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## Mayor Steinberg Stands With Us

By Saeri Plagmann, Features Editor

Shortly after Kennedy's evacuation from a bomb threat on Friday, March 16, 2018, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg held a press conference at City Hall with students from local high schools to discuss concerns on school safety and the importance of student-led movements that demand gun control.



Mayor Steinberg meeting with high school journalists on May 16 at City Hall. Clarion staff Saeri Plagmann and Sarif Morningstar are shown to left of the Mayor.

First brought to attention was the increase in the number of high schools in Sacramento that have experienced a threat in the past few months. These occurrences have prompted concerns from students on whether school safety protocols should be reformed to ensure the safety of everyone at school.

Upon addressing the evacuation at Kennedy, Steinberg agreed that a "talk about protocols" should take place to make "a clear understanding when an evacuation is appropriate and when it isn't necessary." He felt the actions taken that day at Kennedy by the Sacramento City Unified School District officials and the Kennedy faculty to be highly appropriate. "If there's any real doubt about it, public safety [and] the safety of the students need to come first," he said.

The mayor also took into consideration the mental and emotional impact such an experience could have on a student and their family and teachers. Many schools have seen a significant reduction in school attendance as a result of continuing fears. To improve the situation, Steinberg expressed the need to have more support outlets within schools, whether it be more counselors, more mental health resources, or more community outreach programs so that no one struggles alone.

"We need to deal with the impact on the students and the teachers, and the entire school family when these sorts of things happen because they're traumatic," he said.  
(continued on page 2)

## Operation Ground Zero: Kennedy High is at the Forefront of the Gun Debate

By Dominic J Larsen, News Editor

The number of school shootings has dramatically skyrocketed during the short lived twenty-first century, leading many on both sides of the aisle and folks from all walks of American life to look for solutions in order to prevent these senseless, perverted acts of violence.

Following the horrific attack in Parkland, Florida on Valentine's Day, in which 17 students were murdered by a former classmate, students across the country organized a national walkout in order to protest gun violence. In the hopes of assisting students express their opinions, while also curbing the disruption of instructional time, SCUSD worked with the schools to set up times in which students could speak their minds.

In cooperation with Congresswoman Matsui's Office, the Kennedy administration worked to plan a student town hall in which students and members of the neighborhood could speak directly to their elected officials on the topic of gun violence prevention.

The meeting on the afternoon of March 9 in the campus auditorium with Rep. Matsui, SCUSD Superintendent Jorge Aguilar, and school board member Darrel Woo in attendance. These officials spoke on the subject of securing schools in the wake of shootings, with student speaker senior Malissa Bordeaux adding her remarks as well. Also sharing their views during the meeting via Skype were two students from high school students from Parkland, Florida.

Though the conference of elected officials and neighborhood elements was meant to yield results leading in a positive direction, the community was still consumed with fear of a possible school shooting.

The evening of Tuesday, March 13, the Kennedy administration informed families that a shooting threat had been made against one of the school's students. While the threat was made specifically to only one Kennedy student and their sibling at Cal Middle School, both schools felt it necessary to alert to all families and faculty members due to the current climate around guns in our society. (Continued from Page 10)

## Kennedy Students Walk Out in Protest of Gun Violence



Kennedy sophomore Joshua Osinowo-Adeleye and staff member Aja Tidwell are shown walking together during the March 14 student walk out. (Clarion Photo by Saeri Plagmann)

# NEWS

## Observations on the Evacuation

By Christopher Wong, Chief Editor

“Try not to mention the bomb threat,” a Link Crew member instructed the student performers for the Cougar Day middle school rally, in which middle schoolers would have received the opportunity to get a sample of student culture at Kennedy. The Link Crew wanted to make sure the middle schoolers felt safe at Kennedy.

I play marimba in the Kennedy drumline. After all the other performing groups practiced, we performed our rehearsal run through of our show, *Waiting*. The final sounds of the show filled the auditorium. Barely ten seconds passed. The drum set cymbal still sizzled as the alarm blared, sending an auditorium full of student performers into a panic. Several other drumline members rushed to the backstage to replace the back auditorium and band room door bars, which allow the doors to lock.

A friend had run out to replace the bar for the band room. Without that bar, the students in Mr. Stroh’s 3rd period choir class would have been vulnerable, two large doors unlocked. My head went back and forth, to the left, my friend as he reinstalled the bar, to the right, Stroh motioning for us in the backstage to get inside.

If there was a shooter out there, prowling the halls ready to rip life from any who dared to exist in that moment, my friend could have been spotted, shot, and dead.

If there was a shooter, then why did groups of performers frolic towards the foyer, the glass entrance to the auditorium, a giant window that could’ve displayed the amount of life to be potentially lost inside. One of the band director’s Mr. Hammond had to shout to round people back up in the large, windowless (comparatively much safer) room.

The digital bells rang, signifying an announcement. Principal Van Natten calmly began instructing students and staff on the next steps with the bomb threat, evacuation, to enormous applause and cheer, shouts suffocating any important directions Van Natten was giving.

If there was a bomb in here, anxiously awaiting a fatal trigger to bring widespread demise, everyone in that auditorium could’ve been reduced to rubble, lost as for what to do, just hoping for a repeat of the route out.

If there was a bomb, then why did groups of performers rejoice at the thought, sweet release from public school, worse than our siblings sitting under desks in the C building, potentially facing their end.

At first I thought it was wrong for my primary emotion during the evacuation to be anger. However, that anger was rooted in fear. I just watched a friend potentially risk his life to save students, and afterwards a small group of people threatened to undo that work. I feared that I would be separated from my sister in the C building.

When the alarm bells go off, we don’t know what’s out there. People have different responses to crises, but unnecessarily increasing the danger to other people’s lives is unacceptable.

## In This Issue

By Christopher Wong, Chief Editor

Newspaper class proved to be quite the rollercoaster this quarter with all the events of the past month, especially the threats made to our campus.

For classes that are team effort based, all the absences presented quite the large thorn in the side, perhaps even the bum.

Nevertheless, we cannot continue to live our lives in fear, or at least living to the point of hiding and never facing the outside world, which may not be living at all.

In retrospect, there are many fears that live in our daily lives, for me: newspaper deadlines, assshots at school that damage school equipment, random nosebleeds, and locking my keys in my vehicle.

However, when we live our lives in our fears as opposed to fears living in us, that is when we lose control. When we live our lives in fear, fear sets the boundaries. When fear lives in our lives, we set the boundaries, able to stop fear in its tracks.

Enjoy this year’s Clarion, and sign up for newspaper class! Just drop in B-12 before or after school and we’ll help you out.

## Mayor Supports Us

(continued from page 1) The “financial penalty” that many schools received from the reduction in school attendance is an issue he feels to be non-applicable to the situation, claiming that there should be “no financial penalty for putting safety first.”

The national school walkout day that took place on Wednesday, March 14 was used not only to honor the 17 students who lost their lives in the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting but to amplify voices of minors throughout the country. The walkout united students together to demand gun control and was supported by a majority of schools and officials, especially Steinberg, who believes the voices of students should be heard first.

“I desire as an adult and as a civic leader to march behind the students. I didn’t want [the walkout] to be about the adults,” he said. “I think that we ought to give as much leadership and authority and independence to young people as you feel you want them to handle. With adults having an appropriate presence to guide and to partner and to advise and to help.”

Because the event took place during school hours, Steinberg acknowledged the disapproval some teachers may have had toward it interfering with academics. However, after recently visiting Hiram Johnson High School on the day of their walkout, it was understood that many walkouts in the city had functioned in the same manner: “dignified, organized, peaceful, and made a statement.”

To silence students on what they believe in for a mere 17 minutes, especially if they had participated in the event the same way Hiram Johnson had, was, in his opinion, not right.

In a time where guns come easy and students are left to take extreme measures to demand change, Steinberg made it his wish that all students live their lives freely, even with the obstacles that will be faced in the future.



Created by Brandon Wong

# NEWS

## Students Get Active In Response to Evac

By Sophia O'Neal, Clarion Staff

The recent evacuation on Friday, March 16 raised a lot of questions for many students, parents and faculty about Kennedy's emergency plans and procedures. There is no set protocol for events, but there absolutely should be. Due to the recent shooting and bomb threats, the Kennedy student body has been really shaken up and demand answers and a sounder plan if anything happens like this again. In response, the recently formed Student Welfare Club held a discussion after school about having more efficient evacuation and emergency plans in general.



Sophomore members of the Student Welfare Club (L to R) Ethan Pham-Aguilar, Elizabeth Novoa-Castillo, Caleb Andrus, Vincent Larsen

The discussion acknowledged everything they thought went well, one being how the administration quickly responded to the incoming threat and treated it seriously and how the evacuation plan was effective on such a short notice. Students and faculty were told to go to the Elks Lodge so they could be picked up there. One former McClatchy student who now attends school here explained that John F. Kennedy's evacuation was much more organized than McClatchy's, which occurred last year due to another bomb threat.

The discussion also acknowledged many of the problems that came with the evacuation and other emergency plans. The evacuation was very hectic, given this was the first time John F. Kennedy ever had to evacuate the campus in such a manner. In the meeting, students also called for easily accessible emergency messages in multiple languages. During the evacuation, the school used Twitter as a means to keep people up to date, as well as automated messages sent to parents and guardians. The problem was that these automated messages were difficult to understand for parents who are not fluent in English.

The seriousness some students and teachers lacked during the drills were discussed. They felt that students and teachers should take emergencies like this very seriously and should know what to do. Parents were hysterical about not being able to find their child in the crowds at the Elk Lodge. A few parents lashed out on teachers and police for answers about the situation, but they could not give them answers.

The club recorded all the concerns and praises under a T-chart. One column was labeled, "What went right under the circumstances" and another labeled, "Concerns." The club president, Caleb Andrus, a sophomore, is going to make sure that the concerns voiced in the discussion are presented to the administration.

"I want to formally open a dialogue between students and administration. I feel like it is not open already. I want to call every representative that I can from John F. Kennedy High School so that we can talk about things of that nature, in this case lockdown procedure, or fire drill protocol," Andrus explained. "We can present this to the administration and properly find out what we students want to do about any given issue that affects the entirety of JFK. I want to assess what I can do for the school, which I believe I can do a lot."

Many students have felt a call to action since this event and the events following up to it. They are stepping up and doing what they know is right for a bigger community.

According to Brian Gleason, an English teacher at Kennedy and the club advisor, "Since last Friday's evacuation, Caleb seems to have broadened his idea of welfare to encompass general student safety, and thus the focus

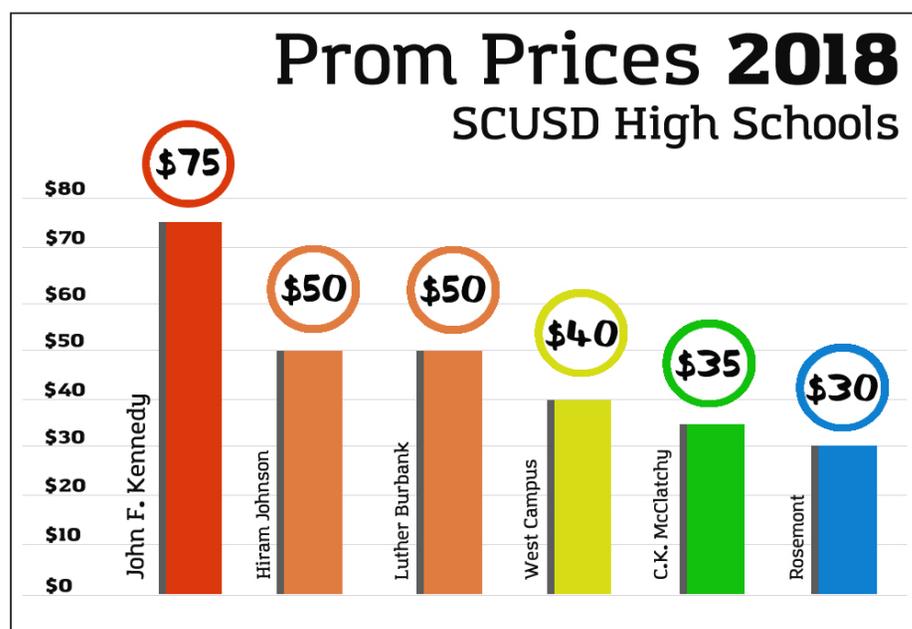
at the last meeting on relaying student concerns and questions to admin about the evacuation."

The club initially talked about student welfare and wanted to focus on aspects like student mental health, managing stress, practicing time management and other things that relate to high school life. They also plan on the future discussion about cleanliness of Kennedy, how money is allocated at the school and overall having a better campus for everyone to enjoy.

## Prom Prices Vary Across the Region

By Adrianna Iorio, Clarion Staff

Prom is known to be quite pricey. With dresses, corsages, and shoes everything accumulates to a pretty high number. However, John F. Kennedy's price seemed extraordinarily high which prompted Clarion members to further look into other high school prices.



(Prices used include data from 2016-2018. This research includes both senior as well as junior proms. Prices may change depending on year, funding, and overall venue.)

The highest prices include John F. Kennedy, River City, Florin and Davis high school with an overall price range of \$75 to \$85. This contrasts with the lower prices offered by McClatchy, Oakmont, and Rosemont High, with a price range of \$30 to \$35, which is over half off the price Kennedy charges. However, the question that remains is if these proms are worth their lower or higher prices.

At Kennedy's junior prom was held at the Elk's Tower Event Center. At the dance, snacks were provided, but may be considered cheap for the amount of money students were paying. Snacks provided included rice crispy treats and candy were present but ran out quite quickly, which many students note occurred in previous years. Other little things were free as well such as water, soda, and photo booth pictures, but with the amount of time and money that goes into prom itself students still feel their ticket was not worth what they received. Many students wish things such as dinner were included, and thought the professional photos that were taken were over priced.

"Even though the dance was nice everything it is not fair other high schools get to pay \$40 for their prom when were paying around \$75 and up for tickets. People are also paying for limos and dinner so it is just a ton of money coming from students and parents," student G'Angelo Lopez, a junior said.

Despite this, other students disagree feeling that the experience was worth the amount of money they paid.

"I think it was worth it- the amount of time student government put into making sure there were snacks, renting out a place, making sure it looked nice, and having the photo booth," Lindsey Dea, another junior told the Clarion. "I understand it also raises money for the school too so I would say it was pretty worth it."

However, many students still wonder what the reasoning behind the high pricing is. According to junior Jake Estigoy, the ASB Secretary in student government, the ways student government classes and student clubs could fundraise were greatly reduced this year. Due to a lack of food fairs as well as after school fundraisers, the main source of funding was lost. In addition, the venue that the junior class chose was relatively pricey, and in order to make a profit from the dance, the ticket prices were set slightly higher. However, the Clarion found that the \$75 price is the same as last year's prom.

Clarion photo by Sophia O'Neal

Clarion art by Saeri Plegmann

# FEATURES

## Kennedy Youth Art Month

By Jianna Beasley, Creative Director

During the entire month of March, the art department at John F. Kennedy celebrated Youth Art Month (YAM), a nationwide awareness month for artists in America. This is the second year Kennedy celebrated the event.



Photo by Sage Bermudez

Famous alumni, Richard Hallmarq speaking to students on March 6 at Kennedy.

YAM is the annual month-long celebration created by the Council for Art Education to help inspire students to develop the skills they learn in visual arts programs. Started in 1961 through The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc., their goal is to recognize the importance of art programs in schools across the country, provide new opportunities for people of all ages, and increase understanding in the communities around them.

Kennedy kicked off this year's Youth Art Month on March 1st with the Spring Concert, which featured the choir, winter drumline, jazz band, and concert band.

"The choir performance at the WEAVE [Spring] concert...had a theme of not being heard and under-represented," described Mr. Stroh, piano lab teacher,

choir director, and co-band director. "A lot of heads were turned and I was extremely proud of the choir for what they did that night." The concert was in partnership with WEAVE, an organization against sexual assault, domestic violence, and sex trafficking and fundraised to donate to the cause. Over the course of the following week, students from art classes were allowed to create a small drawing that would be incorporated into a large display on the windows of the auditorium, where they can be seen by the whole school.

On March 6th, Richard Hallmarq, Kennedy alumni and former contestant on the popular reality show Project Runway, returned to showcase his work and inspire students as he shared personal experiences from high school and his career. He explained he had found his passion for sewing at Kennedy and how he worked extremely hard to graduate high school and get where he is now. Hallmarq urged students to pursue whatever skill they are passionate about no matter what and see where it will take them.

All these events led up to the huge collaborative effort of the JFK Visual and Performing Arts department, where the Kennedy art teachers came together to host the Second Annual Youth Art Month Assembly, where the projects of Kennedy students were displayed in a slideshow on screen and all around the auditorium. Many crafted pieces from Mrs. Graves 3D art classes sat in the display cases against the walls, showing the many clay and large paper creations. Self portraits, pointillism, abstract distortion pieces, and many other projects done throughout the year were chosen to be displayed from both Mr. Teweles' and Mrs. Hanzlik's beginning and advanced art classes. "I always had an interest in drawing... when I went to high school I had the most inspiring art teacher as a freshman," Teweles explained. "...with anything in life, practice has made me better, but the most important thing when creating is confidence. To me, every mistake in art can be fixed so what is stopping me from applying the tool to the canvas. That is confidence."



Photo by Izaak Deguchy

Drama students performing Monty Python sketch "The Lumberjack Song"

The show started off with drumline playing as the room began to fill, to get the audience excited. The emcees, Allen Turner (11) and Sid Slesicki (11) introduced the event and welcomed acts onto the stage. The choir, directed by music instructor Mr. Stroh, sang the song Can You Hear by Jim Papoulis, and dedicated the performance to the victims of gun violence in Parkland, Florida. Following the choir, drama performed two classic Monty Python skits, Dead Parrot and I'm a Lumberjack, along with a rap battle pitting Edgar Allan Poe against Stephen King, proving to be a crowd favorite. "I like to get to the audience's emotion, if I can make them experience fear, laughter, crying, then I feel I have succeeded," drama teacher Mr. Lee said in an interview afterwards.

As Youth Art Month winds down and March ends, the spirit of art at Kennedy definitely will not. Our campus is always bustling with life and new events and artistic talents everywhere you look. "If it scares you or makes you uncomfortable, then you're doing the right thing. If it's working for you and it's easy, then you're not doing the right thing. That's the easy way out," Mr. Stroh concluded.

## We Are the Champions, My Friends

By Saeri Plagmann, Features Editor

In the summer of 2017, the Kennedy marching band received one of the biggest honors in recent school history, being nominated by Congresswoman Doris Matsui to perform in the Washington D.C. National Memorial Parade on May 28, 2018. As representatives of the State of California, marching band students buckle down to prepare for their major performance in front of hundreds of thousands of spectators who come together every year to honor the national holiday.



Clarion Staff Photo

John F. Kennedy Band shown during WEAVE fundraising event.

Kennedy's band has followed a long tradition of success since 1976 when they last performed at the National Bicentennial Parade at the capital. Being able to continue the streak of success after 40 years is an astounding accomplishment that has opened many opportunities for students throughout the years. Band members are excited over being able to be a part of the school's history by going to Washington D.C., although not all 143 students will be going to the event because of the expense.

Subsequent to the nomination by Mastui, the marching band has held several fundraisers to help pay for 107 students who will be going. An estimated \$250,000 was the total cost for all students combined. Events hosted by the band program and donations from corporations have helped to raise \$80,000, aiding to reduce the cost for each student by \$400-500, according to Jeremy Hammond, band director.

The event means much more to band students than just the performance for the memorial day parade. They have the opportunity to hold a concert at the steps of the Capitol, as well as visit the Smithsonian Museum, the Marine Barracks, and a walking tour of all the monuments on Capitol Mall.

Sariyah Williams, senior at Kennedy and battery (marching drums) section leader, feels the trip during her last year in high school to be more than she could ask for. "I honestly feel like out of the four years that I've been here, a lot of hard work and dedication has gone into band, and all of that has paid off," she says.

For the once-in-a-lifetime weekend trip to the biggest Memorial Day celebration in the nation, band students are said to practice a total of 68 hours over the span of a few weeks. Kennedy is the only school in Sacramento city to have a full marching band, and according to band director Mr. Hammond; the amount of time, money, and effort that goes into such a large program is incomparable to any other school.

The honor that comes from performing at this event may help to overcome the unfortunate events that have recently plagued Kennedy, as well as bring attention to the successful program. "There are so many opportunities for us to look terrible. But this is something that is extremely special, a fantastic opportunity for students. And it's something that's totally unique to Kennedy this year," says Bryan Stroh, who is also band director.

Band directors are currently working to develop trip opportunities every four years to give all students the chance to perform out of the district. Rosemary Quintana, freshman at Kennedy and trombone player, admits performing at the parade as a ninth grader to be nerve-racking but exciting more than anything. "To be a part of something as big as the National Memorial Parade, she says, is personally important, but also honorable for the school.

Despite their many achievements, the marching band often goes unrecognized by the students at Kennedy. "It's something that everybody could be proud of. You don't have to be in the band to be proud of what we do," says Stroh. Just as students cheer on their school's sports team, many anticipate the same support to be directed towards the band.

# FEATURES

## Student of the Week Basking in the Spotlight

By Brandan Wong, Clarion Staff

For the students in Mr. McCarthy's class, every Friday marks a special day. The classwork, reading, or discussion is brought to an abrupt halt for all eyes to put their attention to the front, so McCarthy can announce who in the class receives the award for his notable "Student of the Week."

Starting his tradition around the beginning of his second year of teaching in 2006, McCarthy who previously taught in San Diego, uses a talk show styled interview with one of his students in both his 9th and 10th grade classes, creating a personalized and signed certificate for the student of the week and asks a variety of questions submitted by himself and the class regarding personal preferences, school, and world issues.

He was first inspired to adopt this weekly feature during a flight from Sacramento to San Diego where a retired history teacher from Oak Ridge High struck up a flight-long conversation. The Oakridge teacher persuaded McCarthy to try his Student of the week model as the plane was reaching its descent.

When he first implemented Student of the Week in his classes, it got off to a rocky start, but it was the interest and excitement his students had for the weekly celebration that motivated him to continue doing Student of the Week. "It gives you an opportunity to know more about the students, instead of just sitting in class with them," spoke Senior Madie Nishimi.

Years later, McCarthy still continues to bring Student of the Week to his pupils, and he has no plans of ending this in the future. The memories his students hold is what helps drive him to do this, to have his students graduate high school, and still ask McCarthy if he hasn't yet ended his weekly tradition. "I like it, it's a little bit repetitive for me, but I would never in the world stop doing it, because it is the only thing that kids ask me about after they leave here." McCarthy shared.

When asked whether or not other teachers should adopt a similar feature to that of Student of the Week he responded, "The fundamental quality of this is not the actual format. It's the idea behind celebrating kids, recognizing them for being part of the class, not necessarily recognizing them for being a teacher's pet or being the best, but just the fact that they're important because they're here. They're part of our class, and they're part of our school, and they're a person. And that's utterly important, always." "I feel like Student of the Week makes everyone feel like they belong, and are beneficial to the class" professed Senior Jade Jones.



Mr. McCarthy tosses questions at the student of week, Kaye Guillartes, 12

At the end of his interview with the Clarion, McCarthy noted, "Teachers should all find a way to show that message to their kids in some way or another, that all the kids really matter in a real way, not just saying it. I never tell any kids they matter, what they hear from me embedded under the surface is that they matter."

## The Gem Among Us

By Saeri Plagmann, Feature Editor

If people were to consider all the things they take for granted in life, how many would start appreciating them? It is useless to simply recognize the things that are being disregarded every day; it all comes down to what people do after that realization. Malissia Bordeaux, a senior at Kennedy, took consideration of this at an early age.

Malissia was twelve when her mother passed away. The distress and loss of motivation she experienced was the root of her deteriorating grades, as well as the reason for why she stopped playing her favorite sport-- basketball. Malissia admits her life might have been different had it not been for the teacher who made her see what was important. "One of my teachers told me that I could be doing better one day, so I started thinking. And then I realized that I needed to do better for my mom. So I started caring about education," she said.

To Malissia, education was a part of her life that she took for granted. Her acknowledgment of that fact allowed her to significantly improve her grades, although it also became an awakening for something much bigger.



Malissia poses with Doris Matsui (center) and members of SCUSD School Board and Superintendent Jorge Aguilar at the Student Town Hall Event March 9. Clarion staff photo.

It was after hearing about the possible closure of after-school programs that she attended a board meeting. "I started having meetings with board members and [I got] into education politics, and I found a passion," she said.

Her deep interest in politics of education had done more for Malissia than present her with countless opportunities; it allowed her to have an impact on the lives of everyone around her. As a student representative on the Graduation Task Force, she spends most of her time trying to improve schools in the district and their culture. "Equity is a big problem in our system to me. Our system is set up to where not every student succeeds. The system that we have now is corrupt and wouldn't function correctly if everyone can succeed. That's why we need to change it."

In early February, Malissia participated in a press conference with the Superintendent to speak in support of the Pathways to College Act. The bill promises higher education to all students by allowing school districts to offer college admission tests. Her dedication to ensuring the success of all students earned her an on-the-spot internship at the State Capitol, where her chances of achieving her dreams greatly expanded.

An outstanding student, an athlete, a student representative on the Graduation Task Force, and an intern at the State Capitol; all this and more make up who Malissia is today. Her plans for the future include making campuses more equitable and using her power in the GTF to increase graduation rates for minority students by changing the culture of schools.

"I have a dream to truly fix our education system and make it truly OUR education system. And I'm going to go do it," she said. Her hope is to help other students find the passion they never knew they had and to show the possibility of everything. "Never take an opportunity for granted because your path is never determined until you get there."

Malissia's goal also encompasses the safety of schools in the country. Her most recent achievement included joining Congresswoman Doris Matsui and Sacramento City Unified School District Leaders on March 9 to talk on gun violence prevention, where students from Parkland, Florida, took part in the meeting through a live video message in the Kennedy auditorium.

Her efforts also ran into March 14 when she organized the Kennedy walkout and spoke in honor of the 17 students who died. She continued to lead and be a part of major events by organizing the March For Our Lives event on March 24.

Clarion staff photo

**KENNEDY SENIORS**  
 Our final issue of The Clarion will include senior last will and testaments. Start thinking about what you want to leave behind.

## SPORTS

## Major League Thoughts: Giants Comeback 2018

By Eddie Rodrigues, Clarion Staff

Our own *Clarion* sports writer and Kennedy sports enthusiast Eddie Rodrigues (9) shares his thoughts about what makes the **San Francisco Giants** his favorite and one of the winniest major league teams in his lifetime. He also throws some shade at the Padres who have a big fan in one of Eddie's *Clarion* staff mates.



Clarion photo by Karissa Jones

**World Series Success**

After winning it all in the World Series three times; 2010 against the Rangers, 2012 against the Tigers and 2014 versus the Royals, the Giants earned the moniker by their fans and major league baseball as the "even year team." Despite making it to the postseason in 2016, they did not reach the World Series. Overall, the Giants have been the most dominant force in the league and the best team over the past decade. Their National League West opponents, LA Dodgers and San Diego Padres have not fared as well over the past decade, particularly the Padres who have not been to the WS since 1998 and have the worst win-loss record in the West over the past decade.

**Giants Manager**

Bruce Bochy, a well respected former baseball star, is the Giants' amazing skipper who has led them to three World Series victories. Bochy coached the lowly Padres for 12 years before coming to the Giants in 2007 where he began building the team that eventually topped the National League.

**Great Fans**

If you have ever experienced a Giants game, you would know what a fun time it is. The fans are strongly behind their team. The Giants nearly sold out every game played at the Stadium-By-The-Bay, and had a great record of doing so many years until that last season.

**Wait, hold up, a bad year?**

All of this post season excitement towards the Giants carried over into the 2017 season, but to be blunt, Giants fans were completely disappointed. They were tied for the worst record in MLB at 64-98 and had the least amount of home runs of any team. We may have been under the impression that since it was an odd year they may have not have won it all, but we were not expecting such a major fail.

**New Giants**

To remedy the shortcomings last season, the Giants acquired a new all-star third baseman Evan Longoria in a trade with Tampa Bay. He hammered 261 home runs in his 10-year career that included a World Series ring of his own in 2008. "It's good to be with this veteran group of guys, there is no pressure. This is my new home and it's nice to be in a place where everyone is committed on winning right now," says Longoria. I think I can speak for everyone by saying we are excited to see what he can do for the Giants.



Clarion photo by Karissa Jones

Clarion reporters Eddie Rodrigues (Giants fan) and Joe Temblador (Padres fan) share a moment of comradery in B-12.

Another struggle for the Giants has been their outfield. Last season nine players combined for a MLB low of 40 home runs. National league MVP Giancarlo Stanton hit 59 dingers alone over the same season. Over the Winter, the Giants added a former all-star in the outfield Andrew McCutchen who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates. After arriving, McCutchen said "I'm enjoying where I'm at, and I'm looking forward to the season." Other

acquisitions included center fielder Austin Jackson, eighth inning setup man Tony Watson and former Giants world series hero Gregor Blanco.

**Get ready for this year**

Now that we're in an even year, you know what that means. Despite the struggles of the 2017 season, the additions of these great players and the fighting spirit they have as a team will put them back on top for the this season. Giant all-star, 2010 National League Rookie of the Year, and mainstay with the team through every World Series win, Buster Posey says, "With the new additions we are very excited and we are always ready to learn from a horrific season and get back into it." All of the fans and Giants players are ready for this new team that will complete a great comeback this season and reclaim their "even year moniker."

## Laura Brings Athletes Back to Their Feet

By Karissa Jones, Clarion Staff

Kennedy's new athletic trainer, Laura Jassowski, has been adjusting well after her first quarter dealing with a plethora of sports injuries like sprains, concussions, and fractures. Throughout her months at Kennedy, she has demonstrated her determination to do anything in her power to athletes back on their feet as soon as possible.



Clarion photo by Karissa Jones

Laura Jassowski, Kennedy's resident athletic trainer takes a break between bone breaks and muscle pulls.

She is always seen carrying her large bag full of athletic goodies that have a range for any injury whether for a simple sprain or a broken bone, and goes to every on-campus game ready to lend a helping hand. An athletic trainer provides physical medicine and rehabilitation services, diagnoses, treats and rehabilitates injuries (acute and chronic), coordinates care with physicians and other allied health professionals, work in schools, colleges, professional sports, clinics, hospitals, corporations, industry, and the military.

Many athletes know about Laura's "room of doom" where all athletes never want to be, where Laura assess athletes and delivers their fate. However, the room's visitors are lucky to have an athletic trainer to help guide everyone no matter what the turnout of the injury. She always stays calm and keeps a positive attitude giving her a connection with all.

"My favorite part of being at Kennedy is the athletes who come through my facility. I love being able to not only help a student athlete and return them to play, but also build a relationship with them. I love it when I have students stop by just to say hi—it always brightens my day."

"She is very thorough when doing her checkups, physical therapy, and recovery. When I'm hurt or when I see her helping other people who are hurt she is very nurturing. She was extremely friendly when helping me through my injuries and I am so grateful for her being here," said Maia Campos, a sophomore.

In Laura's early days as a gymnast, she hit a career ending injury that made her realize what she truly wanted to be. While vaulting at a gymnastics competition, she suffered a series of ankle injuries after a bad landing "I have always been a lifelong athlete...Following the injury, I didn't have access to someone who could help me rehabilitate the injury properly." Laura felt that being someone to help athletes was very important to her, "and as a result I realized I could be that someone for other athletes and help them continue to complete in the sport they love."

Laura's qualifications and prior experiences cover a wide array of school been an athletic trainer for many other high schools and colleges before coming to Kennedy. She has a masters in Science in Athletic Training and has managed a series of sports at Plymouth State University along with New Hampton High School and Elk Grove High School. Lucky for our athletes, Laura is very equipped with all the necessities to make sure all athletes are eligible to get the proper care they need. "Working at Kennedy has been wonderful. The coaches are very supportive and always send their hurt athletes my way. The level of support they give is hard to come by and makes my job easier when we can work as a team to help the student athletes."

# SPORTS

## Kennedy Spring Sports by Eddie Rodríguez, Clarion Staff



Hopoate Koloamatangi (11) tips the ball over the defending team's outstretched hands. Photo courtesy Lifetouch.

### Track & Field

The track and field season is off and running at Kennedy with the largest team they've ever had with over 100 athletes. The talent runs across many events according to coach John Gallen. A few of those Kennedy competitors shared how the season has gone so far. "I look forward to going to the meets as a team and having a good time," says Serentena Rositani (11), the best 100 meter runner. Jaden Fong (9) stated, "Track has been great so far, and I'm looking forward to the rest of the meets we have." Despite the foul weather, Kennedy has competed in numerous meets already including their season opener at the Clarke Massey Relays at Cordova HS on Feb 24. The Boys Varsity and Frosh/Soph team finished first in a field of 27 teams. Their most recent meet, a Metro Invitational at Burbank on March 24 again provided some of the best track and field programs with 17 schools competing. Kennedy was victorious again with many first place finishes for Boys & Girls including a sweep of the top three spots in 100 Meters event by Rositani, Karissa Jones and Genesis Tholmer.

### Swimming

The Kennedy swimming team has been warming up as the Spring weather arrives. They have been practicing every day under coach Derek Perkins, who is also the Kennedy water polo coach. Perkins states, "We have a lot of experienced swimmers who also play other sports, a very athletic team that is capable of training very hard. Both the boys and girls [sic] team should have strong seasons and finish in the top three of the league standings. I am looking forward to seeing how each of the athletes [sic] progress throughout the course of the season and I am excited to see how they race at the league championships at the end of the season." Kennedy has a prided history when it comes to water sports, and is looking to produce another successful season this spring. The swimmers are ready to see what they can do in the pool, and so are we.

### Boys Tennis

Tennis is here and the players are excited to take the court and dominate this season. Coach Parsh said the weather had prevented the team from playing and practicing for almost two weeks. However, they managed to get their first league match played on Monday, March 19 with a 9-0 victory over Florin. "I am excited about the progress that players made leading into the season. Our play is greatly improved compared to last season," Parsh shared. Kennedy has been victorious (3-1 overall) in most of their matches so far this year. The history of Kennedy's tennis team has been well-documented with many victorious tournaments and matches, and under Parsh, the team looks forward to another productive season. Now that the weather has cleared, go see players compete at their next tennis match, Tuesday, April 3 at Burbank.

### Boys Baseball

Kennedy is a very competitive sports school with baseball being no exception. The Kennedy Varsity and JV teams have suited up for the tough, enduring but fun baseball season that might include some twists and turns along the way. With the wet weather, the Varsity team of Kennedy has played only one metro league game, a 17-0 victory over Valley on March 21. Both Varsity and JV teams lost several of the pre-season games, but know they are a great team and work well together. Their next game is against rival McClatchy team on Wednesday, April 4 at McClatchy. Good luck Cougars for the remainder of the baseball season.

### Girls Softball

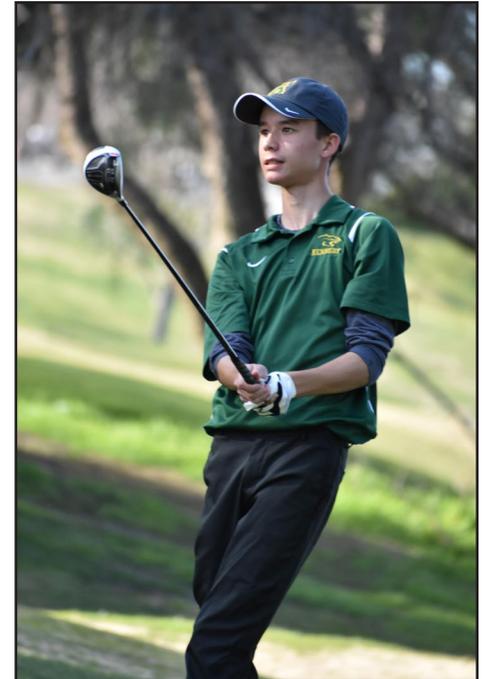
Girls softball is now in full swing. The official season began on Tuesday, March 20 against Valley at home. "To everyone else, we are just a team, but to each other we are a Cougar family, and we are heading to the playoffs," says coach Caitlyn Seymour of the Varsity squad. Her team is 3-2, and 1-0 within the league. Seymour says the future of softball looks bright with the young talent on the JV team. Freshman Syraya Jones, a position player on the JV team says, "I'm looking forward to seeing my team and myself build up our confidence and skills, and maybe even bring home a trophy." Their next game is this Tuesday, April 3rd against Florin at home. Hit it out of the park ladies, and as Jones stated, "Let's bring another trophy to Kennedy."

### Boys Volleyball

Men's volleyball is set to excite Kennedy's volleyball fans. Both Varsity and JV squads have been practicing regularly (indoors where the weather isn't a factor) and have started the season successfully. Under head coach Jakira Rand, the teams are looking toward another successful volleyball season at Kennedy. The Varsity squad's overall record is 9-6 and 3-1 in metro league. With a good season and a trophy in sight, the men of Kennedy's volleyball team are ready to leap higher and spike harder in a quest to bring home a championship to the great school of John F. Kennedy High School. We are all looking forward to watching these competitors go out there and kill it this year. Their next game will be against Laguna Creek tomorrow, April 3 at Laguna Creek.

### Boys Golf

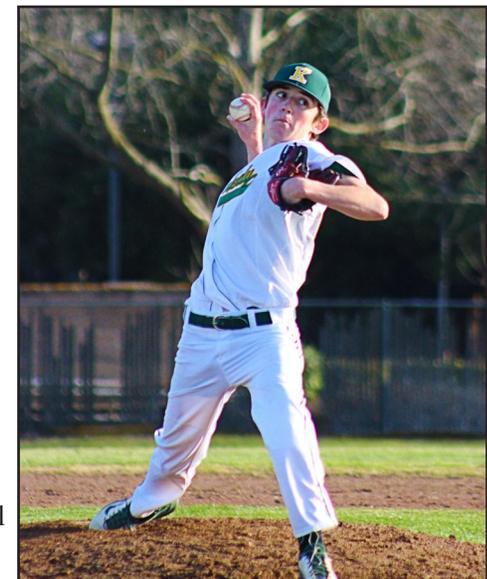
Coach Sean Finegan and company are driving forward this 2018 golf season. You may think golf can be boring, but it actually includes great patience, skill, and endurance to be a good golf player. The season has been progressing with several invitationals and many matches so far. One of the top golfers, junior Dylan Van Ostrand, says, "My personal goals for the season are to help the team advance to state, and earn League MVP as an individual." The Varsity team is currently 1-1-1, and have their next game against McClatchy at home today April 2. Ethan Lu, a Kennedy freshman on the JV men's team states, "We finished in second in our first 18-hole tournament this year, finishing four shots behind Whitney. Then we tied Rio Americano 215-215 in a match, and defeated River City 196-311. We came up short against Lodi due to having players missing, and didn't play as well in our second 18-hole tournament." The Kennedy golf team has had a positive season so far, and will continue to compete for advancement in the sport that they love.



Dylan Van Ostrand (11) tracks the trajectory of his drive. Photo by Cody Mak



Connor Dorais (11) warms up with the team during one of the few dry days in March. Clarion photo by Miya Murata



Varsity pitcher Daniel Nevis (12) bears down on the opposing batter. Photo by Meng Thao



Girls Softball JV pitcher Alyson Eystad (9) prepares to release her wicked pitch. Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar.



J. Cummings (12) keeps ahead of Sacramento High opponent in the sprint relay at Clarke Massey Relays, Feb 24. Clarion photo by Sarif Morningstar

# NEWS

## Operation Ground Zero

(Continued from Page 1)

Prior to the statements released by both Kennedy and Cal, the vast majority of both student bodies had been informed of the threats sent through text messages. The earliest reports of students being aware of the threatened shooting occur around 7 pm.

A screenshot of the initial text message began to circulate social media platforms, such as Snapchat and Instagram, with the Kennedy administration officially releasing a statement to the campus at 9:47 pm in an email from the principal.

In a message sent out by Kennedy principal, David Van Natten, it was disclosed that once the police had been notified of the threats, two law enforcement agencies began to conduct investigations surrounding the claims. Alongside the investigations, the presence of law enforcement increased on campus in order to safeguard the security of the school. Speaking directly to students, Van Natten issued the advice “As a reminder, if you ever witness any suspicious activity please report it immediately to the police department by calling (916) 264-5471, or dialing 9-1-1 in case of an emergency.”

Following the eventful night of the 13th, the Kennedy campus found itself slim on student attendance. Even though the student body had planned a walkout, in accordance to the guidelines laid out in a letter sent out by the administration, to protest gun violence, a number of students did not show for concern for their safety and well-being.



Clarion Staff photo

Kennedy students gather around the 17 empty chairs during the 17-minute student walkout.

“It’s something to talk about. The first threat took place on the day we were supposed to unite against gun violence, specifically in schools, but, it was still a good turnout despite the fear it already encouraged. Any students who stayed and participated in the march to show that we aren’t gonna stop fighting. Florida really was the last straw,” professed senior Marcelina “Marci” Ayana when questioned on her support for the class walkout.

Echoing the comments of his classmate, David Yu, another senior, stated, “One thing that struck a chord with me was that a lot of people had known about the shooter threat before hand and came to school anyways. It takes a lot of bravery to stand up for what you believe in even when you think that you might be harmed doing it.”

The walkout, which lasted for 17 minutes to memorialize the 17 lives lost during the Stoneman Douglas shooting, started at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14. Students and teachers that choose to participate exited their classrooms and met with the other protesters until they converged out in front of the school. Upon meeting, the student body was directed by senior Billy Hernandez on the form the protest would take.

Once gathered and instructed, the group, consisting of students and teachers, reentered the campus and marched around the rim of the quad. A number of participants carried signs that they had crafted in the days leading up to the march. Returning to the front entrance of the campus, the group of protesters engaged in listening to a few words of reassurance offered by student speaker, senior Malissa Bordeaux.

Even with low attendance, not all of the students that came to school participated in the walkout. Some attended school but did not join in the walkout,

## Way Back Machine – 1 Year Ago

Vol. 46 No. 3: April 1, 2017

By Clarion Staff

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

“...the 80-year-old school shocked the school’s alumni by abruptly changing their mascot to the dandelion...”  
 “Many children blow on [the dandelion], 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.”

### Spaghetti Strap-Clad Students Claim Second Amendment ‘Right to Bare Arms’

“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.”

### JFK Hide and Seek Team Finds Their First Victory in Forty-four Years

The Kennedy Cougars defeated McClatchy in the first interscholastic hide and seek match in 44 years, which was located in the Kennedy auditorium.

“...hiding in the speech podium proved to be effective. I used the handicap gate as a distraction and the McClatchy seeker was as lost as a dandelion fluff in a tornado,” Johnson explained to The Clarion.”

### Clarion Facts (2016-2017 school year)

- Chief Editor - Kristof of Topher
- Staff Advisor - Bonedaddy “Crazy-legs” Hanzman
- Principal - David Van Baldin

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**McClatchy Quiets the Lion by ‘Soft-Petaling’ a New Mascot**  
By Billie Rae Bishop, 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 mascot 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 Triampo 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 daily 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.P., Thoughtful Meme Enthusiast and Resident Frog Catcher

According to the “Analysis on Internet Memes Using Semantics,” an analytical research paper on internet memes conducted from the English Department at Binas University, Abdul Aziz Turhan Kariko observed that memes – cultural ideas or jokes spread among people – became a popular, alternative form of communication in early 2012, providing users with a powerful way to flexibly 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, reliable internet memes of 2016 – thanks to the appearance of his cheeked depredator’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 concerning to reliable problems of social, cultural, and political messages for viewers to identify with.

Much of the humor of Evil Kermit lies in the captions producing a reliable 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 Iqon’s “Be More Teal” 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 Bot. 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 in A’s s I e t i c. Shakespeare’s plays, known for deepening our understanding of universal truths on the human condition in literature, literally cannot even compare to Kermit in his cultural value. But that’s none of my business.

**Spaghetti Strap-Clad Students Claim Second Amendment ‘Right to Bare Arms’**  
By Topher Romo, 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 overbearing and unnecessary. “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 5th 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 accessories on campus. The club will meet on Fridays before school in the C-building elevator room. (continued on Page 2)

**Inside**

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- 4 – Sports, what?
- 5 – Other stuff

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## A Short Story Lily, My Love

By Joe Temblador, Clarion Staff

The snow fell languidly to the ground, as though God were dropping powdered sugar from the golden arches of heaven, glazing these worn country fields in a sweetness that coats the tongue, and cleanses the heart, and because the morning was still early this immaculately undisturbed scene was not yet desecrated by the inevitable destructive power of time.

Inside a pristinely white house no life made a sound. The beings that roamed there were simply abstractions, entities that had escaped the surly bonds of actuality. Although they were alive, they were not living. The covetous grasp of the sentient no longer kept him bound to this white citadel. Not since that paragon of happiness with her sweet smile, and soft hair, and eyes the color of a lush country field during summer, was swept away amongst the lillies... her eyes were the kind of piercing that left one feeling more whole, a lush green with sprinkles of a summer iris within an iris. Her absence left him empty in way of desire for this place, and so that night he left that swath of his commiseration. He took nothing with him; none of his earthly belongings nor previous desires, for he did not plan to return.

In his departure he was greeted by the penetrating bite of sorrow that rode the wind the same way a commuter might ride a subway, coming and going as it pleased to remind him of what he had lost and what he still stood to leave behind. Yet he continued, trudging forward, each footfall leaving him more drawn than the last as the snow bit at his heels and numbed his toes. He continued in this manner for centuries, or perhaps only hours; it's hard to tell as relativity is distorted by the ruthless passage of time.

Soon he felt he could go on no longer so he fell to his knees, and was enveloped by the gelid scathing grasp of frost and loss, but as the cold clutches of time enveloped his every being, he was once again pulled back by an ex machina of renewal. In the peripheral of his vision, standing silently amongst the tree lines was a doe. She was gaunt and tired looking, ribs protruding from what seemed like days of malnourishment and fur torn and ruffled from years of hard living; yet she carried something in her eyes. They were somehow understanding, ethereal orbs peering into the inner sanctums of his anima. Her green eyes, with specks of iris within an iris were a thing to behold. Just as he felt their gaze had met long enough to have exchanged a deeper level of understanding, she was gone.

As quickly as she had appeared to him she retreated back into the clandestine clutches of the forest. Behind her she left a trail of lilies, perfectly undefiled in this frost laden land.

His journey ended in that spot, as he was consumed by the snow, which fell on top of him apathetically, varnishing these old country fields in an all enveloping rime, and because the night was still young this immaculately undisturbed scene was not yet desecrated by the inevitable destructive power of time.

### A Poem by Desiree Leong, Clarion Staff Springtime

Birds fluttered around,  
Young children giggled.

The sky blanketed everything blue,  
The clouds floated everywhere, little puffs.

Flowers peeked out between strands of grass,  
Animals darted here and there to safety.

The slight breeze hugged people and animals alike,  
The bright sun cascaded warmth far and wide.

New beginnings resounded with hope,  
Cherished past forever in memory.

A new outlook flourishing with brightness,  
A time filled with chances to start anew.

In this time, smiles and laughs ring out,  
There is innocence in the new start.

Ever a time like spring?

## Movie Review Wakanda Forever

By Miya Murata and Aryanna Zavala, Clarion Staff

When Black Panther was announced, movie goers got excited because it was going to emphasize the beautiful culture of Africa. Due to the current political climate in the United States, people were ready for a film that showcased the interesting and magnificent African culture and put African Americans front and center. Ryan Coogler, Sac State alumni and the director of Black Panther said in an interview with the New York Times, "You know, you got to have the race conversation. And you can't have that without having the slavery conversation." Coogler understood the need of a film that proudly displayed black culture without telling the same narrative and that the film tackled an important genre, "Superhero films that deal with issues of being African descent."



Since its release on February 16, 2018, the film has made over \$1.237 billion worldwide making it #9 on the highest grossing movies ever list and one of the most grossing movies in Marvel history. The cast is predominately Black, which is significant because in the film and television industry about 13.6% of characters are African American compared to 70.8% of white characters.

The cultural background of Black Panther has eye-catching moments that represents a genuine loyalty to African culture. When designing the clothing that would be used in the film, Ruth Carter got most of her inspiration by, "imagining a place that wasn't colonized by the Dutch or the British." In the Washington Post, she stated, "I wanted to create a story behind the costumes and elements that were.....attractive and intimidating."

Marvel films are an inspiration to many people around the world, as they convey a powerful message that everyone has their own kind of superpower and can be anything they want to be despite their background. Black Panther is such an important movie for Africans everywhere because it shows the importance of African culture and has caused a movement within the African American community to embrace their heritage.

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