



THE DISPATCH

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

"THE BEACON OF TRUTH SINCE 1974"

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HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Mid-Winter 2019

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WHY COLLEGE EMPHASIS IN HIGH SCHOOL IS HARMFUL TO OUR STUDENTS



ERIN YE

"This will look great for college."

"Colleges like a well-rounded student, so join as many clubs and sports teams as you can."

"Colleges want someone with a passion, so find one."

"Colleges won't accept this type of work."

It often seems that college is the elusive, single end goal of every high school career, and it's the idea that's meant to push you through the four years. Homework and assignments are justified with the explanation that it'll be worse in college, that we're all being prepared for our futures. My question pertains to when life will become the present. Why are we learning for the sake of going somewhere else to learn more? Why is everybody being pushed towards a concept designed for a select group? College is a wonderful thing, but, especially in high school, it shouldn't be everything.

In 2016, 69.7% of high school seniors went on to pursue a 4-year degree. Even with this statistic alone, it's evident that attending university is not the decision made by every high school graduate. This could be because college simply is

not the best decision for each individual. To take a closer look, only 54.8% of college students are able to graduate within 6 years. Nearly 2 million college students nationwide unenroll from school before earning a diploma. Admittedly, there are a lot of numbers to digest, but there's a big picture that these statistics are painting. College is not designed for every kind of person. Many people pressured into the university system ultimately decide that they made the wrong choice, and the said pressure that is applied throughout the high school years is both damaging and false in mindset.

Much of what Huntington High School offers is encouraged by the phrase, "It'll look great for college!" AP classes, honor societies, clubs, music groups, and sports teams are advertised as puzzle pieces that fit the mold of a college application. Surely there are better reasons to participate. Join the Math National Honor Society to exercise your dedication to a subject and to share this enthusiasm with a community. Audition for the pit orchestra because you have a passion for music, not because it compliments the image of yourself you plan on displaying for universities. Run for student government because you love

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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1500 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, *The Dispatch* will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

EDITORIAL



To Mr. Kroll,

We want to thank you for all that you've done for us as our advisor and mentor. Every week we'd hold meetings, and you would always be there. Room 239, your room, has become a place on Wednesday afternoons for all of us to hang out, relax, and be open with each other about our ideas. You always stressed the fact that *Dispatch* is meant to be fun, and your presence made it just that. Always being supportive and hearing us out when we shared our opinions with you set you apart from other adults and made all the difference in our lives. We appreciate everything that you have done to help us expand the paper to what it is today. Without you, we wouldn't have grown as much as we have as young journalists and writers, let alone find our voices. We are going to miss you, and we hope that you continue on to do great things.

From,
The Dispatch

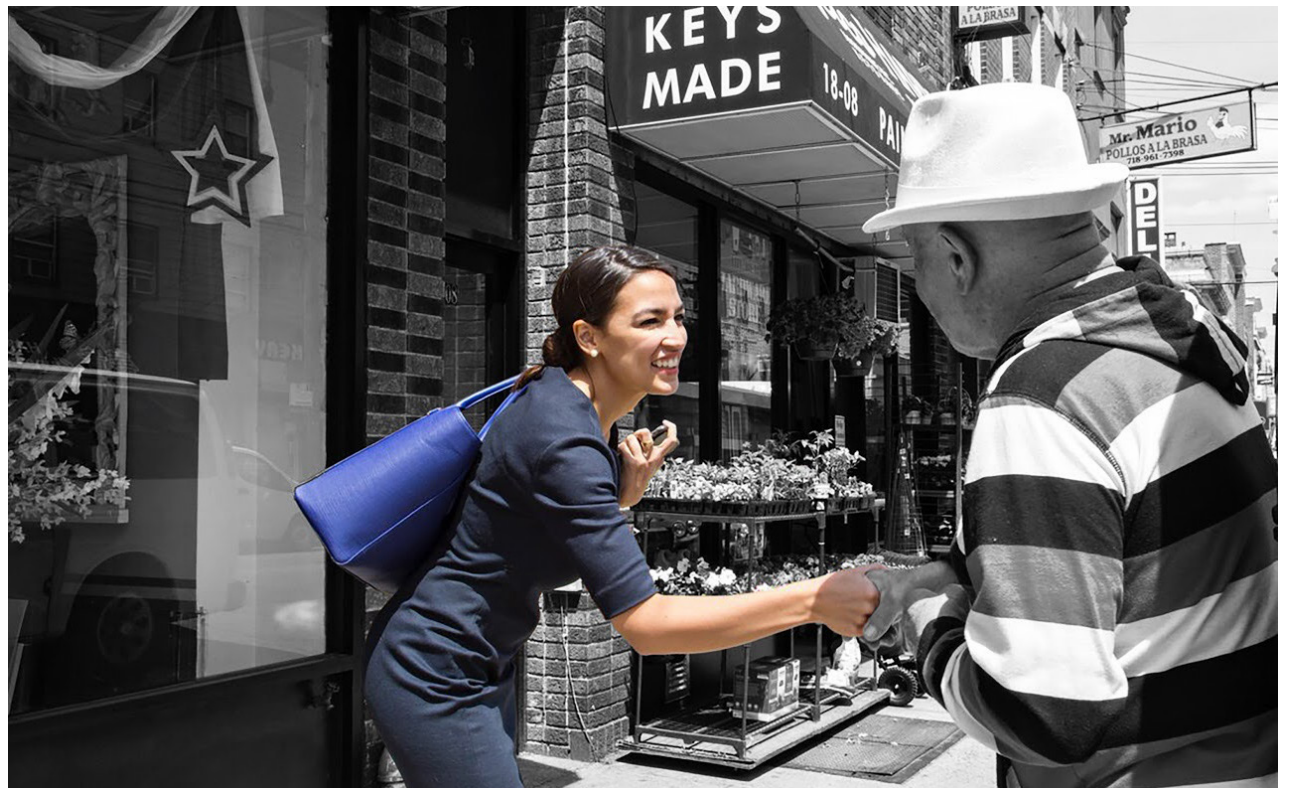


Tree Speak by Julia Giles

FRESHMAN CONGRESSWOMAN CALLS FOR 70% TAX RATE

LUCAS KELLY

In a recent CBS '60 Minutes' interview, Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) called for a progressive tax rate for the wealthiest Americans, particularly those who make more than \$10 million. The tax rates are intended to fund her proposal of a 'Green New Deal', an ambitious plan to convert the American economy to 100% renewable resources within the next 12 years, guaranteeing every American a green job in the process. Ocasio-Cortez faced an immediate backlash from Republicans and members from her own party, some falsely implying she wants to tax all high-income Americans the 70% rate. Her face even made the front page of the Daily News, labeling her plan a "Radical Solution." The difference is that Ocasio-Cortez accepts the title 'radical', "I think that it only has ever been radicals that have changed this country...if that's what radical means, call me radical." In the interview, Ocasio-Cortez defended her proposal by referencing past rates, "...you look at our tax rates from the 60s and when you have a progressive tax rate system. Your tax rate, you know, let's say, from zero to 75,000 may be ten percent or 15 percent, et cetera. But once you get to, like the tippy tops—one your \$10 millionth dollar—some-



times you see tax rates as high as 60 or 70 percent." This reference is inaccurate. Similar rates in place in the 1950s and 60s reached as high as 90% for the wealthiest Americans. She simplified her view further saying, "...it means that as you climb up this ladder you should be contributing more." In The Hill-HarrisX survey, a majority of Americans support her plan. Political party aside, 59% of those asked support the rate, while 44% disagree. The poll revealed that Republican voters support the rate with 45%, still, a majority disapprove with 55% polled.

Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez became a star in the Democratic Party when she ousted 10-term Democrat-

ic congressmen Joe Crowley in the party's primary. Her win shocked the party's establishment. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez became the youngest woman ever elected to House of Representatives in November. Months before starting her campaign, Ocasio-Cortez worked as a waitress at a local bar and active supporter of the presidential candidate, Bernie Sanders. Similar to Bernie Sanders (I-Vt), Ocasio-Cortez is a self-described democratic-socialist, meaning she believes in universal healthcare, tuition-free public college, and government investment to combat climate change. The new congresswoman has yet to introduce any intention of proposing legislation.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT IS TURNED ON AND OFF AGAIN?

JULIA GILES

**Editor's note: This article was written immediately after the end of the government shutdown.*

After 35 straight days, the longest government shutdown in U.S. history is finally over.

Money was lost, national parks were disrespected, and neither the Trump administration nor Congress got what they wanted from this fiasco happening in the first place. So, why did this shutdown even happen, and how did we manage to survive it?

For why this

shutdown began, the short answer is a lack of funding for a wall along the border. President Trump's wall had been a key promise since day one of his presidential campaign, as he claimed that Mexican immigrants were a massive problem for the American people. "They're bringing

drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists," he said in his campaign announcement. "And some, I assume, are good people." A major part of Trump's promise was for the \$5.7 billion in funds to come from Mexico themselves. Mexico as a whole refused to pay for said wall

after Trump was inaugurated due to basic problems, such as drugs from Mexico mostly coming in through legal points of entry, but Trump kept pressing them for the money. Suddenly, last December, Trump changed his mind about the...

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...clearly breaking a campaign promise (and the sheer cost of the wall would be a burden on American taxpayers), his supporters joined his side on the funding issue, with one person even starting a GoFundMe account to raise \$4 billion. Democrats and the rest of America, meanwhile, stood firm in their grounds of not using American taxpayer money that could go to natural disaster relief, health-care, and education. As the arguing over

“Money was lost, national parks were disrespected, and literally no one got what they wanted from this fiasco happening in the first place.”

funding continued, Trump threatened to shutdown the government or declare a state of emergency if no agreement, or compromise, was made. Due to Democrats controlling the House and Republicans controlling the Senate, a bipartisan agreement to appease both sides could not

be reached. With that, the government shutdown on December 22, 2018.

For the effect this shutdown had on the American people, federal workers in particular were greatly impacted from the shutdown, with 800,000 of them going without pay since December 22. For workers who live paycheck to paycheck, this situation left many in an economically devastating situation. It also doesn't help that, according to said federal workers, that they received no warning of the shutdown, and were expected to keep working without pay. These conditions made federal workers feel trapped.

Federal workers aren't the only group who suffered: institutions and cities across America struggled to keep going during the shutdown. Airports were in chaos because TSA officers had been calling out sick, or quitting, because of their lack of pay during the shutdown. In addition, flight officers had to work long hours to make up for their own absent employees. With 43,000 daily flights and a shortage of

staff, airports quickly became crowded, with long lines encompassing the entire building. Food shortages were also an issue for many government-funded facilities, with employees of the Coast Guard in particular having to pay for groceries. Admiral Karl Schultz, a Coast Guard commandment, said that it was “unacceptable that USCG members must rely on food pantries and donations to get through day-to-day life (...) [They], as members of the armed forces, should not be expected to shoulder this burden.” Food safety also became a major issue, as the FDA suspended all “non-essential work” because of the shutdown's effect on their workers pay. This could allow food manufacturers the opportunity to potentially ignore regulations deemed “non-essential”, contaminating food and putting consumers at risk for e.coli and salmonella (the high risk foods are cheese, fresh produce, and seafood).

Other issues that I don't have enough time to address include: 42,000

immigration cases being delayed, NYC using its own funds to keep the Statue of Liberty open, government websites being insecure, FBI agencies running out of resources (meaning that casework during the shutdown would have been delayed in solving), national parks were vandalized and struggled to stay open (the Joshua Tree National Park in particular), and public areas, such as bathrooms in D.C., were unsanitary and overflowing with garbage.

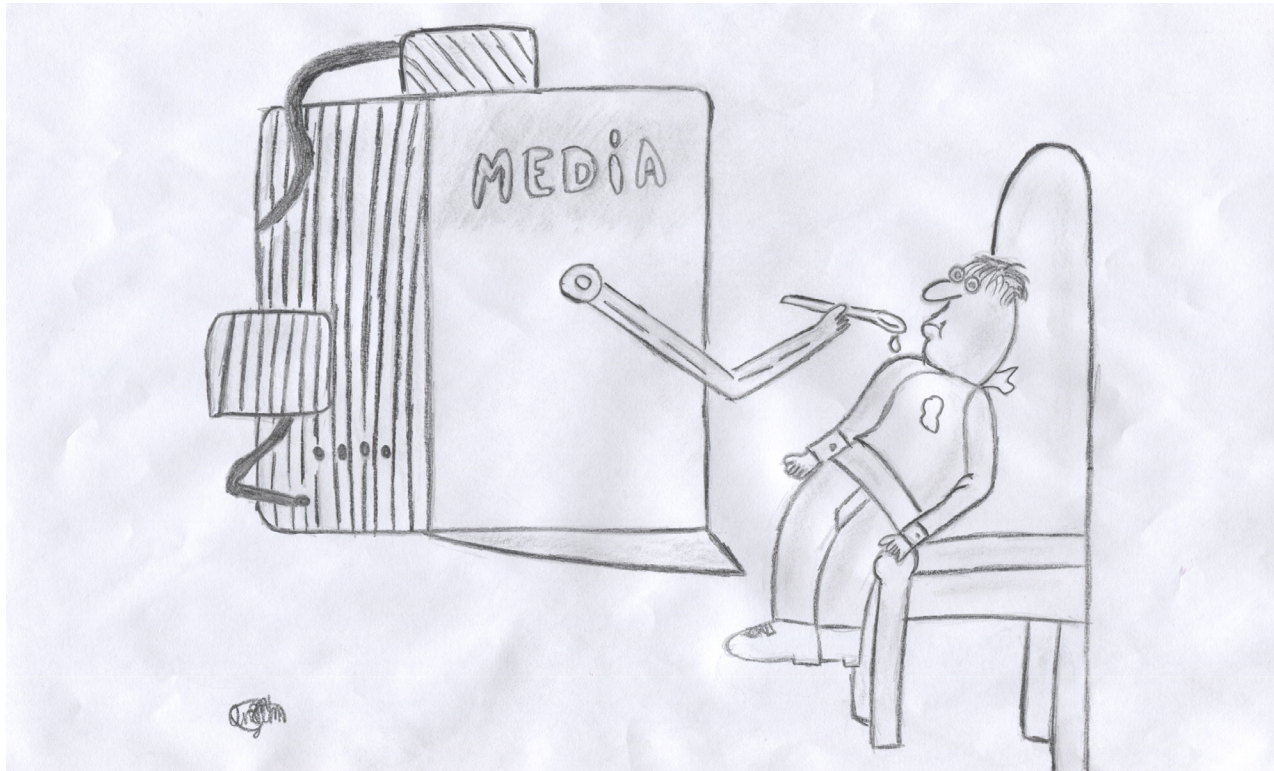
Obviously, the shutdown was doing more harm than good for the American people, so the solution for the U.S. government would be to find a compromise over funding and end the shutdown. But only in a perfect world that would happen. Democrats in the House and Senate kept their stance on not spending billions for the wall, and Trump also kept his stance on his border security plan as well, saying he would “shut down the government for years.” It was only when institutions hit their breaking point, that the shutdown was lifted with the

incentive to finally come to an agreement about the wall. A good example would be the airports.

Despite all of this, we finally managed to get out of this record-breaking shutdown thanks to Trump relenting on the wall deal. However, the side effects of this shutdown have been steep, with the most notable one being that it cost the U.S. economy \$11 billion, \$3 billion of which may never be recovered. What's ironic is that the shutdown cost twice as much as Trump's original proposal for the border wall, and the unrecovered costs will most likely be a huge burden on American taxpayers this April.

But it's not over yet, government has a deadline of three weeks to consider a new border fund deal that contains a wall or a “strong physical barrier.” Again, if an agreement is not met, the government will potentially shutdown, with the possibility of a declaration for a state of emergency by Trump.

• • •



Untitled Cartoon by Angel Nativi Gomez

**Have art to submit?
Feedback or suggestions?**

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WHY COLLEGE EMPHASIS IN HIGH SCHOOL IS HARMFUL TO OUR STUDENTS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

...your high school, not because you're dreaming of higher education. There are plenty of reasons to take advantage of the wonderful op-

“It is possible to provide a nourishing education in high school without using it as a stepping stool to university. Students should be excelling in school not just because they hope of one day getting into their dream institution...”

portunities here, aside from the fact that it helps in the future. For those thoroughly invested in working their way to college, you should know that if you're miserable going through motions of your application activities, admissions officers will see it. If you pursue what you care about and do what brings you genuine joy, they might just see in you what they didn't see in someone else's seemingly stellar resume.

College is undoubtedly an experience important to many, and those with the chance to further educate themselves are securing a better future, which in all respects is admirable. Huntington's guidance department is among the most helpful in any school district and the support

for those who plan to attend college is immense. Financial aid and scholarships are possible and extremely helpful for students who come from lower-income families. Still, at the end of the day, college is priced as a luxury. In 2018, the average annual cost for college was \$34,740 at private colleges, \$9,970 for in-state students at public universities, and \$25,620 for out-of-state residents attending public universities. To multiply these costs by 4 is an exponential amount of money for any student and family. For that reason alone, college should not be treated as a necessity for high school students. University is simply not every person's plan following graduation.

For Huntington students, 13% of seniors in the class of 2018 went into trade school, enrolled in the military, or directly entered the workforce after high school. Another 27% went on to attend a two-year college. If roughly 141 out of 351 students are choosing not to pursue a 4-year college degree, at least immediately, but rather contribute to society in another way, does the incentive based on university admission appeal to them at all? High school is an experience separate from college; activities and classes should be endorsed as a way for students to explore their interests, no matter what they are. A clear issue for many students seems to be that college itself is the number one subject of interest, this ideolo-

gy fueled by adults telling them their “drive” is the right mindset for success.

High school and college are two individual institutions. In today's world, they've been connected as a natural stream in the course of education. Freshmen are told that what they do within these walls for the next four years is critical for college. If Huntington were a private college-preparatory school, perhaps this would be a logical thing to instill in our young minds. But Huntington is not a college prep school. We're a public school filled with over 1,000 students from all walks of life with different dreams and our job is to inspire each of them to choose for themselves during these years. It is possible to provide a nourishing education in high school without using it as a stepping stool to university. Students should be excelling in school not just because they hope of one day getting into their dream institution, but because the lessons in their present classes are engaging and of interest to them. It should be understood that extracurriculars are opportunities for students to explore different topics, interact with others, and grow as people. If you're happy and fulfilled with what you're doing, there should be no reason to worry about your chances at university, because you'll have learned the right things from existence rather than external emphasis.

MAKE AMERICA SANE AGAIN

EMERSON
FORBES

***“Immigration is the sincerest form of flattery”
-Jack Paar***

Throughout the past several weeks, our government has been entangled in a debate over border security. In the absence of direct and immediate evidence of the “invasion” often alluded

to by the President, it is clear that what is motivating those in favor of the wall is something far different- a turn away from the very philosophical foundations upon which this country was built and a surrender to fear and hatred. In other words, instead of stemming an imaginary tide of dangerous illegal immigrants, the wall will only serve as a permanent symbol of America's xeno-

phobia.

Within this debate lie two clear arguments: one suggesting that the government must have a wall at all costs; and one that views the construction of a wall as an ineffective use of our resources. The failure of the two sides to reach a compromise resulted in a partial shutdown of the government that ...lasted 35 days. As of now, the government is tem-

porarily reopened as the two sides decide what is to be done. If Trump remains dissatisfied with the border security plan offered by Congress by February 15th, he has threatened to declare a national emergency and redirect military funding for his wall. Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi and New York State Senator Chuck Schumer have repeatedly stated that

they will not agree to fund Trump's wall. Trump, who had originally promised his supporters a wall paid for by Mexico throughout his campaign, later withdrew on this promise. Subsequently, the President considered signing a bill that would reopen the government but would not provide funding for his wall, which outraged the conservative media. Ann...

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Coulter wrote, “He’s not building the wall, while making ridiculous promises right up until the second before he folds.” This eruption in the right-wing media was all Trump needed to retreat back to his campaign promise. With this, Trump is once again insisting that any spending bill must include 5.7 billion dollars to fund his border wall.

What makes the argument in favor of a wall so misguided is that most undocumented immigrants do not enter this country at the Mexican border. In fact, over

“This rage seems to be fueled by fear-fear of the ‘other,’ and fear of a country destroyed by a stampede of nefarious foreigners.”

two-thirds of America’s undocumented population enter the country legally with visas and then overstay them once they expire. In addition, Trump argues that a wall at the border is needed to stop the flow of illegal drugs despite the fact that most of the drugs entering the United States from Mexico are delivered through legal ports of entry. For example, 650 pounds of THC oil was recently seized by Wichita County Sheriff’s Deputies from a man in a fruit truck attempting to pass through a legal port of entry. A wall simply does not address these issues and therefore is not likely to solve most of the problems it is

intended to correct.

As of March 2016, 183 illicit cross-border tunnels had been found (not counting those discovered since then and those that remain undiscovered). These tunnels are an incredibly common and recurring problem. It is only logical that tunneling will become the obvious option for those looking to bypass the wall. In addition, drug cartels have been successfully hiding their supplies in Mexican exports, launching shipments with catapults and T-shirt cannons over the physical barriers that already exist, and sneaking their drugs onto planes for decades. As for illegal immigrants, a wall cannot and will never stop those desperate enough to risk their lives to get here. For many, the perilous cross-border journey is much safer and more promising than returning home and facing certain death.

Since the early weeks of Trump’s campaign, his supporters have been led to believe that there is a deluge of illegal immigrants who have made America the “dumping ground for everyone else’s problems,” as Trump said in his campaign announcement speech. This led Trump and his supporters to believe that a wall was the ideal solution to this problem. Trump’s argument was essentially based on two misconceptions.

Firstly, the foreign-born represent over 20 percent of Canada’s population and 28.2 percent of Australia’s popula-



tion. America’s immigrant population, however, represents less than half than that of Australia’s. Moreover, our foreign-born population increased by only 0.6 percent between 2010 and 2016. In reality, there is no overflow of immigrants, and the majority of those who enter pose no threat to anyone. Healthy amounts of immigration make us, as a country, better both culturally and economically. Although Trump argues that immigrants who come here illegally pose a threat to our safety, research reveals that undocumented immigrants are significantly less likely to commit crimes than

“...if the Trump administration were to direct more of its efforts and attention toward the problems that cause people to flee their countries, we would not have to deal with caravans of desperate people marching toward our country.”

native-born citizens. In addition, the majority of illegal immigrants work and pay

taxes; many lines of work rely heavily on our illegal immigrant population because few American citizens want those jobs.

The importance of addressing the issue at hand from its roots has seemingly been lost. Poverty, suffering, and gang violence affect large portions of Central America and Mexico. This, unsurprisingly, is mostly why many immigrants seek out the comparative safety that America provides. Perhaps, if the Trump administration were to direct more of its efforts and attention toward the problems that cause people to flee their countries, we would not have to deal with caravans of desperate people marching toward our country.

“Whether we’re talking about drugs or people, when there’s a will, there’s a way to get around the wall,” said David Shirk, an international relations professor at the University of San Diego. The majority of Americans now oppose Trump’s wall, and rightfully so. Among the countless concerns and statistical fallacies lies a more ethical issue. The idea of

a wall defies the values that are country has upheld since its infancy. The suggestion that Mexican immigrants are, in general, a collection of criminals and rapists who must be stopped attempts to make us fear the immigrants whom we once welcomed. At the same time, supporters of the wall luxuriate in a country supported, constructed, and maintained by the very immigrants they now rage against. This rage seems to be fueled by fear-fear of the “other,” and fear of a country destroyed by a stampede of nefarious foreigners. For others, it is simply a hatred of immigrants that leads them to support the construction of a wall. In his final speech as president, Republican Ronald Reagan said, “If we ever closed the door to new Americans, our leadership in the world would soon be lost.” A nearly two-thousand-mile-long border wall is a clear-cut symbol of America’s choice to close the door on a misunderstood population of immigrants, most of whom have nowhere else to turn.

• • •

MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!

CRAIG HAAS

“We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked, and circumventing the line of people who are waiting patiently, diligently, and lawfully to come into this country.” Do you believe Donald Trump said this? Well, he didn’t. Barack Obama did, in 2005. And now, Democratic officials are doing anything they can to stop Donald Trump from funding a border wall between the United States and Mexico. Trump’s desire to build a wall isn’t just for attention or to keep his campaign promises, it’s to put American citizens first and to increase American safety inside our borders.

Mr. Trump doesn’t want to create a wall to stop immigration, Mr. Trump wants to cre-

ate a wall to stop illegal immigration, the smuggling of drugs, international sex trafficking, the

“It’s not fair for people who truly want to contribute to the American culture to be overlooked by these harmful, illegal immigrants.”

spread of gangs, and much more. Between 2017 and 2018, nearly 235,000 illegal immigrants were arrested for either assault, homicide, or sex crimes (Fox News). Just imagine how much that statistic rises if you included theft, the possession/sale of illegal drugs, harassment, or gang affiliations. With background checks, at least 200,000 of these crimes could’ve been avoided in our country. These background checks will allow only the true “dreamers” to legally enter the country, those are the millions who look to escape

poverty and benefit from an American education and workforce. It’s not fair for people who truly want to contribute to the American culture to be overlooked by these harmful, illegal immigrants.

“From 2012 to 2015 the U.S. Border Patrol has seized more than: 8.2 million lbs. of marijuana, 32,600 lbs. of cocaine, 34,000 ounces of heroin, and 17,600 lbs. of methamphetamine” (Drug Abuse). And that’s only the statistics for what has been caught by border patrol agents. Drug crisis’ such as the heroin epidemic are being fostered by illegal immigrants and the only way to stop it is to prevent smuggling by strengthening our border security.

“All told, Americans cross-subsidize health care for unauthorized immigrants to the tune of \$18.5 billion a year” (Forbes). That means \$18.5 billion worth

of taxpayer dollars are going to pay solely for the healthcare of illegal immigrants. The newly proposed spending for the wall is estimated at only \$5.7 billion (other existent plans vary up to \$60 billion). After the wall’s completion, American taxpayers will save billions of dollars annually, creating space to increase educational funding, environmental funding, and other projects that will benefit American citizens.

Corrupt politicians are so hypocritical to Trump’s wall that they act as if they don’t protect their own houses with wall-like structures. In his Presidential Address in January, Trump stated, “Then why do wealthy politicians build walls, fences, and gates around their homes? They don’t build walls because they hate the people on the outside, but because they love the people on the inside.

The only thing that is immoral are the politicians that do nothing and continue to allow more innocent people to be so horribly victimized.” Essentially, these politicians are putting your safety at risk because they won’t spend your money.

To put Trump’s statement into an everyday perspective, we don’t put locks on our doors to hurt people on the outside, we do it to protect our loved ones from potential robbers and murderers attempting to intrude. Having a strong border is technically an equivalent school of thought. The wall is the lock on our doors that holds unknown people out until we identify who they are and welcome their entry. Imagine if you had a house without a front door or lock, it’s almost certain that people would come into your house, take advantage of your resources, and leave when it’s no longer maintainable. Yes, there are good people out there who will do anything possible to fulfill their dream, but we can’t risk our safety knowing that a significant percentage of these immigrants arrive with dangerous intentions.

Newly constructed walls have proven overwhelming success. “According to statistics published by Israel’s Ministry of the Interior, 17,000 African immigrants entered the state illegally in...

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...2011. However, in 2013, after the completion of the wall, the number fell to a mere 43” (Harvard International Review). Spain also recently built a small, seven mile long wall

on the border of Morocco. “In 2014, 2,100 immigrants successfully crossed from Morocco into Spain, but the fence reduced this number substantially to approximately 100 in 2015” (HIR). The success of these

walls are quite overwhelming.

“We can’t recognize the importance of a wall once it is too late!”

It’s time we put the United States and

the lives of its citizens first. We can’t recognize the importance of a wall once it is too late! Building a wall has the opportunity to lessen crime, lessen the American drug epidemic, lessen taxes, and to strengthen everyone

on the inside. Everybody needs to come together and recognize that the problem isn’t what’s right vs. what’s wrong, it’s American safety.

• • •



-FACTOR
(Sponsored by
the Key Club)

Date: March 1st
Entrance Fee: \$5
**Bring Extra \$\$\$ for Food, Drinks,
and Gift Baskets!**

**All Proceeds Go To
Rachel's Dance for the Cure**

RAZONES POR LAS QUE NO DEBES SENTIRTE SOLO EN LA ESCUELA

**ERIK FLORES
REYES**

“¿Realmente vale la pena la escuela? ... ¿Cuál es el propósito de la escuela?”, Algunos estudiantes se preguntan cuándo están pasando por momentos difíciles y atravesando adversidades. Todos saben que no hay ninguna persona en la tierra sin problemas. Sin embargo, aquellos que tienen el privilegio de ir a la escuela y están obteniendo una educación pueden obtener asesoramiento y apoyo de otras personas en el edificio escolar en comparación con aquellos que no asisten a la escuela. La escuela preparará a los estudiantes en los años por venir porque hay muchas maneras diferentes en las que los estudiantes pueden enfrentar diferentes problemas, pero aprenden cómo lidiar con ellos. Los sistemas educativos de muchas escuelas pueden variar, pero la mayoría de ellos proporciona ayuda a sus estudiantes. Hay diferentes consejeros y enfermeras que siempre están dispuestos a ayudar. Si un estudiante está pasando por un momento realmente difícil y no sabe qué hacer, hay consejeros y miembros de la facultad que pueden

encontrar métodos para aliviar su dolor o detener una dificultad. Ellos pueden ayudar a los estudiantes a establecer su horario, su salud mental, completar el proceso de solicitud de ingreso a la universidad, ayudarlo a establecer metas en su vida, instruirlo cuando tenga dudas o inquietudes, etc. El

“Cuando los estudiantes caminan en Huntington High School, hay diferentes maestros que esperan ansiosamente para compartir sus conocimientos con sus estudiantes.”

tiempo que los consejeros y miembros de la facultad pasan con sus estudiantes hablar sobre cómo tener éxito en la vida o cómo manejar un problema es enorme. Nuestro director, también, es una persona genuina y solidaria que siempre da la bienvenida a todos con los brazos abiertos. En otras escuelas y en las nuestras, los directores no se basan en los antecedentes, el origen étnico o el idioma de un alumno para brindar ayuda y asesoramiento incondicionales para que podamos mejorar en la escuela y en la vida. Hay

programas como ESL, Estudiante de Español-Inglés (por sus sílabas en inglés), que ayudan a los estudiantes a aprender inglés o mejorar su vocabulario, y socializar con diferentes estudiantes que vienen de diferentes países. Hay una gran diversidad de estudiantes de donde alguien puede aprender mucho y obtener ayuda. Los idiomas del mundo proporcionados en nuestra escuela, como el italiano, el francés, el español, el chino y el latín, pueden ayudarnos a socializar con una gran diversidad de estudiantes. No solo pueden, los estudiantes, expresarse en inglés, sino que también pueden hacerlo en un idioma diferente.

En la escuela, puedes hacer amigos y comunicarte con una gran diversidad de estudiantes y, a veces, los estudiantes pueden incluso ayudar a otros estudiante siempre que sean capaces de proporcionar ayuda. En Huntington High School, tenemos diferentes grupos y clubes en los que los estudiantes pueden crecer académicamente, pero también para prosperar en la vida. En los diferentes clubes, algunos estudiantes pueden obtener consejos o socializar con otros

¡AUN ESTÁS A TIEMPO!

DANIELA RAMOS

Cada quien vive su mundo, su vida, cada quien cuenta su historia, y si aún no la estás contando no te apures que estás a tiempo, o al menos eso me han dicho. Una vez escuché una historia que se enfocaba en el tiempo; la historia contaba que un día alguien se graduó a los 22 años, pero consiguió trabajo cinco años después, que alguien a los 25 tenía su propia empresa, pero murió a los 50. Mientras que alguien más tuvo su empresa a los 50 y murió a los 90, también narraba que Obama se retiró de la presidencia a los 55, mientras que Trump empezó a los 70. El tiempo es nuestro y de él será lo que nosotros queramos que sea. Vivimos del tiempo, porque el simple desarrollo del ser humano está basado en el tiempo, lo que hagamos hoy nos beneficiará mucho mañana, específicamente nosotros los jóvenes que en nuestras manos se encuentra el futuro de la sociedad, aún estamos a tiempo. Es tiempo de crecer, de soñar, de ayudar, es tiempo de valorar, de perdonar, de amar, tiempo de respetar, es el tiempo de cambiar. Atrevámonos al mundo tal vez no haciendo lo correcto, porque en estos días lo correcto ya no se hace, pero hagamos lo que no lastime a nadie y que sea lo que tampoco nos lastime a nosotros. ¡Anda aún estás a tiempo!

estudiantes.

Cuando los estudiantes caminan en Huntington High School, hay diferentes maestros que esperan ansiosamente para compartir sus conocimientos con sus estudiantes.

“La escuela te prepara para que no tengas dudas en tu vida al tener una prueba y tener certeza de la respuesta, responder una pregunta, tener confianza, etc.”

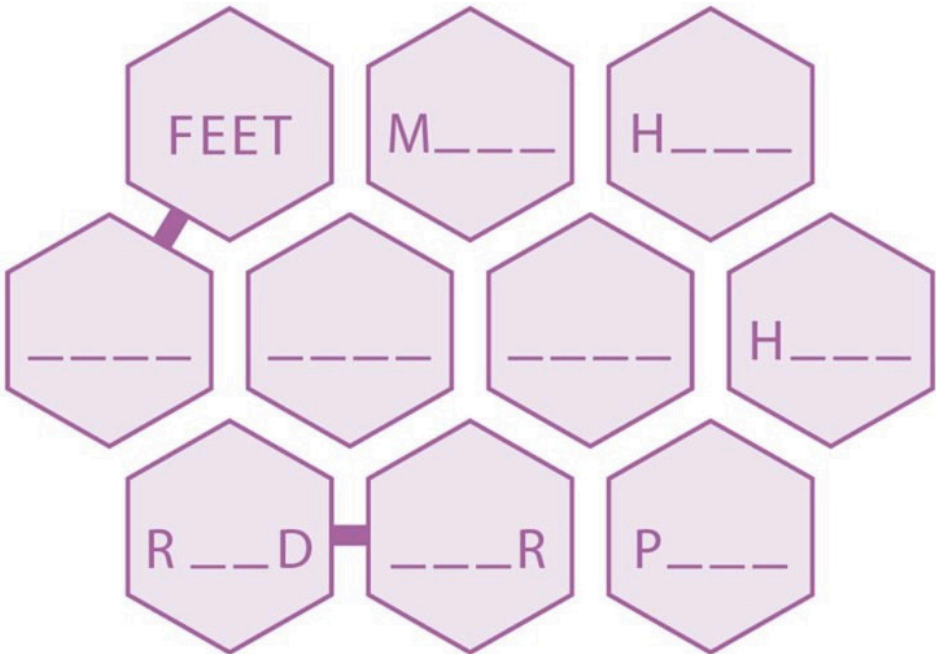
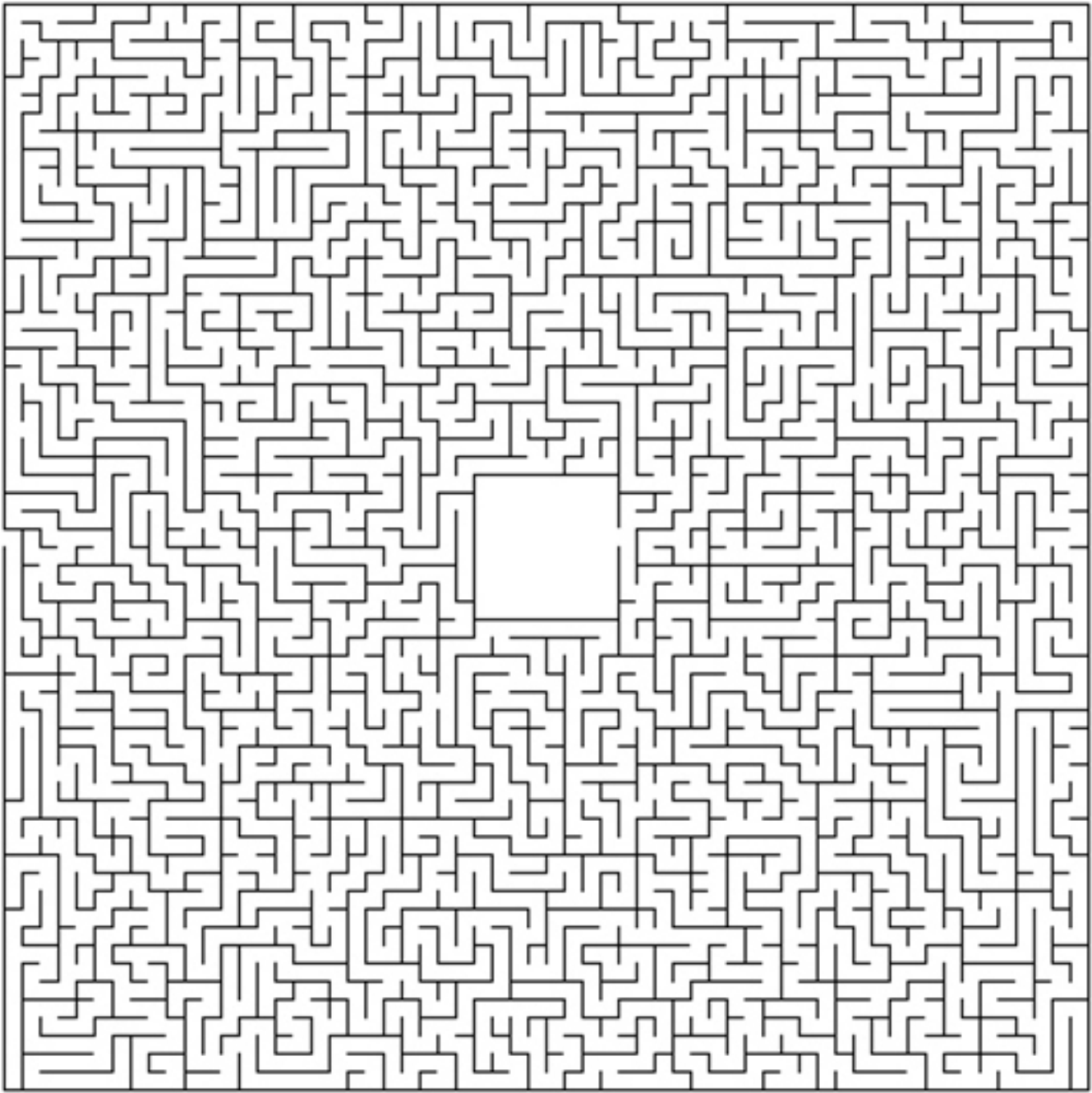
Algunos estudiantes argumentan que los maestros son su peor pesadilla, pero en realidad, los maestros son como un acueducto que transporta

el agua a diferentes lugares. En otras palabras, ellos guían a sus estudiantes inspirándolos con una variedad de materias como arte, ciencia, matemáticas, historia, etc. Además, cuando los maestros ven que sus estudiantes están fallando en su clase, ellos se preocupan por ellos y tratan de hacer formas para que el estudiante tenga una calificación aprobatoria. Algunos maestros espectaculares también ayudarían a los estudiantes con sus problemas sociales y personales. Algunos maestros pueden poner a dos estudiantes que no se relacionan entre...

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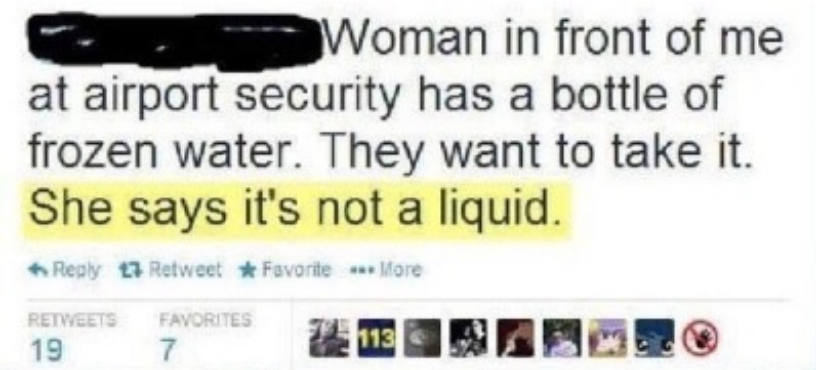


MEMES OF THE MOMENT



Finally a new lord

Nobody:
Somebody:



Rihanna is such a powerhouse.



MITOCHONDRIHANNA.



When you've been coughing in class all day and you don't wanna keep drawing attention



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PÁGINA 9

...sí en un aula para hacer nuevos amigos entre si y comunicarse entre ellos para que no nos sintamos solos. La mayoría de los maestros pierden el sueño y no pueden apagar sus cerebros por la noche porque están estresados. Los maestros se preocupan por sus más que sus calificaciones o su promedio general. Se preocupan por ti porque eres una persona merecedora de amor y respeto.

El aprendizaje académico nunca ha sido el evento principal o central de la escuela. Sí, las clases

académicas como Álgebra, Biología, Inglés y Economía son muy importantes para graduarse y pueden mejorar su vida, pero no son los principales eventos de la escuela. El evento principal de la escuela es aprender cómo mejorar tu forma de pensar. El evento principal de la escuela es aprender cómo lidiar con las adversidades, como escribir un documento de proceso, levantar el lápiz para obtener una calificación aprobatoria. El evento principal de la escuela es aprender cómo lidiar con la dureza de la vida,

aprender cómo reducir sus problemas y encontrar una salida. La escuela siempre querrá lo mejor de ti y lo mejor para ti. La escuela te prepara para que no tengas dudas en tu vida al tener una prueba y tener certeza de la respuesta, responder una pregunta, tener confianza, etc. La conquista de la adversidad es el evento principal de la escuela que te prepara para la vida. No solo enfrentarás adversidad en la escuela. La escuela no será el último lugar donde enfrentarás adversidades. Enfrentarás momentos trágicos

que verán cómo te preparaste para la vida en la escuela. El evento principal no es que algunos números no te digan si estás fallando o superando. El evento principal es hacer grandes sacrificios, incluso cuando parece imposible. Algunos maestros pierden el sueño porque algunos alumnos no logran conquistar el evento principal en la escuela. La escuela se preocupa por ti más de lo que piensas. La mayoría de las personas aquí en Huntington High School están tratando de encontrar formas de crear un lugar se-

guro, feliz y amigable para los estudiantes. El número de personas que cuidan a los estudiantes es más de lo que tú te puedas imaginar. Maestros, amigos, miembros de la facultad, nuestro principio. Todos ellos se preocupan por nuestro desarrollo en la escuela en el cual nos preparará para la vida. A través de la integridad y de ser uno con tu escuela, puedes sentir que puedes encontrar la felicidad y perder la soledad. Porque eres un ser humano, mereces el cuidado de las personas que te rodean. Y sí, la escuela vale la pena.

EXPERIENCIAS DE UNA JOVEN LATINA EN CAMINO AL TRIUNFO

PATRICIA CAMPOS SERPAS

Quien asume riesgos transforma la historia y el rumbo de la vida positivamente. La única equivocación que existe es el no intentar nada nuevo, no existen los errores del pasado ni del futuro, solo existen los errores de no intentarlo AHORA!

¿Quién soy..? Soy una joven Salvadoreña que desde muy temprana edad estaba segura de lo que quería hacer y lograr en la vida, compartiendo mis inquietudes con mis padres, hermana y amigos, disfrutaba conocer y experimentar diferentes cosas a mi alrededor y sobre todo con el anhelo de llegar lejos, poder mostrarles y compartir todo lo aprendido. Sobre todo mostrarles a to-

dos con hechos que hablen de la expectativas contra la realidad, ya que el mundo es un conjunto de costumbres que van cambiando...como la vida.

Perseverar, esa es la clave para lograr nuestros objetivos, tener el coraje y pasión por luchar por nuestros sueños, aunque no siempre es facil, pero nadie ha dicho que no es posible. Muchas personas a mi alrededor podrán pensar que mi vida es perfecta y que todo marcha bien, esas son las expectativas. Mi realidad fue un muy distinta, igual que la realidad de muchos jóvenes latinos. El 12 de Enero se cumplieron dos años de vivir aquí en New York, aun extrañando a mi familia y amigos, un lugar totalmente desconocido que se convertiría en mi nuevo hogar.

Con tan solo 17 años de edad, tuve que afrontar la tarea de adaptarse a una nueva cultura, un nuevo idioma, un nuevo ambiente, nuevas tradiciones, sin conocer a nadie en sí a una nueva vida comenzando desde cero.

“...pero cada vez que avanzas dejas todo lo que por muchos años luchamos por construir y en cuestión de segundos lo dejas atrás, con la ilusión de encontrar algo mejor encontrar muchas oportunidades.”

La tierra de las oportunidades, así es conocido este lugar para muchos adolescentes, un lugar donde deseamos encontrar muchas oportunidades que en

nuestro país no podemos encontrar, lugar donde deseamos terminar nuestros estudios y convertirnos en profesionales y poder sacar adelante a nuestra familia. Siempre con el objetivo de aprovechar y sacar lo mejor de mí para lograr mi objetivo por el cual estoy hoy aquí.

El camino para llegar a este destino es igual a la historia de muchos adolescentes que nos encontramos en este país. Un camino donde tienes que pasar frío, días sin dormir, días de sol, temor, discriminación, hambre e incertidumbre, donde nada ni nadie está seguro, camino incierto donde hasta puedes perder la vida, es un trayecto donde conoces buenas y malas personas, donde pierdes, ganas y sobre todo aprendes, donde tus ojos

delatan que traes un corazón roto por dejar lo más importante en tu vida

“TU FAMILIA” pero a la vez siendo ese el motivo por el cual sigues adelante y no dejas de avanzar, camino donde muchas veces lloramos, nos frustramos y nos entristecemos. No es fácil mirar atrás y pensar que cada vez te acercas a donde quieres estar, pero cada vez que avanzas dejas todo lo que por muchos años luchamos por construir y en cuestión de segundos lo dejas atrás, con la ilusión de encontrar algo mejor encontrar muchas oportunidades. Pero es ahí donde nos damos cuenta el potencial que poseemos y nos convencemos que tenemos todo lo necesario para lograrlo (todo es...

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...cuestión de actitud). Nunca me imagine ni estaba en mis planes llegar a este país, al llegar aquí no me imaginaba el impacto que este cambio iba a causar en mi vida, sin duda este cambio fue a bien, porque encontré y se que seguiré encontrando más oportunidades, de conocer y hacer lo que me gusta.

No se quien eres, no se cual es tu

nombre, no se cuantos años tienes, no se de donde vienes, no sé a dónde vas, ni tampoco se cuales son tus sueños en esta vida, pero hay una cosa que si se, se que todo lo que pienses hacer es posible, es posible en la manera que tu lo creas que lo es, recuerda que todos tenemos luchas, luchas que queremos enfrentar solos, jóvenes con aspiraciones, con sueños, esperanzas y anhelos

jóvenes latinos como yo, que hoy forman parte de esta sociedad, jóvenes que anhelan poder ayudar para que este país sea más grande sin que haya barreras de odio ni prejuicios. No puedo pronosticar el futuro para decirte lo exitoso/a que serás, haciendo lo que desde pequeño/a soñaste. Todos podemos romper los estereotipos basados en la forma de cómo se clasifican, no debe-

mos dejar que las expectativas se vuelvan nuestra realidad. No debemos conformarnos con las limitaciones que otros nos ponen. Siempre encontraremos personas en nuestro camino que juzgaran y harán expectativas, sin embargo tenemos la capacidad de demostrarles que se equivocan.

No soy experta en este viaje al que llamamos vida, cometí y cometer errores

una y mil veces, lo importante es aprender de ellos, también dudare, a veces acertare, perderé y ganaré, así es la vida sin instrucciones, tu creas tu propia historia.

S o l a m e n t e necesitamos saber que podemos hacer y lograr lo que queremos, teniendo coraje y perceiverancia, por que la vida se entrega de forma extraordinaria los que trabajan de forma extraordinaria.

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD NOT FEEL ALONE IN SCHOOL

ERIK FLORES
REYES

Is school really worth it? What is the purpose of school? Some students ask themselves these questions when they are having difficult times and going through adversities. Everyone knows that there isn't a person on Earth with no problems. However, those who have the privilege of going to school and are obtaining an education may get advice and support from other individuals in the school building compared to those who do not go to school. The school will prepare students for years to come because there are many different ways in which students may face different problems, but they learn how to deal with them. Many schools' systems of education may vary, but most of them provide help

to their students.

There are different counselors and nurses who are always willing to help. If a student is having a really difficult time and they don't know what to do, there are counselors and faculty members who can find methods to alleviate a student's pain or work through a difficult time. They

"When students walk into Huntington High School, there are different teachers waiting eagerly to share their knowledge with their students."

can help you set your schedule, help your mental health, help you get through the process of college applications, help you set goals in your life, instruct you when you have doubts or concerns, etc. The time counselors and faculty

members spend with their students talking about how to succeed in life or how to handle a problem, is enormous.

Our principal is a genuine and caring person who is always welcoming everyone with open arms. In other schools, including ours, principals are not relying on a student's background, ethnicity, or language in order to give unconditional help and advice for our betterment, in school and life. There are programs like ESL that help students learn English, enhance their vocabulary, and socialize with different students who come from different countries. There is a great diversity of students from whom someone might learn and receive help from. World languages provided in our school, such as Italian, French, Spanish, Chinese, and Latin all

YOU'RE STILL ON TIME!

DANIELA RAMOS
(TRANSLATED BY
ARIANA STRIEB)

Everyone lives their life, their own way in their own little world. "Everyone tells their story, and if you are not telling yours yet, do not worry you still have time," or at least that's what I've been told. I once heard a story that focused on time; the story said that one day someone graduated at 22 years old, but got a job five years later; a man at the age of 25 had his own company, but died at 50. While someone else had his own company at 50, and died in his 90s. In addition, it narrated that Obama retired from his presidency at 55 years old, while Trump began at 70. Time is ours, and it will be what we want it to be. We live by time, because the simple development of the human lifestyle is based on time, and what we do today will benefit us tomorrow. Specifically us, the young people of the world, because in our hands is the future of society, for we still have some time ahead of us. It is time to grow, to dream, to help. It is time to value, to forgive, to love, time to respect, and it is time to change. Let's dare ourselves in this world, maybe not doing the right thing, because these days the right thing is not always done, but let's do what does not hurt anyone, and won't hurt ourselves either. Come on while you still have time!

can help us socialize with a great diversity of students. Not only can you express yourself in English, but

you can also communicate in a different language...

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...In school you can make friends and communicate with other students, and sometimes they can even help their peers whenever they are capable of doing so. In Huntington High School, we have different groups and clubs in which students can grow academically, but also become prosperous in life. In these clubs, some students might obtain advice or socialize with other students.

When students walk into Huntington High School, there are different teachers waiting eagerly to share their knowledge with their students. Some students would argue that teachers are their worst nightmare, but in reality teachers are like a river which

disperses water to different locations. In other words, they lead their students by inspiring them with a variety of subjects like the arts, science, mathematics, history, etc. Besides, when teachers see that their

"The school prepares you so that you do not doubt yourself by taking a test, answering a question, being confident, etc."

students are failing their class, they are worried about them and try to guide the student to reach a passing grade. Some spectacular teachers would also help students with their social or personal issues. Some teachers might put two students who do not socialize with each other in a classroom

in order to make new friends and communicate with each other so that they do not feel alone. Most teachers lose sleep and are unable to unwind because they are stressed about their students. Teachers care more about you than your grades, or your GPA. They care about you because you are a person worthy of love and respect.

Academic learning has never been the main or central event of the school. Yes, academic classes such as Algebra, Biology, English, and Economics are really important in order to graduate, and they can ameliorate your life, but they are not the main events of school. The main event of school is learning how to improve your way of thinking. The main

event of school is learning how to build up essential skills, such as writing a research paper and developing a good work ethic in order to earn a passing grade. The main event of school is learning how to deal with the harshness of life, learning how to reduce your problems and resolve them. The school will always want the best from you. The school prepares you so that you do not doubt yourself by taking a test, answering a question, being confident, etc. Tackling obstacles is the main event of school that prepares you for life. The school won't be the last place where you will face adversity. You will face tragic moments that will "test" how you prepared for life. The main event is not having

some numbers tell you whether you are failing or passing. It is making hard sacrifices even when it seems impossible.

The majority of people here in Huntington High School are trying to find ways to create a safe, happy, and amicable place for students. The number of people caring for students is more than you expect it to be. Teachers, friends, faculty members, our principal, they all care about our development, which will prepare us for life. Through integrity and becoming one with your school, you may feel that you can find happiness and lose loneliness. Because you are a human being, you deserve care from people who surround you.

EXPERIENCES OF A YOUNG LATINA ON THE WAY TO TRIUMPH

**PATRICIA
CAMPOS SERPAS**

Whoever takes risks transforms history and the course of life positively. The only mistake that exists is not trying anything new. There are no mistakes of the past or the future, there are only the mistakes of not trying NOW!

Who am I? I am a young Salvadoran woman, who from a very early age, was sure of what I wanted to do and achieve in life, sharing my concerns with my parents, sister, and friends. I enjoy knowing and experiencing differ-

ent things around me and especially with the desire to get to a point where I would be able to show and share everything that I have learned. Above all, to show everyone with facts that speak of expectations against reality, since the world is a set of customs that are changing, like life.

Persevere, that is the key to achieving our goals. It is to have the courage and passion to fight for our dreams, although it is not always easy. No one has said that it is impossible. Many people around me may think that my life is perfect,

and everything is going well, but those are just observations. My reality was a very different one, just like the reality of many young Latinos. It's been two years since I began living here in New York. I missed my family and friends, but a totally unknown place became my new home. At only 17 years of old, I had to face the task of adapting to a new culture, language, environment, and traditions. All without knowing anyone in itself to begin a new life starting from scratch.

The land of opportunities, this place, America, is

known to many teenagers. It's a place where we want to find many opportunities that we cannot find in our country. It's where we want

"Everything, that for many years we struggle to build, is left behind in a matter of seconds, with the hope of finding something better.."

to finish our studies, become professionals, and to be able to raise a family. I am here today because I always take advantage of opportunities, and get the

best out of them to achieve my goals.

The road to reach this destination is the same as the story of many teenagers who are in this country. A road where you have to travel cold; days without sleep; in the sun; with fear, discrimination, hunger, and uncertainty where nothing, or no one, is safe. This uncertain road is where you can even lose your life. It's a journey where you know good and bad people, where you lose, where you win, and above all, you learn. It can reveal your eyes, reflecting a...

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...broken heart that has left the most important thing in your life.

Your family is the reason why you keep going and do not stop moving forward. This is where we often cry, become frustrated, and sad. It is not easy to look back and think that you are getting closer to where you want to be, but every time you go, you leave everything behind. Everything, that for many years we struggle to build, is left behind in a matter of seconds, with the hope of finding something better. To

find opportunities. But that's where we realize the potential we have, and we convince ourselves that we have everything we need to achieve it (it's all about attitude). I never imagined, or planned, that I would arrive in this country, but when I arrived here, I could not fathom the impact that this change would cause in my life. Without a doubt, this change went well because I found, and I will continue to find, more opportunities. Especially now, since I have more knowledge and do more of what I like.

I do not know who you are, I do not know what your name is, I do not know how old you are, I do not know where you come from, I do know where you are going, nor do I not know what your dreams are in this life, but there is one thing that you think is possible for you to do. It is possible in the way that you think it is. Remember that we all have struggles, struggles that we want to face alone. Young people with aspirations, with dreams, hopes, and young Latin desires like me. Today they are

part of this society, young people who want to help make this country grow, without there being barriers of hatred or prejudice. I cannot predict the future to tell you how successful you will be, doing what you've dreamed of as a child. We can all break stereotypes based on how they are classified, we should not let expectations become our reality. We should not be satisfied with the limitations that others put on us. We will always find people in our way to judge and make expectations, however, we have the ability to show them

that they are wrong.

I am not an expert in this journey that we call life, and I've made, and continue to make, mistakes a thousand times. The important thing is to learn from them. I will doubt, sometimes I will succeed, I will lose, and I will win. This is life without instructions, you create your own story.

We just need to know what we can do. We can achieve what we want with courage and awareness because life is delivered in an extraordinary way to those who work in an extraordinary way.

KIARA'S SURVIVAL GUIDE: WINTER EDITION

KIARA GELBMAN



As we near February break, which is right around the corner, the cold New York winter continues to surround us. While some love the cold winter where they can "layer up" and get warm, others despise the low temperatures. For those of you who are tired of the cold, do not worry, we are more than halfway through the school year and summer is coming. For the interim, here are some tips on how to get through the rest of the winter.

Stay Warm! After feeling as cold as a snowman all day, there's nothing like walking through the door and getting warm. How? Well, for those of you who know me, I love to wear beanies and fuzzy socks both inside and outside. As you bear the cold, bundle up in hoodies, flannels and warm sweaters. After talking to students, I've found that a common favorite is also soft pajama pants and getting cozy under a blanket that is as

soft as a cloud. In addition to warm clothing, hot drinks is another crowd pleaser. Hot chocolate is the favorite amongst most students. From homemade hot chocolate to starbucks to dunkin donuts and others, all warm our hearts and our bodies.

Get out of the house (indoors)- Don't get cabin fever and be sure to get out of your house when you can. As new movies premiere throughout the winter, head to the theatre in town, relax in a reclining chair and enjoy the show. If you're feeling competitive, challenge a bunch of friends in arcade games (my personal favorite being air-hockey). You could go to Dave and Busters, Round 1 at the Broadway mall, or choose from many other options. You can also bowl or sing karaoke. For those of you who are athletic, go to a local hockey game (yes, there are local hockey games although it is an uncommon sport on Long Island) and if you feel inspired see if your local rink has an open stick and puck session and try skating and playing hockey for yourself.

Get out of the house (outdoors) If you're feeling adventurous, put on some jackets and brave the outdoors. Locally, get a group of friends together and head outside for a winter photoshoot. Between the snow and the winter fashion, you will both look and stay cool. If the snow finally comes, head outside,

go sledding, build a snowman, have a snowball fight or my personal favorite, make snow ice-cream! I know it sounds weird, right? I've made it before and it's delicious. Find some fresh snow, add lots of milk, vanilla, maple syrup and then mix it together. The polar bear plunge is also a favorite for the most adventurous of us. Don't freeze up and raise money for charity by "bearing" the cold and jumping into local bodies of water. If you're traveling, head up to the mountains and try snowboarding or skiing. If you are not a fan, relax at the lodge. Whether you conquer the slopes or not, be sure to get a waffle from Waffle Cabin and a hot drink like apple cider.

Staying Inside- If you want to stay warm within the comfort of your own home, relax, watch a movie, draw, or try some of these other ideas. Baking allows you to make something from scratch, decorate it, and best of all, eat it when you are finished. If you feel like sharing, invite some friends over and have a movie marathon or avoid getting bored with a board game tournament.

Embrace the cold weather outside and enjoy the rest of winter. If you run out of things to do, count the snowflakes, which in New York could either take no time or a really long time but do not worry, summer is coming.

SMASH HIT OF 2019: HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOLERS BRAWLING OVER SMASH ULTIMATE

RORY BOCELLI

December 7th was a legendary sort of day. It was a heavily anticipated day for nerds, geeks, absolute dweebs, gamers, casuals, and all teens alike. December 7th was the release day of the notorious fighting game Super Smash Bros: Ultimate for Nintendo Switch. Starting that day with no intention of stopping, there was an influx of students bringing their Switches to school with the game pre-ordered

“As time has progressed, it seems as though students are only playing more Smash Bros... HHS has a case of Smash fever.”

or already bought that morning. Senior Daniel Thompson was quoted saying, “I’m going to spend my senior lunch going to GameStop and buying it.” And he did. To say the least, it was highly coveted from day one.

Now, what is Super Smash Brothers? Originally released in 1999 for the Nintendo 64 Home Console, Super Smash Bros. was an ambitious title coming from the highly innovative game company Nintendo. Known for its many mascots



Critical Hit Graphic for Earthbound: An NES game represented in the Smash Series and another popular work of Smash Brothers Director Masahiro Sakurai.

and differing series, Smash Bros. brought 12 iconic characters together to be pinned against each other in four-player combat experience. Instead of fighting on a flat plane like in games such as Mortal Kombat, most Smash Bros. stages had unique layouts using different structures and platforms to change strategy. These stages are, of course, all decked out from every series featured in the game. Games featured in the original included Super Mario, The Legend of Zelda, Pokemon, Donkey Kong, Yoshi, Star Fox, F-Zero, and even the up and coming RPG title Earthbound. Nowadays, there are so many more series featured including but not limited to Animal Crossing, Final Fantasy, Street Fighter, Kid Icarus, and even Wii Fit of all things. The Smash community grew more and more with every game’s release, creating a competitive scene for every game starting from the original’s sequel Super Smash Bros. Melee. Ultimate is the fifth title in the franchise, and

it has been highly anticipated due to its main staple of being an “ultimate” game with everything fans could ask for.

The first main trailer for Ultimate spouted the tagline “Everyone is Here” referencing that all fighters in Smash history would be playable. This was the start of the Smash Ultimate “hype train”. One flaw with Smash Bros. games is that hardcore fans of them are divided over which games are best, mainly due to playstyles changing between each release. Ultimate aimed to appease all players of all games, and the reviews so far seem to state that it has done a great job. The competitive scene is exploding at the seams, and it’s still fun for casual players. Boasting a sim-

ple story mode called World of Light and multiple different ways to battle, Smash Ultimate can appeal to anyone who picks up a Joycon.

This is exactly what has happened in Huntington High School. Certainly, it is possible to see at least one student with a Switch on their person per day on the school grounds. The Switch excels with its easy to transport design and simplicity to pick up and play, making it ideal for a student to use after finishing work early per se. Smash rounds can also be set to a certain time and usually will not last much longer than five minutes, which makes them an excellent choice to play in a short moment of downtime. Additionally, the Switch’s aforementioned at-

tached controllers, or “Joycons,” can be taken off with ease and given to a friend to play a round. It’s a great social tool, so long as students are not using it during class time. As time has progressed, it seems as though students are only playing more Smash Bros. To be frank, I bought the \$300 system that came bundled with the game solely to have it, and I quite enjoy maining Toon Link and K. Rool. I see no reason why a teenager would not be drawn to play this game full of cartoon violence, pumping their adrenaline as they combat their friends.

So simply, HHS has a case of Smash fever. If you have some free time and your friend has a Switch, maybe try a game or two. You may be surprised at how fun the game is, even if it is new to you. And, for the Smash veterans in this school, just keep in mind that your education comes first.

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SUGAR, BUTTER, FLOUR

A REVIEW OF WAITRESS THE BROADWAY MUSICAL



HANNAH BAILIN

Sugar, butter, flour. The mantra fills the theatre and is ingrained into my mind the second the curtains open. A spotlight hits the stage. Donned in a blue waitress uniform and white apron, the lead continues to sing the names of these three ingredients. Mass amounts of sugar are poured into a mixing bowl, followed by a drizzling of melted butter and a flourish of flour that clouds the air.

The opening number left me hungry. Not hungry for sugar, butter, and flour, but for pie. If you've never seen *Waitress* on Broad-

way, let alone the movie drama, you probably wouldn't have known that these three ingredients are referenced throughout the show whilst Jenna Hunter-son is making her renowned pies.

The story takes place in the rural South where Jenna works as a waitress at a pie diner. She unexpectedly gets pregnant and finds herself in an affair with her gynecologist, which acts as an escape from her unhappy marriage. If you're thinking you'd never go to see this on Broadway, I thought the same. I never really expected to buy a ticket to this specific show, but I found myself

in Times Square, with a friend, taking a chance on a Broadway musical that had decently priced tickets at the TKTS booth.

What really got me hooked on the show were the small details that gave the musical its own homey aura. The stage curtain was cherry pie patterned, the golden crust criss-crossing over a gleaming red filling that covered the entirety of the fabric. Looking to the sides of the stage, there were tubes of assorted pies reaching all the way to the theater ceiling, mimicking the refrigerated dessert displays you would find in a typical diner. And last

but not least was the fully functional neon diner sign, glowing as it suspended above the actors every time a scene took place within the pie diner.

Overall, the show was very well-rounded because of the outstanding abilities of the entire cast. The depth and range of the lead's vocals left shivers down my spine, specifically during the number, "She Used to Be Mine." I really have to say it again, but *Waitress* has a very amazing and talented cast. You wouldn't even know if there were two understudies, unless you happened to look at the little square paper making the announcement in the playbook. The night I saw *Waitress*, there were understudies for the roles of Dr. Pomatter and Ogie, and their performances were phenomenal. The actor who was playing Dr. Pomatter fit into his role very well, and kept up the same energy as the other performers alongside him. The same goes

for the actor who played Ogie, but I have to add that his dancing performance in "Never Ever Getting Rid of Me" astounded the whole audience. Who knew a person can jump that high while doing a split (about two or three feet)! I also cannot leave out the versatile instrumentalists that are among the cast of *Waitress*. The cellist for instance, who could also play acoustic and electric guitar, caught my attention straight away. Probably because I, myself, play the cello.

There's so much more for me to say about *Waitress*, but if I were to sum up my whole experience in a few words, it would be "So that's what Broadway magic is." I know that's a little dramatic, but this was the first show that has outdone the others that I've seen. Still, if you don't believe me, and are into Broadway shows, you should go see it for yourself. I can tell you this, you won't be disappointed!

BANDERSNATCH

KEVIN O'DONNELL

"The story heavily focuses on the themes and ideas of free will with plot point that can warp an entirely different story..."

Black Mirror: Bandersnatch needs no introduction as it has had the limelight of Netflix users for the past few weeks due to its new and innovative gimmick, that being an interactive story. This interactive story takes its form through the use of constantly appearing binary decisions

that can influence the outcome of said story, and yes, there are tons of different outcomes. The story itself takes place in 1984, following a young programmer named Stefan Butler who wishes to create a game in the same vein as a book he is reading. The book is called *Bander-*

snatch and is written by Jerome F. Davis, a writer turned murderer after his work drove him mad. Stefan ends up getting an opportunity for a job at one of the lead video game publishing companies in his country and this is where it all starts spiraling for him, with you at the wheel. The

story heavily focuses on the themes and ideas associated with free will, with plot points that can warp an entirely different story for the player. This is a very fitting theme to focus on as it ties in with the gimmick of decision making done by the...

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...person watching, and not Stefan himself showing how he is not truly in control. This creates more of a bond between Stefan and the player, thusly invoking more of an emotional response and “edge of your seat” type of reaction while playing. With this in mind, the story isn’t afraid to go on tangents. It does a good job of resetting your position, which often leaves you questioning even more after the faux ending than

before you decided to choose it. Overall, Bandersnatch is an expertly crafted story made possible with help from immersive, yet simple, binary decisions woven throughout the story. It alone easily justifies getting a Netflix subscription, and I am now sure that they have realized the market they uncovered will enable them to be making more of these interactive stories in the future. With this, Bandersnatch truly has earned a 5 out of 5.



THE CULTURE LIL UZI VERT IS QUITTING MUSIC

LUCAS KELLY

The rapper Lil Uzi Vert announced via Instagram that he would be taking a break from music. Uzi declared on his Instagram story, “I wanna take the time out to thank each and every one of my supporters, but I’m done with music I deleted everything I wanna be normal...I wanna wake up in 2013.” The post generated numerous memes online mourning the loss, which immediately enraged his fanbase previously anticipating new content with their favorite rapper. The announcement comes weeks after Lil Uzi said, during a concert in December, declaring that he would be releasing his sophomore album, *Eternal Atake*. Before the concert, Uzi released snippets and visuals of his future album. It isn’t certain if his post is



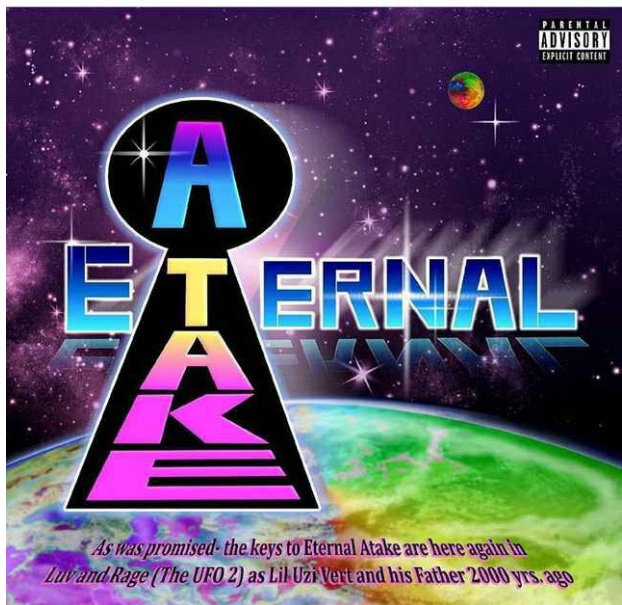
for attention or publicity for his upcoming album. Nonetheless, Lil Uzi Vert has a history of discontent with the music industry, and the year 2013 was a different time in the rappers life. Since 2015, Uzi Vert has been signed to DJ Drama and Don Cannon’s Generation Now label, a division of Atlantic Records. Following the delay of Uzi’s album, *Luv Is Rage 2*, he went to social media to rant. Uzi said, “Can I honestly tell y’all why this album ain’t drop,” he posts. “It’s because of a Old Person who doesn’t Understand what’s going on right now.....Can You Guess Who?” That old person is suspected to be the label’s head, DJ Drama. Recently, Lil Uzi’s feature in Shabazz PBG’s *Shells* revealed his feelings about Atlantic Records. Uzi raps, “Tryna figure out how I’m gon’ get out my deal/I’m a bad boy, a reverend,

I feel like I’m Ma\$.” Uzi expresses his desire to escape his record deal with Atlantic. The 90s rapper Ma\$e dropped out of Puff Daddy’s record company to follow his passion for faith, becoming a reverend. However, five years later, Ma\$e released his comeback album returning to his music career. Most recently, after the Instagram post, the rapper explained that *Eternal Atake* hasn’t been released because of his label.

He continued by making a comparison between signing a record deal to snitching. I don’t think Lil Uzi is retiring, but he is looking for an escape from his record, and his work hints his distress. Uzi is an artist who may feel trapped in his record deal, and his unexpected Instagram post is only an act of frustration. *Eternal Atake* will see the light of day.

 liluzivert

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REVIEW OF *MONO* BY RM

MELISSA TORRES

Kim Namjoon, also known by his stage name RM, is the leader of South Korean boy group BTS. In October 2018, he released his “playlist” titled *mono*. This is his second solo project following his self-titled mixtape RM, released in 2015. RM’s decision to call *mono* a playlist is deliberate and impactful. Typically a playlist consists of songs with a general vibe. RM succeeds in creating a body of work with the themes of self-reflection, healing, and love. A playlist made for walks in the park, a crisp autumn day, and lonely winter nights. If you are looking for chill indie music with outstanding lyricism and reflection, *mono* is just for you.



tokyo: The first track of an album, or playlist in this case, works to set up the mood and theme. *tokyo* has a melancholic feel and creates an atmosphere that perfectly sets up one of the major themes of *mono*. The song begins with the sounds of Tokyo, almost as if it is the thoughts of someone walking in the city during the early hours of the day. The lyrics express the confusion we can have about ourselves and RM’s chilling vocals shows the woes and brooding of such complicated feelings. The whistling at the end shows that RM has not yet reached an answer for his thoughts, but he continues to walk the city landscape of Tokyo.



seoul (prod. HONNE): A more upbeat but calming track, *seoul* is produced by English electronic music duo HONNE and works with a love/hate narrative. The lyrics seem to be a homage to city life and how RM has changed from his childhood. The city life is drastically different from what he experienced as a child, and he realizes that his childhood is long gone. He portrays the concept that love and hate are related to one another by showing the dark and bright sides of Seoul, his home. Seoul has given him the opportunities to prosper as a musician, but he can not seem to shake the ugliness of the city. However, he realizes that his love and hate produce harmony. By talking about his everyday experience, the lyrics come alive and cause the listener to visualize his complex feelings for Seoul.



moonchild: The third track places RM’s vocals at the forefront, something that he has never done before in solo projects. The song is dedicated to the moonchildren, people who suffer alone, but rise during their darkest periods of their lives. RM sings to us that pain cannot be avoided, but reminds us that it is okay to be sad. The lyrics tell us that some people find their greatest moments during the darkest period of their lives, hence the imagery of the moon rising. The moon serves as a source of comfort and encourages the listeners to rise. Insightful and poetic, *moonchild* is my personal favorite.

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MUSIC



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badbye ft. eAeon: The fourth track is a collaboration between a long-time friend, eAeon, and is the shortest track in the playlist. It is clear that the song is in the style of eAeon, considering his band's albums are dark and eerie. Since *badbye* has minimal lyrics it seems to end all too soon. With such explicit lyrics, the song emphasizes a farewell that was not on good terms, and suggests that farewells can signal loss. The track serves as a transition to the latter half of the playlist and brings forth the final themes of *mono*.



uhgood: The title of the fifth track is a play on words. *uhgood* is supposed to sound like the Korean word uh-geut, and gives away its two meanings: to fall short of expectations, and to miss each other by taking different routes. RM describes the complex feelings of loving yourself and also being disappointed in yourself. He contrasts the wishful thinking to the harsh reality and goes back and forth with himself in the lyrics. It is simply not enough to say a positive message of acceptance because it is painful and scary to be disappointed by who you are. Still, in the end, RM pushes himself to discover his true self even though disappointment is inevitable. For him the disappointment does not matter, he just wants to see his true self. A sad and insightful track that listeners can relate to, *uhgood* is chill, melancholy, and relaxing.



jinaga with Nell (everythingoes): The beginning of the sixth track is hopeful and warm. RM starts off with his slow rapping and climaxes to his powerful and emotional rap. The instrumental adds a build up as well, and the song finishes off with his soothing rap and reverb. The chant "everything goes" throughout the song serves as comfort to the listener that everything passes, times goes on, and suffering ends. RM reminds us that the one constant in life is that it keeps going and life stops for no one. The lyrics say we should embrace, accept, and take in every single thing in our lives. With the final seconds of the track including the sound of rain, it makes the perfect transition to the last and final track of *mono*.



forever rain: The last track on *mono* is poetic and profound, with lyrics presented in a striking matter that causes the listener to reflect. It is vital that the listener watches the music video that accompanies this track because it is filled with imagery that perfectly captures the feelings and emotions of this song. Following everythingoes, this track opens up with the sound of rain and a piano. RM explores the thoughts and feelings that follow the rain. As the rain pours, he finds comfort and a friend, but is also reminded of his melancholy thoughts. He personifies the rain as a friend who taps on his window and evokes a sense of reflection. It is not enough to just read about forever rain, the listener must experience it. If I were to recommend any song off this playlist that perfectly captures its mood and theme, it would be forever rain.

Listen to *mono* on iTunes, Apple Music, Spotify and SoundCloud. Watch the music videos for forever rain, moonchild, and seoul (prod. by HONNE) on YouTube!

(Translation of lyrics referenced from doolsetbangtan on Twitter)