

# EL DIABLO

Voice of the Students



## BACK TO REALITY

Durango High School Issue 1 Volume 64 October 2018

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## Letter from the editors

Welcome to El Diablo's first issue of the 2018 school year and our first magazine issue! Our transition was made in the hopes of greater room for creativity in our design and a more reader-friendly layout.

A few changes you'll notice beyond the new format include the absence of the news sections. We felt that a news section was not conducive to a publication that only releases issues six times a year. This year, our content will be more features-heavy. Our arts section has been renamed arts and literature. Along with old favorites like the art chart, this new layout will include submissions from creative writing classes, photos from the photography classes, and other pieces by NAHS.

To all of our readers, thank you for bearing with us as we experiment with a new design and as we continue to grow as student journalists. We hope you enjoy El Diablo's new look and we are looking forward to a new year!

Sincerely,

Emma Jaber, Haley Szczech, and Caroline Knight

### *El Diablo*

Voice of the students and official newspaper of Durango High School.

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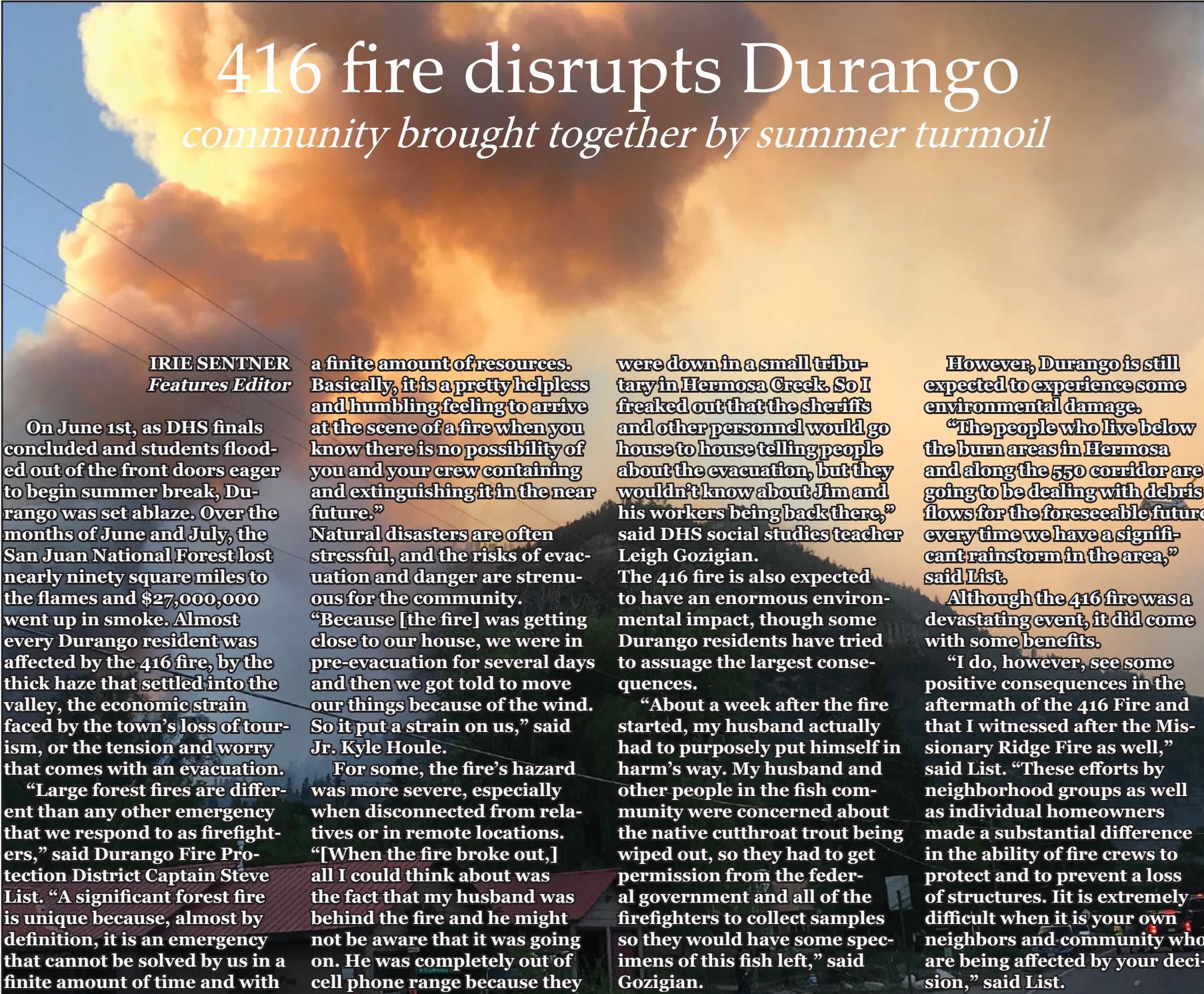
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# FEATURES

## 416 fire disrupts Durango *community brought together by summer turmoil*

**IRIE SENTNER**  
*Features Editor*

On June 1st, as DHS finals concluded and students flooded out of the front doors eager to begin summer break, Durango was set ablaze. Over the months of June and July, the San Juan National Forest lost nearly ninety square miles to the flames and \$27,000,000 went up in smoke. Almost every Durango resident was affected by the 416 fire, by the thick haze that settled into the valley, the economic strain faced by the town's loss of tourism, or the tension and worry that comes with an evacuation.

"Large forest fires are different than any other emergency that we respond to as firefighters," said Durango Fire Protection District Captain Steve List. "A significant forest fire is unique because, almost by definition, it is an emergency that cannot be solved by us in a finite amount of time and with

a finite amount of resources. Basically, it is a pretty helpless and humbling feeling to arrive at the scene of a fire when you know there is no possibility of you and your crew containing and extinguishing it in the near future."

Natural disasters are often stressful, and the risks of evacuation and danger are strenuous for the community. "Because [the fire] was getting close to our house, we were in pre-evacuation for several days and then we got told to move our things because of the wind. So it put a strain on us," said Jr. Kyle Houle.

For some, the fire's hazard was more severe, especially when disconnected from relatives or in remote locations. "[When the fire broke out,] all I could think about was the fact that my husband was behind the fire and he might not be aware that it was going on. He was completely out of cell phone range because they

were down in a small tributary in Hermosa Creek. So I freaked out that the sheriffs and other personnel would go house to house telling people about the evacuation, but they wouldn't know about Jim and his workers being back there," said DHS social studies teacher Leigh Gozigian.

The 416 fire is also expected to have an enormous environmental impact, though some Durango residents have tried to assuage the largest consequences.

"About a week after the fire started, my husband actually had to purposely put himself in harm's way. My husband and other people in the fish community were concerned about the native cutthroat trout being wiped out, so they had to get permission from the federal government and all of the firefighters to collect samples so they would have some specimens of this fish left," said Gozigian.

However, Durango is still expected to experience some environmental damage.

"The people who live below the burn areas in Hermosa and along the 550 corridor are going to be dealing with debris flows for the foreseeable future every time we have a significant rainstorm in the area," said List.

Although the 416 fire was a devastating event, it did come with some benefits.

"I do, however, see some positive consequences in the aftermath of the 416 Fire and that I witnessed after the Missionary Ridge Fire as well," said List. "These efforts by neighborhood groups as well as individual homeowners made a substantial difference in the ability of fire crews to protect and to prevent a loss of structures. It is extremely difficult when it is your own neighbors and community who are being affected by your decision," said List.



# PCC UPDATE

HAVENS WEBSTER  
Reporter

This year, the Durango High school campus created a partnership with the Pueblo Community College by making a campus in the west wing. This will also be convenient for DHS students who choose concurrent class enrollment, as they won't have to drive all the way to Fort Lewis College.

"By offering concurrent enrollment both with PCC and Fort Lewis College, students who wish to earn college credits in advance can do so covered by the district," said Durango School District 9-R superintendent Dan Snowberger.

The students attending this campus are not all DHS students. It is an open enrollment for all wanting to either take concurrent enrollment or broaden their education.

"70% of the students attending PCC are our own DHS students...we have some from Big Picture and some students in our Gateway program which allows them to take college and high school classes at the same time to get their diploma while starting college," said DHS principle Jonathan Hoerl. The campus is not just for DHS students, but anyone needing to take college classes and anyone wanting to take be concurrently enrolled.

"Those classes that include non-DHS students are held in the west wing portion of the building. In a few cases, PCC faculty are teaching DHS students in DHS classrooms to support in offering classes that were requested by students," said Snowberger.

There are two PCC teachers teaching in DHS classrooms, one teaching English and the other teaching in the Early Childhood Education program. The non-DHS high school students include Big Picture students who are required to take a college course before graduating and students who have graduated high school that are looking for a cheap college option.

At DHS, there are many students wanting to take concurrent enrollment classes because it helps get college credits out of the way which saves lots of money for them and their families.

"We had an over request for the concurrent enrollment English class... the nice thing is that we can tell them we still have 25 kids wanting to take this course and they will provide us an instructor," said Hoerl.

The DHS students taking concurrent enrollment take classes in the DHS section where PCC provides the college professor to teach them. The students in the Gateway program or Big Picture students take their classes in the PCC section.

pass, which can cause issues with finding a place to park. The paved student lot costs \$40, and the dirt lot, shared with the teachers, cost \$25

Many students, like Sr. Kyle Phipps, who has a free first hour, are being affected in both positive and negative ways from the new parking policy.

"Finding parking is kind of like a gamble since I get there after first hour.

Students are racing to school to get the front row spots all for themselves. Parking spots are first come first serve this year, with a purchase of a student parking pass, which can cause issues with finding

ing with, a parking permit in any form will result in the loss of parking privileges on campus."

Some students, like Jr. Luke Ford, park in the dirt lot where they can escape the



Corbin Miller

With the new parking policy, it's less of a stressor to get your spot stolen; unless you're really set on snagging the front row spots.

a place to park. The paved student lot costs \$40, and the dirt lot, shared with the teachers, cost \$25

Many students, like Sr. Kyle Phipps, who has a free first hour, are being affected in both positive and negative ways from the new parking policy.

"Finding parking is kind of like a gamble since I get there after first hour. If there are available front row spaces, they are usually harder to turn into," said Phipps.

Seniors are no longer guaranteed a front row parking spot and could end up parking in the back, if closer spots are taken.

The majority of the parking lot consists of juniors and seniors, but as the year progresses, sophomores turning 16 begin to get their license.

"I'm definitely worried for later on in the year when more of the sophomores get their license, which might decrease the choices and availability for parking," said Phipps.

The new parking policy comes with updated, stricter regulations that students must follow in order to keep their privilege to park at school.

Registration Form, "A valid DHS parking permit is required for any student vehicle parked on school property. Parking permits are to be permanently located in the lower left corner (driver's side) of the front windshield. Removal of, or tamper-

shared parking lot with PCC, and pay less for a spot.

"The dirt parking lot is less stressful to park in compared to the student lot and has easier spots to pull into," said Ford.

While many students dislike and oppose the new parking policy, some students, like Jr. Kaylan Wait, are very happy with it and the benefits that it brings to their morning. "I got my parking pass late, but I can still get a parking spot everyday that I love," said Wait.

Open parking is not the only change to the DHS student parking lot; students are now sharing the lot with Pueblo Community College (PCC). DHS students are not allowed to park in the PCC designated spots.

Where PCC has their spots is where I prefer to park. Personally I would have wished PCC would have taken a back corner," said Phipps.

Because PCC has begun sharing the school in the west wing with DHS, parking spots are now needed for the students who attend the College.

DHS' new parking policy brings a new change to this year's students, as they have been familiar with a different parking arrangement. In previous years, seniors have always been in the front and second row spots for parking. This year's policy will take some getting used to for many of the students.

## Picky parking: New student parking policy strikes opinion among students

CORBIN MILLER  
Reporter

Students are racing to school to get the front row spots all for themselves. With a new parking policy starting during the 2018-2019 school year, students are allowed to park in whichever spot they like. Parking spots are first come first serve this year, with a purchase of a student parking



## New child care offered for Durango 9R staff, incorporates a new class for students

ELENA PARMENTER  
*Reporter*

You may have noticed the addition to our hallways alongside the Early Childhood Development class: the new learning center for children of 9R staff located here at Durango High School. All children of the staff of the 9R School District are able to attend, which provides staff with an accessible option for childcare while also providing a hands-on learning experience to students who are enrolled in the Early Childhood Development class.

Teachers will focus on improving basic skills while also providing a fun and relaxed atmosphere for the children.

Another goal of the center is to not only provide care but to be a high quality facility.

"We follow Colorado Gold Teaching Standards. I try to stress development and growth with my teachers so everything they do is meaningful," said Lyn Riley, the coordinator of the Early Childhood Development Program.

Daily activities are based around improving "social and emotional development," while also including "art, science, and math activities," said Riley.

Accompanying the learning center will be a new class called Introduction to Early Childhood Development, where DHS students can learn basic skills or childcare.

"They will observe how children learn and behave, find approaches for relating to young children, and plan developmentally appropriate curriculum," said Kenra Bonnell, the new teacher for the Early Childhood Development class.

Another problem for parents is finding an affordable and accessible daycare. The new addition of the learning center has provided high standard care that can help staff find ways for their children to be taken care of while on the job.

"It makes it easier being at work when you



*Elena Parmenter*

The addition of the Early Childhood Development Program has created a more convenient solution when it comes to daycare.

have an option like this," said Kristin Kramer, a 9R employee who has a child enrolled in the program.

By completing the two courses of Early Childhood Education, students can "apply for employment at an early childhood center as a teacher aide," says Bonnell.

This is a great course for students who are interested in working with kids after high school, and provides certification without having to take the class in college. "If [students] are interested in going into early childhood education careers they are getting hands-on practice," said Riley.

Students are also given many hands-on experiences and also interact with the

kids, doing things like a "physical game, exercise, or dance," Bonnell says.

Although the learning center was an ambitious, it paid off. "I really couldn't be more happy with the program," says Kramer.

"By working with a head teacher, students learn collaboration techniques and gain insights as they become more aware of who they are in the lives of children," says Bonnell.

The addition of the new learning center and Early Childhood Education course offer an unconventional learning experience that may come as a surprise to some, but prove they provide many benefits to the students at DHS and our 9R staff.

## 80% attendance: seniors face new policy

LUKE SWIFT  
*Reporter*

DHS has struggled with victims of senioritis for many years, but it seems the school district has found a cure. With the problem that the administration faces with senior attendance, the creation of a set policy was much needed to secure the academic future of students and the satisfaction of walking across the graduation stage. According to the DHS student handbook, this new policy states "Seniors who do not attend at LEAST 80% of classes will not be eligible for the graduation ceremony." However, to some, the detail of the policy may strike some questions regarding student schedules.

According to members of the administration, this policy would only apply to certain students who would have a very large number of unexcused absences.

"The way I look at this is basically a senior can still miss over two hundred and thirty classes and still walk at graduation," said assistant principal Darren Tarshis.

To some DHS graduates, their idea of what walking really means completely differs from these types of students.

"As a graduate of DHS, walking is one of the best memories I have and to think some kids are willing to give that up just to not go to class," said 2018 DHS graduate Jocelyn Earl.

Even though a student would have to miss a large number of classes, some students are raising questions about the specific details of the new policy.

"I was a little worried when I read the new policy, I had a chat with Deb [Mendenwalt] to explain to me that it does not include excused absences,

continued on page 5



continued from page 4

So definitely that the fact that I had to have that explained to me shows that its somewhat confusing. I mean 80% is very vague, that can mean a lot," said Sr. Quinn Griswold.

However, students did comment on how the policy should be a little more structured, communication wise.

"If DHS really wants to stop having kids ditch as much as they do, they must find a way to track the students and when they have been increasing their unexcused absences must be talked to and understand the consequence of what not walking really means," said Earl.

"They could have a percentage scale, like 5% of absences get a call home, but having that relationship from school



Luke Swift

Students arrive late to class, which will count as one of 80 unexcused absences.

to home is what is really important so families know where their kid is," said Griswold.

Usually we can see a specific group of students who are choosing to skip

class, however some teachers who are familiar with the senior attendance problem don't see that group pattern in the senior class.

"It's a strange problem because it's

not low achieving students... It's rich students, it's high achieving students who are prioritizing or finding something better to do with their time. I can realize that kids are just trying to do what they need to do, but it does get frustrating when you have to re-teach something when someone is always absent," said Sr. Government teacher Dave Weisfeldt.

The need for a new attendance policy that is more structured towards seniors allows for the school to get certain students back on track and make them realize the importance of being at school. But to some it may seem that this new policy should be phrased better to alleviate some stress that these seniors are put under by the vagueness of the new policy.

## Make room for the freshies!

### *DHS welcomes largest freshman class for third year in a row*

MADDY GLEASON  
Features Head

Every high school has cramped hallways and the best lunch spots, and with the addition of the freshman class this fall those space concerns have increased. This year, for the third year in a row, the biggest freshman class joined the Durango High School student population with about 1500 students. However, it's not the biggest class DHS has ever seen.

The school has made adjustments to the building in the past; in the early 2000's, they added the west wing to provide more classes and space for the growing student body to thrive.

"The incoming class would have to be really big to need to expand; when we added the west wing we had about 1500 students, so it would need to be a pretty big number to consider remodeling or a new addition," said security specialist Steven Kerchee.

The returning students at DHS have welcomed the freshman with open arms, but it's difficult not to talk about the space issues that are arising. Of course,

the freshman are not the issue. Only so many students can fit comfortably into a certain space.

"I don't have any problems with so many underclassmen other than their walking patterns in the halls. Three or four people in a horizontal line really doesn't work out. Plus, slow and steady does not win the race when you're trying to get to Calc on time," said Sr. Kylie Behn.

"Especially the freshman hall would get really crowded in the middle with many groups of people stopping abruptly in the middle of the hallway right in front of me, but it's hard to not take up a lot of space when the class size is over 300," said Jr. Kaitlyn Ashburn.

Perhaps it's just the fact that many spaces in the school are undiscovered lunch spots for students. It gets cramped very easily when many of the students are in one spot.

"The library has become more crowded at lunch than it has ever been. Trying to make a poster or study in the library is very difficult because there are almost no tables left," said Behn.

Not everyone wants to go out to lunch every day and the students may just have to make due with others in their favorite lunch spot.

The increased amount of students could either come from a larger amount of transfer students or perhaps just the growing population of Durango.

"Since we don't really have many school options in Durango, it makes sense that the number of students would increase," said Ashburn. w

It's possible more students are switching over from Animas High School or Liberty High School, but it's also possible that there are just more people moving to the area, thus more students attend DHS.

"Our school carries advanced classes, sports, and a ton of super spirited students to make up a great community. That's why DHS is growing," said Behn.

Along with limited space comes considerable safety issues, however this doesn't pose as big a threat as it may seem. In fact, despite the amount of students on campus, the groups are pretty evenly dispersed; not centered in

one space.

"I don't have any major concerns, but certainly if you have bigger numbers you have a bigger population, and should an event happen it just puts more people at risk," said Kerchee.

There is no real solution we can offer for this space issue without big budget cuts to make room for an expansion, but we're nowhere near the need for an addition to the building.

"The halls are constantly crowded, and I'm guilty of it too, but I think people need to pay less attention to their phone in that narrow area. People really need to work on moving out of the middle of the hallway if they want to have a conversation during passing period," said Ashburn.

It may be the nature of high schoolers that affects the efficiency of the passage to class. Nobody is going to run to their next class, but there's got to be a way to speed up the process a little bit.

"I think we should put on the announcements that every day is national speed walking day... but that probably wouldn't help either." said Behn.

## Librarian books new gig



Corbin Miller

Valeria Skarbek is the new DHS librarian.

CORBIN MILLER  
Reporter

As the new school year starts off, additions to staff are beginning to embed themselves in the Durango High School community. This year, the school is privileged to have a new librarian, Valeria Skarbek.

Skarbek was an English and language arts teacher for nine years, teaching in upstate New York, Connecticut, and online for Colorado Connections Academy. Before working at DHS, Skarbek worked at Fort Lewis College for four years, two of which were spent in the library.

Joining a new school community can be stressful and scary, but Skarbek has adapted very well to her new environment.

"My favorite thing about DHS so far is definitely the community and the staff. There's a lot of positivity and everyone is super helpful and kind, it makes it a great place to work," said Skarbek.

Many students, like Jr. Rebecca Bowers, one of Skarbek's library assistants, have been able to get to know her very well since she has joined the High School community.

"Ms. Skarbek is super nice, and

seems very enthusiastic about being part of the DHS community. She brings a good energy to the library," said Bowers.

Skarbek is very appreciative of how helpful and talented her current assistants are. She recognizes all the hard work they help her with in making the library successful.

Skarbek is very excited to see what is in store for her this year.

"I'm looking forward to getting the library organized and getting more people in it to use it, so that people can find what they're looking for and helping classes and students get connected with the resources we have," said Skarbek.

She is working on a new book organization system so she can easily help students navigate the library for the books they are interested in.

"The library seems more organized and less cluttered than it has been the past two years. When I was her assistant, she was planning on getting some new material and was very interested in student requests, so I think there will be some changes to the type of material in the library as well," said Bowers.

This year's freshmen, like Maggie VanBuskirk, have been able to get to know Skarbek and how she plans to help students this year.

"I think Ms. Skarbek works fast and efficient, she definitely knows what she is doing. I think she will be very good for our school," said VanBuskirk.

Running the library comes with many responsibilities, including advising the DHS Yearbook and being able to teach classes using her past experiences.

"Being the librarian is a great opportunity to have a lot of responsibility and to be able to advance my career and work with a lot of students," said Skarbek.

She strongly believes that the library is a great resource for all students at the high school. With a new school year beginning, Skarbek is very excited to begin working with all the students at DHS and being able to help them with what they need.

## Chinese comes to DHS

EMILY FIALA  
Reporter

The 2018-2019 school year has begun here at Durango High School, and with it brought new faces to the school and new opportunities for the students. One of these never-before-seen classes is the new Chinese Mandarin language class, taught by DHS faculty member Ru Si. She is very excited to teach at DHS, and is even more excited for the future.

"People here are very kind and very supportive of each other. The teachers are very caring and the students are hard-working, and I think this will be a great environment for me," said Si.

Growing up in Beijing, China, Si is a native Mandarin speaker. She later went to college to study French and later went to France for four years to get her MBA. She really likes the French culture, and she has really loved teaching it.

"French is my personal passion. I love the country and the language, and I have worked with the language for many years," said Si.

She moved to Durango from Missouri and had ended up teaching and continues to teach Mandarin at Miller Middle School. Now she teaches both Chinese and French at DHS.

She is very excited to offer the opportunity for students to learn Chinese at the high school. Chinese has never been taught at the school before, and Si is very excited to be able to teach it for the first time.

"China is becoming one of the most important countries in the world, and I think it is very important to our students



Emily Fiala

Ru Si joins DHS foreign language department as a Chinese and French teacher.

to have the opportunity to discover the culture and learn the language," said Si.

One of her main goals for the new Chinese class at DHS is for the program to grow and for it to turn into a four-year course. Currently, the only classes offered are Chinese 1 and 2, introductory courses that explain the basics of Chinese language and culture.

Si wishes for her students to find a passion for the French and Chinese languages and cultures, grasping the ideas of each culture that will help build a globally minded DHS student body.

So far, students appear to be enjoying the new classes.

"I enjoy the class so far, I'm already able to ask a couple of questions and respond to them accordingly!" said So. Channing Syme.

"Ms. Si's teaching method is pretty cool because she doesn't just teach us the language but the culture as well," said Syme.

This new Chinese class offered at DHS is something that has never been offered before. With China growing more important every day in our modern world, it's about time that students have the opportunity to learn Chinese.

# We got that beat!

## School spirit at all-time high



Stevi Cameron  
Alyssa Robertson leads the DHS student section in a chant during a football game.

STEVI CAMERON  
Reporter

As the members of DHS are adjusting to their back to school rhythms, a common question seems to be appearing in their daily school lives: how can our school be more spirited?

In the few years that Mr. Hoerl has been the principal at DHS, we have seen an explosion of school spirit in the attendance of school events, dress up days, and enthusiasm of the student body. However, Hoerl and the new student

Directors of Spirit, Sr. Alyssa Robertson and Jr. Miles Bronson, are challenging the DHS community to bring our school-wide energy to the next level.

Robertson, notorious for being the front of every student section at all home games in a pair of red and white striped overalls, expresses passion for her new position.

"I love having school spirit and being loud and proud for something I believe in," said Robertson. Both administration and student directors have specific goals about how

they will increase school spirit and are already following through with plans to reach them.

"We're being very intentional about making sure school spirit is visible everywhere you go," said Hoerl. "We are looking for ways to continue to build culture and climate."

Many returning students have noticed the addition of red and white walls -- filling the halls with school colors -- along with the red sea day every Friday. Another objective is to gain more underclassmen involvement in school activities, like Homecoming.

"I love high school because of how happy people can be and how much pep there is," said Fr. Zach Robinson.

The spirited culture of DHS rubs off on the new staff and freshman alike, making them feel welcomed and eager to participate.

Hoerl also noted that as students see their peers triumph in theatre productions, sports, band, and other extracurriculars, it shapes the year in terms of spirit.

"There's always a little extra excitement when your teams are successful," said Hoerl.

Volleyball, along with other team sports and activities invoke spirit in the players, staff, student body of all grades, and increases the spread of school spirit. The teams simply require the excitement and support at their games. Sr. Taylor Wolf, volleyball team captain, explained that her team feeds off of the high energy of the audience at games and to get more attendance, her team needed to be successful.

"When we have a loud crowd that is paying attention and doing cheers, it makes everyone smile and have fun. And we play better when we are having fun," said Wolf.

Robertson agrees that the desire for victory is a key factor to gaining more student body excitement, but wants to turn it around to create more contests within the school. This includes fundraising competitions and class competitions with possible rewards at the end

as incentives. Robertson's theory is that competitions will motivate everyone to participate in their school and therefore be more spirited.

"I think if we create more competition it will create more school spirit because everyone is involved and everyone wants to win," said Robertson.

While competition, school success, underclassmen involvement, and school wide awareness all continue to expand school spirit, a component that Hoerl has especially emphasized is to have genuine kindness.

"It costs nothing to be kind. And if we're kind to each other and supportive of each other then you're creating that environment that people want to be a part of," said Hoerl.

A main focus of administration this year is to encourage the Demon way in every interaction between DHS members. If positivity is created through kids building each other up instead of bringing each other down, pride in the school

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*"It costs nothing to be kind. And if we're kind to each other and supportive of each other then you're creating that environment that people want to be a part of."*

---

is expected to grow tremendously.

As a result of the amount of thought and work put into developing camaraderie and energy throughout DHS, the school's spirit, in addition to school events and opportunities to show enthusiasm, is looking forward to a fruitful year.

"School spirit is really so important because a lot of people are really low energy when they come to school and what school spirit is all about is changing that mentality," said Bronson. "Making sure everybody is loving our school and proud of our school. The Demon Way."

# Mike Cochran: New face in DHS Chem department

EMILY FIALA  
Reporter

Michael Cochran is sure in his element when it comes to chemistry. This new teacher here at DHS has had one heck of a life story. Traveling and working around the world, playing in a Division I baseball team, and growing up on the ocean are only a few aspects of his exciting past.

A Santa Barbara native, Cochran grew up on the Pacific, playing sports and surfing throughout his childhood.

"I played baseball, basketball, and football in high school. I loved to surf, and that's when I decided to go to the University of California, Santa Barbara," said Cochran.

While getting his degree at UCSB, he was offered to play on the college baseball team.

"Out of high school, I got offers to play baseball and football. I decided to take baseball because it was a Division I scholarship. I played center field," said Cochran.

After college, Cochran went into the environmental chemistry and geology workforce, travelling around the world to work.

"I liked working with the sciences when I went abroad, but I didn't like the working hours, the cubicles, having the

same sort of deal everyday. I love learning and hanging out with cool people, so I thought teaching might be cool," said Cochran.

After his cubicle job in Indonesia, Mr. C later went to Sweden, getting his first experience with teaching kids and handling a classroom.

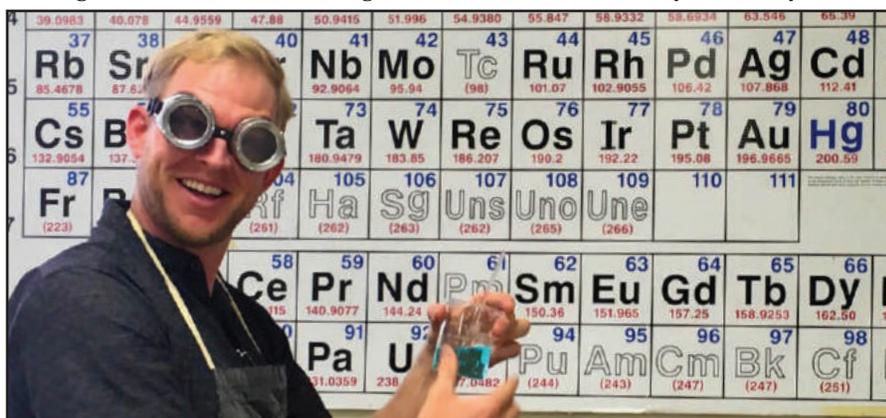
After being in Sweden, Cochran decided he wanted to become a science teacher so that he could influence kids to help them find a passion for sciences, especially chemistry.

He then moved to Durango. Even though he had an exciting past exploring and working around the world, he is quite happy teaching here in this small mountain town.

He loves the science department and working with the staff here at DHS. He also loves the students.

"My end goal is to get students excited to actually be here at school and to be in class...to try and make their day more enjoyable in school," said Cochran.

Mr. C's story is definitely one of a kind. Travelling around the world and getting to experience new cultures is something everyone wants to do, and Mr. C has done it all. Even though Durango doesn't seem as exciting as Australia or Indonesia, he is really happy to be here, sharing his Californian spunk and love of chemistry with everyone.



Emily Fiala

New chemistry teacher Michael Cochran stands in front of a periodic table.

# English Language Learners Student Interview



Grace Swanson

Jacqueline Ramos, Thalia Rodriguez, and Aizyana Cuevas Lopez.

GRACE SWANSON  
Features Editor

*Durango High School has programs for english learning students, yet we can also, as the demon community, work to make these students feel more comfortable here. As well as their transition to learning english easier, by simply showing support and helping when they are struggling with content, or a project you are working on.*

**Jacqueline Ramos; Sophomore  
16 years old  
First language; Spanish**

**Where did you live before you came here?**

I lived in Chiapas Mexico.

**What is your main struggles for you to go to a school that speaks a language you are still trying to learn?**

Mainly speaking English, I don't know what words to use. I struggled at first to understand what I was learning.

**What does DHS need to improve?**  
Maybe if they provided Spanish options or they can translate the work.

**Thalia Rodriguez, Freshman  
15 years old  
(Translated by Jacqueline Ramos)  
First language; Spanish**

**Where did you live before you came here?**

I lived in Chihuahua Mexico.

**How has our school helped you feel comfortable here?**

They translate the work in Spanish, or if they can they put someone who speaks Spanish in the class with me to translate.

**Why did you move to the US?**

Same as everyone else, there are more opportunities I guess.



## Durango bag check: *Backpack rule raises ageism concerns*



Chloe Bowen

Many teens feel that there is bias in this rule.

CHLOE BOWEN  
Reporter

Some stores in Durango Colorado, have a rule that when you walk in you are to leave your bag at the door, but some question if this rule applies to all ages. You leave your backpack at the door, in the watchful eye of an employee, and then you're free to go do your shopping. But as it turns out, this rule may have some flaws.

"I agree with the backpack rule because some teens do steal things, and even though not all teens do, Walgreens doesn't know the good kids from the bad ones," said Fr. Aryana Pylar.

"Some stores are doing the right thing by taking the small precaution of simply asking you to leave your bag at the door" said an anonymous Senior. The store most teens are obligated to follow this rule at is our local Walgreens. "They simply ask you to leave your backpack by the shopping carts, next to the sliding doors while you shop" said

an anonymous Sophomore.

"I agree with the rule but, I always hate putting my bag down because no one watches it and someone could easily take it," says Pylar.

Most younger customers disagree with the rule for various reasons: they're setting their things on the floor, by a door, where someone could easily snatch it.

"I think that it's not going to prevent people from stealing they can still put stuff in their pockets. And they're not trusting the people. They could make more of an effort to watch out for people stealing," said an anonymous freshman.

"We have this rule because when so many kids come in, it can be hard to keep track, and it makes it easy to steal when you have a backpack. The rule applies to everyone," said a manager.

"I know they say the rule goes for everyone, but I've seen women walk in with big purses, and never get asked to put their bag down. I've also noticed this at many other stores with the same bag rule" said an anonymous freshman.

Many other customers also say that they never see employees asking adults. This may be because adults are less likely to steal and an expectation towards an adult is higher than an expectation towards an adolescent.

"I get what they are trying to do with the backpack rule, but I think the rule definitely applies only to teens, I've never seen adults being asked to leave their bag at the door. I think they're targeting people under the age of 18 because that's the age of people you would expect to steal" said Fr. Jassy Lindsay.

Most people who voted that the bag rule is efficient also say that it could be biased.

"I think that it is inappropriate for them to be biased and only ask teens to leave their stuff at the door because the risk that an older person or a teen could potentially steal is equal depending on the person." said Fr. Stella Seashore.

## Fly me to the moon! *DHS Aerospace team takes second in national competition*

NATASHA POTECHKIN  
Reporter

the competition have found them to be great learning experiences.

"Out of everything I've done in high school, aerospace is by far the most real life and useful experience I've ever had," said DHS Jr. Madeleine Burns.

The Aerospace Team at DHS has done exceedingly well at all competitions, however, this year they did not bring

By a paper thin margin, the Durango High School Aerospace Design Team snagged second place at the international competition held in Orlando, Florida this past summer after bringing home a win in the summer of 2017.



Natasha Potemkin

The DHS Aerospace team celebrates their second place win as a team.

The competition, run by Anita Gale, has been won by DHS seven times in the last eighteen years. Thirteen students from Durango attended this competition as members of the DHS Aerospace team.

"I think it's a really great experience and everybody should do it. It was super awesome," said Denzel Farmer, a sophomore who attended the competition.

Competitors are from all over the globe, with teams coming from Pakistan, India, and the U.K. Teams are placed into four different 'companies' which go on to design and propose a space settlement to judges and CEO's of real life companies.

"I took away how to work with other people and how to make sure everything gets done. Leadership, too, which I think is really useful in every aspect of life," said Farmer.

The competition puts students in realistic situations, and while they may be stressful, those who have attended

home a win.

"Last year we had jaw dropping visuals. I really think they just don't want Durango to dominate" said Sabine Furtauer, the sponsor of the team.

For this coming year, Furtauer plans to keep the preparation for the next competition the same as usual.

"My role is more as a coach than a teacher, but one thing I'm hoping to do this year is find someone who's interested in doing technical drawing," said Furtauer.

The team isn't perfect but they have been the most consistent team there. The members have an understanding of what it takes to work hard, even if that means staying up all night just to get calculations as precise as possible.

"Durango is certainly the strongest team there year after year. I'm not exaggerating the team's abilities. They've won seven times!" said Furtauer.

# Personal competency based learning: *Durango 9R adopts new learning system to benefit students*

MIA BOUDREAU  
*Lifestyles Editor*  
MARGAUX NEWBY  
*Reporter*

For years, Durango students have been learning the same way, within the same type of schooling system. However, this may soon change, especially for up and coming students.

Many states have started implementing a system of 'Personal Competency Based Learning' within their school systems to ensure that all students are prepared for the next level of schooling and can demonstrate their learning in college, their career and the community. PCBL encourages strong student-teacher relationships and collaborative learning. One of the system's main purposes is to make sure every individual student gets exactly what they need to be successful, as well as have to ability to follow their own personalized path within their education.

"We're transforming our education system into something that will prepare kids for the future; we're really preparing students for jobs that don't exist today," said 9R superintendent, Dan Snowberger at a public informative meeting about PCBL.

The aspirations for a PCBL education system are that it would be preparing students for their future, whether it is college or a career. The Durango 9R administration also hopes that it will provide students with an individualized learning plan.

"What we do know is that one size doesn't fit all. We really feel strongly that we have to have a system that allows every student to get to mastery," said Snowberger.

Along with individualized and personalized learning, PCBL systems allow students to have more of a choice in their learning as well as how they demonstrate it.

"The focus is effectiveness of how



*Mia Boudreau*  
From left to right: Leanne Garcia, Dan Snowberger, Jacqueline Oros, and Dylan Connell in the Durango 9R administration building.

every student can be successful. Their own choice, their own voice, their own learning," said retired 9R teacher and member of the Board Of Directors of the Durango Education Foundation, Gretchen Wilson.

Instead of memorizing facts and information to pass a test, PCBL systems would allow students to demonstrate mastery in a personalized and unique way.

"PCBL puts the structures in place for students to engage and when appropriate accelerating their own learning. A student shows to the teacher through a variety of demonstrations that they have achieved or exceeded the standard. Once a standard has been achieved the student can move on to the next level/standard," said DHS teacher Robert Logan.

The Durango 9R board is already shifting towards a PCBL system. Changes are slowly being made, in hopes that one day Durango can be a fully PCBL school district.

"Three years ago, our board adopted

competency-based requirements, so the sophomore group today and freshman as well are subject now to demonstrate competency before they can walk across the stage," said Snowberger.

Part of the move towards a PCBL system is a change in graduation requirements. The current freshman and sophomores (as well as all classes coming after them) are experiencing new graduation requirements. A big change in the requirements is an increased amount of required community service hours which is supposed to give students a stronger sense of community as well as a stronger presence within it.

One of the main reasons that Durango 9R wants to switch to a competency-based system is because they feel like our current system is not working. They see many students not getting the education they need to succeed and not being prepared for the next level of schooling. They do however feel like the system is working for a majority of students, but they want to make sure that every single student is adequately prepared for their

next steps.

"We do really well with kids who have families who are supportive, who have the opportunity to travel, have the opportunity to be engaged in the arts, so our system is fine for those kids, but what we're finding is that more and more kids are from poverty, more and more kids are second language learners, and are not being successful. We can continue to educate a majority and let others fall behind or we can look at how can we ensure that we educate all," said Snowberger.

A central focal point of PCBL systems are the idea of educating the whole student body, and educating them all to the same degree of mastery.

Implementing this system into Durango schools would have both short term and long term benefits, according to DHS Principal Jonathan Hoerl.

"In the long run, we want to make sure students don't have significant gaps in their learning. In the short run, we want to make sure we have aligned important instruction that makes sense and values kids," said Hoerl.

There could be potential downsides, however. DHS students learning about this new system are recognizing how it could possibly be a way for students to do less work.

"I feel like the benefits could be from the kids who really struggle in school, this could be helpful to them, but kids who don't actually want to do work are going to fake what they can do and they are going to be put on a track that they shouldn't be in, just so they don't have to do more work," said Fr. Savannah Seale.

To learn more about PCBL education systems and the role that it will play within Durango schools and communities, there will be more public meetings at the Durango 9R administration building on Thursday, October 4th and Thursday, November 1st.

# Sports

## Boy's soccer welcomes award winning coach

STEVIE CAMERON  
Reporter

Durango High School soccer program has stood out in our fall sports as they bring home victories for DHS under their new coach Aaron Champenoy. The well-experienced coach is not only involved with DHS soccer, but is also the Assistant Athletic Director, working closely with Adam Bright and Ann Duft.

Champenoy may be new to DHS, but he certainly isn't new to coaching. In the last 15 years, he has coached at various colleges, including University of St. Thomas in Texas and Bellevue University and Hastings College in Nebraska, and before that, he coached at the high school level. He has helped establish collegiate soccer teams and led them through many successful seasons. Champenoy

even won the award of National Coach of the year in 2016.

"After the first week, it was pretty obvious we had a decent amount of talent to work with," said Champenoy, "We've got a good start and hopefully we can keep that going."

This season at DHS, Champenoy is coming in with an open mind about how the season will progress and what his players will be like. Though nervous at first about the team's reaction to his coaching style, Champenoy was able to gain respect from each of his players.

Soccer players, like Jr. Braden Lyons, forward, have very optimistic goals of the season, planning to keep working hard at every practice and take it one game at a time.

"I'm looking forward to bringing the program further than it's ever been before with

all the potential a new, highly trained coach can bring," said Lyons.

Lyons hopes that the team will do very well this season through their perseverance to maintain their current rankings.

Sr. William Lammons, a defender on the boys soccer team, discussed the hardships of getting a new coach his senior year because he knows that he will be saying goodbye soon without having built a substantial relationship over many years.

However, he explained that Champenoy had put in a great deal of effort to get to know every individual player showing the care he puts into it.

"He's pretty passionate about what he's doing and has a set vision so he is more organized about what he wants to achieve," said Lammons.

While establishing his

coaching job at DHS, Champenoy has also been recruited for the job of assistant athletic director.

"When there's just me here and thirty-five different groups it's tough to be at every single one all the time, so now there's two of us so everybody can get good service from us but also gets what they need to make it the best experience," said Athletic Director Adam Bright.

For the last two years Bright has managed the position with Ann Duft, however, now they have a new partner that can help relieve their workload. Champenoy will begin working more closely with student athletics and activities at the high school while Bright reaches out more to middle schools in our community.

"This gets us our first step to really creating a 'Durango 9R athletic department' not just

Durango High School," said Bright.

The addition of the assistant AD can help create positive change in DHS by bringing new ideas and supporting ideas that were brought up in the last couple of years in terms of athletics. Champenoy will also be able to help student athletes fulfill their desire to compete at a collegiate level since he has prior experience with it.

"We want to make sure that if any student athletes want to play in college we can help them get there and let the students know that there are more people that are there for them," said Champenoy.

Champenoy is seeking to support the students of DHS in anyway he can and help to make our athletics department even better.



# Demons Softball: *more than a team*

CHLOE BOWEN  
Reporter

**D**urango High School established a softball program in 1999, and have steadily been building up the program ever since. This season's varsity softball team looked forward to their opening games at home, versus Fruita Monument High School, unfortunately, both games were lost.

"Everyone was very disappointed, and we all knew we could do better," said Fr. Sydney Flores. The lady demons went 13-12 their first game, losing a six run lead in the fifth inning, and 12- two their second game Saturday, August 18th.

"We could have used more energy on the field, as a whole, not just individually. I feel like we could definitely improve on finishing stronger," said So. Tori Raybourn. Even though the first game was tough, the Durango Demons quickly redeemed themselves and picked up the pace winning eight consecutive games after that.

"Our bats are really on right now, and we have been executing our plays better," said Raybourn. After winning against Hinkley High School 23-3 and 20-3 on Friday, August 24th,

**"I think we work really well together on and off the field, there isn't one girl on the team I would trade in,"**

**-Sr. Virginia Herr**

the team followed it up with 26-3 and 21- one wins against

Sierra High School, thanks in part to the freshman players. "So far as a freshman on the varsity softball team, I think we are doing really well. We all work as a team and have a good connection together, and with those connections, we are able to play well as a team. We have been able to win a championship, hopefully in the future we will win more," said Fr. Teagan Kehm. Despite losing 11-18 on Friday, August 31st, the team was able to secure 5-4 wins the following day, in order to win the Sheridan Tournament.

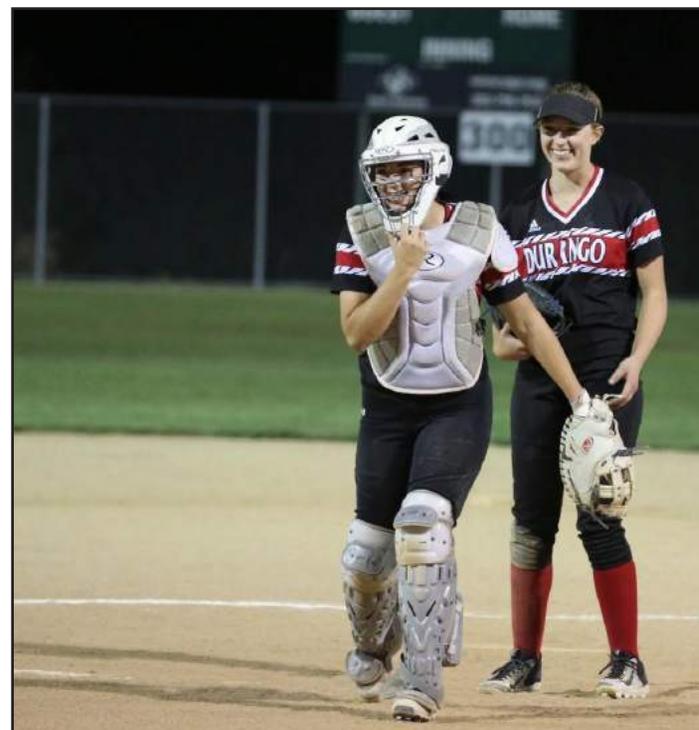
"I think a huge factor of our wins so far, is the team hitting very well, so it just becomes a domino effect, where one girl gets a hit and it just keeps going. Our goal for the season is to have a cleaner defense, and making good throws as

well," said, Head Coach Melissa Fundora. Often referred to as a mental sport, the girls rely on the trust and support of their teammates to succeed.

"My drive for softball is my team. I always want to do the best for them and not let them down," said Raybourn. In fact, nobody knows this to be true more than this year's seniors.

"I think that the season so far is going ok, I know we have the ability level to win more games then we have been. I think it has been coming down to our attitudes and endurance not our ability to play the game." said Sr. Virginia Herr.

"With this years group of ladies everyone gets along really well and they know what they need to do as a team to achieve their goals," said Coach Fundora.



Photos Courtesy of Debbie Wilhelm



# World Cup Recap: *France for the win*



*Photo Courtesy of Flickr*

KENDALL FLOYD  
Reporter

The 2018 FIFA World Cup had its highlights, as well as its downfalls, according to the student soccer players of Durango High School. The World Cup spanned from June 14th to July 15th and took place in the controversial location of Russia, with the American team noticeably missing.

“The American team is sad

and they didn’t make it for a reason,” said Fr. Mason Turner. The qualifying game took place in October 2017 against Trinidad and Tobago, and in order to qualify for the World Cup, the US Men’s Soccer team needed to at least tie, but the final score was 1-2.

“Belgium moves the ball like no other team. It has to do with the players: they’re called a golden generation,” said Jr. Leland Heinicke. Because of

the absence of America in this year’s World Cup, students began to look to different teams to root for, with some of the favorites being Russia, Germany, and France.

“I called France winning it,” said Heinicke. While France defeated Croatia with a score of 4-2 in the finals, many people do not realize that it takes more than just players to build a team.

“Belgium’s success has to

do with the manager, Roberto Martínez,” said Heinicke. Roberto Martínez has been Belgium’s team manager since 2016, and he led Belgium to a third place finish in this year’s World Cup.

“I did not enjoy watching Morocco and Iran play” said Jr Leland Heinicke. That game took place on June 15th, and with the final score being 1-0. Iran walked away with a close win. Fans enjoy fast and excit-

ing games that leave you on the edge of your seat, and since this particular game was very slow moving, fans were left unimpressed.

“It’s kind of sad that we’re such a big country and have so many people that we didn’t even qualify” said Jr Leland Heinicke. Part of America’s absence has to do with the head coach for the US Men’s team. He has been a part of the program since 1998, and many feel that his career peaked in 2002, the year the US Men’s Team finished second overall in the World Cup.

In addition, the tournament’s location left some frustrated “[Russia] is really controversial. I’ve heard a bunch of the games were rigged” said Fr. Jocelyn Feir. Although there are many speculations around rigged games, with referees being bribed in large amounts of money, nothing has been proven.

Others had a different mindset on the tournament’s location. “I think it was good for the Russian economy,” said Turner. While the World Cup will bring about a short term economic boost, there is no evidence that these effects will last long term. Russia has reportedly spent over \$14 billion towards hosting the tournament, but Russian President Vladimir Putin is hopeful that it will pay off in the end.

The 2018 FIFA World Cup was definitely one to remember! From the noticeable and unusual absence of America, to the success and popularity of teams that were previously underdogs in the soccer world. France was able to celebrate a huge win, and Belgium, one of the most popular team’s this year, had great management allowed them to do better than they ever have previously.



Photo Courtesy of Taylor Wolf

## Volleyball Preview: *what to expect from the Lady Demons*

MIA WHISTLER  
Reporter

The Durango High School 2018-19 girls volleyball season will definitely be one for the books. After hours of strenuous training over the summer, they are anxiously awaiting their league season and couldn't be more excited.

The girls on the team range from freshman all the way to seniors, however that doesn't stop them from working together. Acting as one, uniform team is a key element to winning games and DHS places a lot of importance on that. "We don't learn individually, we learn together and I think that's why we're so successful," said fr. Amanda Whidden. Although volleyball is seen as a physically demanding sport, mental strength plays a huge role as well. This years players are trying their best to look

forward and not dwell on their losses.

"This seasons success isn't counted by wins and losses, but by how the team comes together to work hard and try their best," Team head coach Colleen Vogt.

The seniors also feel the excitement and energy of the upcoming season. "I am very excited for this year because I'm a senior so it's kind of my last chance to make my mark and play with a team that I love" said sr. Taylor Wolf.

Wolf has been playing for the varsity team since her junior year and plans to continue to play, "I have an offer to play for Rocky Mountain College in Montana, and I'm very excited."

All the girls on the team are very competitive and consider their rival to be Fruita High School. The players and

## Life of a Sports Fan

Bekah Moenning



If you are someone who just doesn't get along with exercise, I highly suggest still getting outside and every once in a while, perhaps the easiest way to do this is a river trip. At the very beginning of summer 2018, I went on my first river trip ever. Travelling with close friends and family we went to an area close to Moab and the best weekend of my life began. Four boats, about 15 paddle boards and we were off down the Colorado River.

I didn't really know what to expect aside from a relaxing

coaches all agree that this is the team to beat this year and they couldn't be more excited. "Fruita is a very skilled team but I think if we work hard we can beat them this year" said Wolf. Luckily, the team already has a strong family like bond and has shown great improvement since the start of pre-season.

Varsity had a rocky start to their pre-season but they plan on coming back for league and playing like they know how too. "We've been a little off lately. All of us. But I think when the season starts we'll get back in our groove." said Whidden. The girls are constantly practicing and striving for greatness.

weekend on the river with people that I loved. It was so much better than that. It was the first time in a long time where I didn't feel stressed, I didn't feel anxious, and not a negative thought entered my mind. Now close your eyes. Imagine laying on a paddle board, the sun beating down on you warming the water droplets on your skin, murmurs of people you love around you, the water calm and cool against your legs hanging down and the distant sound of rapids flows in your head. This is what it was like. The peace I was feeling was almost overwhelming.

Not only are river trips relaxing, they get you away from the everyday bustle of life. They get you away from all the screens we are suffocated by daily. You aren't worried about not showering, you aren't worried about what your hair looks like, you're just living. Living in happiness.

I was having a conversation with a close friend of mine recently and we talked about the difference between living and existing. Before this trip, I felt like my life was almost

Their season isn't very long so they must start winning games right off the bat. "If we win our first game, I think our confidence will boost and our season will be off to a good start" said Wolf.

"Our biggest strengths are being aggressive, and serving, but we have to work on communicating" said Vogt. To do that such thing the teams have to know what to improve and what to continue to dominate in.

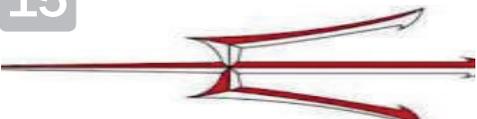
The teams are excited to play but some of the incoming freshman are feeling pressure and are getting nervous for the league to start. "I'm happy to be playing volleyball but I also get nervous that I'm gonna mess

at a stand still. Nothing was happening. But as soon as I left Durango and got onto the river, I felt like I could breathe again. This trip was full of laughter, falling into the river at inconvenient times, jumping off of cliffs into water that chilled your body, only to have the sun quickly warm your bones. When night would fall, everyone would come together for a game of cards, we would talk about everything and nothing and everyone was smiling for no reason, and every reason. The stars blanketed the sky, not a cloud in sight, and looking up at something so surreal and uncanny made me think that everything was going to be okay.

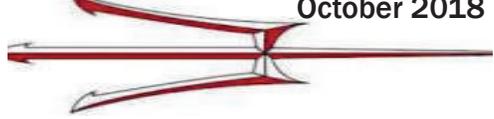
Being stuck inside, lost in overthinking is not healthy for anyone. Go outside and live. Stop just existing. This world is too big and too breathtaking to take advantage of. If I could, I would live on the river. I would stay away from all the stress everyone goes through everyday but we take what we can get. So take a river trip and discover what you have been waiting for.

up and everyone is going to be mad" said Whidden. Even though this will be Whidden's 3rd year playing, it's all new for her, along with the other freshman that make up the C team and some that are a part of JV.

This season is shaping out to be a good one, with some 'edge of your seat' games against their rival Fruita, and hopefully some victories. All the girls are happy to be playing this year and with each other especially. "I've watched the girls really come together and act as a family already, I think that together they'll be able to tackle this season," said Vogt.



# OPINION



Something I put together. I hope that this can get published in the school newspaper. I'm a fellow student only standing for what I think is right. I recently had a talk with one of the boys that goes to this school, and he thinks the clothes I wear aren't good enough and that he isn't proud of me when I wear these said clothes. I'm not at school to show off my clothes or body, but to utilize my right to an education so that I can accomplish great things in my life.

Thank you.

*This editorial is an anonymous submission by a DHS student. The story has been edited for length and clarity.*

"At least she wears outfits that make me proud to be with her." Society seems to boil down to this, with boys making girls feel not good enough to be seen with them.

Patriarchy dates back to the Neoliths Era from 4500 BCE-2000 BCE to present. Men took on the role of protection and hunting while the women stayed back, gathering anything they could find, or did any other work that the men didn't want to do, or couldn't do. Patriarchy then marked women as objects, trading and selling them. Expected to cook, clean, grocery shop, work, take care of kids, and do anything else that would help a man live a decent life. Why don't women get the same rights, opportunities, and voice as a man does?

Education is a big deal in my family. "Keep your grades up," work on this and that." We take education for granted sometimes, but I couldn't imagine not having the right to learn and pursue the life that I want. Having to be a housewife of a working man and stay home all day isn't even a lifestyle that crosses my mind as a possibility.

It wasn't until 1920, that women had the right to vote, which is still crazy to me. My grandparents were born in the

40's, meaning that only twenty years before they came into the world, women were still suffering from this inequality.

Females today are still seen as objects in every country, whether it is an underlying practice or a widely spoken belief. This objectification can come from the clothes women choose to wear. What I wear shouldn't determine who I am. Recently, I've heard that the clothes I choose to wear aren't making boys proud, that I am "whack". Why? What makes you think that I belong to you? I'm at school, not to show off my "perfect" outfit, but because I want to learn and go places. I want to be able to have my own life and do what I want, not to live under a boy who will be upset because I decided to wear a hoodie, to school, in the winter. I shouldn't have to prove my worth through my clothing choices.

For the most part, girls stick together. When asked their thoughts on this topic, they had some great things to say.

"This is ridiculous! What girls wear isn't his or any guys' business. Her clothes make him proud? Girl, wear whatever you want to wear because it is your body and he should be focusing on your personality not what you wear. And if the only reason he comes up with is "her clothes make me proud" then there obviously are a lot of things about you that are better."

Society likes to control what we wear, telling women to wear something that shows more skin or dress more "slutty," but as soon as we do, we immediately get shamed for showing off our beautiful, unique bodies. By the person that was asking us to show off?

"I was wearing shorts and a hoodie to run errands. I received a snapchat from the person that told me to be more confident in showing myself off, that if he was there, at the store, that he would walk behind me so no one else could look at me," said anonymous.

Is that all women are seen as, sexual objects? I hope not, but unfortunately that's what I think it's coming down to.

The Demon Way says that we will take pride in each other. Does that apply for boys? Because saying that you aren't proud to be around me, wearing what I want to wear, isn't taking pride, it's only putting me down. I'm sure I'm not the only girl who has witnessed this prejudice, but I want to be one of the first to step in, to take charge, and change things, so that Durango High School can live up to its reputation of being one of the best schools.

One of my biggest problems with society is that girls are forced to obey a harsh listing of rules that schools label as the "dress code," that really only applies to girls. When have you ever heard a guy say that shoulders are sexy?

Girls are forced to obey the dress code, but when we do, boys have the nerve to say they aren't proud, simply because we are following the rules. After a girl is not abiding by the dress code "properly," we are sent home or sat in the office until our parents, that have jobs so they can make money to put us in school and sports, can bring us a new change of clothes. Why should we be the ones sacrificing our rights to an education? And for what, because a boy gets distracted? Maybe we should start to change society to teach boys that women aren't objects, but an indestructible force when bonded together. We are strong women that stand for one another.

Durango High School prides itself on being a non-judgmental, anti-bullying, "picture perfect" school. With the growing population of the incoming classes, this seems to not be the case so much anymore. Women at our school and in our community are still suffering from judgment from the men around us. I would love to say that I changed the thinking of everyone around me, but that isn't reality. I hope I gave some insightful information regarding the recent patriarchal injustice that we can see peeking through the walls in our school.

How do you think you play into all this?

# “To me, it’s not just imagining myself in someone else’s shoes. It’s actually putting them on and walking a mile.”

## Opening myself up to new experiences, religious and otherwise



NATASHA POTEKIN  
*Reporter*

As lines between religion become blurred through the connection of people and things, former ideals become less black and white and opinions become more and more destructive. Tolerance for other people’s beliefs become low, and suddenly, it’s their way or the highway.

In the media, it’s easy to pin the blame on Christians or Muslims. Tweets and posts paint Christians as crucifying lunatics who believe that the bible is something that has no flaws and isn’t up for interpretation. The same can be said for Muslims, who are painted as terrorists who take innocent people hostage in

the name of God.

People have been afraid of muslims since 1979, during which the Iranian Hostage Crisis began. These fears were only perpetuated when 9/11 happened and in recent years, groups such as ISIS have been a large contributor to Islamophobia. Events like these have polluted the general public’s opinions of muslims and cast them in a dark light.

Similarly, the news tends to report on the Westboro Baptist Church, an example of extremists within Christianity. On the church’s website, the first thing that’s seen is ‘God Hates Fags’ and as the media sees continual messages of hatred and abhorrence, Christianity is in turn seen through half empty glasses.

As an agnostic myself, I grew up not understanding why people went to church or put their faith in god. I always saw it as silly, something people used as a support system when real life got too hard to handle.

I was quick to judge. Any time God came up in conversation, I became malicious in my opinions, claiming that there was no proof or reason to believe that there was a higher power at all. I saw religion, Christianity and Catholicism particularly, as a flaw in our world. It was the reason division occurred between groups of people and societies.

It wasn’t until my last year of middle school that I realized that I was becom-

ing the exact same person I had become so critical of, hateful and close minded.

I was sitting in my science class, debating with the class over the ethics of genetic modification when the conversation quickly devolved into a screaming match. Soon we weren’t arguing over science anymore, it was a matter of our personal beliefs.

All sides of the argument had made one claim or another, and I had to take a step away. I had to distance myself from my own ideas and look at the other side, and when I did, I saw what I had devolved into.

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“I had to distance myself from my own ideas and look at the other side, and when I did, I saw what I had devolved into.”

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Suddenly, I was the one preaching hate, claiming that someone’s beliefs were wrong. I was part of the problem. For the first time in I don’t remember how long, I listened. I heard what people were saying and digested it. As cliché as it sounds, I found God.

Of course, I didn’t suddenly change my views and devote my life to the church. In fact, my views are probably more atheistic than ever. Yet, suddenly, I felt a draw to learn more about why people are the way they are and why

they believe the things they believe.

I wanted to learn about an aspect of culture that’s been prevalent since man could think. I wanted to see why religion was and is the foundation of modern society.

To remedy my need for understanding, I attended a Sunday service at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church. Before I had entered the church, I had an idea of what a service would entail; there would be a lot of standing and sitting, singing, and some long and drawn out story from the Bible I wouldn’t be able to understand. While there was a decent amount of standing, sitting, and singing, the story told was touching and I found myself appreciating what was being said.

There, I saw the community that religion builds. I witnessed how people who may have never interacted without the church were connected. I met a man whose faith was so strong in God, he was going to walk the the Way of Saint James, a 500 mile trail that takes 30 days to complete.

To me, it’s not just imagining myself in someone else’s shoes. It’s actually putting them on and walking a mile, whether or not it’s entirely comfortable.

I believe that’s the reason there’s a divide in the world. It’s not because of one certain religion or belief, it’s the unwillingness in everyone to put aside prejudice and simply listen.



# AFFIRMATIVE



## WHY IT WORKS



IRIE SENTNER  
*Features Editor*

The lawsuit brought against Harvard University by Students For Fair Admissions is the latest incident in the ever-inflammatory narrative of college admissions and affirmative action. The organization claims that Harvard's admission policies discriminate against Asian Americans and suggests that entry standards are stacked against Asians in

the name of ethnic diversity. As a result of court litigation, many of Harvard's most prized admissions secrets were unearthed, revealing a dark trend within the admissions office that grants Asian applicants much lower personality scores than other students. A research analysis conducted by the plaintiffs on 160,000 applications found that a male Asian American with a 25% chance of admission would have a 35% chance if he were white, 75% chance if he were Hispanic, and a 95% chance if he were black.

The argument for affirmative action is simple: admissions standards should be modified to fit the opportunity that an applicant has been granted during their high school career. In theory, this policy makes sense; if it wasn't the case, elite universities would be overflowing with ultra-wealthy students from affluent private high schools with sky-high endowments and resources that would make it impossible for anyone else to compete. These policies pertain especially to historically underrepresented groups like women and minorities, helping provide

balance to the implicit societal discriminations that they may face.

When utilized correctly, affirmative action levels the playing field, promotes diversity, and grants individuals many opportunities that may have been previously unattainable. However, an issue arises when one group's success comes at the expense of another. It is true that admissions standards should be different for a student in San Perlita, Texas than for one in Scarsdale, New York, but this is no excuse for discrimination against a certain race -- especially the type perpetrated by Harvard that attacks Asian American students.

That being said, it is also dangerous to blame affirmative action for these injustices and push for race-blind admissions. Race is an important factor in determining academic achievement, not because some races are more intelligent, but because marginalized groups have faced educational inequity that make it difficult to stand up against white, Asian, and most notably, high income competitors. Despite the widespread use of affirmative action, most universi-

ties still have admissions systems (like legacy preference) that favors white applicants.

To dismantle affirmative action is to essentially discard all of the work that has been done to aid in the educational equality of minorities. Race blind admissions decrease university diversity and perpetuate the problems that students of color and low income already face on a daily basis. Instead, the focus must be shifted to the people inside of the admissions room and the alumni who conduct interviews. Universities and colleges should increase their faculty diversity training and begin to employ admissions officers from a broader range of cultural backgrounds. In a time when our society is being forced to inspect our unspoken biases and view their consequences, universities should be a refuge where curiosity and erudite overpower all other factors. As places that represent the pinnacle of intellectual achievement, they still have a lot to learn.



# ACTION



## WHY IT DOESN'T WORK



AUSTIN SWAN  
*Reporter*

The idea of affirmative action is one that appeals to the emotions of many across our country, because it makes people feel good when they support a program that attempts to balance the playing field upon which social groups interact with one another by rewarding the oppressed.

In reality, affirmative action is racist at its core. Treating people differently because of their race is racist, and also precisely what affirmative action aims to do.

Affirmative action suggests that people in racial groups which have historically been discriminated against, such as African Americans or Hispanics, should be given extra merit in their application. The program also punishes people from racial groups that are thriving such as Asian Americans or Whites. With affirmative action in place, if an African American and an Asian American both apply to the same college with the exact same gpa, SAT score, extracurriculars, etc, the African American is more likely to be accepted.

Colleges are institutions of learning, students with better gpa's and better SAT scores should be rewarded, rather than punished for their early achievements in life. One of the main issues with affirmative action is that it ignores individual situation in favor of race. Nobody chose their race, it's not something that is controllable. Punishing or re-

warding people based off of an arbitrary difference in melanin levels is an idea that doesn't deserve to be entertained.

If the college admission system desired to be entirely rid of racism, a race-blind system would need to be implemented.

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“Punishing or rewarding people based off an arbitrary difference in melanin levels is an idea that doesn't deserve to be entertained.”

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Some in favor of affirmative action suggest that imposing race-blind admissions ignores the fact that some racial groups, statistically, are worse off on average than other racial groups in this country, and that students from those racial groups are likely to have had fewer opportunities. This is a legitimate criticism, but there is a simple solution.

In America, every racial group has people who are not doing so well, and people are doing quite well. There are

white kids in worse situations than some african american kids. There are some hispanic kids who are far better off than some asian american kids.

By looking into the personal situation of each applicant individually, rather than just at the color of their skin, the college can make adjustments to the system that account for things such as: growing up with a single mother, poverty, where you grew up, whether you had to work while in high school, etc. Colleges that choose to implement/maintain affirmative action policies are engaging in acts of racism constantly. All admissions should be treated equally, with all factors being taken into account.

It is true that throughout history some racial groups have been oppressed in America, but the solution to past racism is not more racism. The proper way to atone for past injustice is with current justice.



# The world is changing: why aren't our prisons?



BRYN VALDEZ  
*Head Sports Editor*

Despite the American population being 1/4 that of China's, the U.S. still houses double their prison population, with 2.3 million incarcerated. With this state of mass incarceration, it has become impossible for facilities to maintain an acceptable quality of living for inmates.

Because of this, inmates are becoming overcrowded and malnourished, which in turn, intensifies the already hostile environment of prison, and leads to dangerous conditions. For example, women in Huron Valley Correctional Facility were forced to bunk in old closets, without adequate medical treatment and clothing, subsequently contracting

illnesses and increasing the number of reported assaults.

46% of the prison population is made up of drug charges, many of which are minor or first time offenses. The willingness of our legal system to convict all drug offenders exposes a much deeper reality of our society.

It is no secret that the fundamentals of the war on drugs targets people of color, which is not entirely the fault of those individuals. Since the beginning of civilization, people of color have been put at a disadvantage in terms of being able to find housing, jobs, and affording an education.

When the majority of a society is biased against a minority for the bulk of history, morale begins to wear down, and crime beings to take root. Without a stable route out of poverty, many people turn to crime as their only option for an escape or income, thus leading to the disproportionate amount of people of color incarcerated in the already overflowing facilities.

In fact, unfit living conditions caused by overcrowding and raised cost of phone calls and commissary were the cause behind a prison riot at Lee Correctional Institution in April that left 7 inmates dead, and 17 injured. This followed a multi-million dollar budget cut made by South Carolina lawmakers in 2010, three maximum security prisons were closed, and many programs including rehabilitation, mental health

services, and skill building programs were either downsized or cut completely.

This growing tension between inmates and government officials eventually resulted in the April 15th riot, that many reports say was ignored by staff.

In a statement from a lawsuit filed by an inmate, Rivers vs. the South Carolina Department of Corrections, it appears that guards were corrupt," guards were allowed to assist inmates with illegal activities in exchange for payment, including the smuggling of contraband and turning a blind eye to attacks on other inmates," said Rivers.

However, in order for the programs to continue to receive funding, South Carolina voters would have to pay higher taxes to raise the budget.

With that said, South Carolina only spends \$20,053 annually on each prisoner, which ranks as the 9th lowest cost in the country, especially compared to New York's substantial 69,355 yearly cost.

It was an accumulation of these figures that motivated inmates nationwide to participate in a strike from August 21st through September 9th, protesting unfair working conditions, lack of educational services, and low quality living conditions.

As outlined in a document released by Jailhouse Lawyers Speak, demands of prisoners include payment of their state's minimum wage, improved living conditions, right to the possibility of parole on a life or death sentence,

maintained voting rights, and the end of biased sentencing against people of color. While specifics vary, essential forms of protest were hunger strikes, sit-ins, work strikes, and boycotts.

To some, these demands may seem unreasonable, but what most don't realize is that every day, in prisons across America, inmates work full days of manual labor, only to earn \$0.63 per hour at the most. In states such as South Carolina, Texas, Mississippi, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama, the majority of labor is unpaid.

This type of unjust has begun to be recognized as modern day slavery, leaving inmates and allies alike to invent a solution for a broken system. It stands without argument, that it is time for a prison reform, in which the top priority is the inmates, and the goal is to keep people from incarceration.

As a start, lawmakers need to seriously considering alternative punishments for non-dangerous criminals, such as community service or fines, on top of budgeting to provide them with rehabilitation services. It is also reasonable to exonerate inmates with minor crimes, especially those serving on account of possession of a substance that is now legal.

Without an immediate inspection of how America values human freedom this crisis will continue to prevail, as will needless violence.

# Hate speech $\neq$ free speech

## Social media platforms have a responsibility to censor offensive content



LILY LONGAN  
Reporter

Social media has taken over every aspect of our lives. From President Trump's tweets to the Logan Paul suicide forest scandal, a lot of controversy surrounds how people use the internet, and if the administrators that are supposed to protect the mainstream of people using social media are doing an effective job.

The things that should be censored on social media are not. The amount of horribly graphic acts of violence and hate speech that resides as "memes" on platforms such as Instagram and Snapchat is disturbing.

Anyone can own social media, and there is no lack of hate groups and organizations that use platforms like twitter

to attack minorities and propel phobic content to a mass following.

Millie Bobby Brown is one victim of social media aggression. Memes that included edits of her pictures paired with homophobic speech and the #TakeDownMillieBobbyBrown hashtag circulated twitter and instagram until the child star was driven off of Twitter. Where did the hashtag arise from? It was used as an ironic joke referencing a fake story shared on Twitter about Millie Bobby Brown forcefully removing a fan's hijab. Attacking a child, even a famous one, is a low and despicable move. Social platforms have blurred the line between comedy and slander or hate speech.

Some may argue that social media is a place of free expression, and that censoring controversial or offensive content is a slip and slide to taking away a free speech platform. Social media platforms are a place for people to poke fun at everyone. Memes are a way for our young generation to relate to one another, and just another form of popular culture.

There is nothing harmful about clips of Spongebob edited to sad music or a kids show from Russia going viral. But when pages use their lucrative power of followers and endorsements to attack minorities or other easy targets, we are left to question who is there to keep people with social power in check.

Young people are easily influenced and at the same time unaware of many parts of the adult world. This makes

them an easy audience to manipulate and get a shock following from. This is a dangerous kind of audience. If you get likes and followers from posting content that is entertaining because it is shocking, you can get away with posting things that would be deemed obscene if it didn't have a large following behind it.

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**"Young people are easily influenced and at the same time unaware of many parts of the adult**

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The most outstanding recent example of a social influencer posting obscene content that made big news was Logan Paul with his video of a dead body in Japan's infamous suicide forest. The video gleaned over 6.2 million views before he took it down, and Youtube was slow to punish him after a number of high profile celebrities publicly bashed him for his actions. Many of Paul's supporters were children, and they have been exposed to video of a dead body probably before they can understand the concept of death. Youtube makes money off of viewers, and the fact that it did not censor the video in a timely manner is despicable.

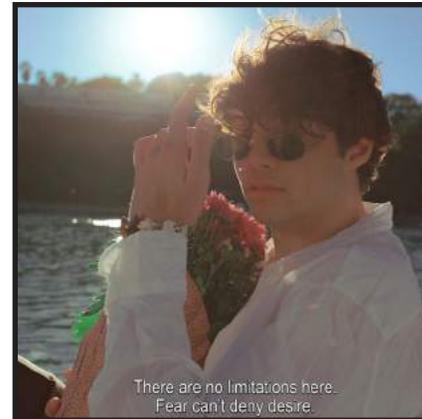
Another thing that makes its way around the internet and is often uncensored is hate speech. Look deep enough into Instagram pages and you will be guaranteed to find a page that promotes hate for someone's sexual and gender

identity, body type, or race. People feel emboldened by the internet to say things they never would or should in real life.

In 2015, Sam Smith directly called out an account that was set up for the sole purpose of demeaning him because he is openly gay. These accounts attacking people based on their lifestyles continue to persist on social media, and when one page or post is taken down, the owner will inevitably find a way to restart their account or get the message of hate back out there. If Instagram truly cared about its users it would make sure that hate speech could be more easily reported. Animal abuse gets taken down quickly, but most other things that are highly offensive to viewers are left up on a regular basis. Teenagers are known to be especially prone to insecurities, and public hate speech could reverse the forward progress of acceptance in the U.S.

If social media platforms wanted to maintain their freedom of speech while also making their communities safer for every user, they should dedicate more people to finding pages that spew hate speech and obscene content. They should also look into censoring content besides animal abuse, done mostly by following up on reports from their users.

If a few pages were discouraged from posting this content, the world (which is today largely affected by social media) could move once again in the direction of acceptance and make social media a safe place for everyone.



Photos courtesy of Sarah Bahbah

# To all the boys, please take notes

EMMA JABER  
Head Editor

Awesomeness TV's newest release, *To all the Boys I've Loved Before*, has taken Netflix viewers by storm. In this new age rom com, the female lead Lara Jean Covey has five top secret love letters she's never shown anyone. The letters are all to boys she's had a crush on and they not so accidentally get sent to their subjects. Without giving too much away, Lara Jean gets swept up in a fake relationship with gorgeous heart throb Peter Kavinsky in order to make another recipient of a love letter believe it didn't mean anything. In their whirl wind fake romance, they draw up a contract to make sure their plan is foolproof and that no one will find out their relationship is fake. Little do they know, their fake plans change and... well, you'll have to see the movie to find out how it ends.

After the wave of charming 80's John Hughes films that have stuck around through decades, the newer romantic comedies being released appeal more to youth of today. However, the charms from the old movies have still stuck around. With relevant references to popular culture, many teens find this film incredibly relatable. Along with *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, other romantic comedies on Netflix, such as the *Kissing*

*the Kissing Booth*. I really liked the look of it and how it was edited, along with how the actors weren't very well known but were still really good." said Sr. Lily Chick.

Not only does their on screen chemistry captivate an audience, but their social media presence and off screen friendship has kept people hooked. Fans are even pushing for a sequel to the film. With today's access to technology, it's not just the film keeping viewers interested, it's the fact that they can follow their favorite stars on many other platforms. In only a few days, Noah Centineo, the actor who plays Peter, gained just over a million instagram followers following the film.

Lana Condor, the actress that plays Lara Jean, is relatively new on the acting scene and is making waves in the community. Unfortunately, it has been commonplace for lead roles in movies of this nature to be white. The importance of this movie far surpasses a teen love story and speaks to the importance of Asian American representation in the world of film. In an interview with Netflix, Condor claimed that her goal was to be in a romantic comedy but followed with "I don't really know of any rom coms that want Asian Americans to star in it. Literally a week later I got the audition for *To all the Boys I've Loved before*... the lead was written

Booth, have set new records for Netflix, drawing in record breaking viewing numbers.

"I watched *To all the Boys I've loved before* first because I saw it across all the social media platforms and I also really enjoyed

as an asian american girl...I never see that! It was so empowering!" said Condor.

So, if you have ninety free minutes, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* comes highly recommended by me and many, many others.

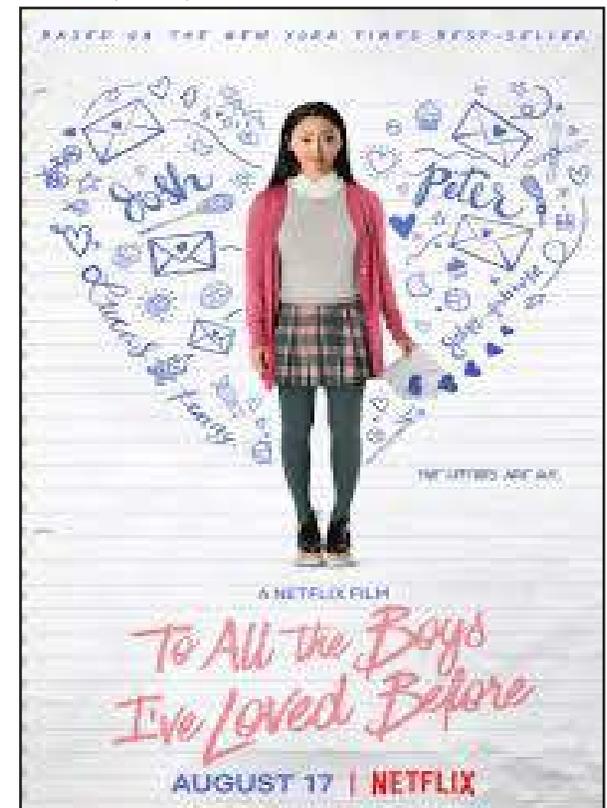


Photo Courtesy of Netflix



# “Crazy Rich Asians” brings in crazy good reviews

RUSH WEBSTER  
*Reporter*

From *Hidden Figures*, to *Black Panther*, to *Coco*, these past few years have witnessed a significant increase in Hollywood’s representation of minority groups in big features. *Crazy Rich Asians* is no exception, and despite its outstanding soundtrack, spot-on casting, and breathtaking cinematography, the greatest credit it can receive is in regard to its extraordinary representation of Asian and Asian-American people.

“I don’t think it’s happened before [in Hollywood] that a movie has had all Asian characters,” said So. Lilly Tichi.

This development may be indicative of a larger societal change in action; said Social Studies teacher Leigh Gozigan, “[the] representation of Asians in popular culture as well as other perceived minorities...[is a] direct reflection of the demographic shifts that we have seen in American over the last couple decades.” This shift can be seen both in improved ethnic variety in other forms of media as well as the general increased diversity of American society. The media is beginning to more accurately reflect our population and the many different racial groups that constitute it.

However, it is not just the diversity that makes this movie so noteworthy, but the light in which it depicts Asian culture and identity. The grandeur and prestige that Asia is associated with in this film show us an entirely different lens through which to view these civilizations and cultures that are not often depicted as such in American media.

Directed by Jon M. Chu and starring prominent Hollywood talents such as Constance Wu and Henry Golding, it is no surprise that *Crazy Rich Asians* has smashed the box office.

“It’s so cool to see an all-Asian movie be so successful, it was really funny and not cheesy like some romantic comedies are,” said So. Chloe Ragsdale.

It has thus received an overwhelmingly positive response from the public. Its 93% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes on top of being the first romcom in over three years to top \$20 million in its first week has proven that putting a unique twist on the traditional structure of such a classic cinematic genre can be very successful and rewarding when done well.

*Crazy Rich Asians* follows the story of Rachel Chu, a newly engaged NYU professor who accompanies her fiancé, Nick Young, to Singapore to attend his best friend’s wedding. Upon arrival, Rachel discovers that

he comes from an incredibly wealthy and well-known family in the upper strata of Singapore society. Rachel is unwillingly thrust into a cutthroat world of romantic and social competition and judgement as she struggles to recognize her place among these wealthy aristocrats and seek the approval of her “crazy rich” in-laws.

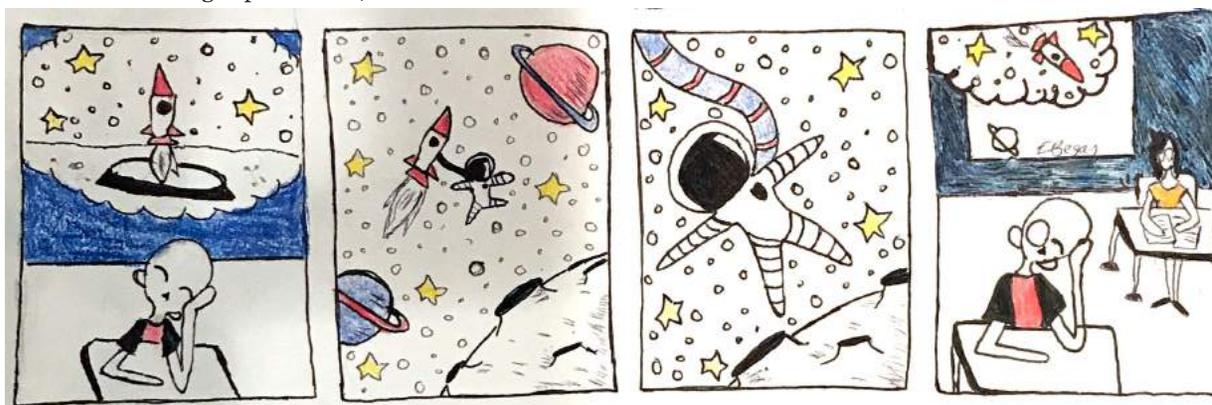
Various aspects of the film such as the soundtrack, casting, and cinematography especially aid in the portrayal of various themes and topics addressed in the movie. The symphonic blend of Chinese and American music symbolizes the quintessential nobility and elegance of a uniquely Asian-American culture. The glamorous cinematography also illustrates the ancient wealth and glamour of Asian societies and the old generation families that carry with them the rich history of such civilizations.

“I think that everyone would enjoy this movie,” said Tichi, “it is hilarious. You don’t have to be Asian to enjoy it.”

*Crazy Rich Asians* undoubtedly appeals to a wide audience with its selection of emotional romance, gripping drama, and great ethnic representation; and its impressive success will hopefully fuel the ever-growing movement of Hollywood diversification.

## Student Comics

If you have an illustration or comic you’d like to be published in *El Diablo*, please email it to [eldiablodhs@gmail.com](mailto:eldiablodhs@gmail.com)



Eugenia Begay



Jamaica Horner

Lollipop

Today at Walgreens my card declined  
The total was only ninety-nine  
The cashier was mad  
I left rather sad  
The Lollipop was almost mine

Limmerick by: Ella Devaux

Avery

His first breath dwindles in the raging wind  
But I can feel its prescence on my cheek  
A breath that soon will carry with laughter  
A breath to bring a smile to my face.

And but I've yet to meet his tiny frame  
I know I love him with all of my heart  
That familiar feeling comes to mind,  
The one of loving someone you don't know.

Though when I smell his newborn baby skin,  
I think I'll know hwy my heart swells with glee.  
Family is the bind that holds us up.  
It's the invincible rope, always there.  
And even without a single embrace,  
My love will sprout and thrive effortesly.

Poem by: Chloe Ragsdale

A Memory

A memory upon a painted wing  
History blends with myths as it grows old  
A revolution is a simple thing

A melody is etched upon the wall  
A whisper on a twisted lead of gold  
A memory upon a painted wing

This kingdom chandelier is poised to fall  
This welling dam of anger cannot hold  
A revolution is a simple thing

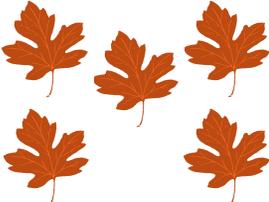
The framework speaks of secrets to recall  
Stories long remembered now lie untold  
A memory upon a painted wing

A child's crying echoes through the halls  
In an instant legacy is nulled  
A revolution is a simple thing

Poem by: Anna Klumpenhower

A compilation of poems by Mrs.  
Coon's creative writing class

# ART CHART

<p>Brought to you by Gwen Stoddard and Jessie Bowman</p> 	Positive	Negative	Misc.	Our Opinion	Overall Rating  =Lowest Rating
<p>Food</p> <p><b>Canterra</b></p> 	<p>Delicious Mexican food and decorated with pieces from local artists!</p>	<p>Some of the menu items are a little on the pricey side, but taste sooo good.</p>	<p>It's owned by the same people as Machos.</p>	<p>Order the guacamole! They make it fresh at your table!</p>	
<p>TV Shows</p> <p><b>Insatiable</b></p> 	<p>If you like satirical comedy this one's for you!</p>	<p>1. Debby Ryan 2. Bad Acting 3. An unrealistic plot line.</p>	<p>The lead actress was a past Disney star.</p>	<p>Don't watch this show unless you have a lot of time to waste.</p>	
<p>Women's Fashion</p> <p><b>Patterned Pants</b></p> 	<p>It makes an outfit quick! Pull on a pair of pattern pants, a plain top, and you're set!</p>	<p>You have to be careful with what you match them with. No plaid on plaid!</p>	<p>90's fashion strikes again! Our parent's used to wear them.</p>	<p>They are comfy and adorable! Every fashion-forward girl needs a pair.</p>	
<p>Men's Fashion</p> <p><b>Shoelace Belts</b></p> 	<p>They are a quick fix for saggy pants.</p>	<p>They smell like shoes....</p>	<p>Got some old tennys? Pull those shoelaces out and you got a free belt.</p>	<p>Not the most fashionable, why not just grab a normal belt?</p>	
<p>Music</p>  <p><b>Sophie's New Album "Lover"</b></p>	<p>A song on the album features the laughs of some of her friends.</p>	<p>There are only 8 songs in the album!</p>	<p>It was released on her 18th birthday.</p>	<p>Go see Sophie at her local gigs in Durango!</p>	



# Oreos for breakfast: A Spanish exchange



*Photo courtesy of Gwen Stoddard*

GWEN STODDARD  
*Arts Head Editor*

In the kitchen sitting on the dining table lay two packages of oreo's, one empty and the other one yet to be opened. The smell of European streets drifted in through the small window, while the noises of honking horns and mopeds screamed by. It was eight in the morning, I had just emerged from a strange room in a new uniform, I was starving, and to me it felt like ten o'clock at night. All I could think about was what I was going to eat, and hoping in desperation that they weren't expecting me to eat cookies for breakfast. Sure enough, sitting next to the Oreos was a note scrawled in a sort of Spanglish telling me about how those Oreos were going to be my most important meal of the day.

The oreos were grudgingly eaten, but I was still optimistic, and I headed to my new Spanish catholic school, Amor de Dios. Other than not being able to understand a thing, my first day went smoothly, and I hardly thought about my old life. Maybe it was the jet lag, or culture shock, but at first I wasn't homesick. It wasn't until I was walking home

that day that it hit me, I wasn't going to see anyone from Durango for half a year.

When I returned from my exchange, I started seeing everyone that I had only talked to over phone for the past six months. As they greeted me, they would--and still do--ask, "How was your vacation?!". In a superlative world where people come back from exchange; fluent, tan, and a brand new person, I would have said, "It was amazing and I can't wait to do it again!"

Don't get me wrong, my exchange was incredible, and I learned so much, but it was not a vacation. More than anything it made me realize how much I take for granted, and how much I love living not just in Colorado, but in the US. Instead of saying the latter, I usually say something like, "It was definitely a rollercoaster, there were days that were fantastic, and days where I cried to my parents over facetime.a

The days that were amazing usually consisted of my fellow exchange students from all over the world and picnics at the beach. Living two minutes from the beach was something I could never complain about, on our "Cadiz Exchange" group chat there was always someone asking "Who wants to go to

the beach?" followed with at least five replies from people that were already there.

Most of my close friends were actually not Spanish, they were Germans, Italians, Norwegians, and I also had a best friend from New Zealand that I still talk to almost every day. The connections that I made with people were out of this world and it was one of my favorite parts about Spain.

One of the hardest parts, not surprisingly, was the culture shock. Siestas were something that I came to dread, in Spain they are a daily afternoon occasion that lasts six hours, while the entire city turns into a ghost town, even groceries close. Usually we would all go to the beach, or explore the old part of Cadiz, but from January to March it was too cold, and there is only so many shows on the Spanish Netflix.

I grew up in a family that saves room for desert, but on most occasions chooses to eat a healthy and balanced diet. Foolishly taking broccoli for granted, I never realized how much I appreciated healthy food until I went to Spain for five months on exchange and started to notice how it could affect my body and in turn, self-confidence. Cookies

for breakfast, a cooking style of freezer to fryer, and a daily meal dedicated to sweets. Don't get me wrong, in a superlative world where body image was no worry, I would eat in that manner to my heart's content. Unfortunately, I felt I didn't have that option, so, for parts of my exchange I felt frustrated about how hard it was to balance a healthful lifestyle while still embracing and respecting how my host family lived.

I started to accept that the Oreos were going to become apart of my diet if I didn't start taking steps to develop self-sustenance. It was all small changes, I started taking trips to the local grocery to buy some of my own healthier food, as well as other Spanish food to try. I joined a gym and got to practice my Spanish by taking exercise classes with fellow exchange students, as well as increasing my mental self-confidence.

Eventually I started cooking for myself sometimes, and once in a while for my host family. My cooking abilities surprised me as I had never had a major passion for the culinary arts, the independence that you have to possess in the kitchen helped me feel that I had control over how I could fuel my body with what made me feel good.



# TROUPE 1096 PRESENTS: 9 TO 5 THE MUSICAL

LUKE SWIFT  
*Reporter*

Troupe 1096 is working 9 to 5 to get their new show ready for the approaching November deadline. Based on the 1980 film and with original songs composed by Dolly Parton, 9 to 5 is the story of three women who decide to make their fantasy a reality by getting rid of their sexist, egotistical, boss and climb their company's ladder. To some students involved in the show, this story and its characters couldn't come at a better time.

The show, according to some students, seems to be the perfect type for a senior play and a chance to try new theater techniques, like double casting. Senior Tierney Brennan comments on these new techniques and how they will manage the large cast.

"This year we're doing double casting, which is a really exciting thing. Mattson has talked about how he feels like there's a lot of talent in the troupe and we're growing, that's why we're having double casting for the main characters. I think being able to see the different spins each actor will take on the role and the story will be really cool," said Brennan.

The show, which showcases a variety of different themes through song and dance, will hopefully draw in a lot of people from the community. Benjamin Mattson comments on its uniqueness and his expectations for the show.

"The music is all written by Dolly Parton, who played Doralee in the original film, which I think is pretty cool and has a draw with people. Ultimately, this show is a campy and fun comedy. The themes are important, but the show itself is highly energetic, flashy, and fun. I want to put on an extremely entertaining, uplifting, inspiring production celebrating the uniqueness of women, and the strength of coming together for a common goal," Said Benjamin Mattson.

"It's a rich man's game, no matter what they call it, and you spend your life putting money in his wallet" said Dolly Parton.

The show and movie has been done many times every since their initial release but the students involved in the DHS rendition are both excited and anxious to bring the show to life. Senior Sophie Hughes, a long time DHS thespian, comments on the high stakes the cast will be exposed to.

According to many thespians involved in the show, majority of the problems featured in the show very much relate to problems people face in our society today. Brennan uses specific sections in the show to imply how similar the events in the show connect with ones in the real world.

"Something that our director has broken down is that in the first parts of the show the three female leads are not really friends and they aren't really supporting each other either so that really reflects what is happening today in the real world with gender issues. A lot of this really reminds me of the MeToo movement, there are plenty of people, even women, who are saying 'oh you're just doing this to get attention.' The women in the show are an important representation of finding the strength of femininity and respecting each other's individual womanhood," said Brennan. However even with the high stakes and political correctness the troupe will be held to, the cast and crew are finding a way to be excited for the show and the new friends they will meet along the way. Hughes comments on the new underclassmen and how they will be a viable source to the troupe.

"I am so excited to meet all of the new underclassmen, they are just so cute. Everyone involved in this show is really excited and has a really good energy and that is key to have when doing a show this large with such a large cast," said Hughes.

The large cast and crew of the November show will have their hands full, but the ability to represent larger issues and meet new people along the way through this play really speaks volume when talking to the DHS Thespian Community. 9 to 5 premieres November second.



Photo by Emma Jaber

"The stakes for getting cut from the show will be really high. Everyone is going to be held at a really high standard for this show. It's scary, but I think that's what makes it so exciting," said Hughes.

# LIFESTYLE

## HORROR-SCOPES

### YOUR ASTROLOGICAL PREDICTIONS FOR OCTOBER

SOPHIA ADAMSKI, REPORTER



#### **Aries (21 March - 20 April):**

Your first instinct, especially during the initial rush of changing from summer to school, may be to lash out and to become impulsive or selfish. Instead channel your natural warmth and confidence. It may seem easier to be aggressive and reckless, but, left unchecked, this behavior will cause your relationships to corrode and your sense of purpose to begin to crumble.

**Leo (23 July - 21 August):** Autumn is the season of changing. A person, item, or place that you loved dearly may have been lost as soon as it felt like you had a hold on it. This will hit you harder than expected, leaving memories, emotions, and opinions askew. Take this time to rebuild yourself. The sooner you realize that nothing stays the same, the easier this road will be.

**Sagittarius (23 November - 22 September):** As a general rule, you prefer to be more of a realist than an optimist. However, when voicing this to other people, you may come off as tactless at best. Now, shift a much kinder attribute of yourself to the forefront. This could be anything from your sharp wit to your intellect.

#### **Taurus (21 April - May 21):**

Along with your general agreeability and mild temper comes an incredible amount of inflexibility. You normally keep this in check. Recently, you'll find that life has brought you a new opportunity, (if not, this will come soon) and your stubbornness is rearing its ugly head. Hold firm in your beliefs and sense of self, but remain open to new patterns of the mind.

**Virgo (22 August - 23 September):** The afterglow of Virgo season still burns bright. Don't allow your fussiness and perfectionism taint good experiences, opportunities, or relationships. There will always be good in the bad and bad in the good. It's just life. Let your diligence, sharp eye, and intuitive nature take occupation this season.

**Capricorn (23 December - 20 January):** While other signs may find a thrill in risk, your approach is more reserved. Patience, foresight, and prudence are among your reigning characteristics. Taken to the extreme, these facets may turn you miserly and fatalistic. Letting opportunities slip by out of your sheer pessimism will prove to be harsh and limiting beyond words.

#### **Gemini (22 May - 21 June):**

Your youthfulness and liveliness is no doubt a gift. These qualities also harbor a sense of being superficial and cunning. This month, instead of finding a novel solution to an issue, try to see it for what it really is. This will save time and energy otherwise spent on needless matters, instead allowing for wholesome discussion and a period of personal growth.

**Libra (24 September - 23 October):** Libras are the rulers of idealism. Seeing as the sun tilts in your favor, something grand and inviting may have recently come into your life, such as a new relationship or an internship. Although this isn't meant to put a damper on your excitement, don't let the pleasures in life cloud your responsibilities.

**Aquarius (21 January - 19 February):** Aquarians find themselves overcoming obstacles that others hesitate at. You feel misunderstood because your mind is constantly racing, with your train of thought being indescribable. This month, focus on voicing on your internal dialogue. This will be important, as you should be expecting a challenge in the near future.

#### **Cancer (22 June - 22 July):**

Your emotions tend to come in overwhelming bursts. You are known for being sensitive, and unable to let go. An incredible amount of your time may have been spent mulling over what has already been said and done. A new school year is afoot; see this as your chance to reconsider this current thought process.

**Scorpio (24 October - 22 November):** A drawback of your sign is your blind obstinance and severe compulsion. Often, this will lead to intense spats with close friends or family members. It's likely that you're in the middle of a fight now. Unattractive as these traits seem, these are usually just intense forms of your passion and excitement. Being right isn't always everything.

**Pisces (20 February - 20 March):** By nature, Pisces are always a bit mysterious at their best, but at their worst, they're vague and secretive, thereby turning friends who have genuine concern away. This season, say what you mean to the people who love you. Honesty does not always equal cruelty.



# Humans of Durango

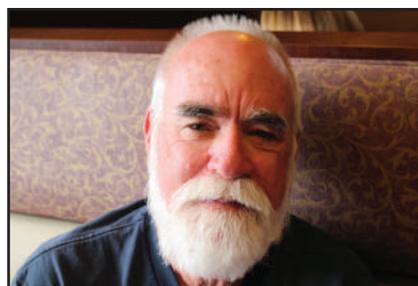
## Looking Into the Lives of Local Durangotangs



CHLOE RAGSDALE,  
Lifestyles Co-Head Editor

New beginnings and experiences arise every day for every person on the planet, whether they're simple and meaningless or significant and a defining moment in that person's life. No matter the size of these daily encounters, they impact our lives in some way or another. In this issue of Humans of Durango, *El Diablo* asked random locals about new experiences in their lives and how it shaped them as a person.

"I would say this space camp sponsorship. I started Four Corners Space Camp because I wanted to help kids who were interested in math and science and engineering. It's energy draining and exciting at the same time. You get as much energy as you give - conservation of energy! I recruit locally because a lot of people haven't heard of the camp and it's in Huntsville, Alabama. I taught math and science at Miller Middle School for along time and I've been in administration. I followed in the footsteps of someone who's done it before, I really relied on my mentor. And I really believe that by recruiting the kids that are interested in this, it feeds the Aerospace program at the high school. This program gives me hope. I think it changes me because I'm a messenger to say that kids these days are smart, they do care, they have vision. I think kids get a bad rep, but they're our future. If you want to start something, I would say to make sure it is a passion because the hard work that it takes is really hard and if you have a love for it instead of something you're not really interested in it'll fizzle. It's your passion for it that'll make it continue."



"I'm getting old, I've done just about everything. Well, I travel all over the world and I'm actually going to some countries that I haven't been to before. I've been in China, Philippines, Peru; lots of places. The coolest place I've been is probably Peru. I liked it a lot. I lived there for a year. I worked in a medical clinic in a village. But I would love to go to New Zealand just for fun. I'll still travel for medical missions, though, and

I'm a missionary, actually, so I go for lots of different reasons. I'm getting ready to go to China and the Philippines in October. I don't really have any fears when I go to a new country, I just love traveling and I've always been kind of a daredevil. It's just a new adventure for me. So don't let fear stop you."



"I just recently started brushing my teeth which is important. It was recommended by my friend. Ah, no. Clipping my nails, brushing my teeth... I don't know. It's just the same old, same old. Oh, I bought clothes recently. And I don't do that, that's a new thing. I made a little trip up to Denver, the big city, and not trying to brag here but spent about 400 dollars at Nordstrom Rack to treat myself. And then someone called me a basic b\*\*\*\* after that and I was

like what? Like of course you spend that much at Nordstrom Rack, you're a joke. And that person was a ninth grader. But it was exhilarating to buy clothes, that's why people do it. And then right after I left, I started to get sad. The high of buying clothes was over. No, it felt good overall. It's good to buy clothes."

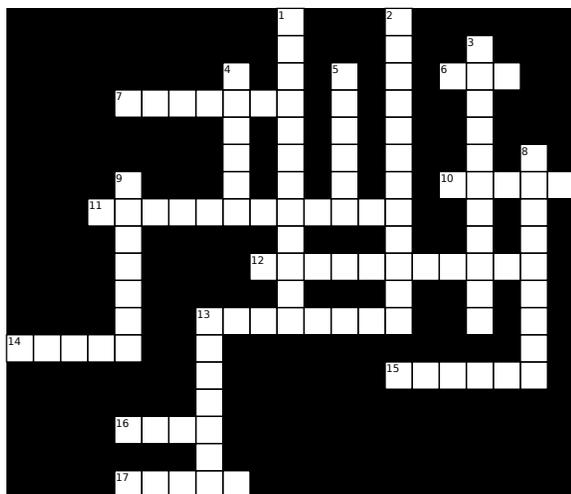
"I lived in Boston but I'm originally from India, from Mumbai, or Bombay. But I've been in the US for eighteen years now, so it's been a while. I think just the fact that I moved from India to the US was a completely different experience for me. I literally moved two bags and came to school. I came to go to business school on the east coast for my masters, it was my graduate program. So I moved to New Haven. I went to Yale. It's a great place. If you have to start over again, it's good to go there. I had been to the US a long time ago before that, but it still didn't feel that different. There were different parts that felt different. I think it was just getting used to a totally different way of living. I don't think you realize it when you're in the moment. I think after you have change, you have perspective and you can say 'wow that was tough'. You don't realize you're going through a culture shock or some sort of adjustment because you're living it. I really wanted to do my masters here in the US and India was just opening up at that time, this was 2000, and so we were just opening up economically. I was just on a high so I didn't really think of the challenges or how difficult it would be. If you know how hard it's going to be, you'll probably get scared, but I wasn't scared because I was looking forward to something different. So you just can't be fearful of failure. When you're starting something new, things will not go as you plan so it's best to have a goal but be open to changes and life taking its own path. You won't always come out on top, so don't give up if things don't go your way. Things didn't always go my way and I always knew they happened for the best because when one doors closes, another one opens."





## Halloween Crossword Puzzle

Rush Webster



- |    |        |    |      |
|----|--------|----|------|
| 6  | Across | 6  | Down |
| 7  | 7      | 1  | 1    |
| 10 | 10     | 2  | 2    |
| 11 | 11     | 3  | 3    |
| 12 | 12     | 4  | 4    |
| 13 | 13     | 5  | 5    |
| 14 | 14     | 6  | 6    |
| 16 | 16     | 7  | 7    |
| 17 | 17     | 8  | 8    |
|    |        | 9  | 9    |
|    |        | 10 | 10   |
|    |        | 11 | 11   |
|    |        | 12 | 12   |
|    |        | 13 | 13   |
|    |        | 14 | 14   |
|    |        | 15 | 15   |
|    |        | 16 | 16   |
|    |        | 17 | 17   |

## Chocolate Chunk-Pumpkin Seed Cookies

These classic chocolate chip cookies get a fun twist for Halloween. This snack is perfect if you're having a few friends over to watch some scary movies!



### INGREDIENTS

- 1½ cups raw pumpkin seeds
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon hot smoked Spanish paprika
- 1½ cups (packed) light brown sugar
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 2 large eggs
- ¼ cups bittersweet chocolate chunks or chips
- Flaky sea salt

## Favorite Fall Recipes

KENDALL FLOYD  
Reporter

As the temperature drops, it becomes harder and harder to get outside and do our favorite summertime activities. Baking can be a fun and relaxing activity that makes the time pass by quickly. As we're waiting for the snow to start falling, these recipes will not only be fun and easy to make, but they will definitely put you in the fall mood.

### Toasted Pumpkin Seeds

#### INGREDIENTS

- Seeds from one pumpkin
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- Salt and pepper

#### SPICE IT UP

- After seasoning seeds with olive oil, salt, and pepper, toss with one of the following combinations:
- 1/2 tsp. chile powder
- 1/2 tsp. Aleppo pepper
- 1/2 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. ground Szechuan pepper-corns
- 1 Tbsp. sugar and 1/4 tsp. Cinna-

This is one of my favorite snacks to make around Halloween, there's so many different flavors available, and each combination creates a unique and tasty snack.

#### RECIPE PREPARATION

- Scrape seeds and any attached fibers from pumpkin using a large metal spoon.
- Place seeds in a colander and rinse well to help separate seeds from fibers. Set seeds aside.
- Cook seeds in a medium saucepan of boiling salted water until beginning to look translucent, 5-7 minutes.
- Drain and transfer to a paper towel-lined baking sheet; pat well to dry. Preheat oven to 425°.
- Spread seeds on a rimmed baking sheet, toss with olive oil, and season with salt and pepper.
- Roast until golden and crisp, 12–15 minutes. Let cool completely before eating.



#### RECIPE PREPARATION (chocolate chunk cookies)

Place racks in upper and lower thirds of oven; preheat to 350°. Toast pumpkin seeds on a large rimmed baking sheet on upper rack, tossing occasionally, until golden brown, 8–10 minutes. Let cool.

Meanwhile, whisk flour, cocoa powder, kosher salt, baking soda, cinnamon, and paprika in a large bowl. Using an electric mixer on medium-high speed, beat brown sugar, granulated sugar, and butter in a large bowl until pale and fluffy, for about 4 minutes. Add eggs one at a time, beating to blend after each addition. Reduce speed to low; add dry ingredients in 3 additions, mixing until well blended after each. Slowly add in small amounts of chocolate and pumpkin seeds until all of it is blended. Portion dough into 18 balls (about ¼ cup each) and divide between 2 parchment-lined baking sheets, spacing 3" apart. Sprinkle with sea salt and bake cookies, rotating pans halfway through, until edges are slightly browned and firm but centers are still soft, for 18–20 minutes. Transfer to wire racks and let cool.



## Demon's Advocate: *helpful advice from your favorite demon*

CAROLINE KNIGHT  
Head Editor

### Help! I have a fat crush on a guy at school, he's really cool and hot BUT...he has a girlfriend. They've been going out since the last ice age...what do I do??

Sorry man, you're gonna have to let this one go. I'm no saint (haha, Demon's Advocate), but going for someone who has an S.O. already is categorically lame. If you feel some deep connection with this cool hot boy, you're only noble option is to be patient, because young love is generally not long lasting. If, by the time this paper comes out, your secret wish has come true, here are some other things to consider before hitting up this guy:

1. Boys (and all people, especially high school people) don't tend to let go very easily. Even if he breaks up with this girl, if they've been dating since the last ice age he isn't going to forget her very quickly. Heartbreak is real and it sucks! Be thoughtful about this or he'll friendzone you before you can open your mouth.
2. Assuming the worst, if this boy is already flirting very obviously with you and that's why you have a crush, take a step back. Maybe it's fun, but do you really want to be with someone like that? Seems kind of slimy.

That's my two cents! I wish you the best, feelings are the worst!

### What are some things you wish you knew your first semester of freshman year?

I had a good time my freshman year! Even so, here are some things I wish I could've told myself:

1. It isn't cool to not have school spirit. I was so embarrassed to yell or cheer at football games that I just learned the Demon Beat this year. No one is going to judge you for wanting your team to win or for participating in the party song.
2. That being said, don't be afraid of being judged at all. This is so cliché but it's just the truth. Be a nice person, and the rest really doesn't matter! People are going to judge you and you're going to judge people, but the sooner you can get over that and do you anyway, the sooner you find a group of friends that makes high school a fun time.
3. Don't join clubs to meet boys! Now you're in a club you aren't interested in because you paid the fee, nice going!
4. Have fun playing high school sports for the first time! I was so freaky about being competitive in soccer that I forgot to have fun playing it. The coolest thing about being a freshman athlete is there are no expectations, so everything you do well is an impressive surprise. Chill out.



All questions answered are real submissions from DHS students. If you have a question for the Demons Advocate to answer, or would like to comment on the column above, please email [ELDIABLODHS@gmail.com](mailto:ELDIABLODHS@gmail.com).

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# SUN SETS ON SUMMER

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Number of Sexual Partners	SEXUAL EXPOSURE CHART (If every person has only the same number of partners as you)	Number of People Exposed to
1	1 person icon	1
2	2 person icons	3
3	3 person icons	7
4	4 person icons	15
5	5 person icons	31
6	6 person icons	63
7	7 person icons	127
8	8 person icons	255
9	9 person icons	511
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