

THE MARINER CHRONICLE

"A reliable source dedicated to informing St. Monica Mariners about current news and events, through multiple viewpoints, while upholding honesty and credibility."



OP-ED: How Trump's Contraction of COVID will affect the Election

WRITTEN BY VIOLETA SALAZAR

Search up Trump and Covid, and a myriad of resources discussing how Trump has constantly mishandled the Covid situation will come up. As we know, President Trump, ironically, contracted Covid-19 earlier this month. He was taken to Walter Reed Medical Center and is now back in the White House in recovery. Sources vary on the exact date of President Trump's first positive Coronavirus test and Sean Conley, Donald Trump's White House physician, was doing nothing with his briefings to aid the confusion. His statements were often vague and sometimes contradictory such as when on Saturday, October 3, Dr. Conley said that it had been 72 hours since the President had been diagnosed with Coronavirus. This would have meant that the President's first positive test would have been sometime around the middle of the day on Wednesday. However, Dr. Conley later walked back on his statement, saying that he had meant that Saturday was the 3rd day of the diagnosis.

Regardless of the conflicting and often useless statements coming from the White House about the President's health, it raises the question: What will Trump's contraction of Covid-19 mean in terms of the election on November 3? From a purely philosophical standpoint, it is clear to see that it will be one of the biggest questions asked of him. "President Trump, how can we trust anything you say when you told the American people that the Coronavirus 'affects virtually nobody' but then you get diagnosed with it?" His contraction of Covid-19 will continue to illustrate that Trump has desperately been trying to downplay the effects of the Coronavirus, not only with regards to his own health, but with regards to the health of the American people as well. In an interview that occurred in March and was made public sometime in September, Trump stated "I wanted to always play it down". "Playing it down" will be made significantly more difficult after his three day long stay at Walter Reed (which would have been made longer if he had been receiving the same medical treatment as a regular American rather than specialized care that no one else in the nation received).

However, there is also another standpoint which is based solely in statistics and hard facts. For example, a CNN poll conducted by SSRS states that as of October 4, 60% of Americans disapprove of the way Trump has handled Coronavirus. From another poll taken by Ipsos with ABC News, 67% of U.S. adults believe that Trump was too slow with his

Some of the many great reads inside this issue:

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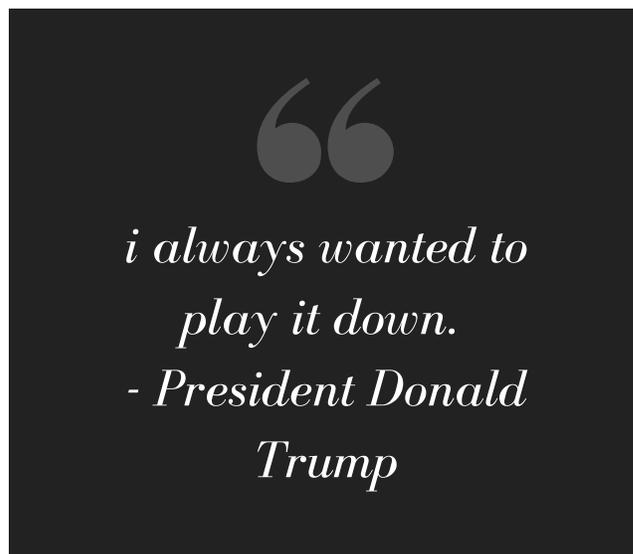
SENIOR SPOTLIGHT: SPENCER WILLIAMS

HOW COVID IS AFFECTING THE FILM INDUSTRY

Covid-19 response. Also from the CNN poll conducted by SSRS, “69% of Americans said they trusted little of what they heard from the White House about the President’s health”.

Of the groups that Trump so desperately needs for his re-election, the women, those above 65 years of age, and the white people with college degrees, 72% of women say he acted irresponsibly, with that number being at 66% for those above 65, and 65% among white people with college degrees. Trump’s diagnosis has sowed more distrust with regards to a vaccine, shown in a CNN poll, conducted by SSRS, which stated only half of the American population would try to get vaccinated.

President Trump will now have to address Coronavirus much more than his liking due to his contraction of it. This will yet again illustrate his mishandling of the situation and show the American people where his priorities lie; with oil, Wall Street, and creating an “America first” mindset. If you can, please vote.



Covid and the Film Industry

WRITTEN BY SARAH SINGH

As we know, COVID-19 has put a pause on daily life. Slowly but surely we are getting back to “daily life”. With everything going on, television production has been put on the back burner for safety reasons but more recently tv show production has slowly started up again with precautions.

Many shows have been delayed leaving the film industry with less content to provide during these times. Popular shows such as Grey’s Anatomy, All American, Riverdale, and Euphoria, which are major hit dramas, have slowly started shooting again. You may ask yourself, what are they doing to stay safe and create a COVID-free environment? Crew members and actors are required to be tested about three times a week since it’s harder to social distance on camera, when scenes require actors to be within six feet of each other. Masks are required for all actors, crew members, and directors. Depending on the show and the number of resources available, actors try their hardest to get tested for COVID before every scene they film. While in hair and makeup trailers, masks are required for both the actor and hair and makeup people.

Reality Shows such as The Bachelor, Love Island, and Big Brother have also resumed production but with these tv

shows things are a little different. Since in these shows, they all are in the same general area living, a mandatory 14-day quarantine is required for both the contestants and the crew members. Love Island is taking a different approach and modifying the show altogether and creating a more “covid-friendly” environment. Although all the procedures help reduce the chance of Covid it doesn’t mean it’s 100% full proof. As reported in the Deadline newspaper, the production of popular football drama “All American” has been postponed to a positive Covid test. Other shows that film on the same lots such as Chicago Med and The Bold and Beautiful have paused filming as well.

Television production is something that requires many different people working in different aspects of the production such as costume director, cinematographer, director, and producers. So cutting the number of people to be allowed on set, in reality, would just make the work harder for others and more inconveniences. As we continue to keep our hopes up for the return of the film industry, we will see what the future holds for these upcoming shows and how others will be affected.

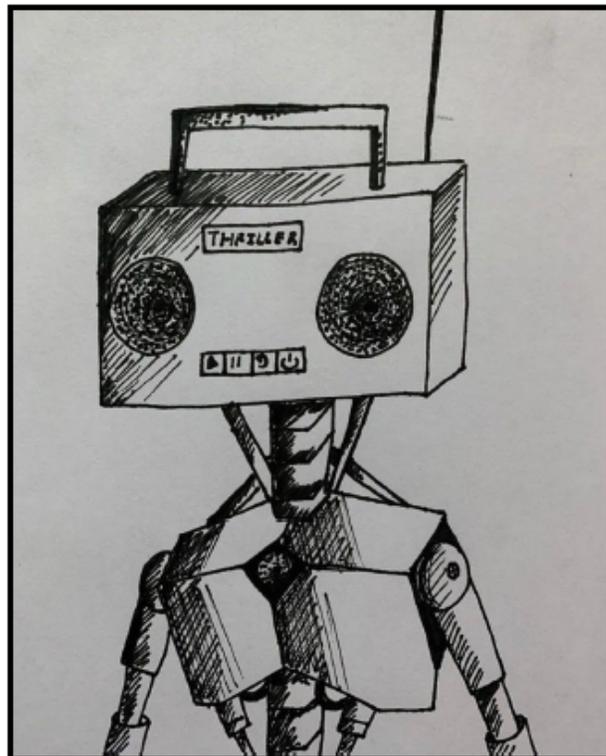
Inktober in SMCHS

WRITTEN BY ISABELLA JUAREZ

Spooky season is upon us and to others it might just mean horror movies and costumes, but for artists it means the beginning of inktober. Inktober was created by Jake Parker in which artists are given a prompt everyday during the month of October and they must make a drawing inspired by the word for the day. The rules are to make your beautiful artwork and post it with the hashtags #inktober or #inktober2020.

Inktober has turned into a worldwide endeavour inspiring creativity amongst the world. It's a fun way for artists and even those who wouldn't consider themselves artists, to turn a simple word into a beautiful and unique masterpiece. Not only has this become a world wide trend, but it has also become a prominent tradition in our own little St. Monica's. Among several students, including our beloved teacher Mr. Conboy, Inktober has become a yearly and fun challenge.

This piece of artwork was inspired by day 4 "radio" and was made by Robert Mayorga, who is a senior at SMCHS. When asked about inktober, he stated that he "got into Inktober mostly because of Mr. Conboy, our art teacher, but also because of the challenge. It's a really cool concept after all!". During quarantine, we have more time on our hands so we challenge all the artists and lovers of the art to join inktober and show off their amazing creations everyday.



Spread the News: Freshman Retreat

WRITTEN BY NYA CLEVELAND

Many might be wondering what went on during the Freshman Retreat. Freshmen had a wonderful opportunity to see their fellow schoolmates, staff, and teachers on campus. Of course, safety measures were enforced. Before walking in, it was necessary for everyone to wear a mask at all times, and to get a temperature screening.

As soon as you stepped onto campus, you could see and feel the buzz of excitement everywhere. No one seemed to be shy, and all of the students were collaborating with each other. Freshman met their virtual friends in-person and socialized. Many talked for hours, others played games, and some were just getting acclimated to the campus.

The freshman started and ended the day with prayer. The class council was formally introduced, individually, to their classmates for the first time, giving the students the ability to finally connect and really meet the students they elected to represent them. It was amazing to finally be able to meet and get to know a portion of the student body. Although our time together was short we were able to bond through activities planned by Campus Ministry. The freshman class played fun games, sang songs in groups, hung out with friends, and spent time with those on the virtual retreat that sadly could not attend.

Freshmen participated in many activities, including the Indian chief, and the faith walk. The faith walk created a stronger bond between classmates because of the way it was structured. During the faith walk, many students, most of whom were barely getting to know each other, had to put their trust in one another while being blindfolded. Walking onto campus and seeing that was really a sight. Various groups were bumping into each other, walking into poles, climbing stairs, tripping, and

while all of this occurred. In the end, it was all fun and games and all the freshmen enjoyed their time on campus.

Getting to finally meet everyone, off the screen, and finally connect with them changed my perspective. Everyone was really different, even just small differences such as some students being shorter than I was, to my surprise as I thought I was short, while others were taller. I enjoyed talking to my teachers in-person and meeting my Campus Minister. The best part of the retreat was definitely getting to meet new people, and saying “hi” to new friends, that I once only knew through a tiny square on my screen.

It was important that the freshmen got to go outside, and get away from the virtual world. Although freshmen had to return to remote learning the following week, St. Monica will definitely have another one of those retreats very soon.

The Effect Online Learning has on Students

WRITTEN BY VICTORIA SITTER AND SOPHIE GOODWIN

The coronavirus has had a huge impact on everyday life. Restaurants and malls were shut down, businesses were closed, and many unemployed and left without income. Professional sports and even high school sports seasons canceled. But the thing that has been difficult for many of us: the school was transformed to fit into an 8'11 screen.

Schools across the world were shut down and forced into quarantine, leaving students to sit at a computer and attend class. While bell schedules and classes vary according to the school, SMCHS has focused on keeping everything the same as it would be on campus. Same hours, same alternating classes, same schedules.

Having school online is not all that bad, but there are some aspects that make learning more difficult. The first being it is hard to focus because we are at home, tempted by

distractions. It makes it difficult to actually focus and absorb the information being taught. It is easier to play among us on our phones or browse the internet shopping for clothes. Even when students pay attention, it is harder to ask questions, get our points across, or even to understand the concept as a whole. Online school feels more of an option than a requirement.

Another downside of online learning is the homework load. While the homework load we are given now may or may not be the same amount that would be given if, on campus, it definitely feels like a lot more. Maybe because we are online for 8 hours a day, then have to endure several more hours on our computers doing homework. Or because teachers are actually assigning more work. Being on our computers all day has taken a toll on our mental and physical health. We are stressed about getting our homework done, keeping up with exercising routines, keeping up with extracurriculars and balancing personal time with school. It feels like constant school all the time.

One last effect of distance learning is not being able to see our friends. Yes, we can facetime or hang out with friends socially distanced, but this is not every day and is not the same as in-person contact. We often feel distanced and alone because it is hard to connect with our friends the same way we used to be able to. But with sports teams beginning to practice again, there is a light at the end of the long, socially distanced tunnel.

Keep it up, Mariners! We have completed one quarter of the year! We would like to give you guys a round of applause for how well you guys have dealt with the pandemic and how you have not let this setback affect your grades or your spirit!

“

*It feels like
constant school
all the time.*

How TikTok is shaping politics in under 60 seconds

WRITTEN BY SOPHIE NGUYEN

From stationary dancing to mindless comedy, the last thing that anyone suspected for TikTok to become was a platform for politics. However, as we face social injustices, and the election edges dangerously close, creators are using their platform to advocate and educate. In doing so, TikTok has slowly evolved into a fast-paced, 60 second CNN (or FOX News if you prefer it) news platform equipped with updates on current events, creator debates, and loads of trolling.

The political side of TikTok attracts users from many parties ranging from liberal, conservative, or even paleoconservative. Though a vast majority of such creators aren't even old enough to vote, they take it upon themselves to advocate for their ideologies. Ranging from thoughts on abortion rights, health care, or immigration, there is no narrative unregarded.

TikTok is slowly evolving into a political network, used to keep up with current events and facilitate debates. @Nowthispolitics provides summaries of significant political events, keeping viewers updated within their short attention span. Other accounts such as @tiktokforbiden and their opposer @republicanhypehouse use their social media influence to advocate for their preferred candidate. As the election rounds the corner, their key focus is to get the audience to register or even preregister to vote, as it is the most important way that everyone can contribute to political change.

Additionally, TikTok helps facilitate civil, online debates between creators. Tiktokers @thecommune (liberal) and @nickvideos (conservative) debate on topics such as immigration, the economy, and the LGBTQ+ community and allow their followers to watch via Youtube streaming. These debates offer an interesting conversation on political topics, which help inform and educate the viewers.

As with any social media app, joining a public platform opens a venue for trolling. Especially when openly discussing politics, people who disagree with their content tend to express their disgust through duets or comments.

Terms such as "Trumpet," "snowflake" and "libshard" are common insults found in almost every political post. Some trolls go even further, @Victoriahammett, a liberal tik toker, often posts the violent or even threatening messages that she receives from people who disagree with her beliefs. While she takes the criticism with poise, it shows just how controversial the political side of TikTok can be.

Besides all the debate and political rivalry, I applaud TikTok for welcoming free speech on their platform. For a generation heavily involved in political activism, it gives people a voice to stand up for what they believe in, and help amplify it around the world. However, even without a platform, we can all do our part to help bring change in our country. Educate yourselves. Register to vote. America can only be a better place if we work for it.

The Road to Super Bowl IV: Dak Prescott

WRITTEN BY AMANUEL FISAHA

In this week's sports column, our story will be covering the Dallas Cowboy's quarterback: Dak Prescott. Dak was born and raised in Louisiana and he always loved playing football. He played a crucial role in the sport starting in his Haughton High School's 2010 division I championship and later carried on to play at Mississippi State University, carrying his stardom to college and making several records for the MSU bulldogs. By the end of his term with the university, he played in 49 games and scored 70 touchdowns. After his college football years, his stardom followed him to the 'Dallas Cowboys', where he was selected in the fourth round and played 16 games for them as a rookie, Ending his first year with 23 touchdowns, and scoring 22 by the end of his second season. His achievements did not go unacknowledged and in 2016, he won the 'NFL Rookie of the Year' and the 'Offensive Rookie of the Month,' as well as a feature in 'Pro Bowl.' He reached number 14 on the list of the 'NFL Top 100 Players of 2017.'

As we have just concluded week 4 of the NFL this past Tuesday, Dak might be done for the season. During the Cowboys 37-34 win over the New York Giants, Dak suffered a gruesome compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle. The Cowboys quarterback had surgery on Sunday night. Although the

injury isn't considered career threatening, the expected recovery timetable for Prescott is four to six months. Prescott was having his best year statistically when he got hurt and through the quarter mark of the season, he was on pace to shatter the NFL's single-season passing yards record (5,477), which Peyton Manning set in 2013 as the Broncos quarterback. We must keep him and his family in our prayers and hope for a great comeback next season. (For more of the NFL stats check out our website!)

Senior Spotlight: Spencer Williams

WRITTEN BY ADRIANA BRADY

Meet our senior Spencer Williams, a man of two tales. One which consists of drama, singing, and performing; and the other which consists of perseverance, competition and floor burns.

Since the young age of 8, Spencer has been an avid member of the performing arts community taking roles in a small local theatre, which is where his love for performing on stage started. As he continued down this path not only did his passion for performing grow but so did his talent. He has been able to live and experience the different worlds of each character he's played whether it be being a jock restricted by social norms unable to follow his passions for cooking, or becoming the light and a sense of hope, regardless of the home troubles he's faced, for ponyboy or Spencer's personal favorite, leading a group of young teenage boys in a strike against one of the biggest newspaper names who resides in New York. These are just some of the several productions that Spencer has taken part of, and although his role as these characters was temporary the effect they've had on him will be long lasting. They have made Spencer "a person who speaks their mind and isn't afraid to tap into their emotions and enjoy life to its fullest."

Spencer has not only brought his love for performing to St.Monica's through school productions but by becoming the president of the one and only Drama Club. He has made this club a place anyone interested in theater and all aspects related to it. Their main goal is to have fun with like-minded people and show the school all the great things theater can do for us.

Performing arts has not played the only role in Spencer's life, what he claims to be his "other love," is volleyball. Volleyball has placed an active role, both in club and high school, in Spencer's life for 7 years now. Those 7 years of the sport paid off as he and his club team won the gold medal in the Junior Nationals. Along with being a gold medalist at the Junior Nationals, Spencer brought his talent with him to St.Monica's where he learned what he needed to do and how to help his team, to not only grow but to better themselves as well. Although his experiences with the sport in both high school and club were substantially different



they both shaped him into a stronger person that challenged him to constantly strive for more.

As the lessons Spencer has taken away from performing arts and volleyball contribute to his growth as a person, so did his high school experience. Spencer says that his experience at St.Monica was nowhere near perfect, but that it did teach him a lot about himself, especially who he is as a person. He's learned what has allowed him and will continue to allow him to become a successful person and has been able to find and direct his energy to his true passions and what he values in life. One of the experiences from St.Monica's that Spencer has been able to treasure was his Junior Overnight Retreat because of its contribution to his personal development and being able to connect with himself, helping him find the calm in the midst of the stress and "the chaos that is high school." Spencer advises underclassmen to enjoy the little things during each day throughout high school, because you'll blink and see that you're a senior thinking about graduation.