



ISSUE NINE, MAY 2018

THE AXE



EDITORS' NOTE

Hello, Axe readers! As we move into the last months of the school year, this issue covers a variety of topics, from a new take on club profiles to stories centered around the culture of South Eugene itself, from South's vastly under-appreciated rap scene, to a highly skilled ballet dancer. We also take a look into a prominent South pastime with a story about juuling. In addition, The Axe delves into several other controversial topics as per usual, keeping readers like you interested and engaged.

As our staff is dedicated to reporting stories readers care about, feel free to submit ideas for stories or artwork to feature on the back of the magazine to theaxemagazine@gmail.com. For more content, you can also visit the Axe Online (theaxe.xyz).

Please enjoy the May issue of The Axe!

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YEAR-ROUND CORE CLASSES

JOANNE WANG

Every South high school student knows the feeling – you step into math class after nine months without even the faintest reminder of functions, and you feel completely lost. The three-term system currently employed throughout the district has its merits, but many students only feel the negative impacts.

The 4J school district is currently on trimesters where high school students typically have core classes two out of the three terms. Core classes include math, English, social studies, and science. While there are exceptions, core classes are structured so that there is an A class and a B class for each course.

The trimester system definitely has its advantages. For example, students are able to finish all finals before each winter and spring break. If we were on semesters, finals would be after the breaks, and students would have to spend their time off studying for their finals. Teachers also see the advantages to the current setup.

“I love the trimester system,” South Spanish and Social Studies teacher Jacob Clark said. “I graduated from a trimester system way back in 1995. I’ve taught trimesters, semesters, quarters, and ABC schedules. I’ve taught in a lot of different systems and I really like the trimester system.”

Having three terms is not the issue. Problems arise from our core class system, which has each high school student taking core classes two out of the three terms. A trimester system needs proper funding and enough teachers to be the most effective.

W
“I do believe that in order to make a trimester system work properly, it has to be fully funded. Which means you have to

Although the extra trimester has its benefits, not having a class for an entire term can have a seriously negative impact.

JOANNE WANG

STORY

Many students struggle with not being able to have a core class for a whole trimester. Being able to take core classes all three terms will make our education system the most effective and efficient.

have enough teachers to make it work, and what I’ve seen and my experience in high school was that core subjects were all taken year-long, and I like how that worked,” Clark said.

This two-out-of-three structure does have its assets. One of the greatest advantages is that if a student fails a certain class, the extra term system allows them the time to retake that class. Although the extra trimester has its benefits, not having a class for an entire term can have a seriously negative impact.

“You can’t have those gaps between core curriculum being taught, – when I say core I mean the important things for each curricular class being taught – and expect kids to be successful and actually learn the material to do something with it. If we just want kids to check off the boxes, OK. But I’d like to think that we are here for more than that with education,” Clark said.

Many other teachers are also feeling the negative impacts of the long breaks students experience with the current core class arrangement.

“Having gaps in instruction creates inefficiencies, especially when some students have gaps and others don’t. For example, in spring term Chemistry B, about half of my students took Chem A in the fall, and about half took chem A in the winter,” South chemistry teacher Sarah Hocken said. “The students who took Chem A in the fall haven’t had chemistry for a few months, so we have to take time to review material at the beginning of Chem B. The students who had Chem A in the winter don’t really need this review, so the class will be moving too slowly for them. Even when winter term and spring term are the same number of days, I can never teach quite as much chem during spring term because of this review time.”

Having this staggered system can also put certain students at a disadvantage compared to their peers. Students, especially those who have a second trimester gaps, can feel less prepared and more confused than their peers once third trimester rolls around. A break can also cause a student to feel like they have to re-learn concepts that were covered nine months ago.

“The students who have a break in their schedule are struggling more than those who have just finished that class because of that discontinuity,” South senior Kate Seeger said. Another problem students experience is how often they switch teachers for the same class. It’s a discontinuity that can really impact a student’s learning.



"I don't like it when it switches teachers all the time. Each teacher has a distinctly different teaching style and when I feel like I'm finally getting used to a teacher, I get a new teacher who doesn't know me," South senior Erika Parisien said.

The constant switching can hinder students from forming necessary connections with their teachers.

"The relationships that we form with kids is really important. And many times those relationships that we form or what help kids through classes. So when you're changing teachers as frequently as we do, that hurts the potential for forming relationships," Clark said.

"It's especially hard when you are trying to get college recommendation letters if your teachers don't know you that well," Parisien added.

There are both pros and cons to the current two out of three core class system, but it would really maximize students' learning experiences if they didn't have to deal with the long gaps between classes and the constant switching of teachers. Hopefully, especially with the talk of changing the schedule, the school district will take these concerns into consideration.

If we just want kids to check off the boxes, OK. But I'd like to think that we are here for more than that with education.

JACOB CLARK





BRIEFS

THIS IS AMERICA

Childish Gambino's new single "This Is America" is accompanied by a music video that has sparked "To Kill A Mockingbird"-esque discomfort, stemming from the images of raw violence that are cloaked by mindless joy (dancing and singing). This artistic call to action urges viewers to remember the black victims of violence amidst pop culture.





TIFFANY HUANG

KUSH MASCARA

The ultimate cool-girl makeup brand Milk Makeup released a new mascara on April 20. The mascara, named “Kush Mascara,” is made with cannabis oil in order to volumize and condition lashes. According to Milk Makeup’s website, the mascara is “naturally lit,” using a “puff puff brush” to deliver “hiiigh volume.” The brand’s Twitter account also promises “one hit for HIGH volume.” The mascara is a part of the company’s new commitment to 100% veganism, which is why it includes cannabis oil instead of beeswax, a popular alternative. The gluten-free product has received 4.5 stars on Sephora.



JESSE PEARCE

PINK PROM

Since 2013, a growing coalition of Lane County school districts have sponsored the Pink Prom, an annual event for LGBTQ+ high school students and allies. Almost 300 students from high schools in the 4J, Bethel, Cottage Grove, Junction City and Marcola school districts are expected to attend this year. While LGBTQ+ students can and often do attend their own high schools’ proms, the Pink Prom is seen as an inclusive alternative to the heteronormative traditions of typical high school dances.

“It’s a really important space for people to be able to express themselves without feeling like they are judged and without feeling like ‘I need to be this way,’” South junior Makenzie Williamson said.

This year’s Pink Prom will be held on May 12, from 7-10 p.m. on the 12th floor of the Eugene Hilton Hotel. The theme is “A Night in the Galaxy.” Tickets are \$15 per person and are available for sale with Melinda in the counselling office.

NISSA SCHLOSSBERG

BIKE SHARING

In a partnership between the City of Eugene, University of Oregon, and JUMP bikes, and a sponsorship by PeaceHealth, a new bike share program was recently implemented in Eugene, expanding the transportation options for residents while also boosting the city’s sustainability. The program was launched on April 19 throughout the city. In total, there are 300 bikes distributed across 36 different holding stations. Hubs are spread out through downtown Eugene, the Whiteaker neighborhood, and around the University of Oregon.



It’s a really important space for people to be able to express themselves without feeling like they are judged and without feeling like, ‘I need to be this way.’

MAKENZIE WILLIAMSON

JESSE PEARCE

NB OPTION SYNERGY

Male or female? For nonbinary individuals, this one question can be the most exasperating part about filling out any sort of form. Especially when the form in question will affect how the people in your life see you and your gender.

In July 2016, Oregon became the first state to allow nonbinary individuals to select a third gender option on their driver’s licenses. Starting next school year, the Eugene 4J school district will follow suit by allowing students to indicate a third gender option for their profiles in Synergy.

Like the state policy, the new 4J policy allows nonbinary students to choose an ‘X’ as opposed to an ‘F’ or an ‘M’ to indicate their gender in the district’s computer system. Students who would like to take advantage of the new policy can obtain a form from the school registrar in September of next year.



YULIA NAKAGOME

NEW SOUTH PRINCIPAL

A new principal will be coming to South Eugene High School in July.

Carey Killen has been selected by the Eugene School District to fill Andy Dey’s current position. Killen is currently the principal of Prairie Mountain School in the Bethel School District. Dey, who has been South’s principal since 2015, will be taking up the position of director of secondary instruction at the 4J school district offices, which currently filled by BJ Blake. Blake was formerly the principal of Spencer Butte Middle School, and coincidentally, she was promoted during my time there. If, in a few years, Killen becomes the 4J director of secondary instruction, I cannot say that I would be surprised.





This dark staircase in the Theater Department prop loft is one of the many places seniors proudly display their signatures and year of graduation before leaving the program.



SUBCULTURES AT SOUTH: THEATER

JAELEN HODGES

A cult, according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, is “a group with a great veneration or devotion to a person, idea, object, movement, or work,” and from that definition, South Eugene High School begins to seem like a large collection of many cults. All these groups — the Frenchies, the sports teams, choir kids, the kids who eat lunch in the science hall — are made up of students who are devoted — as only South students can be — to a certain way of day-to-day life. The Theater Department goes above and beyond in all aspects, including their student devotion compared to other groups at South.

The Theater Department at South Eugene High School is an excellent program that produces stunning plays, outstanding musicals and one-acts that dominate at the competition level. In order to reach this level of excellence, the theater program has developed certain rituals and created their own unique following within the South community. If you venture into the east side of the school, you will find more than 100 students who spend anywhere from a class period to the late hours of the night working on sets, running lines, rehearsing and mastering the ripstik. But what else really goes down in those seemingly endless rooms and dark lofts?

Once a student has joined theater, they often experience isolation from old friends and family as they spend increasing amounts of time solely with other students in the theater department. While this could merely be an unhappy byproduct of becoming a dedicated thespian, one has to wonder if theater department head and William Shakespeare look-alike Pat Avery purposefully nurtured this divide between his students and the rest of the school. There is no doubt Avery is a theatrical mastermind, and

The Theater Department goes above and beyond in all aspects, including their student devotion compared to other groups at South.

JAELEN HODGES

SATIRE

You’ve seen their plays and you’ve watched their musicals, but is there something else going on in the Theater Department?

his strong opinions and artistic vision have driven South theater to the top. But is Avery possessed by genius or by the ghost of Robert Turnbull Grankey, a former South Eugene student who fell from the catwalk and died in our very own theater in 1958?

Potential cult leaders aside, the theater department has their own traditions that differ quite a lot from those of the rest of the student body. Among these are the senior traditions: at the end of the year, seniors leaving the program leave a custom-made candle to a younger member and venture up to the mysterious prop loft to paint their names on any open space among the vast oddities — broken furniture, plastic babies, and promiscuous teenagers — that occupy the space.

Other interesting theater rituals include the ability of any follower to recite in unison Avery’s two mantras on acting, and also a popular game called “Splat.” The game is run by a “Splatmaster” and once the contestants playing have been narrowed down to the final two, a Splat-Off commences, and the fallen contestants begin to slap the ground and chant “Splat-Off” repeatedly in haunting unison.

However, odd practices aside, the theater really is a second home to many students at South who have devoted their time to its success. It may or may not be a cult, but it is certainly a unique experience where you can find students who are just as dramatic as you are.

This naked, plastic baby doll lies dejectedly behind a fence in the prop loft and is one of the many miscellaneous items strewn about the seemingly never-ending rooms and corridors.



SUBCULTURES AT SOUTH: CREW

TIFFANY HUANG

When the bell rings at the end of the school day, most students are eager to escape the hallways. There is a select group of students that instead prefers to congregate in the IHS hall. On some days they will quit campus, leaving behind the scent of sweat and an eerie silence, and on other days they will stay in their workout room and blast loud music. Either way, those around them are left slightly annoyed and wondering how this group came to be.

The South Eugene Rowing Club (SERC) was established in 1986 and became an official South club in 1998, but it is still one of South's biggest mysteries. This strange and mysterious group has several inscrutable practices, leading many South students to wonder if rowing is a cult.

The Oxford Dictionary defines a cult as "a relatively small group of people having religious beliefs or practices regarded by others as strange or as imposing excessive control over members." Though crew does not have religious motivations, they are certainly seen as bizarrely hardcore by the rest of the school. But does that qualify them to earn the "cult" title?

The most distinct characteristic of any cult is its enthusiastic recruitment strategies. I know that I am not the only South student who has had to go through the horrors of politely rejecting an offer to join crew (the scariest words I have ever heard? "It's free trial week!"). SERC may have the most intense recruitment of any South club, but it is for good reason. While most sports and clubs care about how many members they have each year, rowing is unique in that it requires at least 60 members to be the most successful. With a tiny team of only 30, SERC is at a disadvantage to other larger and richer teams in the Northwest. These facts somewhat excuse SERC's recruitment initiatives, though they are still just as horrifying to deal with.

This all begs the question: if SERC is such a small team, why do they seem so massive? There are plenty of larger extracurriculars at South, but it is rowing that has the largest presence. Even in the process of writing this story, I was contacted by countless concerned rowers despite my attempt to keep it under wraps, which only further convinced me of the cult nature of SERC. I do not know if it is their flashy holographic jackets or

SATIRE

There is one question on every South student's mind, and that is: what is up with the South Eugene Rowing Club?

the fact that the rowing room is much too small for the team, but somehow SERC has managed to seem larger than life.

Finally, perhaps even most startling of all, is how SERC treats its members, both current and former. SERC members have mentioned not being able to eat dairy products, as well as coaches who have explicitly banned any badmouthing against them. These restrictions tie back to giving SERC an edge of competitiveness, but are they really worth the extra advantage? In addition, South students who have left the group have also faced harassment, such as being photographed without consent, being ostracized at school, or named "traitors" or worse derogatory language (when one SERC member was questioned about this behavior, they justified their actions by calling a former rower an insulting name). While not all former SERC members have been ostracized, it is still startling to hear of this treatment.

I should mention that the hardcore behavior of SERC does stem back to the nature of the sport. Daniel James Brown, author of *The Boys in the Boat*, writes "Rowing is perhaps the toughest of sports. Once the race starts, there are no time-outs, no substitutions. It calls upon the limits of human endurance." For example, a two kilometer race is compared to playing two basketball games back to back (after experimenting with a rowing machine, I can confirm this fact). With such a hardcore sport, it is no wonder that rowers are such intense people; in fact, I would not expect anything less from them.

Of course, rowing has plenty of positives as well. Many SERC members have stated that after trying just about every sport out there, crew is the only one that they enjoy. Plus, if the popularity of rowing gives more respect and funding to non-traditional extracurriculars, I cannot complain. Most importantly, many rowers will say again and again that crew has given them a family they can always depend on for support. At the end of the day, there is nothing bad I can say about that.

After my lengthy investigation, I have concluded that even with all its mysterious activity, SERC is not, in fact, a cult. Rowers may be idiosyncratic, but as long as I never have to join the team, I am fine with letting them be. Whether or not you agree with my conclusion, you must admit that South would not be the same without this distinctive group of students.

If you would like to join the South Eugene Rowing Club, you can contact head coach Spencer Kales at spencerkales@south-eugenerowingclub.org



WHY YOU SHOULD “LOVE, SIMON”

YULIA NAKAGOME

“Love, Simon,” described by The Hollywood Reporter as the “first major-studio-backed romantic comedy with a gay teen protagonist,” hit movie theaters in the United States on March 18. For some members of the LGBTQ+ community, it was a long time coming.

Based on Becky Albertalli’s young adult novel, “Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda,” the film follows a teenage boy, Simon Spier (Nick Robinson), as he navigates high school and his sexuality. Spier meets a closeted gay boy through Creeksecrets, their school Tumblr page, and the two begin to exchange emails under the pseudonyms “Blue” and “Jacques,” respectively. Their relationship is compromised when a fellow student threatens to leak their emails.

Recently, the film industry has been under pressure to deliver movies that feature female, LGBTQ+, disabled and minority leads. Although this may have generated more representation in movies themselves, there is not necessarily the same diversity in Hollywood. Last year, “Ghost in the Shell” came under fire when Scarlett Johansson, who is white, was cast as Major Motoko Kusanagi, a character that is Japanese in the original manga. Similarly, though Spier certainly is not straight, Robinson certainly is.

On The Ellen DeGeneres Show, Robinson was asked whether he, as a straight person, had any hesitations about taking on the role of a gay character. He replied that, “it was a conversation [he] had with [his] director, Greg [Berlanti],” and that they, “went back and forth and talked about it.” Robinson’s co-star, Keiynan Lonsdale, who plays Bram Greenfeld, Spier’s classmate, elaborated on the subject in an interview for Billboard.

“I think, in general, straight actors should be able to play queer roles just as much as queer actors should be able to play straight roles,” Lonsdale said. “I think the reason why the debate is there is because we haven’t had enough queer actors being cast in anything. People are in need of that representation in general. (...) Ultimately, if the casting director was to cast a film based upon feeling and the talent and who was right for the role, it would end up being an intersection of both sexuality and different kinds of people, just because that’s what life is.”

Lonsdale himself came out to the public on May 12, 2017, a little under a year before “Love, Simon” hit the big screen.

“I like to change my hair, I like to take risks with how I dress, I like girls, & I like guys (yes), I like growing, I like learning, I like who I am and I really like who I’m becoming,” he said on Instagram. “Spent way too many years hating myself, thinking I was

STORY

“Love, Simon” brings LGBTQ+ romance to the silver screen, and the responses from both inside and outside of the LGBTQ+ community have been overwhelmingly positive.

less valuable because I was different.. which is just untrue. (...) Not faking sh*t anymore, not apologising for falling in love with people no matter their gender. I’ve become bored of being insecure, ashamed, scared... no one should feel like that about themselves.”

In the weeks leading up to March 18, “Love, Simon” trailers played before every YouTube video, announcing to the world that Spier was “done keeping his story straight.” If you went to the Valley River Center, you would have seen a larger than life photo of Robinson advertising that the movie would be “coming out” on the eighteenth. Whether the catchphrases were tacky, witty or a bit of both, they did their job in inspiring excitement for the movie’s release.

“When I first heard the movie was coming out I was so excited,” Alex Connelly, a freshman and GSA member at South said. “There aren’t really many movies that show that being queer isn’t just depressing and difficult.”

Connelly’s expectations were more than met.

“‘Love, Simon’ did a great job on showing the struggles but also showing that it was just another love story that just so happened to be between two boys,” they said. “The way [the film] portrayed the inner struggles of being queer was definitely very accurate. They put in a lot of small details that a lot of LGBTQ+ people could pick up on as well.”

These were just a few of the reasons Connelly loved the movie, according to a list they compiled and passionately titled “Reasons Why ‘Love, Simon’ is the Best.” In the future, Connelly hopes to see more movies with LGBTQ+ romance at the forefront.

“I can’t even begin to explain how happy I was as I exited the theater after seeing it,” they said.

“Love, Simon” did a great job on showing the struggles but also showing that it was just another love story that just so happened to be between two boys.

ALEX CONNELLY

WHY GENDER DIVERSITY IN STEM IS STILL LACKING

ALYSSA GAO

As a senior, almost every parent I talk to wants to chat about college. However, at a recent family gathering, the topic of college essays came up, and after I spoke about how many of my essays were about my work promoting gender diversity in engineering, I was shocked when a family friend stated that gender diversity in science was a nonissue because there are “plenty of women in STEM.” I would like to wholeheartedly disagree.

STEM employment over the past decade grew 24.4 percent, as compared to 4 percent in other fields according to the Economics and Statistics Administration, and in today’s fast-paced, digital world, it is not hard to see why STEM has become such a favored field. However, even as STEM jobs, and engineering especially, have increased in profitability and availability, the percentage of women represented in them has not. In fact, many well-known tech companies lack female representation: of Google’s technical staff, only 19 percent are women, and the percentage is even lower at Facebook and Twitter.

In the last decade, the percentage of women in STEM occupations has remained at 24 percent, while the percentage of women who make up the number of workers in all U.S. jobs has grown to 47 percent. Given the steep increase in number of STEM jobs available, why have women shied away from the field? According to Project Implicit at Harvard there is a major factor that many are unaware of: implicit bias. More than 70 percent of people who took the Implicit Association Test (IAT) between 1998 and 2010 associated “male” with science and “female” with arts, showing that there is still a deep-seated implicit association of male with science and female with arts among test-takers of all genders, races and ethnicities.



STORY

STEM job growth has increased exponentially over the past decade, but it has not progressed in terms of gender diversity; women still make up less than a third of the field.

Moreover, this implicit bias extends to participants in the STEM field — people who should be the most aware of the issue. In a randomized double-blind study conducted by Yale University, science faculty at six top research universities were given resumés for an applicant to a laboratory manager position that were identical except for the name and gender of the applicant: John or Jennifer. The results were remarkable: The subjects found that the “male” applicant was significantly more competent and hireable than the “female” applicant and they were willing to offer a higher starting salary and more career mentoring to the “male” applicant. Furthermore, female and male faculty were equally likely to exhibit bias against the female student.

Clearly, implicit bias plays a substantial role in maintaining the gender disparity of the STEM field, but many companies have tried to counteract its effects with hiring quotas and other diversity policies. However, although implicit bias may be the root of the problem, its consequences are harder to neutralize and may have an even greater impact on women pursuing STEM.

Last year, former Uber site reliability engineer Susan Fowler wrote a viral blog post, “Reflecting On One Very, Very Strange Year At Uber,” about her experiences with explicit sexism in the workplace. In one instance, her manager propositioned her for sex, but when she reported it to human resources, the situation did not turn out as expected.

“I was then told that I had to make a choice: (i) I could either go and find another team and then never have to interact with this man again, or (ii) I could stay on the team, but I would have to understand that he would most likely give me a poor performance review when review time came around, and there was nothing they could do about that,” Fowler said in her blog post. “One HR rep even explicitly told me that it wouldn’t be retaliation if I received a negative review later because I had been ‘given an option.’ I tried to escalate the situation but got nowhere with either HR or with my own management chain (who continued to insist that they had given him a stern-talking to and didn’t want to ruin his career over his ‘first offense’).”

From statistics to personal accounts, it is clear that STEM could still become more gender diverse. Perhaps the most important action someone with power in a technology company can take is to become aware of implicit bias and take steps to account for its consequences. But for everyone else, support for gender diversity initiatives in your community (there are more than you think!) can be extremely influential. So, while it will take time, I have hope that the family friend will someday be right.



THE JUUL OF THE SOUTH

JESSE PEARCE

It's the latest addition to South culture. Along with hammocking, wearing Birks with socks and buying stickers to decorate their Hydros, groups of South Eugene High School students can now also be found passing around a juul in their spare time.

For those who do not know, juul is a brand of vaping device. Juuls are small and — at first glance — easily confused with a pen or a USB. Like all vape products, they function by vaporizing a cartridge, or “pod,” full of vape “juice”: a solution that might contain various flavorings, as well as (usually) nicotine or sometimes even marijuana. A metal coil in the device heats the liquid until it turns to vapor that can then be inhaled through the mouthpiece.

According to multiple student sources, this practice has recently soared in popularity among the South student body.

Because of the discrete nature of juuls, it is easy to get away with vaping on campus. It is not uncommon to find small groups of students vaping together in bathrooms. Some kids might also vape on the property after school. Others even get away with vaping right in their seats.

“I’ve only seen one kid, and I’ve heard of two kids that have done it in class, but definitely bathrooms [are] the place to go,” said South sophomore Dominic Philips. His real name, along with those of all other students quoted in this articles, has been replaced with a pseudonym to protect his identity.

In Oregon, it is illegal for those under the age of 21 to buy vape products; however, this does not stop many South students from obtaining them.

“I have my sister go in and get it for me,” senior Sabrina Palmer said. Vape shops abound in Eugene. One such business, Urban Vapors, has a location just blocks away from the school. Other students order the products online.

“Most sites require specific ID to prove you’re 18 or 21, but there are still some you can find that don’t,” said junior Isaac Owens.

And of course, refill cartridges and even the vape devices them-

STORY

South students weigh in on the allure and the risks of vaping, which has risen dramatically in popularity among high school students nationwide.

selves can also be bought off of other South students.

“You get them from small-time dealers. People do pods and stuff like that. They may have a unit every once in a while,” Philips said.

E-cigarettes, including a variety of different styles and models of vape products, are now the most commonly used tobacco product among youth, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. A 2016 study found that 11 percent of high school students surveyed had used a vape product in the past month.

There are a variety of theories among the research community as to why vaping has become so popular among youth. Some hypothesize that the broad range of flavors of vape “juice” draws younger users. Others have argued that exposure to marketing — especially marketing techniques known to target teens — entices youth into trying vape products. However, at South, it seems that what originally draws most users is the allure of vape tricks.

“That’s how I originally started getting into it, was because of the tricks,” Philips said. Kids post videos of themselves online doing various vape tricks by making different shapes with the exhaled vapor. These tricks are also often shown off at parties, and the ability to perform harder tricks can win kids acclaim.

“Just like any other hobby, it’s fun to get better and do cooler things,” Owens said. Many South students refer to vaping as just this — a hobby. Philips even compared the newfound popularity of juuling to the fidget spinner craze of last year.

“[It’s] just something you can devote your time and attention to,” he said.

Companies like JUUL claim that their products are meant as a safer alternative to cigarettes for adult nicotine addicts and affirm their intentions to keep juuls out of underage hands.

“JUUL is intended for adult smokers who want to switch from combustible cigarettes,” the company’s website said.

According to a report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, vaping can help adults get off nicotine; however, with younger users, it’s more likely to get them hooked in the first place.

You get them from small-time dealers. People do pods and stuff like that. They may have a unit every once in a while

DOMINIC PHILIPS

Philips explained that he has seen vaping work in both ways.

"I know people that used to smoke cigarettes through late middle school and freshman year and who've gotten off it with vaping. And I know people who've gotten on nicotine just with vaping. It's the whole spectrum."

However, vaping is now more popular among American teenagers than adults, and the rate of use is rising each year. Between 2011 and 2015, the number of high school students who had vaped in the past 30 months increased by 900 percent.

Many doctors and U.S. health officials are concerned with the recent epidemic. They warn that vaping poses many health risks to teenagers.

"Literally in the last six months, there's been new scientific

studies that have shown that [vaping] is much worse for everybody's lungs and for teenagers' brains than they previously thought, and that it's much more addictive than they previously thought," Holly Jo Hodges, a local doctor, said.

The psychoactive substance contained in both cigarettes and vape "juice" is nicotine. While the level of nicotine in vape cartridges varies, each "pod" contains approximately the same concentration of the drug as entire pack of conventional cigarettes. Student sources say it usually takes about a couple of days to go through an entire pod.

According to the Center for Disease Control, nicotine can interfere with adolescent brain development.

"The effects of nicotine exposure during youth and young adulthood can be long-lasting and can include lower impulse control and mood disorders," the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services said in a 2016 report of the Surgeon General on e-cigarette use among American youth.

Recent studies also show that the vapor from juuls and similar devices may contain harmful substances. One study found that 76 percent of vape flavors tested contained diacetyl, a chemical that has been shown to induce severe respiratory diseases. The toxic metals contained in the heating elements of vaping devices can also wind up in the vapor. A study found that the levels of chromium, manganese, nickel and lead exceeded current health-based limits in close to half of samples, and arsenic was detected in 10 percent of samples.





Vaping can also lead to respiratory conditions such as “popcorn lung,” as well as inflammation in the mouth. Additionally, it may weaken the immune system, and studies on animals show that continual use of vape products might increase risk of cancer.

One of the biggest concerns, according to Hodges, is that vaping will lead teenagers to start smoking conventional cigarettes. And there is significant scientific evidence to justify this fear; multiple studies have shown a correlation between vaping and smoking.

“[Vaping] is more addicting, so people who may not have ever tried cigarettes are trying vaping and ending up smoking cigarettes anyway,” Hodges said.

Experts also worry that early addiction to nicotine caused by vaping might increase teenagers’ risk of trying other drugs. Nicotine, like other addictive drugs such as cocaine or heroin, releases dopamine in the brain, creating a pleasurable effect for the user. However, like with all drugs, this effect decreases with each use as the brain develops tolerance. According to the Surgeon General’s report, this abuse of the brain’s reward system “can prime young brains for addiction to other drugs” later in life.

In addition to dopamine, nicotine consumption also causes the immediate release of adrenaline, accelerating the heart rate and raising blood pressure. However, this high — or “dome,” as those who vape regularly call the sensation — is fleeting.

“The peak of a dome can last about thirty seconds to a minute. And that’s enough time to sit on a toilet, dome, get past the dome, get up and leave and still have a little buzz going on,” Philips said.

While it may not have as much of a reputation as other “harder” drugs, nicotine is widely considered one of the most addictive substances and one of the hardest to quit. Medical experts fear that this new method of exposure to the drug will create another generation of nicotine addicts. Many youth, however, see vaping as a healthier way to get high.

“It doesn’t have all the toxins that cigarettes have. So it’s definitely a safer alternative,” Palmer said.

“When it comes to weed, I vape a lot more than I smoke now. It’s much easier on your lungs because you’re not getting nearly as much tar and carcinogens, and it’s much more of a clear-headed high,” Owens said.

Many South students feel that they can make their own informed decisions on whether or not to vape. Some students who vape have looked up the adverse health effects online and can explain exactly how vaping affects the brain and body.

“A lot of people who vape know a lot about it,” Philips said. Stu-

It’s just something you can devote your time and attention to.

DOMINIC PHILIPS

dents feel that they can weigh the risks and decide for themselves how to proceed. Some choose to vape only on weekends. Others, like Palmer and Owens, use only no-nicotine or low-nicotine vape “juice,” to limit their exposure to the drug. Even Philips says he has a line.

“I don’t own any vape products. That’s something that I’ve held myself to,” he said. “I’m not buying anything.”

In the wider South community, attitudes around vaping remain mixed.

“It’s not going to make you popular. It’s not going to gain you friends except for within the nicofiend/pothead community,” Philips said.

However, vaping — like smoking — has become a social activity. Students leave class to vape together in groups that range from two or three to seven or eight.

“I certainly feel there’s a social component to it,” Owens said. “[Brad] Jungert will tell you when he went to South there was a smoking area where students and teachers would go to smoke cigarettes, and it seems to me like juuling in the bathroom is a modern version.”

“It can bond people,” Palmer said.

A recent crackdown on vaping by the South administration has seen a decrease in on-campus vaping, according to Philips.

“Definitely after that a lot of people — including me — have slowed down, for sure,” he said. However, according to Owens, the danger has mostly passed.

“After the few suspensions I heard about, it doesn’t seem like much else has happened,” he said.

Palmer, Owens, and Philips all agree that vaping should not be allowed on school property, and they all affirm that there are some considerable health risks involved with the practice. However, unlike the faded glory of fidget spinners, none of them can see South’s newest craze disappearing anytime soon.

As Owens said, “I think vaping’s here to stay.”



CALENDAR

10

MAY

State Orchestra Festival

South Eugene High School's String Ensemble will compete against the best orchestras from around the state at OSU.

13

Mother's Day

Remember to celebrate Mother's Day to pay respects to mothers' roles in your life or the world as a whole.

15

NHS Induction Ceremony

The new group leaders and members of SEHS National Honors Society for 2018-2019 will be formally recognized.

16

A View from the Bridge Premieres

Directed by senior Elena Freck, Arthur Miller's tragedy, A View from the Bridge, is South Eugene Theater's last show of the year.

18

Last Day of AP/IB Testing

Dry those stress tears and get ready to annoy all your teachers by constantly expressing how you're so ready for summer.

22

IHS Celebration

Come to the Oakway Center to celebrate all of Eugene's International High School programs from 5-8 p.m.

25

Spring Fest

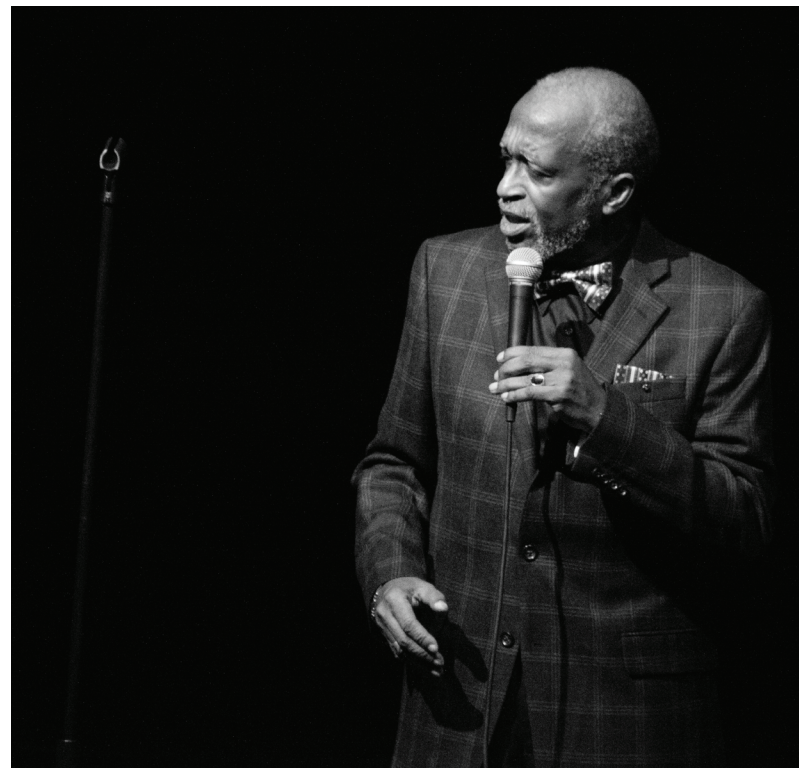
Enjoy live music, pie-throwing, and presentations from clubs in the Science Courtyard during lunch. Additionally,

07

JUNE

Seniors' Last Day

After four years of being stuck in a large, off-purple building, seniors are finally free to worry about the rest of their lives.





MODEL BEHAVIOR

SOPHIE PIERCE

From drama to cross country to choir to robotics, South is home to students with a variety of talents. On that list of talents, some kids can check off modeling. And by modeling, I mean big names and gigs like Prada and Vogue.

Josh Yarr is a South junior whose very first modeling job was a Prada campaign shoot under his Maverick management.

"The way it goes is you post your portfolio picture on your management's website. Your manager is always looking for walks, magazines, and campaigns, and if you fit the characteristics the company is looking for, you will be chosen," Yarr said. "My first job was the Prada gig because I fit the European style they wanted."

Photoshoots and campaigns tend to take about 30 to 90 days to come out, so models' managers are constantly looking for new gigs that fit their profile.

Erin Gruber is a South senior and has been modeling for three years.

"My favorite gig was probably my first real job for Nike," Gruber said. "We were shooting outside in downtown Portland, and I remember it feeling so surreal to see so many people walk by wearing the brand that chose to work with me."

Not all gigs are created equal. The Prada campaign took hundreds of cameras, different wardrobes, and other models, while a magazine photoshoot could be just two models and four to five directors and cameramen.

"I like magazines better than campaigns because you are actually going somewhere [like the desert of L.A.], and it's you and a team of, like, five people and then one other girl model," Yarr said. "You get super comfortable when it's a one-on-one photo shoot, especially when it's just you and the photographer. It's easy to be confident in a small photo shoot."

Jenny Bryant is a former South student who graduated early this year and has been modeling since she was 15. She is currently working with Nike and Adidas.

"I am grateful that I can shoot for both. I love working and sometimes getting to travel with them," Bryant said.

The model life isn't all glitz and glamour. Most contracts restrict a models' appearance, and models have to go through their management before getting any piercing, tattoo, or even dyeing their hair. For the duration of the contract the model cannot alter their appearance in any drastic way, including the aesthetic of

STORY

South's talented student models have been featured in advertisements for a plethora of brands, including Prada, Nike, and Adidas.

their body. For example, the "European look" is more slender, as opposed to the more bulky American look, so models like Yarr are dissuaded from gaining muscle.

"I wish that there was more freedom in the modeling industry. It would be nice to see more models being appreciated for their quirks rather than being expected to change to fit inside a box," Gruber said.

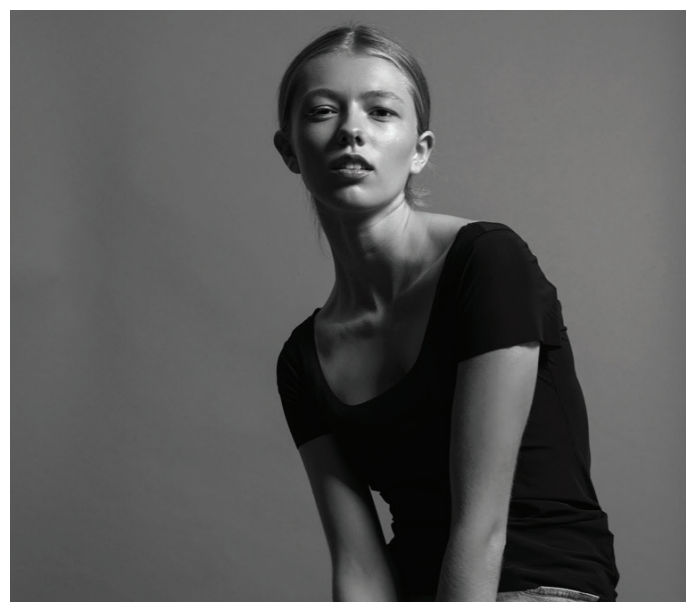
"My least favorite thing is probably not eating as many sweets as I would like," Bryant said. "I'm a foodie, so sometimes eating a salad doesn't cut it. But at the end of the day, I wouldn't have it any other way."

Balancing school and modeling can be a challenge as well. Luckily for Gruber, being a senior means more schedule flexibility.

"Since I have a light senior year schedule, this year hasn't been that much of an issue, but you have to know your priorities," Gruber said. "Having to decline jobs because you have finals is never fun."

People tend to put models up on a pedestal and think they are perfect, when really they are just like us. They literally are us. Models at South have worked with well-known names and still hate finals and struggle to balance school with their extra activities and work.

In this black-and-white photo, senior Erin Gruber poses in a modeling job with Prada. In addition to modeling, Gruber is passionate about film, photography, and music.





PHILLIP BINDEMAN

South seniors Wyatt Anderlie-Higbee and Luka Varga pose in one of their favorite spots to kick back and spit rhymes. Despite the chilling weather, the two aspiring rappers continued their grind toward success





THE UNSUNG ACHIEVERS

JACKSON NAUGLE

On an average winter day at South Eugene High School, a group of standout students gather around a picnic table in the Science Courtyard, bobbing and moving rhythmically, their own unique version of unwinding. Garmented in a mish-mash of Carhart overalls, Timberland boots, graphic hoodies and stylish headbands, this assemblage was living life stress-free, placing their focus on what they believed matters most: music.

One student obtained the spotlight in brief, rattling off bar after bar, while the others marveled from a distance.

"We the misfits that you heard spittin in the hallways," Wyatt Anderlie-Higbee rhymed, while the others threw in an ad lib or two, continuing their measured oscillations.

"Sheeeeeeeesh," a voice rang from across the yard. "That's flame, Wy!"

This unknown voice did not throw off Anderlie-Higbee, but fueled him, as he wrapped up his cypher and passed off to another of his fellow MCs. Accompanying the long-haired senior was a combination of aspiring rappers, and already established ones, collectively representing the South Eugene Hip-Hop scene. Inspired by modern lo-fi beats and the pressing issues of the area, this bunch is unique to say the least, providing their own twisted chapter to the book of rap.

For Anderlie-Higbee, the current coverboy of Freestyle Friday and local icon, music is all about positivity.

"Music is a unique way to express myself in positive ways and maybe help others realize they can do anything that brings them joy," Anderlie-Higbee said. "I'd say personally that I try to convey a general idea of positivity in music; it's fun to challenge myself."

With this idea in mind, Anderlie-Higbee has been successful to say the least. His once-per-month freestyle Friday segments on The Axe Report have consistently entertained, providing viable reason for struggling students to wear a smile in the morning.

"People enjoy seeing someone doing something unique and dope. People like freestyle rap . . . and I also think the Supreme

STORY

Luka Varga and Wyatt Anderlie-Higbee, two of South Eugene's most enthralling personalities, are on a mission to preserve Hip-Hop as a music genre.

store and the intro make it too nice," Anderlie-Higbee said in reference to the swift editing techniques added to each of his segments by the Axe Report's Richard Lathrop.

"Presentation is a way to show someone's talents, skills, and flaws," Anderlie-Higbee added. "I'm just having fun and sending it."

Sending what you might ask? The answer lies only in the methods to Anderlie-Higbee's madness. A message perhaps? While strutting down the halls with a wardrobe that exudes swagger, Anderlie-Higbee wants nothing more than to inspire at the end of the day.

"Senior year . . . no regrets," the energetic MC said. "My goal is to have some more kids at South start freestyling and try to rap to make the kids happy and have a cool hobby."

At this point, it is safe to assume that Anderlie-Higbee's goal has been accomplished, at least in part. Being broadcasted to 1,400 teenage kids one Friday a month is a way to make a name for yourself, and as Anderlie-Higbee's legacy continues, his way of life begins to spread.

"I've always enjoyed making people smile and it's a good feeling knowing that hopefully a couple kids are inspired to step out of their comfort zone," Anderlie-Higbee said.

Anderlie-Higbee has already redefined his own comfort zone, making the step from his low-key courtyard showcases to a more schoolwide stage, even performing at a recent assembly with friend and fellow hip-hop artist Luka Varga.

Varga, professionally known by his stage name "Metis the Chemist," accompanied Anderlie-Higbee at the faded purple picnic table in the science yard, bouncing rhymes back at his fellow senior.

"Microphone check—1, 2—we some goons," Varga, or should I say "The Chemist," spat with an infectious flow.

Sick rhymes and dapper clothing are common among the upbeat crowd, as is the message of peace and positivity.

"I'm trying to send the message of peace, love, and equality, while maintaining the struggles that rappers have always had," Varga said.



While attempting to remain somewhat close to Hip-Hop's never-ending textbook, Varga still hopes to break norms as every new music artist should.

"I'm trying to do something that's never been done before," Varga said. "My album is gonna be a banger. It's gonna sound like Pink Floyd mixed with Joey Bada\$\$... that's the vision."

For Varga, the overall vision is not clear cut or finalized yet. Only a high school senior, the somewhat successful SoundCloud presence simply loves the vibe of music, and ties his inspiration to various artists small and large.

"What really inspires me is the artists I get to see every day, and watching them improve," Varga said. "I've got to see guys like Caleb Madden and Cameron Lutchter grow a lot."

Additionally, Varga attributes a piece of his success to big-time artists, as any young musician might.

"People like Flatbush Zombies, Joey Bada\$\$, and other artists who try to send a different vibe inspire me a lot," Varga said.

With this inspiration comes success, and when asked about the reality of his own success, Metis the Chemist was as humble as it gets.

"There's no words that explain how it feels. I feel a sense of confidence but I know that I'm still nothing," Varga said. "When people know who I am in the halls, it feels good, but I still have so much growing to do. I know people's egos can get bloated, but I'm never going to get to the point where I feel better than someone else. We're all just humans on earth at the end of the day."

So there you have it. Anderlie-Higbee, Varga, and company are just a few more humans on earth with a few more ideas. As the cool winter breeze blew past the multi-talented, over-stylish, bright-eyed bunch of rappers in the Science Courtyard, a Bluetooth speaker blared on with the sounds of deep bass and crisp hi-hats. As the bars ran dry, the crowd re-entered the reality of school, and off they went, still adding to their long-awaited chapter in the book of rap.



Similar to many rappers throughout the world, Varga and Anderlie-Higbee place great emphasis on their aesthetic, attempting to come across as the wall-breaking stylists that they are.





BEST BATHROOMS AT SOUTH

ZOË PRINGLE

You decide to go to the bathroom. Maybe you cannot bear to sit through another educational movie where the teacher never moves the mouse off of the screen, or you want to make a call to your Senator, expressing your concern regarding their vote for an important bill. Which bathroom do you go to? The decision between walking the long South halls to use the best bathroom or to use the closest bathroom and suffer through broken stalls, questionable smells and broken paper towel dispensers is possibly one of the greatest challenges facing our generation. Much like water fountains, it seems that South students know the best and worst bathrooms at South. What teachers may view as “wandering the halls” (with a hall pass, of course), students know as a trek to their favorite bathroom. By senior year, there is an unspoken code about which bathrooms to avoid. Explanation is no longer needed for why a group of friend walks past a seemingly fine bathroom; everyone just knows there is a better bathroom in sight.

A survey was given out to South students, and the results confirm strong feelings regarding bathroom choices. All the bathrooms at South were given as options: male, female, and gender neutral bathrooms.

The “300 Back Hall/Cafeteria” women’s bathroom was voted the best women’s bathroom, with roughly 23 percent of female voters casting their vote for this fan favorite. Following as a close second, with about 19 percent of female voters choosing this option, was the “Main Hall End Women’s Bathroom.” The best men’s bathroom was voted as the “700 Hall Above the 400 Hall Men’s Bathroom,” with a 38 percent popular vote.

Students were found to be even more opinionated about the worst bathrooms that South hosts. A whopping 63 percent of

Much like water fountains, South students know the best and worst bathrooms in the school.

ZOË PRINGLE

STORY

Bathrooms at South are about as varied as teachers’ grading styles, creating clear favorites and least favorites.

females voted the “400 Back Hall Women’s Bathroom” as their least favorite bathroom at South. The most cited reason for this vote is “broken stalls,” but the individual responses were much more telling. Answers like, “Kids smoking in the stalls too much,” “Tiny, hard to use sink that is always cold,” and “Everything is horrid,” summed up my findings. The most unpopular men’s bathroom is tied for the “IHS Men’s Bathroom” and the “300 Back Hall Men’s Bathroom,” both at 38 percent.

“Clean, good lighting and full of resources is how I determine a good bathroom,” senior Erin Gruber said. Gruber’s favorite bathroom is the cult favorite, “300 Back Hall/Cafeteria Bathroom.”

Whether you use bathrooms to take selfies, seek refuge, or to actually use a toilet, you can likely find someone else who shares your opinions regarding your bathroom of choice.



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

RUPA STEIN

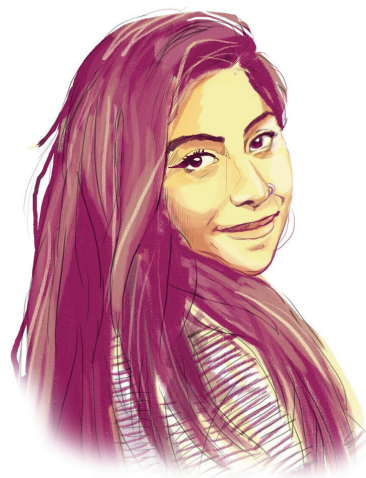
April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and as the conversation about sexual assault around South begins to die down, this is the best time to bring it back around. For this story, I conducted an online survey asking five questions.

1. Is society apathetic toward sexual assault?
2. Do you think #MeToo and other movements are effective?
3. What do you think administration can do better to support survivors?
4. How can we improve upon sexual assault awareness and education of consent?
5. What does enthusiastic consent look like to you?

OLIVER GUIDO

SENIOR AT SOUTH

1. I think, to a degree. America largely tries to do some work, but not enough. The conversation needs to be more openly held about how America doesn't care that much about rape.
2. Yes, I think so. I think they start the conversation and expose



people who were too "powerful." It shows that no one is invincible as long as it doesn't evolve into a witch hunt which would devalidate a lot of the movement.

3. I don't honestly know. I'm sympathetic to them, but I don't like them either. I understand it's a hard job and a difficult position to be put in.

4. I think breaking the wall and raising people's maturity levels because sex talk in general is a little taboo and sex education is still primarily based on being celibate. It's dumb.

5. Saying yes, being sober enough to actually say yes, and seeing that they're excited and happy, too. It's about seeing them enjoy it, too. I actually have a shirt about consent being made right now!

INDIGO AMARYS

SENIOR AT SOUTH

1. I feel that American society places a priority on a reaction to assault – emotional "outrage," sadness, etc. – rather than actual action against it.
2. At raising awareness and starting a conversation, 100 percent yes.
3. Work with [district] school board to change policy to be more victim-friendly. Push sexual assault awareness schoolwide, rather than exclusively freshman.
4. Ted Talks.
5. YES!!!

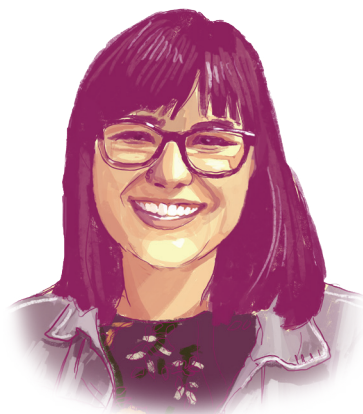
MAYA CORRAL

SENIOR AT SOUTH

1. I think our society has been apathetic to sexual assault for far too long, but I definitely think that it is getting better. The most alarming thing I notice when teaching consent education courses, is the number of (mostly female) students who can only imagine a world in which they are affected by sexual assault. I've had friends and students tell me that they are happy they got it (their sexual assault) over with. In that way, as well as the lack of men taking part in sexual and reproductive health conversations, I think that we are very apathetic to the reality of sexual violence in our community and society.

2. While I think the #MeToo movement has brought sexual assault into the mainstream, and allowed survivors to step forward and be empowered in reclaiming their bodies and stories; I also think the #MeToo movement is filled with a lot of privilege, and the stories being uplifted are those of privilege. Although thousands of people have shared their stories online, celebrities and others who hold power are overwhelmingly in the news. The #MeToo movement definitely holds a place in the prevention and eradication of sexual violence, however, it fails to consider the voices of youth, POC, LGBTQ+ people, and low-income people, making it difficult for it to be truly effective.

3. Legally, I am not quite sure that SEHS and 4J administration can do anything differently than what it has been doing in cases of sexual assault. If they could do anything differently, I would want them to encourage police departments to take these cases seriously, and handle them with the most respect and care (due to potential trauma). I would also encourage students to advocate for their rights, and learn more about the mandatory reporting process in Oregon. This is a super complicated process/structure, and there are a lot of great things about it, as well as bad. Besides that, I would say that the administration could always communicate more with students and keep us involved, and they could encourage and enforce comprehensive sex education (including consent ed) at our school. Lastly – this is more of a cultural thing that our society should be doing – but we should be absolutely hiring more women in leadership positions. I truly believe that women would push for and enforce sexual harassment and assault prevention, because this is an is-



sue that is constantly on our mind. This is a personal issue for many people in our community, specifically women.

4. I don't have a lot to say about this one, but actually enforce it and make time for it in school and health classes. Also, hire educators who are capable of teaching these topics and who are professionals in those areas.

5. Nothing less than a "Hell, yes!" Enthusiastic consent is sober, informed, specific, verbal and body language, freely given, and reversible.

BASIA STEWART

SENIOR AT SOUTH

1. Yes, I unfortunately think that the U.S. society has conformed around sexual assault rather than dealing with it and embracing that it is common. It's still considered a taboo subject and something that many survivors feel uncomfortable talking about.

2. Yes, yes, yes! #Metoo has raised so much awareness to sexual assault and the many different ways it can appear in. The movement was started a couple years ago, yet it has just come to light which I think is a huge step.

3. I would personally like to see more support groups set in place around the school. However I think it's very tricky with mandatory reporting. One (small) step that I think is 100 percent necessary is a class solely based on sexual assault, dating violence and the forms these can come in. It's frustrating that people can get out of health by taking Child Development, where they don't raise awareness to such issues. I think it needs to be a set grad requirement for ALL students to partake in such classes.

4. See 3.

5. To me, it looks like not only saying the word "yes," but also not being coerced or blackmailed into consenting. It means being clear-minded, sober, and wanting to engage with your partner.

To learn more: https://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/2018-01/action_kit_final508.pdf



NATHAN ROWELL

HANNAH SAYRE

South Eugene junior Nathan Rowell is making a name for himself in the world of ballet. Having danced for more than 10 years, Rowell hopes to make it in the professional field. This means cutting his high school career short and abandoning the traditional high school-to-college path. Instead, Rowell wants to

create a career for himself at a ballet company. Like pursuing any professional sport, it is tiring, it is a risk, and it is a sacrifice; but for Rowell, “everything is worth it because I love dancing.”

At age seven, Rowell took his first ballet class at the Oregon Ballet Academy





here in Eugene. He has not stopped since, and now he is almost 17. He spends anywhere from five to eight hours dancing seven days a week, somehow managing to balance school and a social life with this commitment. During summers, he boards at various ballet schools around the country to participate in ballet intensives.

Even bigger things are coming for him very soon. In a few months, he is marking his 10th year dancing by moving out of state to attend the Houston Ballet Academy, a world-renowned professional school, where he also plans to pursue his career within the academy's company.

"My absolute favorite part of ballet is the performance aspect — showing the audience all the hard work you've put into the show. It's so rewarding," Rowell said.

Without an appreciation for performance, Rowell would not be a big deal. Through the Oregon Ballet Academy, he holds the lead role in virtually every show. In the four major performances the academy puts on — Snow White, Sleeping Beauty, and Nutcracker, Rowell plays the Prince. This repeated exposure to performance has given him the confidence and renown to pursue professional dancing.

Whether or not you can dance professionally is somewhat determined at birth. Long legs, a defined foot arch and natural flexibility are important genes for a ballet dancer to possess. Additionally, having started at a young age was an important factor that contributed to Rowell's success. Accustoming your body

while your growth plates are still open is important for being capable of bending into unnatural poses.

"It's not great for your body," Rowell said. "I'm always preventing injuries and dealing with the injuries I have. Right now I have tendonitis in my right knee, but I haven't been taking any time off. I also sprained my ankle in September, and recently it's been coming back and hurting me." He also tore his MCL a few years ago, and suffers from back problems.

Rowell's training is indeed taxing and physically strenuous, but in a unique way. A big part of Rowell's training involves lifting, but he explains that these are aerobic lifting exercises to build strong, lean muscle.

"You don't want to look like a body builder," he said. Male ballet dancers must construct muscles that are capable of holding ballerinas over their heads, often with one arm.

Peoples' preconceived notions about ballet associate it with femininity and belle. Masculinity, however, plays an important role in ballet, and gender roles are a major component — ballets tell stories; they are emotional and they are remarkably historic. There is and has always been a fine line between males and females in their roles and in their training. Ballet for men is focused on bursts of energy and power — through high jumps, fast twirls and lifts. For women, it is all about poise and elegance — pointe techniques and soft upper body movements. Despite the importance of both genders in ballet, it is harshly stereotyped a "women's thing."

"There's usually a pretty big stigma around boys doing ballet," Rowell said. "It's a thing in society where if you do ballet, you're gay or you're super feminine. But that just comes from a lack of understanding about boys' role in ballet. It doesn't matter who you are, your sexuality, it's for everyone. Nowadays if someone



Rowell plays Prince Siegfried in a production of *Swan Lake*. Rowell holds (writer) Hannah Sayre in a ballet "fish", a common male lift.



A WILD SPACE IN AN ORDERLY PLACE

HUNTER CALVERT & MIRA SPRINGER

The Willamette Valley Courtyard, informally known as the Natural Growth Courtyard, is plotted between the 400 and 500 halls here at South Eugene High School. The site has been confronted with criticism regarding its necessity and visual aesthetic throughout its developing years: Critics describe the courtyard as unappealing, hollow, and inoperative. Yet supporters of the courtyard praise its natural connection to Willamette wilderness, as well as its academic and emotional benefits.

Before 1999, well-groomed pathways cut through the courtyard space, carpeted by manicured grass lined with non-native flora. The old courtyard, though pleasing to the eye, was strenuous to maintain and cost prohibitive.

Thus, in 1999, the courtyard was stripped down to be the space it is today with the fresh title, “Willamette Valley Courtyard.” The renovation project, funded by the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticide (NCAP), removed every bit of flora from the old courtyard, planting Oregon-native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses in its place.

Whitey Lueck is a horticulturist, landscape architect, and teacher at the University of Oregon. Lueck is the mind behind the entire landscape design of the 100-by-100 foot courtyard, and he continues to maintain the space to this day, almost 20 years after its renovation.

His basis for the design of the courtyard was his passion for the value of natural, unmanicured wilderness. The courtyard exists in high contrast to the average school landscape. 4j’s natural spaces tend to consist of green, mowed grass and non-native flowers.

Whitey Lueck holds utmost respect for the 4j district, but he does have his natural criticisms.

“To 4j, soil is just dirt . . . It’s not worth anything until you build a building on it. They don’t understand, as I do, and I hope you will, the soil is life!” Lueck stated.

4j’s outdoor spaces “give aesthetic benefits,” Lueck conceded. But, “most landscapes take a lot — fuel, pesticides, fertilizer, water, time, labor, worry — and they give very little.”

STORY

Are weeds and tall grass all the Natural Growth Courtyard has to offer? Or is there more? Let’s take a look.

Compared to the average 4j landscape, the maintenance required for the natural-growth yard is “a small fraction of the time, and certainly the money,” as well as “virtually no fossil fuels,” Lueck said.

The horticultural shift of the Natural Growth Courtyard from manicured lawn to lightly maintained wilderness is an ideal that Whitey Lueck would like to see turn into a trend. He even mentioned planting large trees in front of South Eugene, creating a forest-like presence around the school.

“It’s a very different take on landscape, but our culture has to come around to this,” Lueck said.

Despite its cost-efficiency and unique sustenance of Willamette wilderness, the Natural Growth Courtyard has its opponents.

Many students at South see the courtyard as useless and visually unappealing.

“It seems abandoned,” South sophomore Mike Gustafson said.

The criticism primarily stems from the fact that the courtyard is typically locked to the public in order to preserve the natural

*Native to Oregon, the thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*) plant grows white flowers in the spring and sweet, raspberry-like fruit in the summer.*





soils, so students are often unable to enjoy or learn from the natural space.

“It’s very messy and overgrown,” senior Aria Ervin claimed. “I don’t understand the point of having the space if no one can go in.”

Courtyard caretaker Lueck has closed the courtyard to free student flow in fear that the natural soils, plants, and grasses will be harmed if confronted with too much foot-traffic.

“I’m concerned about inadvertent disrespect to what’s here,” Lueck said.

“It seems underutilized,” sophomore Charlie Mckrola-Dey stated. “The way it is now, it makes sense that many people wouldn’t be allowed to go in because then it would be ‘trampled on’ growth courtyard.”

Due to the courtyard’s vulnerable state during rainy seasons, Lueck proposed the solution that students could have seasonal access to the courtyard, or limit the use of the space to a maximum of 10 people at a time.

Senior Sebastian Aljian believes that the courtyard would be better utilized if the school “set it up kind of like a park, rather than a natural reserve.”

“I would just unlock it and have better paths,” Aljian said. “It should be more open for people to come and then see the nature rather than be necessarily enveloped in the nature.”

While some argue that the courtyard leaves more to be desired, others believe that the space in its current state is enjoyable, educational, and inspirational.

South Language Arts teacher Jennifer Scott moved from her old classroom in Room 412 to her current classroom in Room 409 last year. One main reason for the change of scenery was Room 409’s unique and expansive view of the Natural Growth Courtyard.

Once Scott saw the courtyard from former English teacher Eileen Babb’s classroom, “I knew that upon her retirement I wanted to grab that room,” Scott said.

For Scott, the courtyard aids her in teaching, and the view acts as a mental recess from everyday work at school.

It’s a very different take on landscape, but our culture has to come around to this.

WHITEY LUECK



^
The Natural Growth courtyard represents savanna and grassland habitats, which were both once common in the Willamette Valley.

“Not only have I used it as inspiration for impromptu poetry in front of my class in teaching the nuances of imagery, but I have often looked out into it while students finished tests or other assignments,” Scott stated. “I see bluejays perching on the branches of the trees and butterflies flitting around, touring the space that we have provided for them.”

Scott did note that wildflowers and other vibrant plants are few in number within the courtyard, yet the space is still well-appreciated.

“Regardless of the lack of colorful flora, the view from my windows has comforted many a student who merely needs a glimpse of nature,” Scott said. “The space makes me a child again.”

The Natural Growth Courtyard continues to serve the purpose it was designed for, and will always be subject to criticism. The space nourishes Oregon-native trees, plants, and shrubs, and provides a unique window to local nature that is found in few other places at South.

The Axe staff suggest that the readers educate themselves on the courtyard’s purpose, history, and future. Peer into the courtyard from time to time. You may even ask permission to take a stroll through the courtyard. Educate yourself, and decide: Where do you stand on the current state of the Natural Growth Courtyard?



YOUTH INSPIRED TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

NISSA SCHLOSSBERG

While our generation is already oversaturated with tips to better our lives, from the trendiest ways to straighten your hair to instructions on how to cook a five course meal in the microwave, here are some tips that will not just change the ways we live, but hopefully make a positive impact on our planet.

350 Eugene is an environmental organization that works to inform the community about different activities and policies that are encouraging the rise of climate change. The name comes from the amount of carbon dioxide that is safe in the atmosphere (measured in parts per million); 350 is the maximum level of carbon dioxide that is still safe, and we are currently at 409, which puts our planet in a state of climate crisis.

This organization focuses a large part of their time and resources on advocating ways to move off of fossil fuels and other harmful practices while transitioning to different, clean sources of energy.

350 Eugene was created in the summer of 2013, when Patty Hine and Deb McGee met with author Mary Democker to try to confront the climate crisis through different campaigns and direct action. They were very inspired by the work of Bill McKibben, who started the international grassroots movement to fight climate change with some of his students.

Hine and McGee have since formed a group of people invested in finding alternatives to fossil fuels, and the organization has

We also have a lot of fun creating unusually bold and beautiful art... and using it in creatively disruptive ways.

PATTY HINE

STORY

Local environmental group fights climate change through creativity and direct action, while inspiring youth to do the same.

participated in and organized many different campaigns.

“We also have a lot of fun creating unusually bold and beautiful art...and using it in creatively disruptive ways in protests, direct actions, street theater, and other public events,” Hine said.

And while it may seem daunting to think of the climate crisis our planet is in, there are practical tips we, as high schoolers, can take to reduce our carbon footprint and contribute to the fight against climate change.

“The first one that comes to mind is get your food shoppers to buy local, seasonal and organic food, and reduce your intake of factory or processed foods, especially meat,” Hine said. She also suggests using an alternative mode of transportation than that of a fossil fuel vehicle.

We are the future leaders of both our community and country, and we can start making change happen with small adjustments, like voicing our concerns about the impacts of climate change

Members of South's environmental club, EG 350, meet every Monday to look after and learn about the environment, like the causes and effects of climate change.





WHAT HAPPENED TO O.J. SIMPSON

ZOË PRINGLE

Whether you know the story or not, you know the name O.J.

On Jun. 12, 1994 Nicole Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman were found stabbed to death outside of Nicole's condominium in Los Angeles. Orenthal James Simpson was a suspect in the murder, having been married to Nicole for seven years, the father of her two children, and having been caught in marital disputes, which often involved police interference. Simpson, a famous football player turned actor, never turned himself in, and on Jun. 17 was involved in an infamous car chase in his white Ford Bronco SUV on L.A. highways and freeways.

The murder trial began on Nov. 9, 1994 and the verdict was announced on Oct. 3, 1995, where Simpson was determined "not guilty" of either murders.

The outcome surprised the public, as Simpson seemed like the most obvious suspect. The trial was crafted into a racism-versus-domestic-violence conversation, with people all over the country taking sides. Was America biased against Simpson because he was black, or was Nicole Simpson not getting enough representation because she was potentially a victim of domestic violence?

Both sides of the court framed the trial to benefit Simpson, with jury members specifically chosen to benefit their cases. The final jury was disproportionately female, with 10 women and two men; nine black members, two white members and one hispanic member. Many argue that this unusual jury selection was the cause of Simpson's freedom.

The trial was crafted into a racism-versus-domestic-violence conversation, with people all over the country taking sides.

ZOË PRINGLE

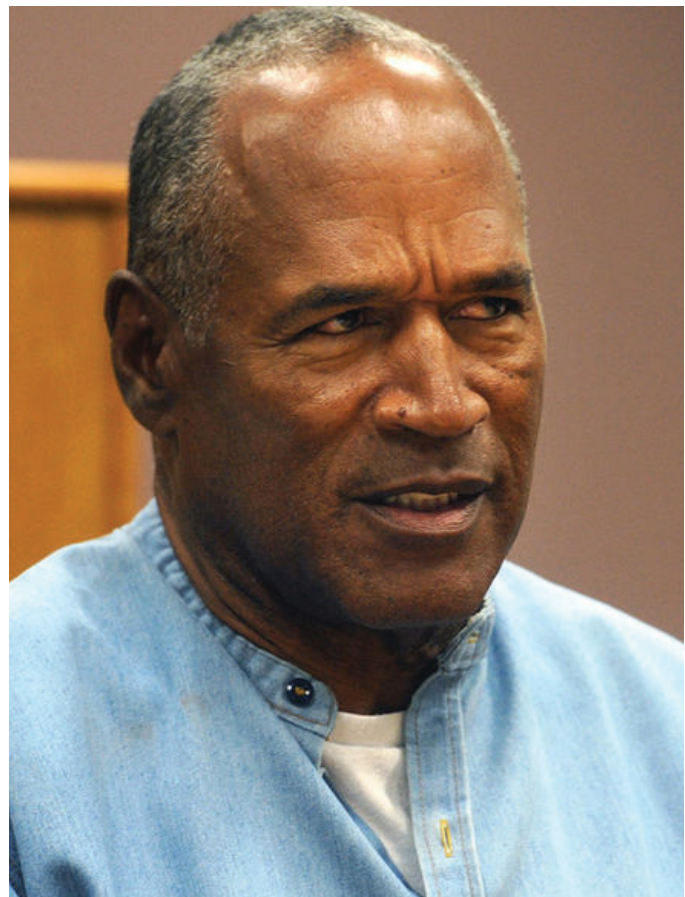
STORY

The murder of Ron Goldman and Nicole Simpson dominated the news for years, but after his imprisonment O.J. Simpson has become silent.

While Simpson was acquitted in the federal case, California v. Simpson, Ron Goldman's family held a civil trial in 1996, in which Simpson was found guilty and was sentenced to pay the families \$33.5 million. Simpson still has yet to pay this money to the victim's families, and Ron Goldman has remained vigilant about receiving his money.

In 2007, Simpson found himself in legal trouble again. In an attempt to recover items that had been allegedly stolen from him, Simpson and a group of men broke into a sports memorabilia collector's Las Vegas hotel room and, at gunpoint, took back the stolen items. Simpson was found guilty of all 10 charges, exactly 13 years to the day of his acquittal of the Simpson and Brown murders. Simpson was sentenced for 33 years in prison in 2008, with chance for parole in nine years. On Oct. 1, 2017, O.J. Simpson was released on parole.

O.J. Simpson at his parole hearing in 2017, where was released from prison under strict conditions.



Where is O.J. now? A man who flourished and then fell in the public eye has suddenly become minutely private.

Directly after his release, Simpson moved into a predominantly white, gated community neighborhood next to a golf course in western Las Vegas.

Simpson has expressed wanting to move back to Florida to be with his family, but there is no record of him making the move yet.

Many are curious about Simpson's possible presence on social media. In 2007, Simpson authored a book titled, "If I Did It," in which he describes the hypothetical description of the murders. It seems that social media is the next natural step for someone who thrives on attention and publicity. He has yet to make any accounts, but in the era of the internet, who knows when this will change.

Vanity Fair has reported that Simpson enjoys drinking, all in constraint of his parole restrictions. This could be potentially dangerous, as Simpson was known for his indulgence in drugs and alcohol throughout his career.

Simpson has also been spotted golfing and taking pictures with fans. He recently said in an interview that, although he and President Donald Trump used to be friends, he probably would not have voted for Trump.

O.J. Simpson trying on gloves found at the murder scene in 1994, coining the famous line, "If the glove don't fit, you must acquit."

While a general picture can be pieced together, the Simpson media silence is shocking to those used to an O.J.-filled newspaper and afternoon news channel.

ZOË PRINGLE

Not much is known about Simpson post-prison. The articles written by major news sources only offer glimpses into Simpson's life. While a general picture can be pieced together, the Simpson media silence is shocking to those used to an O.J.-filled newspaper and afternoon news channel.

While we patiently wait for more information to be released regarding Simpson's new lifestyle and drama, I highly suggest watching both "O.J.: Made in America," a five part documentary series about Simpson's life, trial, and the aftermath, and "The People vs. O.J.: American Crime Story," a television series co-directed by Ryan Murphy, that is a dramatic reenactment of the California v. Simpson trial. The series includes many famous actors, including Cuba Gooding Jr., John Travolta, David Schwimmer and Sarah Paulson.



THE AXE STAFF

AP/IB CRYING PLAYLIST

AP and IB testing is upon us. 'Tis the season to lay down under a pile of blankets and cry for the hours of stress, studying and sleep you will never get back. We all need a good cry from time to time, so put on this playlist, wallow further into your testing misery, and let it all out, my friend.



Everybody Hurts

R.E.M.



The Scientist

COLDPLAY



Stressed Out

TWENTY ONE PILOTS



I Fall Apart

POST MALONE



Let You Down

NF



The Climb

MILEY CYRUS



Back to Black

AMY WINEHOUSE



Mad World

MICHAEL ANDREWS



Turning Tables

ADELE



Sandcastles

BEYONCÉ

JOANNE WANG

SOUTH GOLF TEAM

South's golf team is having a great season, currently first in their conference division. They placed second in their first tournament at Grants Pass Country Club and placed first at their second tournament at Tokatee Golf Course.

The men's varsity team consists of Tanner Hermanson, Joey Brundan, Jackson Naugle, Connor Siebert, and Cole Tritch. Members of the men's junior varsity team include Adam Blumenshine, Nate Bouressa, Alex Dzubay, Dylan Siebert, and Will Uhlhorn.

"Golf, to me, is a sport that everyone can play. It is simple, yet challenging at the same time," senior Connor Siebert said, explaining what he enjoys most about golf.

Siebert has been playing golf for a long time and will be playing golf for the University of Puget Sound.

"My parents inspired me to start, and they had me swingin' when I was around 5 years of age. My biggest strength is the ability to adapt to any adversity in my way, and my weakness would probably be my ability to change an issue rapidly," Siebert said.



Alexandra Cox and Carly Kaster are on the women's varsity team.

"I have enjoyed this season a lot," freshman Carly Kaster said. "I love how everyone is so nice."

Joey Brundan is on the men's varsity team and is currently ranked first across the board in the Southwest Conference. The entire team is also set to place first in the whole conference.

The men's varsity team has a Eugene Country Club tournament coming up and the state tournament will be held at Emerald Valley this year.

RACHEL FINKLE

HOW HIGH ARE HAYLEY KIYOKO'S EXPECTATIONS?

After dropping singles for months beforehand, Hayley Kiyoko has finally released her new album, *Expectations*, on March 30. But does the album live up to its own title? That's a question that has been circling her fanbase, as tracks are analyzed for their catchiness, production value, and explicit LGBT overtones. The consensus? Pretty gay, and pretty good. But is it great?

Kiyoko has always been a beacon for LGBT representation in the music world, with older hits like *Girls Like Girls* and *Cliff's Edge*. She is a synth-pop trailblazer for individuality and self truth, and has always laughingly upheld her "Lesbian Jesus" title to a T. Her well-made music videos and confidence are good goals to aspire to. Her artistic style has certainly grown with her experience, mirroring so many other women-loving-women's journeys in affirming their sexuality.

Before releasing *Expectations*, Kiyoko released three singles off the album: *Feelings*, *Sleepover*, and *Curious*, each with a music video to accompany them. They were met with excitement and appreciation, making big ripples and amping up a fanbase for the upcoming album. The songs are catchy, with memorable wordplay and dancing, but when compared to the rest of the songs on the album, they are definitely in the top few. The others (with a couple exceptions) seem to fall a little short in originality, just in that they sound like generic pop songs, lyrical and sound-wise, though they all keep to the sapphic theme.

In the end, it is a good pop album, with solid tracks and a good encompassing aesthetic. It's a huge step LGBT visibility to have pop music that can make it to the radio with same-sex love interests for the songs' focuses. However, after



ART

SLEEPING GIRL

On her gorgeous black and white piece, South senior Hannah Shlesinger used a range of graphite pencils to emphasize various shades of light on paper. After seeing the photo in which her artwork is mimicking, Schlesinger was immediately inspired to begin drawing.

