

The Pride

Northwest PA Collegiate Academy

2825 State Street

Erie, PA 16508

Volume 12 Issue 1

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Kidnapped -- page 12-13

Academy Speaks out on
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Letter from the Editor's Desk

Dear Reader,

This year has been quite a roller coaster. Between skyrocketing gas prices and the unexpected overturn of *Roe v. Wade, 2022*, Collegiate students, along with the rest of the world have experienced a year of turbulence.

In this issue, our writers speak out against LGBTQ+ and American stereotypes, the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the lack of media coverage for missing and murdered Native American women, and as well as reveal the stressful truth behind social media stardom.

Some other social issues mentioned include the identity struggle of biracial kids, the lack of concert etiquette among Generation Z, and the harmful effects of social media stalking.

While some of our articles focus on social and societal issues, others emphasize economic problems, such as rising and falling gas prices.

Student life is also heavily featured in this issue, with one article centering around the class of 2023, another on the significance of our school stores, and a third on the usefulness of school climate surveys.

All our articles contain interviews with Collegiate Academy students, teachers, counselors, and other faculty members. By participating in an interview, you are not only helping with the magazine but also sharing your voice on prominent issues.

Although being an interviewee is a fantastic way to get involved, there is always room for more staff members here at *The Pride*. You can draft an article on any topic that interests you. In this issue, there are articles ranging from the creation of lace-front wigs to the iniquity of referee bias.

I applaud our writers for their excellent work in this issue, and I urge you, the reader, to get involved and be a part of what we do.

Your Editor-In-Chief, Kamryn Taylor.



The Pride News Magazine

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This is a student produced publication created and edited by students in the news magazine class at Collegiate Academy.

The contents of all pages published by students are solely the responsibility of The Pride staff. Statements made and opinions expressed are strictly those of the authors and not Collegiate Academy.

If you would like to comment on an article, write a reply, or submit an article, please email the advisor at eparthenakis@eriesd.org. Any submissions may be edited for length and school policy.

Experiences With Referee Bias



By Natalie Ramey

How do we know referees are being truthful or are making the right calls? What if the referee is a fan of one team and favors them on purpose or accidentally?

There is nothing we can really do about it. Someone can't just storm up to a ref and tell them how to do their job. They could but the team will suffer. But how are we going to stop this referee bias that is affecting schools all around the country?

Finding the source of the bias can be difficult. Could it be predetermined hate toward a team, underlying prejudice against a player, or even the ref has family on the opposing team?

Whatever the problem may be, solving it is a hassle. There is no way refs can be fired for something almost impossible to prove. However, as a high school soccer player I have seen referee bias first hand.

Throughout my high school soccer career, I have seen this a lot. Erie High has such a bad reputation, and some refs believe that we don't deserve the same level of respect as a highly rated school.

Senior varsity soccer player Hannah Figurski has seen this first hand as well. She adds "The referee bias has gotten worse over my four years playing for Erie High. The longer the refs work with PIAA, the more bias they develop."

This also happens to the football team. Varsity football player, Junior Noah Kowalczyk says, "This has been going on for all my three years on the team. It is super unfair and has cost us games."

An example Kowalczyk points out was against the McDowell football team. Although they were still losing, a bad call from the referees cost them a touchdown. Kowalczyk states, "Even though we were losing, a touchdown would have been a

huge morale booster for the team."

I had the opportunity to watch the boys soccer D10 championship, and experienced lots of bias right then and there. Many calls were called on the Erie High team, however when the same foul happened to Erie the referees were silent.

Not only does this happen at an amateur level, but at a professional level as well. Back in 2019 NFL ref, Hugo Cruz, missed a blatant false start against the LA Chargers. His favoritism later cost him his job.

Bias can also harm the players. It can be found that referees make about 5 errors per professional soccer game. This means that a player sees the referees aren't calling anything, and are committing more fouls than usually. This may possibly harm a player in the act.

Referee bias is obvious in almost every sport. Now we can't do a ton about it, but bringing awareness to this issue might put a stop to it.



Courtesy of blog.innerdrive.co.uk

Why Gen Z Lacks Concert Etiquette

By Annabelle Aldridge

Imagine this: you're excited to see one of your favorite artists on tour; you're a big fan of their work and know nearly all the lyrics to their songs by heart. You bought tickets the very moment they went on sale, and counted down the days until the special night. You finally make it to the venue, excited to surround yourself with people just as enthusiastic as you.

Sadly, that wasn't the case.

The realm of concert culture has detected a certain trend in its concertgoers recently, and it's hardly ever brought to mainstream attention. Especially lately, numerous events have transpired that attribute many concertgoers to being blatantly disrespectful and having a severe lack of decorum. Sure, there's always going to be the occasional heckler or rude audience member, but in these last couple of years, it seems to have spiraled completely out of control.

Some behaviors include fans throwing objects such as bottles and inappropriate items at artists on stage, audience members making fun of

artists by pretending they're asleep in the crowd, playing Subway Surfers instead of listening along, and booing artists off-stage for seemingly no reason. You can only break down so many barricades and police forces until it finally becomes a widespread issue.

Why does this happen? It's hard to analyze this phenomenon without acknowledging its main demographic, Gen Z. Is it true that they are the perpetrators responsible for this new wave of disrespect and chaos?

It's entirely possible, and the reason why becomes much clearer when considering their circumstances. The difference between the end of the last decades' concert experience and this decade can easily be accredited to the effects of COVID-19 and its shutdown.

Being kept away from society during such a developmental stage of life has undoubtedly played a role in Gen Z's lack of concert etiquette, as the shutdown has caused a mass disruption to the opportunity to experience outside life for nearly two years. It would only make sense that many zoomers have never had a first concert experience.

The instant shift in atmosphere could be very overwhelming, therefore affecting their behavior.

Social media also plays a major role in this phenomenon, as platforms such as TikTok heavily affected the way in which music has been consumed in recent years.

Its "short-form" nature causes us to engage at an even quicker rate, as trends constantly fade in and out. The same is true for music on the app, as it can cause a single song to go viral with little regard for the artist. This changes their audience. People now buying tickets to hear a single song and fail to enjoy the rest of the show.

Social media is also a catalyst for these trends and spread of ideologies. It makes it much easier to bandwagon. These new trends of playing on your phone and moshing at movie theaters can all be traced back to the online space.

It's hard to predict the future for the realm of concert culture. Is this just a small bump in the road for the generation to overcome, or will it continue to be a chain reaction of a worsening atmosphere?

Anxiety and Being Viral on Tik-Tok: All Eyes on You

By Annabelle Aldridge

Waking up at 5:30 that morning was a strange feeling.

It's been nearly a week since a video of mine unexpectedly exploded in popularity; amassing over 245k likes on TikTok. In theory, this should be an amazing thing for a person who just casually posts on the internet, as fame is normally a goal, a want, and desire for most. Everyone loves attention, right?

When I checked my phone that morning and saw 1000+ notifications on my display, there were a lot of ways I felt about it, but none of which were satisfaction or contentment. I was shocked more than anything, I felt my stomach sink to the ground.

When I posted on the night of August 28th, the last thing I expected was for this to go viral. It really wasn't anything spectacular. The original intention of posting was just to get advice from some close friends: "What outfit should I wear for my first day of school?"

I would've set the video to private in the morning once the video had done its job, had I not woken up to an overwhelming amount of likes, comments, and reposts. Thankfully, most of which

were positive, but it was still hard bearing the feeling of everyone looking at me. The video had only just begun its rise in traction by that point.

So now you might be wondering, "If it was supposedly so stressful, why didn't you just take it down then?"

Discomfort wasn't the only way I felt about this, as my feelings, in terms of this situation, were quite mixed and conflicted. All while in a state of distress, the traction was also somewhat addicting; fame can always get to your head no matter who you are.

It's easy to get carried away when receiving constant validation. "You're so pretty," "I need your wardrobe," "I love your outfits so much," etc. The cognitive effects of this can easily become detrimental and draining. For every like and comment, there is another dopamine stimulus being released from the brain, and soon people grow to crave this feeling.

Many others also feel the same way when it comes to their presence on the internet. Senior Macy Valentine says, "When I look good in a TikTok video and receive praise, I get happy. I also feel upset when I put time and effort into a good video and it gains almost nothing."

It's now been a week since the madness, and the video has expectedly slowed down in traction. In a lot of ways, this is good. I feel a sense of tranquility coming back into my life after what felt like a long time of dismay.

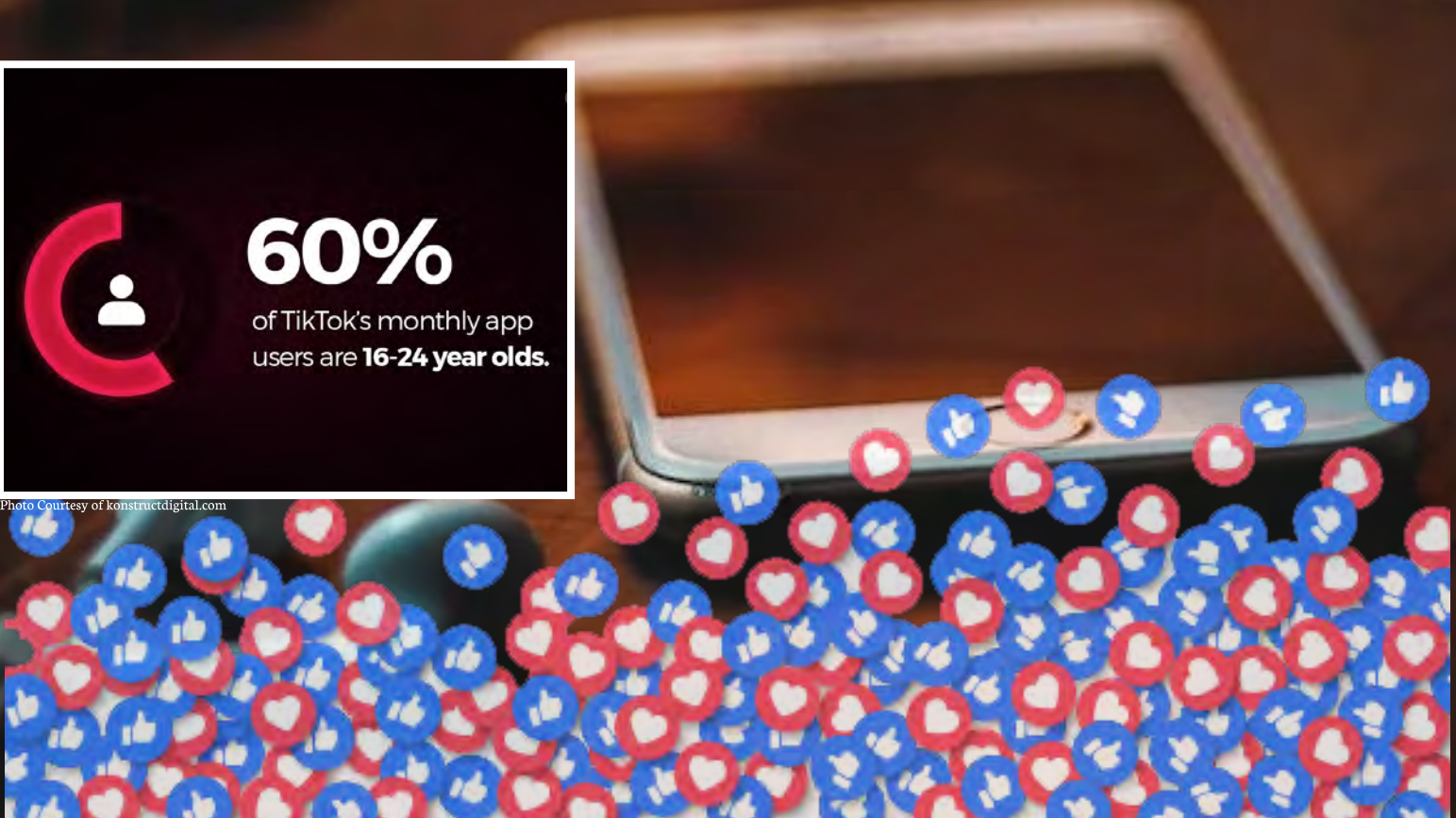
At the same time, it's also been difficult dealing with the feeling of somewhat withdrawal. Anyone would miss the constant amount of attention and affirmation from others. It's almost like, in that short time, my brain grew reliant on the video as a source of positive stimulants; and when it was suddenly taken away, it felt disrupted.

Since then, I've taken some time away from the aspect of posting, as I finally realized how much damage it caused. The video has slowed down, but it doesn't bother me as much as it used to. If I post again, I now know what things to keep in mind, in order to maintain a healthy relationship between my mind and presenting myself on the internet.

Ultimately, social media in this aspect is very much a double-edged sword. It's almost too easy to get carried away by popularity, as the way the brain functions makes it that way. It can be stress-inducing to say the least, but just a little bit of attention doesn't hurt, right?



Photo Courtesy of konstruktigital.com



Challenging the American Stereotype

By Amanda Ross

The pre-conceived notion Europeans and others in the world is that Americans are uneducated, obese, white, and male is implied by popular culture. Yet, it is worth exploring how these stereotypes perpetuate.

The obese American stereotype emerged from truth. According to the Center for Disease Control, American obesity prevalence, or the percentage of Americans who have obesity, was 42% in 2020. Yet, in 1997, when the World Health Organization declared obesity an epidemic, American obesity was at 18%.

However, Obesity is part of a larger world problem. European obesity prevalence is around 17% over the entire continent, with France at 47%, according to the National Health Service. The National Center for Biotechnology Information sets the Western Asian, or Middle Eastern, obesity rate at 12%.

Another prevailing stereotype is that the average American is white. However, this depends heavily on region, city, and state.

Pennsylvania is typically seen as a predominantly white state. According to US census data, taken in

2021, the white population of Pennsylvania is at around 81%. Erie's data shows that approximately 72% of its residents report themselves as white. The overall US average is around 75%, with nearby Ohio being around 81%.

Yet, when you look around Erie, it's hard to say it lacks diversity. While numbers may indicate otherwise, the truth of American diversity can not be measured in census data or in pop culture.

Collegiate junior Nathan Tuznik says, "I think that Erie is a very diverse place, there are so many people from different backgrounds everywhere you go."

Similarly, the female/non-male population in the States is 51%. This combats the idea that Americans are typically men.

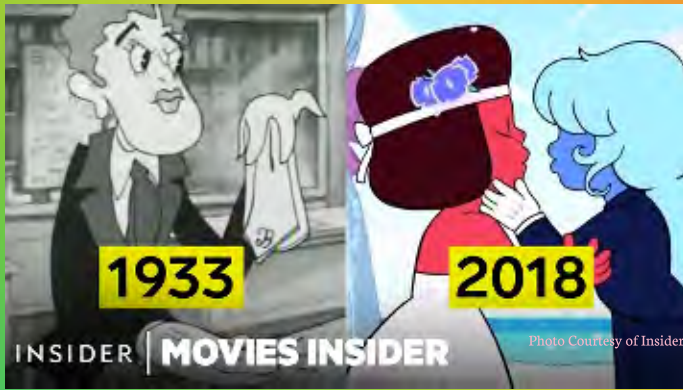
Finally, Americans are seen as uneducated. In the US census from 2016-2020, 67% of the American



population did not have a college degree. The European Union has similar standings, as in the 2021 EU census, 64% of the citizens in the union had not completed the equivalent of a bachelor degree, ISCED levels 5 through 8. While Europe overall has higher percentages of education, education for any specific person depends on income and educational funding by the government.

Many of the problems presented in these stereotypes, like obesity and education, can be challenged by working to combat unhealthy lifestyles and increasing funding to educational institutions. And while there is some truth in American stereotypes, they ultimately fail to give the full picture of the people who live here.





Queer People Seek Proper Representation

By Danielle Viera

The Trevor Project reports that LGBTQ+ children with at least one accepting parent are 40% less likely to attempt suicide. LGBTQ+ representation is important because it shows queer kids that there are other people like them and that it's okay to be different. This can help them feel less isolated and start their path of self acceptance.

It is not uncommon for people to know that they are queer from a young age. So imagine being a queer child, and everyone and everything around you is saying that you need to be heterosexual. Wouldn't that make a child feel wrong for not being able to fit into society's expectations?

Not only do queer children have to struggle with fitting into society's expectations, but they also struggle with fitting into their family's expectation. As soon as parents find out their child's sex, they start to imagine and plan the child's life. Family members will think about how fast they are going to grow up and how some day they will have a spouse of the opposite sex and kids of their own.

Collegiate Academy senior, "John Smith" says, "Ever since I was a little boy I can remember my mom telling me how excited she was to watch me grow up and give her grandkids."

This can create a sense of shame and self hatred. Children are not able to fully understand and regulate their emotions, so this can take a huge toll on them mentally. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), around 23% of LGBT youth attempted suicide versus 6% of heterosexual youth.

Not only are family members pushing their views, but so is modern media. Even in shows meant for children, there is always a heterosexual relationship shown. There are rarely ever queer people shown in television, let alone queer relationships.

Media studies teacher, Ms. Parthenakis, says, "Traditionally LGBTQ+ people are expected to identify easily with a heterosexual relationship but LGBTQ+ couples and individuals have different dynamics and struggles."

The LGBTQ+ representation that is shown on tv promotes negative stereotypes. Gay men are often depicted as loud, boisterous, and hyper-feminine. Not only that but, they are always used as the stereotypical "gay bestfriend" and used for comedic relief.

While gay men are shown as hyper-feminine, lesbians are shown as hyper-masculine. Sometimes they are so masculinized that lesbian women aren't even seen as women anymore. There is also a harmful stereotype that is commonly shown which makes it seem like lesbians are either players or secretly in love with their bestfriend.

Representation is necessary, and it needs to be more inclusive. When showing queer people in media, it's mostly just cisgender, white, gay, men. There needs to be more representation for all queer sexualities and gender identities.



Layout Design by Hannah Figurski



Photo Courtesy of NPR.org

Photo Courtesy of The Guardian.com

Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage

photo courtesy to ppcr.com

By Nandi Pedro

More and more countries around the world have legalized same-sex marriage. According to The Pew Research Center (PRC), “So far, 30 countries and territories have enacted national laws allowing gays and lesbians to marry, mostly in Europe and the Americas.”

CNN recently reported that Cuba made it on the list as it is now legalizing same-sex marriage, and letting LGBTQ+ couples adopt children. But this wasn't always the case; homosexuality wasn't legalized until 1979.

Even though many countries, like Cuba, are working toward fixing decades of discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, there are still about 69 countries where same-sex marriage, or simply being LGBTQ+, is illegal.

In some countries, breaking these laws will result in prison sentences and, in some cases, death. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) article notes, “... the death penalty is the legally prescribed punishment for same-sex sexual acts in Brunei, Iran, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and in the northern states in Nigeria.”

Beside the death penalty, a person can be charged with anywhere from 7 years to life in prison where homosexuality is illegal. The Guardian displays that in Nigeria the penalty is 8-14 years, in Saudi Arabia the penalty is 15 years to life, and in Indonesia, some areas have penalties of 15 years to life.

This issue has been discussed for many years, but it wasn't until around 2000 that different nations started changing their laws. Countries like The Netherlands, Belgium, and Canada legalized the rights of same-sex couples in 2000 to 2005. Besides Cuba, Costa Rica is the

latest country to protect homosexual rights, changing it's laws in May 2020 and is the first Central American country to do so.

However just because these countries took years before finalizing these laws, doesn't mean that they weren't in the works for a long time. The PRC explains, “Same-sex couples in

Canada gained most of the legal benefits of marriage in 1999 ... In 2005, the Canadian Parliament passed legislation making same-sex marriage legal nationwide.”

So, what can you do to support LGBTQ+ rights? You can support organizations like the Human Rights Watch. They advocate for the LGBTQ+ community and keep track of abuse and discrimination toward the community to help stop these issues. The Human Rights Watch states, “We document and expose abuses based on sexual orientation and gender identity worldwide,... We advocate for laws and policies that will protect everyone's dignity. We work for a world where all people can enjoy their rights fully.”

If we all work together to protect the rights of the LGBTQ+ community, more countries will change their laws and people will finally have the rights they deserve.



photo courtesy to cnn.com

Academy Speaks Out on Overturning of Roe v. Wade

By Silvia Kang

The recent ruling by the Supreme Court reversing Roe vs. Wade will affect many in our school and beyond, and across the nation, there have been numerous protests, many of which have been led by students.

The recent court decision allows states to determine the legality of abortion for their residents, and as a result, many college students are reviewing state abortion laws in choosing their schools.

According to a May 2022 Gallup poll, which is significant because it was organized

mostly after the draft of the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade, 67% of adults ages 18 to 34 identify themselves as pro-choice.

According to data from the *Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network*, the largest anti-sexual violence organization in the United States, 18 to 24 year old women are in more danger of being sexually molested in this country than in any other society. Despite this fact, some states have made no exceptions for abortion in cases of sexual assault, which further complicates the impact of the ruling.

Some universities have created task forces and hosted webinars to discuss the impact of

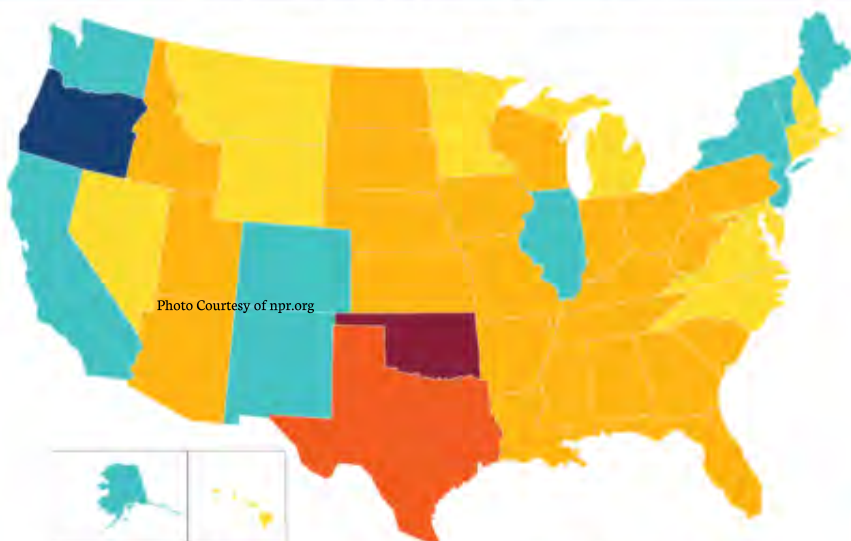
abortion bans.

Kathleen Moore, founder and CEO of Vox Cambridge College consulting, and graduate of Harvard law school, notes that it will be interesting to see if colleges eventually follow the lead of major companies that have announced plans to cover abortion travel expenses.

Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, wrote in a statement, "I am deeply concerned about how prohibiting abortion would affect UM's medical teaching, our research, and our service to communities in need."

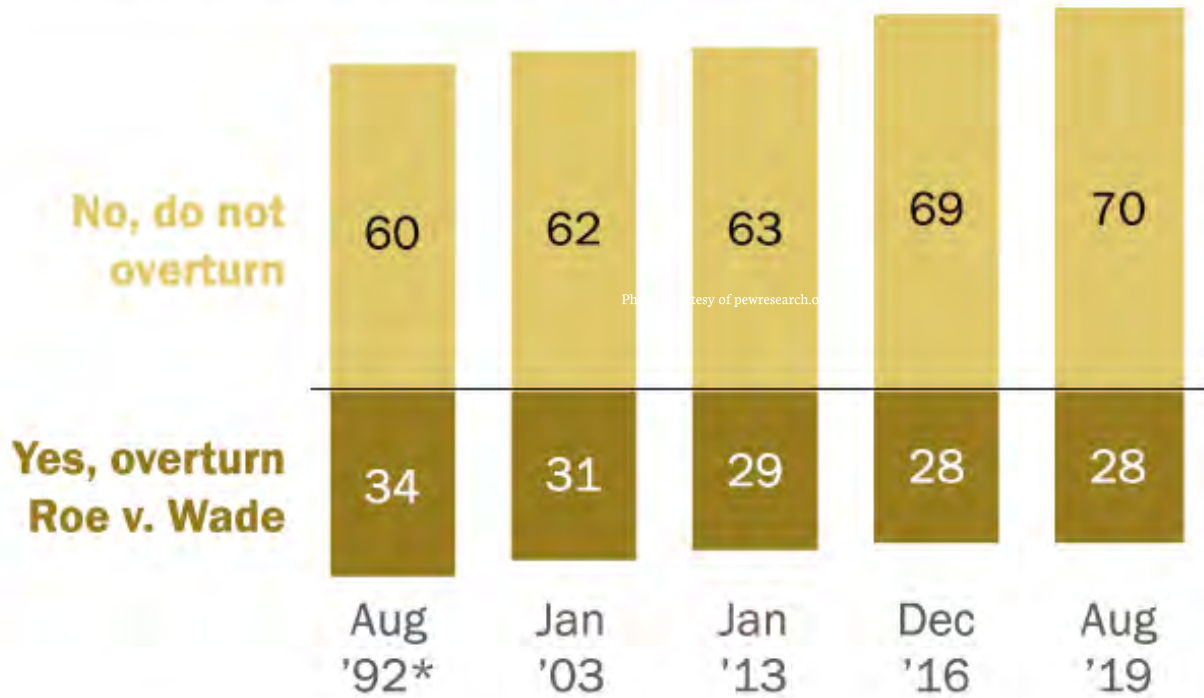
GUTTMACHER INSTITUTE

Abortion policies in effect as of June 9, 2022



Broad public opposition to completely overturning Roe v. Wade

Would you like to see the Supreme Court completely overturn its Roe versus Wade decision, or not? (%)



Father David Pivonka, president of Franciscan University of Steubenville- an Ohio-based Catholic school, was among those who praised the Supreme Court’s decision in usnews.com: “I am delighted the Supreme Court has overturned Roe v. Wade, a ruling that has wounded the soul of our country. Roe never had solid legal grounding, and I am pleased the justices had the courage to rectify the error and strike it down.”

Despite the ruling, several silver linings can be noted. Since Texas has made abortion illegal in most cases, New Mexico is building a clinic along the Texas border. Because it is difficult for most low-income women to travel outside of their state, hopefully providing this nearby resource, for Texas women, will allow other pro-choice other states to follow suit. Additionally, according to the New York Times Upshot, overturning of Roe v. Wade will reduce abortions by only 13% in those states choosing to prohibit abortion. This is because abortion was already greatly restricted in those states prior to the recent overturning.

What’s even more shocking, is that some states which have banned abortion, seek to punish doctors living in those states for performing abortion surgeries on their female residents. This prohibits doctors from providing medical care where it is requested.

Several Collegiate Academy students have spoken about the issue:

Senior Hannah Figurski says, “I don’t think that’s the government’s business. I think the government should stay out of my body. And there are some cases when it’s medically necessary.”

Senior Dani Viera, adds, “I think that along with the basic right to privacy, men shouldn’t be making the decision if women reproduce a lot, especially old men who are too old to reproduce. People without uteruses should not be able to vote on abortion.”

Senior Bethany Johnston is concerned about the Supreme Court: “After hearing the overturning of Roe v Wade, rumors have come out that interracial marriage is in danger of being affected next. My parents are of two different ethnicities, races, and continents. They have been married for 19 years and for their marriage to be outlawed in the United States is immoral...Roe v. Wade shouldn’t have been overturned, especially by men who have no idea what it is like to be pregnant or to have the struggles of a woman...Women of our future generation should have the ability to feel free in the country they live in and not feel oppressed...”

Teacher Ms. Parthenakis says, “If you don’t adopt, you’re not pro-life. To me life isn’t just

in the womb. To me, life is inside and outside of the womb. It seems hypocritical to me if you are pro-life but aren’t part of the solution.”

Junior Brenna Vahey states, “Bodily autonomy is the most important thing to me. No matter if I’d get an abortion, I need to feel safe in my body. The overturning includes bans on contraceptives, so how can we feel safe in our sexualities? How can grown men decide what a person with a uterus does with their body if they have never gone through menstruation or pregnancy”

Brenna continues, “Low income tax women are not able to afford gas prices that have come with inflation, [let alone] the pricing for the actual abortion...children will be brought into homes that may not be able to afford food and clothing [or] could be abused.”

Senior Mikayla Outlaw, opines, “I think making abortions illegal to begin with was a terrible step backward [which] will greatly impact low-income women just for access to safe abortions. ‘End of Roe’ decision simply means we need to educate anyone who is willing to listen and fight for women’s rights!”

It will be interesting to see the voice of women in the coming national elections.

According to the Media, Only White Women Get Abducted

By Nandi Pedro

Native Women's Wilderness reports, "As of 2016, the National Crime Information Center has reported 5,712 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls [have gone missing]. Strikingly, the U.S Department of Justice missing persons database has only reported 116 cases."

Murder is the third leading cause of death for Indigenous women, and they are murdered 10 times more than any other ethnicity, yet no one reports on it. Recently when Eliza Fletcher, a white woman, was kidnapped, the media went crazy for the story.

Yes, this incident is sad; no one should be subjected to violence in any way, shape, or form, but for Indigenous girls, women, and two-spirits, this type of violence is an almost everyday occurrence.

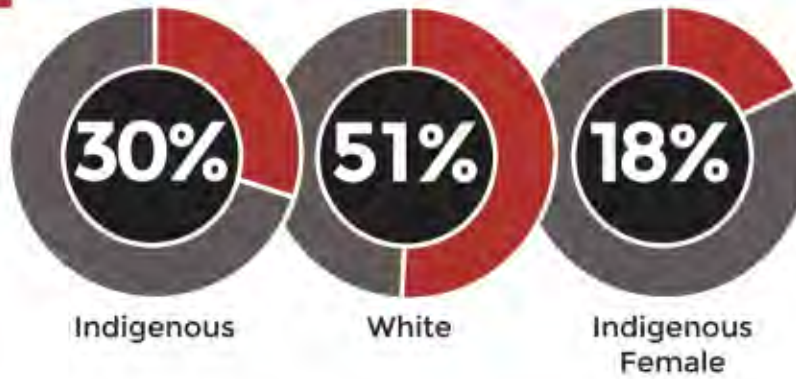
The primary reason why the media won't cover these cases is because of racism. Kamila Kudelska from the National Public Radio (NPR) says, "Cara Chambers... says only 30% of Indigenous homicide victims had any media coverage. That number is closer to 51% for whites." This lack of media coverage also goes for other minorities, and if they are covered in the media, the articles don't always focus on the victim.

It appears that some states have tried to act for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), but even if it looks like they are doing something, many aren't. In fact, an article from The Journal of Gender, Race, and Justice says, "The Native Women's Wilderness, a group 'created to bring Native women together,'[7] has compiled a telling list of states that currently collect and report statistics on MMIWG. Only twelve states currently collect and report their statistics, one state has a task force but no reported statistics and one state has publicized 'a strategic plan and toolkit' for an MMIWG task force but no publicly available statistics." Much like these women, the aid and



MEDIA COVERAGE

Only **30%** of Indigenous homicide victims had newspaper media coverage, as compared to **51%** of White homicide victims.



Female Indigenous victims had the least, with only **18%** coverage

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/this-happens-every-day-wyoming-tribes-hope-for-petto-level-coverage-of-mmip-cases>

promised justice, are missing and presumed dead.

Jurisdictional problems greatly affect the cases of murdered, raped, or abducted women. The arguments over jurisdiction between law enforcement and tribal law enforcement make investigating a case extremely difficult. Sometimes, tribal law enforcement works on the case without any help from local authorities.

Not only do these women have to worry about being kidnapped or murdered, but sexual assault and rape is another threat. Native Women's Wilderness reports that statistically, more than half of Indigenous women are victims of sexual violence.

On top of that, more than half are also abused by their partners.

However, even with numbers this jarring, the media won't cover this obvious and horrifying problem.

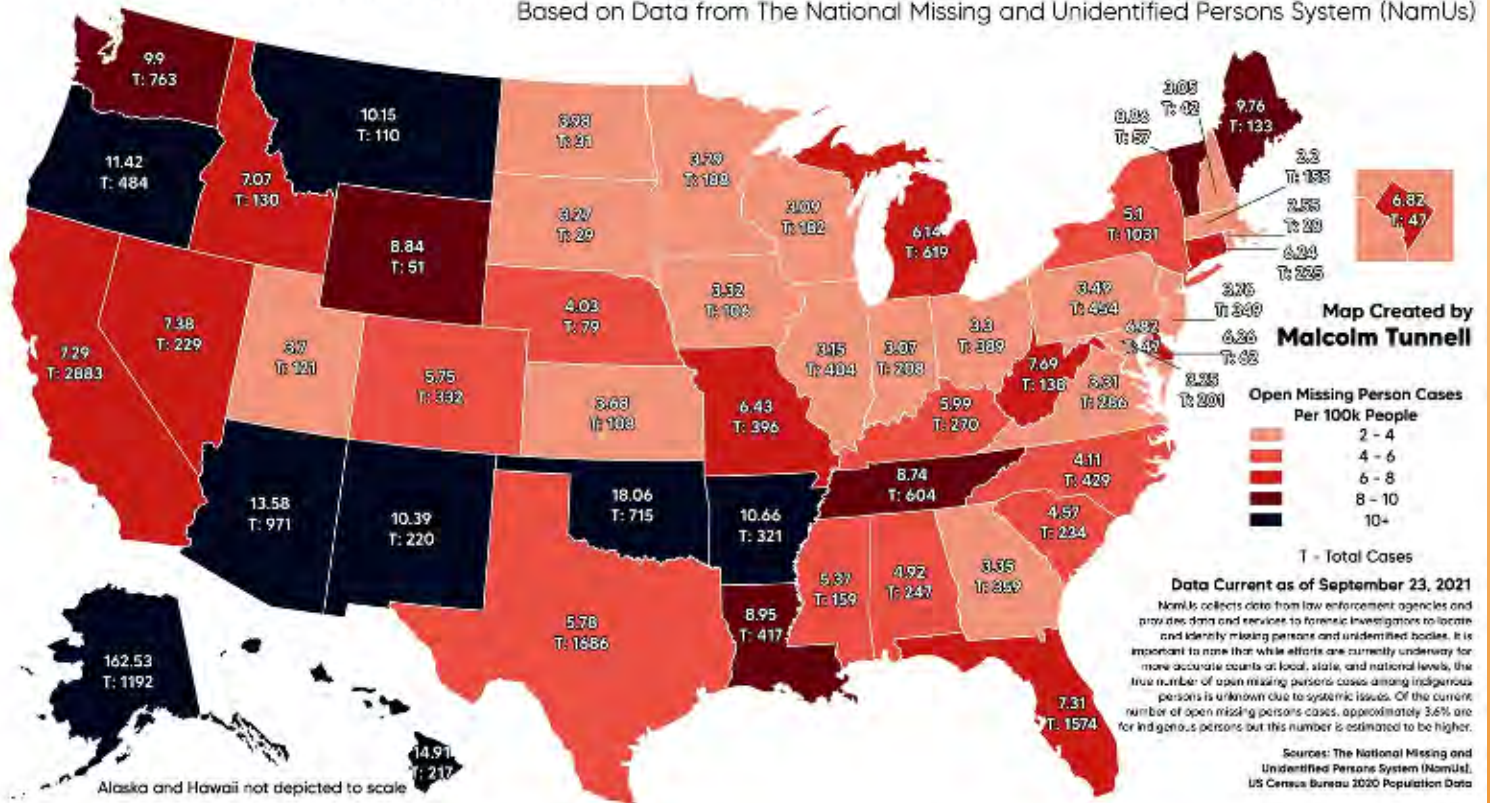
Just like many other cases, people tend to blame the victims. Some even go on to discuss how Native tribal land is dangerous and that these women should know the dangers and help themselves; others may even use it as an excuse to avoid talking about the issue at hand. Victim blaming is inexcusable for any case, but for something that is this big and affecting thousands, it is horrific.

With that said, there are many ways someone can help support Indigenous women and fight for them. Native Hope writes, "There are two important days on the calendar for the MMIW[G] cause: February 14 and May 5." On February 14 and May 5, activist groups organize marches to protest what is being done to Native women; with May 5 being the official MMIWG day.

Donating is another great way to help and support the cause. Native Hope, Native Women's Wilderness, and Savanna's Act accept donations to help the rising cases. These are just a few of the ways to make a difference, and if enough voices speak up and out, things might change for the better.

Number of Open Missing Persons Cases per 100k People in Each US State

Based on Data from The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)



<https://www.ktvq.com/news/local-news/this-happens-every-day-wyoming-tribes-hope-for-petto-level-coverage-of-mmip-cases>

What does the School Climate Survey Actually do?

By Amanda Ross

Every year, the Erie School District asks students from grades 3 to 12 to complete the School Climate Survey. This anonymous survey aims to understand how students feel about their school and its handling of topics including sexuality, race, and gender. Yet, there is confusion on the actual application of the survey once it's finished.

The School takes the survey in the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. Once the responses are in, the administration begins to work on a school action plan that identifies problem areas in each building specifically.

This is part of a larger initiative in the district called Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support, or PBIS, which is a multi-tiered program that works with students and teachers to create a more equitable and positive environment. PBIS has been in the district for around seven years, with Ms. Laird being the representative for Collegiate Academy.

A heavy focus of PBIS is data collection, with the aim of using that data to form focused and school specific action plans. Large scale data collection allows the district and PBIS to work together in this, creating plans that can help tackle both current and future problems. The goal is to tailor each school's program to its own needs, and use the data collected to benefit the schools.

The survey was given in full for the first time in 2021. Assistant dean Mrs. Katie Church Rivera says that school safety was one of the largest issues reported last year. She attributed this spike to the then recent shooting at Erie High, and noted that they focused on such concerns in the most recent action plan, which most likely included the current safety procedures.

Yet, students have concerns. Many don't see the use of the survey.

Amber Wright, Collegiate Junior, says, "I don't believe the school surveys actually are effective, we don't really gain anything from them."

Isabella Zewe, Collegiate Senior, also says, "I don't feel like the survey is effective as regardless of the responses, the small amount of people who need teachers to look to aren't being heard in the surveys, and the environments haven't seemed to be safer."

Mrs. Rivera also says that the survey has been retooled since last year, however gauges many of the same issues as the previous survey. She specified that the data was shared with all staff, but not with students.

The survey was conducted on October 12, 2022. With this data, the administration will create a plan to make a safer and more accepting school.

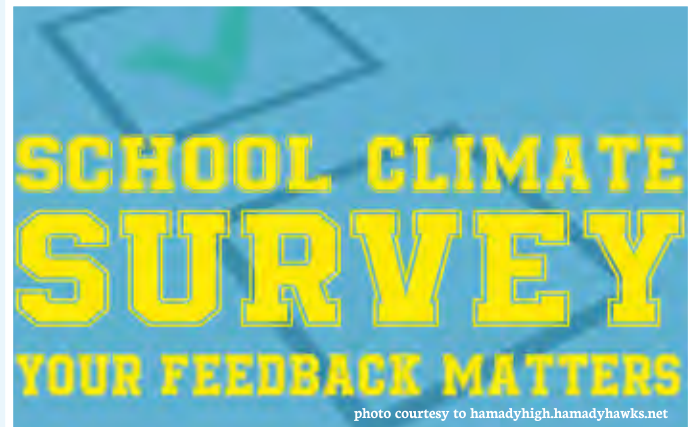


photo courtesy to forbes.com

Multiracial Students Have Mixed Feelings About Their Identity

By Danielle Viera

According to the 2020 census, one in ten people identified as mixed with two or more races. University of California, Davis psychology graduate Lauren Berger and her co-investigator Nolan Zane found that 34% of biracial individuals in a national survey had been diagnosed with a psychological disorder, such as anxiety, depression or substance abuse, versus 17% of monoracial individuals.

Growing up mixed race can negatively impact people's mental health, because they often feel like they aren't enough and can't fit into society. This causes self-isolation, depression, anxiety, and can even trigger Racial Impostor Syndrome.

Racial impostor syndrome is the perception of one's racial identity that doesn't match up with others' perception, causing self-doubt.

Despite being half black and half white, I have pale skin. Because of this, I often struggle with the world's perception of me.

White people around me sometimes say and/or do racist things such as calling me exotic, touching my hair without consent, and staring at me like I'm some strange species. On the other hand, black people I have been around will make fun of me for my light complexion or will tell me I have no right to complain about my hair being hard to manage because I only have 3c hair. Having 3c hair means that I don't have the loosest curl pattern (3A), but I also don't have the tightest curl pattern (4c).

All comments regarding my identity have played into feelings of loneliness and feeling like a racial outcast in the world. However, I'm not the only one who experiences this.

Collegiate Academy sophomore, Nandi Pedro says, "I was raised by my white mom and I'm not very close with my dad or his family, so I do feel a little out of place. I think it was the hardest when I went to a like 95% white school in a very white town. Part of the reason my mom wanted to move to Erie was because I got a note that contained the n word, and the town was just very racist. I think the biggest thing for me is just not knowing where I fit in."

Collegiate Academy senior, Julian Dean Stacey says, "Being mixed puts you into a box where you feel like you don't truly fit in anywhere. I'm too white for my black side and too black for my white side. Family members on my white side would make fun of my textured hair, say I look dumb with my cultural braids, and make fun of me for wearing a bonnet or durag."

Another unique perspective is that people who are Hispanic often don't know how to define themselves racially. Being Hispanic isn't classified as a race, most Hispanic people are multiracial but don't know what these races are. It tends to be obvious that they aren't just white, but it can be hard to tell what they are.

Collegiate Academy senior, Annabelle Aldridge says, "I'm a mix [of] white and Latina (Salvadorian). I have very fair skin, but I don't appear white. Yet, at the same time, I barely appear

to be of Hispanic descent."

Aldridge continues, "Since the age that I could even begin to comprehend the concept of race, I've always been confused. I can acknowledge that my race is classified as white, but I am not a white person. I can also acknowledge that I have the privilege that comes with being fair skinned, but not the same privilege of a white person with Eurocentric features."

Aldridge also goes on to say, "It can feel isolating, not knowing what community you belong to, or how to label yourself. It feels much more complex than simply putting yourself in a box. If it comes so easy to other people, then why is it so much harder for people like me?"

Cheang says when people don't feel like they belong to a group of people, it can make them question their experiences and sense of identity, especially when identity is often rooted in the way the world sees them.

A former Collegiate Academy student, Niomi Viera, now majoring in public health, states that because multiracial people have feelings of low self-esteem, they become extremely interested in the way that they are perceived by the world, to the point of obsession. This can cause mixed people to have an inability to see their own self-worth.

It can be extremely difficult being multiracial in a world that is all about race. Taking these things into consideration, it is important to check up on and support multiracial people.

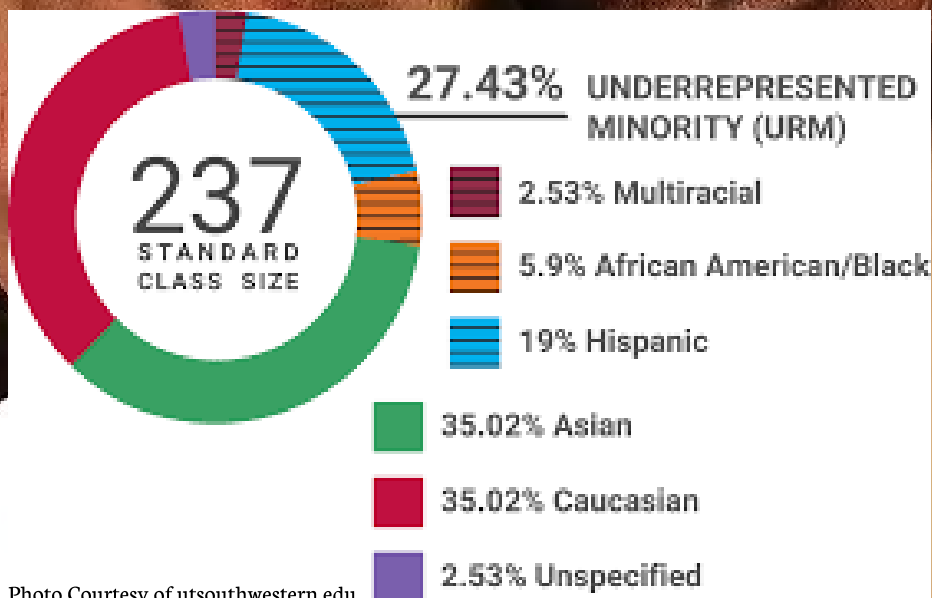


Photo Courtesy of utsouthwestern.edu



The Gallery - A Home Away From Home

By Rachel Friedemann

One of the main features Collegiate students look forward to each year has been the Gallery. Not only can you buy snacks or a refreshing drink there, but it has also become a safe space for many students to relax and work.

When the Gallery first opened a decade ago, students were thrilled to have a place of their own within the school. However, did you know that it was not always called the Gallery?

When Student Senate originally came up with it, they saw it as a fundraising opportunity to buy working clocks for the school. After a lot of convincing, they opened “The Sage,” a small coffee shop in what used to be Mr. Franz’s old classroom.

The ‘grand hangout spot’ we all know and love used to only consist of a table with a single coffee machine, some creamers, and cups. To spruce things up, Mr. Vieira convinced Ms. Ulmer to

decorate the store, in hopes that it would attract more customers. Eventually, as more kids started coming, Ms. Ulmer bought another coffee maker and other supplies, and they also began selling a wider variety of snacks.

Flash forward to today, and the Gallery has become one of the most vital parts of Collegiate’s school culture. Sophomore Amina Albarkis shares that the Gallery is a “mellow and toned down” place for students to escape if they are stressed or if they want something other than what is served for lunch. She also says that, despite a few interactions, “Most students really enjoy and appreciate the Gallery and are kind and respectful [toward the shop].”

Another great aspect of the Gallery is that it brings students together. Friends can gather there to sit and chat in the morning or during any of the lunches. Anjelika Rai, a sophomore and Gallery employee, states that working at the Gallery has

“Given [her] a chance to branch out to some amazing people” and make some great friendships.

Not only has the Gallery become a place for students to hangout, but it is also a place for students to learn responsibilities as well. Collegiate Senior Britain Chase, who has been working at the Gallery since her junior year, became a menu manager. She says, “Having both titles has led me to become more organized and time efficient when it comes to school, work, and running the Gallery.”

Having something students can take care of and fight for has been an amazing contribution from the administrators of the school and is something all students enjoy having. The Gallery is not only a snack shop, but it is also a beloved part of our school.

The Gallery will be closing around mid-end November with the upcoming construction on the ground floor.



Social Media Stalking

By Alonii Simmons

Imagine being stalked because of a simple post you make on your snapchat, Instagram story, or Facebook story. Not knowing, the information you post can be just enough for the wrong people to follow you and your life. In the article Global Social Media Statics written by Data Reportal it states, "Analysis from Kepios shows that there are 4.70 billion social media users around the world in July 2022, equating to 59.0 percent of the total global population. Social media user numbers have continued to grow over the past 12 months too, with 227 million new users joining social media since this time last year." The quote illustrates how many people throughout the world is active in the social media life. According to a Forbes article written by Simon Chandler it states, "We're sharing too much of our personal data online, even when we think we're playing it safe. Case in point: this week, Japanese police charged a man with assault after he used his victim's Instagram selfies- and in particular the reflection in her eyes-to pinpoint her local train station." The quote illustrates how easy it is to be stalked through social media and to a certain extent sharing personal information can backfire. Surprisingly, sharing just a simple photo of yourself can lead to easily being stalked.

Not a lot of people try to be the main target of being stalked but, it can take just one simple harmful post to be a victim. According to WikiHow, different ways to avoid being stalked start with making your page private, not tagging your location, hiding your friend's lists, using different usernames on all platforms, being wise on who you accept as friends on social media and sharing unnecessary information on social media that is not needed. When asking students how they stay safe on social media Katerina Voll states, "Keeping information about my personal life private. Also, making what she posts very limited to where only my friends are able to see." In conclusion, social media is a fun way people express themselves and keep family and friends updated on your life. It can also be dangerous to not know how much you share because, you do not know who is watching and who can be waiting for your next post.



photo courtesy to forbes.com



Layout Design by Katerina Voll

So, Which High School are you Going to?

By Silvia Kang

High school students in Erie, Pennsylvania are fortunate to have several top-ranking schools from which to choose. In addition to two catholic, co educational high schools, Erie offers students the opportunity to attend Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy, a magnet school, known for academic excellence.

According to U.S. News and GoErie, Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy (NPCA) is currently ranked as the 13th best high school in Pennsylvania and as the 556th best high school nationally out of 17,843 high schools, based on students' grades and college acceptances. NPCA is also ranked #1 in Erie, PA Metro Area High Schools. The graduation rate is 99%, which is above the state median.

Admission to Collegiate Academy is based on students' academic records, teacher recommendations, and extracurricular activities. This selective process results in an ambitious student body both in the classrooms and on the playing fields. Members of the school community, both students and faculty, contribute to an atmosphere that is both respectful and diverse. Multiculturalism can be seen in the halls and classrooms, enabling students to experience the richness of diversity and cultures other than their own.

Several Freshmen have given their opinions of their first month attending Collegiate Academy.

Sydney Ashley says, "I think Collegiate is very prestigious and has a lot of opportunities for students to get into good colleges." This view is further corroborated by information on Erie Public Schools website, which states that Collegiate Academy offers 29 Advanced Placement courses and the Advanced Placement Capstone Diploma program, and dual-enrollment classes at three local universities.

Freshman Cooper Heberle, states, "I think that teachers make sure that

they create a comfortable and welcoming classroom so that the students are open to learning and so that they're not stressed."

According to the Erie School District website, approximately 500 eighth graders apply for about 225 freshman openings at Collegiate Academy.

Maddison Barner claims, "The teachers have been very helpful not only to me but with other students in helping them complete their assignments. Other students have given help to Freshmen, trying to find classrooms."

Collegiate also has a wonderful peer tutoring program. GO College is a grant-funded program that provides academic and career counseling & ACT/SAT assistance, as well as in-person and online academic tutoring and mentoring from current Gannon University students.

Almina Klino adds, "I think that Collegiate is a very good school. It is hard, but it's going to prepare us for college."

Collegiate Academy uses Naviance's Family Connection for the career research and college search process. This provides college readiness to the students and their parents, who are "activated" in the system during their freshman year and are encouraged to begin career and college research early in their high school careers.

Most of the students favored the future colleges that Collegiate students attend. The Erie School District website claims, "Our graduates [are] accepted to highly selective schools like Stanford, University of Chicago, Carnegie Mellon, New York University, University of California, Berkeley, Duke, Boston College, and the University of Notre Dame. Our graduates have also attended Ivy League schools like Princeton, Cornell, University of Pennsylvania/Wharton School of Business, and Harvard."

Students are relieved to have some normality after pandemic lockdown and remote learning. Next year promises to be better with most of the construction complete.



photo courtesy to eriesd.org



Senior Thoughts on their Last Year

By Natalie Ramey

With the Collegiate Academy's Seniors last year approaching, many people are looking forward to the end. However, a lot are going to miss what they are leaving behind. Senior, Kamryn Flowers, mentions how she will miss the friendships that Collegiate Academy has brought her: "This school has created a lot of my best friendships. Collegiate has brought many good memories with these friends."

Another Collegiate senior, Evan Nadzam, mentions that not only will he miss his friends but he will also miss the support they gave him throughout his high school years.

In addition to missing the friends they made and the support they got through the years, many seniors have also shared that they will miss the teachers who helped them throughout their high school career, like Amelia Salter, a senior at Collegiate, notes that she will especially miss Ms. Myers and the extra help that she received.

Although there are some positives about this last year of high school, some seniors bring up the huge negative introduced into our senior year, the construction.

Senior, Elizabeth D'Andrea, states that it is a huge inconvenience. Between the changing of classrooms and the state of the building, it does not feel like a safe environment.

Despite the fact that the construction of the school can be a distraction, students are still able to look past that and see the positives. Senior Ava Aponte states, "As annoying as it is, it is necessary and will create a better learning environment."

Senior, Ryan Bores adds, "I like that I have a sense of responsibility over the underclassmen." He states that being their "mentor" gives him assurance that the year will go well.

Another aspect of senior year that sparks a lot of excitement for these seniors is their "lasts." The last beachwalk, last semi, last Rudy Awards, last prom, etc.

Amelia Salter is especially looking forward to the Rudy Awards. She says, "I love to see what talent this school has to offer... It is a nice break from a regular work day."

Senior, Mikayla Outlaw, is especially excited for "Senior Only" activities. Outlaw states, "I'm super excited for senior days, and just us seniors enjoying one last activity together."

Ryan Bores also jokes that he is excited for graduation, and to start a new chapter in his academic career.

Senior year can come with lots of challenges and changes, but as these seniors have mentioned, there are some highlights that we can focus on to help us get through this last year.



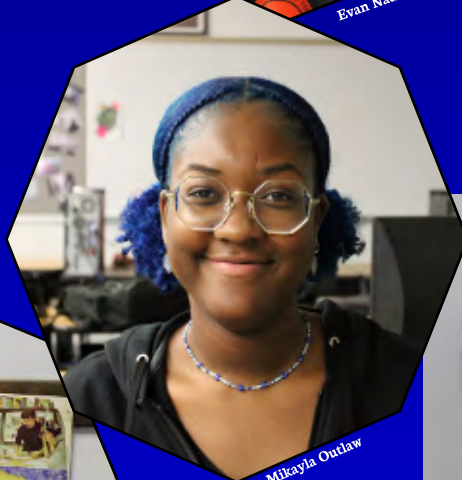
Ava Aponte



Evan Nadzam



Amelia Salter



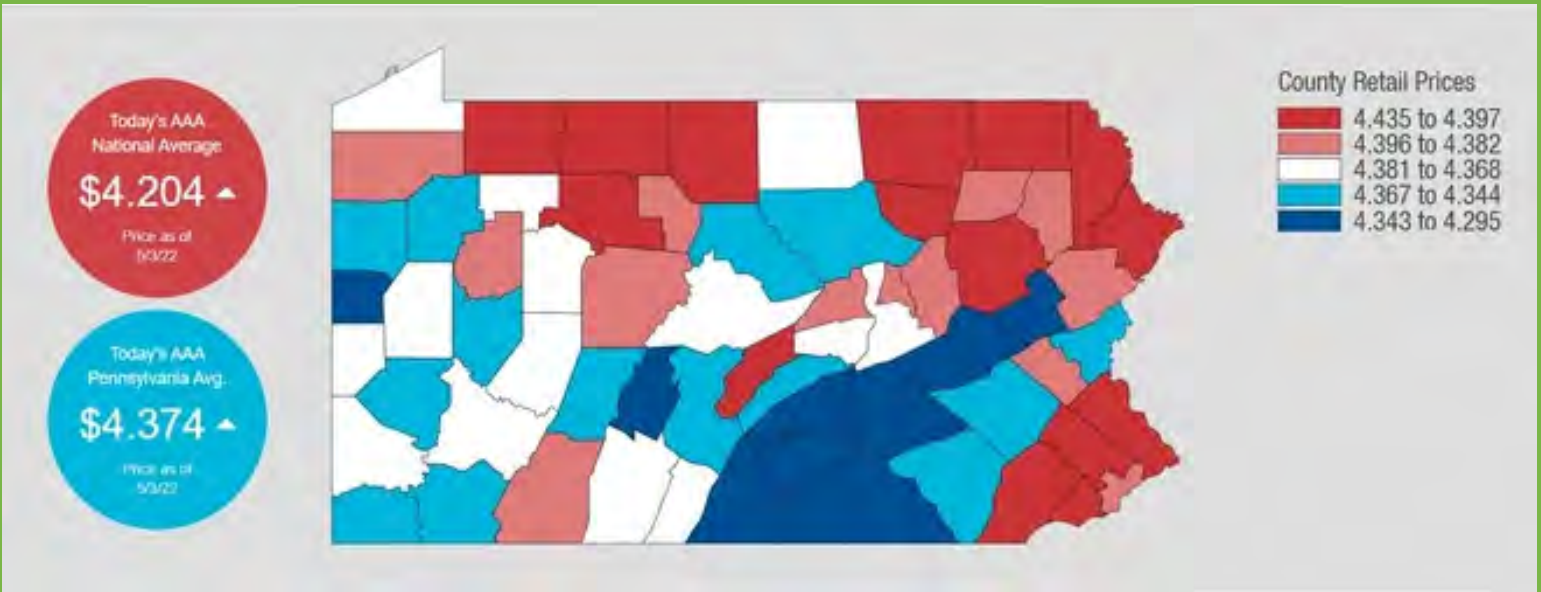
Mikayla Outlaw



Ryan Bores



CAUTION
AREA UNDER
CONSTRUCTION



Roller Coaster Gas Prices not a Thrill for Teens

By Rachel Friedemann

Across the county, thousands of teens are spending hundreds of dollars just to fill up their tanks to get to school or work due to exponentially high gas prices.

Baylee DeMuth, editor for GoErie, states that in June 2022 alone, Erie had record breaking gas prices of \$4.99 for unleaded and over \$6.00 for diesel.

That is almost \$40 just to fill half a tank. Forty dollars!

While we have been stuck dealing with these soaring prices, gas companies such as Exxon and British Patroliom have been making mass profits of billions of dollars. Because these companies are making such a profit, their wealthy business owners can enjoy luxurious vacations and shopping sprees while the rest of us struggle to get to work and school every day.

As someone who has been driving to school for the last two years and who drives to work at least four times a week, I use a lot of gas in my car. And having to pay \$30+ a week just to be able to get from place-to-place wastes a lot of money that I could use on things I enjoy, pay off my car insurance with, or even save for my future.

Collegiate senior, "Sally," states that she and her family have had to start budgeting and reserving more funds due to increased gas prices, leaving less cash for fun family activities.

Another Collegiate senior "Molly" claims

how such high gas prices have forced her to put her social life on hold or relax more without the worry of spending so much on fuel.

So why have gas prices been so high these last few months?

According to NBC Chicago, the recovery from the pandemic has been one of the main impacts on the rise of gas prices. Along with the shock of COVID-19, the large demand for supply as well as the ability of companies to price gorge has outstripped its availability. As the number of cases in the county continues to go down and as access to oil becomes more available, we should begin to see some positive changes.

So not only has Covid affected our personal lives, but it has also inhibited our ability to go places and made buying our essentials harder.

Hopefully, in the upcoming months and as we begin returning to normalcy, we will see a drop in these terrible gas prices.



Layout Design by Katerina Voll

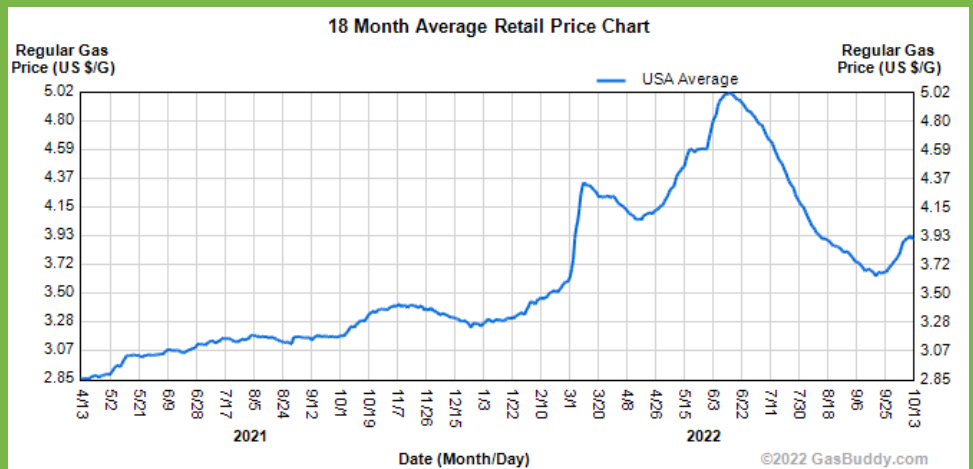




Photo Courtesy to m.westkiss.com



How Human Lace Front Wigs are Made

By Alonii Simmons

Now in the age of 2021-2023 lace front wigs are worn and have become the main hairstyle in the African American community. Lace front wigs are important to me but, they can be expensive. So, I've always wondered how to make one to save more money.

According to Inside it was stated, "Part of the hair is sewn into wefts, which are then sewn onto the sides and the back of the wig cap. The rest of the hair strands are ventilated by hand. This is what makes the wigs look realistic. Small strands of hair are pulled through the cap with a hook one by one."

Making wigs require a certain type of technique and it also takes time to make it precise by the process that was explained.

Inside continues, "The ponytails cost us nothing because they're shipped to us. It's all labor-intensive. Unless we have the financial donation for this year, we won't have enough money to create 3,700 wigs. Those ponytails have to sit in inventory until they're sponsored or funded."

It costs a lot in order to make one wig and a lot of labor time. From the article it states it usually takes 10 hours to make one wig.

In conclusion, making a wig may take a lot of time, but it's far more affordable than purchasing a pre-made one.

Photo Courtesy to bombtress.net



Layout Design by Katerina Voll



Photo Courtesy to premiumlacewig.com

Photo Courtesy to hair-and-makeup-artist.com