



ISSUE FOUR, MAY 2017

# THE AXE





# EDITORS' NOTE

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Hello, Axe readers! As we move into the third and final trimester of the school year, this issue focuses more on South and our community and slightly less on national political issues, offering a range of stories from Teacher Parents at South to the Evolution of Memes. It's also that time when Senioritis hits the hardest and AP tests are just around the corner, so in light of this, we hope you will enjoy our Good Vibes playlist while reading about what it means to be a South Eugene Hipster.

As The Axe Staff continues to bring you perspectives and stories from around South, feel free to submit artwork if you would like to be featured on the back of our magazine! Just email us at [theaxemagazine@gmail.com](mailto:theaxemagazine@gmail.com).

Please enjoy the April issue of The Axe!

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THE  
**AXE**





# 4J VOTES AGAINST SANCTUARY POLICY

MIYAKO IWATA

President Donald Trump's flurry of executive orders and policy overhauls targeting minority groups has left many Americans, particularly those who identify as undocumented immigrants, Muslims, or members of the LGBTQ community, reeling in the aftermath.

Throughout these early months of the Trump presidency, the city of Eugene, an area with a liberal-majority demographic, has been swept with several resistance movements. On Jan. 28, Eugene residents organized a rally at the Wayne Morse Federal Courthouse to protest the authorization of an executive order banning immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries. The demonstration drew a crowd of more than 1,000 in a show of peaceful activism.

Much like the community at large, several students and teachers within the Eugene School District have expressed sentiments of disapproval toward the fledgling Trump administration. As a result of this pushback, both the city of Eugene and the 4J District have weighed the option of becoming "sanctuary" institutions in order to create legal protections for their minority and LGBT constituents.

During the final weeks of President Obama's tenure in January, the School Board held a public testimony in which community members were invited to discuss their concerns around the incoming administration's policies, especially those scaling back on recent civil rights victories for minority groups.

Over the next half-hour, parents and students of various citizenship status, as well as school guidance counselors, testified before the board. The board is comprised of community volunteers elected to the posts.

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*The city and the district are governed independently of one another. Each has a different mission and serves different constituencies.*

KEN NEUBECK

## STORY

The 4J School Board voted down an effort to make the district a "sanctuary" for immigrant students, creating more uncertainty for undocumented families in Eugene.

One such counselor was Tibor Bessko, a supporter of the sanctuary initiative from Churchill High School.

"These undocumented students are like deer in the headlights, wondering what is going to happen to them," Bessko said. "They are students of color who are feeling like their lives will be in further danger. I am privy to student status and information... and I will not give any information. I want to hear from my school board and district that you will back me up when I take that sort of position."

Board members appeared highly receptive to the message, promising that they would push to pass a resolution that would create explicit legal protections for 4J students. During the meeting, board member Anne Marie Levis gave a tearful statement on concerns around the nation's polarized political sphere and pledged her commitment to the sanctuary policy.

Such measures have already been implemented in several communities, including the Portland Public Schools Board and the Reynolds School District in Portland. Ten days after the election of President Trump, committees in both districts approved policies that prohibit immigration officials from entering school grounds without permission from top administrators.

As a part of the policymaking process, the Eugene School Board reviewed the resolutions adopted by the Portland, Corvallis, and David Douglas school districts. The group then developed a draft that was provided to the public prior to the January meeting.

However, on Wednesday, Feb. 15, the 4J Board voted against declaring "sanctuary" status and instead passed a resolution "affirming commitment to a safe, inclusive, and supportive school environment for all students, regardless of national origin, immigration status, or documentation status."

The move, which only reaffirmed current policies that exist under 4J jurisdiction, left many community members dissatisfied with the extent of the board's action. Those who testified in the February meeting, including Roosevelt Middle School teacher Kay Fullerton, were most critical of the resolution's vague language.

"I want to thank the board for recognizing that many of our district policies are designed and will help protect all students, but I think it's important to accomplish the goal of making the



undocumented students feel safe. That language was starkly absent from the resolution, and it gave me a red warning light,” Fullerton said.

But according to School Board Chairwoman Mary Walston, the district has limited legal powers that prevent it from taking more drastic measures.

“We do not have the authority to refuse federal or state law enforcement officials,” Walston said. “Instead, we chose to make an affirmative statement of the policies and values already in place... We do not make laws.”

Also present at the meeting was 4J District Superintendent Gustavo Balderas, who backed the board’s decision and sought to reassure worried students and parents. In an email interview with The Axe, Balderas pointed out that the district will continue to adhere to broader laws that uphold immigrant rights.

“I can say that we have state and federal laws that protect students — laws that we will continue to follow,” Balderas said. “What this resolution has done is focus the district to review and update school district policies and procedures.”

In stark contrast to the Eugene School District, the City of Eugene has made significant strides in its push to formalize its status as a “sanctuary” for undocumented citizens. Last month, the Eugene Human Rights Commission, an organization that functions as a policy-making group within the city, passed an ordinance known as “Protections for Individuals.”

According to Jan Bohman, Eugene’s Community Relations Manager, new provisions will be added to the City Code under the ordinance that blocks the use of city resources on the grounds of enforcing federal immigration law — unless it is related to a criminal offense.

“This ensures that if [Oregon] law changes, the provisions will still remain in City Code,” Bohman said.

Despite representing a key constituency within the City of Eugene, the 4J District is not subject to the guidelines established by the City Council.

“The city and the district are governed and operate independently of one another,” said Ken Neubeck, Chair for the Human Rights Commission. “Each has a different mission and serves different constituencies. Neither is reliant on the other nor attempts to exert influence over the other’s policies. That was the case with regard to deliberations and decisions on sanctuary by the two bodies.”

Thus, in order to provide specific legal protections for undocumented 4J students, the district itself would be required to enact its own policies independently.

During the February board meeting, Spencer Butte sixth grader Kai Rabasa Freeman stressed the urgency of such legal action.

“I’m here to ask you to make our district a formal sanctuary,” he said. “I’m here to ask you to protect my friends for at least six hours of their day.”





# YOUNG OREGON IMMIGRANTS TO GET HEALTHCARE

JESSE PEARCE

A legislative proposal backed by Governor Kate Brown would provide much-needed healthcare to almost 20,000 children in Oregon. These youth currently do not have access to healthcare due to their status as undocumented immigrants.

This legislation would amend a current Oregon law that provides healthcare to all children under 19, provided that they are at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level and are legal Oregon residents. House Bill 2726 and Senate Bill 558 propose to change the language of the law so that a child merely has to reside in Oregon to be eligible for care.

Similar to policies already in place in California, Washington, Illinois, New York, and Massachusetts, the proposal would add approximately 17,600 children to the Oregon Health Plan, the state's version of Medicaid. The bills include plans for publicity and outreach programs to maximize impact. The Oregon Center for Public Policy estimates that the proposal would cost the state \$55 million over the next two years.

The bipartisan proposal has crucial implications for the many undocumented families living in Oregon. Ineligible for federally-funded public health programs because of their immigration status, many undocumented immigrants often work jobs with little or no health benefits. For these workers and their families, health coverage can only be accessed in emergency situations.

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***House Bill 2726 and Senate Bill 558 propose to change the language of the law so that a child merely has to reside in Oregon to be eligible for care.***

JESSE PEARCE

## STORY

Governor Kate Brown has supported a bill sponsored by several Oregon legislators that would provide healthcare to thousands of undocumented Oregon children.

Hospitals are required to provide care to anyone who shows up in their emergency rooms with an urgent health issue, regardless of whether they are covered by insurance or not. However, once the patient has been "stabilized," the care ends, and patients can be discharged without receiving any treatment for serious health conditions.

Additionally, undocumented immigrants are currently eligible to receive emergency care through the Citizen Alien Waived Emergent Medical program (CAWEM). One can apply at any time, and the program does not require applicants to provide proof of citizenship or a social security number. However, the program only covers emergency care and care for pregnant women — not including abortion. The child of a mother receiving CAWEM care at the time of delivery is eligible for care under the program for one year.

The fact that undocumented immigrants are only covered during emergency situations means that many wait to seek medical help until the situation is out of hand. Not only is this detrimental to the health of many undocumented immigrants, but it also means that the government must eventually cover the cost of highly preventable health emergencies. Supporters of HB 2726 and SB 558 have used this fact to argue that providing health coverage to undocumented children could save the state additional costs in the long-term.

Undocumented immigrants can, however, find non-emergency care at so-called "safety-net" clinics located throughout the state. Community Health Centers of Lane County, an organization of safety-net clinics in the Eugene-Springfield area, provides prenatal, pediatric, contraceptive, and dental care to patients on a sliding-scale payment basis.

Uninsured and undocumented immigrants may also be able to find limited medical care at local community centers. Centro Latino Americano, for example, began providing free pediatric care monthly through their Clínica Esperanza this October. Uninsured community members can receive mental health services through the Centro as well, which are also paid on a sliding scale.

Some Oregon public schools and universities also provide healthcare services or even insurance plans for uninsured students. The University of Oregon, for example, offers its students a comprehensive health insurance plan for \$1,095 per year.



People stand in line for health care at PeaceHealth Hospital. The new proposal backed by Governor Brown would extend coverage to all children residing in Oregon.



Through these various sources, some undocumented immigrants are able to piece together enough care to get by. However, this network of care is far from comprehensive and can be too expensive for some families, especially for individuals with serious health conditions. The support that can be found within local communities is often not enough to meet the health needs of many undocumented immigrants. For this reason, several Oregonians support the proposal to add undocumented children to the Oregon Health Plan.

One supporter of the proposal, Roz Slovic, a member of Temple Beth Israel's Tikkun Olam (social action) steering committee, was instrumental in raising funds and finding necessities for an asylum-seeking Venezuelan family that arrived in Eugene last summer.

"I wrote and talked to many people I know to find furniture and clothing for them," Slovic said. "And I found storage locations for the furniture until they had a home of their own."

Slovic, along with her daughter and several others, helped organize a brunch hosted by Temple Beth Israel to raise funds for the family, who cannot yet work legally. The family is currently ineligible for the Oregon Health Plan. They must pay for basic care at the Charnelton Community Clinic, a part of the Community Health Centers of Lane County network.

"We hope they can stay healthy and only have periodic colds," said Slovic. In the case of a more serious medical complication, they would need to go to the emergency room.

If the proposed law passes, the family's two young children will instantly become eligible for care through the Oregon Health Plan. This could have long-term effects for the children; studies have shown that youth covered by Medicaid are more likely to succeed in school and have less emergency room visits as adults.

Not all Oregonians support the proposal, however. Opponents of the bill feel that the projected \$55 million price tag is too much for the state to handle. The Oregon legislature is already struggling to close a \$1.8 billion budget gap, which is already projected to impact the University of Oregon's tuition rates.

Even Senator Jeff Kruse (R-1), one of the sponsors of the Senate version of the bill, acknowledged, "I understand that there may be some budget issues. This may be a very complicated thing before the end of the day."

Thirty years ago, Slovic and some friends raised money to help cover the expenses of a refugee family from Vietnam. This was before the Affordable Care Act, Community Health Centers of Lane County, and Oregon Health Plan existed. With minimal community resources available, Slovic and her friends did their best to cover the family's medical expenses.

These days, Slovic says, there are many more resources available to refugees, asylum-seekers, and undocumented immigrants. If HB 2726 and SB 558 pass, they would represent the continuation of a statewide trend of providing more accessible medical services to non-citizen residents of Oregon.



# THE SECRET LIFE OF TEACHER PARENTS

JAELEN HODGES

Sitting through class after class and listening to teachers spew information at us for five days a week can make it is easy for students to forget that those people up there at the whiteboard have lives of their own and that many of them go home to children just like us. All students have experienced a run-in with a teacher in a public space, like a store or restaurant, and been startled to realize that these people do not just do sit in dark rooms and do math or science all day. Surprising as it may be, teachers are normal adults with human emotions, favorite TV shows, interesting fashion, and often, kids.

"It's normal for kids to not think about their teachers as human beings," said South social studies teacher Brad Jungert, a father of two. "My life is a mystery to most of you. I show up at class, you show up at class, you leave the class, and that's our relationship. Half the time when I see students out in public, they're like: 'OH WOW, YOU ARE A REAL PERSON. YOU'RE AT THE GROCERY STORE.'"

"When I was in high school, I thought all my teachers were robots," South P.E. teacher Danielle Glenzel said. "I didn't think they had lives or did all the things normal people did. I thought they were there to teach me and that was their entire purpose." South Spanish teacher Jacob Clark also thinks that students' inattention to the outside lives of teachers is normal.

"I think it's very natural for anyone to be around another person

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*My life is a mystery to most of you. I show up at class, you show up at class, you leave the class, and that's our relationship.*

BRAD JUNGERT

## STORY

Students too easily forget that teachers are often parents and that having kids can change how they teach and how their children experience school.

for a long time in a specific environment and then be shocked or not understand when they realize that there is another aspect of that person that exists outside of the environment that they always see them in," Clark said.

Having kids is a big change to anyone's life because being a parent is hard, and teachers with kids are not exempt from the rollercoaster of challenges parenting causes just because they are around kids all day. No one is a perfect parent and no one is a perfect teacher, but being one can help with the other.

"Being an educator has helped me be a better parent because all the management techniques we learn in becoming and being a teacher, especially in Phys. Ed., has helped me in parenting as far as better discipline and behavior modification. Teaching and parenting definitely help each other. But the positive reinforcement and student independence in my teaching style are tools I try to use on my own children, as well."

*Physical education and health teacher Danielle Glenzel and her son James, a sophomore, enjoy the gym and seeing each other on a daily basis.*





"I really believe that being a parent has made me a better teacher," said Clark. "Instead of seeing you as students, I see you as someone's child, and because of the love I have for my own kids and wanting the best for them, I want to provide you guys with what I expect my children to have."

While teachers who are parents get to see their children going through the system they work so hard to improve, the children of those parents often go through high school with expectations put on them by the reputations of their parents.

"My dad taught at the one high school in my town growing up," South parent Emily Jerome said. "And I was so terrified all four years of high school, because I knew all my teachers were going to tattle to my dad what I had done that day, good or bad."

Teacher parents also present another layer of complexity to the student-teacher relationship they share with their own kids' friends. Going to a friend's house and seeing their mom or dad doing normal things like cooking, cleaning, and being a family is a normal fact of life, until the same parent of your friend is now giving you tests and in charge of your grade. This dynamic between students who see their teachers outside of school regu-

larly can be fun, but a certain level of boundaries are necessary. "I think teaching kids who see you in a more personal light is fun, and being a teacher that teaches subjects like sex ed, it doesn't get weird unless you let it get weird," said Glenzel. As a teacher, you just have to have a professional attitude about it, which might be hard sometimes because kids who see you coaching or at home have different relationships with you, but it is our job to teach and we take it seriously."

"Those boundaries that exist between teacher and student can and should blur outside of these walls," said Kessler. "But when you walk into my profession, there are rules and boundaries, and I apply them equally to all students regardless of who they are, including my own daughter."

Teachers dedicate much of their time to teaching and connecting with students to give us the best chance of succeeding in the "real world," so it is important that we do them the same courtesy and show respect, but also see the real person behind the teacher.

"For me as a teacher, it is really rewarding when a student starts to see me as a person and not just a teacher, and talking about my kids usually brings that out of students," Jungert added.

While there is no need to be nosy, learning things about your teacher and what their lives are like when they step outside this building can be a good change of perspective.



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*When I was in high school, I thought all my teachers were robots.*

DANIELLE GLENZEL





# BRIEFS

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JABIN BOTSFORD

*Neil Gorsuch was recently confirmed to the Supreme Court, filling Antonin Scalia's vacancy. President Obama's nominee Merrick Garland was controversially blocked by Republican senators, leading Democrats to filibuster Gorsuch's nomination to no avail.*





JAELEN HODGES

## MEXICO CORN

In response to Trump's proposed 20 percent tax on Mexican imports to pay for his wall, Mexican Senator Armando Rios Piter has publicized his plans to introduce a bill to hit America where it hurts: corn. His bill would require Mexico to shift their corn purchases from the U.S. to Brazil and Argentina, which has U.S. corn farmers nervous because Mexico is the top buyer of American corn exports. According to the National Corn Growers Association, the U.S. exports \$2.4 billion worth of corn bushels to Mexico every year.



MIYAKO IWATA

## HEALTH CARE ACT ROLLED OUT

On Apr. 6, the U.S. launched a military offensive against Syria in the form of a missile strike. In response to a Syrian government-sponsored chemical gas attack on hundreds of civilians, President Trump authorized U.S. warships to fire 59 cruise missiles at a Syrian airbase, pivoting sharply from the isolationist foreign policy he championed throughout the 2016 presidential campaign.

"It was a slow and brutal death for so many — even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack," Trump said in a press

conference that night. "It is in this vital national security interest of the United States: to prevent and deter the spread and use of deadly chemical weapons."

However, the military intervention left many of the president's most ardent populist supporters questioning his loyalty to his base.

"I guess Trump wasn't 'Putin's puppet' after all. He was just another deep state/Neo-Con puppet," Paul Joseph Watson, a writer for the far-right conspiracy site Infowars, tweeted. "I'm officially OFF the Trump train."

MELISSA WANG

## RADIOACTIVE BOARS

In a strange turn of events, radioactive boars have taken over the area around Fukushima. After the 2011 meltdown, humans were banned from living there, so the local boar population exploded, going from 3,000 to 13,000. Additionally, since 2011, boars have caused over \$900,000 in agricultural damage. However, since they are also eating radioactive crops, it is difficult for humans to dispose of these nuclear pigs.



*More than 600 students attended Winter Formal, breaking yet another record for the highest student turnout at that dance.*

ALYSSA GAO

ALYSSA GAO

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

Historically, South has been well-known for low student involvement and lackluster school spirit. This year, however, students have become more connected with school-organized activities. In October, attendance at Homecoming was higher than ever before, following a week of increased engagement in themed activities. Additionally, more than 600 students attended Winter Formal in February, breaking yet another record for the highest student turnout at that dance. Whether it is due to a change in format of the pep assemblies or an increased effort in publicizing spirit weeks, student involvement within the school has grown significantly this year.



ALEX LEVE

## FUNDRAISERS

Recent South fundraisers have generated significant revenue that has gone toward important school-wide goals. Fundraisers for the Axemen Angels program, for instance, are well underway. In February, the program kicked off with the Val-O-Grams and Penny Wars fundraisers. The Val-O-Grams fundraiser raised roughly \$600, all of which directly supported Axemen Angels, unlike previous years when Val-O-Gram funds went into the general Associated Student Body fund. Penny Wars — a short, three-day fundraiser — raised nearly \$550 and resulted in the victory of the Freshmen Class. Student Government also plans to host a Staff vs. Students basketball game in the spring to conclude its major fundraising efforts this school year. In total, the Axemen fundraisers have raised \$1,144 so far.



# GLOBALISM UNDER FIRE

JAKE SABITT

While both the term and concept of globalism are nothing new, this buzzword has received extra attention over the past few years due to the seeming speed at which we are moving toward collectivization, as well as the criticism leveled at it by our newly-elected president and the right-wing fringes in America and Europe.

For those unfamiliar with globalism, it is the idea that the international community is becoming increasingly interconnected and that leaders should draft policy accounting for the world operating as more of a continuous government body. This concept is very strongly opposed by conservatives in both the U.S. and Europe, as well as white nationalist movements around the globe.

Opponents of globalism argue that it snuffs out individual cultures and threatens national security and stability. These right-wing groups — such as the alt-right — have strongly opposed organizations such as the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the United Nations, with even President Trump often speaking out against these organizations. They have instead advocated for Britain leaving the EU, also known as “Brexit,” and America withdrawing from NATO. These groups believe globalism is simply an extension of the progressive agenda that is threatening their extreme nationalist views. These views are questionable not only because they are often caught up in the pseudo neo-Nazi fear mongering rhetoric, but also because in most cases these arguments simply do not hold up to scrutiny.

To start off, let's address the EU, arguably one of the largest and most successful global institutions. While not without its flaws, the EU has ultimately been a good thing and is living proof that many of the complaints directed at our increasingly global world are simply not valid. No member country's culture has in any way shape or form been subdued by the EU; the French are still drinking their wine, and the Italians are still eating their pasta. Much of Europe has thrived under the EU, and the EU has helped with economic crises in places such as Greece. Additionally, the EU also has the power to enforce positive policies, such as environmental regulations across multiple countries, and

## STORY

Globalism has become somewhat of a hot button issue as of late, leaving many people to question whether or not it is a good thing and how it will affect our world in the decades to come.

stop the rise of fascist political parties like the Golden Dawn in Greece, which has frequently promoted Nazi ideology and had leaders arrested for involvement in the disappearance of 100 immigrants. The open borders and common currency synonymous with the EU have been highly effective in fostering international travel and trade.

As for concerns about safety, there has been very little concrete proof that the open borders have made member countries of the EU any less safe. As a matter of fact, such policies have helped to apprehend criminals in cases such as the aftermath of the Paris attacks. Perhaps the real reason behind the fear of open borders is the thinly-veiled contempt for people from the Middle East and Africa. A joint military and police force also helps to catch terrorists in places around Europe. These are just a few of the ways the EU is actively making Europe more secure, not the other way around.

While there are some legitimate arguments to be made against globalism (most notably the power it could give big businesses), fears of your country's security and culture eroding away are simply not valid. It is also ironic that many of the people railing about the dangers of globalism are doing so via the internet, which is arguably the very embodiment of globalism and is also far more responsible for an increase in globalism than supranational organizations like the EU. The internet is increasingly leading to a shared culture and, across the world, making the global cooperation of nations a necessity.

This leads to the question: Is globalism inevitable? At this point, it seems very likely. If you look at America, one of our largest exports is our culture, with commodities ranging from film to music to fashion. The last of these is especially dependant on international manufacturing, which is becoming more and more common. The desire for goods and the widespread phenomenon of immigration has the world becoming progressively connected in a way that wouldn't be easy to undo. Not only are the demands for an isolationist approach to government unfounded, but they also may never be realized.

The world has done nothing but become vastly more connected since WWII, and it seems unlikely it will stop here. Accepting that globalism is a likely inevitability is important, and we must work to ensure globalism truly helps everybody as opposed to simply attacking it.



# THE PENNY CIVIL WARS

YULIA NAKAGOME

Since the International High School (IHS) program was established at South in 1984, IHS and Classic South have always had a healthy bit of rivalry. Most recently, students went head to head over “Penny Wars.”

The Penny Wars is a generally well-received fundraising competition that pits classes against one another in a race to raise the most money. Each penny amounts to a positive point for your class, while anything higher, including other coins and cash, amount to negative points. A student can sabotage another class with a simple nickel — what’s not to like? The IHS students certainly do, so much so in fact, that some were unhappy when Classic South used their own version of the fundraiser in late February.

Prior to this year, Penny Wars was exclusively an IHS tradition. Every year, IHS students raise thousands of dollars for a charity or cause of their choice. This year was no different. After celebrating their success, IHS students prepared to close up shop until next year when they heard the term “Penny Wars” floating around the hallways again much earlier than they had anticipated.

“When I first heard Penny Wars was going to be happening at Classic South and not just IHS, I was amused,” Isaac Lee, an IHS sophomore said. “The reason Penny Wars has been so successful in IHS is because it is a small community that can be more easily impacted than classic high school.”

This rang true, based on the money that each Penny Wars fundraiser collected. The IHS students raised \$3,000 in two weeks this year for Food for Lane County, while the school-wide Penny Wars raised just \$543.77 over three days.

While Classic South raised substantially less money, both were very successful in supporting worthy causes. Still, some IHS students found fault with Classic South’s lack of originality.

“From the IHS side, Penny Wars has been around for seven years, and this tradition has become part of the IHS identity. I personally think that the conflict comes from a general feeling

## STORY

Some IHS students think of the Penny Wars as their own, so when the fundraising competition was adopted by Classic students earlier this year, it did nothing for the long standing rivalry between the two groups.

that host campuses brush aside IHS and don’t give recognition to the program,” said senior and IHS student government member Sophia Dossin.

That said, Dossin is not opposed to the fundraiser starting at Classic South, as long as it respects the existing IHS Penny Wars.

“In the future, I would love to see Classic South do more Penny Wars fundraisers because they really work! Two pieces of advice I would give to Classic student government, however, are to coordinate with IHS student government to show acknowledgement of our tradition and change the name! It’s more original, shows respect to IHS, and I guarantee it will bring in more money, since more IHS kids will feel inclined to donate,” Dossin said.

Tiffany Huang, a sophomore and IHS student government member, said that the end result of helping others should overshadow such feelings of animosity.

“I know that a lot of IHS kids were unhappy with Penny Wars and ‘boycotted’ it,” said Huang. “I thought that was stupid because all the money went to the Axemen Angels, so it’s weird that they wouldn’t donate to charity.”

A boycott ensued nonetheless.

“When student government members went around classes to collect money, apparently some kids refused to donate because it was ‘stolen from IHS’,” said junior and South student government member Erika Parisien. “Also, during the assembly, there

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*I personally think that the conflict comes from a general feeling that host campuses brush aside IHS and don’t give recognition to the program.*

SOHIPA DOSSIN



were lots of people chanting ‘IHS!’ when Rosemary was trying to talk about Penny Wars.”

Other IHS students have milder opinions. Though some may have done a double take when they heard “Penny Wars” being mentioned in the announcements, they did not have much of a problem with the competition starting at Classic South.

“I think it’s beneficial to whoever gets the money because obviously with the whole school participating, you gather more money,” IHS sophomore Nour Aboelez said.

This proved to be untrue in the case of Penny Wars, because the IHS Penny Wars did in fact raise more. However, if the two Penny Wars continue in conjunction with each other, it will bring in more money overall than if only one fundraiser were to happen.

Classic South student government viewed the popular fundraiser as a means of supporting charitable groups at school by raising money, rather than a stab at IHS traditions.

“We started a new nonprofit organization at South called Axemen Angels, and we wanted to do a fundraiser for it, and we chose to do Penny Wars because it is a fun, competitive way to raise money,” Parisien said. “However, a large amount of IHS people were really unhappy that Classic South started doing it as well, since it’s been an IHS tradition. I understand where they’re coming from, but Classic South didn’t see a problem with doing it, since it’s for the sake of charity. Also, IHS didn’t invent Penny Wars.”

This is true. Penny Wars is not unique to IHS. Penny wars (or penny drives) are relatively common techniques used by schools

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***When student government members went around classes to collect money, apparently some kids refused to donate because it was “stolen from IHS.”***

ERIKA PARISIEN

because students seem to be fueled to raise more money when fundraisers are structured as a competition between classes.

In the wake of the conflict within the student body, even administrators got involved. According to Huang, Lisa Joye, the head of IHS student government, emailed vice principal Heather Stein about the controversy.

Even with the disapproval of the IHS student government, it appears that the Penny Wars are set to continue at Classic South next year.

“Despite the large amount of people who were upset or refused to participate, the outcome of the fundraiser was quite successful,” says Parisien. “It’s very possible it’ll happen again in future years.”

Maybe then, IHS and Classic South will Penny War in peace.





# HOLLYWOOD: PLEASE DON'T PANDA EXPRESS YOUR INDUSTRY

MELISSA WANG

About twenty minutes into *La La Land*, I started cracking up in the middle of the theater. It was instantaneous — a knee-jerk reaction to something so farcical that I couldn't hold in my laughter. To make it worse, I was probably the only one laughing. In the scene in question, Emma Stone's character was having dinner with her first boyfriend and his brother. The brother was probably in the movie for less than two minutes, but during those two minutes, he received a phone call and proceeded to speak in Chinese. And it was just so bad. Of course, this is yet another example of an increasingly widespread phenomenon: Hollywood studios pandering to Chinese audiences.

With the explosion of China's population, which currently hovers at around 1.36 billion people, its movie-going audience has grown into an extremely lucrative market. Hollywood's solution has ranged from indiscriminate product placement to casting major Chinese actors into very minor cameo roles.

In addition, pandering also plays a large part in appeasing the Chinese government, which can lead to increased revenue. If a movie chooses to include enough "Chinese" elements, such as the use of local actors or shots from a location in China, it is eligible to be classified as an "official co-production," meaning the studio can get a larger cut of box office sales, in addition to domestic U.S. sales.

At first, I thought this type of clumsy pandering was funny. In "*Now You See Me 2*," which was partially set in Macau, the audience watches Jesse Eisenberg and Morgan Freeman stumble through lines of Chinese, garbling the words so much that I could not even understand what they were saying.

To be fair, Mandarin is an extremely difficult language to pronounce correctly. There are four tones plus one neutral tone, so there can exist five different pronunciations of a single syllable. One of the most notable examples is that the word "ma" can be said five different ways, with meanings ranging from spicy to mom to horse.

## STORY

With the growth of the Chinese movie market, Hollywood pandering has reached unprecedented levels of ridiculousness.

However, as time went on, I was left with a bitter taste in my mouth. The closer I looked, the more blatant the pandering became. In "*Avatar: The Last Airbender*," most of the Asian characters were played by white actors. Tony Stark in "*Captain America: Civil War*" switched from an LG smartphone to a Vivo phone, a cheap, Chinese brand the U.S. government would never let him use.

What bothered me most was less the crass consumerism and more the lack of respect for Chinese culture. Among other things, Hollywood studios have begun to treat famous Chinese actors like objects to rack up brownie points in China. For example, Chinese actress Ling Bing Bing and Chinese boxer Zou Shiming were given such brief cameos in "*Transformers: Age of Extinction*" that Professor Ying Zhu of Staten Island University remarked they were "so perfunctorily inserted into the film that they amount to nothing more than another type of incoherent product placement."

Recently, our society has become much more sensitive to the issues of culture and race, especially in regards to cultural appropriation. Outcry has ranged from anger over Caucasian women





wearing African trends like corn rows to the inexplicable case of Rachel Dolezal, the former NAACP chapter leader who, although born white, still identifies as an “African American.” Even as we grow into a more interconnected world, we must walk the fine line between embracing foreign cultures and coopting them.

Take, for example, Panda Express. Hopefully, most Americans are aware that Panda Express is not authentic Chinese food. Don’t get me wrong. Orange Chicken is delicious; it’s just not Chinese food. Despite this awareness, to many Americans, Panda Express and Chinese culture are inextricably linked, and this is my fear with Hollywood pandering. As Hollywood begins to incorporate more and more Chinese touches, my hope is that they accurately and respectfully reflect the culture. A significant

portion of American exposure to China comes through Hollywood, and thus it’s important China is not relegated to a random phone company or minor role.

In this particular case, I think it would be beneficial for Hollywood studios to incorporate more of Chinese society into movies. Blending cultures is in general a positive trend, but, in my opinion, the difference between cultural appropriation and the gradual blending of cultures is respect. Instead of taking the lazy way out by sticking in Chinese products and actors wherever possible (sometimes creating plot holes in the process), Hollywood should view this as a challenge to elevate their art. The Chinese audience’s reaction might surprise them.

However, much of this work can be done on a local level as well. In fact, the 4J school district will be introducing a new Chinese Immersion program next school year. Set at what was formerly Crest Elementary, the program will start off with a curriculum exclusively for kindergarteners and first graders, adding a new grade each successive year. Eventually, Kennedy Middle School and Churchill High School will continue the immersion program. Hopefully, this will encourage Eugenians to not only learn more about the Chinese culture, but also be able to speak the language more accurately, since they will be starting the learning response at a younger age. Perhaps, over the next few generations, Hollywood will take the hint.

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*We must walk the fine line  
between embracing foreign  
cultures and coopting them.*

MELISSA WANG



# THE DANGER OF POLITICAL INACTION

VENESSA LOPEZ

The actions of our current political system thus far have been devastating to the safety of immigrants, women, Native Americans, and our environment. In the face of this political onslaught, many people have claimed that they will be part of the revolution, that of course they are against the actions of Donald Trump. However, most people who have asserted that they are against the political agenda of our new government have taken no tangible action to promote such change. In fact, many people are excusing themselves from these hard-hitting issues entirely, describing the overwhelming media coverage of politics as “annoying.”

If you are annoyed with the magnified coverage of political issues, you should consider your privilege. Not everyone can as easily ignore the surge of social injustice in our country. For a lot of people — mainly immigrants, indigenous people, and women — the issues of unconstitutional immigration policies, the denial of tribal water rights, and the defunding of Planned Parenthood are extremely relevant.

When you find yourself with negative thoughts about the political actions of activists or are blatantly inactive in these social justice movements, you should question the weight of the burden you carry. Right now, the burden rests most heavily on the shoulders of our Muslim, Native American, and female neighbors.

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*To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system; thereby the oppressed become as evil as the oppressor.*

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

## STORY

As is common during times of social injustice, many Americans have excused themselves from hard-hitting social issues; the effects of this inaction are harmful to us all.

With different opinions on what the future of America should be, we find ourselves at a crossroads, a time of progression or regression, no matter how you define the two. At moments like this, it is crucial to remember that our country has been divided, in one way or another, since its founding.

In the current political climate, people are uncertain of how to feel, who to trust, and what to do. As a young woman of color, I am personally ashamed of the current state of our nation's political system, but more than anything, I have felt on edge since Inauguration Day.

Since our new president was sworn in and even before then, peaceful activists have been portrayed as “violent” when they are the ones being oppressed. It is under this looming cloud of hateful rhetoric that I feel unsafe. Eugene has served as a fine place to demonstrate my most liberal fantasies of democratic socialism, including, but not limited to, a love for Bernie Sanders and a belief that climate change is real (which is, by the way, supported by credible and quantifiable research).





However, we must remember that not all places are so accepting of this peaceful resistance, making the importance of our actions even more pressing. As we move forward with a comprehensive goal of peace and social acceptance, I believe that it is fair to ask each other to stop making excuses and to start showing up.

Start showing up to city council meetings and environmental rallies. Start volunteering and advocating for that which you believe in. Start putting yourself in situations where you can promote social progress. People can be hesitant to stand for something; they are partially afraid to step into the power of their own voice, but mostly they are afraid to be swept up into a negatively generalized crowd.

The most powerful part of political action is the opportunity to expand your understanding of the impact of these social justice issues. The truth is that we all have much to learn from each other's experiences, if we only stopped judging each other and listened to the legitimate concerns of our neighbors. Some claim that they do not have the time to be politically involved, and to those people, I say that you do have time. Everyone has exactly 24 hours each day, so if you "do not have time" to be politically engaged, it is because you are not prioritizing social justice.

As said by Martin Luther King Jr., "To accept passively an unjust system is to cooperate with that system; thereby the oppressed become as evil as the oppressor."

Now the social regression of our country is being upheld by a silent majority, and the effects of this silence are harmful to us all.

It is female bodies that are being unlawfully harassed on American streets late at night, in broad daylight even. It is the reproductive rights of female bodies that are being harshly regulated by male politicians. Let me remind you that the defunding of



Protesters in Eugene brave the rainy weather for its Women's March. With an estimated 7000 people in attendance, many wore "pussyhats" in a show of solidarity.



Here a water protector of a Standing Rock camp poses for a photo. Peaceful protesters occupied several camps in Cannon Ball, N. Dakota, before the site was cleared Feb. 23 2017.

abortion and contraceptive services will not eliminate abortion, it will only prohibit safe abortion, according to the World Health Organization.

It is unarmed Native American bodies that have been blasted with water cannons and shot at with rubber bullets at Standing Rock. Indigenous people cannot as easily sit at home doing nothing because the reality of climate instability, specifically the unlawful infringement of tribal rights, is more than just an "annoyance" on the morning news. For Native Americans, social injustice has been constant. Although more patriotic people have claimed that America is a place where all can prosper, it has not been so for indigenous people, and it will not be so until political action is taken by us all.

It is the bodies of immigrant families who now face the possibility of deportation even though they have already established themselves in this country and deserve to continue their lives here. These people risked their lives and left everything they had ever known for a new life.

We were fortunate enough to be born in America and with that privilege comes the opportunity to promote social progress. When America speaks, the world listens, and I think it is about time we took a stand for social justice. This battle will not be easily won, but it is one worth fighting for.



# CALENDAR

06

JUNE

## Strings Concert

Located in the auditorium, the String Ensemble and String Orchestra will be giving their end-of-year concerts.

07

## Track and Field Championships

It will be an event-filled four days at Hayward field as the fastest college runners assemble from across America.

07

## Recognition Reception

Held in the auditorium, South Eugene High School will be recognizing some the most stand-out and impressive students.

08

## Senior's Last Day

Be sure to say goodbye to all of your senior friends because this will be their last day of high school, and look out for The Axe's senior issue.

08

## IHS Graduation

For all those International Students, come see the Eugene IHS class of 2017 graduate at the Hult Center.

13

## Graduation

Come see the South Eugene Class of 2017 graduate at the Hult Center at 7pm! Performances and speeches will be given by the talented senior class as they say goodbye to high school.

22

## Last Day for Students

The 2016-2017 school year will be officially over, and students will be homework-free until next September. This is a full day of school.

29

## Oregon Bach Festival

In this critically-acclaimed festival, come hear a smooth mix of classical music, jazz, tango, and choral performances.





# INDOOR SPORTS FIND SUCCESS

JACKSON NAUGLE

The cold, wet months of winter provided not only time to spend up in the snow, but also a chance to watch countless hours of basketball and wrestling — two of South's most underrated sports teams.

As one of South's most consistent sports programs in recent memory, the men's basketball team fought their way through an incredibly rough season start to yet another playoff game, while the wrestling team built upon its strong foundation and solidified itself as a legitimate threat in the Southwest Conference.

As the wrestling team continued to strengthen their roster and work toward improvement, the women's basketball team underwent a complete reconstruction process under a new head coach, Heather Wolf. Wolf's tremendous poise and discipline proved that the Lady Axemen have made huge strides in the right direction.

No matter which sport they were watching, fans were thoroughly entertained by the Axemen's varying levels of experience across the board and their common belief that there is only one direction to go: up.

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*Wolf's dedication has created a new mindset for our players to push themselves. Our program hopes to succeed in the future and keep a consistent record.*

KAELEN STEIN

## STORY

Three great winter sports gave fans a chance to get out of the peculiar Oregon weather and enjoy some highly successful indoor seasons.

The men's basketball team's strong starting five, which consisted entirely of upperclassmen, was fairly reminiscent of South's most recent run to the OSAA semifinals — a team that was led by 2015 graduate Eli Lininger and four other talented upperclassmen. But the similarities don't end there. At one point in the season, both of these teams had a fairly surprising 2-5 record, which simply provided more motivation for the remaining games. Moreover, both teams featured one standout player amid a very strong surrounding cast. Two years ago, it was Eli Lininger, Mason Green-Richards, Sean O'Neil, and Kirk Bassett who filled those roles and led the way to one of the best seasons in South basketball history.

This season, Jay Elmore, Myles Green-Richards, Colin Chubb-fertal, Everett Brandt, and Ryan Fredericks were all pivotal pieces in South's complex offensive scheme. The only noticeable difference between these two great teams came in the playoffs. In 2015, the Axemen made a brilliant run that involved multiple upset victories and a buzzer-beater, eventually placing third in the state.

*South Eugene women's swim team posted yet another strong season with standout performances from sophomore Finn Mif-sud and junior Sophie Lauf at the state meet.*





## SPORTS

This year, the Axemen played a hard-fought battle on the road against David Douglas, and in a game that could have wound up either way, the Axemen fell 71 to 64 after leading by as many as nine points. Although most of the players were disappointed with this outcome, the team has a formidable roster of talented juniors that is ready to make a run in the next season.

"It's going to be an exciting year next year. We're all hoping we can live up to the hype, make the final eight, and play in the Chiles Center," junior Will Graves said.

While the men's team was unable to reach its full potential, the women's basketball team proved that they were moving in the right direction and that their very own playoff run may not be as far-fetched as initially thought. The necessary statement was made in the opening home game against the Thurston Colts. The Lady Axemen put on a tremendous display of dominance, blocking shots left and right and finding no trouble scoring on the offensive end. The final score was 63 to 41, a commanding victory that the women's basketball team hadn't seen in years. Two more victories came in a sweep of the Roseburg Indians, a team that finished with a significantly better record than South. Finishing with five wins was the most in recent memory, and Coach Wolf and her players have high hopes for years to come. "Coach Wolf's dedication has created a new mindset for our players to push themselves. Our program hopes to succeed in the future and keep a consistent record," junior Kaelin Stein said.

South's wrestling program has struggled to progress as a team in the past due to low turnouts. Having as few as three or four players has held the team back immensely and has forced disqualification from certain tournaments. This year, however, nine wrestlers showed up at the beginning of the season, many of them as freshmen or sophomores, proving that this program is alive and well. Seeing nine athletes show interest in joining wrestling is something South hadn't accomplished in years. Hope is most definitely of the essence, and this new turnout of confident underclassmen provides plenty of it.

Future years may see wrestlers going to, or even placing, at the state tournament — a prospect that seemed far on the horizon when the likes of talented wrestler Aidan Braun graduated in 2016. Currently, Axemen wrestling has a roster that will return

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*Due to this massive potential, South Eugene has the rest of the Southwest Conference shuddering in fear.*

JACKSON NAUGLE



*Seniors Tessa McAninch, Amelia Bineham, and Sydney Bowers, along with Coach Wolf, led the South Eugene women's basketball team to its best season in recent history.*

almost all of their players next year, a fact that all but proves that success will be found in the very near future. As these players continue to work hard and improve as wrestlers, the sheer number of athletes will allow the team to fight back against the adversity of previous years.

The South Eugene athletics program as a whole has proven itself as one of the most well-rounded in the state this year. The fall season witnessed multiple teams making trips to the state playoffs, while the winter showed that even the still-developing programs at South are making strides in the right direction. Almost every sport at South has a level of potential that opens the door to dominance across the board, a luxury that many South students will likely enjoy in the near future.

Due to this massive potential, South Eugene has the rest of the Southwest Conference shuddering in fear. The current future has proven to be a bright one, and the Axemen are showing no signs of slowing down. While its smaller programs prove themselves as genuine competitors, South's already-established teams are poised to continue their train of success and bring home as many honors as possible.



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**PHILLIP BINEMAN**

*Junior Eli Cuyler models your classic hipster glasses, pairing the tortoiseshell rims with a striking red Gosha Rubchinskiy denim jacket.*



# SOUTH EUGENE HIPSTERS

ALEX LEVE

If you walk around South Eugene High School and spot someone wearing a Supreme hoodie, a Patagonia fleece, or a pair of Carhartt work pants, you have more likely than not spotted a South Eugene Hipster. Distinct from your typical East Coast Hipsters or Portland Hipsters, South Eugene Hipsters are defined by their authentic blend between Eugene culture and some of the stylish South trends that come and go.

Senior Nick Francia, a self-described hipster at South, described the South social environment as very laid-back and diverse, allowing for a wide array of ideas, trends, and styles to arise only within the walls of the school. The South Eugene Hipster, for instance, is one of the more recent developments in South culture.

Francia depicted the style of the South Eugene Hipster as “earth-toned” and “rootsy.” The fashion of South Eugene Hipsters consists of some creativity and authenticity, riffing a little bit off of the weird and quirky Portland Hipster vibe, but also encompassing the more hippie and down-to-earth Eugene culture.

Francia also promoted the genuine and sensible nature of this style, explaining that outdoorsy components of it really fit into the context of Eugene’s free-spirited culture.

Talia Park, a senior at South commonly seen sporting brands like Patagonia and Vans, commented that South is a great hipster school with “lots of different styles and trends coming in and out.”

Ultimately, the view that unites all South Eugene Hipsters is their distaste for “mainstream” culture. Of course, South’s idea of mainstream is also distinct from other understandings of the term.

Francia, for instance, described “mainstream” as “California and corporate,” alluding to Oregon’s own remarkable hipster culture that is disconnected from California’s more income- and status-focused styles. Additionally, Francia added, “mainstream” can be used to refer to your typical angst, somewhat attention-seeking teenager’s style.

Junior Eli Cuyler, another South Eugene Hipster, said that “mainstream” in the context of South is “just the basic flannel and jeans outfit that you see everywhere.”

## STORY

A look into the complexities of the emerging and trendy hipster culture and style at South Eugene High School.

The quintessential example of a South trend that peaked and soon became “mainstream” is the hammock craze of the 2015-16 school year. When hammocks were “in,” many South students were found carrying around their own personal hammocks, often setting them up in the Science Courtyard on nice spring days.

Of course, like any other trend, the hammock craze was doomed to die at some point, as we saw during the decline of hammock use in the summer and fall of 2016. Now, hammocks have been deemed “mainstream,” Park said.

Beyond the South Hipsters’ disapproval of mainstream culture, there also seems to be a consensus in the South Eugene Hipster community against East Coast Hipsters.

“East Coast Hipsters – you kind of just want to slap them across the face and tell them to grow up,” Francia explained, adding that East Coast hipsters do things like demand that their coffee comes “straight from a goat’s ass.”

On the other hand, South’s styles and trends can be considered part of the South Eugene bubble, in many regards. As South prides itself on being a school embracing and accepting of uniqueness and individuality, most students try not to follow in the footsteps of groups like East Coast Hipsters.

“South is pretty homogenous in a lot of ways,” Park said. “Students kind of do their own thing, and we don’t necessarily have the styles that other diverse groups of people have.”

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*Francia depicted the style of the South Eugene Hipster as “earth-toned” and “rootsy.” The fashion of South Eugene Hipsters consists of some creativity & authenticity.*

ALEX LEVE



That being said, South styles certainly have outside influences as well. In particular, Cuyler said he got into streetwear in part because of his friends. Cuyler is now really into the styles promoted by cultural figures like English skater and designer Blondey McCoy. While South has its own individual spin on hipster style, the foundation of these styles comes primarily from external sources.

"Pretty much everyone has some influences from people in cities like Portland, Chicago, and San Francisco," Cuyler explained. "But there's definitely a Eugene hippie element to it, as well. People throw in their own individual thing, and that's why I'm really into it."

Yet, the individuality of the South Eugene Hipster is not always met with the most positive of responses. The feedback is mixed at best, explained Cuyler, as he receives approval from people who wear similar styles and comment things like "that's such a sick fit," while also taking criticism from those likening his style to that of figures like Mario and Farmer John.

Quite in line with more widespread trends, South Eugene Hipsters make up the key demographic targeted in the marketing of kombucha, a term encompassing a variety of fermented and sweetened tea drinks that have been widely touted for their health properties.



"It really is like a medicine to me," Francia explained, adding that the drink is low in sugar, has nice acidity, and can help with digestion if it has ginger in it.

Cuyler expressed quite a similar fondness for kombucha.

"It feels incredibly cleansing every time you drink it," he said.

As the drink has become a major facet of Hipster culture, especially in the Pacific Northwest, the kombucha market is expected to grow by 25 percent annually until 2020.

As the world is now at peak-hipster level, South Eugene is an interesting and extraordinary case study that shows how hipster culture can really be influenced by surrounding cultures.

The South Eugene Hipster is an excellent reflection of South's unique and stylish nature with a complex interplay with social and aesthetic influences from Eugene, Portland, and beyond.



*After four years at South, seniors Talia Park and Nick Francia are well-versed in Eugene's hipster culture. Both commented on the sheer number of trends that make up South Hipsters.*







# EVOLUTION OF MEMES

TONY UNGER

There are few aspects of modern culture as maligned or misunderstood as memes. Despite their long, varied, and culturally significant history — which spans over a decade at this point — memes are still shrouded in a kind of mystery. Where did they come from? What are they? And dear God, where are they going?

The first usage of the term meme originates in an unlikely source: Richard Dawkins' 1976 book, *The Selfish Gene*; Dawkins thought of memes as a sort of intellectual or cultural equivalent of a gene, that is, a thought which spreads from person to person. Dawkins' theory, which proposed that memes were units of information that existed independent of humans, was met with scientific skepticism, and has fallen to the status of pseudoscience in the present day.

Despite its humble beginnings, the term took on a new and vibrant life in the internet age. The word "meme" was first used in a modern sense circa 1995 on Usenet, an early forum and a veritable font of internet culture. Of course, like so many cultural categories, the word "meme" resists definition. In the mid-90s the term was used to describe images, concepts, or phrases that spread broadly and were often imitated.

However, this description is somewhat broad. If we take this definition at face value, memes are practically ancient. Folk songs often spread like memes, with singers changing and innovating on a viral tune. Kilroy, a cartoon character soldiers drew during World War II, was a meme for the analogue age.

However, it seems that memes have an added level of post-modernist self-awareness. That is to say, a viral video, image, or catchphrase becomes a meme mostly by its self-identification as a meme, or by situating itself in the meme landscape.

Despite their eclectic and ironic sensibility, the earliest memes seem charmingly quaint to a modern internet user. It is a testament to the fast-moving nature of memes that fads like Chocolate Rain, LOLCats, and the Tron Guy, which are all less than a decade old, now seem antique. It might be hard to remember, but these images and videos dominated the scene from 2000-2012. This was the Wild West period of memes, where the future of these silly images and videos was uncertain and they went undiscovered by much of the internet-using populace.

## STORY

While memes have a long and varied history, their recent history has been fraught with charges of racism.

Memes were somewhat fewer back then, and the ones that reached popularity showed incredible levels of longevity. For instance, Rickrolling, which involves directing an unsuspecting victim to Rick Astley's 1987 song "Never Gonna Give You Up," is nearly a decade old, and still has relevance today.

Those poor mid-2000s people could have never predicted the meteoric rise of memes that has occurred since 2012. Since then, we have seen a renaissance of meme culture, due mostly to their wide reach. In their early days, memes were popular among a select few in-the-know internet nerds on forums like 4chan. Today, they have become the de facto medium for youth expression around the world. The formal characteristics of memes have been appropriated by nearly every culture on the face of the planet. China, Mexico, France, and Turkey all have been the source of numerous memes.

A particularly important example of this phenomenon is the development and use of memes by African Americans. Black Twitter, a predominantly Black community of Twitter users, has become a major cultural force, not least of all because of its prolific and innovative creation and adaption of memes.



*Despite his song "Never Gonna Give You Up's transcendent popularity, Astley claims he has only seen \$12 dollars of profit from its sudden internet stardom.*



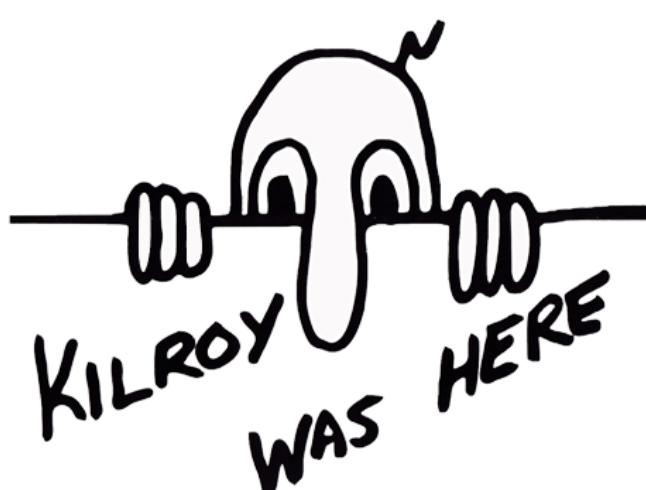
Black Americans have been creating memes practically as long as the concept of a meme has existed, and they have been employing these memes, which usually consist of a captioned image, in both celebrations of African American culture, and the struggle against racism in America.

In recent years, Black Twitter has joined (and in some cases supplanted) 4chan, Reddit, and other traditionally white forums as a crucial online community. They have mobilized their members both in serious political campaign, and the general silliness characteristic of memes.

However, memes have a more sinister side as well. Due to their open and accessible nature, they have been appropriated by white supremacists and far-right activists in recent years. Indeed, in the 2016 presidential election, memes played a more significant role in Donald Trump's sudden rise to popularity and the subsequent genesis of the so called "alt-right" than any conventional media.

Pepe the frog, a meme which began as a simple cartoon frog on the 4chan imageboard, quickly became a dog whistle for various ultra conservative and white nationalist elements. Some widely spread memes depict Pepe in an SS uniform or standing outside of the Auschwitz concentration camp. If Pepe is a dog whistle, however, the quick spread of the term "cuck" is a megaphone. Short for cuckold, that is, a man being cheated on by his wife, "cuck" is a derogatory term leveled at antifascists and opponents of white nationalism, implying that such people are being cuckolded by the forces of social equality and multiculturalism. In a similar vein, neo-Nazis often put three sets of parentheses — (((like this))) — around the names of Jewish individuals in order to aid anti-Semitic social media campaigns, an effort which has proved hilariously ineffective.

*Perhaps the world's first meme-like image, Kilroy was an inexplicably popular piece of graffiti for American enlisted men to scribble overseas.*



*Originating in Matt Furie's webcomic Boy's Club, Pepe has done triple duty as an absurd picture of a frog, a symbol of white supremacy, and an object of worship for the imageboard 4chan.*

It appears that this new coalition of fascists, anti-Semites, and white nationalists have eschewed their predecessors' means of spreading their ideology, pamphlets or tomes like *Mein Kampf*, in favor of viral media. Although, to this writer, it appears that fascists have not gotten any funnier in the intervening 80 years.

Judging by the amount of new memes from people of every religion and nationality, it seems unlikely that this far-right shift is anything more than a brief interlude in the history of memes. If anything, the present shift in meme culture trends towards diversity. Think what you will of memes, but in such a fractured political climate, it is reassuring to see such a move.

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*It is a testament to the fast-moving nature of memes that fads like Chocolate Rain, LOLCats, and the Tron Guy, which are all less than a decade old, now seem antique.*

TONY UNGER



# CLUB PROFILE: LIFE SKILLS

ALYSSA GAO

South is home to various clubs advocating for social justice. Ranging from student unions to environmental protection clubs, many of these groups are made up of people advocating for their own demographic. While Look Me in the Eye Club certainly fights for equality, many members of the club fight as allies rather than as constituents.

“What you see with a lot of other activist movements is that the people who are the most vocal about it are the people who are themselves affected by it. With the disabled community, it’s usually more difficult to get the word out,” junior Connor McVay, a member of the club, said.

Look Me in the Eye Club is closely tied with the Life Skills class at South, which aims to promote awareness, equality, and communication skills for people with physical and developmental disabilities. South graduate Phacelia Cramer, class of 2015, started the club four years ago. Her sister faced challenges interacting with others due to her developmental disability, and Cramer felt compelled to assist other students going through the same thing. The club’s name comes from a community organization of the same name, which chose the title because many disabled people have a hard time looking other people in the eye and vice-versa.

The Look Me in the Eye campaign endeavors to break down barriers between all people, making the community safer for everyone through creating inclusive programs. The organization’s website says that they “are ultimately seeking to develop relationships among people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and others. When people with disabilities are known and recognizable in their communities, they are less likely to be abused and neglected. And looking someone in the eye is a great start!”

Club members at South attempt to alleviate this issue by opening up communication between the Life Skills class and other students. The club actually collaborates with the community organization for some activities, like going to basketball games with the students, but their main part in improving communication is within the South community. Currently, the club meets Tuesday at lunch near the Amazon Room for group games and conversation.

## STORY

One of South’s many clubs that strives to promote equality is the Look Me in the Eye Club, founded four years ago by South graduate Phacelia Cramer.

“When I joined, I didn’t know exactly what I would get out of the club, but I ended up with a day of the week with easy conversation and fun,” senior Sophia Newman said. Newman is the student representative of the club.

The club has recently been looking to expand its membership, as all of the current members are upperclassmen; however, the effect on the students in the Life Skills class has been immense.

“Growing up in elementary school, I had absolutely no interaction with the kids with disabilities because they would just lock them up in their own room and keep them away from everyone else,” McVay said.

Many schools still completely isolate their Life Skills classroom from the rest of the school, even during lunchtime. But South’s accepting culture, as well as Look Me in the Eye Club, have created a better environment for these students.

In collaboration with Look Me in the Eye club, the Peer Tutor program (not to be confused with the after-school Peer Tutor-

*Junior Tristen Luce and Life Skills teacher Niels Pasternak pose for a photo in the Life Skills class. The Life Skills program is closely linked with Look Me in the Eye club.*





Junior Tristen Luce shows his enthusiasm during a life skills class. Join the Look Me in the Eye Club and hang out with friends every Tuesday!



Assistant Bob Uhler helps junior Jordana Wixman with a quiz during Life Skills.



***With Look Me in the Eye Club, it's just going and interacting with other people.***

SOFIA NEWMAN

-ing program) allows students at South to gain valuable teaching experience and communication skills. Peer tutors assist in the Life Skills class for a period each day, helping with teaching and setting up projects. Students can register for the program as an elective class and will be allowed to become a peer tutor, provided that the Life Skills teachers see that they are a good fit for the program.

In fact, the expansion of the Peer Tutor program is one of the most evident impacts of the Look Me in the Eye club.

"What I have noticed since the beginning of this club is a lot less resistance getting kids into regular and elective classes," Niels Pasternak, club adviser and Life Skills teacher, said.

The improvement of the Life Skills program does not only benefit of the club and the program itself. Club members also learn valuable skills for themselves, including communication, organization, and teaching.

"I've noticed with myself and others who have gone through the club how much easier it is to communicate with not just the kids in the Life Skills class, but everyone," Newman said.

The large impact of the club has driven members to work toward more growth, but members emphasize that the thought that goes into being in the club is the most important contribution, rather than attending it every Tuesday.

"Taking action is not as hard as people think it is. It doesn't have to be die-hard, super incredible obligation. With Look Me in the Eye Club, it's just going and interacting with other people," Newman said. "The biggest thing is that there are very few responsibilities in the club. It's very easygoing."

At the end of the day, Look Me in the Eye Club, like many other clubs within South, works toward helping people recognize that everyone should be treated with respect and valued for their own individual talents.

"People with disabilities have more in common with others than they do different," Pasternak said. "They have a lot of strengths that people don't realize before they get to know them."

South values individuality and equality for everyone, and Look Me in the Eye Club is just one of the organizations working toward this common principle.



## AXE STAFF PLAYLIST

## GOOD VIBES ONLY

Finals are over and it's time to celebrate! Summer's just around the corner, and whether you're tanning on the beach or driving in your car, this playlist has the good vibes to keep you going through the end of the school year.



**Slide**  
CALVIN HARRIS



**All We Got**  
CHANCE THE RAPPER



**Redbone**  
CHILDISH GAMBINO



**Gooey**  
GLASS ANIMAL



**Pink + White**  
FRANK OCEAN



**Shape of You**  
ED SHEERAN



**Undercover**  
KEHLANI



**Morning**  
MARC E. BASSEY



**Full Moon**  
PETIT BISCUIT



**I'm Yours**  
JASON MRAZ

SOPHIE PIERCE

## OSCARS 2017 MIXUP

The 89th Academy Awards, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, aired on Feb. 26th honoring the best films of 2016. Among the nominees for best picture, "La La Land" and "Moonlight" stood out for their incredible cinematography.

A humiliating mix up of announcement cards occurred when Warren Beatty, best known for his role as Clyde from the movie "Bonnie and Clyde," was handed the wrong envelope for the Best Picture Award and "La La Land" was presented with the Oscar. Halfway through the cast and director's speeches, it was announced that the real winner was actually "Moonlight," not "La La Land."

After the madness calmed, the cast of "Moonlight" replaced the cast of "La La Land" on stage and gave their thank-you speeches. It is unclear as to how the cards got mixed up, but the Academy is deeply apologetic for the incident.



Among the other notable awards handed out, "Suicide Squad" scored the Best Hair and Makeup award for 2017. Their competition included "Hail, Caesar!," "Deadpool," "Florence Foster Jenkins," "Star Trek Beyond," "The Dressmaker," and "A Man Called Ove." Despite its lackluster reviews by all critics, we can now call "Suicide Squad" the "Oscar-Winning Suicide Squad," thanks to their impressive costume job.

ALYSSA GAO

## BEAUTY CORNER: IPSY VS. PLAY BY SEPHORA

Play! By Sephora is a ten dollar monthly beauty subscription box. The six products included are all from brands found at Sephora and range from haircare to makeup. Also included are a drawstring bag and a description card, as well as a "Play! Pass," which is a coupon for 50 extra Sephora points if the subscriber makes a full-size purchase at Sephora within the month. There is a waitlist, but new subscription spots open up every month. Each month's box is also centered around a theme, complete with related puns in the product descriptions.

This month's theme was "The Gleam Team." There are variations of the box, but in mine, I received the Benefit Watt's Up highlighter, the Urban Decay Primer Potion, the Josie Maran Surreal Skin Argan Finishing Balm, the Verb Ghost Oil,

the GLAMGLOW GLOWSTARTER Mega Illuminating Moisturizer, and the Atelier Clémentine California Cologne Absolue Pure Perfume. I really liked the subtle glow of the Benefit highlighter and the GLAMGLOW priming moisturizer, and I felt that the other products were useful as well.

I will say that the main trade-off with Play! By Sephora is the sample sizes. The quality of the products is almost guaranteed because they are from Sephora, but the samples themselves are significantly smaller than those found in Ipsy subscription bags. However, my box value comes out to be around 40 dollars, which is pretty good for a ten dollar subscription service. I highly recommend Play! By Sephora for people looking to test out new beauty products.

**MIYAKO IWATA**

Miyako is a senior at South who has been researching college admissions prep since her middle school years. If you have any questions you would like her to answer in our next issue, feel free to email her at miwata24@4j.lane.edu.

**I've gotten all my college decisions back. How should I pick which school to go to?**

First of all: Congratulations! You've officially finished the hardest part of the college application process. Now it's just a matter of finding the place that is the right fit for you.

However, this is much easier said than done. With so many competing factors, the task of committing to one school can be a daunting one.

To start off, you should whittle down your list of colleges to your top three or (ideally) top two schools. This should be pretty easy; most people end up applying to a few "safety" schools in which they aren't invested, so those places can be crossed off first.

Another simple way to eliminate colleges you're on the fence about is to look at national rankings in different areas of study. Basically, whether your intended pursuit of study is Engineering or English, you should research which schools have the strongest academic programs for that topic.

Let's say you want to do Psychology research over the next four years: College X might be ranked higher in the U.S. World and News Report National Universities, but College Y may be listed as a top five school by the American Psychological Association for research activity. So while more prestigious schools often do have better programs, that isn't necessarily the case, and your decisions shouldn't be based solely on the reputation of a school. You might end up unhappy if you choose to go somewhere just for the name recognition.

Next, take a look at your remaining schools and try visualizing yourself at each place for about 10 to 15 minutes. If you've already visited the campus in your junior year or earlier, this should be no problem. If you haven't been, it's time to get a real sense of what the campus vibe is like. Most colleges hold an "admitted students weekend," which is exactly what it sounds like. As long as cost doesn't pose too much of an issue, you should try to visit the campus as a part of said program or on your own. You might end up loving a place that you weren't expecting to, or vice versa. And consider revisiting schools you've already been to; your impression of a certain college could change drastically based on the fact that you're seeing it through the lens of an admitted student, especially since you'll get to meet other pre-frosh.

Now comes the tough part: Cost.

This is a conversation that every family should have before the college application process even starts. At this point, you should know how much your family is willing to contribute towards your college education. With that in mind, consider your financial aid options for each school you were accepted to. Did you qualify for merit aid somewhere? Which college gave you the best offer? Make sure that you weigh these options in light of the quality of the education and experience you will get at each college. Sometimes, it can be worth graduating with a manageable amount of debt for a higher-quality education and a better career payoff.

Once you study these key factors for each school, the "best fit" should become more and more obvious to you. Aside from that, you can look into the location and setting of the college (urban vs. rural), as well as the weather there. Alumni network can also factor into your decision. At the end of the day, it's about picking a place where you're going to be happy for what might be the best four years of your life.

**I got rejected from my top choice school. What should I do?**

Getting denied from your dream school sucks — no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

First and foremost, it's important that you let yourself feel sad about it. There's really no other way to process the feelings of disappointment and frustration that inevitably come with a rejection letter. It might seem impossible not to take the decision personally, and that's OK. Just make sure you don't dwell on it for too long.

Once you move past "denial" or "bargaining" and arrive at the "acceptance" phase, it's time to buckle down and choose a college out of the schools you were accepted to (see above). Chances are, you got into some amazing schools that you could really click with. Most colleges require that you commit by May 1, so take care of that in a timely manner.

Most of the adults in your life will probably tell you that you should focus on taking pride in your accomplishments over the past four years — and they're right. It's pretty self-explanatory, and lots of op-eds have been written about it (look up Frank Bruni), so we'll leave it at that.

At this point, though, the best thing you can do for yourself is to end your high school career having a good time. If you've never taken a free period in your schedule before, now might be the time to spring for an extra long lunch or a late start every day. And don't forget to hang out with the friends you've made in high school; it's your last chance to enjoy their company before graduation.



# ART

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## IN THE MOURNING

*In this striking colored pencil work by South Eugene Junior Kendall Alexis, we see the subject highlighted by the dramatic contrast between the black and white image and the colorful background.*

