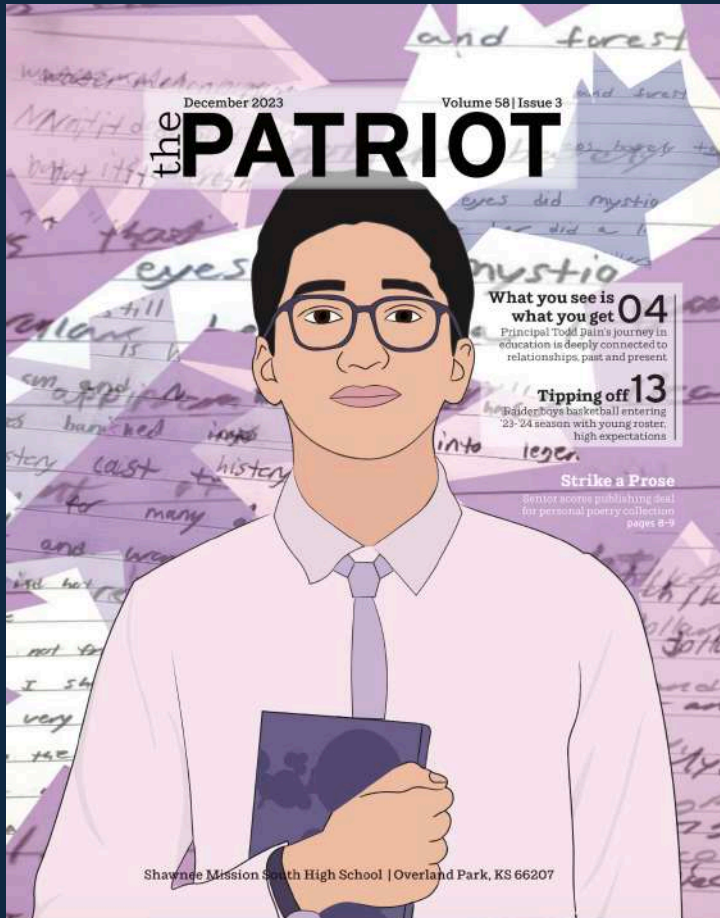


Visual Informational Graphic

THIRD PLACE

Caitlin Follman, Roman Gralak, Grace Guo, Caroline Just, Jane Martens, Ayaan Nadeem, Lydia Teeter, Helena Wang, Ryan Zhang, Carmel High School, Carmel, Indiana

“Lots of information is packed into this infographic about the National Park Service. From Q and A’s to fact boxes, lists, postcard visuals and a timeline, the reader is enticed to tour the most visited national parks. Inviting artwork, smart color and clean typography makes the package inviting”



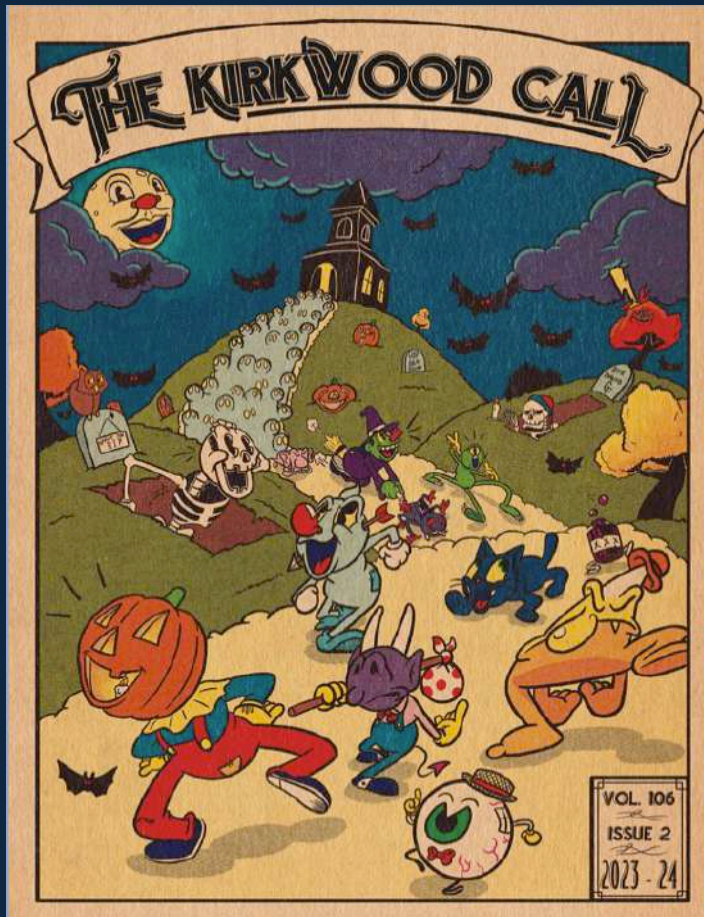
Visual

News Magazine Front Page

FIRST PLACE

Erika Spencer, Shawnee Mission South High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“This whole design flows great. The elements work together to create a beautiful package.”



Visual

News Magazine Front Page

SECOND PLACE

David Gaither, Kirkwood High School, Kirkwood, Missouri

“These illustrations are really fun and I love the vintage feel of the whole package. Love to see something different!”



Visual

News Magazine Front Page

THIRD PLACE

Sydney Mulford, Northview High School, Johns Creek, Georgia

“The simplicity of this design makes a big impact. Sometimes designers don’t know when to step back and stop with a design, but Sydney created a powerful package with simple elements. Nice work.”



Visual

Newspaper Front Page

FIRST PLACE

Kinnera Mulam, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“I kept coming back to this entry because of how elements pop off the page. The designer did a fantastic job of making the photos work together and carrying the theme throughout the page. It has great structure with elements of fun. Great work!”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Visual

Newspaper Front Page

SECOND PLACE

Brianna Alvarado, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

“This page design gives the reader a variety of emotions. It's also a pretty page, but the chaos is both disturbing and easy to follow. I love the big headline at the bottom and the reader is drawn to a single focus of the truth. Good job!”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Visual

Newspaper Front Page

THIRD PLACE

Annabelle Miller, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

"Sometimes we don't have the most exciting elements to work with, but I really like how the designer took not so appealing photos and used them as elements with the type to create an engaging front page."



Visual

Features Page, Single Page

FIRST PLACE

Brianna Alvarado, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

"This design is exceptionally clean while also being very eye catching. At its core it is a simple design, but it very effectively packages the story. The choice to use white headphones is very effective. Great work!"

18 FEATURES NOVEMBER 3, 2024

Youthful obsession.

anti-aging skincare trend changes young viewers' outlook on beauty

Lee Zimmerman & Neena Atkins

Once TikTok and YouTube were the go-to platforms for anti-aging skincare, now it's on YouTube and Instagram. However, it was not long ago that younger women were the primary audience for anti-aging products. But now, the focus has shifted to young women, with many influencers and content creators targeting this demographic.

From roughly defined product reviews to before-and-after transformations, product application tutorials, and more, the content is diverse and engaging. The creators are using their platforms to share their experiences and provide valuable insights into the world of anti-aging skincare.

The obsession with skincare, fueled by a combination of social media, influencers, and a growing awareness of skin health, has led to a surge in anti-aging product sales. This trend is not just limited to young women but has also attracted a wider audience, including men and older women.

Dr. Neena M. Bhatt, MD, Boarded Derm. Plastic Surgeon, who has several offices in New York City, Long Island, New Jersey, and Florida, has worked in the plastic surgery business for over 20 years, and she's seen the evolution of anti-aging skincare. "I've seen a huge shift in the way that people are thinking about anti-aging skincare," she says. "It's not just about preventing wrinkles anymore, it's about maintaining a youthful appearance."

Dr. Bhatt explains how she sees TikTok's impact on the industry. "I see a lot of young women who are very proactive about their skincare, and they're looking for products that are effective and safe. They're also more open to trying new ingredients and treatments. This is a positive change in the way that people are approaching anti-aging skincare."

Dr. Bhatt also notes that the focus on anti-aging skincare is not just limited to young women but has also attracted a wider audience. "I see a lot of men who are interested in anti-aging skincare, and they're looking for products that are specifically designed for their skin type. This is a growing market, and it's exciting to see so many people taking an interest in their skin health."

Dr. Bhatt emphasizes the importance of choosing the right products for your skin type and concerns. "Anti-aging skincare is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It's important to consult with a dermatologist or a skincare professional to determine the best products for your skin. They can help you understand your skin's needs and recommend products that will effectively address your concerns."

Dr. Bhatt also highlights the importance of sun protection. "Sun damage is one of the leading causes of premature aging, so it's crucial to use a broad-spectrum sunscreen every day. This is a simple but effective way to prevent wrinkles and other signs of aging. I recommend using a sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, and reapplying it every two hours, especially if you're outdoors for extended periods of time."

Dr. Bhatt also discusses the importance of hydration. "Keeping your skin hydrated is essential for maintaining a youthful appearance. Drinking plenty of water and using a moisturizer can help keep your skin plump and healthy. I recommend using a moisturizer that contains hyaluronic acid, which is a natural component of the skin that helps retain moisture."

Dr. Bhatt also mentions the importance of a healthy diet and lifestyle. "Eating a diet rich in antioxidants, such as fruits and vegetables, can help protect your skin from oxidative stress. Getting enough sleep and managing stress are also important for maintaining healthy skin. These lifestyle factors can have a significant impact on the overall health and appearance of your skin."

Dr. Bhatt concludes by emphasizing the importance of consistency. "Anti-aging skincare is a long-term commitment. It's not a quick fix, but with the right products and a consistent routine, you can achieve a youthful and healthy complexion. I encourage everyone to take care of their skin and embrace the natural beauty of their skin at any age."

when should you start using these products?
source: Medical News Today

retinol 30-40 years	alpha hydroxy acid (aha) 20-30 years
hyaluronic acid any age	vitamin c 20-30 years
sunscreen any age	

RETINOL IS A PRESCRIPTION-ONLY vitamin A derivative that is used to treat acne and promote people with graying hair. The purpose of Retinol is to slow down aging and improve wrinkles. Younger, oftentimes by social media, use these products that have anti-aging qualities, yet they themselves aren't aging.

HYALURONIC ACID is a naturally occurring substance in the skin that helps retain moisture. It is a polysaccharide that can hold up to 1,000 times its weight in water. This makes it an excellent ingredient for anti-aging skincare, as it helps to hydrate the skin and reduce the appearance of wrinkles. It is also used to plump the skin and improve its texture.

VITAMIN C is a powerful antioxidant that helps protect the skin from oxidative stress. It is also used to brighten the skin and reduce the appearance of dark spots and hyperpigmentation. It is a water-soluble vitamin that is found in many fruits and vegetables.

SUNSCREEN is a crucial part of any anti-aging skincare routine. It helps to protect the skin from the harmful effects of UV radiation, which can lead to premature aging, wrinkles, and skin cancer. It is important to use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher, and to reapply it every two hours, especially if you're outdoors for extended periods of time.

TIKTOK is a social media platform that has become a hub for anti-aging skincare content. It has led to a surge in the popularity of anti-aging products, as young women share their experiences and recommendations. This has also led to a wider audience for anti-aging skincare, as more people are becoming interested in their skin health.

YOUTUBE is another social media platform that has become a go-to source for anti-aging skincare content. It offers a wide range of videos, from product reviews to tutorials, and has attracted a large and diverse audience. This has helped to increase the visibility of anti-aging skincare products and has led to a growing market for these products.

INSTAGRAM is a social media platform that has also become a popular destination for anti-aging skincare content. It features a mix of photos, videos, and stories, and has a large and engaged user base. This has helped to promote anti-aging skincare products and has led to a growing interest in skin health among a wide range of users.

BEFORE-AND-AFTER content is a popular type of anti-aging skincare content on social media. It shows the results of using anti-aging products and has become a key factor in driving sales. This type of content is highly effective because it provides a visual representation of the benefits of anti-aging skincare, and it is easy for viewers to relate to and understand.

INFLUENCERS are individuals who have a large following on social media and are often used to promote products and services. In the anti-aging skincare industry, influencers play a significant role in driving sales and increasing brand awareness. They share their experiences and recommendations, and their endorsements can be highly influential for their followers.

PRODUCT APPLICATION TUTORIALS are videos that show how to use anti-aging products correctly. They are a valuable resource for consumers, as they provide step-by-step instructions and tips for getting the most out of their products. These tutorials are often shared on social media and can help to educate consumers and improve their skincare routines.

CONTENT CREATORS are individuals who create and share content on social media. In the anti-aging skincare industry, content creators play a significant role in driving engagement and building a community. They share their experiences, provide product reviews, and offer tips and advice, and their content is often highly relatable and informative for their followers.

THE FOCUS has shifted from older women to young women, with many influencers and content creators targeting this demographic. This is a positive change in the way that anti-aging skincare is marketed, as it recognizes the growing interest in skin health among younger women. It also allows for more targeted and effective marketing, as content creators can tailor their content to the specific needs and interests of their audience.

THE GROWING market for anti-aging skincare is a reflection of the increasing awareness of skin health and the desire for effective and safe anti-aging products. This market is expected to continue to grow in the coming years, as more people are taking an interest in their skin and investing in anti-aging skincare products. This presents a significant opportunity for brands and manufacturers to develop and market new and improved anti-aging products.

THE POSITIVE change in the way that anti-aging skincare is marketed is a reflection of the industry's recognition of the needs and interests of a wider audience. This is a positive step towards more inclusive and effective marketing, and it is likely to lead to the development of new and improved anti-aging products that better serve a diverse range of consumers. This is a win-win for both consumers and the industry, and it is a testament to the power of social media in driving change and innovation in the anti-aging skincare industry.

Visual Features Page, Single Page

SECOND PLACE

Lily Zuckerman, Neena Atkins, The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, New York

"The layout of the graphics effectively move readers through the story. The color scheme is very fitting to the story and the graphics are easy to understand. Overall it is a very effective design!"

Talk that talk

Seventeen Speech and Debate students qualify for Nationals in June

Dorothy Lakshmanamurthy

Having her name announced in the first place spot for Indiana competition at the highly competitive National qualifying competition at Holiday Inn on March 4, Jordan Lukhmanamurthy was filled with excitement as she awaited a spot at Nationals in Phoenix, Arizona in June.

"I was so happy when I heard my name and to know that I qualified again for my second year," Jordan said. "I cannot wait to go, especially since we have a statewide tournament to win."

My great great grandma was a speech competitor, she'll be recognized and honored for her contributions to the world of speech and debate during the dinner at Nationals in June.

"I'm excited to see my name on the list and to know that I qualified again for my second year," Jordan said. "I cannot wait to go, especially since we have a statewide tournament to win."

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mean, the whole speech team was the team championship in Indianapolis last weekend. This is the championship year that the team has won the team championship title. Jordan Lakshmanamurthy, coach, credits his team for collaborating together to obtain the title.

"We are super proud of the the majority of our team are individual students," Mr. Hertz said. "It takes time to train but we really do stand how our students and our teachers can work together. We give ourselves credit to our success for learning and teaching our language. We also give ourselves credit to our language, but rising up to the occasion and making wonderful progress."

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"When I was brought to the debate they told me that the only way out was through the chimney, yet I was still here. But I wish I could protect the world from people who generate uncertainty and chain evaggers like that."



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Visual

Features Page, Single Page

THIRD PLACE

Dorothy Lakshmanamurthy, Munster High School, Munster, Indiana

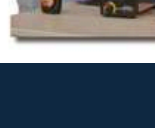
"This design incorporates many photos very effectively. The cutouts emphasize the people, instead of the background, which is fitting for this piece. The use of pulled quotes is also nice. Good work!"



"The Day is the Last..."



"No favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."



"My favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."



"My favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."



"My favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."

"Powerful next generation instruments will bring us closer to what would be a long and..."

"The Day is the Last..."

"No favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."

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"My favorite moments of the season occur during the dinner at tournaments where we can have fun, and I can joke around with my teammates."

From the left: **STANDING OUT** Performing at the National Speech Meet... **PERFECTLY PERFECT**... **WED THE POINT**... **HOT OF THIS WORLD**... **WAVE BREAK**...

National Qualifiers	
Grade 10/11/12	...
Grade 11/12	...
Grade 12	...

Speech State Champions 2023	
Grade 10/11/12	...
Grade 11/12	...
Grade 12	...



Visual

Features Page(s), Two-Page Spread

FIRST PLACE

Mason Eastman, Madeline Awad, Vincent Hsiao, Ladue Horton
Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“The designer skillfully employs grid design, resulting in ultra-narrow and wider column widths, giving the spread a dynamic page architecture. A well-designed headline package includes hierarchy and both primary and secondary components. The headline for the secondary module on the right doesn’t compete with the main headline on the left. Typography and color are echoed across the spread, promoting unity.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Visual

Features Page(s), Two-Page Spread

SECOND PLACE

Erika Spencer, Noa Vacek, Shawnee Mission South High School, Overland Park, Kansas

“A nicely done student illustration adds personality to this outstanding design showcasing a student profile. Purple is echoed across the spread adding unity to the presentation. The well-designed and written headline grabs reader attention and demonstrates the effective use of hierarchy. Including Daniel Lockett’s adds visual interest to the headline and personalizes the content. The use of align-left justification makes the columns of text less blocky and more open.”



Visual

Features Page(s), Two-Page Spread

THIRD PLACE

Alice Scott, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Cut-out background photos offset the blocky columns of text and allows readers to focus on the colorful attire without being overpowered by a distracting background. Displaying two of the dancers significantly larger than the others pulls the reader into the design. Horizontal rule lines define the top and the bottom of the design as well as providing an anchor for the cut-out background photos. Lift-out quotes provide reader-entry points into text-heavy areas.”



Visual Sports Page(s)

SECOND PLACE

Amanda Brantley, St. John's School, Houston, Texas

"The designer does a great job of creating a moving page with the placement of the very active photo elements. I like the orange subheadings and the stats really pop in the circles. Nice job."

81 SPORTS Oct. 2023

FUELING UP

Coaches, students monitor athlete nutrition

ANNABELLE MILLER | CHESTERFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Chesterfield coaches and students are monitoring athlete nutrition to ensure they are getting the right amount of nutrients to fuel their bodies. The school's sports medicine staff is providing guidance on what to eat and drink to optimize performance.

Coaches: Coach [Name] emphasizes the importance of nutrition for athletes, stating, "It's not just about what you eat, but how you eat it. Timing and portion control are key." He notes that athletes should focus on whole grains, lean proteins, and plenty of fruits and vegetables.

Students: Student [Name] shares her experience, saying, "I used to just eat whatever was convenient, but now I'm more conscious of what I'm putting on my plate. It really helps with my energy and focus during practice."

Expert Advice: Sports medicine expert [Name] offers tips for athletes, including staying hydrated, getting enough sleep, and avoiding sugary drinks and processed foods. She recommends a diet rich in antioxidants and healthy fats to support overall health and recovery.

From the Front
Food ranking by protein per cup

1. Chicken (36g)
2. Almonds (20g)
3. Mashed Beans (18g)
4. Wild Rice (24g)
5. Lentils (18g)
6. Hard Boiled Egg (7.5g)
7. Antipasto Salad (12.2g)
8. Cottage Cheese (18g)

Information from the USDA

the MESSENGER n. 11

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 11 | MAG 63071 | MARQUETTEMESSENGER.COM | OCTOBER 2023



Valuing Nutrition

Coaches and experts agree a well-balanced diet, including protein-rich foods, is essential to athletes' performance. Which foods have the most protein? Rank the foods above from most protein to least amount of protein.

See answers & story on back cover

Visual Sports Page(s)

THIRD PLACE

Annabelle Miller, Aubrey Lacavich, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

"I like that there's an interactive element with the quiz and that you're taking the reader on a journey."

18 | THE OPINION |

Book bans: Hellish weapons of censorship

DAMLER KOCH

With the past year in review, it's time to look back at the most significant events of the year. One of the most significant events of the year was the widespread book bans across the nation. These bans have been a double-edged sword, with some arguing that they are necessary to protect children from harmful content, while others argue that they are a form of censorship that undermines the First Amendment.

All the reasons to ban these books are but blatant excuses designed to silence minority groups whose stories or ideas are being expressed in these novels.

Book bans have become a hot topic in recent years, with many schools and libraries removing books from their shelves. The reasons for these bans vary, but they often center on concerns about content that is deemed inappropriate for certain age groups. However, critics argue that these bans are a form of censorship that undermines the First Amendment and the right to free speech.

One of the most prominent examples of book bans is the removal of books from school libraries in several states. In 2021, a list of 300 books was compiled by the American Library Association, including titles such as "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas and "Gender Queer" by Maia Kobabe. These books were removed from libraries in various states, including Florida, Texas, and North Carolina.

The removal of these books has sparked a national conversation about censorship and the role of libraries in society. Many people argue that these bans are a form of censorship that undermines the First Amendment and the right to free speech. They argue that these bans are a way to silence minority voices and to prevent them from sharing their stories with the world.

Others argue that these bans are necessary to protect children from harmful content. They argue that books like "The Hate U Give" and "Gender Queer" contain language and themes that are inappropriate for children and young adults. They argue that these books are a form of pornography and that they should be removed from libraries.

The debate over book bans is a complex one, and it is one that will continue to be debated for years to come. It is a debate that involves issues of free speech, censorship, and the role of libraries in society. It is a debate that is important to all of us, and it is one that we should all be paying attention to.



Teenagers need to take the wheel and hit the open road

KIMBERLY SALAZAR

During the past year, we have seen a lot of progress in the fight against gun violence. We have seen more states passing laws that restrict gun ownership, and we have seen more people speaking out against gun violence. However, there is still a long way to go, and we need to take action now.

One of the most important things we can do is to encourage teenagers to take the wheel and hit the open road. We need to give them the tools and resources they need to make their voices heard and to create a safer world for everyone.

Teenagers are the future, and they have the power to make a difference. We need to give them the tools and resources they need to make their voices heard and to create a safer world for everyone. We need to give them the tools and resources they need to make their voices heard and to create a safer world for everyone.



FOR THE RECORD
The author of this column is a member of the editorial board of the Quill & Scroll. She is a frequent contributor to the magazine and has written many articles on a variety of topics. She is also a member of the Quill & Scroll's advisory board.

Visual Editorial Page(s)

FIRST PLACE

Brianna Alvarado, Van Nuys High School, Van Nuys, California

"This opinion page showcases two columns, with the most important prominently displayed. A well-drawn photo illustration reinforces the column's stance. Headlines, pull-quotes, bylines and color add to the page's hierarchy and effectiveness."

OPINION

EDITORIALS

BOILING POINT

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Executive Editor
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Opinion Editor
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Ashley Stewart

Finance Editor
Ashley Stewart

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Layout Editor
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Layout Editor
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What really happened

BY THE BOILING POINT EDITORIAL BOARD

"National Incident Report," a Shalhevet High School article, was a headline featured in an article published by the Jewish Journal, a Los Angeles-based Jewish newspaper and a major weekly and language. Following the article, Shalhevet High School received a letter from the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

The article, which was the first to be published in the Jewish Journal, was a headline featured in an article published by the Jewish Journal, a Los Angeles-based Jewish newspaper and a major weekly and language. Following the article, Shalhevet High School received a letter from the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

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Visual Editorial Page(s)

SECOND PLACE

Eliana Wainberg, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

"Simple, clean design makes this clearly labeled editorial page stand out. Effective use of white space and typography invite reader attention. An uncluttered staff masthead lists staff members, policies and staff affiliations in an attractive vertical format."



Visual

Editorial Page(s)

THIRD PLACE

Violet Newton, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“A non-traditional double truck opinion page visually supports their editorial stance about sex education. A dominant illustration grabs attention, while five infographics detail researched data. Smart use of typography and white space lead the reader through a spread full of content.”



Visual

Beginning Designer/Artist

FIRST PLACE

Celina Zhou, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“This work exhibits all the best of design and illustration. The student’s work demonstrates clear competency with the tools and necessary software to execute a range of stunning and effective layouts and illustrations that clearly communicate the intended message.”



Visual

Beginning Designer/Artist

SECOND PLACE

Kelly Zhang, Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis, Missouri

“The varied examples in this submission clearly show understanding of the rules and principles of design and how to apply them to a range of situations to craft effective visual messages.”

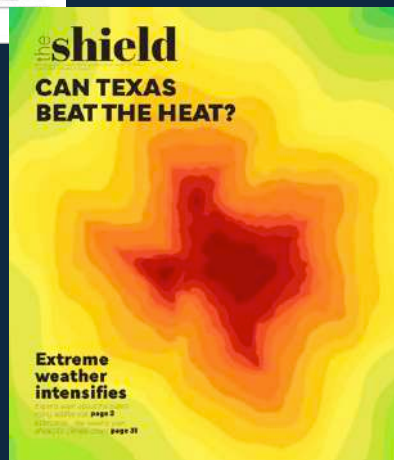


Visual

Beginning Designer/Artist

THIRD PLACE

Mira Patel, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas



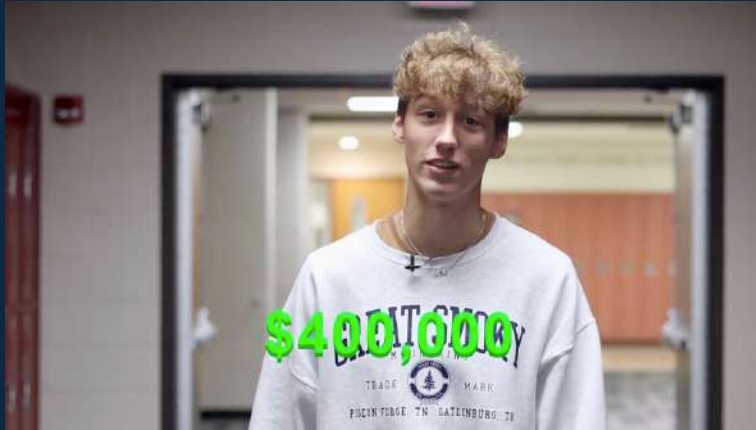
“This is a strong package of work that demonstrates competency and creativity. The varied approaches show a mastery of a range of design and illustration skills that communicate an intended message well while remaining consistent to the publication's visual identity.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

Multimedia

WPM 2024



Multimedia

Video News Package

FIRST PLACE

William Mize, Huntley High School, Huntley, Illinois

“Love that you covered the soundbites with related video. It’s great to see an entry where the interview subjects are not holding a microphone. And it’s really good to have the interviews looking just off screen. One thing, you don’t need to dissolve between video. Straight cuts are good too!”



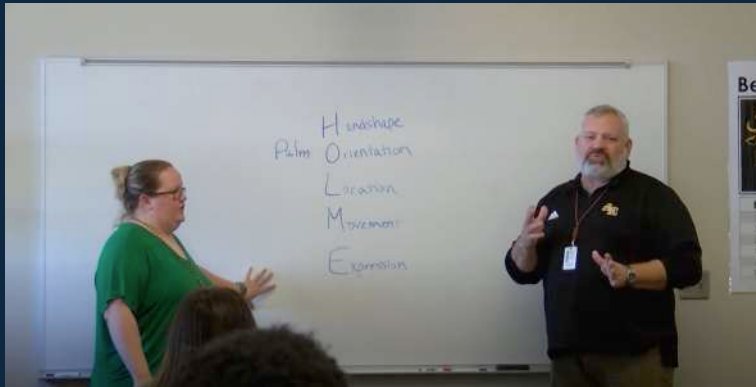
Multimedia

Video News Package

SECOND PLACE

Delaney Brooks, Melanie Nolasco, Chantilly High School, Chantilly, Virginia

“I really liked that the video used was specific to the writing. It is really impressive that this was done by a student with vision challenges. I’m sure it is difficult, but if possible, it would be great to frame the interview subject tight enough, where the reporter could hold the microphone just off screen, so we don’t see the person holding the mic, but I understand the challenges with that. Nonetheless, a solid report.”



Multimedia

Video News Package

THIRD PLACE

Lillian Saykham, Wichita Southeast High School, Wichita, Kansas

“This story really gave the chance to use visuals in an informative way. Having someone answer a question in sign language, while having it interpreted is a really smart move. I would have liked to seen a bit more tight shots, as there were a lot of medium and wide shots. And, the reporter's track was a bit soft, it just needed to be boosted a bit louder. Good job though!”



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

FIRST PLACE

Amelie Santini, Lucas Armando, Julia Piquet, Maya Altman, Gulliver Preparatory School, Miami, Florida

“Overall high quality on par with local TV news, good storyline and integration of interviewee. Quotes were also good sound bites.”



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

SECOND PLACE

Coleman Meier, Bradston Swick, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

"A fun story about coaches backed up with great interviews and technical quality. Well done!"



Multimedia

Video Sports Package

THIRD PLACE

Christina Krasnova, Madi Koepp, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas



Multimedia

Video Features Package

FIRST PLACE

Landry Long, Kross Nickerson, Isabel Multer, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“Great job using natural sound, matching B-roll with soundbites and incorporating a variety of shots. The script is good and interviews move the story along smoothly. Great topic/angle!”



Multimedia

Video Features Package

SECOND PLACE

Christina Krasnova, Nuala Adams, Isabel Multer, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“This is a wonderful feature of a local business — the script, interviews and sequences tell the story very naturally. You have a good variety of shots and use natural sound beautifully.”



Multimedia

Video Features Package

THIRD PLACE

Paige Loyacono, St. Joseph Catholic School, Madison, Mississippi

"This package has wonderful pacing and interviews. The visuals perfectly match what is being said (show and tell greatness!!). Wonderful variety in shots and angles."



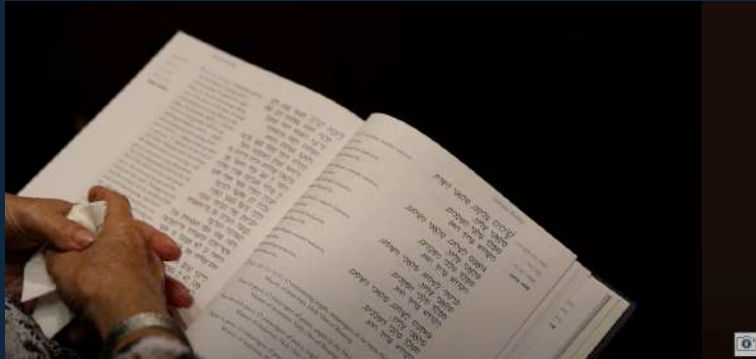
Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

FIRST PLACE

*Chris Sanchez, Dylan Biondo, Desmond Howard, Nirav Budhrani,
Gulliver Preparatory School, Miami, Florida*

“Clever editing and storytelling that provided a lot of information. This piece was about Halloween costumes that could offend people but went deeper that just that as it explained the many cultures that exist in our midst. The story had an engaging presenter who blended seriousness with humor and delivered a huge surprise that shot this piece to the top of this contest.”



Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

SECOND PLACE

Bibi Eichenberg, Desmond Howard, Daniel Lipof, Gulliver Preparatory School, Miami, Florida

“The journalists in this story had a good grasp of what they wanted to report and whom they wanted to interview. The piece has multiple voices and uses B-roll well to illustrate how people in community were gathering during holidays that, in this year, carried a somber tone. Well done.”



Multimedia

Video DEI, Social Justice Reporting

THIRD PLACE

Carol Queiroz, Xavier Rolston, Matthias Jaylen, The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, New York

“Nice job. The depth provided here distinguished this entry from another contender for the third spot in the contest. More natural sound from events and an interview with the guest speaker and a few more student voices would have made this a stronger piece. But, overall, great team effort of diving into the topic and giving a wide array of how a high school’s Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration can look.”



Multimedia

Documentary Video

FIRST PLACE

Lifantao He, Lake Forest, Lake Forest, Illinois

“This piece is truly excellent! It’s the perfect mix of storytelling and technical execution. The sophisticated camera and editing techniques dovetail perfectly with the story the video is trying to tell.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Documentary Video

SECOND PLACE

Cade Johnson, Prosper High School, Prosper, Texas

“This piece features excellent camera work and an engaging story. Both elements complement each other well, which creates a memorable experience for the viewer. The story’s gravity truly hits home through this first-person account.”



Multimedia

Documentary Video

THIRD PLACE

Jessica Wang, Alison Yang, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“The technical execution of this piece adds visual intrigue to the story. The piece tells an engaging story with simplicity and in a straightforward manner.”

After Championship win, three coaches are leaving at once to take head coach positions elsewhere



Photo by Sam Elyaszadeh

WIN: From left, Coaches Adam Plax, Andrew Schultz, Ryan Coleman and Jena Laolagi with Shalhevet founder Dr. Jerry Friedman, center, holding the championship trophy plaque after the Firehawks' won the CIF Southern Regional Championship at a home game in the gym March 7. Coaches Plax, Schultz and Laolagi all will start new head coaching jobs in area high schools next year.

Multimedia

Audio Podcast, Single Episode

SECOND PLACE

Benjy Kolieb and Jonah Delson, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

"This podcast episode has a clear show identity and is very well executed. The intro music is at a good level and the cadence of the episode is easy to listen to. It adds a really strong human story to the topic!"

Multimedia

Audio Podcast, Single Episode



THIRD PLACE

Ingrid Smith, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“The use of Phimpkade’s music within the episode is done very well. The interview flows nicely and is cleanly edited. This is a great use of the podcast medium to tell an auditory story.”



Multimedia

Interactive Informational Graphic

FIRST PLACE

Kalista Palarca, Southwest Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada

“Wow. Very engaging and creative. This entry really stands out against the rest. There is a lot of information in this infographic and ways for the reader to interactive, but it’s also very beautiful and just enough to keep the reader interested to find out about their own aesthetic.”

Multimedia

Interactive Informational Graphic

SECOND PLACE

Benjy Kolieb, Etan Lerner, Shalhevet High School, Los Angeles, California

“This is a great way to recap the match, interesting even if you don’t play chess. I like the ability to go forward and backward in the moves.”

Replay the Jacobson-Keiter chess championship here:

Click on the arrows at bottom right to follow all 20 moves of the game. *Graphic by Etan Lerner and Benjy Kolieb*

Sam Jacobson (White) vs. Alon Keiter (Black)
0-1

1.	e4
2.	Nc3
3.	Nf3
4.	Bc4
5.	O-O
6.	d3
7.	h3
8.	Bg5
9.	Bh4
10.	Bxf6
11.	Nd5
12.	gxf3
13.	Kh2
14.	Rg1
15.	Rxg7
16.	Rxg8
17.	Qd2
18.	Ne7+
19.	Nag8
20.	Kh1

Play Chess at Chess.com



Multimedia

News Show

FIRST PLACE

FHNtoday TV Staff, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“The shots were well-framed, on camera folks were comfortable and well spoken. I enjoyed the graphics and the video game review it broadens the audience engagement.”



Multimedia

News Show

SECOND PLACE

NHS News Staff, Noblesville High School, Noblesville, Indiana

“This show uses comfortable story telling anchors, great stories with solid use of B-roll. Letting the subjects tell their story works very well. Only improvement might have come from a tighter edit on pieces. But the pace was solid.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor



Multimedia

News Show

THIRD PLACE

Ashlyn Douglass, Foundation Academy, Winter Garden, Florida

“These folks had a great time with the intro. It made it essential watch this show. The show employed well executed graphics to tell fun stories.”



Multimedia

Multimedia Feature/News Package

FIRST PLACE

Emily Boyle, Ellie Noh, Alena Zhang, Enis Ercan, Vivian Rong, Lauren Winslow, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

“This package packs a lot into a page! The journalists use video, interactivity, art, graphics and design elements in perfect harmony to tell a full story about cybersecurity. All elements serve a unique purpose.”

Paying the cost of higher education: Can student debt be relieved?



Multimedia

Multimedia Feature/News Package

SECOND PLACE

Ella Hampton, Jiwoo Lee, Aiden Rood, Melissa Vital, Abby Yu, Cherry Hill High School East, Cherry Hill, New Jersey

“Your illustrations are a highlight of this package. Good job telling a story through artwork. Great job adding interactivity to your package in a unique way.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Multimedia Feature/News Package

THIRD PLACE

Edward Huang, The Harker School, San Jose, California

"I love this package and how you 'grade' AI. Breaking the content into questions works to make this topic more digestible. The short videos are a nice way to show how the programs operate."



Multimedia

Multimedia Sports Package

FIRST PLACE

Cadence Schapker, Anna Shaikun, Wyatt Meyer, Cooper Jones, Evan Cornish, Eleanor Robinson, Aza Khan, Lucas Donnelly, Liya Taylor, Riley Ramsey, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

"Photos are well shot, contain action and have the ball with a clear focus on a player. Good job! Timeline showed an interesting rivalry dynamic, showing that these two teams are regular opponents, previewing the thoughts and feelings from the band, team, cheer team brought interesting varied perspectives on the season. Good writing, mostly clear and concise, showed a definite angle and feeling amongst both teams"



Multimedia

Multimedia Sports Package

SECOND PLACE

Lucas Armando, Gonzalo Vidaguren, Amaya Mejia, Ana Luiza Fortuna, Gulliver Preparatory School, Miami, Florida

“Enjoyable to watch, the the interviews had a good variety of key people involved in the program. Shows good action and keeps viewers interested. Also, a great use of lighting in a bad lighting situation.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Multimedia Sports Package

THIRD PLACE

Fabiana Aguirre, Foundation Academy, Winter Garden, Florida

“This was fun, funny and well made. Transitions to videos were smooth. I appreciated the feature aspect (guilty pleasure) song outside of the sport for a more personal level. Player interviews had good shots that mostly in frame. Featuring seniors on senior night was also a good idea.”



People ride in the underground in Boston, commonly referred to as the 'T'. The metro Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operates heavy-rail, light-rail and bus transit services in the Boston metropolitan area.

Tackling Public Transit in Massachusetts

Multimedia

Multimedia Opinion Package

FIRST PLACE

Michael Young, Brimmer and May School, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

“Michael Young has put a lot of reporting and evidence gathering into this and has clearly analyzed the problem and the changes that need to be made. He shines light on problems that need to be tackled, which is what great journalism does.”

Nowhere to go (part I)

February 9, 2023



Multimedia

Multimedia Opinion Package

SECOND PLACE

Riley Ramsey, Nico Willman, Anna Shaikun, Antonio Starks, Clarke Central High School, Athens, Georgia

“The choice of topic is very much in keeping with the contemporary environment, the content, which is a snapshot of real life on campus, is fun to read and easy to vicariously experience. The text is honest and concise, the choice of photographs is interesting and vivid. What a fun and thoughtful way to incorporate comics.”

QUILL & SCROLL

It's an Honor

photography
through a
racial lens



Multimedia

Multimedia Opinion Package

THIRD PLACE

Serena Liu, Parkway West High School, Ballwin, Missouri

“Serena Liu’s editorial points out what most people ignore. She provides excellent evidence of the topic through her interviews with stakeholder in the fallout from bias in photography.”



Multimedia

Social Media, Individual

FIRST PLACE

Parker Smith, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

"The videos are very well done and the portfolio showcases the range of skills for Parker. The captions are engaging and I like the mix of graphics and videos to reel in your audience. Great work."

BREAKING NEWS

“MY HEART HURTS FOR OUR STUDENTS TONIGHT WHO HAD TO ENDURE THE VILE THINGS BEING SAID THIS AFTERNOON. I LOVE MCCALLUM IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS CULTURE OF KINDNESS AND ACCEPTANCE. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE HATEFUL THINGS SAID BY A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE TO DERAILED OUR VIEWS AND BELIEFS.”

— PRINCIPAL ANDY BAXA

AGITATORS DISRUPT EIGHTH PERIOD, DISMISSAL

On signs and in speech, adults at front of school spread falsehoods about trans students, abortion

Multimedia

Social Media, Individual

SECOND PLACE

Francie Wilhelm, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“I really appreciated the mix of graphics and photos. The designer did a really nice job of using elements to point the reader to other posts or comments.”

QUILL & SCROLL
It's an Honor



Multimedia

Social Media, Individual

THIRD PLACE

Eashaan Patel, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“The stop motion videos are a unique way to tease upcoming events. The designs are great and the audio is a great addition.”



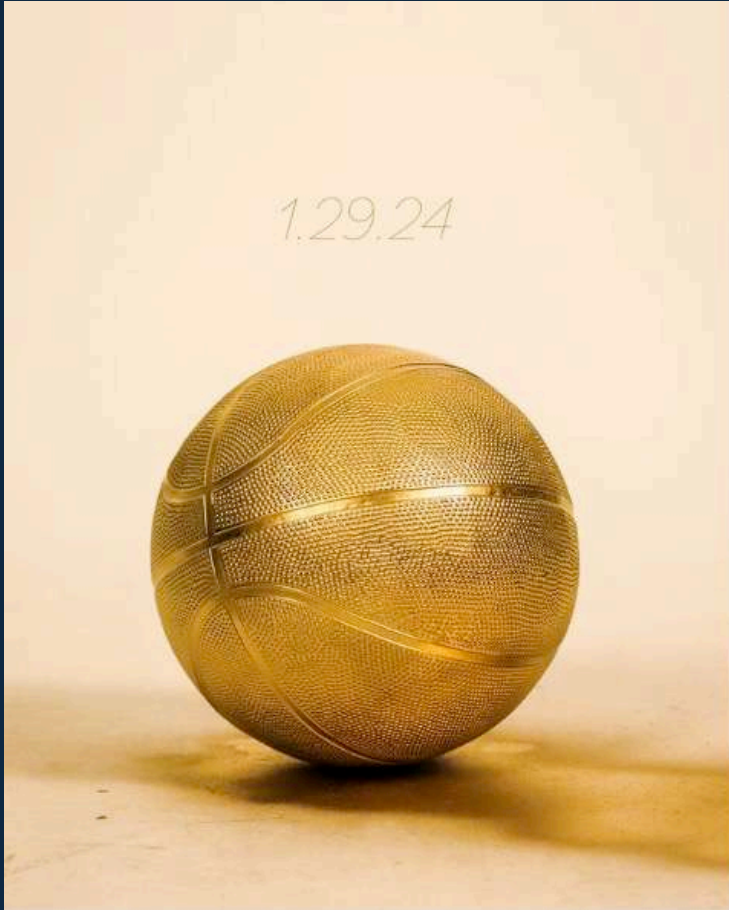
Multimedia

Social Media, Team

FIRST PLACE

Staff, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“This portfolio is a wonderful example of how social media can be used to uplift content that is already published. The story teaser design is clean and eye-catching, the insights show it successfully engages viewers.”



Multimedia

Social Media, Team

SECOND PLACE

*Parker Smith, Mason Mitchell, Olivia Graeser, Owen Gonzalez,
Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri*

“Cross out the C week’ social media package uses a combination of graphics and videos to report on upcoming games,engage viewers in an out-of-the-box way. The photo-centric graphics are very unique and pleasing to the eye. The single question interview videos are entertaining while engaging the student body,the closed captions are a positive addition.”



Homecoming Week Day 4:
Grades spar in Spirit Rally, Juniors take lead in points

Multimedia

Social Media, Team

THIRD PLACE

Alena Suleiman, Ananya Sriram, Brandon Zau, The Harker School, San Jose, California

“The Homecoming spirit rally post does a wonderful job of using social media to tell a story. Each picture tells a story and the text is carefully selected to use as few words as possible while providing context. The single quote is a great addition to the post. Additionally, the caption is a descriptive summary of the story and encourages viewers to check out the full article.”



Multimedia

Beginning Podcaster

THIRD PLACE

Chloe Scolnick, Brimmer and May School, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

“This podcast helped listeners better understand their school through the voices of those around them. The interviews gave listeners the chance to learn more about programs the school offers. The piece was informative and engaging because of the human face it put on the matter through one-on-one interviews.”

The PANTHER Press
VIDEO, PHOTOS: Hallway
Concert Brings 'The Nutcracker'
to Life



Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

FIRST PLACE

Matthew Ramirez, Strath Haven High School, Wallingford, Pennsylvania

"The graphic format combines photos and key facts to partially tell a story on social media. The black fading into the picture makes the text easy to read without taking away from the photo. The design is also consistent throughout all three posts allowing the content to be more important than the design."



Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

SECOND PLACE

Elise Grimshaw, Francis Howell North High School, St. Charles, Missouri

“This video’s weekly sports recap is entertaining and informative. Each segment is quick and only includes key facts, which is a necessary part of social media. The change of scenery in each segment is also a key part of keeping views engaged.”



Multimedia

Beginning Social Media Journalist

THIRD PLACE

Riley Pita, McCallum High School, Austin, Texas

“Each gallery includes carefully selected photos that tell a story with a long, detailed caption. The post alone can inform viewers of the event. The captions include all necessary details of the cover photo and the event, along with an occasional inclusion of a quote that enhances the value of the caption.”



EDWARD ROSKI

Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

FIRST PLACE

Travis McGinnis, Ellie Lakatos, Southwest Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada



“This entry has a variety of shot types and angles. When an interviewee says something, the viewer sees what they are talking about. Visual interest takes the forefront here.”



Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

SECOND PLACE

Harris Ellington, Marquette High School, Chesterfield, Missouri

“This entry does a good job of mixing shot angles and depths. The visuals maximize and focus on storytelling.”



Multimedia

Beginning Videographer

THIRD PLACE

Travis McGinnis, Kathryn Peterson, Southwest Career and Technical Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada

"This entry does a good job of showing what the reporter or interviewee says. Sequences match the story and create a nice audio-visual marriage."

