

FROM THE EDITORS

We imagine most of you saw the unappealing word adorning our cover and immediately scorned this issue of the Royal Banner. And for those of you who stayed to read despite your apathy, we thank you. We know no one wants to talk politics; craving change for the plethora of problems troubling America is exhausting. This, however, is exactly why you should read on.

We are a generation underestimated. Our rights have been weaponized as a political agenda. As bias plagues the media, misinformation makes it more challenging to produce educated opinions.

When politicians bank on youth to not pay attention, they are banking on the associated lack of transparency and accountability. Who will advocate against political injustice towards our generation when our self-shielded ears cannot comprehend suffering? Who will be the voice of morality in an increasingly unjust world when we've become a herd of silence?

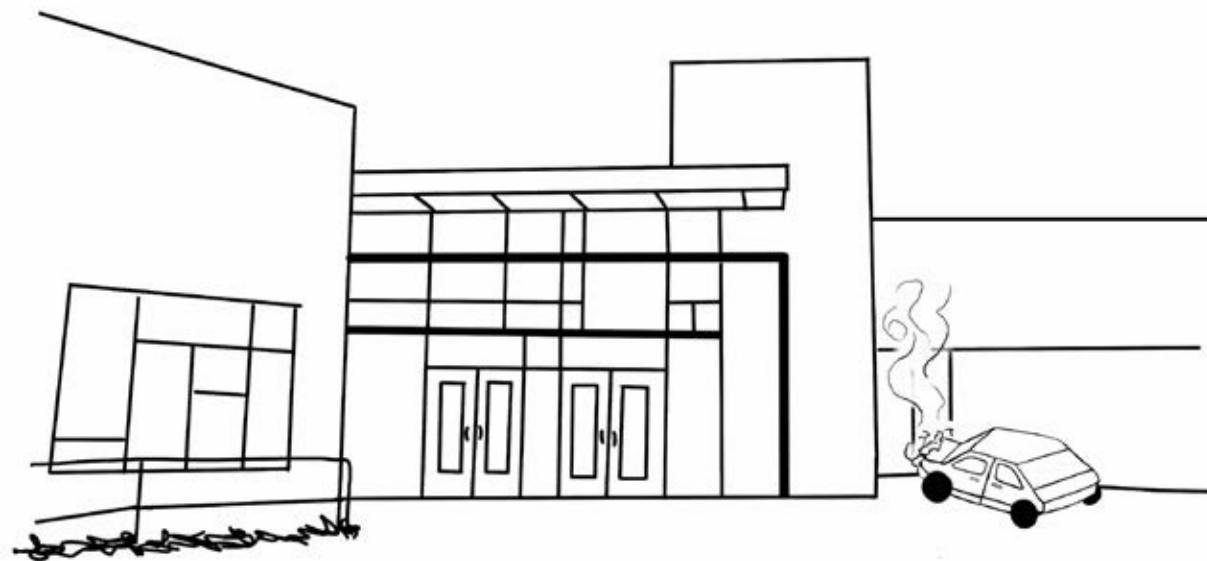
The world saw the power we yield in 2020, when masses of youth marched together to the polls, their votes proving critical in one of the most influential

elections of history. Our school saw the power we yield when hundreds of students walked out of schools and created the change they so desperately needed.

The absence of a ballot is not the absence of power. Students of all ages have the ability to provoke urgently needed change. Simply taking the time to do research on critical issues before allowing yourself to be swayed by the campaigns and misinformation circling social media, specifically seeking out your ignorance, makes a difference within itself. We did not create this issue to shape the reader's opinions or beliefs, but instead as a wake up call for students everywhere. *You should be paying attention to this.* Not just this -- this newspaper -- but the world unfolding around you. The goal of politics should not be to unify, or to separate good and evil, but to disagree; disagree with respect and knowledge and intention, for this is how we may one day create change.

JULIA PERIAN

JOHN KOWALSKI



New 2-hour parking.

POLITICAL CARTOONS



AP Beauty Sleep.

illustrations by hannah derounian

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