

THE KENNEDY CLARION®

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McClatchy Quiets the Lion by ‘Soft-Petaling’ a New Mascot

By Billie Rae Bisep, Disciple of all Living Things

Since C.K. McClatchy High School’s opening in 1937, the school has featured the lion as their mascot. Earlier this week, the 80-year-old school shocked the school’s alumni by abruptly changing their mascot to the dandelion. This major update created a backlash that has been covered heavily by multiple news sources, social media sites, and even outside the Sacramento area.

On Monday, McClatchy alumni Cheri Leeder (class of 1989), who was excited about the recent mascot change exclaimed, “I think it’s the best thing that ever happened to our school.” He added, “I mean we’ve only had the same mascot for 80 years. Maybe this change will allow us to create a new destiny and grow, just like a dandelion.” However, other community members, such as local global warming questioner Flora Trample sees this move as a disgrace, “I mean— why a dandelion, ya know? They’re just yellow flowers that get stepped on all the time.”



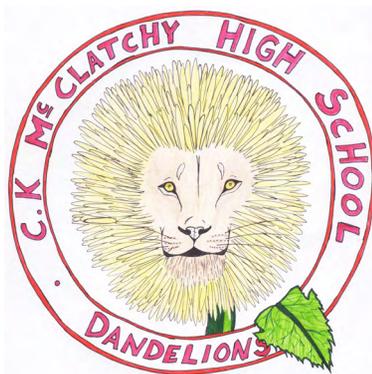
“Although we took into account of people’s possible thoughts and opinions before we made the decision, we also understand that it’s a new world and time,” district spokesman William L. Park told The Prospector. “Change is beautiful and inspirational. And it also allows others to speak their minds.”

However, active watchdogs in the area brought attention to an important issue:

how much money is this taking out of our pockets? With the change of their mascot, McClatchy will have to remodel more than 50% of their school. This includes the lion statues in the front of the school, the gym with multiple references to the lion on the floor and around the gym, and much more, not to mention the cost of new banners, clothes with the new logo, and other products. All of the modifications will cost the Sacramento City Unified School District and taxpayers an estimated \$10 million, the same amount as the grant for McClatchy’s Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) program. The budget situation is the main source of mixed reviews for the common flower to serve as mascot.

Biological evidence and history indicate both positive and negative traits for this well-known flower. In the twentieth century, people finally decided that dandelions were actually weeds. Invasive dandelion weeds can crowd lawns and kill other plants. But as dangerous as they are, they are also bright, beautiful flowers that can be found almost anywhere and are part of the daisy family.

Once the wonderful and intriguing dandelion flower has bloomed, the flower head dries out for a day or two. This allows the petals and excess materials to fall off, creating a plant that we know as: the wish flower. Many children blow on the flower, hoping that their dreams will come true. Perhaps McClatchy students can now wish that their school will one day be as wonderful as John F. Kennedy High School.



An Analysis on Internet Memes: Kermit the Frog

By Qu T. Pi, Thoughtful Meme Enthusiast and Resident Frog Catcher

According to the “Analysis on Internet Memes Using Semiotics”, an analytical research paper on Internet memes conducted from the English Department at Binus University, Abdul Aziz Turhan Kariko observed that memes — cultural ideas or styles spread among people — became a popular, alternative form of communication in early 2012, providing users with a powerful way to freely deliver and share messages on the Internet by combining creativity, art, and humor.

Growing widespread online popularity on Instagram and Twitter in 2014 for his passive-aggressive retort, the tea-sipping Muppet character Kermit the Frog saw a brief resurgence to becoming one of the most favored, relatable Internet meme of 2016 — thanks to the appearance of his cloaked doppelganger’s more sinister side: Evil Kermit.

Created in 1955 by Jim Henson, the green frog’s relentless online success stems from his familiarity as the most memorable Muppet character from the family-oriented television series *The Muppet Show* and the long-running children’s educational television program *Sesame Street*.

Don Caldwell, a curator at the internet meme database Know Your Meme, told the BBC, “He is an incredibly recognizable and lovable character, so people feel comfortable using him to signal things about their identity.”

Existing in the form of a still image, the Evil Kermit meme originally developed and went viral on Twitter in 2016, featuring Kermit the Frog meeting his twin nemesis Constantine, dubbed Evil Kermit, who dresses as a Sith Lord from *Star Wars* and urges Kermit to behave badly.

Users can easily create their own captioned image series with the meme’s generic textual format including the words “me” and “me to me”, followed by commentary connecting to relatable problems or social, cultural, and political messages for viewers to identify with.

Much of the humor of Evil Kermit lies in the captions producing a relatable quip that voices our internal battles and denial. As a result of our poor decisions, we seek comfort in the reflection of negative universal emotions that tempt our darker impulses into indulgence, laziness, selfishness, and unethical acts.

Since his first appearance from Lipton®’s “Be More Tea™” commercial ad in 2014, Kermit the Frog has gained widespread cultural significance on a global scale by becoming one of the greatest frog memes on social media along with Pepe and Dat Boi. He accounts for the cultural dynamics of producing, altering, and sharing digital content on the Internet in the form of memes.

Moreover, as a distinct frog meme, Kermit conceptualizes the complexity of contemporary humor, opening up opportunities for users to continually develop quality content and ultimately contribute to the growth of the Meme Aesthetic. Shakespeare’s plays, known for deepening our understanding of universal truths on the human condition in literature, literally cannot even compare to Kermit in its cultural value. But that’s none of my business.

me: as a journalist, it is my duty to seek and report the truth
me to me: write about memes



Spaghetti Strap-Clad Students Claim Second Amendment “Right to Bare Arms”

By Topherr Rong, Italian Noodle Expert

Thursday, March 30th, students protested the district’s ban on spaghetti straps, claiming that the Second Amendment guarantees the “right to bare arms.”

In the past, students have felt frustrated with this clause of the dress code, arguing that the ban is overreaching and unnecessary. “If I wanna show off my new \$80 Victoria’s Secret bra, I really should be allowed to. It’s just me expressing who I am on the inside, and I believe that the Bill of Rights gives me that right,” Kennedy junior Anne Dergarmint told The Clarion. “I’m pretty sure that’s like the 37th Amendment, or something.”

Dergarmint leads the All Shoulders Matter movement against dress code restrictions. She threatens to stage a ditch day tomorrow, April 1st, if administration does not change the open-shoulder policy. Dergarmint stated that she apparently coordinated her ditch with over half the school. “This just shows how many people agree that we need less restrictive dress code policies,” she explained.

The movement led to the rise of a new club on campus, the EXTremely Proud Of Shoulders Enforcers (EXPOSE). The club’s mission clearly states that the club is not just for students who are proud of their shoulders, but also for the open-toed shoe wearers, hair models, and elbow aficionados on campus. The club will meet on Fridays before school in the C-building elevator room. (continued on Page 2)



NEWS

Right to Bare Arms (continued from Page 1)

However, counter-protestors met EXPOSE with resistance. Pat Asherdon, a Kennedy senior, argued, "Seriously, you can't just come to school dressed like a prostitute. That's not what school is about." Like Dergarmint, she claims to have coordinated a school-wide movement in counter-protest. According to Asherdon, for the rest of the year, concerned students will come to school fully clothed to show their distaste in easing the dress code.

"Honestly, my favorite part of a woman is the shoulder," Clive Ickle, a sophomore admitted. "If I see a bunch of shoulders everywhere, I get excited, which can end up kinda embarrassing for me. Spaghetti straps are really unfair to students with shoulder fetishes, so the rule should stay in place."

Some students even support wider restrictions. Noah Omo proudly asserted, "Some of the guys here are too good-looking! I mean, I'm not gay, but we really need those hot, toned shoulders out of sight. Tank tops shouldn't even be allowed in my opinion."

Prospective political analysts at Kennedy are shocked by the movement. "Kennedy is a highly liberal campus, but the spaghetti strap movement could mean a drastic shift in support, so Democratic representatives should watch this issue closely if they want to keep their seats," Polly Graham, a freshman, theorized. According to a recent Claritin survey, 47% of students strongly support strict enforcement of "the right to bear arms." Also shown in the survey, 72% of students could not identify the grammatical difference of "their," "there," and "they're."

"It will be interesting to see how the courts will interpret this case; I suppose it's possible that someone made a typo on the Bill of Rights," Graham added.

Speaking of a Change

By Jim Polca, Political Animal Control Expert

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Paul Ryan, does a heavy workout every week with his P90x routine. He does his 90 day workout or a similar variation of it every opportunity he gets. He had to do a scaled down version during his bid to be vice president in the 2012 election.



Ryan has the job of proposing the GOP health care and assisting the president in other matters with legislation, which has been very exhausting for the policy work from Janesville, Wisconsin. He recently stated in an interview with NBC's Chuck Todd that these new pressures are making him have doubts about the ability to do his workout and maintain the speakership saying "it's difficult to understand for many Americans."

He has had to partake in not only several television interviews about the topics confronting the country, but spend more time in meetings at the Capitol to sell his plan which has taken time away from his workout schedule. Ryan had been pushing for the Republican Health Care law and other regulations to get their first draft such as the upcoming tax plan. Ryan is proposing to make the decision to cut ties

with the P90x program for his remaining tenure as Speaker.

The family of the busy House of Representative member has been very supportive of the move. While not wanting to be mentioned by name, the family's spokesmen Ian Jacks stated, "His wife and mom are in total support of the proposed move." Ryan has expressed moving to a three-day-a-week workout with longer times on each of those days. The proposed move has also gotten a lot of support from his colleagues in Congress, however, there have also been many people around the country and in his home area that have been critical toward it.

Recently there have been calls to his Speaker office hotline about the nature of the subject. Jane Pronintyer (Pro-Ninty-er) called his office the other day stating, "Paul better not have changed the subject on his workout. We need our speaker to be fit and ready to go to work every single day, and this requires a good workout like the p90x program. I do the p90x myself and I think he is great for doing this program to keep in shape; to cancel would mean a severe loss of support from many of his constituents." Pronintyer is not the only one to voice her concerns from Paul's hometown area. In fact two recent polls show that Ryan is more popular, and he gains around forty percent of his voters due to his vigorous workout using the p90x program. The Speaker will have a fierce debate with his base during a town hall. Signs have already gone up around his congressional district telling him to keep P90x but the Speaker is not wavering on considering the change. Critics may force Ryan to maintain the popular P90x program for the sake of his political future.

Andrews Heads Hair Regrowth Project and New Club for Balding Students

By Harry Hafnott, Wig Aficionado

Kennedy world history teacher Jonathan Andrews is now sponsoring The Hair Raisers, a club on campus that seeks to promote an encouraging environment for students who have problems regrowing hair. The club also has the opportunity to test a new hair regrowth product.

Andrews got the idea for the club himself when a big gust of wind came and he felt the rush on his head. He formed the club and began to host meetings on Wednesdays at lunch in B12.

However, Andrews discovered that recruiting students in the club is difficult. According to SCUSD demographic data on Kennedy students, less than 3% of students on campus suffer from undiagnosed alopecia, or baldness caused by genetics.



To expand the scope of the club, Andrews told The Claritin that the club is open to all students with hair insecurity, not just those with baldness, "Hair is a soft-spot for many in society, and whether you feel insecure about hair color, gray hairs, hair loss, or having too much hair, this club is for you." Andrews is also actively encouraging balding freshmen to take their place in the fight against baldness.

Despite Andrews' efforts, the only person who showed up to last week's meeting was none other than Kennedy's principal, David Van Natten. Van Natten sought to try out the new hair product, formulated by anonymous members of Kennedy's own science department.

Van Natten was initially extremely impressed with the results, but found a downside to having luscious locks. "Kids keep trying to touch my newly grown hair when I'm walking through the halls. It can get pretty difficult to move when people need to jump up to touch my head," Van Natten explained.

The results proved to be highly effective, regrowing hair within 24 hours, but the hair did not last for more than a day after reaching maximum length. Apparently a large gust of wind came and blew the hair off like dandelion seeds. Nevertheless, the science department seeks to create a hair formula that will blow the world away and will continue to work over the summer.

Farewell Starbucks

By Caeli Kara, Coughy Liquidator



Farewell my joy, the coffee lover's usual. Available on almost every street, every corner. Starbucks, a worldwide coffee chain could be possibly shut down in America entirely. Of course the nation's leader will be in charge of that.

It was actually Trump's idea, he threatened to close down all chains in the nation in order to get people in control. As Trump has many haters, he has to get the haters in check, meaning to do whatever he can with pen and paper.

This idea had come into his head "take what they love most". People aren't really an option to take rather than deportation, which he had already planned on doing. So, an idea was coffee. Something many people need to stay awake. Hence why the world's most convenient and popular chain was targeted.

Many people don't drink Starbucks, but it could still possibly affect them. Depending on where you go during your days, teachers, waiters, drivers, and more could lose focus and motivation to go on with the day.

Of course, other coffee chains are accessible but Starbucks is the most convenient for people. It could be a time for another chain to shine but, will Trump accept that?

Starbucks shops and merchandise will all be banned at the border. If found in the U.S. It'll be confiscated according to the new rules which are still in the making. It might be a bit of a stretch but will the nation behave better in order to keep their favorite chain?

SPORTS



Photo by Alexander Slander-Ng

Kennedy Freshman Normac Milken runs through his countdown while students scatter and hide throughout the auditorium.

Sports Report: JFK Hide and Seek Team Finds Their First Victory in Forty-four Years

By A.A. Ron Soh-Liz, Sports Reporter Seeking Employment

It was the year 1973. There were seven seconds left on the clock. Kennedy athlete Oscar Robinson only had moments to find the last student from then rival school Luther Burbank before the final quarter. Robinson was sure he had checked everywhere in the campus. With only four seconds remaining, he closed his eyes, listened to the humming wind, and looked behind him. And there he was. The last Luther Burbank student, who was hiding in a tree, was finally found.

It was that moment when Robinson had just won the final match for Kennedy's men's hide and seek team. With the most valuable player trophy in his hands, Robinson stated to *The Claritin*, "This was a fantastic final game for me. I may not play on a team anymore, but I hope that this game lives on. Who knows? Maybe I'll coach one day."

Unbeknownst to Robinson, it would be the final game of hide and seek. To fans of the sport's misfortune, after some players went missing after they fell asleep hiding in the recycle bin, which was collected during the game. The game was deemed too dangerous to continue the sport for the season. To make matters worse, preseason conditioning was reported to be too intense. In some cases, players were only given seven seconds to hide during scrimmages.

A number of school districts mutually agreed that after the spring of '73, the sport would no longer be played. Since then, John F. Kennedy High School, or any other school, hasn't had a hide and seek team.

Last week, however, Robinson finally revived the sport and it was played again for the first time in forty-four years.

The sport features newly revamped rules to keep players safe. No more than two team members are allowed to share a hiding spot, and all players are restricted to hiding within a 100ft radius. Traditionally, the team captain from the home team seeks first, and is not allowed to peek until everyone is hidden. Teams switch positions after every quarter. One quarter lasts 12 minutes.

The game played last week against the West Campus Warriors in JFK's very own auditorium proved that bringing back the well-hidden sport was worthwhile. McClatchy was hard to beat and put in their best effort, but ultimately the Kennedy Cougars found victory. Kennedy player Jebediah Jones was able to remain hidden well after the match was over in the second half of the game, ensuring their first victory of the season.

"I don't have a whole speech prepared or anything, other than to say that hiding in the speech podium proved to be effective. I used the handicap gate as a distraction and the West Campus seeker was as lost as a dandelion fluff in a tornado," Johnson explained to *The Claritin*.

The Kennedy Cougars will play an away rival game against the C.K. McClatchy Dandelions on April 3rd. Look out, McClatchy, because this team is seeking victory.

Freshmen See McClatchy as Better Plan for Sophomore Year

By Shaft Milken, Telegraph Repairman

"Man, Kennedy? More like Kennedon't." Ken D. Bailer, a freshman, says. He misses the excitement that he was promised when he came to Kennedy. "I was told there would be grand fights, spanning three floors! Too bad campus security is too good for students. I'll move to McClatchy, they don't have the potential for big fights but at least they happen."

Many freshman agree that Kennedy hasn't shaped up as they expected. A majority of the new ninth graders came to Kennedy expecting many great things, only to let Kennedy "disappoint" them in almost all of their expectations. A poll done by *The Claritin* shows 64.3% of all 636 freshman want to leave Kennedy. Top reasons include: "Not enough traffic" (42 students) and "Too little gum on campus floors" (36).

Some students feel the staff is too kind and accepting. "Mr. Andrews keeps asking me to join some balding tolerance club," admitted Pinky Du, a freshman who suffers from hair loss. "The offer to possibly regrow my hair for free is too generous and honestly, I don't want people to see my natural hair color, which may or may not be pink. I'm gonna run away from my problems and go to McClatchy."

The Claritin talked to Leif Erikson, another freshman. "You see, I'm a vegan, and being a cougar doesn't support my views of being vegan. I can't support meat, and I recently saw that McClatchy has a new mascot, which does support my views of veganism. I think I can be a dandelion, but not a cougar, because I'm a vegan."

"Kennedy disappoints me as much as when I bought six ultra deluxe copies of *No Man's Sky*." Bailer ranted, "For example, we get too much sun here. It drives me crazy. I heard sun gives you cancer. I don't like cancer! Another reason to move to McClatchy. The whole campus doesn't get any sun. Man, I can't go like this forever. Kennedy sucks!"

CAMPUS NEWS

Vampires Have a Bloody Good Time at Donation Event

By Sam Pire, Friend of all Bats

On February 28th, John F. Kennedy High School held its second blood drive of the current school year. However, BloodSource employees noticed that they were missing a number of blood bags as they were loading the blood into trucks to transport it back to BloodSource headquarters in midtown Sacramento.

The bloody event lasted six hours and roughly 100 pints of blood were donated. After a thorough investigation, JFK school officials discovered that there are vampires among the diverse population of Kennedy students. However, the vampires were found to be “vegetarians” who do not feed on humans for blood, but on small animals found in the community such as rabbits, squirrels, and possums so there is no need for mortal Kennedy students to fear for their safety. BloodSource employees are working with the vampire community to supply blood to vampires across the community.

In investigation conducted by a select few Claritin staff members, it was learned that many of these students were involved in many school activities such as marching band, robotics, and various sports. Vampires have been found to keep extremely good grades, some of them have GPA's as high as 4.1. As good as they are at blending into the social scene, they are extremely quiet and private, so it was difficult to find a vampire willing to conduct an interview.



While giving blood, Ms. Cooper may have been under the influence of an untold Transylvanian spell.
Photo Credit: Diana Prince

“Vampires require sunscreen of exactly 4036 SPF in order to stay unburned and unholy,” Aldo Rominger, a junior, revealed. Rominger plays bass clarinet in JFK’s marching band and concert band. “I can’t let other people in band borrow my sunscreen because it can actually cause a loss of vitamin D in non-vampires. Vitamin D deficient blood also doesn’t taste all that great. But really, how did you think I stayed so pale?”

Kobi Posey, a sophomore who is also a vampire, was happy to hear that the Kennedy community

is accepting of his undead condition. “I thought everyone was gonna be like, ‘Oh my god, we gotta stake those vampires,’ but people have been surprisingly accepting. I think I can wear my traditional vampire garments to school and not have to worry about being the subject of mockery.”

While these vampires have sworn off getting blood directly from humans, they don’t have a problem with getting fresh blood from an indirect source, such as blood collected from blood donation drives, as human blood is what keeps them the strongest and healthiest. Do not fear the vampires, they pose no threat to the mortal students. Continue on with your day, the vampires do not desire to hurt anyone, they just want to fit in.



Kobi Plisskin-Brewer, a student, who was discovered to be a vampire on campus. Photo Credit: Sam Pire

Dark Horse Candidates Emerge from Kennedy Campus

By Jebediah Skeets and William Kronckit, Political Smartypanties

With the chaotic process of the 2016 presidential race, many Americans are tired of politics and have no idea what the future might hold. From this disaster, two candidates have emerged, ready to lead America into the unknown void of the future. Kennedy teachers, K.C. McCarthy and Aaron Pollock, have thrown their names into the ring for the 2020 presidential race.



Claritin reporter Jedediah Skeets meets with candidate McCarthy.

Some might consider this announcement to be grossly premature, but both candidates feel it was the best decision. McCarthy stated “This campaign is all about the people, this is about America”. The candidates wants to reach as many Americans as possible and do their best at addressing all the concerns voters have.

The campaign is being spearheaded by rookie campaign manager, Kobi Plisskin-Brewer, a former student of McCarthy. He praised McCarthy’s platform, “He is a strong supporter of undead rights, an area in need of support from the living and holy. After coming out about my vampire state following the blood drive, I’m much more comfortable standing up for my fanged friends.”

McCarthy and Pollock made the decision to run because they were disappointed with Washington. McCarthy stated “People in Washington are all about self interest and getting votes”. They later reassured that they would not forget about that aspect of politics, but it would not stop them from accomplishing what they came to capitol to do.

When it comes to accomplishments and goals, the campaign has a number of those. Tang stated the platform would be similar to those of Social Democrats (Sen. Sanders and Rep. Gabbard), with some minor changes. They favor an increase in taxes, and want to expand the areas where taxes are placed. Campaign Economic Advisor Mac MoMoni explained “We want to increase taxes everywhere. We want to tax people’s breathing, their existence. How might we have clean air without it?”

In This Issue

By Kristof Rong, Overlord of Student Propaganda

This issue, *The Kennedy Clarion* is proud to announce its new sponsorship, Claritin. With this, the newspaper will be rebranded as *The Kennedy Claritin*, which is fitting because a notable portion of the student body already confuses “Clarion” and “Claritin.” The newspaper will also feature a new slogan, “Loud and Claritin Clear.” We hope you read the April 1st edition and stay Claritin clear throughout allergy season.

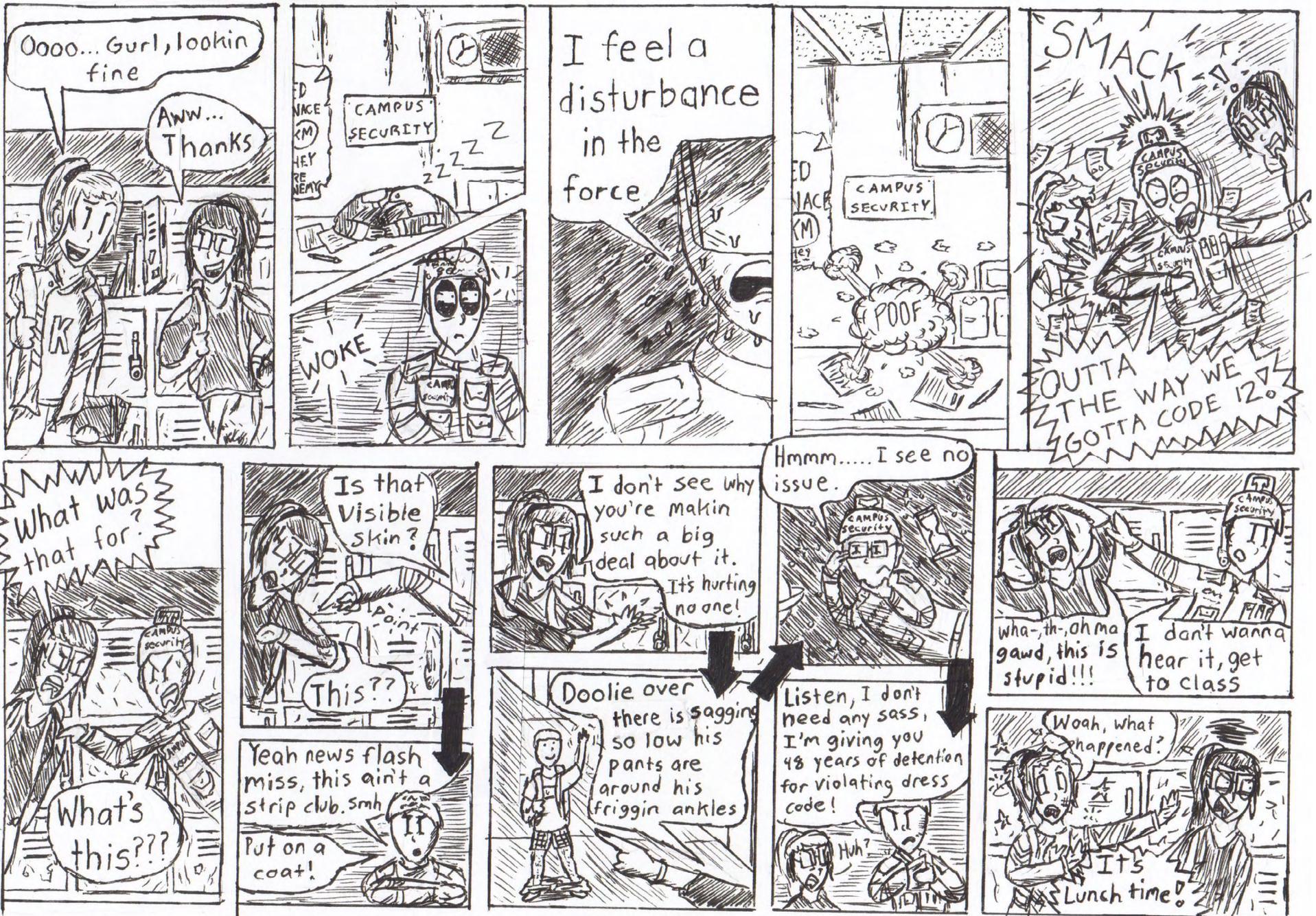
The past two months have actually brought a media storm along with a rain storm. Students voiced their opinions on the issue. In the end, that is what this newspaper hopes to encourage. *The Claritin* is a means for student expression and voice, and we hope you take advantage of this to send in letters, requests for advice, and your own articles, artwork, and photos.

In light of senior auction, *The Clarion* received the opportunity to hold a press conference with Kennedy’s principal, Mr. Van Natten. The event gave our student journalists valuable experience in the world of reporting.

The next issue will be our last this year. We’d love to publish more frequently but lack the funding to do so. Nevertheless, we’re excited to increase the size of our paper next issue and bring even more content to the Kennedy community.

OP-ONION

K House - By Brandon Wong



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