

# the COLONIAL

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Photos Submitted By Students



What to look for in this issue!



February  
Skies

Hoco!

Grammy's  
Review

Coronavirus

D.B. Cooper

AP Classes

Marijuana

# A Note from the Editors



New feature added to the colonial! By clicking the bookmarks on the bottom of our cover, it will take you to the story! You can also go to the story by clicking on the title of the story below! Thank you so much for the feedback; we are always looking for new ways to improve.

**\*If you would like to be featured on The Colonial's Front Page\***

send your school spirit pictures to Kyla Andrews:

email: [kyla79667@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us](mailto:kyla79667@students.sbcsc.k12.in.us)

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# RAMBLING THRU FEBRUARY 2020

## A.D. SKIES: THE VIEW FROM CLAY

The Month of the Valentine Moon, the groundhog and February 29th ~ Valentine's Day falls on Friday, February 14th this year. On that day the Moon will be a Waning Gibbous Moon, one day away from being a Last Quarter Moon. If you view the Moon through red cellophane between 12am and 12pm on Friday the 14th, you will create your own Valentine Moon. The other nonscientific but fun February happening is of course Groundhog Day, which was on Sunday the 2nd. Regardless of the fact that Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow when he emerged from his Pennsylvania burrow, thus predicting an early Spring, the astronomical fact is that Spring will officially occur next month on March 19th. Maybe Phil should move to Indiana.

We are still in the Winter Season and headed for Spring. Even though there is still more darkness than daylight each day, daylight length is increasing and darkness length is decreasing because the Sun, on its northward journey, is rising earlier and setting later. Days and nights will become "equal" on March 19th. All of this is influenced by a combination of the Earth's orbital motion and axial tilt.

On February 1st, the Sun rose at approximately 7:58am, set at approximately 5:58pm and contained approximately 10 hours of daylight. On February 29th, the Sun will rise at approximately

7:20am, set at approximately 6:34pm and contain approximately 11h 14' of daylight. So you gain approximately 1h 14' minutes of daylight while losing approximately the same amount of darkness. But you still "see" approximately more than 12 hours of darkness each day. Lots of "approximates".

The Moon was at 1st Quarter on the on the 1st and will be Full on the 9th, Last or 3rd Quarter on the 15th and New on the 23rd. The Moon will be at Perigee (closest to Earth) on February 10th and at Apogee on February 26th. February's Full Moon was called the Snow Moon and the Hunger Moon.

As I mentioned last month, ancient peoples saw bright, star-like objects which were the last to fade just after sunrise and the first to shine just before sunset. They called these bright, star-like objects "morning stars" and "evening stars". At some point it was learned that these bright, star-like objects were actually planets. February's "morning stars" will be Saturn, Jupiter and Mars, in that order, from east to west. Once again, Venus, lying visually east of the Sun, will be your lonely "evening star". Mercury, Neptune and Uranus are your non-visual evening stars in that order from west to east.

Once again, imagine that there is a big analog clock in the northern sky with Polaris centered on the

pivot point of the hour, minute and second hands. The number 6 on this clock sits on the due North point of your northern horizon. This month, as you look toward the north at night, the Big Dipper will be at the 3 o'clock position and the Little Dipper will be "at" the 6 o'clock position of this clock. Remember, the leading stars of the Big Dipper's bowl point to the star Polaris which is the first star in the handle of the Little Dipper. In the February southern night skies the stars of Orion, Canis Major, Taurus, Gemini, Leo, Virgo, Libra and Scorpius continue their observed westward trek through the celestial heavens. The stars Betelgeuse, Regulus, Spica and Antares are quite beautiful!

Consider: Why does each year have one day that is only 6 hours long and why is there a 29th day this month?

Question: What is unique about the number 8,549,176,320?

~ Closing Thought ~

So, may your skies always be clear, may your eyes always look upward. . .and, no matter how you believe, may you always "feel" the beauty and mysteries of the Universe.

Edmund C. Sweeney Jr.  
Earth and Space Science  
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Indiana



BY KYLA ANDREWS '20

As always, the 2020 Winter Homecoming started off with a week filled with spirit. The week always tests Colonials' creativity. Spirit Week started Monday, January 27th with Pajama Day. Nothing better to start our week out than coming to school in your pajamas. The second spirit day was USA day where everyone wears red, white, and blue. Some of our native friends even came in their flag colors. Although Wednesday's day was called "Sunday Best," the colonials brought the class to school. The day before homecoming, Thursday, was Jersey Day. All the Colonial Athletes sported their school jerseys, and even non-athletes wore their favorite teams too. The last day of Spirit Week, Homecoming Day, was Spirit Day and all the Colonials donned their purple and gold.



# Homecoming Court



Sophie Ridenour + Jamon Miller



Homecoming Queen:  
Sophie Ridenour



Kali Burks + Sam Ladagya



Abigail Mitchell + Ben Aberegg



Homecoming King:  
Jackson Jones



Evelyna Navarro +  
Verrontae Johnson



Alayja Dillard + Anthony Neal



Dreyana Rogers +  
Jackson Jones



Nevaeh Cruz + Tyler Williams



# Grammy's Review

of the show's best moments were at the appearance of Lil Nas X with Billy Ray Cyrus, BTS, Mason

The 62nd Annual Grammy Awards ceremony was held on January 26, 2020. The ceremony recognized the best musical artists in several categories. This year the ceremony was hosted by Alicia Keys, who had the chance to host the Annual Award ceremony the year prior as well. Lizzo received the most nominations, followed by Billie Eilish and Lil Nas X. Billie and her brother, Finneas, won the most awards. Finneas is the less visible part of Eilish's rise, but is a co-writer and producer of her music. Billie became the first artist to win the four major categories in the same year since 1981, not to

mention she was the first female artists and the youngest artist to ever win all four.


Some of the major categories were Record of the Year, won by Billie Eilish with "Bad Guy," Album of the Year, won by Billie Eilish with "When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?," Song of the Year, won by Billie Eilish with "Bad Guy," and Best New Artist, won by Billie Eilish once again.

The ceremony was opened by Lizzo, who dedicated the performance to Kobe, before being launched into an emotional medley. Some

Ramsey, Diplo, and Young Thug. The cameras often scanned over the audience to include people like Gwen Stefani, Ellen DeGeneres, and many more.

There were many other interesting categories such as Pop, Dance/Electronic, Rock, Alternative, R&B, Rap, Country, Jazz, and many, many more genres that gave away awards that night. A few of the winners and nominees of the many categories were talented artists such as Lizzo, Gary Clark Jr., PJ Morton, Tyler the Creator, and Willie Nelson.



A microscopic view of several coronavirus particles, which are spherical with a textured surface and numerous small, protruding spikes (resembling a crown or 'corona'). The particles are shown in shades of green and blue against a dark background.

# Coronavirus: What You Really Need to Know

BY OWEN CONYERS '20

In the midst of the ever-increasing cases of the Novel Coronavirus, people are beginning to fear the potential worldwide spread of this disease. Unfortunately for the average person with less knowledge of the disease, it is difficult to tell truth from fear mongering within the ever-expanding wealth of both information and misinformation regarding the Coronavirus. In short, the actual danger surrounding the disease, while indeed present, has been exaggerated to the point where the resulting fears resemble the widespread reactions to the 2014 outbreak of Ebola, which at this point was far more deadly than the Wuhan Coronavirus. In fact, this epidemic has a smaller scope than even generally ignored diseases such as the common flu. In response to these rumors, the CDC has released a guide to the general public on how we should cope with the outbreak. It is far shorter and simpler than one might expect from such a feared disease. Instead of a long, detailed, and fatalistic essay, the guide is just six succinct tips on what we should and should not do.

The first of these tips is the shortest of the six, and that is to simply

stay informed. Naturally, with only four confirmed cases of the virus being reported in the United States, it is important to understand what Coronavirus is rather than to immediately prepare for the worst; and in the unlikely case of Coronavirus spreading to the rest of the United States, understanding how to properly protect yourself is vital. Following this first tip, the next two are equally anticlimactic yet important; that being to take usual precautions against spreading germs and seeing a doctor should you ever contract the disease.

The next three of the CDC's tips regarding Coronavirus adopt a different theme, specifically what you shouldn't do about the spread of this disease. Firstly, and likely the most obvious tip, is simply to not travel to China. Aside from this very self explanatory tip, the next two tips actually have much less to do with preventing the spread of the disease, instead opting to address the hasty actions of worried Americans. These two tips are to avoid wearing face masks and to not display prejudice against anyone with Asian descent over fears of Coronavirus. The first of

these is particularly interesting because face masks are a common protective measure against spreading airborne diseases, however, the list of tips actually advises against this, the CDC website states, "CDC does not recommend the use of facemasks for the general public to prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV." This tip was likely added to urge the general public to avoid overstating the issue and further spreading fears of the Coronavirus.

The simplicity and attention to quelling the fears of the general public are indicative of an issue besides the virus itself, the idea that fears regarding Coronavirus are potentially more likely to cause issues amongst the general public than the virus itself. Should the virus spread further into the United States, the general public could experience widespread panic and racism towards those of Asian descent, regardless of the number of cases. So ultimately, your best defense against 2019-nCoV is not to prepare for the worst, but rather to approach any possible danger calmly and rationally. For additional information, be sure to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's website.

# D.B. Cooper Case

BY OLIVIA HUPP '22

The date is November 24th, 1971. It was the day before Thanksgiving. A man named Dan Cooper bought a one way ticket to Seattle from Oregon. He carried a black briefcase and a paper bag and was dressed in a suit. As he sat down in his seat, he ordered a Bourbon and soda.

A little after 3:00 PM, the flight took off and they were in the air. Cooper handed a stewardess, Florence Shaffner, a note. At first, she brushed it off and put it in her pocket and began to walk off, but Cooper told her, "Miss, you better look at that note. I have a bomb."

The note read that there was indeed a bomb in his briefcase. He wanted Shaffner to sit next to him, where he showed wires connected to eight red sticks. He then asked her to write down everything he said and take it to the captain of the plane.

"I want 200,000 dollars by 5 PM in cash. Put it in a knapsack. I want two back parachutes and two front parachutes. When we land, I want a fuel truck ready to refuel. No funny stuff, or I'll do the job." Shaffner took this note to the cockpit like instructed, and the crew began to work on it.

The flight landed in Seattle, and Cooper exchanged the 36 passengers on the plane for the money and parachutes. He kept some of the crew on the plane,

and requested the plane go to New Mexico City, but remain below 10,000 feet. The pilot, William Scott, said when interviewed that he chose the route, not Cooper. He only wanted his end destination to be Mexico City. On the second half of the flight, the plane was somewhere in between Seattle and Reno Nevada. Cooper put on dark, wrap around sunglasses, took off his black tie, and jumped with two of the parachutes and the money, never to be seen again.

The FBI launched an investigation called Norjak, which means North Western hijack. DB Cooper was originally on the charges of air piracy, which had a limitation of 5 years. As time went on, with no main suspects, they then changed it to violating the Hobbs Act. The Hobbs Act is a federal statute designed to prevent extortion. It has no statute limitations, meaning if Cooper was caught tomorrow, he could still be charged even after the case being called off.

They intensely searched the plane and took a DNA sample off of Cooper's tie. They released the serial numbers of the 20 dollar bills that were given to Cooper. nine years after the hijack, an eight-year-old named Brian Ingram found a rotting package along the Columbia River. The bills were significantly damaged, but had the serial numbers that were disclosed. There were two packets of 100 twenty dollar bills and one packet of 90

twenty dollar bills. They concluded that some of the money fell out of Cooper's grasp and went down the Washougal River.

There is another set of physical evidence as letters from other Coopers to have a brother who did it, confessing to the crime, or saying that they knew the person, but they died. After the search in the plane, the FBI found the black, clip-on tie that Cooper took off and analyzed it. They found some skin that was on his tie and began to trace it to people, and out of billions of people, there were 13 suspects, but the primary suspect is Richard Floyd McCoy.

The FBI has previously arrested McCoy for an air hijack. The key thing about the Cooper and the McCoy cases is that when hijacked, they both parachuted off. They both jumped off the rear end of a Boeing 77. Like Cooper, McCoy requested four parachutes and was very calm during the heist. Reportedly, both of the men passed notes to a flight attendant about having a bomb on them. And both notes have the same phrase of "No funny stuff." And both crimes occurred when Brigham Young University, the college that McCoy attended, was on break.

There was said to be another thing that was left on the plane. Something that the McCoy family identified, but not publicly. This

object was a Brigham Young University pin, with Mccoy's initials on it, but it comes from the wikipedia page.

Eventually, Mccoy was then ruled out as a suspect mainly because he didn't follow the description of Cooper that was given by the flight attendants, even though they were said to look alike. According to the FBI archives, Mccoy testified that he was with his family for Thanksgiving in Utah. Mccoy would eventually die in a shootout with the FBI after escaping his 45-year sentence.

However, there's another suspect that was thought about recently. His name is Robert Rackstraw, a

retired pilot in California. He left the military months before the Cooper hijacking. He also had the knowledge of jumping out of planes properly and fought in Vietnam. Brad Edwards, one of the people who fought alongside him began to decode the DB Cooper letters. After sending the 5th note, there were 7 c's on his note and other sets of numbers. Edwards then decoded them with the alphabet code where every letter has a number, and came to figure out that it has the squad number that they were in, which were the numbers of Rackstraw and Edwards's squad.

Then there was a quote in the 6th letter, "And please tell the lackey

cops D.B. Cooper is not my real name." It was strange wording, which compelled Edwards. The letters in the first part of the quote added up to 269. Edwards then added up the letters in, "I'm Lt. Robert W. Rackstraw." And it also equaled to 269.

Nobody knows the answer for sure. There is compelling evidence to more suspects that were mentioned. Whether D.B. Cooper is still out there or died in the forest that he jumped into when going out of the plane is still a mystery. If he is alive, he could be anywhere. It's only a matter of time as everyone gets closer to solving the Norjak case.

# Alumni Corner ... |

BY HAYLEY DEMLER '20

Let's take a look at 2011 Clay graduate, Leah Tribbett. Tribbett, while living in South Bend while in her teen years, currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.



After high school she studied Telecommunications at Indiana University at Bloomington. During

college Tribbett was part of the club soccer team and Alpha Xi Delta sorority.

After college Tribbett opened up her own business, Leah Tribune Productions a photo and videography business. While opening up her business is one exciting part of her career, Tribbett has many exciting plans for the future. Her upcoming plans include traveling to Ireland to take wedding pictures, working with UberEats delivery, Indianapolis 500, Chase Bank, and Jack Daniel's.

During Tribbett's high school, she was part of the soccer and dance team all four years was President of Student Council.

Tribbett was also involved with SADD, National Honor Society, and Peer Mentoring.

Tribbett still has many fond recollections of her high school years. Some of those memories include Derby, The Mad Dash, and Friday night football. Her favorite memory of all was her interactive media teacher, Mrs. Lorch, who she said "Recognized my creativity and her endless encouragement that led me to grow into what is now the successful business I run."

After all these years Tribbett has a few fine words of encouragement for our class of 2020 seniors: "Learn how to do your taxes, work hard, be kind to yourself, and know that everyone is making it up as they go."

# COLLEGE

## Fees and Tuition

BY BRADYON DUKES '20

With the costs of a higher education at an all-time high, the American Dream can seem just like that - a dream. However, it doesn't take much for an ambitious student to diminish the costs of higher education. If you're looking into going to college free of charge, stick around. There is an abundance of different ways you can enhance your academics through scholarship grants and financial assistance.

One of the most simple yet convenient ways to afford college tuition is to become a work-study student on campus. The Federal Work-Study program assists students with the costs of their post-secondary education,

allowing them to work outside school hours to pay for tuition. Mrs. Kathryn Rodriguez, admissions specialist at Ivy Tech, greatly recommends an internship within a college. "Students can help offset the costs of books and fees by applying for scholarships and being in work study. You work on campus, get paid to go to school. It's all that simple." Rodriguez says. Students can also use Career Services to help find jobs, write resume's, cover letters, and so on. This helps with any job-related questions they may have.

While becoming a work-study student can be one of the most beneficial ways to get a head start in college, one of the most

prevalent ways students pay for college is by applying for grants and financial aid. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is a form that can qualify students for loans and grants to put towards college tuition. Fortunately, grants do not have to be reimbursed, which is why they are so commonly used.

Although there are dozens of ways to get into college for free, be ready to put in the time and effort required to snatch that priceless education. You will not be the only person trying to apply for scholarships, grants, loans, etc. Start your search early and apply to as many programs as you can find.



# AP Classes

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS  
BY OLIVIA LARGENT '22

Students have been hearing about Advanced Placement (or AP) classes since before they even came to high school. Counselors, teachers, and



even some parents make these classes out to seem like they are some of, if not the, most important classes you'll take throughout your high school career. That is partially true, although, there are factors you should consider before taking the step into Advanced Placement.

Meet Derek Albright. He teaches AP World History for Clay, as well as regular World History and Current Events/U.S. Government. He has a lot of knowledge about AP courses, as well as advice for students questioning whether or not they should invest in these courses.

To put in basic terms, AP classes are classes that are college courses, backed by the College Board, that you can get college credit for. They are more of a challenge than regular classes; they expand upon the skills that are already taught in regular classes. "Some regular classes focus more on the quantity of the material, whereas in AP we focus on quality of the individual and material."

Mr. Albright explains that these classes

are important for those who plan on graduating and going to college. AP classes prepare students for college classes they will take in the future. "For example," he says, "I went to Riley High School. I took no AP classes, I took no honors classes, I took all regular classes. In my first year of college, I had to almost re-learn everything I was supposed to learn in high school, because I was not taught in regular classes. So, my senior paper was like, two pages long in high school. The first week of my English class in college, the guy was like, 'Aye, we got a five page essay coming up.' I was freaking

out because it was longer than anything I'd ever written, and my writing was terrible." With his experience, he says that AP classes will benefit those interested in going to college tremendously and will put them a step above other students.

Although any student is welcome to take an AP course, Mr. Albright admits that there are skills/traits students need to have in order to succeed. Students that are not minimalists and who are looking to grow academically will most likely flourish in class. He says that being able to think beyond the aspects of the textbook is important to the class, as well as being challenged. "I used to say it to my basketball team when I coached, and I say it to my golfers and students, as well: get comfortable being uncomfortable, because that is how you grow."

Being challenged academically is a key aspect of AP classes. To have time management skills is vital

for any class, including Mr. Albright's. "Just going off of my class - time management with outlines, notes, tests, vocab, and the stuff we do in class. If they wait until the last minute, and we have harsh deadlines, they may not be able to make it, and try to give excuses for why. But, since this is a college class, those don't fly."

There are ways to overcome these challenges, however, Mr. Albright says that it is easier said than done. He believes that the view on education does not help students overcome classroom challenges, as well as students' attitude towards education itself. "We have to understand that education is a two-way street. A teacher can teach, but a student needs to be willing to learn."

Another challenge, Mr. Albright goes on to say, is preparing for the AP exam. In order to receive college credit for AP classes, you need to pass the AP exam. Every class prepares for the exam differently. For example, Mr. Albright dedicates time throughout the school year to prepare you and sharpen the skills you will need to pass the exam. He focuses on teaching his students how to properly write argumentative essays, a proper thesis, and



document based questions, all included on the AP exam for his class. Some classes will give you a practice book for the exam, which you should use to study for it.

A passing grade for the exam is a 3, 4, or 5. If you take the exam and pass, the credits put you a step further into getting into better colleges, with or without the AP Capstone diploma. On the other hand, failing the exam, or not taking it, has no impact on grades, or your standing in class. It also gives you the experience of what a real college class will be like. "Every AP class is different - some might be easier for them, some might be harder. It just depends on the content. If [a student] fails, they can see it as, 'okay, this is what I did wrong, and this is how I can get better.'"

Since Mr. Albright did not take Advanced Placement courses in high school, he personally and whole-heartedly recommends that students take them. "I think if they have the capacity mentally, and they don't mind a challenge, I think it would be a good thing for them." If you are worried about taking AP classes, he says that taking one or two AP classes with content that you personally enjoy is superior to filling your entire schedule with them, trying to earn credits as fast as possible or an early graduation.

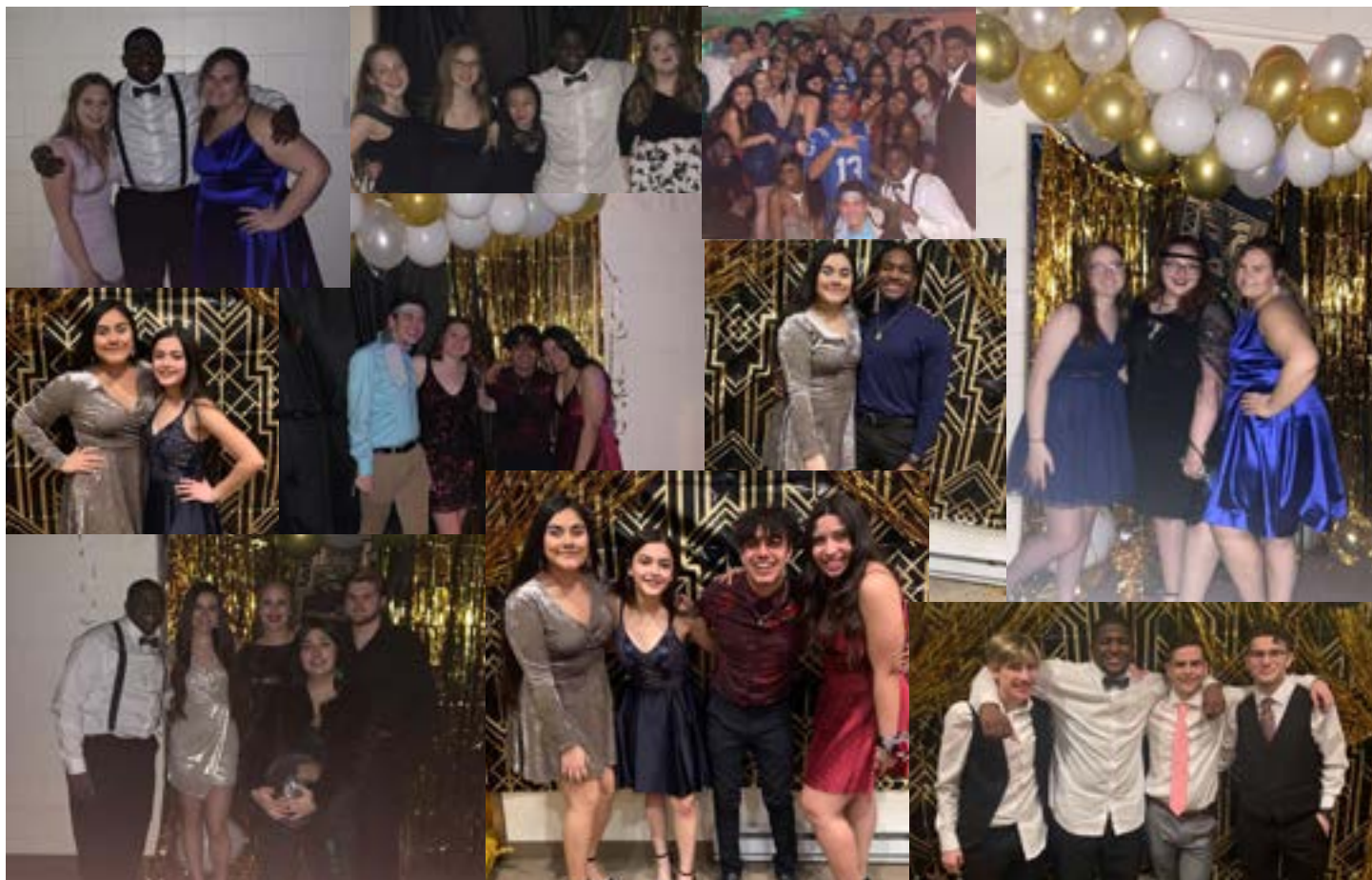
If you refuse to even try an AP course, Mr. Albright advises you to try honors or honors advanced, so that you are able to be challenged academically, still. "I wasn't somebody who took an AP class because I kept telling my

mom, 'I get A's and B's in regular, I don't want to get C's and D's in a higher class.' If I could do it all over again, I would take AP classes. When you're in high school, it's one thing where you just want to succeed, and you don't want to be the dumb person in class. I'll tell you one thing right now, when I went to college and I took an International Political Economy class, I knew I was the dumbest person in the class."

If you are confused as to what classes you should invest your time in for the next school year, ask your counselor about what AP classes are available to take, and try at least one out. AP classes may seem daunting to you, however, you won't regret taking that step forward into a higher education.

## Roaring 20's

PHOTO'S FROM YOU!





BY LYDIA TALCOTT '21

# Marijuana: What's the Big Deal?



Marijuana was first medicinally legalized by California in 1996 for use by patients with chronic illnesses. As of January 2020, 40 states have legalized marijuana medicinally, with some only allowing for CBD oil. 11 states have fully legalized recreational marijuana, plus the District of Columbia. In the majority of the states, as well as a few of the states where marijuana is still fully illegal, it has been decriminalized, meaning punishments and fines for possession or use of the drug have been reduced.

Many continue to clamor for complete legalization across all states and cite several benefits to it. The prevailing argument is the economic implications of legalization. In 2016, marijuana sales generated \$7.2 billion, as well as added millions in taxes paid by the companies and dispensaries. In Colorado's first year of full legalization, they made around \$78 million. Others argue that this increase in capital is outweighed by an increase in drug-related accidents while driving, health effects from second-hand smoke, and increased crime due to drug usage. Some studies done in the states of Washington and Colorado have actually found a reduction in violent crimes after legalization, but others have noted it has actually

had little to no effect, positive or negative. Legalization being relatively recent makes it hard to get exact data about its effects.

The major concern about marijuana is teen usage of the drug. A 2017 study found that about 23% of polled 12th graders have reportedly smoked weed at least once in their lifetime, and this percent was an increase from 10 years prior. Marijuana usage is trending up, while cigarettes, in contrast, have decreased from 22% to just 10% of 12th graders. Teens also increasingly view weed as a less risky or dangerous drug and seem to no longer look down on peers who have used marijuana. This perceived lessened threat contributes to the increase in teen usage, as they are no longer as scared of consequences or risk of hurting themselves while high. Marijuana has both short- and long-term effects. The short-term, of course, is the "high" you get from smoking. This comes from a release of dopamine that brings a relaxed feeling. In certain doses, it can cause hallucinations and paranoia. It can heighten senses, affect motor skills and hand-eye coordination, and lower your inhibitions and make you more outgoing or prone to more risky activities. The long-term effects of smoking weed are

a poor memory and even a loss of IQ points over time. This decline in brain function mostly only happens from smoking as a teenager, as the brain doesn't fully, cognitively form until your mid-20's. Overall, marijuana follows the same general dogma as many things in life: everything in moderation.

Finally, I talked to a student about their experience with marijuana.

"The first time I smoked was seventh grade I think, and nothing happened to me." A fair few students have said that the first ever time they smoked, they didn't end up feeling anything. This can often be chalked up to not inhaling properly or deeply enough.

"I wouldn't say I smoke a lot, but I'm sure I smoke more than some people our age." The student says they got into smoking at first because it helped with some of their anxiety, and then generally because "it's just fun."

On the topic of legalization, this student is all for it.

"I definitely think it should be legalized. I can't think of any reason for it not to be. I mean, it's just a plant, you know?"