

The Westword

Student voice of the Westhill community
"The test of good journalism is the measure of its public service."

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DISCUSSING THE
UPCOMING BLOCK
SCHEDULING

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HISTORY OF
IMPEACHMENT WITHIN
THE UNITED STATES

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BEHIND THE SCENES OF
FILM PRODUCTION

The Westword

2019-2020 Staff

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October 2019

Note from the Editors

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first issue of the year! We are very excited to start another great year of serving as the student voice of the Westhill community.

Our Editorial this month analyzes the flaws within the AP system, focusing on the new registration deadline and changes to multiple exams.

News covers the High School Nation concert and renovations still being made in the Media Center.

In Viewpoint, we analyze if Christopher Columbus deserves to be celebrated, specifically with a national day off from school.

This issue, Special Report delves into the histo-

ry of impeachment in the U.S. as well as the current impeachment inquiry following President Trump.

This Supplement insert shines a light on previous pushes for climate change legislation as well as modern day activism.

En las Noticias, analizamos la crisis sobre los precios de la gasolina en Ecuador, así como la presenciade la comunidad LGBT en las películas exhibidas este año el festival decine NewFest.

Feature this issue highlights the Start with Hello campaign being implemented throughout Westhill as well as introducing Mrs. Small to the Viking community.

Limelight looks into the new streaming service,

Disney+ as well as behind the scenes of film production.

In Sports, we provide insight on the rundown track and sit down with our Athlete of the Month, Matt O' Connor.

For more, visit thewestwordonline.com. Be sure to check out our Instagram account for updates @thewestword.

We encourage any and all readers with comments, questions, or concerns to contact us by either dropping a letter into Chloe Giulini's mailbox in room 224 or emailing us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Chloe Giulini & Veda Bhalla

Editorial Policy

The Westword will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published during the school year by The Westword staff, along with the Communications class. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint and the Op-Ed page do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

The Editorial Board consists of Julia Afsary, Hailey Baloutch, Veda Bhalla, Lexi Boccuzzi, Mary Chobanyan, Emelynichole Chuco, Kristina DeLelle, Chloe Giulini, Michael Quinn McHale, Lucca Metzger, Micayla Roth, Elizabeth Watkinson, Marta Zach, Jason Zarilli, Mr. von Wahlde, and Mr. Wooley. The Editorial can be found on page 3.

Announcements

There are no announcements at this time.

Corrections

The Westword has no corrections at this time.

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If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please e-mail us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

Front cover photo by **Lucca Metzger** / Managing Editor.

Back cover photos by **Bram Johnson** (top), **Lucca Metzger** (left) & **Abraham Talbert** (right) / Contributor, Managing Editor & Staff Writer

Examining the flaws in the AP system

For many high school students in the American public school system, standardized testing is a regular part of the academic experience.

College Board is a national testing organization dedicated to expanding access to higher education. The company not only vets how student's academic performance is measured but also the curricula and courses many are enrolled in.

College Board is responsible for creating and distributing the SAT, AP exams, and subject testing. For AP exams, the months of intense loads of homework, test prep, and three hours of scratching Number 2 pencils all come with the perception that students will receive university credit for passing scores.

ology, and AP English Language and Composition. For the most part, College Board has limited the scope of material in these courses to better align with college-level expectations.

College Board claims that their course framework follows building a curriculum around definite learning outcomes and making a very detailed, structured base to be the curriculum.

"The rigor of the AP History exams has definitely decreased over the decade I have been teaching these courses. The amount of content students are expected to know on exams is much less. Also, the style of writing expected in AP history courses is not applicable to college courses. The CollegeBoard is attempting to make the courses

more accessible to a broader range of students, and when combined with the fact that they have drastically moved up the registration date, it is apparent that it is simply a 'money-grab' on their part," Mr. Petrone, AP World and European History teacher, said.

Therefore, big-picture ideas are supported by concepts in the learning outcomes. This makes it easier for students to completely understand one topic which eventually adds up to a broader theme in the course.

Many faculty members believe this change may be a good thing as it provides the opportunity to have AP students know the best possible answers during the exam and have a "road to uniformity" for all teachers and have the ability to

"I do not like the earlier registration date because students aren't able to make an informed decision on whether or not to take the AP exams for their courses," Mrs. Ochoa, Westhill guidance counselor said.

With most college applications due in January, the February deadline allowed college-bound seniors to decide which exams to take based on the AP credit information of the schools in which they already applied. Seniors who were accepted into college earlier could even tailor their AP-testing requirements exactly to the school in which they were planning to attend.

Due to the fact that seniors have a less definite list of the schools in which they are applying

just on testing.

Westhill offers a broad range of AP courses; with many students taking three or more exams per year, making the hefty price tag an annual matter. This cost bears a heavy financial burden on many families.

Seniors who take an AP-heavy course load have to pay for exams on top of college applications, senior dues, prom, and graduation costs. This financial expense is meant to be compensated by credits filled by colleges, however, universities are increasingly not accepting APs for credit.

"From what I've heard many colleges aren't giving students credit for the actual class they took as an AP but instead are giving them elective credit, making students have to retake the course when they enter college," Mrs. Ochoa.

The AP are intended to offer students the opportunity to engage and receive the experience of learning in college-level material while allowing students to fill college course requirements on the basis of the score they receive on a concluding test.

According to a study of the 153 top universities as ranked by US News and World report in CNBC News, 86 percent of these schools restrict AP credit in some way. This study as well as CollegeBoard's website recommends students review the policies of the institutions they want to apply to.

With more and more school's not taking these scores, students are becoming increasingly frustrated with the effort and cost they invested into these courses.

"Despite taking AP classes throughout highschool, [while] applying to college, I realized that APs are pretty much useless. My sister took over 10 APs and got credit for only one despite getting all 5s. College's want you to take their version of these courses and that's not going to change," Bennett Ehret ('20) said.

Overall, it is clearly evident that the AP system is drastically flawed. As students, our high-school and college educations are overly dictated by CollegeBoard. Unless some significant changes are made to the process, APs will continue to be flawed and confuse students and their families.

Bottom Line: The AP process is clouded by confusion and flaws.

In recent years, this perception has not only been found faulty, but families are facing a greater financial strain, and student's a greater academic burden through the institution of APs.

Recent changes in test content and rubrics, the adjustment of registration time, and the overall declining number of colleges accepting credit for passing exams are just a few examples.

"I feel pressured by colleges to maintain a sufficient amount of AP courses but I know it doesn't contribute to my educational experience," Ryan Sklover ('20) said.

Over the last year, significant changes have been made to many advanced placement course curriculums. These courses include AP World History, AP Computer Science A, AP Bi-

instruct their students accordingly.

The biggest concern with APs is whether the exams in previous year have been rigorous enough to give students what they need to thrive in a more rigorous environment.

"The AP system is insanely flawed because it requires high school students to take college level classes in a much more packed schedule," Lilah Steinberg ('21) said.

In the past, AP registration at Westhill has opened up on February 1 and was permitted throughout the month. By that point in the year, students would have learned over half of the course's material, and would have a good sense of whether they would be willing and prepared to take the exam.

However, the October 4 registration deadline this year forced students to decide which exams to take with less than a month of experience in the class, which many students argue does not give them enough time to become accustomed to the course.

in early October, they have a more unclear idea on which AP exams are worth spending money on. This new deadline has forced seniors to determine the necessity of credits for each of their AP classes prematurely.

"The cynic in me I think suggests that the CollegeBoard is trying to put students in a position where they have to lock in with their fees earlier. I do not really see any particular reason why students should so early have to commit to making a decision on whether to take exams or not. This is all part of the CollegeBoard trying to get the volume of their exam taking to be higher than previously and I think this is just one more strategy they are going to use to do that," Mr. Sarkar, CSA and CSP teacher, said.

This further aggravates the undue financial burden AP testing can put on families.

According to CollegeBoard, the average high school student in America takes three AP exams throughout their highschool career. This means that, at the price of \$98 per exam, the student spends \$294

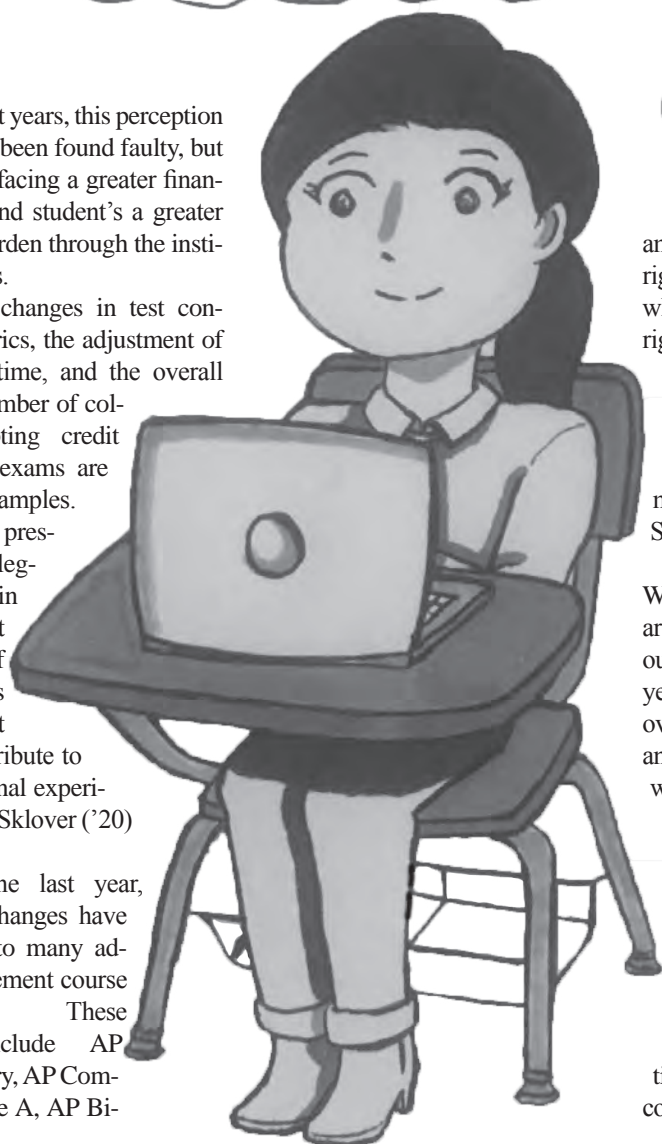


Illustration by Neeka Baclayon / Head Illustrator.

Please submit op-eds and letters to the Editor-in-Chief,
Chloe Giulini's mailbox in Room 224
or email them to westwordwhs@gmail.com.

High School Nation Tour stops in Viking country

Zoe Kallenekos

Reporter

On September 25, Westhill enjoyed a free and exclusive event courtesy of High School Nation. This event, which took place on the first early release day of the year, featured performances by several up-and-coming artists along with numerous interactive booths from the tour's sponsors.

Students followed a special schedule that day, attending four shortened blocks of classes before coming onto the football field for the event. All were expected to attend with the exception of seniors, who had the option of leaving after the fourth block using their open campus pass.

Those who stayed took part in the concert where they were free to explore the many activities offered. Students had the opportunity to try out cutting edge recording equipment, perform on stage with a professional dancer, and more.

"My favorite part was all the different performers because of how many of them there were," Jennifer McKernan ('22) said.

All details were kept from students leading up to the event, which was publicized on flyers throughout the school as a "surprise activity." The flyers encouraged students to wear

green that day, in the spirit of Westhill's concurrent "Start With Hello" week.

Principal Rinaldi told students the events were not planned to occur together, but said the coincidence brought a

in May of the previous school year.

Following the success of previous lunchtime performances, High School Nation offered Westhill, as only one of two schools in Connecticut,

the event. From obtaining Principal Rinaldi's permission to assuring proper set up at 5 A.M. the day of, Ms. Cohen was there throughout the entire process.

The process could not have been completed without the

"It was really intense because all it takes is one person to not sign off and not have the event go on," Ms. Cohen said.

The planners efforts paid off, producing an event that occurred a month into the school year.

According to Principal Rinaldi, this was ideal, allowing the event to kick off the year, uniting the Westhill community for a day of fun and celebration in the warm September weather.

Following the event, many students left positive comments on the organization's social media. However, there were a few aspects of the event resulting in mixed emotions among students. Seniors, particularly, wished for more communication in advance regarding the event in order to make an informed decision as to whether or not to stay.

"I did not know what it was about so I did not really care for it," Hugo Vega ('20) said.

According to Principal Rinaldi, restrictions set by the organization barred the school from promoting the event. With no formal ticket sales to regulate attendance, keeping a low profile was necessary to ensure Vikings could have this special day to themselves.

Plans are currently being made to install the new recording studio, with several locations around the school in mind.



SURPRISE PERFORMANCE High School Nation made their only Connecticut stop at Westhill for a surprise performance.

Photo contributed by **Bram Johnson** / Contributor.

heightened sense of community to the school.

"The stars kind of aligned there to bring the two things [together]," Principal Rinaldi said.

Although students were only given a few days notice prior to the event, planning began months before, beginning

their biggest event: The High School Nation Tour. In addition to putting on the live event, High School Nation donated 20,000 dollars worth of recording studio equipment to the school.

Ms. Cohen, ex-Westhill teacher and co-director of the Lip Dub, lead the planning of

help of both in-school and out-of-school personnel. School resource officers, administrators, and office support staff Mrs. Bartlett began planning with Ms. Cohen. Downtown, several smaller meetings took place with authorities such as the Fire Marshal and Chief of Police to ensure the event would be safe.

Senior administrator bids farewell

Franki Mastrone

Staff Writer

After seven years as an educator at Westhill High School, October 25 marked Mr. Dunlap's final day.

He has taken an Assistant Principal position at Staples High School in Westport, CT.

Mr. Dunlap is not leaving due to any negative or unpleasant reasons. However, Mr. Dunlap's departure has left the student body with some unanswered questions.

Land Crew members are the most influenced by Dunlap's departure. Land Crew is a student led organization that Mr. Dunlap has advised for the past several years.

"The Land Crew Board will miss Mr. Dunlap greatly. His commitment to the club has meant so much to us," Livia Mastrone ('20) said.

Dunlap ensures students that there is nothing to worry about.

"Ms. Grant and I have been talking about the potential transfer of power... knowing the sus-

tainability of Land Crew, and her interests and her passions in the group," Dunlap said.

Interviews are currently being held to fill Mr. Dunlap's administrative position. A decision will be released by November 1.

Mr. Dunlap has been working diligently to ensure all of his affairs are taken care of. Documents and plans are where they need to be for whomever takes over, if they decide to continue with systems he has already established.

"The district has posted the position and that they will engage in the hiring process, but I have been pretty absent from that process," Dunlap said.

Mr. Dunlap and his family reside in Fairfield and he has been commuting to Stamford for a number of years.

With his children growing up, it is sometimes hard to work things out logistically when working so far away from home. He told Land Crew students he hopes to become a Principal one day. He knows that the experience given to him at Westhill has

been extremely valuable and fulfilling in preparing him to tackle such a task.

He wants to experience other types of school environments in order to be fully prepared for the job of Principal one day.

"There are students who need support, they need leadership, they need opportunities, all over the state in many different districts. I am hoping to take the lessons that I have learned here, taught to me by teachers, students and families, and apply them there," Dunlap said.

Dunlap has been the administrator for the Class of 2020 for all four years of high school. He wants the Class of 2020 to know that he does not take his time spent with them for granted. They have taught him so much as both an educator and as a person. But life does not operate on schedule, and when opportunities present themselves, one has to make a very important decision.

"I have been so proud of the work that this class has done since their ninth grade year... They have exceeded expecta-

tions in every arena and I am really excited to see where you all end up in college and what you end up doing. You are all very kind, empathetic, thoughtful and passion driven... you have all created these great opportunities

for self growth and exploration, and that is all I really hope for anybody," Dunlap said.

Though Mr. Dunlap will be greatly missed by staff and students alike, this will mark the start of a new chapter in his life.



SAYING GOODBYE Westhill says goodbye to Mr. Dunlap.

Photo by **Quinn McHale** / Managing Editor.

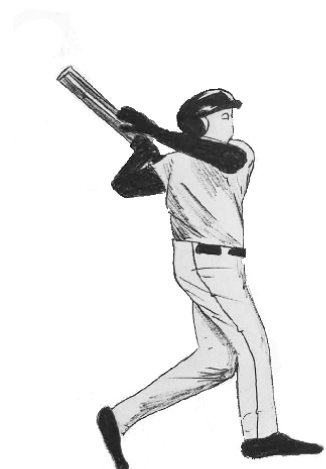
Good Month Bad Month

Column by
Harrison Green
& Jessica Matloub



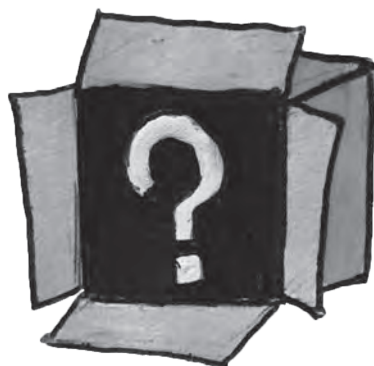
Good Month for...

Washington Nationals Despite losing right fielder, Bryce Harper, in 2018, the Washington Nationals just won their first World Series with a final score of 6-2 against the Houston Astros. The World Series is out of seven games, and the two teams were tied 3-3 entering the final game. The last and only time Washington D.C. won a baseball title was in 1924. According to *The Washington Post*, there was only a 1.5 percent chance of the Nationals winning the World Series, surprising many fans when they beat the odds. Nationals fans celebrated the victory at the Championship parade in D.C.



Bad Month for...

Loot Boxes In past years, loot boxes have been available as a separate purchase in video games. In recent games, such as NBA 2K20, gambling is a large part of career mode. Players spin virtual slots, possibly getting a rare item. People are outraged that a game rated for all ages could include gambling. In a more popular game, Mario Kart Tour, loot "pipes" determine if one earns more points in a race. Both games include expensive and parents fear children getting addicted. According to *The Guardian*, there is a possibility that children could become addicted to spending money on these mechanics.



ACT According to collegetraptor.com, in the process of preparing for college, taking the ACT is a significant source of stress for most teenagers. On Tuesday, October 8, the college-entrance exam ACT established a new policy that rather than retaking the ACT numerous times, a student can choose to do specific sections. Changing the previous system will help students who want to improve their test scores, increase their likelihood of reaching their reach score, and in a less time-consuming manner.



Dogs Owning dogs may help lower the percentage of death, mostly caused by heart problems. According to a study by American Heart Association, which includes a database of 3.8 million people, there is 25 percent less chance to die sooner when owning a dog. Their study also shows that there is a significant difference if the patient had suffered a heart attack in the past, at 66 percent less of a chance to suffer another heart attack related death. As said by foundanimals.org, dogs and puppies have already been known to cure broken hearts in the past, and these new studies provide even more of a reason to get a furry bestfriend.

Bed Bath & Beyond A widespread chain since its establishment in 1971, Bed Bath & Beyond is facing a major downfall. In April, 40 stores were forced to close as they could no longer afford to compete with larger retailers. As reported by cnn.org, the closing of these locations was initially supposed to be final, but a second wave came when closing 20 additional stores. In the past five years, Bed Bath & Beyond stocks have come down 85 percent compared to their previous value.



EEE Eastern equine encephalitis, or EEE, is a disease that is acquired by mosquito bites. Symptoms include fever, vomiting, and restlessness. In the past few months, the disease has been found in mosquitoes in the Northeastern United States. According to the CDC, in the past ten years the most amount of people who have obtained it in a year is 15. So far this year, at least 11 cases have been reported. The disease is spreading throughout the Northeastern United States, and has been found in states such as North Carolina and Michigan. It is advised to remember to wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, especially during sunrise and sunset.

Media Center update

Shira Cohen
Staff Writer

Since September 30, the Media Center has been closed. Students were told that new tables were being added to the Media Center as part of new renovations happening since last year.

After the media center was closed for more than a month last year, students and teachers are frustrated with the prolonged renovations.

Regardless of the reason for delaying the renovations, students have been greatly inconvenienced due to these factors.

"The Media Center closing has impacted me because I can not print things out and I can not get my assignments done during free time during the day," Daniella Klein ('21) said.

Many students rely on the Media Center for everyday tasks.

Even students who do have printers at home have to deal with the expenses of ink and paper which the Media Center normally helps to alleviate. Even those who are not directly affected by the Media Center closing still witness its affect on others.

"While the closing of the Media Center has no impact on me, it may hinder other students' ability to complete work that could not be otherwise done at home. On the other hand, it is important to note that the work being done

will likely be immensely beneficial to all students once completed," Rebecca Friedlander ('21) said.

Many students still acknowledge the fact that the Media Center renovations will help the school, even if it may be an inconvenience at the time.

Media Center specialists are still in school despite it being closed.

"There has been a confluence of issues due to the mold because the mold task force found a leak in between the walls which has compounded the table issue," Ms. Letson, Media Center specialist, said.

Along with mold-related concerns, human error played a part in the Media Center's closing.

"We hoped the tables would be fixed last year but the wrong table sizes were ordered and they had to reorder tables which took a long time since they were custom designed," Ms. Benedict, specialist, said.

"Last year there was an issue with the order to the new tables and we worked with the new facilities management group and they wanted to combine the table issue with the mold issue and sadly the project had been pushed back since the team is in charge of all Stamford public schools and not just Westhill," Mr. Dunlap said.

There is no update on when the Media Center will re-open but faculty will be sure to tell students when they know.



MEDIA CENTER Media Center reconstruction is underway.

Photo by **Sydney Eben** / Photo Manager.

Block scheduling requires extensive planning

Marta Zach
Managing Editor

Block scheduling is the mutually dreaded change to Westhill's traditional six-period day.

Yet, what has been deemed the bane of the '20-'21 school year could potentially grow on the students and staff, many of whom are currently accustomed to the current schedule.

AITE, Fairfield Ludlowe, and Wilton High School have all adopted the idea and it has worked for the students and faculty.

"We get so much time to do homework and it is honestly not that much work in class, even though the periods are longer. It also better prepares us for college, where the classes are long," Evelyn Solonyka of AITE ('20) said.

The current schedule can be overwhelming at times. That is six different classes and six different homework assignments each day.

According to *The John Hopkins Medical Journal*, the human brain is not well suited for multi-tasking. Immersion, on the other hand, has been proven to enhance cognitive skills and boost learning.

Four periods a day means that students only have to focus

on four subjects each day, and will have more time to do so.

An hour and a half period would allow for both students and teachers to fully engage with the coursework and get the most out of the school day. Students would have more time to truly work with the material. Extended periods also allow for more activities in class instead of lectures. There will be time to get mandatory PowerPoints, notes, etc, out of the way while still being able to engage in fun learning pursuits. Longer periods do not feel as rushed, therefore promoting a positive learning environment and improving attitudes. Taking attendance and getting the

will also mean less homework. Students will complete more in school and have time after school to focus on sports, extra-curriculars, and volunteer work. Students have time for schoolwork and for becoming well-rounded individuals. Once it comes time to apply to

college, they will have everything they need, including good grades, under their belt.

Many students know the struggle of having to choose between certain classes that do not fit into their schedule. Also, the eight block schedule will add more courses that have not yet been taught at Westhill.

"There are some classes I would like to have taken, but they did not fit into my schedule," Andrew Ukhanov ('20) said.

Block scheduling means eight course offerings per year, but only four classes a day. This will allow students to have more flexibility but are not overwhelmed.

Extended periods overall promote better grades in school. Students can focus on the material, have more time to get the classwork and maybe even homework done, and have more opportunities to ask questions and talk to the teacher. Teachers will also see fewer students per day, which allows for individualized instruction.

Block scheduling is a new concept, students and teachers have to abandon familiarity for something seemingly abstract. Yet as more schools begin to adopt the idea, block scheduling has been shown to get the most out of the school day, benefitting both students and teachers.

"We would have more time to process the information and understand it better."
— Daniella Affum ('22)

Haylee Pena
Staff Writer

Students and teachers have learned next year is the beginning of block scheduling. There will be four periods a day, each 90 minutes long.

Some say this is a good thing, but many students at Westhill are wary about these long periods.

"The 'new' block scheduling would not be a good idea, but at the same time there are also pros and cons to this upcoming change. It will take a toll on students in different ways, such as them needing breaks if they are going to be in one class for 90 whole minutes," Xyla Bullock ('22) said.

Students already have long block once a day in which they have lunch, so they get a break and are not just in the class for 90 minutes straight. Now students are going to have long block for every period without those breaks. Some students just can not focus this way. Not all students have the same attention span so if students are already struggling to pay attention in the long

block where they have a break, then being in a class for 90 minutes straight seems daunting.

While it may work for some students, it will evidently not work for others. The two main cons of block scheduling for next year is that students will skip and students will not be able to focus with that much time in class.

The attention span of teenagers

"It is going to be more difficult for us to keep up if we are only going to be seeing our teachers three times a week at most."

—Dylan Garcia ('21)

in regular 50 minutes class are little. Keeping them in one classroom for a full hour and a half will lead to many students tuning out.

"With the current attendance policy, students will have to keep an eye on their absences to ensure they do not surpass 20. Block

scheduling is not a good idea. Some students, including me, can not even sit still with the class time we have now, so concentrating in a 90 minute class would not be a good idea. More students will skip because the thought of being in a class for 90 minutes does not sound fun, especially if it is a class or subject that you do not like," Sierra Sumper ('21) said.

when a specific class is only two to three times a week.

"You are not going to be seeing your teacher everyday. We will only see four of our teachers each day. It is going to be harder for us to keep up if we are only going to be seeing our teachers three times a week at most," Dylan Garcia ('21) said.

The concern of remembering the work we will be learning from day to day is common amongst the students interviewed. Students' memories are already strained with all the classes they have to keep track of, now on top of remembering home works, tests and quizzes for each class, they would have to remember information from the day prior.

In addition to worries about memory retention, students are also worried about having to remember what they have learned in class, the attention span and how many students will actually show up to each class. Although there are slight benefits to the block scheduling, the negatives outweigh them altogether.

October 14 is no cause for celebration

The Truth About 1492

Veda Bhalla
Print Executive Editor

In elementary school, students are taught that Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492 and “found” what became known as America.

However, that view tends to change in middle and high school when students learn about the millions of Native Americans who have been abused by Columbus and his followers.

While Columbus is known for “discovering” the new world, there were people already living in that world.

According to history.com, Columbus states in his journal, “they have no iron they would make fine servants ... with fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”

This enslavement and abuse of the indigenous people brings up the debate on whether or not Columbus should be celebrated for his so called discovery.

“Columbus was not as much of a hero as he was made out to be. He thought an entirely separate continent was India, and when he found out it was not he acted as though he had made some huge discovery. People were already living there, and had been for thousands of years. He was cruel to the indigenous people and exploited them to get rich and famous. However, it can not be denied that his so-called discovery changed the world forever, finally connecting the world

in a truly global exchange,” Cece Coleman (’21) said.

Ultimately, there were both goods and bads to Christopher Columbus. He abused many of the indigenous people but he also connected the world, bringing seven continents together.

Another point often brought up is that

seem justified.

“The day can still continue to be celebrated but there needs to be more understanding of

what actually occurred, because a lot of lessons in elementary schools make it to be a big historic event glorifying Christopher Columbus and we really do not know the background of what actually took place when he did arrive. Now it is a monumental decision for the foundation of this country, however there needs to be more knowledge of the background of what actually took place and how this country was built upon,” Mr. McFillin, social studies teacher, said.

Some believe that instead of calling the holiday Columbus Day, it should be changed. According to *The New York Times*, at least six states and 130

cities have renamed Columbus Day as of April 2019.

The case for renaming the holiday in Maine was built on similar points made by lawmakers in other states: Though Christopher Columbus is often credited with discovering America, he never actually set foot on the shores of the continental United States.

According to cnn.org, Maine, New Mexico, Alaska, and Oregon observe Indigenous Peoples’ Day, while South Dakota observes Native American Day and Hawaii observes Discoverers’ Day.

“We should not change it, but dedicate a separate day. I agree that Columbus was not a great person for his actions, and he did not “discover” America, but he did for the Europeans, and to be honest, we mainly only learn about European history in school. Nobody really learns about the medieval period in America. Columbus did discover the Americas for Europe, but I definitely agree that to be fair and make people aware that natives were here first, indigenous peoples day should be a new holiday,” Austin Tovar (’22) said.

Columbus Day has been a federal holiday since 1937 but more and more U.S. citizens are learning what actually happened in 1492. Yes, Columbus discovered the New World for Europe and Asia, connecting the world, but he also allowed for the abuse and enslavement of countless people which is not something that should be celebrated.



students are often taught that Columbus was a hero, making this holiday

Photo courtesy of flickr.com.

OP-ED

Dunlap's farewell to Class of 2020

I want to take a minute to write you a parting letter that hopefully expresses the joy that you have brought me as well as some final wisdom that you may take with you as you move on in your life.

First, I want to acknowledge that we have been through a lot together in our three years and I would like to start by saying thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of your life.

I would be remiss if I say that because of you I have become a better teacher, father, administrator and person. There are not enough words to express how

grateful I am for that other than, thank you.

I assure you that there has been no time in the last three years and two months of our time together that I have not enjoyed my time working with you.

I am so proud of the young adults that you are becoming and I am thrilled for you as you start to reap the rewards of all your efforts. You all know me too well at this point to think I would not take my last moments to impart some pieces of wisdom that I believe will serve you well moving forward.

First, time to develop your emotional intelligence as much

as your intelligence. Your ability to connect emotionally and empathize with others will serve you well in all your future pursuits.

Second, time to listen to understand a person's position, not to just hear what they have to say.

Say yes to new things—new people, new food, new adventures and even new work opportunities, even if the work is hard and you are not getting paid for it. You never know what you will find and or who is watching. Future opportunities will open up because of your willingness to take risks.

Spend your time working to-

wards a solution. Life is short; do not waste your time coming up with reasons why something can not be done. Surround yourself with people who desire to solve the most complex and meaning issues.

Speak honestly and courageously when you witness injustice, no excuses.

I am excited to live in a world where you all exist and I am eager to see what you do with your talents. I am humbled to have worked with each and every one of you and saying goodbye is the hardest part of making this decision. I take solace in knowing that we have done our job

together and you possess all the necessary tools to graduate Westhill this June.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the kind words and gestures that you have shown to me over the years and I will forever remember the class of 2020 as having perfect vision. Clear eyes, full hearts, can not lose.

Peace be your journey,

Mr. Dunlap

SPECIAL REPORT

Impeachment through the years

Hailey Baloutch
News Section Editor

"The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors."

These words, taken from Article II Section 2 of the United States' Constitution, establish a precedent for the removal of an unworthy President through the process of Impeachment.

"Anything that forces Congress to lose trust in the President, or anything that directly violates the law [is an impeachable offense]," Eli Roth ('21) said.

Two steps comprise the Presidential impeachment process. First, the House of Representatives hears the evidence before delivering their verdict by majority vote. If the House of Representatives finds the President to be guilty, then the President has been 'impeached.'

The next step of the impeachment process is the Senate vote. If two thirds of the Senate agree with the House of Representatives' verdict that the President is guilty, then the President will be removed from office.

No President in history has ever been impeached by the Senate.

President John Tyler was the first to face the threat of impeachment. The House of Representatives heard the case to impeach President Tyler in 1842. President Tyler faced much scrutiny due to the turbulence of his candidacy, as he was the Vice-President until the death of President William Harrison, after which he stepped up to take his place.

Impeachment was brought to the table after he vetoed a high number of bills. The House of Representatives dismissed this motion, leaving him without the blemish of impeachment on his record.

Shortly after, in 1868, Pres-

ident Andrew Johnson faced impeachment. President Johnson was accused of unlawfully removing a Senate-approved officer, which violated the Tenure of Office Act. The House passed this motion, thus making Johnson the first impeached President, but he remained in office.

According to Watergate, info, President Richard Nixon was accused of multiple abuses of power, including using government agencies to interfere with political groups which opposed him. Nixon's men participated in a burglary of Democratic opponents at the Watergate Hotel. Many believe he would have been impeached by both the House and Senate had he not resigned in 1974, anticipating backlash.

A notable cause for impeachment was found in the actions of President Ronald Reagan, who committed himself to battling the spread of communism, and as a result, found himself invested in

the affairs of communist Nicaragua. He sought to aid the Contras in overthrowing the government. The Contras had a negative reputation in the United States due to their involvement in the cocaine market.

Reagan was accused of allegedly trading weapons with Iran in order to generate money to fund the Contras' cause. The House of Representatives came close to impeaching him for these reasons, but decided not to move forward.

"This was a major oversight that threatened American trust in government," Tejas Juware ('20) said.

1998 marked a troublesome period for President Bill Clinton, when a troublesome history came to light through a lawsuit filed by Paula Jones, charging him with sexual harassment.

This scandal snowballed into White House intern Monica Lewinsky revealing her and Bill Clinton's affair. Clinton denied these allegations, which were

later proven true. This resulted in his impeachment on grounds of obstruction of justice as well as lying under oath.

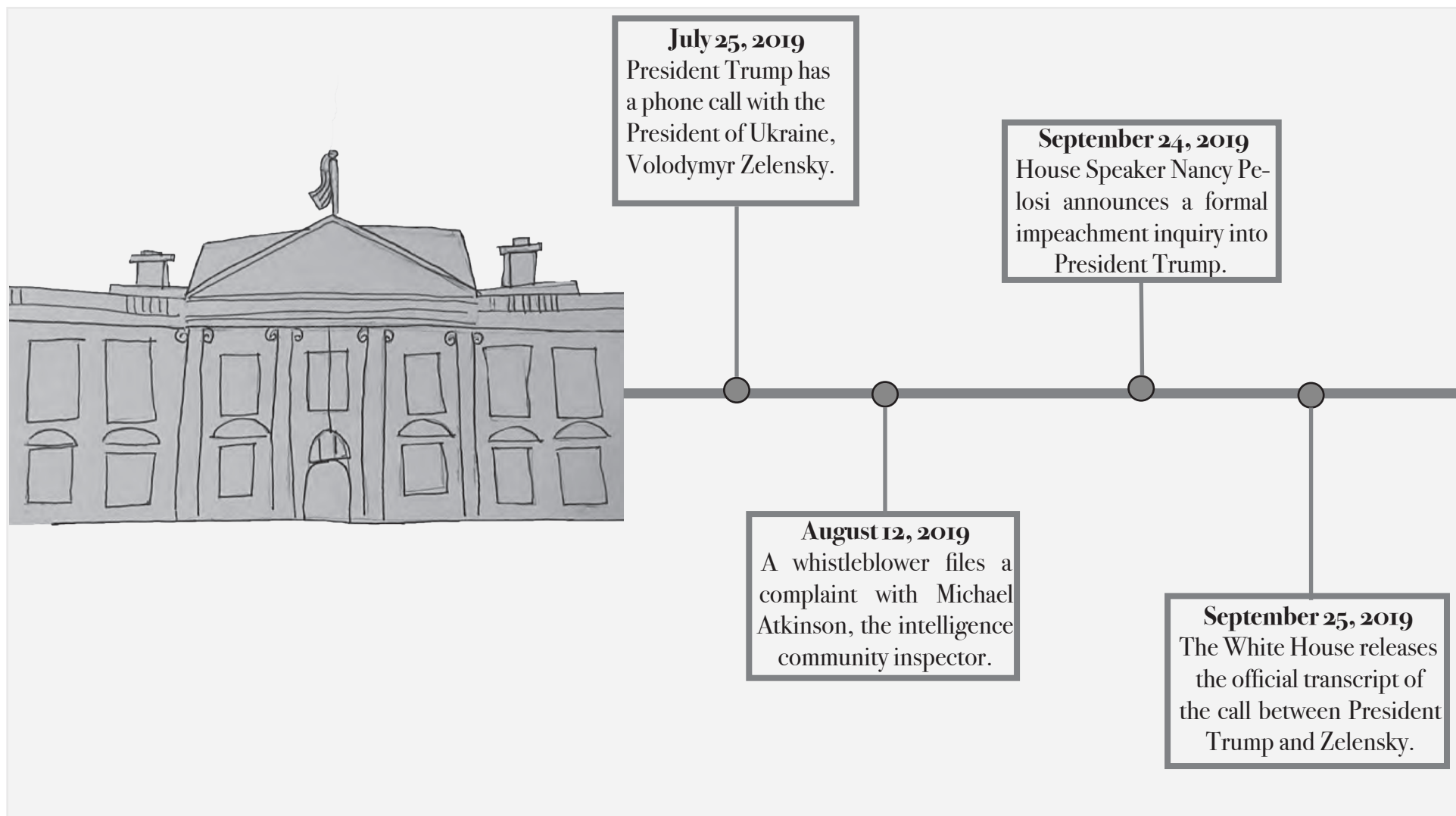
"The amount of sexual misconduct cases on him made him a bad figurehead for the US," Navin Ponnusamy ('22) said.

President George W. Bush became a controversial President for many reasons, the most notable being his creation of the War on Terrorism, needlessly risking the lives of American soldiers in Iraq.

According to thenation.com, a left-leaning organization, Bush was also accused of illegally spying on United States citizens using wiretapping. These allegations were brought to the floor of the House. However, Bush avoided impeachment by a hair.

Some believe that Bush's actions should have resulted in impeachment.

The history of impeachment within the United States is an elaborate and important aspect of history.



A look at the impeachment inquiry

Mira Ahuja
Staff Writer

Discussion surrounding President Trump’s impeachment has circulated since early in his presidency. Few would have guessed it would all come down to a single phone call.

A formal impeachment inquiry was initiated on September 24 by Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi.

“It is pointless so late in his term. If they wanted to achieve anything, they should have started an inquiry earlier in his term,” Peu Das (’20) said.

Events leading up to the inquiry revolved around a whistleblower complaint.

The whistleblower wishes to remain anonymous to avoid direct confrontation with the current President, and to remain safe from some supporters of President Trump.

This individual alleges President Trump of abusing his power as President by calling President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelensky, to run an investigation on Joe Biden.

According to recent polls, Biden is Trump’s main presidential rival for the upcoming 2020 election.

According to *The Business Insider*, President Trump’s attorney, Rudy Giuliani and Trump suggested without evidence that Biden inappropriately pressured Ukraine to fire a prosecutor who investigated Burisma Holdings. However, there is no concrete evidence.

Part of the transcript of the conversation between the two Presidents was released by the White House on September 25.

Shortly after, documentation of the whistleblower’s complaint was released.

President Trump had repeatedly brought up that the United States has been “very very good to Ukraine,” implying the USA’s military aid to Ukraine, which Trump halted on July 18 without explanation.

In the conversation, Zelensky alludes to the United States supplying Ukraine with more missiles to which Trump replies: “I would like you to do us a favor though,” in reference to the presumed investigation on Biden and his son, Hunter Biden.

As of October 21, Trump has denied any relation between the halt of military aid and the conversation between him and President Zelensky.

The final say on the possibility of impeachment would fall upon the vote of the Senate, where they will either pass or acquit the impeachment depending on the majority vote.

According to *The Chicago Tribune*, while the Democrats voiced strong overall support of the inquiry, Republicans produced a more mixed response.

Rudy Giuliani has voiced in defense of Trump that the conversation was “perfectly appropriate.”

Governor of Vermont, Phil Scott, Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker, and Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan were part of a small percentage of the Republican party to voice support of the inquiry against Trump.

On his official Twitter account, President Trump has referred to the document by the anonymous whistleblower as a “Democrat scam” and a “waste

of everyone’s time and energy on bullsh**.”

President Trump said his removal from office would cause “a Civil War like fracture in this Nation, from which our Country will never heal.”

Trump told *The Washington Post* reporters on October 3, with the inquiry still ongoing, that China should investigate the Biden family along with Ukraine.

“If Trump is somehow voted out of office, next in line of succession would be Vice President Pence, who might be even scarier than Trump in terms of the fact that he is even deeper in the system and would be given the power to actually execute the campaigns of the Republican party,” Mr. Purcell, English teacher, said.

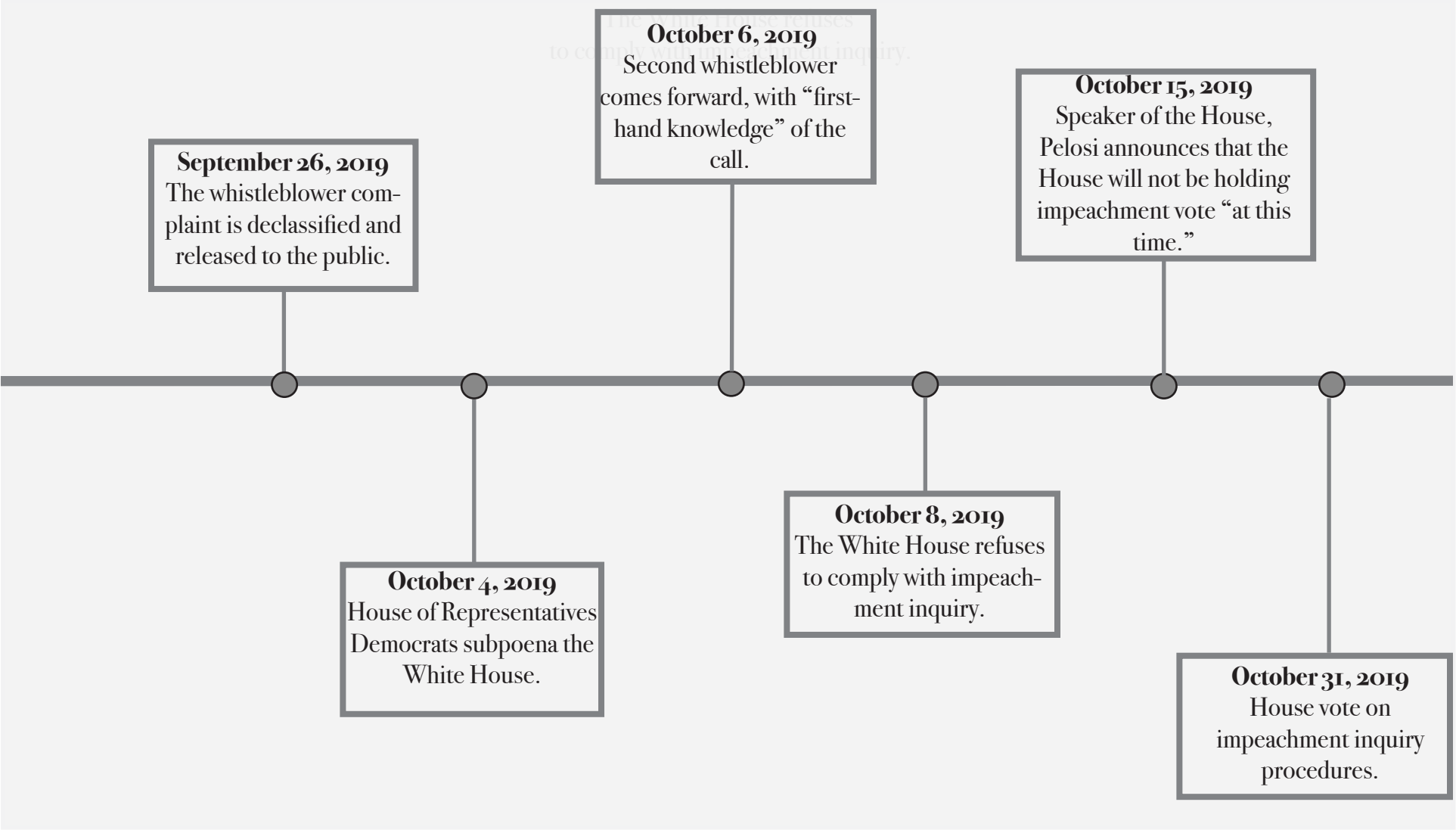
The line of succession would go in the following order: Vice President, to Speaker of the House, to President Pro Tempore to Secretary of State, and so on, down the list of Cabinet members.

According to *The New York Times*, the White House officially responded to the impeachment

proceedings in a letter to Pelosi from White House Counsel Pat Cipollone, stating that the White House would not cooperate with the proceedings as it introduced a list of concerns and “[violated] the Constitution, the rule of law, and every past precedent”

“They started so late in his presidential career. He only has a year left. President Trump has barely done anything. They should have started this inquiry way earlier into his term,” Stephanie Boisrond (’20) said.

However, the investigation continues. The impeachment inquiry process that had initially been predicted to be over by Thanksgiving has been pushed further along as more witnesses reveal leads, upon which investigators must act.



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The Westword Supplement

THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT

**A LONG
BURNING FIRE
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**SPEAKING FOR
CHANGE
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**CLIMATE
PROMISES
ACROSS THE GLOBE
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The push for climate action: then and now

Lucca Metzger
Managing Editor

History tends to repeat itself, and it is more evident today than ever.

Today, climate legislation has come a long way from what it once 100 years ago. To understand how the world has come to where it is now, society has to look at the past.

According to history.com, within the U.S., the first signs of activism came from the 32nd President Franklin Roosevelt. FDR left a massive legacy changing the U.S. forever with things such as the New Deal.

The New Deal was series of programs, public works projects, financial reform, and regulations enacted during the Great Depression. Within the New Deal came plans for conserving the environment.

"I learned all about the New Deal in history. Without it, we would have struggled through the Great Depression, but I had no idea it also involved climate legislation," Lily Carroll ('20) said.

On April 5, 1933, one month into Roosevelt's first term as President, he signed Executive Order 6101 (Emergency Conservation Work Act) which created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was ideal for Roosevelt's New Deal because it created jobs while making the public aware about the environment and natural resource conservation. The CCC planted over three billion trees as well as employed over three million men in nine years.

According to www.nps.gov, in addition to the CCC, forty million acres of farmlands benefited from erosion control projects, 154 million square yards of stream and lake shores were protected, 814,000 acres of range were revegetated, and 972 million fish were stocked

FDR's actions would inspire presidents to come, such as Richard Nixon. Nixon is infamously known for the Watergate scandal which led to his resignation, but what many do not know is Nixon enacted many of today's environmental laws.

According to www.epa.gov, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was created in 1970 under Nixon. The organization's goal is to "protect human health and the environment."

A very important agency within the U.S. today, they help by providing the latest environmental information to the masses as well as creating legislation.

According to history.com, Nixon also enacted laws such as the Clean Air Act (1970), the Clean Water Act (1972), and Endangered Species Act (1973).

These laws still stand today in the U.S. and are heavily regulated through organizations such as the EPA.

"I had no idea Nixon played such a large role in protecting the environment," Cole Cooper ('20) said.

Roosevelt and Nixon's decisions would inspire global leaders to gather together and discuss the impact countries and individuals have on the climate. In 1979, the First World Climate Conference was held in Geneva, Switzerland.

This conference was the first to recognize that countries and individuals had a massive impact on climate change.

According to pbs.org, the official declaration of the conference was "carbon dioxide plays a fundamental role in determining the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere, and it appears plausible that an increased amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere can contribute to a gradual warming but the details of the changes are still poorly understood."

The last part of that statement would lead scientists to continue their research to discover the true means of global warming.

According to www.gewex.org, the conference also produced the World Climate Programme and the World Climate Research Programme. These two programs allowed all countries around the world to share their knowledge on global climate issues. Within the World Climate Programme exists different sub-sections which are focused on specific regions of the environment such as the Global Energy and Water Exchanges which focuses on things such as the earth's water cycle.

Presidents and world leaders alike recognize today more than ever that a change needs to be made.

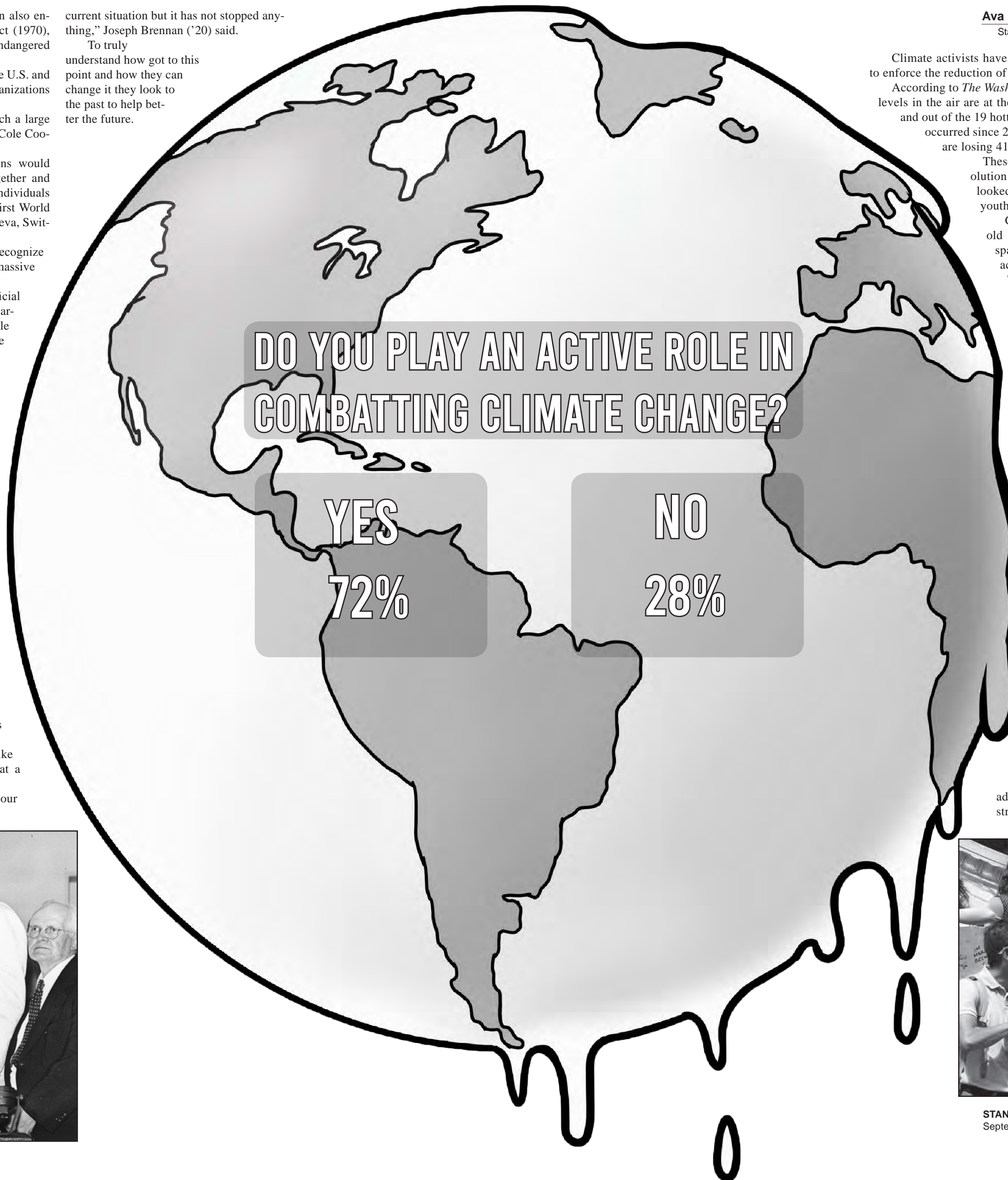
"The past legislation has helped our

current situation but it has not stopped anything," Joseph Brennan ('20) said.

To truly understand how got to this point and how they can change it they look to the past to help better the future.



MANDATING CHANGE President Roosevelt (FDR) signing Executive Order 6101.



Ava Mastrone
Staff Writer

Climate activists have pleaded with world leaders to enforce the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

According to *The Washington Post*, carbon dioxide levels in the air are at their highest in 650,000 years and out of the 19 hottest years on record, 18 have occurred since 2001. Earth's polar ice sheets are losing 413 gigatons of ice per year.

These facts have spurred a revolution in a group normally overlooked by those in power: the youth.

Greta Thunberg, a 16 year old girl from Sweden, has sparked a new era of climate activism. At the age of 11, Thunberg was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Selective Mutism.

As she described in her TED talk, "that basically means I only speak when I think it is necessary; now is one of those moments."

Thunberg could not accept the fact that human inactions were allowing the Earth's climate temperature to rise, yet no rules or regulations were being enforced to stop this from happening.

According to her Instagram account, many people told Thunberg she should be in school, studying to be a climate scientist to find a solution, instead of striking.

On September 20, three days before the U.N. Climate Action Summit, 7.6 million children and adults took to the streets to strike for climate action.

Protests were organized in over 150 countries, with over 500 strikes that took place in the United States alone. The idea behind the protest stems from Thunberg's "Friday for Future" in Sweden. However, on September 20, students and adults across the world joined in the movement.

"I understand why these students are not attending school to protest. They question studying to prepare for their future, since climate change can affect the future completely," Veronica Misiak ('20) said.

Students involved in 'Fridays for Future,' demand stricter climate actions be taken by their governments.

Thunberg and fellow students want world leaders to reinforce past climate legislation and support new acts such as the Green New Deal, designed to address climate change and economic inequality.

"Climate activism today is so necessary. We should have ended climate change already," Aditya Chandraker ('21) said.

Besides student activism, in recent years, a multitude of businesses such as 4Oceans have been created to promote the fight against climate change. 4Oceans is a non-profit focused on reducing and ultimately putting an end to the issue of plastic in our oceans.

Other companies, such as Ikea, have acknowledged the direness of the situation and have promised to run their businesses in more sustainable ways.

According to *The Business Insider*, Ikea has invested two billion dollars into renewable energy projects, which aim to build 416 wind turbines. They have already taken action by situating 750,000 solar panels on Ikea buildings. The retailer has also vowed to ban single-use plastic products from both stores and restaurants by 2020.

In spite of these activists' and companies' efforts, there are world leaders that do not support climate change activism.

President Trump pulled the United States out of The Paris Agreement in September.

The Paris Agreement is designed to accelerate and strengthen the actions needed to be taken by countries in order to end climate change on a global scale. The main goal of this piece of legislation is to lower the temperature rise to at least 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Individuals and companies such as Greta Thunberg and 4Ocean are working to be heard in order to slow down global warming.

"Climate activism is really important because if we do not save the planet, no one will," Lilah Steinberg ('21) said.

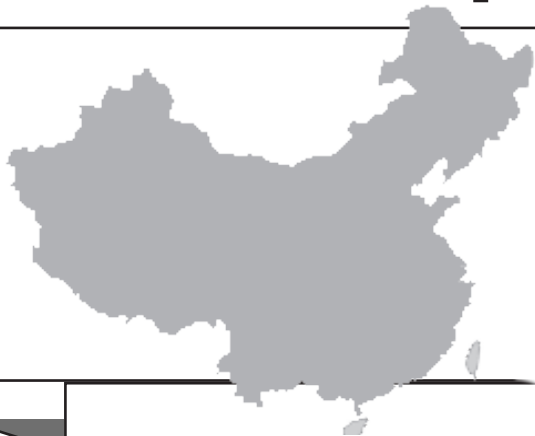
Though there is a significant opposition to the climate change movement and Greta Thunberg's leadership of this activism, students and adults are continuing to speak out in an effort to keep the Earth healthy for generations to come.



STANDING UP Students holding peaceful demonstration at U.N. Climate Strike in New York City on September 20.

Front cover graphic by **Anika Tandon** / Graphic Designer.
Graphic by **Angela Ramirez** / Graphic Designer.
Poll conducted by **Anika Tandon** / Pollster.
Photos courtesy of **pixabay.com**. *Poll out of 98.

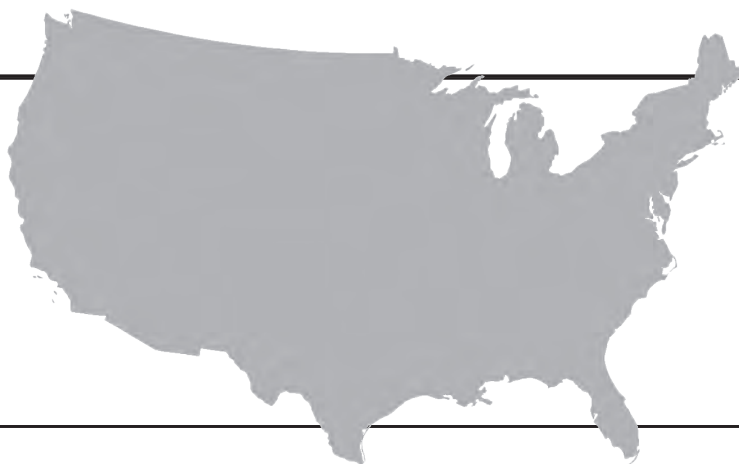
Climate promises across the globe



China's pledge for the 2020 Climate Summit is to increase forest coverage by 40 million hectares and forest stock volume by 1.3 billion cubic meters. Representatives included many broad statements such as "to strengthen laws and regulations on climate change" and "integrate climate related objectives into the national economy." While these statements have good intentions, without quantitative goals, there is no way to ensure that they are achieved. According to cnn.org, they have not planned or researched a long-term strategy but they will do so by 2020 in order to fulfill their promise. China is the world's largest consumer of coal so many assume their actions can have a very large impact on the ability to reduce global warming to 1.5 degrees Celcius.

CHINA**NORWAY**

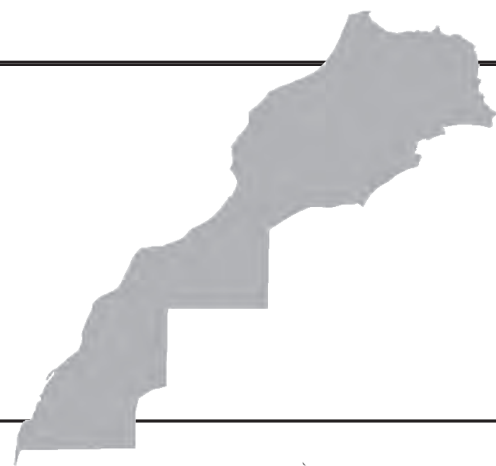
Norway's expected contribution is to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 percent between now and 2030. According to the speech at the Climate Summit, their long term goal is to become a low emission nation by 2050. They identified many priority areas for climate policy efforts in 2014 in their sixth National Communication—a report submitted by countries that have ratified the Paris Agreement. These include: reduced emissions in transport, low emission technology, renewable energy, and environmentally friendly shipping. According to *The Chicago Tribune*, Norway is aiming to be eco-friendly by 2050 and they plan on adopting a goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.



In 2017, the United States withdrew from The Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement is a global pact to help reduce global warming so it does not exceed 1.5 degrees Celcius. President Trump believed that the agreement would not be beneficial to the U.S., saying that it would hurt the economy as a result of job losses. According to *The Washington Post*, President Trump had no plan to revisit the agreement.

U.S.A.**E.U.**

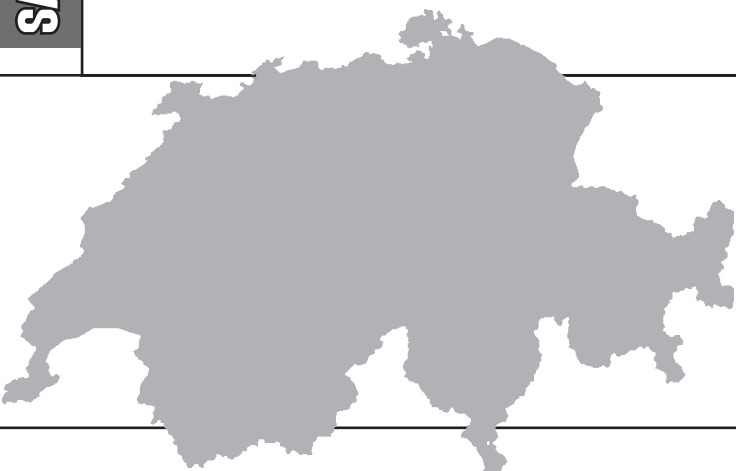
The European Union (E.U.) provides more than 40 percent of the world's public climate finance, exceeding 20 billion Euros annually. The European Council is working on three major goals to accomplish by 2020, also known as the 20-20-20 targets. These goals include reaching a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, increasing the share of renewable energy to 20 percent and making a 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency. They submitted these target goals as INDC as required by The Paris Agreement. Between 1990 and 2017, the European Union decreased its greenhouse gas emissions by over 23 percent.



Morocco's policies are in line to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celcius. Morocco has a National Energy Reducing Strategy which includes a target of 42 percent installed electricity from renewable resources by 2020. According to politico.com, Morocco's National Energy Strategy focuses on increasing the use of wind, hydroelectric, and solar power. In 2016, Morocco installed a vast solar farm that has supplied power to approximately 650,000 individuals. According to politico.com, this farm is anticipated to be able to provide energy to Europe and many other African countries.

MOROCCO**SAUDI ARABIA**

By 2030, Saudi Arabia plans to reduce their annual emission by up to 130 million tons of carbon dioxide. In their INDC report, they include that the goal is based on the fact that international climate change policy does not "...pose disproportionate or abnormal burden on the Kingdom's economy." Saudi Arabia's income is based upon the oil industry, so the climate policies will pose a burden on their economy, giving them the opportunity to reform their climate change policies.



Switzerland's climate policy promised to reduce their greenhouse emissions by 35 percent by 2025 and 50 percent by 2030. According to *The New York Times*, As of 2015, they were responsible for only 0.1 percent of the world's emissions. According to worldbank.org, although population in Switzerland has seen a 19 percent increase from 1990 to 2012, and greenhouse gas emissions per capita have decreased by approximately 20 percent. The Swiss Parliament discussed modifications to their carbon dioxide plan that would help Switzerland reach its goal of 50 percent reduction in emissions, but the modifications were rejected. The failure to adopt these changes has lead Switzerland off-track from their goal.

SWITZERLAND

La nación de la escuela secundaria es genial Westhill

Zoe Kallenekos
Reportera

Por un día soleado el mes pasado, Westhill disfrutó de un evento exclusivo y gratuito por cortesía de High School Nation. Este evento, que tuvo lugar el primer día de lanzamiento temprano del año, contó con actuaciones de varios artistas prometedores junto con numerosos stands interactivos de los patrocinadores de la gira.

Los estudiantes siguieron un horario especial ese día, asistieron a cuatro bloques de clases acortados antes de ingresar al campo de fútbol para el evento. Se esperaba que todos asistieron con la excepción de los adultos mayores, que tenían la opción de irse después del cuarto bloque usando su pase abierto del campus.

Los que se quedaron participaron en un evento extravagante donde tenían la libertad de explorar las muchas actividades que se ofrecían. Los estudiantes tuvieron la oportunidad de probar equipos de grabación de última generación, actuar en el escenario con un bailarín profesional y más.

“Mi parte favorita fueron todos los artistas diferentes debido a cuántos de ellos había,” Jennifer McKernan (`22) dijo.

Todos los detalles se guardaron de los estudiantes que participaron en el evento, que se publicita en volantes en toda la escuela como una “actividad sorpresa”. Los volantes alentaron a los estudiantes a usar ropa verde ese día, en el espíritu de la semana concurrente de “Comenzar con Hola” de Westhill. El director Rinaldi admitió que no se planeó que ocurrieran juntos, pero dijo que la coincidencia trajo un mayor sentido de comunidad a la escuela.

“Las estrellas se alinearon allí para traer las dos cosas,” principal Rinaldi dijo.

Aunque a los estudiantes solo se les avisó con unos días de anticipación al evento, la planificación comenzó

meses antes, comenzando en mayo del año escolar anterior.

Tras el éxito de las actuaciones anteriores a la hora del almuerzo, High School Nation ofreció a Westhill, como una de las dos escuelas de Connecticut, su mayor evento: The High School Nation Tour. Además de organizar el evento en vivo, High School Nation donó \$ 20,000 en equipos de estudio de grabación a la escuela.

La Sra. Cohen, maestra y directora del doblaje de labios, encabezó la planificación del evento. De obtener el permiso del director Rinaldi para asegurar una configuración adecuada a las cinco de la mañana. el día de, la Sra. Cohen estuvo allí durante todo el proceso.

Con la ayuda del personal dentro y fuera de la escuela, ambos comenzaron el proceso. Oficiales de recursos escolares, administradores y personal de apoyo de la oficina, la Sra. Bartlett comenzó a planificar con la Sra. Cohen. En el centro, se llevaron a cabo varias reuniones más pequeñas con autoridades como el jefe de bomberos y el jefe de policía para garantizar que el evento fuera seguro.

“Fue realmente intenso porque todo lo que se necesita es una persona para no cerrar la sesión y que el evento no continúe”, dijo Cohen.

Los esfuerzos de los planificadores dieron sus frutos, produciendo un evento que ocurrió un mes después del año escolar. Según el director Rinaldi, esto fue perfecto, permitiendo que el evento comenzará el año, uniendo a la comunidad de Westhill para un día de diversión y celebración en el cálido clima de septiembre.

Después del evento, un enjambre de comentarios positivos de estudiantes inundó las redes sociales de la organización. Sin embargo, hubo algunos aspectos del evento que resultaron en emociones encontradas entre los estudiantes. Las personas mayores, en

particular, deseaban más comunicación por adelantado sobre el evento para tomar una decisión informada sobre si quedarse o no.

“No sabía de qué se trataba, así que realmente no me importaba, supongo” Hugo Vega (‘20) digo.

Según el director Rinaldi, las restricciones establecidas por la organización impidieron que la escuela pro-

moviera el evento. Sin ventas formales de boletos para regular la asistencia, era necesario mantener un perfil bajo para garantizar que los vikingos pudieran tener este día especial para ellos.

Actualmente se están haciendo planes para instalar el nuevo estudio de grabación, con varias ubicaciones en la escuela en mente.



RENDIMIENTO SORPRESA Nación de secundaria hizo su única parada en Connecticut en el espectáculo sorpresa Westhill.

Fotos aportada por **Bram Johnson** / Contribuyente.

Postales desde Brasil

Emelyn Nicole Chuco
 Editora de Las Noticias

La presencia de la comunidad LGBT es conocida y aceptada en los Estados Unidos. Pero, en países de sudamérica, esta comunidad enfrenta opresión por las normas tradicionales. Este año en el festival de películas, un director hispano está tratando enseñar la gravedad del situación y cómo afecta muchos personajes del LGBT comunidad quienes son hispanos.

Muchos hispanos tienen un mentalidad tradicional; religiosa y conservadora.

Un ejemplo de esta mentalidad es el actual presidente de Brasil: Jair Bolsonaro. Él ha sido abiertamente homofóbico, durante este año pasado desde que se postuló para la presidencia. Él es conocido por decir que él quisiera su hijo muera en un accidente trágico, en cambio

de que el ha sido gay. La influencia homofóbica de Bolsonaro ha dejado censura mayor en el país, que el cineasta Leandro Goddinho, deseo de un cambio. Seis de sus películas sobre el LGBT se estrenan en el New-Fest, un festival de películas LGBT en nueva york, con la intención de difundir la ciencia del clima político de brasil.

Goddinho queira clarificar que sus películas no son de Bolsonaro, pero difundir el odio y el mal que residen una sociedad aparentemente hermosa. Los seis películas que estrenan son: *The Orphan*, *Selma After the Rain*, *Infinite While It Lasts*, *Antes Que Seja Tarde (Before It's Too Late)*, *From the Other Side*, y *Marielle and Monica*. Revistas de éstos películas representan a múltiples miembros del comunidad LGBT, demostrando que tan extendido el población de la comunidad es en Brasil, y que hostil el público

género pueden estar o sentir.

Cada actor de los películas expresan su gratitud para el creación de esas películas. Algunas actores jugó sus genuine sexualidades genuinas y dio una idea de sus vidas diarias. Otros retratado la vida de la sexualidad de alguien, y sentir el mismo dolor comparado al comunidad de LGBT.

La última película es más como un documental, en respecto al asesinato del político brasileño, Marielle Franco. Ella era una feminista activa y una activista de los derechos humanos que son controversial a las ideas de Brasil. Como todas las películas de Goddinho, el propósito de este documental era dar luz a la vibra oscura que rodeaba el asesinato de Franco, así también como mostrar la gravedad de la opresión en Brasil.

Godinho quiere crear
un vínculo con ciudadanos

de Nueva York y ciudadanos brasileños. Al ver que Estados Unidos, particularmente Nueva York, es muy abierto y acepta la homosexualidad, Goddinho decidió debutar sus trabajos emocionales allí en comparación con su país de origen. Él

quiere crear una reacción de cadena; las personas que ven la película hablan de ella con otras personas, esas personas la difunden a otras personas y más. Quiere que la cadena de apoyo y fortaleza para la comunidad LGBT nunca termine.



Imagen cortesía de **pixabay.com**.

Entrevista con Victoria Morgan

Lubymichelle Chuco

Editora de Las Noticias

Compañera senior y viking, Victoria Morgan, está haciendo que la población hispana de la escuela sea orgullosa y occidental. Recientemente, ha sido aceptada en el Programa Nacional de Reconocimiento Hispano, que reconoce el 2.5% de todos los que tomaron el examen SAT y se identificaron como hispanos. Teníamos algunas preguntas para ella con respecto a cómo se siente con el reconocimiento.

The Westword (WW): ¿Cómo te sientes al ser parte del Programa Nacional de Reconocimiento Hispano?

Victoria Morgan (VM): Bueno, para mí es un gran honor. Ser capaz de representar a mi escuela, a mi familia y a la cultura hispana en su conjunto no es exactamente una cosa ligera en mi mente, puedo decir eso. En realidad, supongo que es bastante difícil de describir.

WW: ¿Te ha sorprendido este reconocimiento?

VM: ¡Por supuesto! Me sor-

prendió mucho cuando recibí una carta el día de San Valentín pidiéndome que postulara para ser elegible para tal honor. Para ser honesto, no tenía idea de que mis puntajes estaban incluso remotamente dentro del rango para ser invitados a presentar una solicitud, por lo que sorprenderme podría ser un poco insuficiente.

WW: ¿Cómo se te aplica o afecta la cultura hispana?

VM: Soy de etnia mixta, guatemalteco del lado de mi madre, irlandés-italiano del lado de mi padre. El lado de mi familia Paiz-Rodríguez-Gutiérrez-Figueroa ha tenido una influencia mucho mayor en mí en comparación con el lado de Morgan. Su historia colorea todo sobre cómo nuestra familia responde a cualquier cosa que nos rodea. Siempre he estado extremadamente involucrado e interesado en la cultura de la que era, algo a lo que no estaba expuesto proveniente del entorno en el que estaba cuando era joven. Estar en una escuela privada desde jardín de infantes hasta

séptimo grado me aisló en gran medida de otros hispanos. Era tan extraño pensar que me consideraban una oveja negra allí, cuando me veían normal en el vecindario, caminaba con mi abuela casi todas las noches. Fui visto como diferente por hablar español roto con mi madre, entendiendo los complejos poemas que leemos en la clase de español, todo sobre la cultura de la que provenía estaba hecho para ser extranjero y a veces incluso negativo. Sin embargo, ser hispano es algo de lo que mis abuelos siempre me dijeron que me sintiera orgulloso, incluso frente a la intimidación y la discriminación. Siempre me dijeron que me enorgulleciera de dónde era mi familia, y es cierto que no fue hasta hace relativamente poco tiempo que lo acepté y abracé por completo. Pero en realidad siento que esta cultura me ha impactado asombrosamente como persona. Siento que el solo hecho de saber que vengo de una cultura llena de orgullo y diversidad y tradiciones fenomenales solo

saca un sentimiento que no puedo comenzar a explicar.

WW: ¿Qué importancia tiene para usted la cultura hispana?

VM: La cultura hispana es muy importante para mí. Los ideales de la cultura han estado conmigo desde que era joven, me di cuenta o no. En general, siento que la cultura tiene una gran parte en la definición de una persona, y siento que no soy diferente. Los valores de la cultura que creo son algo que siempre he tenido y siempre tendré.

WW: ¿Qué tan importante crees que es reconocer a los estudiantes hispanos?

VM: Creo que es importante reconocer a cualquier estudiante por logros importantes. La demografía de Westhill está dominada por estudiantes hispanos, realmente no hay dudas al respecto. Los estudiantes hispanos merecen ser reconocidos tanto como cualquier otro grupo de estudiantes. Al final del día, no deberíamos ser simplemente recompensados por ser hispanos; Deberíamos ser recompensados por el logro.

WW: ¿Crees que Westhill hace un buen trabajo con el reconocimiento hispano? ¿por qué o por qué no?

VM: No tengo mucho con qué compararlo. Para mí, siento que Westhill hace un muy buen trabajo al representar la cultura hispana, dado que es una escuela principalmente hispana. En cuanto a por qué, la cultura está en toda la escuela, dentro de los estudiantes, el personal y las prácticas generales alrededor del edificio abarcan la cultura. Muy pocas escuelas en el área tienen anuncios en inglés y español, celebran el mes de la herencia hispana y realmente aceptan la diversidad de la cultura hispana dentro de la escuela.

WW: ¿Cómo te ayudará este premio en tu futuro?

VM: Eso aún está por verse. Me siento honrado de poder representar a mi familia y una cultura que ha tenido tanto impacto en mí; Solo espero seguir manteniendo ese honor.

WW: ¡Agradecemos a Victoria Morgan por su tiempo y respuestas y le deseamos más éxito!

Crisis en Ecuador

Melanie Brito

Editora de Las Noticias

Por años, el gobierno ecuatoriano ayudaba a sus ciudadanos con subsidios de los combustibles.

Los subsidios del gobierno atribuía \$1.27 a cada compra de gasolina hecha en cualquier empresa en el país.

Pero después de una disminución grave en la economía, presidente Lenin Moreno y la Asamblea Nacional removieron los subsidios de los combustibles con el Decreto 883 el primero de Octubre.

Con la derogación de los subsidios, ciudadanos tuvieron que comenzar a pagar precio normal de los combustibles, que causó el comienzo de una protesta.

En el transcurso de 12 días, la pequeña protesta se convirtió en una guerra entre ciudadanos y el gobierno.

La gente protestando quemaron llantas, robaron carros, destruyeron edificios gubernamentales, destruyeron árboles y lugares históricos y vandalizaron carros en las calles y propiedades privadas.

Los efectos de la protesta afectaron a los que no protestaron, el transporte era limitado y peligroso y eran víctimas de robo.

La policía y el ejército ahuyentaba a la gente con

gases lacrimógenos. Los indígenas llegaron a la capital y demandaban la restitución de los subsidios. El país estaba en llamas, nadie se sintió seguro saliendo de sus casas, y la paz había desaparecido.

El domingo 13 de Octubre, presidente Lenin Moreno tuvo una reunión con los dirigentes de las comunidades indígenas, los representantes de la ONU, representantes de las universidades ecuatorianas, delegado de la iglesia, y con varios ministros del gobierno, para intentar resolver el problema.

Después de varias horas, el presidente, los representantes, y los delegados llegaron a un acuerdo.

El lunes 14 de Octubre, el Decreto 884 entró en acción, derogando el Decreto 883 y estabilizando los precios anteriores de los combustibles.

Después de 12 días de terror, el país quedó en ruinas. Se quemaron muchos edificios, siete personas murieron, más de 1000 resultaron heridas y arrestadas. Árboles y edificios históricos han sido destruidos.

El país ha vuelto a trabajar y a limpiar sus calles, pero la paz todavía no ha llegado. Hay rumores de una nueva protesta esta semana.

Los ciudadanos temen por su seguridad y no saben cuando se terminara esta pesadilla.



FEATURE

Keeping up with Rinaldi

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Becca Alper
Staff Writer

The Westword sat down with Principal Rinaldi to talk about his plan for the 2019-2020 school year. At the end of the school year The Westword hopes Principal Rinaldi followed through with all his goals and plans.

The Westword (WW): How do you think the school year has been so far?

Principal Rinaldi (PR): Every year we begin school, we have a rough start, but that is always something we can expect. This year we had a lot more freshmen than we anticipated, which threw staff off track at first, but we are finally settling in and getting comfortable.

WW: What has changed since last year?

PR: I would say we have not had any major changes, but some additional things and plans have been added. This year we are working with the Dalio Foundation and the Rise Network. The Dalio Foundation is giving us money, and allow us to have freshmen “on track” coaches. The relationship with the Rise Network gives teachers the opportunity to fundraise and help

pay for future projects. Another thing we have introduced to our school is the ‘Westhill and Proud’ acronym. Ever since I went to school here, “Westhill and Proud” was always some-

the year, but any cool opportunity that Westhill is offered we will be sure to take advantage of.

WW: How are students responding to the ‘new’ strict rules?



PURPLE AND GOLD Rinaldi in the midst of planning a successful school year.

Photo by **Chloe Giulini** / Editor-in-Chief.

thing that was said. I always wondered what it truly meant, and now we are able to give it a strong meaning.

WW: What do you have in store for the rest of the year?

PR: One of the things we already had this year was the concert with High School Nation. We are doing the Lip Dub again. I do not have any secret plans for

PR: The rules did not get any stricter, we just figured out a better way to enforce them. None of the rules we have this year are new. We have figured out a way to do everything more efficiently. The way students respond depends on who you ask. For the students who want to be in school and get to class on time, they are glad because everything

is running smoother now. For the students who are unfortunately off track, and not trying to get to class, taking things, or trying to get to Mish Mosh, if you ask them they are not going to be too happy about the way things are going this year. Obviously making sure kids get to class and not letting them roam off-campus is important.

WW: Why does our school follow a different open campus policy than AITE and Stamford High?

PR: I do not pay much attention to what goes on at AITE since it is a magnet school and they have different policies that we do not have at Stamford or Westhill. I do pay close attention to Mr. Manka, Stamford High Principal, and from my understanding, Stamford High have the same policy that we have here. If you are a senior and have study hall first or last period you can leave if you have an open campus pass.

WW: How do you think we can get students more involved?

PR: I do not have a specific answer except I know that you move students in a positive direction by having other students help them along. This includes

everything from Spirit Week to Purple Pack. My first-year Purple Pack was out of control, and last year's Purple Pack was kind of weak. Now we started off weak but we have bounced back. Other kids have to get other kids involved. I do everything I can to try to be an example of school spirit and I want it to spread. When students spread the word, that is the best way to get involved. When I went to school here, I did not get involved in any way, and I am now on a mission to create a school where everybody feels like they are a part of something special.

WW: Any advice on how to gain school spirit?

PR: It all starts with getting everyone involved. You have to reach out to the kids who you know will not participate by themselves. If you start by inviting them to a game, and then that is multiplied by ten other kids doing the same thing it becomes a chain reaction of kids who want to pull other kids into something positive. I know if I was encouraged in school I would have stepped out of my comfort zone and been way more active during my four years in school, I just did not want to do it by myself.

Start with Hello promotes inclusivity

Michael Quinn McHale
Managing Editor

The Start with Hello Campaign was a week long event last month dedicated to reducing social isolation and building a culture of kindness within the school environment.

It is part of the Sandy Hook Promise, a national non-profit organization founded and led by family members whose loved ones were lost during the tragedy.

The Sandy Hook Promise aims to prevent gun violence by turning tragedy into a learning experience. It is encouraged through educational programs and activities, one of which is the Start with Hello Campaign.

Start With Hello is one of Sandy Hook Promise's free Know the Signs programs, teaching students to be more socially inclusive and connected to each other.

“It gave students opportunities to really make connections on a whole different level. It allowed students to lower their guard down a little more, and in response be more approachable,” Mr. Diaz, Spanish teacher, said.

Students learn how to take simple and powerful actions to build empathy and inclusiveness within their school.

It allows students to be able to identify and support their peers who need help. Through the three easy steps: see someone alone, reach out and help, and Start with Hello, students will feel empowered to end the social isolation and create an overarching feeling of inclusion.

“I did it with the freshman class and thought it was a good way to bond with those who entered into the AgriScience program not really knowing what was going on. It was fun,” Natalie Hernandez ('21) said.

On the other hand, some students felt that the campaign was not effective in its goal of promoting empathy and creating a friendly environment.

“They had a nice message but I did not really enjoy the activities that much. I do not think it was that effective because most of the people in my class are already friends,” Bram Johnson ('21) said.

Overall, the campaign had an effect on our community by addressing the problem of social isolation in a positive way.

An event that ties in closely to the Sandy Hook Promise and advocates for the same cause is the March for Our Lives. March for Our Lives was a student-led organization and protest that took place in Washington D.C. on March 24, 2018, in support of legislation to prevent and put an end to gun violence in the United States.

The event followed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting a month prior, often described as the tipping point for gun control legislation.

The Start with Hello campaign aims to improve the stigma around mental health and allow students to feel more comfortable.

Students and faculty hope the campaign continues to promote inclusivity for years to come.



VIKING PRIDE Concert brings students together during the week of the Start with Hello Campaign.

Photo by **@westhill2020** / Contributor.
Graphic by **Neeka Baclayon** / Illustrator.

Oh hello



Westhill welcomes new counselor

Lisbet Rivera
Staff Writer

Ms. Small is the new guidance counselor at Westhill. The Westword sat down with Mrs. Small to see how her first official year is going.

The Westword (WW): What made you want to become a guidance counselor?

Tanya Small (TS): I do not think anyone influenced me into wanting to become a guidance counselor. However, I did have a good counselor back when I was in school. I have also always wanted to work with kids and just give back to my community. I saw my friends have kids and saw that their kids would not get the help or information they needed from their guidance counselors.

WW: How are you adjusting to everything and everyone in Westhill?

TS: Everything is going well now. I started last February so I was familiar with the school already. Everyone has been really nice to me. Last year was difficult trying to ensure everyone could graduate, as well as staying “on

track.” There were a few nights where as soon as I got home, I would crash.

WW: What was your college experience like?

TS: I went to the University of Rhode Island where I played Division 1 Basketball. I had morning practices, then classes, then afternoon practice. My schedule was already made for me, so I loved my college experience.

WW: What is your most memorable experience on the basketball team?

TS: My freshman year at URI, we played in the Championship game of the Atlantic 10 conference. We were the underdogs there in Washington, D.C. against The George Washington University.

They never expected us to beat Xavier so the program still had their name on it. They crossed out Xavier with red marker

and scribbled URI on last minute. I was livid. We had just beaten Xavier last week by

three points. This was my most memorable moment because nobody believed we would make it.

WW: Can you feel our school pride?

TS: I definitely feel the school spirit here. I like how prideful the community is with everything they do. Specifically Mr. Rinaldi. He is always outside whether it is hot or freezing outside. I have never even seen him sick before.

WW: What is your favorite thing to do outside of school?

TS: I like to spend time with my kids and family.

ily. Since I like to travel, we are planning to go somewhere for spring break and hopefully everything goes well. We like to take the kids to do things, so like this past weekend we went to the event Touch a Truck in Norwalk. I like to be outside with them as much as possible.

WW: What is your favorite food?

TS: My favorite food is Jamaican. My favorite dish is curry shrimp cause its just so good and jerk chicken is a close second.

WW: Do you have recommendations on how to stay “on track”?

TS: I am a firm believer in planning and keeping a schedule. Being organized with your tasks is very helpful, especially for seniors applying to college.

WW: Who is the most inspirational person in your life and why?

TS: My mother because I have seen how my parents have made so many sacrifices for me. My parents are not from this country, they are from Jamaica. I really appreciate all that she did to allow me to live my best life.

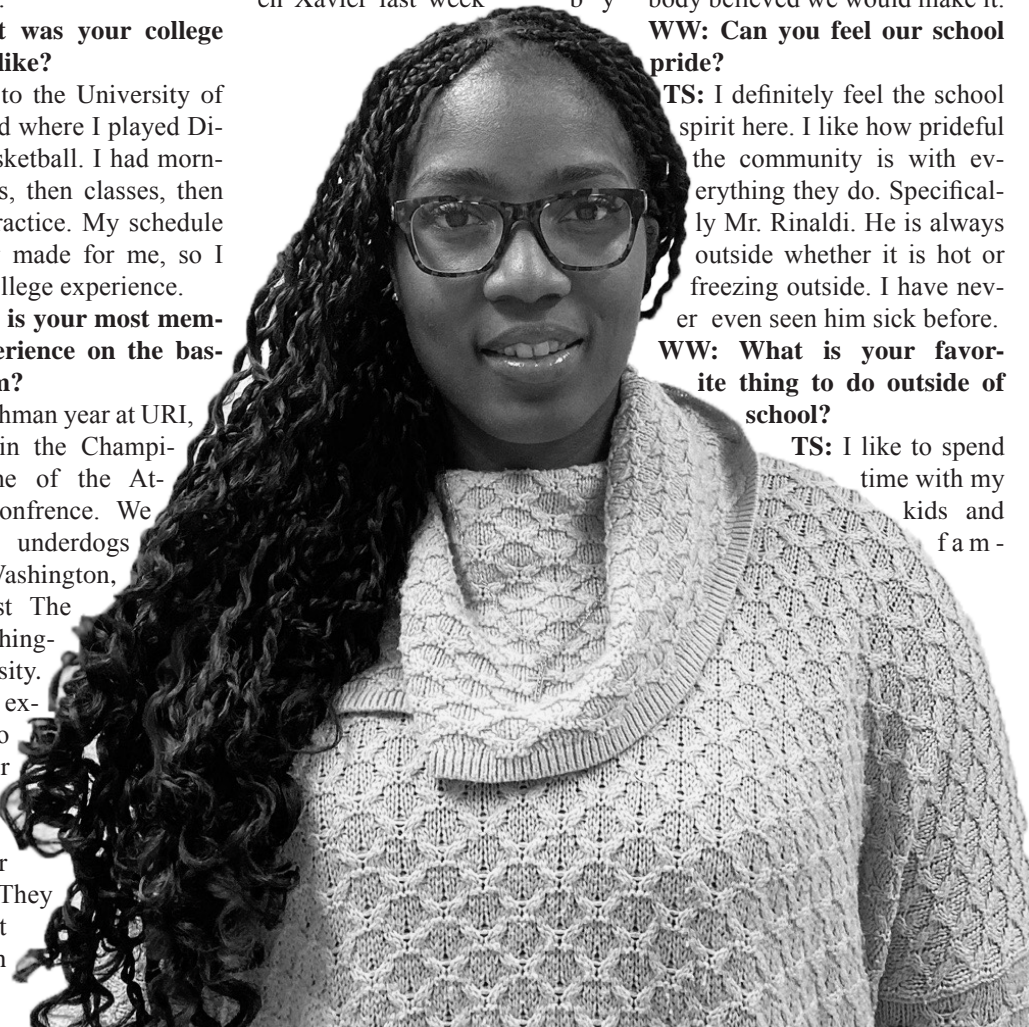


Photo by Anika Tandon / Photographer.



The Hungry Vikings

Column by Maahsi Shah, Micayla Roth, & Bintou Bane

Mecha Noodle Bar

Service: ★★★★★
Taste: ★★★★★
Ambiance: ★★★★★

After a relaxing summer vacation, the Viking ship returned to Westhill's dock for a crew change and another year of voyages. The Hungry Vikings were well-rested and ready to depart in search of something new to feast upon.

While sailing across the Long Island Sound, the ship came across an inviting establishment called “Mecha Noodle.” Intrigued by the confusing pronunciation of the name, the Vikings ventured inside.

The Vikings were greeted by the enticing aromas of ramen and pho. The restaurant was quite busy despite it being a Tuesday evening. Servers in bright orange T-shirts bearing steaming bowls of soup bustled about. The wooden planks hanging from the ceiling reminded the Vikings of the planks of their very own ship.

The Vikings were seated at a high table next to the window, allowing them to observe the native passers of Bedford Street.

Next to their table was a bar which served a variety of drinks like bubble tea, and cocktails for the older Vikings. As enjoyable as the environment was, the large crowd of people made it hard for

the Vikings to hear each other.

The Vikings immediately received menus, and notification that “slurping [is] encouraged.”

The Vegan Viking ordered the Kiniko Vegetarian: a ramen dish that included noodles, mushroom dashi and shiitake salad in a miso-like broth. The service accommodated to the Vegan Viking's dietary restrictions and tailored the dish to her needs. Her dish arrived quickly and was piping hot.

The broth was full of flavor, complementing the taste of the mushrooms and salad. The salad added a freshness to the complex and rich flavors of the broth. Although she does not like mushrooms, the elements of the dish worked well together to create a well balanced palate of flavors. She was amazed by the generous serving and was satisfied by the end of her meal. The Vegan Viking loved her dish so much that she ordered a second one to take home to the other Vikings in her tribe. Even though Mecha Noodle does not do takeout, they were happy to accommodate.

Viking Number Tou was busy exploring the rough Scandinavian seas in search of The

Hungry Vikings' next adventure, and was unable to join the other two Vikings for their feast.

The Very Hungry Viking ordered the Pho Bo Vien, her favorite dish because of its signature meatballs. The food came so fast that the Very Hungry Viking did not even have time to wonder where her food was. The meatballs were very flavorful and mixed deliciously with the salty broth. The rice noodles paired well with the soup, and the bean sprouts added a sweet crunch to top it off.

The pho made the Very Hungry Viking a Very Thirsty Viking. The soup was so large that even the Very Hungry Viking could not finish it by herself.

A quick Viking tip, if one says, “kae-dama please!” they will receive an extra portion of fresh noodles for free. Make sure to save some broth for those noodles.

The Hungry Vikings received their bill in a bright little notebook adorned with high praise from Mecha Noodle's beloved customers. Full and satisfied, the Hungry Vikings paid for their meal and departed in search of their next bite to eat.



PICTURE WORTHY Miso ramen with eggs and vegetables.

Contributed by Veda Bhalla / Print Executive Editor.

The newest clubs at Westhill

Positively Pink

This new club spreads awareness of breast cancer through school and community involvement. The club's goal is to give back to the community through various fundraisers and activities. Positively Pink plans to promote awareness of the disease by educating the students at Westhill and attending various events in the Stamford community, including the Paint The Town Pink event in November.

"Positively Pink is an amazing club that supports and spreads awareness for an extremely important cause," Rebecca Friedlander ('19) said.

Positively Pink is looking for new students to join and get involved. Members want the Westhill community to become more educated about breast cancer and how they can help.



Rock Climbing

The Rock Climbing club was founded last year by Zac Kitay ('20) and Kylie Roth ('21). The club takes students to Beta Climbing and Fitness in Stamford once a week after school.

"The club allows students to soar to new heights and step further out of their comfort zone," Kitay said.

Rock Climbing is a popular activity that appeals to both men and women. It is also a great way to work out because it exercises most muscles. This club is also great for who students who love an adrenaline rush. Check out the meetings on Tuesdays.



Mountain Biking Club

For people who love the outdoors as well as an adventure, the Mountain Biking club just might be the right fit. The club was started by juniors Patrick Grant ('21) and Aidan Hamilton ('21) who love biking and wanted to share their passion with Westhill.

"We love biking, riding with other people, and uploading cool videos of rides on Instagram," Grant ('21) said.

The club has great opportunities to go out on field trips and explore nature in the Connecticut area. The club gives rides to go biking after school some Tuesdays.



Stocks & Finance

The Stocks and Finance club welcomes students who would like to learn more about the buying and selling of stocks. Students can also participate in trading real stock.

"Stocks and Finance is dedicated to teaching others about the stock market and various ways to invest," Cole Cooper ('20), President, said.

In a typical meeting, discussion begins with everyone presenting news on any and all stocks. All members vote on which stock has the potential to be profitable, and then they invest as a group. The club is always looking for new members.



Opportunities For All Vikings

Westhill's new club is meant for students that are struggling with everyday business tasks.

Opportunities For All Vikings (OFAV) helps students explore and learn about essential job skills. A senior from National Honors Society or Academy of Finance will mentor any student from any grade in creating resumes, interview skills, and much more. The club was created in time for members to help seniors go over college applications. Meetings are on Wednesdays in the career center.

"OFAV is a great way to prepare students with the skills needed for life," Yael Roll (20) said.



Mindfulness Club

One of the newest additions to Westhill's clubs is the Mindfulness club. The club's goal is to promote healthier practices for mental wellness and offer support for those feeling overly stressed.

"We realize that to many students and faculty the concept of what it means to be mindful is an abstract one, but we hope to raise awareness about all the benefits that come along with being mindful everyday," Brynn Spingola ('21) said.

Anyone is welcome to go and relax. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of the month.



Vinyl popularity reaches new heights

Allison McSally
Staff Writer

Before music streaming services, if a person wanted to listen to a song, they would have to go to the local record store and buy the physical album.

The record could be held in one's hand, with the unique cover art sprawled across the inner fold of the case. It was a full sensory experience, unlike how individuals listen to music today.

Vinyl records reached their peak in the '80s, but they are making a comeback.

Vinyl's popularity has become more prominent in the past four years.

According to *Rolling Stone*, "2019 is the first year since 1986 that vinyls are projected to surpass CD sales."

"There is definitely a nostalgia factor. People want to remember the old times," Ms. English, social studies teacher, said.

Buying and playing a re-

cord makes many feel nostalgic. It allows adults to reminisce about their childhood, while giving the youth a look into the past. For those who wish they were born in another generation, this music outlet transports them to that time. However, it is not just about feeling nostalgic, it is also about the aesthetic trends.

"Aesthetic trends are coming back. Vinyls are old and have a retro sense of style, making it a thing to easily come back into this new gener-

ation of old, modified styles," Abby Giron ('20) said.

This call to the past mirrors the recent rise of polaroid and instant cameras. Despite having the highest quality cameras in their pockets, many people still spend sixty dollars or more for a low quality camera from the '70s simply because it looks "vintage."

A shiny, new vinyl slowly spinning, with the needle coasting through the smooth grooves of the record, is much more aesthetically pleasing than a CD in a car stereo.

The cover art featured on the cases of vinyls are treasures themselves. Their intricate designs and exclusive photos add a visual component to the collection of songs, a luxury that is not available in the CD booklet. These covers are often hung up and admired as decoration, but also generally add to the beauty and special "vibe" of vinyls.

Records also provide a more authentic, crisp sound over CD's, free from any digital remastering or editing, yet another reason they have remained in the spotlight.

A key aspect of increasing vinyl's popularity is social media. Social media has allowed for trends to spread faster than

ever before. As celebrities directly interact with their fans, their influence has never been stronger.

"Popular people on the internet have records, which inspires their followers to buy them," Bethany Welliver ('20) said.

When a big-time music artist announces a limited edition LP with exclusive cover art, people are going to buy it. Popular artists such as Billie Eilish and Ariana Grande both released albums in the form of vinyl in the past year. While older artists such as The Beatles and Cyndi Lauper have re-released special editions of their best selling albums on vinyl. Although the times are changing and new music artists are emerging, people can not forget about the classic artists of the past who are still dominating the charts.

According to billboard.com, nine out of the ten top-selling artists of 2018 on vinyl were acts that were most popular in the '60s, '70s, and '80s. Classic artists like Michael Jackson and Queen get introduced to new generations, whether through parental influence or popular blockbuster films. Old and new crowds continue to support older artists music through vinyl.



BLAST TO THE PAST Vinyls allow individuals to reminisce while adding an aesthetically pleasing factor.

Photo courtesy of **Lucca Metzger** / Managing Editor.

Netflix faces new competition from Disney

Ashley Shapiro
Staff Writer

Disney fans have mixed feelings about the new Disney+ subscription service.

The service is expected to have around 7,000 episodes of television series and 400 to 500 movies. Disney+ will include movies from many popular sagas including *Star Wars*, *High School Musical*, and many *Marvel* movies. It will also have 18 popular Pixar films on the day of launch but will not include *Toy Story 4*, due to its recent release.

The service launches in the United States on November 12. It will cost seven dollars per month or seventy dollars for an annual subscription. This service is meant to compete with Netflix and other streaming services.

Over the summer, their pre-order deal, which would cost users four dollars per month with a three year subscription. As of early October, there was a five dollars per month deal with the same three year plan.

With the prices of under eight dollars at its peak, Disney Plus undercuts Netflix's subscriptions which range from nine dollars to sixteen dollars.

Disney+ promises the release of the thirteen movies from the Signature Collection including; *Bambi*, *Aladdin* and *the Lion King*. It will also include all recently released Disney movies such as *Moana*, *Hercules*, *Frozen*, *Fantasia*, *Honey I Shrunk the Kids* and *The Parent Trap*.

Television shows such as *Boy Meets World*, *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*, *Kim Possible*, *The Simpsons* and *DuckTales* will also appear on the site the day of its release.

There will also be Disney Original Movies and shows exclusively to the site. Many fans also speculate that long hidden and locked away Mickey Mouse films may be available on the App as well.

Netflix and Disney have been in negotiation to pull movies and television shows

off of Netflix. Over the last several months, Disney has been removing movies and shows off Netflix and some users are frustrated.

"I am upset about Disney plus. I am a huge Disney fan and I love watching all of the movies and old tv shows all of the time. When a lot of them were on Netflix or Hulu, it was easy for me to get them. I do not want to have to pay for three separate streaming services," Ellie Balestriere ('20) said.

Disney is creating a triple-service bundle which will include Hulu and ESPN+. This subscription will cost thirteen dollars a month. This collaboration of Disney+ and Hulu will allow Disney Plus to focus on PG-13 content while Hulu will contain more adult-oriented material. This collaboration will not be included in the Disney+ pre-orders and those interested in the three platform deal will have to wait until November 12 for the complete launch.

Many people are excited

for many of their favorite movies and television shows to all be in one place.

"I have always loved Disney movies and TV shows, and now that they are not on Netflix or Amazon it is necessary to get Disney plus in order to watch them. The only real downside in my eyes is how expensive it is because I also have Netflix and Amazon. however I love the movies and shows they provide so much, it is worth subscribing despite

how much it costs," Cassie Culhane ('22) said.

Despite the added cost, which is a common example of an attempt to increase profit by the Disney cooperation many people feel the added cost is worth it.



Illustration by **Tia Blumenau** / Illustrator.

Behind the scenes of movie production

There are seven steps in the film production process. The stages in order are development, pre-production, production, principle photography, wrap, post-production, and distribution. These stages of production determine how long it takes to complete the film and how well it is made.

DEVELOPMENT

In the development stage, the film is scripted and drafted. The Director researches content using books, past films, and other sources to create a script ready for actors and Tech Crew. Once the story is full developed, the Director pitches the idea to the Producer.

PRE-PRODUCTION

Pre-production involves intense planning and preparation. The options for media, props, and style are narrowed down in this phase. Another important part of pre-production is finding a location to film as well as obtaining a license to film there. The Producer also makes arrangements for a Production Manager and a Line Manager. The Line Manager schedules the filming times and the Production Manager oversees the budget for the film.

PRODUCTION

The production phase begins when all the sets are prepped for filming. Communication between the producer and other employees and actors is crucial to ensure the film sticks to schedule and budget. The crew aims to be ahead of schedule in order to ensure they make deadline for release.

PRINCIPLE PHOTOGRAPHY

The next step of the production process is principle photography. Camera work and filming are the main components of this phase. This is also the most expensive phase. The budget has to pay actors, crew, and directors. Communication is necessary within this phase to ensure staff is not falling behind. All the previous phases lay the groundwork to help the principle photography and filming go smoothly.

WRAP PHASE

The wrap phase begins when filming is over. In the film industry, they call this "strike." Props are returned to the suppliers and the filming locations are cleaned up. Dismantling of the sets is done by a special crew. The crew records all items used in the film to account and keep track of what must be returned and budget proposals.

POST-PRODUCTION

Once the set is cleaned up, the film moves to the post-production phase. Post-Production may overlap with production in order to speed up the film's completion. This stage involves reviewing the footage and editing. Editing includes adding backgrounds, green screens, cutting shots, and overall piecing together of footage.

DISTRIBUTION

Once the film is finished, distribution begins. The film is sent to cinemas all over the country. The film is sent to Blu-Ray companies to burn the discs. If the film is transferred to a streaming service, a license is necessary. Once distributed, the movie is fully complete.

Girls volleyball looks to ride hot streak into finals

Izzy Nuzzo
Staff Writer

Westhill's Varsity girls' volleyball team is one of the top-scoring sports teams of Viking Country. As of October 31, they are looking at 16-2 record for this season.

The rest of the season is looking promising. Last year, the Varsity team came in second place for the FCIAC Championships. They were beat by Trumbull in the final round with a score of 3-2.

This was the first time in 40 years the team had made it that far in the season.

"Even though we did not win, I feel that we have learned a lot from our mistakes and are prepared mentally and physically to make it to FCIAC this year. As a senior, I have learned to play and give it my all when I am on the court because I have nothing to lose," Gloria Twum ('20) said.

The FCIAC division is split into two categories: the East and West. Last year, the team was ranked number one in the West within their division.

The team is working hard to do even better than last year. Current seniors and captains are mentoring the Junior Varsity (JV) team to prepare them for next year.

The girls are known to be a tight-knit group. Not only do they focus on how well they play on the court, but they in-

corporate team bonding activities such as pizza parties and team social events into their agenda. Captains and coaches want to ensure the girls feel familiar and comfortable with one another, on and off the court.

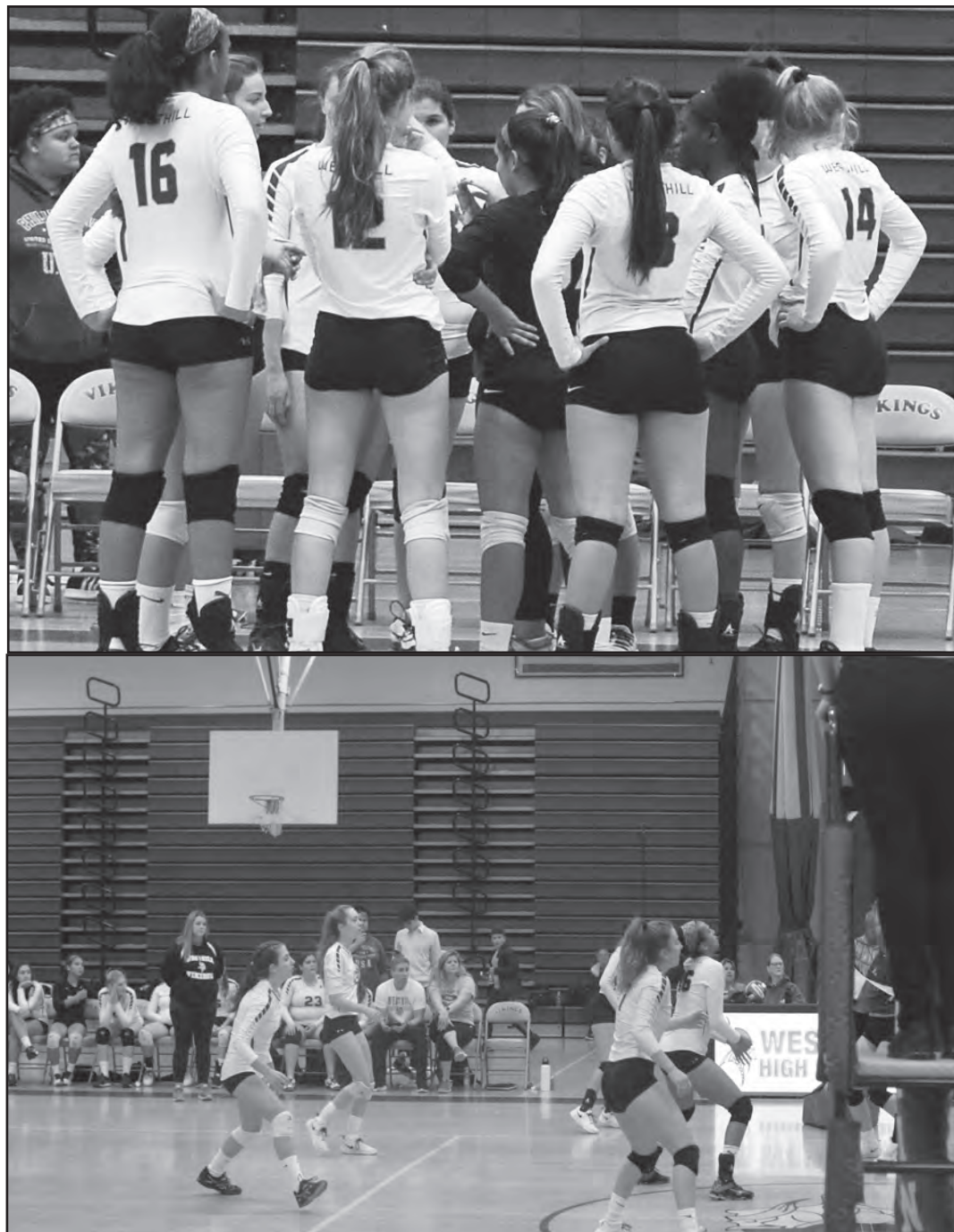
"Our team dynamic is exceptionally special. We have all built so much trust with each other, and this contributes to the positivity and high energy we strive to build on the court. I believe this year we will be very successful. We also push each other physically through conditioning and hard training," Caroline Boyd ('20) said.

The team came close to winning a title last year, and they hope to continue to win games to ensure a place at states and make up for last year.

The team recently became City Champions having defeated Stamford 3-0. They also won against Trinity Catholic, beating them 3-0.

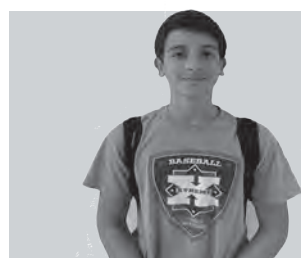
"Now that we have already experienced those stressful and exciting types of games, which have gotten the nerves out of our system, we are looking to go a step further and actually clench state titles this year. With eight seniors, this is our year to fight and we definitely want to make it to the end," Betsy Sachs ('20), captain, said.

The past three years have been incredibly successful for the Varsity team, but the girls hope to make it all the way this year.



FOCUSED ON THE GAME Girl's Varsity remains focused on game at all times.

Photo by **Arjun Batra** / Photographer.



Max's Corner

Column By Max Savitt

Throughout October, sports fans have been eager to binge watch as many games as they possibly can, taking in all of the fall action.

The four major sports: baseball, hockey, football, and basketball are either just starting, or finishing their season.

Hockey and basketball are just beginning their lengthy seasons, and football is just starting their ninth week of the 17 week season.

For baseball, after 162 regular season games, the ten best teams prepared for postseason.

The two final teams that battled for the World Series were the Washington Nationals and the Houston Astros. In order to win the World Series, the team competes for seven games, and the first to win four wins the ti-

tle. The Nationals took home the trophy this year. This is the first world series for the Washington Nationals.

In baseball, anything can happen. All of these teams have the same goal in mind: they know that it is anyone's game, and therefore must give it their all.

Moving on from baseball, football has just passed week eight and there are some players who have made the 2019 season their season.

This year is the year of the running backs. There have been five standout running backs in the 2019 season who have been killing it for their team and for millions of people's Fantasy Football teams.

These five are Dalvin Cook of the Minnesota Vikings, Chris-

tian McCaffrey of the Carolina Panthers, Nick Chubb of the Cleveland Browns, Alvin Kamara of the New Orleans Saints, and Austin Ekeler of the Los Angeles Chargers.

They are all averaging over 20 fantasy points a game and it is absolutely amazing to watch them play.

Out of these five players, there is one whose great season could be on the line. Austin Ekeler from the Chargers is going to be forced to split more than half of his work load with star running back, Melvin Gordon. Gordon is just coming out of his holdout. A holdout is when the player does not attend practices and games and hopes to be traded for another team. However, Gordon was unsuccessful and is still playing for

the Chargers.

My advice for fantasy owners with Austin Ekeler is to trade him while you can. He has had a fantastic year but his numbers seem to have reached their peak. Therefore, look to trade him for a solid running back like David

Johnson from the Arizona Cardinals. Johnson is a very talented athlete who is only going to get better as the season continues.

Check out the next issue for an update on the end of the fall season and beginning of winter sports.



Photo courtesy of flickr.com.

O'Connor is focused on the game



MAKING THE PASS O'Connor ready to throw the ball.

Photo contributed by **Matt O'Connor** / Contributor.

Chloe Giuliani
Editor-in-Chief

Matt O'Connor has devoted himself to football for the past three years. He works nonstop to balance multiple AP courses, the troubles of junior year, and being the Quarterback of Westhill's Varsity football team. O'Connor is looking forward to another successful season with his team. The Westword was thrilled to sit down with him and find out more about his everyday schedule on the field.

The Westword (TW): What do you think makes you an exceptional captain?

Matt O'Connor (MO): I appreciate the ability to lead and the respect I get from my teammates. The guys on the team are great, and that makes them easy to lead.

TW: How would your teammates describe your leadership?

MO: There are times where I can be a little more fierce but the guys know it is just because I love to win. I am never too harsh.

TW: How do you balance junior year with the demands of the sport?

MO: It is hard. Football practices are long. Especially being Quarterback, there are many other things I have to stay for. Balancing practices with my AP classes is proving to be hard.

TW: How is the team doing this season?

MO: We are doing good. We had a rough start to the season. We have not reached our full potential yet, but we definitely have a team that can excel. As of now, we are just trying to go 1-0 every week.

TW: Describe the Quarterback position?

MO: As quarterback, my job is to throw touchdowns and score points. I also have to be the leader of the offense. [Quarterbacks] start the play every single time. I have to be the smartest guy on the field.

TW: Who do you work mostly with during plays?

MO: I work mostly with the Wide Receivers and Running Backs. The line are the guys who protect me.

TW: Was there a senior or student who graduated that you looked up to on the team?

MO: I was the only one on Varsity my freshman year. I looked up to everyone on that team. Last year, quarterback AJ Laccona

was a strong role model for me.

TW: Is there a player that is doing really great this season?

MO: Tyrrese Bazile ('21), David Moody ('23), and Jack Engel ('21) are all guys who have really stepped up for us and have made my job easier, as well as the offensive line who has protected me all year.

TW: How does your leadership style work with Coach Devellis?

MO: I love Coach Joey. He is a great guy, and he is really in it for the kids. Although he is the head Coach, offense has a different Coach during games and practices.

TW: Are you automatically captain next year?

MO: Absolutely not. You have to earn that position every year.

TW: With your concussion, what were your practices like?

MO: I still went to practice everyday, but a lot of it was spent with the trainers. They had certain exercises prepared for me everyday. Once I finished those exercises, I could go out to practice. I hung out a lot with the backup Quarterback who started last week.

TW: Since you are athlete of the month, is there anything that you would like to say?

MO: Come to our games.

Rundown track creates issues

Lexi Boccuzzi
Ombudsman

Rundown equipment and shortage of resources due to a lack of funding has been a pressing issue for Westhill faculty and students for years now, many who frequently utilize the track.

However, it is particularly poignant for the track and Cross Country teams, who have seen the implications of this dilemma first hand.

The Westhill track has gone untaken care of and has been misused resulting in its disrepair. Due to people wearing soccer and football cleats on the track, pieces of the rubber lanes have been pulled up, making it difficult for sprinters to run.

The teams are also unable to use lane one due to the fact that the fence marking off the field is dug into parts of it, in addition to covering it.

This has made holding meets impossible for both the Cross Country and track and field teams.

"We have heard that the track will be fixed but there is a good chance that by the time I am a senior, despite having been on the team for three years, I would not have had a single home meet due to the track be-

ing unable to hold a meet," Eli Roth ('21) said.

The cross country team held their first home meet in over 23 years at Scofield this past month.

They have been unable to hold meets at Westhill's field due to the tearing up of the field among other issues with the Athletics Department. The lack of ability to have home meets has impacted the athletes immensely, as they have been forced to travel long distances multiple times a week in order to compete.

This puts them at a huge disadvantage when it comes to completing homework assignments and sleeping the expert recommended 8 hours a night.

On top of the already hefty time commitment that comes with these sports, travel times makes the meet evening go even later.

"Doing homework on the bus is never easy, but sometimes that is the only option. If not, you end up staying up really late to try and finish it which definitely affects the amount of sleep you get and how well rested you are," Pete Blonkvist ('20) captain Cross Country said.

This problem is not a priority on the agenda.

The track's lack of compliance with FCIAC standards

makes it impossible for the Westhill Track and Field team to hold meets as well.

As a result, members of the track team face similar difficulties to those who run Cross Country.

In addition, it makes practice

increasingly difficult for them, as they need the lanes to prepare for different events.

Despite the clear severity of this issue, the Westhill Athletics Department and Stamford Public Schools simply can not afford to pay attention of fund repairs. The

cost of the job is estimated to cost over 200,000 dollars making this a huge feat that there is no allotted budget for. As a result, unless money can be found to repair the track, there will be no meets held at Westhill anytime soon.



FALLING APART The main track at Westhill is not used for sport events due to its current erosion and disrepair.

Photo courtesy of **Jason Zarrilli** / Managing Editor.

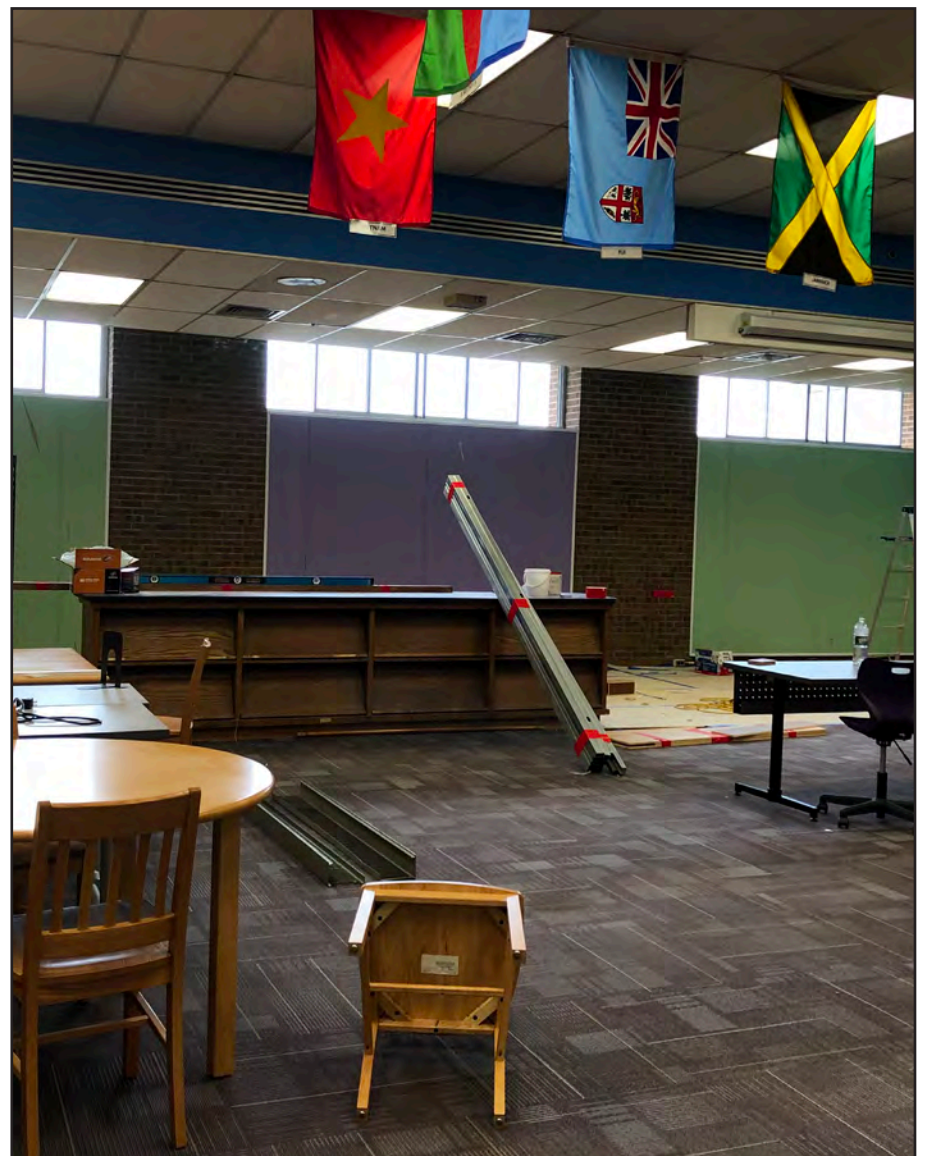
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High School Nation performs at Westhill p. 4

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