

THE AXE



ISSUE TWO, NOVEMBER 2016

EDITORS' NOTE

Hello, readers! Due to recent events, this is understandably a time of uncertainty and concern in our community. In light of this, we would like to take this issue to recognize some of the outstanding South students working to better our society in their own way. We hope these featured stories serve as a reminder of the supportive and diverse community here at South. Particularly in the current political environment, it is crucial to acknowledge that other people's life experiences have shaped their worldviews much like your stories have shaped your beliefs.

As always, students can pick up magazines at our revamped newsstands in the front, 400, IHS, and science halls and outside room 3. Parents and other community members can order a subscription service from the South Eugene Finance Office or find our latest edition in the shops surrounding South.

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ISSUE 02

- 04 Celebrate South**
Madeleine Rowell & Venessa Lopez
- 06 Race To Mars Heats Up**
Julian Fahrion
- 09 Dialogue On Women**
Madeleine Rowell
- 10 The World Doesn't Suck**
Analise Thomas
- 12 Fall Sports Recap**
Jackson Naugle
- 14 Anycia Jimenez**
Marilyn Molstrom-Warner
- 17 Artists at South**
Venessa Lopez
- 20 South Debate Dominates**
Jaelen Hodges
- 22 Beauty Corner**
Alyssa Gao
- 23 Advice Column**
Miyako Iwata

CELEBRATE SOUTH PAYS TRIBUTE TO NOTABLE ALUMNI

MADELINE ROWELL & VENESSA LOPEZ

The Axemen Hall of Fame as we know it today was founded in 2009. Celebrate South initially honored only students who had participated in athletics during their time at South Eugene high school, but the focus has been shifted so that all high-achieving alumni are considered for inauguration. In addition, Celebrate South also serves as a valuable fundraiser for South.

We have an uncharacteristically long history here at South, which first opened its doors as Eugene High School in 1874. From the first class of just eight graduates to last year's graduating class of nearly 300, we have 140 years of alumni who have passed through South's halls. We have graduated grammy-award winners, Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, professional athletes, entrepreneurs, and many more successful individuals.

"Previously, it was about just the athletes, and when I look at the three pillars on which the school really stands, it's arts, academics, and sports. To celebrate just contributors to the athletics misses two-thirds of the most important aspects of the school. With this transition it's a more comprehensive list of alumni who are inducted each year," Principal Andy Dey said.

The annual celebration is now more representative of South's culture, which extends beyond athletics, and this year's inaugurations very clearly exemplified the broader scope of post-graduate success.

"At first I was skeptical," Athletic Director Dave Hancock said of the transition, "but it's a great way to really showcase how big South Eugene is. It's really amazing."

South has such a great legacy, and I see that everyone at school is going to be really successful.

ALYSSA GAO

STORY

For the first time ever, all notable alumni were inducted into the Axemen Hall of Fame at Celebrate South, not just athletes.

12 individuals, one family, and two athletic teams were inducted into the Axemen Hall of Fame in 2016.

South Eugene Gymnastics was well represented this year, with the Boys team of '68', Oregon's all-sport coach of the year Sandy Cutler '75, gymnast Aaron BreMiller '80, and gymnast Jodie Lee Kwai '85 all receiving awards.

"It's always been really nostalgic, alumni remember their days at South," Hancock said. "If you've ever watched the Dead Poet's Society, they say 'Look into their eyes, they have the same dreams and hopes that you do when they were your age' to me, that's the significance of this."

Hancock's thoughts on inspiration from past students exemplify the intention of the all-inclusive transition perfectly. The change was made in the hopes of provoking inspiration among students and staff in all extracurricular areas within South.

Non-athletic honors were awarded to singer, song-writer, and Grammy nominee Tracy Bonham '85, renowned German teacher Jerry Webking, entrepreneur Geoff Hollister '64, and actress Julie Payne '64.

"It's important to recognize them," Principal Andy Dey said. "Alumni connect our school to its history and orient the school towards

Power couple Anna Grace and Jeff Hess, who teach social studies and PE at South, pose for a photo at the eighth annual Celebrate South event at the Eugene Hilton.



its future. This is an excellent way for us to bring them together one night per year and celebrate the lives that they have lead."

As Principal Dey said, South's alumni are crucial to the inspiration of future generations, which is why an event such as this is so important. Celebrate South epitomizes how participation in school activities has lead many individuals to successful careers and lives after high school.

Entrepreneur and 2016 Axemen Hall of Fame inductee Geoff Hollister spoke about why he values participation in school activities, specifically athletics.

"I like to hire former athletes because of what they have learned from competition," Hollister said. "They learn things like how to remain humble because on any given day there will be someone out there that's better."

This year's induction ceremony was as inspiring as it was exciting. Entertainment and music was provided by a string quartet of South students, comprising of junior and 1st violinist Erika Parisien, junior and second violinist Alyssa Gao, junior and violist, and senior and cellist Alissa Liu. Music included a selection of pieces from Coldplay, Mozart, and Brian Balmages, most notably an ar-



We have graduated Grammy award winners, Pulitzer Prize winning authors, professional athletes, and many more successful individuals.

MADELEINE ROWELL

rangement of Clocks by Coldplay, an all-time crowd favorite. Many staff members, past and present, attended to congratulate the 2016 inductees. Several current South students attended as well.

"I thought that the event was really great," South junior Alyssa Gao said. "It really showed me how many influential people have come out of South, and it was nice to see some other people there that I really look up to. South has such a great legacy, and I see that everyone around me at school is going to be really successful as well."

Celebrate South manifests inspiration in current students and nostalgic pride in alumni. Many current students are choosing to focus on how they will spend Winter break or graduation itself before contemplating how they will earn themselves a place among South's most esteemed Hall of Famers. However, there are also students who are already excited by the possibility of inauguration after graduating from South.

"It would be cool to be recognized for some big scientific breakthrough," ASB vice President and senior Alex Leve said.

"Alchemy, it is inherently mystical," South junior Henry Linnerger said of an achievement he hoped to be recognized for in the future.

Overall, Celebrate South was a huge success that will only grow in attendance and popularity with the continuous graduation and induction of notable alumni. With this annual celebration, South may see an increase in the quirky school spirit that it is so well known for, a spirit of inclusiveness and appreciation of the diversity and talent in its student body.



THE RACE TO MARS HEATS UP FAST

JULIAN FAHRION

The race to Mars may have begun. On Sept. 27, the aerospace manufacturing company SpaceX announced its newest project: the Interplanetary Transport System (ITS), a spacecraft system designed to take 100 people at a time from Earth to Mars in a 90-to-150-day voyage. This in and of itself is remarkable, but the situation escalated when, on Oct. 4, Dennis Muilenburg, the CEO of Boeing, announced at a technology summit that, “I’m convinced the first person to step foot on Mars will arrive there riding on a Boeing rocket.”

While Boeing and SpaceX both want humans on Mars, they are competitors, and this challenge may spark the start of another full-blown space race.

SpaceX is an aerospace company with an emphasis on innovations in space travel and rocketry. SpaceX is the only private company to launch a spacecraft carrying cargo to the International Space Station and return to Earth. It also claimed the first-ever landing of an orbital rocket with its Falcon 9 spacecraft in 2016. Its CEO, Elon Musk, is also the co-founder of Tesla Motors.

“There’s certainly a romantic, sci-fi appeal to colonizing planets,” South physics teacher Asher Tubman said. “I think it’s a pretty big priority.”

While SpaceX has a history of success and innovation, it also has a tendency to exceed deadlines and, on a few unfortunate occasions, fail in an explosive manner. In 2015, a rocket carrying supplies for the International Space Station caught fire and exploded shortly after launch. On two separate occasions, drone rockets attempting to land on barges have fallen and self-incinerated. There have been no injuries related to SpaceX accidents, however, and the company has reliably returned to work after each loss.

“Technologically, it seems pretty hard, but so did going to the moon,” Tubman said.

STORY

Both Boeing and SpaceX are making an earnest push to get humans on Mars, bringing extraterrestrial colonization closer to realization.

The ITS revealed on the 27th is a system of spacecraft designed to carry passengers to Mars. It consists of three separate designs: the ITS launch vehicle, the ITS tanker, and the interplanetary spaceship.

The ITS launch vehicle is expected to carry the interplanetary spaceship or ITS tanker into low Earth orbit (LEO). It would use a total of 42 Raptor engines to achieve thrust over three times greater than that of the Saturn V rocket, currently the most powerful rocket ever used. In another advantage over the Saturn V (and nearly all currently-operational rockets), the ITS launch vehicle is planned to be reusable, returning to its launch pad to refuel after a successful mission. This would drastically reduce the costs associated with putting objects into space.

The interplanetary spaceship is built to carry 100 potential colonists from Earth to Mars. It would expend most of its propellant reaching LEO, at which point it would require refueling from ITS tankers carried by launch vehicles. The ability to refuel in orbit increases the effective range of a spacecraft immensely. The interplanetary spaceship would land on Mars after a 90-to-150-day voyage and immediately set up a propellant plant to refuel itself using a chemical process called the Sabatier reaction, allowing it to produce the necessary materials to return to Earth solely from elements found on Mars.

“Eventually, this planet will run out of resources,” South sophomore Katie Russell said.

While SpaceX’s ITS system is novel and potentially revolutionary, Boeing’s record in spaceflight is nearly unmatched. Boeing created the first stage of the Saturn V rocket, assisted with the

There’s certainly a romantic, sci-fi appeal to colonizing planets. I think exploring Mars is a pretty big priority.

ASHER TUBMAN

A SpaceX Falcon 9 achieving liftoff (below) and an artist's conception of a SpaceX Dragon 2 landing on Mars (left).



Space Shuttle, and is a primary contractor for the International Space Station. Boeing's current plan for Mars is NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), for which Boeing is a planned manufacturer. The SLS is similar to SpaceX's launch vehicle: a rocket with more thrust than any before that should reduce costs and allow manned missions farther in the solar system. Unlike the ITS launch vehicle, the SLS is not intended to be reusable, making it simultaneously less desirable and based more in currently-feasible technology.

"I'm at a loss to think of many scenarios that would produce a greater technological advancement than two great companies competing for the stars," said South junior and Robotics Club strategy team leader Alex Chamberlin.

Both companies will have to solve many problems before manned missions to Mars can begin. Potential colonists will have to adapt to lower gravity on the voyage, which causes health issues over long periods. Mars lacks a magnetosphere, making radiation from the sun a potentially lethal problem. Food, water, and oxygen will need to be accounted for during the voyage and on Mars. Despite all of this, humanity is closer to Mars than ever before.

"I think it's good, actually," Russell said of private enterprises attempting to reach Mars. "I think there will have to be regulations."

However, participation in the race to Mars is not limited to



private science companies. NASA, America's leading government-backed space exploration and research agency, has also announced plans to send humans to the Red Planet in the near future. President Obama signed the NASA Authorization Act in 2010, which tasked the agency with doing just that. Despite this, NASA has faced criticism from Congress for lacking details and a hard deadline for the project.

"What we have right now from NASA is the decision that it should be done — someday," says Zubrin, current president of the Mars Society.

Elon Musk has repeatedly stated that the more people and organizations attempt to get to Mars, the more likely this feat becomes. The competition between Boeing and SpaceX is friendly and altruistic, not just in the interests of profit. For the first time, the world has practical and realistic plans to colonize another world, devised by some of the most experienced individuals in the industry. What was science fiction a decade ago may be reality a decade from now.

MELISSA WANG

NEW SCIENCE CAMPUS

In the largest donation ever made to a public university, Nike founder Phil Knight and wife Penny Knight have committed \$500 million toward a new science complex at the University of Oregon. Separated into 10 yearly increments of \$50 million each, the endowment will fund a three new research complexes aimed specifically at the life sciences and allow the University to hire 30 new scientists, as well as add 550 spots for additional graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.



JONATHAN NEWSOME

FLIES AT SOUTH

An inexplicable and sudden increase in flyings (additionally known as fly sightings) has occurred at South Eugene High School over the past month. We are in the middle of what some at South might call an epidemic as flies dive-bomb unaware students left and right. Our uncovered food is no longer safe, serving as a sort of irresistible homing beacon to these tenacious interlopers. On a scale from "Hell yeah" to "No," 89 percent of the South students polled reported being bothered by the sheer number of flyings

here at South. Several rumors concerning the cause of these unwelcome intruders are buzzing around as well. Theories include the possibility of a rotting corpse stashed in one of the many empty lockers around our campus. Culinary arts teacher Gregory Duncan believes that there might be a malfunction in a cafeteria trash compactor, but he does not seem to be too bothered by the bugs. Duncan added, "If people are really bothered by [the flies], they really need to check their privilege."

MADELEINE ROWELL

IMMUNOTHERAPY

Hope for cancer patients has become a stronger reality with the invention of immunotherapy, a new and innovative cancer treatment. The nature of this treatment is much more positive than many other methods because it works not by killing the cancer, but by strengthening the immune system, the most powerful defense mechanism we have. This new treatment has already saved lives, and has the potential to save many more.



*If people are
really bothered
by the flies, they
really need to
check their
privilege.*

GREGORY DUNCAN

VENESSA LOPEZ

FOOD DRIVE

Student Government partnered with Food for Lane County to put on a two-week food drive running from Nov. 7-18 in hopes of bringing in more than 4,000 items of non-perishable food before Thanksgiving Break. The food drive will be followed by a clothing drive from Dec. 1-16, with donations supporting Station 7, a crisis intervention service for youth ages 11-17, and their families. Due to the colder weather, donations at this time of year are particularly important. Student involvement in both the food and clothing drive will be rewarded with hilarious, teacher-involved incentives for reaching weekly goals.



MIYAKO IWATA

MOCK ELECTIONS

South Eugene High School held its fifth Mock Election on Friday, Oct. 28, which yielded results reflective of the predominantly liberal political demographic of the student body. In the simulation, Hillary Clinton safely secured the "presidency" with 74 percent of the vote. Ron Wyden, the incumbent Democratic Senator, held on to his seat with a landslide vote of 88 percent. The candidate winning by the largest margin was House member Peter DeFazio, who claimed the position as Representative of the 4th District of Oregon for the 16th time in a row (for the state of Oregon).

The results came in stark contrast to the results of the actual presidential election, which ended in a decisive victory for Donald Trump on Tuesday, Nov. 8. Election Day also gave way to another Republican-dominated Congress, as well as the strong likelihood of a conservative Supreme Court Justice nominee filling the late justice Scalia's spot on the bench.

TRUMP'S TOXIC DIALOGUE ON WOMEN

MADELEINE ROWELL

As the movement of feminism becomes increasingly accepted and well-known, many people believe that sexism is no longer a pressing problem. However, for this grand misconception to exist, its believers must be hiding in a deep, dark cave somewhere far, far away from civilization because sexism is everywhere. It is in the media, it is in the workplace, and it is in our political system (as exemplified by our most recent presidential election). We can claim as much as we want that because women can do basic things like "vote" and "get a job," sexism no longer exists. But in reality, this unacceptable and prehistoric mindset on sexism still exists, alive and well, to this day.

Out of the numerous instances where sexism permeates women's daily lives, objectification is perhaps the most demeaning and, unfortunately, the most common. Being seen only as an object whose existence is exclusively for the pleasure of another has a particular way of ruining your day.

Speaking of which, my day is often ruined by the words of Donald Trump, one of the world's most publicly sexist people of our time, and, to my disgust, the next President of the United States. Mr. Trump has said many an offensive thing about women, my personal favorite being when he could not come up with a proper response to a question during a GOP debate, so he blamed the female journalist's "face" for her difficult question. Was this a presidential debate or a third-grade classroom? It was difficult to tell. Regardless of Trump's political tactics, his words toward women are unacceptable to say the least.

Even worse than his words, however, is the blatant ignorance behind them that perpetuates the norm of treating women badly. When a famous person like Trump says something, the world listens whether we like it or not. The world listens when he says something incoherent about politics, the world listens when he talks about his billions of dollars, and the world listens when he perpetuates rape culture like he is just talking about the weather. This type of toxic dialogue is what keeps women from feeling safe walking to work or riding the subway home alone. When Trump talks about how he cannot stop kissing women and he "[doesn't] even wait" for permission, playing it off simply as

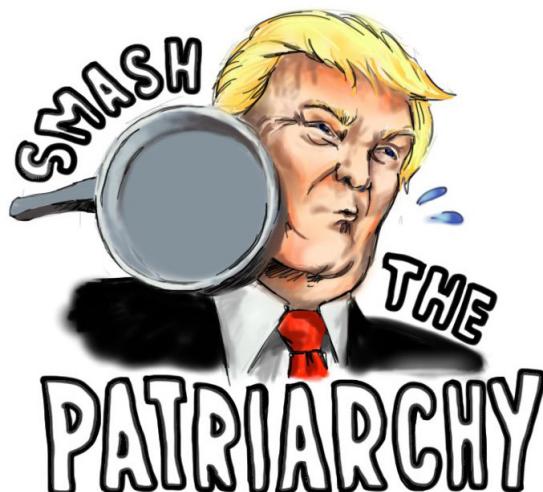
STORY

In the wake of this year's controversial election, there are some important words to be said about our newest presidential nominee in regards to women.

"locker-room banter," it confirms for men that treating women like objects is the status quo. Perhaps even worse is that it ingrains an idea into the psyche of young women that tells them that this is the way they should be treated, like this is right. Well, it's not right, and it's not fair. Why do men continue to teach this sexist way of life to their children? Why is it allowed all over the media? Why was a presidential candidate not disqualified for saying unacceptably explicit and derogatory things about half of the world's population? It sure beats me, but it might be because the men who say these things legitimately do not think they are saying or doing anything wrong. But maybe I just believe this because I am a woman and I have a small brain. This possibility brings us all the way back around to a big word at the root of it all: the patriarchy.

Ah, the patriarchy, my favorite. Fueled by testosterone and a lack of credibility, the patriarchy has managed to rule the world for the vast majority of history. Male dinosaurs probably saw themselves as superior to female dinosaurs with this world's track record. But just because the patriarchy dates back to what seems like the Big Bang, it does not mean that it should still be in existence today. Some things, like Crocs and convertible pants, just go out of style. The patriarchy should be at the top of that list. But is it?

Thankfully, we have feminists hard at work trying to close the wage gap, make their way into influential political positions, and enlighten ignorant people of the basic fact that the patriarchy is not something to be perpetuated, but is, now more than ever, something to be smashed.



WHY THE WORLD DOESN'T SUCK

ANALISE THOMAS

It's a bit of a stretch to say that the human race is doomed. I constantly hear different opinions from people all around the world, claiming that humans are inherently evil, as if we have accomplished nothing in the thousands of years that mankind has existed. The suffering that surrounds us seems to cancel out the good that we have brought into the world, but it is important to acknowledge our achievements, both big and small, so we know that humans are not as screwed as some pessimists claim. There are countless actions that the human race has taken to positively impact societies, and in a world where violence is acknowledged far more than amity, it is important to remember the goodness in life once in awhile.

Humans are ultimately human. We can be placed in diverse situations that test our loyalty to the human race, but it has been scientifically proven that no matter our differences, a person's first, natural instinct is to help a fellow human standing before them. According to Scientific American, a study stated, "Although no single set of studies can provide a definitive answer – no matter how many experiments were conducted or participants were involved – research suggests that our intuitive responses, or first instincts, tend to lead to cooperation rather than selfishness." Putting aside whatever we are taught by the media and those around us, scientists were able to discover that we come into this world as good beings. With our increasing abilities, I believe that we will eventually be able to live that way as well.

Strangers in today's society constantly prove that humans are good. Whether it is helping an elderly woman cross the street, letting someone pass in an intersection, or jumping into a burning building to save a child, strangers have a tendency to take risks for the good of others. According to the Telegraph in the UK, a barista named Sonia Congrave working at a diner frequently visited by 87-year-old Doreen Mann noticed that her regular customer did not come for breakfast for a few days. She called the local police with the intention of checking up on Mann, and when police officers went to her house, they discovered that she had been stuck in a bathtub for four days with only tap water to remain hydrated. Congrave said that having a close relationship with Mann would not have made a difference in her actions.

"I think it would be nice for us all to take a bit of a time-out to remember our neighbors or remember the lady down the

STORY

With the current political environment, many are feeling disappointed in our society. However, we would like to remind you of the good in the world.

road who you haven't seen in a few days and just give a knock or a phone call," Congrave said. "Just say 'Hey, are you alright?'" The kindness of strangers everywhere brings the meaning of being a decent person to a whole new level, and the bar that is set for exceptional kindness is consistently raised.

Today, our society is overflowing with technology that humans were daring enough to create, and as a result, we are far more connected to the world around us than ever before. Telephones help our voices travel from point A to point B faster than our ancestors could ever have fathomed. Live television allows people to witness events unfolding thousands of miles away from where they are watching. Not to mention, the rapid development of videogames has created an immersive dimension where players have the opportunity to experience realities that we never could have invented a century ago.

A soldier coming back from deployment is reunited with his daughter. Through all of our differences, there are always certain moments that unite us.



Today's medical advances, ranging from innovative surgeries to software available for patients' use, have made diagnoses available quickly and accurately, such as getting blood work done or having an x-ray.

Technology has taken our potential out of this world – literally. Rovers on Mars alert us to the potential of currently existing and possibly supporting life on the Red Planet. Scientists receive constant glimpses of what exists outside of Earth, and every new discovery we encounter brings more excitement to the human race. Technology is able to influence everyone's lives in several ways, and it will continue to advance the meaning and purpose of our existence.

As technology's effect on society grows, so does our appreciation of diversity in other cultures. The widespread phenomenon of simply being more aware of other perspectives has made us far more accepting of physical, emotional, mental, cultural, or religious differences we encounter. When people are exposed to one sole viewpoint throughout their lives, they are not able to develop and enrich their outlook to relate to more than what they already know. The access to technology in our daily lives constantly connects us to other cultures and experiences. I know that if I happened to live in one sole region my entire life with no physical, digital, or verbal exposure to others' experiences, I would have no idea of what lies beyond my original perception of what the world is like.

Many prevalent stories in the media today include how we are sabotaging humanity as a whole, but what is not shown is how passionate people constantly rally to save the Earth as we know it. In 2015 alone, we, as a global community, made countless developments toward a greener society. One development included the multi-billion dollar investment made by Bill Gates that was put toward research for how humans can improve the natural world. The U.S. was able to use this money to exchange 13 percent of our national energy usage to using renewable energy. Obviously, that number is not ideal, but it is a strong start for our future.

The human race is a complicated, destructive, messy, yet beautiful creation. Our world does not suck for far more reasons than I have listed, but today, during a time of immense struggle and conflict, we need to remember that mankind is not, and will never be a perfect species. We have so much more to do to improve the Earth, and at the moment, we have barely started on our journey. The important thing that we need to remember is that there are people out there, including me, who believe that we have what it takes to be a unified species. Mankind has done horrible things to the world, other humans, and animals in the past, but we are on our way – not as black, white, straight or gay, but as a species – to making the world better for our future. And if you still do not believe me when I say so, just remember that we have puppies, kittens, gerbils, birds, perforated pages, zippers, bubbles, fish, dolphins, computers, free samples, soft blankets, healthcare, opinions, candy, magic, imagination, and optimism.



FALL SPORTS DRAW TO A CLOSE

JACKSON NAUGLE

The fall sports season is always one to look forward to as a student at South Eugene High. Filled with exciting competitions throughout, autumn serves as a time for everyone to indulge in what every sports fan loves most: downright success. This year's soccer and volleyball programs are performing their best in recent memory, while cross country continues its long history of dominance, and the crew team builds upon its already strong foundation. Both finishing in the top ten in Oregon, the volleyball and soccer teams led the current charge for the Axemen, building immense hype for a deep playoff run or perhaps even a state title. Either way, this season has been nothing less than astonishing for South Eugene's athletics program and should be seen as such.

Coming into the season this fall, coach Danielle Glenzel had a fairly solid idea of what to expect from her incredibly experienced volleyball program. A top ten ranking and a playoff run were among some of the goals of this year's program, and as the season progressed, they seemed ever so possible. 30 games and one trip to Portland later, both of these goals were achieved with ease.

"We always knew what we could achieve and pushed until we reached our goals," senior Zoe Chamness said.

South's quarterfinal victory against Glencoe secured them a fifth place finish at state, the best the school has seen in years. Led by a strong group of upperclassmen accompanied by some talented Sophomores, the Lady Axemen captured 23 wins during the regular season putting them second in the Southwest conference and sixth in the state. Although they will lose valuable seniors Alexis Miller and Chamness, the Lady Axemen will return a massive group of juniors next year, all of whom are ready to make another successful run in the playoffs. Although a talented lineup certainly helped make this great season happen, it was not the only thing pushing the team to continue winning games. The Axemen student section during volleyball games, informally known as the wolfpack, was undoubtedly one of the most

STORY

This fall has been a particularly successful season for South sports, with teams continuing the South tradition of greatness and reaching new heights.

supportive in the state. The cheers from the numerous students made almost every other high school volleyball game sound like a collected whimper. The support was most definitely well deserved for this year's record breaking volleyball program.

Both the men's and women's soccer teams focused on picking up as many wins as possible in order to add another chapter of success to their legacies. On the boy's side of things, soccer fans witnessed yet another great year from the Axemen as they made their run for a league title. Dominating competition throughout the year, the Axemen earned their way to the number six ranking in state. This year's team is massively talented, sending almost half of their starting lineup to the All-Southwest Conference team. Despite their early out in the playoffs, the Axemen showed vast potential for years to come and should continue their recent run of success.

"I think we can do even better next year because we have a lot of returning players and we will be angry because we lost in the first round. You'll see a stronger, more prepared team next year," junior Erik Johnson said.

SERC coxswain Miyako Iwata guides her boat back onto the dock at the Covered Bridge Regatta in Lowell, Oregon. The rowing team competes in many regattas across the Northwest.



The women's soccer season was vastly different from that of the men's, but there was no need for disappointment considering that the team is incredibly young. Only one senior was in the lineup for South, calling for a massive amount of freshmen and sophomores to step up and take charge. Although they fought valiantly, the lack of experience caused the Lady Axemen to lose the majority of their games and have an overall discouraging season. While disappointing, this season also served as a tremendous learning experience. The young players gained lots of experience that they did not previously have, and the two victories this season showed that potential truly is there. Looking ahead, the Lady Axemen hope to improve in the years to come and build upon this promise. The ceiling is quite high for this team, so success should be expected in the future.

South Eugene Rowing Club, the 4J District crew team, also found success this season at competitions across the Northwest. At the Tail of the Lake regatta in Seattle, Wash., four varsity boats placed in races against some of the toughest crews in the region. The girl's team brought home two silver medals in the Quad event and the Coxed Four event, while the men's squad secured a second place finish in the Quad event and a bronze medal in the varsity Double.

Later in October, SERC sent its Lightweight Women's Double (comprised of South junior Ebba Hooft-Toomey and South sophomore Aanika Beller) to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston, Mass. — the most prestigious regatta in the nation. It was the first time a SERC boat had competed on the East coast in over five years. The team also saw a huge boost in its roster, which ballooned to 53 members from just over 30 in the previous spring season. Most of the new faces were novice rowers, who had solid showings at the Frostbite Regatta on Nov. 5. The Novice Men's Four captured 3rd place in harsh racing conditions, and the Novice Men's Open Eight also won a bronze medal that afternoon. Despite being a lesser-known athletic team, the crew team continued to represent South Eugene well in the rowing arena.

Cross country seems to be South's specialty according to the history books, and this year proved no different. At districts,

Filled with exciting competitions throughout, autumn serves as a time for everyone to indulge in what every sports fan loves most: downright success.

JACKSON NAUGLE



▲
South senior and wide receiver Elyas Blanchi breaks a tackle in a game against Crater High School. The Axemen qualified for state playoffs, but chose to forfeit the game in light of safety risks.

South maintained its rock solid dominance as the lowest scoring team overall with men's varsity winning first place and women's varsity winning second place. The way the cross country team keeps pulling in awards and top ten finishes in the state left and right is almost mesmerizing. The fact that a tenth place finish from the girls team was one of their worst in recent memory is enough proof of the Axemen's dominance of the sport. A very impressive performance came from South senior Spencer Tsai, who, following in his sister Sara Tsai's footsteps, claimed ninth place overall to help secure a fourth place finish for the men's team. Another astonishment came from freshman Maddy Elmore, who took home thirteenth place at the state competition. This is a very impressive finish from a freshman, and Elmore may be someone to look out for in the future.

"South cross country has a long tradition of success, great culture, and a bunch of athletes that are poised to keep improving," Elmore said when asked about the team's future.

That very tradition of success stretches as far as the eye can see in either direction, further cementing the program as one of the greatest in the nation.



ANYCIA JIMENEZ

MARILYN MOLSTROM-WARNER

In 2014, Energy Transfer Partners announced their plan to build the Dakota Access Pipeline, a 1,172 mile pipe that would transport 470,000 barrels of sweet crude oil per day from South Dakota to Illinois. The United States currently imports half of the oil it consumes, some of which is extracted from

unstable regions of the world. The Dakota Access Pipeline would make the United States more energy independent, in addition to providing a safer way to transport oil. Compared to truck and rail, pipelines are statistically the safest mode of transportation. Despite these benefits, however, thousands of

people have gathered to protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. Protestors say that the pipeline will threaten both the water supply of millions of people and the sacred sites of the Standing Rock Sioux Native American tribe. To make sure this does not happen, protesters have set up various camps around the construction site.

Anycia Jimenez, a South Eugene High School freshman, spent several days in the Red Warrior Camp and has shared what her involvement in protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline has been like.

"I first heard about [the Dakota Access Pipeline] from my mother who heard it from her sister," Jimenez said. "My mom's sister lives near where the pipe is being built, and she has family members near there, too. My mom's sister was basically raised by the Lakota tribe when she was younger. I'm not related, but the tribe is still like family."

Jimenez hopes that by protesting the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, she will be able to protect her family's home, but this is not the only reason she has joined the movement. Jimenez also hopes to preserve the environment for future generations.

"I know that if I grow up and I have kids and this pipe gets put in, it's not going to be a good environment for them. The pipeline is going to have a hugely negative environmental impact, and I

don't want that for future generations," Jimenez said.

As an example, Jimenez pointed out that the Dakota Access Pipeline would run underneath the Missouri River, less than a mile from the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation. If the pipe were to malfunction, it could poison the drinking water for more than 8,000 tribal members, not to mention the drinking water of millions of people downstream.

In order to prevent these outcomes, Jimenez and her family personally visited the Red Warrior Camp in North Dakota and joined the protests to, as Jimenez's mother said, "support our family and protect our water. The Missouri river is being threatened, and our family's mission to protect it is a responsibility."

While at the Red Warrior Camp, Jimenez witnessed the scale of support the cancellation of the pipeline has received, the arrest of nearly 200 protesters, and the removal of Native American figures due to security culture — the act of keeping potentially dangerous parties out of a given situation.

"The first week I went up there, I was working with the Red Warrior Camp, the main action camp. When you're up there, you can see a lot of what was happening. There were a lot of people who weren't even related to the tribes; they were just there to support the cause, which I think is great. [However], recently, almost 200 people were arrested, and I remember there were these elders sitting by the fire who were kicked out because of security culture. That was really surprising to me," Jimenez said.

Undeterred, Jimenez continued to protest with the rest of the camp, and a few days later, their efforts were met with success.

Members of the Red Warrior Camp and Standing Rock Sioux gathered to protest the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline in North Dakota.



"The third night I was there, there was an action, and it successfully closed construction on the work site down for the day, which was awesome," Jimenez said. "That night there was a celebration. There was a lot of singing and dancing and drumming. They even lit off fireworks. It was a huge success."

Even with this progress, protesters have yet to officially stop the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The swelling number of protesters in September drew the attention of three federal agencies who decided to withhold the permit Energy Transfer needed in order to cross the Missouri River, momentarily halting further developments. However, in mid October, Energy Transfer said that it soon expected approval from the Army Corps for the river crossing, the final approval needed in order to complete the pipeline.

Jimenez stressed that this cannot happen.

"What is being done is hard on the tribes and the people who live there because it's their home and where their family has been for generations," Jimenez said. "Their ancestors are buried

there and ceremonies have been performed there. If the [pipeline] is constructed, a lot of people will lose land that has been theirs for years."

As Jimenez says, the Dakota Access Pipeline should be cancelled in order to protect the rights of Native Americans and the environment. Preventing the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline is not impossible, as proven when the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline was rejected in 2015. The Keystone XL Pipeline was a planned 1,700 mile pipeline that would transport tar sands oil from Alberta, Canada, all the way to the Gulf Coast. However, the pipeline would cut through sensitive environmental and agricultural areas such as the Nebraska Sandhills and Ogallala Aquifer. In response to these environmental threats, thousands of people protested, and in 2015, President Obama refused to give TransCanada the permit it needed to cross the United States border and complete the pipeline. TransCanada is still seeking approval to build the pipeline, but as it stands, the construction of Keystone XL has been halted.

If people continue to stand strong together and protest, Jimenez is confident that the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline can be stopped, too. "People will continue fighting, no matter what, because this is their land," Jimenez said.

Protesters paddling across the river to the pipeline receive an escort from other protesters on horseback at the Standing Rock Reservation.



VENESSA LOPEZ

ARTISTS AT SOUTH

South Eugene's quirky culture promotes a large amount of applied and artistic talent, awaiting discovery. This issue features just a few of South's most talented.



CARLOS RASMUSEN

He has inspired many of his peers as he pursues his dream of dancing on one of the world's largest and most esteemed stages next year.

JOURNEY BEAR

A multi-media artist who is highly celebrated for her unique style and leadership in the ceramics department.

CARTER SCOTT

Well-known for his sharp sense of humor, but he is also among many young musicians at South who have the potential to pursue a career in music.





Senior Journey Bear mixing clay in the ceramics room. Bear prefers to work with her hands as the class potter's wheels are typically being used.



CARTER SCOTT

PERCUSSIONIST

Senior Carter Scott is the lead percussionist of the South Eugene Wind Ensemble and principal percussionist of the Eugene Youth Symphony.

Scott's father, a professional percussionist, member of the Eugene Symphony Orchestra, and former teacher in the Oregon Marching Band, has always supported his music.

"He's been my private teacher over the last seven or eight years and where I learn just about everything," Scott said.

Scott is extremely invested in percussion. He first discovered his love for Latin percussion while playing in the pit orchestra for the musical *In The Heights* his freshman year.

"It was probably the most challenging experience I've had playing music. We had three percussionists and between the three of us we had about 75 different instruments to play, ranging from massive kettle drums to literally taking a restaurant sugar packet and shaking it next to a microphone," Scott said.

In addition to his dedication to percussion, Scott recently discovered a new found love for piano and lyrical music.

"My favorite instrument to hear is the piano by far because of the range of emotion that can be expressed both melodically

and percussively," Scott said. "I always wish I had spent more time in the lyrical aspect of music because I believe music can be the most expressive art form when combining words and instrumental feel."

Scott is well-known for his musical talent, sharp sense of humor, and intellect. He is among many young musicians at South who have both the potential and talent to pursue a career in music. Scott hopes that music will continue to serve as a creative outlet for him after high school.

CARLOS RASSMUSSEN

DUBSTEP DANCER

While junior Carlos Rasmussen has become fairly well known for his free-style dancing at South's assemblies, the lesser known fact about Rasmussen is that he picked up animation dancing only two years ago.

"I had a bunch of stuff going on in my life. Dancing was an escape. It started out as therapeutic story telling, and then I started wanting to share my talent with other people," Rasmussen said.

Rasmussen said that he will dance for as long that his body allows. Now 17, Rasmussen plans to audition for America's Got Talent in Las Vegas early next year. Rasmussen accredits the Dragon House dance crew for influencing his style and pursuit of animation dancing.

"This audition means the world to me," Rasmussen said. "What you do gets your name out there, but it's not just about me getting my name out into the world or sharing my talent, It's an experience that I can cherish for the rest of my life."

Rasmussen will continue to be an inspiration for many fellow dancers and peers as he pursues his dreams.

JOURNEY BEAR

CERAMIC ARTIST

Over her past twothree years with the program, senior Journey Bear established herself as a prominent talent in South's ceramics department., highly celebrated by the art department's own Peter Saraceno. Bear identifies herself as an artist through and through who started creating art at a very young age.

"When I was younger, my family was having a really hard time and I started journaling. I was young though, and when I didn't know how to spell out a word, I would draw it out," Bear said.

Over the years, Bear's artistic range extended beyond journaling, as she worked with water colors, collaging, and eventually found her love for ceramics. With large class sizes and limited time on the wheel, Bear finds herself working mostly within the rustic style of hand-building clay. Bear commonly adorns her fired pieces with detailed oxide paintings. This mixed media style is both unique and eye-catching.

"People say that anything can be art, but I define art by the

People say that anything can be art, but I define art by the amount of physical and psychological energy put into a piece.

JOURNEY BEAR

amount of physical and psychological energy put into a piece. If it took you 30 years to paint a canvas black, but every single stroke you were thinking about a specific thing, that is art," Bear said.

Ceramics is just that, a thoughtful and time-intensive media. Bear attributes her artistic inspiration to her family.

"My little brother has Down syndrome, and when I helped out in the life-skills program, I noticed that there was a lack of art or physical creation in that class," Bear said. "I want to major in art and minor in teaching so I can and maybe go into physical therapy with special-ed kids. Even if they can't talk, I want to help them get their emotions out through art."

Bear has mentored many peers within the ceramics department. With a true passion for art and people, she Bear will undoubtedly undoubtedly help other peoples artistically express themselves. as she pursues art education.

South junior Carlos Rasmussen has become a staple at South assemblies, showcasing his self-taught talent and spreading his love for dance.





PHILLIP BINDEMAN

South junior Leo Saenger, who won third place at the national debate championships with junior Henry Lininger, is also an ASB representative on student government.

SOUTH DEBATE CONTINUES TO DOMINATE

JAELEN HODGES

Most parents would agree that teenagers excel at arguing, and the South Eugene High School debate team is up there with the best of the best. Competitive debate is split into many subtypes that differ primarily in the number of competitors in the debate and the amount of prep time before debaters must argue for their given topic.

"Parliamentary, which is what I and a good chunk of our debate team does, is where you don't know what the topic is beforehand, and you and a partner get fifteen minutes to prepare arguments before we just get to yell at each other," sophomore Ava Vasconcellos said.

Other types of debate include Policy, Lincoln Douglas, Public Forum, and Humorous Interpretation. The varying events allow different types of students to be successful by catering to their individual strengths.

While debate is open to all comers, it takes a little more than basic teenage whining to be great, and South's debate team has shown that they certainly have what it takes to rise to the top. Last year, South sent a policy debate duo to the National Speech and Debate Association in Salt Lake City that got third place out of 201 teams. This impressive finish by the then-sophomore team of Henry Lininger and Leo Saenger was the highest placement by an Oregon policy team at the national championships since 1994. To advance that high in the competition, Lininger and Saenger had to win their first 11 rounds of competition, a feat unheard of in recent years. This year, the team has already won the Meadows invitational in Las Vegas.

Even in a very academic-oriented environment like South, the pressure to participate in athletics is still significant. However, involvement with a non-athletic club like debate can be more appealing to students for many reasons.

"What is great about parliamentary debate, and even debate in general," Vasconcellos said, "is that it is so different than other competitive sports or clubs. Not everyone can be good at soccer or football, but any teenager can argue."

Not only do most students already possess a baseline skill for debate, but also being in debate can boost a student's academic success. Ronald Bratt of Capitol Debate pointed out the benefits of high

STORY

South's debate team, which has achieved national success in recent years, has continued to thrive despite a lack of funding from the district.

school debate when he said, "Students are required to research a topic thoroughly, process information quickly in order to analyze and interpret findings, and most importantly translate complex ideas into simple terms through both written and oral communication."

"Debate has definitely helped me with writing essays, especially argumentative ones, because I'm able to clearly organize what I want to say," said sophomore Tiffany Huang. "It has also really helped with my ability to research, find reliable sources, and obviously with my oral presentation and public speaking skills in general."

Research has shown that students who participate in debate also have increased chances of earning a college degree. A Wall Street Journal report concluded that "participation in debate significantly increased the success rate of college applicants. State and national award winners have a 22-30 percent higher acceptance rate at top tier colleges, and being captain of the debate team improved an applicant's chances by more than 60 percent, compared with other applicants."

Despite national success, the debate team remains astoundingly unrecognized and underfunded. Of the 20 South students polled about the Debate Club, only 13 knew of its existence. Some students were aware that South has a debate team but knew nothing of its accomplishments.

"I just assumed we were bad because I never hear about them," said sophomore Alex Karduna. "I didn't know they were winning competitions, because I didn't even know that debate was something you could compete in."

The debate team is unrecognized not only by some students, but also by the school district as a whole. Students who participate in team sports often get to travel to tournaments all over the state, even competing in other countries. However, the students who compete and represent South Eugene at debate competitions get little to no school support.

"Out of the 10 largest school districts in Oregon, 4J is the only one that does not fund Speech and Debate, an OSAA (Oregon School Activities Association) event. At South, it is the only OSAA sanctioned sport that is not given funding," Saenger pointed out. "Despite this, our team performs consistently well due to donations and volunteer support"

Undeterred by virtually nonexistent school funding, the debate team thrives, and is helping to shape the future brilliant minds of our nation while representing South Eugene at the national level.

THE AXE STAFF

PLAYLIST: RAINY DAY

As winter approaches, many of us will be spending most of our time indoors. Calm and cozy, this rainy day playlist is sure to set the mood for a chill day inside. So put your favorite sweater and cozy socks on, grab a blanket, and chill out with these folksy rainy-day tunes.

**Sleep Baby Sleep**

BROODS

**Incomplete**

JAMES BAY

**All I Want**

KODALINE

**People Help People**

BIRDY

**#88**

LO-FANG

**Volcano**

DAMIEN RICE

**Hymnal**

IN THE VALLEY BELOW

**Dust To Dust**

THE CIVIL WARS

**Dreams**

FLEETWOOD MAC

**Beside You**

PHIDEL

JONATHAN NEWSOME

CLOWN CRAZE SATIRE

Starting August of 2016 in South Carolina, clown sightings initially emerged as a small prank among bored teenagers but quickly spread across North America. According to BBC the clown craze has infected several European countries, including Britain and Germany. Police did not release an official statement about this epidemic until several cases of clowns carrying weapons, including unloaded guns and bats, arose.

"We need to stop this menace and these dangers to our city," forensic scientist Barry Allen said.

The police have only made twelve arrests since the first confirmed case in the U.S., so who is to protect us from this evil?

The symbol of hope is a dark knight, who rises to protect the innocent. An un-



known man in Cumbria, Britain, wearing a Batman suit has been scaring away these jokers in masks. Endorsed by local Cumbria Superheroes, he has vowed to protect the city from clowns.

Thanks to Batman, many parents and children feel more at ease within their communities, even if they are being overrun by menacing, clown-killing machines.

"Truly a hero, Batman [...] I salute you," an anonymous Twitter user said.

ALYSSA GAO

BEAUTY CORNER: MONTHLY FAVORITES

Makeup is one of my favorite things to splurge on, but sometimes there are disappointing products simply not worth the money. However, there are amazing products out there that do not break the bank. At \$16.99, my new product, the Nyx Go-To Palette in Wanderlust, will not make anyone feel guilty for overspending.

I am usually pretty lazy with doing my makeup, so the addition of a blush, bronzer, and highlight to the six eyeshadows in the palette is very convenient. Nyx can be hit-and-miss with eyeshadows, but this palette's eyeshadows are highly pigmented and stay in place without primer. The highlight is golden and subtle, but can be built up to a more intense glow.

Multitasking palettes like this one also take up less space and speed up my morning routine. Time is something many teens do not have, so even saving a little bit helps make me feel more ready for the day. Overall, this palette is definitely a go-to that I would highly recommend to anyone interested in makeup.

**THE NYX GO-TO PALETTE**

\$16.99 AVAILABLE AT MACY'S, TARGET, AND ULTA



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 miyako@theaxe.xyz

How do I know if AP/IB classes for me?

The heart of this question lies in the age-old debate around whether it is better to get an A in a standard-level course or a B in an advanced class. It can be risky to one's GPA to take an AP class if you know you will get a grade of C or lower. A "passing" grade will likely negate any boost you could get from having an AP course on your record.

If you feel like you can get by in a tough class with at least a B, however, things get a little fuzzy. The first step is to look at the situation holistically. Are you taking lots of AP classes? More importantly, are you confident that you will pass most of these classes with A-'s or higher? If so, packing your schedule with rigorous courses is probably a feasible and beneficial option for you, so long as you are not making huge sacrifices with your mental health.

Those who wish to enroll in AP classes but feel that they will consistently get C's or lower should be aware that the rigor of the class on a transcript is not always enough to outweigh a flagging grade. If you are up for an academic challenge but are not concerned with the

potential toll on your GPA, signing up for some advanced classes that appeal to you can really enrich the high school experience. However, if you still want to maintain a solid GPA that could safely get you into good state schools, consider opting out of a difficult class, especially if it is in a subject area you tend to struggle with. Know that making this call does not make you an "underachiever" by any means. If the decision is improving your college admissions chances, it is the right choice to make.

What is QuestBridge, and how does it work?

QuestBridge is by far the best resource out there in terms of college admissions help for high-achieving, low-income students — yet most high schoolers never hear about it.

So what exactly is QuestBridge? It is a non-profit program that links kids who have demonstrated strong academic success despite financial challenges to some of the best colleges in the nation. To qualify, students must have earned mostly grades of A's or higher in the toughest AP/IB classes, be on track to graduate within the top 5-10 percent of their class, have a minimum SAT score of 1240 or ACT score of 28, as well as strong writing skills and "intellectual spark," as described on the organization's official website. Most importantly, applicants must meet a financial qualification, showing that their household earns less than approximately \$65,000 for a family of four (income adjusted to corresponding family size). Though this is not a strict cutoff, most students fall within the given income range.

Aside from "hard numbers," the QuestBridge program also considers the applicant's personal circumstances. If a high schooler was working long hours to help make ends meet for their family, reviewers will take into account that the student likely did not have as much time to take up extracurricular activities as their wealthier classmates. In this case, the applicant would not be penalized for having a smaller "activities list."

Let's move on to the actual steps involved in the QuestBridge application process. Once a student knows they are eligible, they must apply for the National College Match, which is the system that connects qualified students with QuestBridge "College Partners." This group includes highly competitive schools that underprivileged students may otherwise be unable to access, like Stanford and Yale. After submitting their test scores, transcripts, Secondary School Reports, letters of recommendation, financial background information, and National College Match applications by the September deadline, students have the option of "ranking" the colleges they are interested in attending. The ranking system can be a bit confusing, but remains one of the major hallmarks of the QuestBridge program. To put it simply, an applicant can pick up to 12 schools out of the "College Partners" list to apply to. The due date for selecting these institutions falls in mid-October.

Here's the catch: QuestBridge candidates are allowed to apply to all 12 of these schools Early Decision (ED) if they wish. Typically, a student can only apply restrictive ED to one school, along with a few more state schools through their respective non-binding Early Action admission programs. Furthermore, QuestBridge gives kids who are selected as Finalists in late October a chance to be "matched" to a college of their choice. If the finalist then wins the College Match Scholarship, they receive a full ride for all four years of attendance. Once they are matched to a college partner, the student must withdraw their applications from all other institutions and commit to attending their match school.

If you are interested in applying for the National College Match in the upcoming college admissions cycle, it is recommended that you start putting together the materials you need to apply right now. Consider gathering financial documents (such as your parents' tax returns), and signing up to take the SAT and ACT in the near future so you have plenty of time to retake if necessary.

ART

STORYTELLER

In this pen drawing, South senior Lizka Vaintrob took inspiration from the strong winds she encountered while living in Edinburgh, Scotland. Vaintrob is well-known in the University theater community for designing costumes, stage sets, and promotional posters.

