



# An Interview with Sarah Guan: The Class President

By: Claudia Frankfurth and Fatema Mun

What is the Coca-Cola Scholarship?

It is a National scholarship and they look for an impact in the community, community service. In a few weeks, I'll be going to a scholarship summit to meet the other recipients.

What did you submit and what was it about?

There were 3 rounds. The first was online and it was about leadership roles and community. The next round was written and we had to explain our involvement and they chose 250 candidates. The last round was an interview through Skype. I heard some people got asked some pretty weird questions. One person was asked to dance for the interview because she was a dancer.

Where are you planning to go to college?

I am not sure yet because college letters are just coming in now. John Hopkins seems like a good option, but I am still waiting for other responses.

What career are you thinking of heading to?

I'm not sure yet because it is changing. I want to major in econ and then be a professor of game theory or research. I want to interact with people, but also do something academic.

Who were your biggest supporters or people who inspired you in school?

For scholarships, I recommend Ms. Steck. She was my homeroom teacher and she was very supportive. She helped me get an internship at the National Constitution Center. The entire history department are my people like Mr. Jones, Mr. Busby, and Mrs. Bland.

What was your favorite memory from your senior year?

Spirit week and the pep rally was my favorite so far. But senior week hasn't happened yet so I am looking forward to it.

What advice would you give people for high school?

It gets better from sophomore year, so don't get burned out from sophomore year. Junior year is what really matters. Also, get involved with your passions and don't just do things just for colleges. I got involved in the community and it made me happy.

Which year was the best year? Freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior year?

Definitely, senior year because you are attached to everything like clubs and you realize senior year it matters so much more. I prioritize what's really important like friendships. There is also so much to look forward to. But the college application season is death.

Anything you want to say to your senior class as senior class president?

I love you all and everyone's made a huge impact on my life. Thank you.

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# *Local News*

## **One Acts 2019**

By: Kayla Wadyko

Spring has arrived and summer is on its way! But guess what's coming even sooner? Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday we have people working hard and conveying their talent to their full potential. They work with each other to combine their talents in performing a school-made production. Ladies and Gentleman, boys and girls, introducing West Chester East One Acts 2019!! Sit back and relax to watch thrilling performances written by, directed by and starring our fellow East students.

Jilly Matje and Abby Herman, both seniors, co-wrote and co-directed *The Seven Deadly Sins*. They talk about their amazing experience in being a part of the One Acts cast. Jilly had performed in One Acts in her Sophomore and Junior years, and this is Abby's first year. Together, they both love One Acts because everything is "student-made" from the idea of the story to the personality of the characters. Abby says, "Everyone is an important part to this production, which is why I kept participating in theater all throughout High School." The show is created purely from the students' determination and talents, which make One Acts very meaningful. EHS students would adore One Acts because they're hilarious! You may find people you already know from the directors, cast, crew, costumes, design, sound, and lights.

Jilly and Abby say that their favorite part about seeing the One Acts performed on stage is the talented students acting their created characters. Jilly says, "On paper, they're nothing more than names with some witty phrases. But onstage, the actors and actresses interpret their lines and characters to receive more laughs and make up their own ways to make the personalities of their characters shine through." Jilly and Abby both had their own perspectives on how each of the parts should sound, but after hearing the different student actors and actresses during auditions they were open to the people that made their characters sound even greater! Abby says, "We got to hear and see talented, new ways that it could be played – giving us inspiration for the potential of our play. It's one thing writing it, but being able to see those words come to life off the page is simply unreal." Abby and Jilly have had an amazing experience being a part of ETC and are sure going to miss being a part of it next year!!

This year's plays include: *The Seven Deadly Sins* written by Jilly Matje and Abby Herman, *The Surefire Way to Cure Boredom* written by Galen Sweet and Dan Clifford, and *Anthony's Dog Died* written by John Janik. The acts will be showing April 11th, 12th, and 13th starting at 7:00pm. Don't miss your chance for this enjoyable, fun, laughter-filled experience!! And remember your fellow East friends will be there – so don't miss out!

# *Entertainment*

## **The 91st Academy Awards**

By: Alison Alexis

This year's 91st Academy Awards were held on the 24th of February. While there were doubts due to the lack of a host this year, the Awards were a success. From an incredible opening performance by Queen and Adam Lambert, to a multitude of historical wins, the Awards were all around incredible. Here are the highs and lows of this years Oscars.

The first presenters were Maya Rudolph, Tina Fey, and Amy Poehler. The trio delivered an entertaining start to the show, and many found their puns about the Best Picture Nominees amusing. They started the show with a positive and playful energy.



Next, Queen and Adam Lambert performed Queen's famous songs "We Will Rock You" and "We Are the Champions". While some found the opening act to be entertaining and high energy, others disagree. Some found it more "low-energy." Maureen Lee Lenker of Entertainment Weekly states, "his opening just didn't hit the high notes we were hoping it would, and it felt surprisingly low energy." She also says that many would have preferred to see "Bohemian Rhapsody" performed, since the movie of the same title was up for multiple nominations, including Best Picture.

The humor did not end throughout the award presentations. Melissa McCarthy and Brian Tyree Henry entered the stage to present the Costume Design Award wearing outfits inspired by each of the nominations, including Black Panther, The Favorite, and Mary Poppins Returns.

A low for this years awards was the Best Makeup and Hairstyling Award. It was originally supposed to be given out during a commercial break, but was given out on air. Many criticized the Vice winners of having a messy and unprepared speech, and was the exact opposite of what's expected from Oscar nominees.

On top of Queen's opening performance, many others performed throughout the awards. The most memorable however, was Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper's performance of "Shallow" from the film A Star is Born. Gaga and Cooper channeled the same chemistry found in the movie on stage, and delivered an incredible performance. In addition, after the two exited the stage for a commercial break and then returned to their seats, and on the way, the audience gave them another standing ovation for the amazing performance. Many believe this is a first in Oscar history.

These awards were not only memorable because of the performances, but because of all of the historical wins. Many black women took home awards, including Regina King, Ruth E. Carter, and Hannah Beachler. Ruth E. Carter was the first black winner for Costume Design ever. Rami Malek, winner of Best Actor, was the first Arab-American ever to win in the category. Peter Ramsey also made history as the first black winner of Best Director for Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse. There were many other historic wins that occurred, and many of them long overdue.

While many were joyful about most of the award wins, others were not. When the film Green Book won Best Picture, many were outraged. Many people have pointed out that the movie feels obsolete and has a controversial take on race. Green Book was up against many other pioneering films, including Black Panther, BlacKkKlansman, Bohemian Rhapsody, The Favourite, Roma, A Star is Born, and Vice. Many were surprised and less than excited about Green Book's win, and believe one of the other films nominated is more deserving of this award.

Even if you agreed with the Best Picture win or enjoyed Queen and Adam Lambert's performance, everyone can agree that this year's Academy Awards gave way to many historical wins and moments, that were very much overdue. This years Oscars were truly a moment of progress for so many.

# Studio Chief of Warner Bros Steps Down

By: Claire Chen

Kevin Tsujihara is leaving his position as the chairman and CEO of Warner Bros amid allegations of misconduct. Tsujihara entered the position in 2013, bringing success to the company as the studio chief. Tsujihara has helped with the attainment of high-grossing movies with DC Comics films and J.K. Rowling. Warner Bros, with Tsujihara leading the way, struggled to produce a DC superhero movie that was as successful as Disney's Marvel until 2017 with the blockbuster Wonder Women. Starring Gal Gadot and directed by Patty Jenkins, Wonder Woman was a major win for Warner Bros, making \$821.8 globally. The following year bred even larger success, with Aquaman bringing in \$1.1 billion worldwide. Aquaman surpassed all the profit of Warner Bros' earlier movies, even the Dark Knight trilogy by Christopher Nolan.

Warner Bros made statements on Tsujihara's departure from the studio, with WarnerMedia CEO John Stankey saying "It is in the best interest of WarnerMedia, Warner Bros., our employees and our partners for Kevin to step down as Chairman and CEO of Warner Bros."

Recent text messages between Tsujihara and actress Charlotte Kirk have surfaced, revealing their “relationship” and showing that he pushed for her auditions in recent films as a result. Kirk appeared in two Warner Bros films under Tsujihara’s administration, *How to be Single* in 2016 and *Ocean’s 8* in 2018. The former CEO’s attorney denies that Tsujihara had a direct role in Kirk’s hiring and an external investigation is being conducted.

Developments are in works as Tsujihara is leaving the company. AT&T bought Time Warner last spring for a hefty 85-105 billion dollars, confirmed in federal appellate courts this year.

Stankey has not yet said who will replace Tsujihara as CEO of Warner Bros. On the surface, the resigning appears to have been a mutual agreement and understanding between Stankey and Tsujihara. “Kevin acknowledges that his mistakes are inconsistent with the Company’s leadership expectations and could impact the Company’s ability to execute going forward,” Stankey said. Tsujihara also sent a personal memo to the Warner Bros staff about his decision to step down. “It has become clear that my continued leadership could be a distraction and an obstacle to the company’s continued success. The hard work of everyone within our organization is truly admirable, and I won’t let media attention on my past detract from all the great work the team is doing.”

Tsujihara’s career at Warner Bros has come to an end, leaving behind both successes and failures, but he still is in full support of the company.

# **Netflix vs. Steven Spielberg: The Future of Cinemas**

By: Claire Chen

Two of the movie industry’s biggest players on opposite ends of the spectrum; Netflix and director Steven Spielberg, are caught in a dispute that could determine the future of the cinematic industry.

Netflix is the worldwide streaming service for movies, TV shows, and etc., and promotes the viewing of entertainment for the comforts of home. Steven Spielberg is the highest-grossing director by box office, known for his role in blockbusters like “Jaws,” “Jurassic Park,” and “E.T.” Spielberg has been recently suspected of creating a plan to stop Netflix from receiving Oscars. The plan may stem from the disparity of ideology between the two, with Spielberg wanting to preserve the authentic experience of showing movies in theaters, while Netflix encourages viewing them on demand.

The company responded to Spielberg’s alleged plans on Twitter, tweeting “We love cinema.” Netflix also mentioned in the tweet how their purpose is to provide movies for people who don’t have access to theatres, allowing everyone to experience the newly-released movies at the same time. Netflix did not openly state that the message was meant for Spielberg, but many suspect it is because of the tweet’s timing. The tweet arrived soon after the director’s reported discontent with “Roma” (a Netflix film) winning an Oscar. Spielberg is an extremely influential and prominent figure in the film industry and has displayed the dislike he holds for movies that bypass playing in theatres being considered for the Oscars. In a conversation with ITV News, Spielberg said that “Once you commit to a television format, you’re a TV movie. I don’t believe that films that are given token qualifications, in a couple of theatres for less than a week, should qualify for the Academy Award Nomination.”

What does an Oscar for Netflix mean to the film industry? The esteemed award could create a norm of films being released by companies like Netflix winning the same recognition as films that are successful in theatres. If it were to become a norm, the cinematic industry would be negatively impacted by the loss of sales in the box office, a notion Spielberg wants to avoid. Spielberg expressed his views and alluded to the dispute with Netflix at an awards show, saying “I hope all of us really continue to believe that the greatest contributions we can make as filmmakers is to give audiences the motion picture theatrical experience. I’m a firm believer that movie theatres need to be around forever.”

Although Spielberg has received support for his statements, many have also rallied around Netflix, saying that the service has granted many more people access to a variety of movies. In the end, it’s not Netflix vs. Spielberg. It’s what the audience wants.



# Television Star, Luke Perry, Passes Away at 52

By: Colin Barch

Sadly we have lost another celebrity icon, Luke Perry. Perry passed away on March fourth at the age of 52 due to a stroke. He is most known for his roles as Dylan McKay, from Beverly Hills, 90210, and most recently Fred Andrews, from CW's original show Riverdale. Creator and showrunner of Riverdale, Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, tweeted out on the same night of the event, "So heart-broken about Luke. He was a father, brother, friend, and mentor. Each night before he had to shoot a scene, he'd call me and we'd talk about...everything. I will miss those calls. And my heart goes out to all his family and friends".



After his death was discovered, television and Berlanti

Prods., shut down production of the show upon learning of his passing. Season three episode fourteen of Riverdale, entitled "Chapter Forty-Nine: Fire Walk With Me", is the last episode Luke Perry appears on. In the episode he is seen bandaging his "son", Archie (AJ Kapa), after he had been shot by a troubled teen. The episode was dedicated to him and "all the episodes to come" as well.

## Lilly Singh's New Late Night Talk Show

By: Fatema Mun and Claudia Frankfurth

On Thursday, March 14, Youtuber Lilly Singh, better known by her channel name ||Superwoman||, went on The Tonight Show With Jimmy Fallon to announce her new NBC late night show. In Fall 2019, she will replace Carson Daley as the new face of the 1:35 AM late night show time slot. Singh will become the first Indian-Canadian woman to host a talk show, and the only woman to host a late night show on a broadcast network.

Her new show, called A Little Late With Lilly Singh, will have celebrities to interview along with sketches. Many believe that NBC hired Lilly Singh because TV is dying, so incorporating Youtubers would bring in more young viewers. Lilly Singh is also bringing raps to NBC because she enjoys writing and producing her own comedic raps. Her skits and monologues often come from her Indian background but she also talks about womanhood and dating. Lilly Singh's step into mainstream media is a huge one because she started making videos on her phone in college. Hard work and dedication lead her Youtube career to eventually evolve into a job in mainstream media. Tune in to Lilly Singh's show starting in September.

The fact that Lilly Singh has made it into such a prosperous and successful position without a degree is promising to the fact that college is not for everybody. Many parents push all their kids to go to college but in some cases an Associate's Degree or no college at all is still good. Lilly Singh is a perfect example of this because although her parents disagreed with her choice to leave college, she is still successful today.





## The Venezuelan Presidential Crisis

By: Alison Alexis

In recent months many of us have seen the crisis in Venezuela all over the news. But what exactly is happening in Venezuela? And how did it start? It all began on the 23rd of January when Juan Guaidó, announced himself as the acting president of Venezuela. This proved to be an issue, as Nicolás Maduro had been sworn in as the official president for another six year term only two weeks prior. Maduro was less than pleased, and claimed it was the United States attempting to drive him out of his position. But why did Guaidó feel the need to step in and question Maduro's placement?

The easy answer is that Maduro does not have the best reputation. His first term began in April of 2013 when his mentor and the prior socialist president Hugo Chávez died. The vote was a close call, as he only won by 1.6 percentage points. During his first term, the economy declined, and many Venezuelans blame his socialism as the cause. Even after he was re-elected for a second term, Venezuela's National Assembly, whose president is Guaidó, did not recognize him as the official president. This is because the National Assembly is controlled by parties that oppose Maduro. They argue that the recent election was not fair, and that he is acting like a dictator. According to articles 233 and 333 of the Venezuelan constitution, the head of the National Assembly takes over as president if the elected one is not recognized, which explains why Guaidó took over as president after Maduro's election.

Many outside nations have also expressed their opinions on the recognized president. U.S. President Donald Trump conveyed his beliefs only minutes after Guaidó announced his plan to take over Venezuela's executive abilities. He tweeted, "The citizens of Venezuela have suffered for too long at the hands of the illegitimate Maduro regime. Today, I have officially recognized the President of the Venezuelan National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the Interim President of Venezuela." U.S. Vice President Mike Pence also tweeted, saying, "Today @POTUS announced the U.S. officially recognizes Juan Guaidó as the



Interim President of Venezuela. To @JGuaido & the people of Venezuela: America stands with you & we will continue to stand with you until #Libertad is restored!" Maduro was unhappy with this, and ordered all U.S. diplomats and citizens to leave within 72 hours of the announcement. While the U.S. has given their support to Guaidó, many other Latin American countries have expressed their concern. They believe the National Assembly had little power, as it was practically powerless until only recently when the National Constituent Assembly was created in 2017.

Now that we know how exactly this crisis started, what is its impact on the people of Venezuela? The problem is hyperinflation, inflation occurring at a very high rate. As of November of 2018, the inflation had gone up 1,300,000%, which deeply affects the Venezuelan economy. One U.S. dollar now equals about 637 Venezuelan Bolivars, and every 19 days, prices double. Because of these economic issues, many Venezuelans have fled. According to the United Nations, about 3,000,000 Venezuelans have left the country since 2014, when the economic crisis truly began to take effect. Most Venezuelans immigrated to surrounding countries and other countries in South America, such as Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina. About 300,000 left for the United States, and about 200,000 went to Spain. This mass migration is one of the largest forced displacements in the Western Hemisphere, which only proves further that the quicker this crisis is resolved, the better.

# The Korean Burning Sun Scandal

By: Alison Alexis

Earlier this month, a scandal in South Korea shook their entertainment industry. The club The Burning Sun has faced numerous allegations and many women have stepped forward claiming they have been assaulted or drugged inside of this club. There are also allegations against the club that include bribery, violence, rape, drug trafficking, and drug use. But there was one allegation that stuck out, prostitutes were being reserved for VIPs.

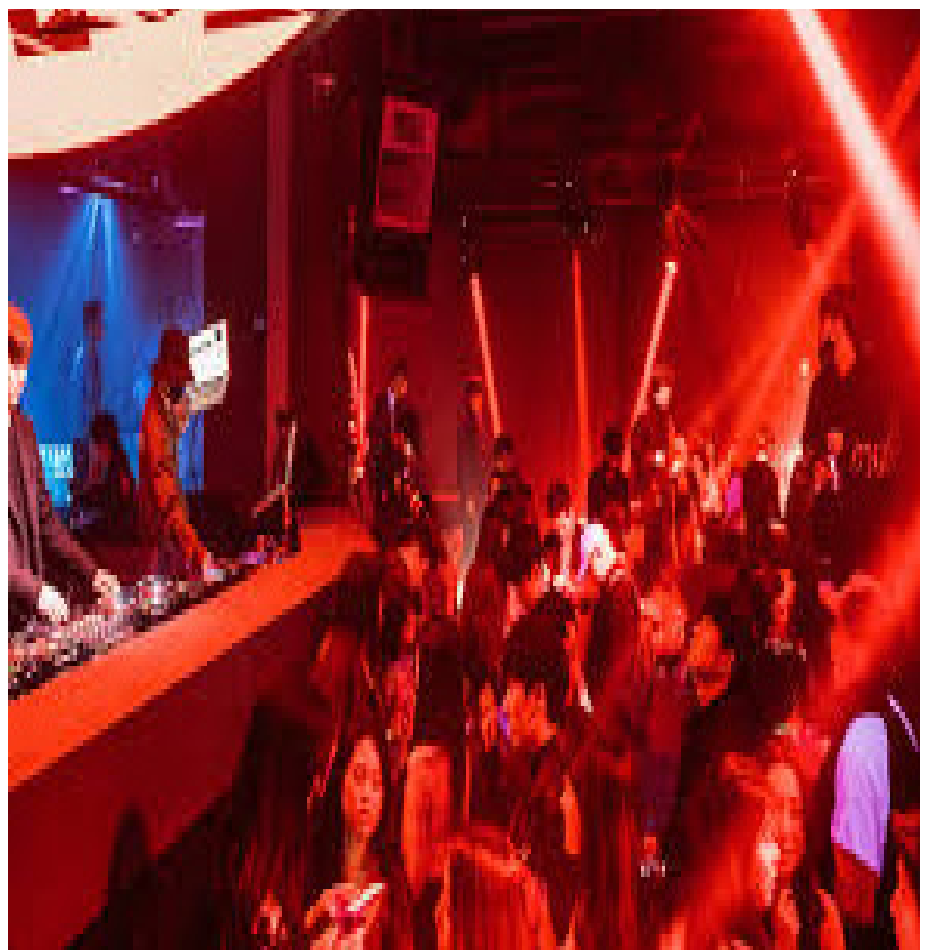
The Burning Sun, a nightclub in the Gangnam area of Seoul, is frequented by many VIPs. These VIPs include many influential Koreans, such as actors and Korean pop stars, or idols. Idols are known to have an especially clean image. Idols are held to an extremely high standard from both their fans and their management companies. Their management companies control what they wear, who they date, and many other things many of us do in our daily lives without question. This is what makes these allegations particularly shocking.

Many Korean idols and actors, such as Seungri from the group BIGBANG, actor and idol Jung Joon-Young, as well as Yong Jun-Hyung from the group Highlight, have all been accused of being involved in a group message of about ten people. On this group message, pictures and videos of women were being sent without their consent. Seungri has also been accused of finding prostitutes for many of the club's VIPs. These accusations are all obviously appalling, but they are exceptionally surprising because of the reputations these idols all had previously.

After these accusations were made, many of these idols' management companies made decisions based on the allegations. YG Entertainment announced that they have terminated their contract with Seungri. They made a statement, explaining, "Seungri is said to be part of various allegations and controversies has appeared repeatedly. We bow deeply to offer our apology for causing disturbance to many people, including our fans." Jung Joon-Young was also dropped by his company, MakeUS Entertainment. They have made a statement claiming, "Our company had judged that we can no longer continue the contract with Jung Joon-young considering the current situation." Jung has also been dropped from a TV show 2 Days & 1 Night and he will

be removed from the episodes that have already been filmed. Yong Jun-Hyung is claiming that he was not a part of the group message, but was sent a video and watched it. His management, US Entertainment, has claimed, "[Yong] had seen an illegal video that was shared through the 1:1 chat and exchanged inappropriate conversations about it." Yong will also be leaving his group, Highlight after a consultation with his company. Ironically, this scandal came at a time where many Koreans are questioning their attitudes towards women. The spy camera epidemic, in particular, gives many women feelings of anxiousness and fear when doing things as simple as riding the subway. Last year thousands of women took to the streets to protest illegal filming and spy cameras with the slogan "My Life is Not Your Porn." Many women have also been protesting the country's large gender pay gap, which is one of the worst in the developed world. CedarBough Saeji, an expert on Korean culture at the University of British Columbia, has said that the Burning Sun scandal came at almost a perfect time and that these issues, "are being faced by society more directly than ever before." Many are also angered because Seungri was an idol for many young men in Korea, and that this may send an unfortunate message.

Overall, the Burning Sun scandal has made many things clear; the wide gender gap in Korea, as well as the issues many women have been facing for years.





# 2019 North Korea and United States Hanoi Summit

By: Alison Alexis

From February 27th to 28th, President Trump and North Korea's Dictator Kim Jong-Un met in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi. The summit, a continuation of the first summit from last summer in Singapore, was suddenly cut short after only two days of negotiating. But why did the Summit fail so abruptly?

The easy answer: the two nations could not agree on how to manage the sanctions placed on North Korea. According to Trump, Kim requested that all economic sanctions be removed from North Korea. And in exchange, he would only close one nuclear facility. This would have left the capital of North Korea, Pyongyang, with a large supply of weapons and plenty of other nuclear facilities.

But North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong Ho, told a different story. He claims that North Korea only wanted "partial" relief on the sanctions. And in return North Korea would dismantle its main enrichment capabilities for fissile material, or material capable of sustaining nuclear fission. North Korea's vice foreign minister, Choe Son Hui, also explains why the summit may have failed. She claims that Kim simply "lost the will to engage in dealmaking." She also mentions that the United States was missing a "once in the lifetime opportunity" and no further meetings between the countries are planned.

Despite the sudden end to the summit, Trump claims it was all on good terms, even though no future plans for a third summit were discussed. But once again, North Korea's vice foreign minister, Choe, disagreed. She states the Kim does not understand the "U.S. way of reckoning" and after the U.S. expressed its unwillingness to lift the sanctions Kim "lost his will to engage in deal-making."

While the summit failed, there were also some successes. North Korea's foreign minister stated that they seek to end some of the sanctions placed on North Korea, as they are "[hampering] the civilian economy, and the livelihood of all people in particular." Even though this does not address all of the sanctions on North Korea, it is a start in easing the pressure on the country. Also, according to Trump, Kim promised that he would not conduct or test nuclear weapons

launches. Kim also states that if some sanctions were lifted, he would close the Yongbyon Nuclear Research Center, North Korea's main nuclear reactor its only source of plutonium.

Even though this summit only involved North Korea and The United States, other countries were affected. South Korea's stock market fell down by 1.8%, and Japan's Nikkei 225 Index, or the stock market index for the Tokyo Stock Exchange, went down 0.8%. There are also now doubts if this summit's failure could lead to tensions between North and South Korea, even after the groundbreaking progress they've made.

Despite the setbacks the summit presented, there is definite proof of progress. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo stated, "We were certainly closer today than 36 hours ago, and we're closer than we were a month or two before that. So real progress was made."

But a question remains, what would a denuclearized North Korea peninsula mean? And what would it require? It is still unsure what Kim would ask of the U.S. in order for him to willingly give up his nuclear weapons and facilities.

While it is debatable whether or not this summit was a success or a failure, it has definitely left us with more questions than answers.





# *International News*

## **I Will Never Mention The Name.**

By: Rylee Daniszewski

On the day March, 15 2019, in Christ-Church, New Zealand, two ghastly shootings took place. These attacks took place consecutive at the Al Noor Mosque and the Linwood Islamic Center. The day started off as any normal one would. Around 300-500 were simply attending their Friday prayer at the Al Noor Mosque when the gunman, known by the name Brenton Tarrant, began to shoot. He shot at people in the mosque and then again in the street before fleeing to another mosque. Over 50 were killed at at least 50 severely injured. This events was beyond horrific and took a large toll on New Zealand.



A few days after the shooting, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern refusing to give Tarrant the attention that he had attempted to gain by not speaking his name at a parliamentary meeting. She stated “ He sought many things from his act of terror, but one was notoriety, and that is why you will never hear me mention his name.” She knew that this man wanted to be known for the thing he had done but rather than dwell on the terrorist, she would rather concern herself with the victims of the shooting. Instead of talking bout the man who committed the crime, focus on those it affected, and their families and loved ones. When Tarrant’s trials take place, they will be behind door and his face will be blurred in any public appearance. The main goal of Ardern is to deny this man any fame.

In order to prevent something like this from ever happening again, Arden has stated that the gun laws of New Zealand will soon change. We do not yet know if it will be an extreme one or a small step, but any measures that are taken to prevent something like this from ever happening again will save lives in the future.

## **Algeria’s Protests**

By: Lane Aubert

From February 22nd onwards, Algerian citizens have taken to the streets of Algiers, Oran, Tizi Ouzou, and other cities to protest. An estimated two million people have protested on March 8th alone, a group that included students, teachers, lawyers, and other citizens. The protests have been mostly peaceful and nonviolent, but riot police have used tear gas on the protesters and more than 100 people have been detained.

President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has been the president of Algeria since 1999. At the beginning of his presidency, he was praised for achieving stability after Algeria’s “black decade”. For nearly two decades, Bouteflika’s government maintained social stability with soaring oil prices. But now that oil prices have declined, Algeria’s economy isn’t in the greatest shape. More than thirty percent of people under thirty are currently unemployed. As well as economic issues, Algeria has faced problems with its government and politicians using it for personal gain. In 2008, Bouteflika amended the constitution and removed the two-term limit on presidents, something that would allow him to rule for as long as he has.

Despite changes made to the amount of time that Bouteflika can govern, he hasn't been ruling Algeria in a form of dictatorship. It's widely regarded that he is being used as a puppet. Bouteflika has been hospitalized in Switzerland since February 24th, but he has been distant from the people of Algeria for far longer. After suffering from a stroke in 2013, he has rarely been publicly seen. His last public address was in 2014. It is believed that the country is being run by the military and civilian elite. His party, the National Liberation Front, is seen as holding onto the power they have through Bouteflika's long run as president. When Bouteflika announced that he was running for the fifth time, these protests broke out. Algerians have recognized the abuse of power in their country and they have taken action, as they have protested for the past month.

Bouteflika backed out of running again after these protests against him occurred. On March 11th, he made the announcement that he wouldn't run but, in lieu of not running, the election scheduled for April 18th has been postponed indefinitely. He appointed Nouredine Bedoui as a prime minister and announced that a transitional government would be in place by the next week. This has been widely viewed as a way for his party to hold onto power.

So why was Bouteflika been able to win election after election, despite his health issues and other problems that arose long before now? When he originally came into power, he increased the stability in Algeria and somewhat decreased violence. This could've made him the popular choice for the subsequent election, but many believe that a majority of his wins have been fraudulent. Opposition groups have often criticized Bouteflika's elections. After his second term, insurgents came back as an arm of al-Qaeda and there were a number of suicide bombings. Despite this, he supposedly won more than 90% of the popular vote in the next election. The next election, in 2014, he won more than 81% of the votes, even after suffering the stroke that would lead him to be rarely publicly seen. Both of these elections have been described marred by fraud and in some cases, with voter intimidation.

These protests have had an impact on Algeria, but a government that is widely accepted and trusted is not likely to come about all of a sudden. Bouteflika has announced an "Inclusive and Independent National Conference" to set an election date and begin to create a new constitution, but protesters aren't convinced that they've gotten what they wanted. Bouteflika is still a part of their government and now the election doesn't have a set time that it will take place at. So, the protesters march on.

## **Brexit Vote**

*By: Lane Aubert*

In June of 2016, Britain held a referendum. With a turnout of over 70%, the people of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland voted to leave the European Union. It was incredibly close with 51.9% of people voting to leave and 48.1% to remain. Now, in 2019, a consensus on how the United Kingdom (UK) will leave the European Union (EU) has not yet been met. This exit of the EU, dubbed "Brexit", is scheduled to take place on the 29th of March, yet many doubt that the UK will actually leave by that date.

On March 12th, Theresa May, the prime minister of the UK and leader of their Conservative Party, reintroduced the deal negotiated with the European Union. This plan was initially introduced to the Parliament in January, where it was defeated by 230 votes. It was again struck down this month, although by a less extreme margin of 149 votes. This set off a series of additional votes. On the next day, the Parliament voted on a no-deal Brexit, in which the UK and the EU would be severed effective immediately. Again, this was defeated, 321 votes to 278. If Britain left with no deal, there would be no transition period or guarantees on citizens' rights of residence. To avoid a no-deal Brexit, Britain had to either chose Theresa May's deal before March 29th or agree with the EU on an extension to their membership. On March 14th, the Parliament chose to approve the delay of Brexit but voted against a second referendum.



Britain will only get this extension if it is approved by the 27 European Union leaders. If they don't get the extra time to rework and revise Theresa May's deal, they will be forced to either take the deal as it is or leave without a deal. May's deal would ensure that the UK leaves the EU in a way that minimizes disruption to businesses and citizens on both sides. UK citizens living in the EU and EU citizens living in the UK would retain both residency and social security rights. The UK would remain in the EU's customs union and single market until at least 2020 and the two would hash out a permanent trade deal over twenty or so months. The opposition to the deal is focused around two main issues: a "divorce bill" and the backstop. If Britain leaves the EU with a deal, the country would have to pay 39 billion euros for leaving. Theresa May and David Davis, former Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, have claimed that Britain will not pay that amount if they leave with no deal. The second and perhaps more important issue about taking May's deal is the backstop. Currently, there are few restrictions on trade between Northern Ireland and The Republic of Ireland. After Brexit, regulations and the hardening of the border may have to occur. Both the UK and the EU have expressed that they aren't interested in this happening. This is where the backstop comes in. In order to prevent trade regulations between Northern Ireland and Ireland, Northern Ireland would have to conform to some rules of the EU's single market and the UK would have to stay inside the EU's customs union. This would most likely be temporary, but some fear it will become permanent and threaten the unity of Britain.

Theresa May's deal is still on the table until a decision is made and a vote will most likely occur within the next week. She will also travel to Brussels on March 20th to ask for an approved delay until June 30th.

## *Science*

# **The Problem with the Twelve Year Deadline**

*By: Julie Rostock*

For decades, it has been common knowledge that climate change and rampant carbon emissions pose a serious threat to the health of our planet. Recently, however, a report released by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (or IPCC) warned that the threat may be more imminent than we thought. News sources picked up on this news quickly, emphasizing that we may only have twelve years left to reverse climate change. This news is frightening, but the origin of the deadline generally goes undiscussed. Without an explanation, the idea that we have exactly twelve years to save the world could do more harm than good.

Back in 2015, countries around the world came together to sign the Paris agreement, which outlined a path to reduce carbon emissions and slow global warming. This agreement sought to limit the overall warming of the planet to 2°C (3.6°F) above the pre-industrial temperature (as of 2015, the planet had warmed about 1°C). In this recent IPCC report, though, climate scientists warned that 2°C would be much more harmful than we previously thought. Instead, they recommended a limit of 1.5°C (2.7°F), and laid out a set of milestones to achieve the goal. Among them was a timeline: by 2030 (twelve years from 2018, when the report was published), we would have to cut our worldwide carbon emissions by 45%, and by 2050, we would have to be completely carbon neutral. The new goal is much more ambitious than our plan to reach 2°C, but climate scientists believe that it is possible if urgent changes are made. This is the origin of the twelve-year deadline: it is part of a suggested plan of action to limit global warming to 1.5°C.

In the grand scheme of things, half of a degree may not seem like a major change, but the difference that it could make is surprising. Half of a degree past 1.5°C would make drought, flood, extreme heat, and extreme weather much more common and severe. It would also increase pressure on the Arctic and add to rising sea levels. Climate-based poverty is another major problem that could be eased by maintaining a lower global temperature. If we reached 2°C, economies based on agriculture, especially those in poor countries, would likely collapse due to water shortage, causing widespread famine and increased immigration from climate refugees. To be clear, neither a 1.5°C nor a 2°C rise in temperature is a good thing, but according to James Hansen, a former NASA scientist, “1.5C gives young people and the next generation a fighting chance of getting back to the [pre-industrial standard] or close to it.”

As those who have seen news articles regarding this topic know, tacking on an urgent deadline to an already alarming risk can be a great motivator to make a change. For this reason, many media sources have incessantly broadcasted this deadline with little context as to where it came from. The major problem with that is that it misrepresents what the report actually said in a harmful way. A twelve-year deadline to “stop climate change” implies that there is a level that separates “completely normal” from “the end of the world,” when in reality, climate change is already happening, and any small amount of additional warming will increase the consequences. Kate Marvel, a climate scientist at NASA, says this is a problem because “12 years isn’t a deadline, and climate change isn’t a cliff we fall off — it’s a slope we slide down. We don’t have 12 years to prevent climate change — we have no time. It’s already here. And even under a business-as-usual scenario, the world isn’t going to end in exactly twelve years.”

Applying a deadline to climate change may make a reader panic, but it doesn’t really express the gravity of what’s happening. It’s more important to understand that everything we do makes a difference. The lower we keep the global temperature now, the easier it’ll be to reverse the effects of climate change in the future, when methods like reforestation can help remove carbon dioxide from the air and restore our planet to its natural temperature. Climate change is not a limit that we’re approaching, but a sliding scale that shifts according to our actions, and if changes are made now, we can look forward to a cleaner and cooler future.

# *National Headlines*

## **Arming Teacher Resource Officers** *By: Lane Aubert*

One of the most pressing issues in the United States currently is the debate over gun control and the second amendment. In the wake of the Parkland shooting, Sandy Hook, and numerous other mass shootings across America, many schools have made steps to prepare in the case of an active shooter. In North Carolina, there is currently a bill that may allow teachers to carry concealed firearms in educational spaces and give them a salary raise for becoming a “teacher resource officer”.

In the “School Security Act of 2019”, it is outlined that teachers will be able to apply to participate in and complete state-funded basic law enforcement training. They would become sworn law enforcement officers, giving them abilities not an optional to other teachers. These “teacher resource officers” will have the same powers as county and municipal police officers in the case of making arrests for felonies and misdemeanors and charging for infractions. The school itself will be able to control whether the teacher is required to conceal their handgun and if they must carry it at all times or are permitted to stow the handgun. The state plans to provide funds of \$4,770,000 for 3,000 candidate “teacher resource officers”, or enough for one “teacher resource officer” for every five hundred students.

To add an incentive for teachers to become “teacher resource officers”, the state of North Carolina will pay a salary supplement monthly of 5% of the teacher’s monthly pay.



They will provide a sum of \$4,500,000 in recurring funds for the next two fiscal years to provide this salary supplement.

The “teacher resource officers” bill is still just that, a bill. North Carolina’s State Senator, Warren Daniel, has introduced this bill before, but it died in committee. A National Education Association (NEA) survey from March of last year shows that the majority of NEA members (82%) say they would not carry a gun in school. A majority (69%) also agrees that arming school personnel would be ineffective in preventing gun violence in schools. Despite this, there are states that allow teachers to carry guns, including Oregon, Utah, Missouri, and Michigan.

Bills like this again bring up the debates on gun control and student safety, as well as government funding to schools. Those in charge of seeing to it if this bill passes or remains as it is have to ask themselves, “Are we taking the most effective measures to ensure others’ safety? Is the money being used in the right way?” and many more questions. One thing that is sure is that they must act with the intention that they find will benefit their state the most.

# SAT Cheating Scandal

*By: Lane Aubert*

Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation charged 50 people for using their wealth to bribe college coaches and administrators and cheat on the SAT and ACT. Twenty-five million dollars were spent in order to ensure that certain children got into elite colleges such as the University of Southern California, Georgetown, Yale, and Stanford. Many of those children were unaware that cheating or bribery was involved in any way with their college application process. After almost eight years of this occurring and an investigation done by 200 FBI agents, this scandal was revealed to the public on March 12th. The investigation involved actresses Felicity Huffman and Lori Loughlin, who are known for *Desperate Housewives* and *Full House* respectively, and more than thirty other parents.

All persons involved in this scheme were led by William Rick Singer, founder of the Edge College and Career Network (referred to as “The Key”). Parents put money into an account in Singer’s nonprofit, the Key Worldwide Foundation, which Singer used to launder the money. Instead of going towards disadvantaged youth, as the nonprofit falsely claimed, the money mostly went towards bribing coaches and test proctors.

Singer pled guilty to his four charges: racketeering conspiracy, money laundering conspiracy, conspiracy to defraud the U.S., and obstruction of justice. Many of the parents face charges of criminal complaint with conspiracy to commit mail fraud and wire fraud or racketeering conspiracy. The coaches who took bribes have been charged with racketeering conspiracy. The colleges involved have not been accused of wrongdoing.

In order to get the wealthy’s children into college, bribes were doled out, staged or photo-shopped photos of the kids playing sports were taken, and athletic credentials were faked. Parents paid between \$15,000 and \$75,000 per test to have test administrators give students the answers, correct the tests, or have another student take the test for them. At least one parent was even told to say that their son had a learning disability to win him extra time with the exam. As well as faking a disability, Singer also helped fudge student’s ethnicities and biographical information in order to take advantage of affirmative action. Elite colleges’ slightly lax requirements on athletes were also taken full advantage of. Parents paid money to bribe coaches to recruit their children who did not have any athletic experience, including actress Lori Loughlin. Loughlin allegedly paid \$500,000 for her daughter to be a part of the University of Southern California’s crew team. Singer also fabricated athletic profiles of the children involved. Singer would also photoshopped their faces onto the bodies of athletes found on the internet. Collectively, those involved paid \$25 million dollars for illegal admission to selective colleges and are now facing the consequences of those actions.

The unveiling of the scheme has had a variety of effects. The University of Southern California has come out to say that the students connected to this case will be denied admission. Many other colleges, including UCLA, Stanford, and Wake Forest, have put on leave or fired the personnel involved. Feeling as though they have been cheated out of a fair admission process, two Stanford students have taken it to sue the colleges that employed those who were bribed.

# The Face Behind Momo

*By: Colin Barch*

The “Momo Challenge” had quickly spread around the world, which caused mass panic at the beginning of March. It centered around a disturbing image of a woman named “Momo”. Children as young as six years old have reportedly been affected by the challenge, which promises death to victims who do not follow the characters commands. This had struck fear in many children of the world; including a young girl who could not sleep due to her distraught emotions. The police had to come to the girl’s house and tell her that “Momo” was “put in jail, where they put bad people”. Surprisingly enough “Momo” actually exists. “Momo” is a sculpture created by Japanese artist Keisuke Aisawa, and is actually titled “Mother Bird”. The sculpture was for the artist’s special effects company, Link Factory.

On top of that, the challenge is a hoax to begin with. The trend began on social media platform, Reddit. There it morphed into the “Momo” we have all heard of, but it really spiraled out in Argentina. In Argentina authorities warned people of a “WhatsApp terror game” which followed the suicide of a 12 year old girl, using sculpture “Mother Bird” for spine-chilling visuals. This simple warning spread worldwide, even reaching the US. Here the story was converted to hint that this “creature” was being implemented into children YouTube videos. Conversely, the motivations for people to commit these hoaxes is depressingly straightforward: some people enjoy being imbeciles online. Manipulating people into believing that a nightmarish lady is teaching self-harm methods by targeting their Peppa Pig videos is done for a variety of reasons: simple amusement, as attention seeking behavior, or as an act of revenge. Aisawa announced on March fifth that, in the wake of the Momo Challenge fallout, he has destroyed the original sculpture. “It doesn’t exist anymore, it was never meant to last,” Aisawa said in an interview. “It was rotten and I threw it away. The children can be reassured Momo is dead, she doesn’t exist and the curse is gone.”

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