

The Pirate Journal

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Administration says no to cat picture

By Avery Bourk

Recently, there has been a discussion on Treymaine Eagle Thunder-Alger's missing senior basketball picture in the auditorium. His picture was not allowed to be hung up because his cat was featured in the picture. Superintendent Mr. Cermak had important reasons for not wanting the picture to be hung up.

"I don't believe a picture of a cat hung up in the auditorium is a proper representation of our school's sports programs," Cermak said. Eagle Thunder-Alger said the reason he wanted to take the picture in the first place was that "No one's ever done anything like that before, I just wanted to be different."

Both Cermak and Eagle Thunder-Alger have different views on the purpose of hanging the pictures in the auditorium. Eagle Thunder-Alger thinks the purpose should be "To represent the player, and in my instance to show how stunning my cat looked." Cermak said he liked having the pictures up there. He said, "We are celebrating our seniors and their respective sports."

Another issue with this topic was permission. "I talked to Mr. Ring; he didn't care. I talked to Mr. Cermak, he declined it, but I did it anyway because I am a senior" said Eagle Thunder-Alger. Mr. Cermak confirmed that he denied Eagle Thunder-Alger's request. Mr. Ring said he wanted to defer any approval for the picture to Mr. Cermak. Although at first, he was unable to hang up his picture, the administration has said that Eagle Thunder-Alger is allowed to retake his picture. He did so and his picture can now be seen hung up in the auditorium.

This issue has sparked discussion among students on the topic of student rights when it comes to expressing individuality, but there is a line when it comes to student expression. It seems the line is crossed when you're not just representing yourself, but in this case, the entire athletic program and Highmore-Harrold High School.



Brexit's process has been slowed down

By Anna Ravel

Brexit is a word used as a short way of saying the United Kingdom leaving the European Union. A vote was held on Thursday, June 23, 2016, by former Prime Minister David Cameron, to decide whether the UK should leave or remain in the EU. Leave won by 51.9% to 48.1%.

England and Wales both voted for Brexit. Scotland and Northern Ireland both voted to remain in the EU. For the UK to leave the EU it had to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty which gives the two sides two years to agree on the terms of the separation. Theresa May, the current prime minister of the UK, triggered this process on March 29, 2017, meaning the UK is scheduled to leave the EU at 11 pm UK time on Friday, March 29, 2019.

Brexit has many pros and cons. One of the pros is that leaving the EU would result in an immediate cost saving; they would no longer contribute to the EU budget. However, there are no taxes on imports and exports in the EU so the UK would also lose money by having to pay those taxes.

For Leavers, exiting the EU will allow Britain to re-establish itself as a truly independent nation with connections to the rest of the world. For Remainders, it will result in the country giving up its influence in Europe.

Also, pro-Brexit people criticized the UK's "open door" policy. Most countries in the EU have "no-border," meaning when you drive into another country, you don't necessarily need to show your papers. So the view is that staying in the EU will lead to terrorist attacks because this border does not allow to check and control people. But others replied that the EU was very important for the security of the country, especially at a time of instability in the Middle East, because there is power in number.

Theresa May wants the Parliament to approve the deal she has created for the UK to leave the European Union. Her agreement sets out what will happen when the UK leaves the EU on March 29, 2019. It covers issues like how much they are going to pay to the EU, what will happen to UK citizens living elsewhere and what will happen to EU citizens living in the UK.

One of the sticking points has been the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Splitting the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland with a hard border it will make crossing into Northern Ireland (or vice-versa) hard for the people living there, who may cross the border often to go to work or even to see family.

On January 15th, Britain's parliament rejected Theresa May's Brexit deal. Parliament voted 432 to 202 against May's plan. With a deal that took nearly two years to create, European Union leaders sounded a note of exasperation, urging Britain to come out and say what it actually wants, the deadline is in less than 2 months.

Good Luck to the Pirates at Regions and to the Bandits going to State Wrestling!



Students Proving Citizenship

By Telson Cowan

The 2018 South Dakota election yielded some new faces in state offices and with that comes new policies. The current South Dakota offices are filled by John Thune and Mike Rounds as senators, Dusty Johnson as the state representative, and Kristi Noem at governor. Just this last month, Kristi Noem gave her thoughts on the state's proceedings in the state of the state address where she talked largely about drugs and education. The new governor Kristi Noem has had a few propositions that would affect high school students. One idea governor Noem has had is a measure that would require all high school students in South Dakota to score a 70 percent or above on a civics test in order to receive a diploma. Ryan Beckler, a freshman at Highmore-Harrold said, "The citizenship test is easy enough so I don't really care if we have to take it."

Civics is the studies of the rights and responsibilities of the citizens in a place. A civics test would show that students know enough about the United States to exercise these rights and responsibilities properly. Colby Werdel, a sophomore at Highmore-Harrold commented, "I don't really think a citizenship test is worthwhile in South Dakota." Noem, who made education a strong point in her state of the state address believes that it is only fair that high school students have basic knowledge of our country's history and practices. On top of a citizenship test, Noem said she would like to see more experience and less classroom time in schools. She thinks that the best way for South Dakota students to learn an industry is by experience. These are just propositions, but the South Dakota state legislature has also been considering similar measures.

Senate Bill 49 - what is it?

By Trenton Ramsey

Senate Bill 49 is a transgender policy for high school athletics in South Dakota. It states that students who are transgender must participate in high school sports according to their sex at birth rather than how they identify themselves.

In 2015, the SDHSAA adopted the policy that high school athletes participated in sports for the gender they identify themselves as. With that policy, a person born as a female could participate in a male's sports. Senate Bill 49 would ensure a person born as a female would participate in female sports. Why is it needed? It is needed to help make competition among sports fairer for the competitors. Grady Aasby states, "I think it's a great rule because God gave you a body to act like a boy/girl so they should participate in the gender group they were born as."

The American Civil Liberties Union of South Dakota and other transgender rights groups opposed Bill 49. Many people think this new bill will discriminate transgender students. State Senator Jim Bolin says that the bill is strictly for fairness in sports, not about locker rooms. The South Dakota Senate Education Committee killed the bill with a 5-2 vote. Therefore, students can participate in sports for the gender they identify themselves as. "I feel that it was unnecessary and to let the schools decide," stated Mark Hague.

Legislators continue to try to make new policies to have students participate in their original gender sports. Now, House Bill 1225 has been introduced and it states that student's participating in high school sports must be on teams of the sex on their birth certificate.

"Dear Pete the Pirate"

Dear Pete,

How do I make the girl I like commit to dating me?

Sincerely,

Uncommitted

Dear Uncommitted,

If a girl you're talking to won't commit to you, it says a lot about her true feelings. Obviously you aren't important enough to her that she is willing to declare you as your boyfriend, but at the same time she enjoys having you around enough to keep talking to you. If it's commitment you want, move on, because she's not willing to give it to you, and there's nothing you can do to make her commit. It is a decision she has to make on her own. Don't waste any more of your emotions on someone who doesn't care enough to commit to you.

Sincerely,

Pete the Pirate

More than a bruised heart

By Shelby Hinkle

February is lesser-known as Teen Dating Violence Awareness month, which is greatly contrasted to the red hearts, bows, and cupid version of February that we know and love. It's a sad topic, but with 26% of females and 15% of males experiencing violence in their relationships before the age of 18, according to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention Report, it is a much needed discussion.

Violence in a relationship can have many side-effects, including damaged self-esteem, symptoms of anxiety and depression, and has the potential to lead a teen to use drugs or alcohol. According to Highmore High School's Counselor Ms. Bergeson you should begin the conversation about dating violence "as soon as they are showing interest in dating somebody." If your child is in a toxic relationship it is important to "...be supportive, don't criticize, and ask what you could do to help them."

Ms. Bergeson often uses the TEEN Power and Control Wheel to show teens abuse tactics that they potentially didn't notice, "too often we consider only physical abuse to be actual abuse." Abuse can take many forms and is most of the time silent from the public eye; some of these include: threatening to spread rumors, control your friend groups, says that every argument is your fault, isolate you from potential opportunities, and many more. If you or somebody you know is showing signs of being in an abusive relationship, there are resources available to your disposable. Love Is Respect is a website that provides help to young people who are concerned with their dating situations. They also have hotlines, and text-lines. Call: 1.866.331.9474 TTY: 1.866.331.8453 Text: loveis to 22522



February is Black History Month

By Landon Schied

Black History Month takes place during the month of February. The purpose of Black History Month is to show the African Americans play in America. Shelby Hinkle, a senior at Highmore High, said: "Black History Month brings up how black people contributed to our history but should already be in our history books and shouldn't need a month." To some, Black history month is a reminder of America's prejudiced past. "When I think of black history month I think of everything we've been through and where we are today," stated sophomore Regan Bollweg.

Black History Month can also be viewed as a cultural celebration. Some may compare it to Mardi Gras, Native American Day, Day of the Dead, and many other cultural holidays. Freshman Peyton McDonnell was quick to point out that it is no different than Native American day and it is a good way to respect diverse cultures. Some people may argue that there doesn't need to be a Black History Month because separated people based on culture instead of who they are as a person. Freshman Dekota Hubbard thinks that Black history month is unnecessary nowadays because all it does is cause separation. Some people don't want to stick out and just want to "be part of the crowd", but others view it to express their culture and want themselves to stand out.

In all, black history month has remained in tack for the last 40 years and helps America reflect on its past and gives African American people credit for some of their great achievements.



Super Bowl turned into a holiday?

By Carson Palmer

Should the Super Bowl be a national holiday? A large population of the working people says they don't go to work on the Sunday in which is the day the Super Bowl takes place. A few students from Highmore High mentioned. Dekota said, "I don't believe it shouldn't be a national holiday because it already takes place on a weekend and the NBA finals aren't a national holiday so why should the super bowl be different is the way I see it." Dekota isn't the only one that thinks this way about the super bowl. Landon also from Highmore High mentions that "it's already on a weekend so why make it a national holiday."

But the other hand, there were more than one that mentioned that they work on the weekend and either miss it or skip work. So that being said there still were those few that don't really care about what it is. The super bowl is a day and game that lots of people look forward to going to or watch and party with friends. This year's super bowl was the 53rd super bowl with the champions being once again the New England Patriots. The wanted team to win was the L.A. Rams most people were very mad when they lost because they were the expected team to win.

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