

# THE COLONIAL

## SHAMROCK SHAKE RECIPE

*Learn how to make this delicious St. Patrick's  
Day McDonald's treat!*

## TRUE CRIME

*Read all about the Springfield 3 Case!*



# E-LEARNING

*What are some of the pros and cons of this new learning style?*





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# LETTER FROM THE editors

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Colonials! This edition is filled with St. Patrick's Day celebration information, stupid Indiana laws, and a spotlight article about the goods and the bads of E-learning. Enjoy this newest edition of The Colonial!



WANT YOUR PHOTO  
IN THE COLONIAL?

Submit your Clay High School photos to the editors!

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# SWEENEY'S RAMBLING SKIES

## RAMBLING THROUGH MARCH 2022 SKIES: THE VIEW FROM SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

During the month of March the Sun continues to rise earlier and set later. The length of daylight increases by 1 hour and 26 minutes. The length of darkness decreases by 1 hour and 26 minutes. There is more darkness than daylight from March 1st until March 17th. Daylight "equals" darkness on March 17th. After the 17th there is more daylight than darkness for the rest of the month.

The noon Sun, still south of, or below, the Celestial Equator until March 17th, continues to gain altitude as it travels northward and noon shadows continue to shorten. The Sun crosses the Celestial Equator on the 17th and is north of, or above, the Celestial Equator for the rest of the month. The March Sun still continues to rise south of east and set south of west from March 1st until March 17th, rises due east and sets due west on the 17th and rises and sets north of east and west for the rest of the month. As in February, the month of March experiences earlier sunrises, later sunsets, increasing daylight, decreasing darkness, a higher noon Sun and shorter

noon shadows.

At South Bend, Indiana, the due south noon altitude of the Celestial Equator is always 48° 19' every day. The Winter Season ends, and the Spring Season begins at 11:33am EDT on the 20th of March with the occurrence of the Vernal Equinox as the Sun enters the constellation Pisces. During March the Moon will be New on the 2nd, 1st Quarter on the 10th, Full on the 18th and Last or 3rd Quarter on the 25th. The Moon will be at Apogee (farthest from Earth) on the 10th and at Perigee on the 24th. Neptune, Jupiter, Mercury, Saturn, Venus and Mars are your cluster of March morning stars in that order from east to west. Venus is just above Mars. Uranus is your only March evening star. At night, while facing South, look for the star Arcturus in Boötes, the star Regulus in Leo and the stars Castor and Pollux in Gemini. Don't neglect the north-circumpolar stars and constellations residing in your northern night sky.



The Sun rises at 7:19am and sets at 6:34pm on March 1st. The daylight length is 11hrs. 15 minutes and the darkness length is 12hrs. 45 minutes.

On March 12th the Sun rises at 7:01am. On March 13th the Sun rises at 7:59am. Daylight Saving Time Returns at 2am. Set clocks ahead 1hr at 2am. On March 14th the Sun rises at 7:58am  
The Sun rises at 7:28am and sets at 8:09pm on March 31st the daylight length is 12hr. 41mins and the darkness length is 11hrs.

19mins.

From March 1st until March 31st you will gain 1 hour and 26 minutes of daylight. From March 1st until March 31st you will lose 1 hour and 26 minutes of darkness. Darkness “outshines” daylight from March 1st until March 17th. Daylight outshines darkness from March 17th until March 31st. The altitude of the noon Sun is 41° and 55’ on March 1st. The altitude of the noon Sun is 52° and 39’ on March 31st.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PEXELS.COM



# ARCHAIC INDIANA Laws

MICHAEL SCHMANSKI, 2024

With the state of Indiana being more than 200 years old, we should not be surprised many irrelevant or outdated laws are still in place. Some Indiana laws were enacted for things that were necessary at the time. An example would be the law that 14-year-olds or under are not allowed to curse in the state of Indiana because it was considered a sin. If they did curse, they would be fined up to three dollars for each use of a bad word, according to Indystar.com



Indiana's legal guidance on fishing is also quite interesting. Most of the laws are reasonable and practical including the law that prohibits Hoosiers from using electricity

to catch/kill fish. It is also illegal in the state of Indiana to catch a fish with your hands.

In Indiana, horses are considered legal vehicles. They do however have a different vehicle classification so regular vehicular laws would not apply. For example, if you

are riding a horse on the streets of Indiana you may not exceed 10 miles per hour. Even in our city of South Bend, there is an obsolete law stating that you may not

force a monkey to smoke a cigarette in public. In the 1900s there was a law that managed to pass the state House of Representatives, saying that the value of pi is just 3.



Unfortunately, this law never made its way through the state senate as reported by [do317.com](http://do317.com).

If you are someone who is known to frequently kiss people on the streets of Indiana, make sure that you keep your facial hair trimmed or you might face some legal repercussions. If you are a Gary resident then you should wait four hours after eating garlic before you decide to go see a show or even take a bus to school. In the state of Indiana, if you forge a check and get caught nowadays you will go to jail for fraud. Cheaters have a legal option to get a sentence of 100 flogs—a beating typically with a whip or a stick. If you decide to cross a highway at night, you better stick to a regular flashlight because it is against the law to cross a highway wearing tail lights as stated by [onlyinyourstate.com](http://onlyinyourstate.com)

In the very unlikely case that you get in legal trouble for any of these laws, at the very least you know what to avoid. Who knows what other things our state put into effect that we don't even know about. Even so, don't worry about these too much because they are not likely to be enforced.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY [PEXELS.COM](http://PEXELS.COM)





# SPRINGFIELD three

CHAMARIE GREER, 2024

Suzanne “Suzie” Streeter and Stacy McCall had just graduated from Kickapoo High School in Springfield, Missouri in 1992. They had been celebrating with their friends from approximately 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. The original plan was to head back to their friend Janelle Kirby’s house after the party, but the girls decided not to because it was crowded. Instead, they went back to Suzie’s mother’s (Sherrill Levitt) house.


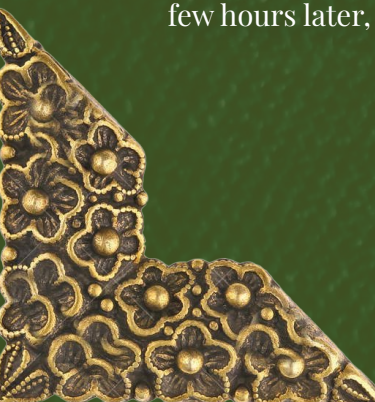
Everything seemed to be normal because all their clothes, purses, and cars were at the Levitt house. But the girls didn’t show up for the plans they made to go to a waterpark with Janelle. Around 9 a.m. Janelle and her boyfriend showed up at the Levitt house. The door was unlocked. They entered and noticed all three women were nowhere to be found. The porch light was broken. Janelle decided to sweep the glass up, potentially destroying evidence.

As the couple was looking around the house, the phone rang. Janelle took the call, which was reported to be filled with “sexual innuendos.” A few hours later, Janelle’s mother arrived at the

house since she was unable to get in contact with her daughter. She noticed that Suzie’s clothes, purse, and cigarettes were still in the house. She found it unusual for Suzie to leave her cigarettes. The group decided to call the police. Janelle’s mother also noted that there was a message on the answering machine and described it as “strange,” but accidentally deleted it. The police said the messages may have contained evidence, but weren’t connected to the sexual calls Janelle received.

Sixteen hours had passed since the last confirmed sighting of the three women. Sherrill made a call the night before at 11:15 p.m. to an unnamed friend. Since Jannell first entered the house at 9 a.m., up to 20 people had been in the house to search for the women—further contaminating the crime scene. With the police needing a warrant to enter the house, they were not able to enter until June 8. And on June 9, they called the FBI.

Police found very little evidence at the house—and no signs of a struggle or blood. All three cars belonging to the victims were present and





all the keys were in the house and their purses were at the bottom of the stairs. The only sign of struggle was the broken porch light.

Thousands of posters were put up throughout the city. Although the police received more than 5,200 tips from the public, none panned out. They searched woods and fields in the area but got nowhere with the case.

The police worked tirelessly to find the women logging 1,642 hours of overtime over 10 days. On June 24, the police got a possible tip. A waitress at Georges' Steakhouse said that the women were there between 1 and 3 a.m. and Suzie appeared to be drunk. Earlier evidence also suggested that could have been true, but the sightings of the three women were never confirmed.

With the police getting nowhere, the investigation was put on hold and was featured in an edition of "America's Most Wanted." The appearances gave the police 29 calls with information. They paid the most attention to a caller who said that he had information directly linking the disappearance of the women, but he dropped the call and the police urged him to call back. The caller still remains unknown.

The investigative reporting show "48 Hours" also highlighted the case. Despite the increased national exposure, the case still remained cold. Five years later, the Springfield Police Department said that they could no longer spend the amount of money they were spending on the case and shut it down.

Surprisingly, in 1997, a break in the case came when Robert Craig Cox claimed he had

information on the women. Cox had been convicted of kidnapping, murder, and robbery and was imprisoned in Texas.

Cox had also been questioned in 1992 and said that all three women were killed and buried. He



also said that the bodies would never be found. He was living in Springfield at the time of the killing, but he never confessed to the crime. He claimed he was at church that morning. His girlfriend collaborated with his story. However, that didn't mean that he wasn't still involved. His girlfriend recanted and told police that he asked her to lie for him. But he had another alibi saying he was at his parents' house—which was later confirmed.

Police still don't know if Cox is involved with the crime. The Police noticed that he only



tells enough for them to believe he has information, but never enough to make himself look guilty. People also believe that Cox is only looking for fame with a false confession. He said that he will reveal the truth when his mother dies but claims the bodies of the women are in Springfield.

In 2007, investigators said that they received a tip that the bodies were buried in the foundation of the Cox Hospital parking lot. The same year, a reporter, Kathee Baird, had a section of the parking lot scanned with ground-penetrating radar and found three unusual figures. However, it's uncertain that the women were buried there since the construction didn't start there until September 1993, over a year after they went

missing. That tip also didn't come from someone connected to a burial, but someone claiming to have psychic abilities.

What happened to the three women still remains a mystery, with such little evidence at the crime scene or evidence that shows where the bodies ended up. With no evidence of a break-in with the door left unlocked, some believe that the three were possibly lured out of the house.

Nearly 30 years later, the case still is unsolved.



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY PEXELS.COM & VOCAL.MEDIA



# E-LEARNING pros & cons

LEXI LARGENT, 2024

E-learning has become a staple in today's society. In early 2020, E-learning thrived as COVID-19 cases rose and many schools closed. As the 2019-2020 year came to an end, E-learning did not. As the 2020-2021 school year began, E-learning continued and in-person learning/teaching seemed far out of reach. However, in late 2020, schools opened using a "hybrid" method. Hybrid meant students would go some days in person and other days virtual. Students came to school at first, but the student population waned throughout the weeks, and eventually, schools closed again in late November. In the spring semester, hybrid developed into everyone attending in person, with only one E-learning day during the week for deep cleaning.

As school returned in person, it took time for people to adjust—causing stress and emotional drainage. Students and teachers alike had

trouble adjusting to the environment. Seventh graders (before COVID-19) are suddenly freshmen going back to school fully in a whole new environment. Many students were not used to having actual lessons and homework. It was hard for freshman and sophomore students to get used to the building and new environment. Almost two years of E-learning and then suddenly full in-person school was a drastic change to most.

Studies point to the pros of E-learning. E-learning was beneficial for keeping COVID cases low, as many people stayed at home doing their schoolwork. E-learning also lets students complete the work at any time of the day. Many adjusted and no longer was it important that you overslept or took longer on a certain assignment. E-learning was self-paced. Students could rewatch lessons as many times as they'd like, and take their time on assignments instead of rushing in class to finish. E-learning also offered more individualized attention; if you needed help with an assignment you could simply email your teacher and get an almost immediate response. E-learning helped you develop real-world skills including independence and responsibility. Teachers could post their work and always have it available and be able to give students more help if needed via Zoom call or Google Meet. E-learning helped many students develop a sense of time





management since most students didn't want to spend all their time doing their schoolwork. E-learning also meant you could do your work wherever there is a stable internet connection. If a student was traveling, they could continue to do work as long as they had internet access. Overall, many people thrived doing online classes and remote learning.

Not everyone thrived—there were also cons. E-learning affected the mental health of many students and teachers. A CDC report in June 2020 reported that 31% of respondents felt anxiety or depression, 13% reported substance usage, and 11% reported suicidal thoughts in the past 30 days. Social distancing and quarantine made many students feel isolated and alone. E-learning created a loophole in finishing assignments, as there are many answer keys online resulting in students' cheating. Many students just didn't do their assignments, resulting in mass zeros and F's. So many students were failing classes, SBCSC implemented that no student could "fail" and that the letter N replaced F. Students had trouble staying focused, and keeping motivated to do their work. Students had trouble learning certain lessons and subjects, like math and science. Those subjects require a lot of explaining, and many students don't automatically understand and require in-person help. Many students would email teachers for help and receive no answer, or ask a peer and no one would know how to do an assignment either. Some students failed all of their courses and would have to retake them later in the future, however, some students passed all of their courses through cheating and struggled when in-person teaching began. Some teachers did not post work on time, causing many students to simply not

do the assignment. Students also often felt overwhelmed by the amount of work assigned. Many students as well as staff disliked zoom and google meets, calling them useless. Many students struggled with internet connections, though SBCSC created WiFi buses as a result. Another issue was students feeling like assignment directions weren't explained well, causing many students to simply give up and not do the assignment. Overall, many students did not enjoy online classes and remote learning.

Classes are now fully in person, with a fully virtual school available. However, in-person classes still pose some issues. The school year didn't start off that strong, with our principal leaving as well as all-new administrators, many teachers and students felt unsure about school staying open, causing some teachers to start posting all assignments on Google Classroom. However, posting all assignments on Google Classroom resulted in many issues. The main issue is skipping class. Many students complete assignments online, resulting in them seeing no need to attend class and skipping. This leaves teachers feeling frustrated as their class numbers dwindled over time.





"I have classes of 25 students and only 8 people show up," a teacher said, expressing their frustration. "I post all of my assignments online so they are always available if needed. I did not intend for people to do them and not attend my class. Not all of my assignments are available virtually. Though they are getting points, it is hurting their grade more than helping."

Many teachers feel this way and feel like many students are missing out on vital parts of their education through hurrying to get the work done and not fully learning the lesson and the material along with it. Teachers post most of their work online so that students who get quarantined or are absent can see what they did in class and complete their assignments and not fall behind.

Some classes, specifically band and orchestra, require in-person practices and lessons. If you do not attend class, you may fall seriously behind and could be learning a song and notes incorrectly. English classes and literature classes require books to be read, and oftentimes teachers don't have PDF access to the books. Again, if you do not attend class, you are hurting your grade by not being able to read the book needed for class. Many math classes are easier to comprehend when lessons are taught in person. If you simply do the work and do not take notes or listen to a lecture, you could not understand the homework and do it wrong,

resulting in a low grade.

Many students find it unnecessary to attend class when all of the materials that are being presented in class are being posted on Google Classroom. What is the point in going to class and sitting through the 55-minute long lecture when it would take a student 10 minutes to look at it on Google Classroom? Not to mention that teachers often don't even teach the lesson posted, they post it and let students do it in class. What's the point in attending class if a student is gonna sit there and do nothing? Teachers, as well as students,

are often absent as well. Many students skip class because they aren't learning and just sit on their phones. They view the situation as 'Why attend class if I am not learning or doing anything productive when I could go to another class and do something else?'



Though the view is wrong, many teachers understand the frustration of the student. Many students also do their workdays or even weeks ahead, so they don't see any need to go to class. Not only is this frustrating to teachers, but it's frustrating to students as well. Teachers tend to put grades in as a group, not single grades for a single student. When a student does all of their work or days ahead and expects the work to be graded immediately, it puts the teacher and other students in a frustrating position. Students don't understand the issue: If the work is online and they can do it online, why do they



need to attend class? A student could go to another class and do other assignments. Many teachers surprisingly agree, but many also disagree, saying that you need to attend class to understand the concept being taught.

Another issue is students skipping class in other classes. For example, some people do all of their work and ask to go to another class to do work. While that situation is okay normally, it is not okay when students tell their teacher they are getting a pass to one class and go somewhere else instead. Many times the office calls for a student, and when they aren't where they are supposed to be, it makes their teacher look bad when it is the student's fault. By then, administrators have to look for you, wasting their time. Many students will attend class,

ask for a bathroom pass, take all of their stuff, and stay in the bathroom. Once again, the viewpoint is; I finished all of my work, there's no point in attending the actual class. That viewpoint has caused so many issues for not only students but teachers as well.

As we quickly progress this semester, students need to realize that you can do the virtual work and cheat, but you are not learning, and when finals approach they will show your true skills and what you have learned. Teachers know who truly put in the effort and wanted to learn and work for their grade, and they know who looked up the answer key and turned the work in to get the grade. Teachers can tell the difference, and they will grade you as such.





# SHAMROCK shake

MICHAEL SCHMANSKI, 2024



Even though St. Patrick's Day is still a week away you might want to have one of the seasonal treats early. One example of an American fast food staple is McDonald's famous green mint Shamrock Shake that rolls out around St. Patrick's Day every year. It debuted nationally in 1970.

To make your own Shamrock Shake, blend the following in a blender:

- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. mint extract
- 1 cup milk
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- 4 drops green food coloring (add more for a more vibrant green color)
- whipped cream (optional)

The process of making a Shamrock Shake is the same as making a regular milkshake. Add your ice cream and milk into a blender with the preferred amount of green food coloring. Put into cups, top with whipped cream, and serve.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY EATINGWELL.COM



# TEACHER spotlight

MARYAH HUDSON, 2024

Mr. Ben Murray-Oates, or Mr. Murray as he is also known, teaches Graphic Design and Interactive Media. His class is a CTE (Career Technical Education) offering. Students earn dual credits.

Murray was born in Adelaide, Australia. His mother was Argentinian and his father is English. Murray and his sister are first-generation Australians. As a child, he went back and forth between Australia and the United States. He attended all but his senior year of high school in Australia. He is a 1996 graduate of South Bend's John Adams High School.

His sister still lives in Australia and he has a special needs sister-in-law, Patty, who he looks after here. Murray still visits Australia from time to time. While in Australia he stays with his father, who is a world champion archer. His father won the title of "World Champion Archer" in the longbow category in the early 2000s. His mother is deceased.

Mr. Murray wasn't quite sure if he wanted to attend college, but he started at Ivy Tech Community College. After two years he continued at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) and earned two degrees, Bachelor of

Fine Arts and Graphic Design and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting/Drawing.

Mr. Murray says that he loves teaching Graphic Design because he considers himself an "untraditional teacher." He never wanted to be a teacher. He never went to school to become a teacher or pursue a teaching license. After graduating college, he worked professionally in the graphic design industry where he enjoyed a professional career. Mr. Murray wanted to switch things up and found a program where teachers can teach their skillset from the real world for college credits. Here is where he says that he "kinda fell into this job." He also says he loves this job and being able to share his skills and see his students' creativity blossom. 2021-2022 marks Murray's sixth year of teaching, all at Clay.

Murray is most known around Clay for having different hair colors. Just how many different colors has he sported? He said that he has probably had every single hair color on his head. A week before the school year started this fall, Mr. Murray decided he wanted to dye his hair grey. So he bleached it. As he was rinsing the bleach out, he noticed his hair was now a "hay yellow" hue. He decided to throw some more bleach on and let it sit. After



about an hour his hairline starts to burn like “someone took a metal rake” to his head. He then discovered blisters around his forehead. He had given himself a chemical burn. He started his school year like that.

By becoming a teacher Murray discovered that his favorite part about teaching graphic design is simply his students and their success. His design students copped 100 awards this year at the Scholastic Art competition. Scholastic is the nation’s longest-running, most prestigious recognition program for creative teens.

The annual South Bend Art Beat festival

is one of Mr. Murray’s favorite projects. Art Beat is the largest annual event where performing, visual, and culinary artists fill the streets for a day-long celebration of the arts. One week before Art Beat, Murray and his students decided to rent two booths. They had to come up with a game plan for the booths. What they were going to sell and how were they going to market themselves? His favorite part about Art Beat was his students being able to keep the proceeds they earned from their art.

Mr. Murray was married for 20 years. His husband, Jeffrey, died in 2018.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VIA LARGENT

NATHAN DUSZYNSKI (FAR LEFT), JOSH LECKRONE (LEFT),  
BEN MURRAY-OATES (MIDDLE), MAYA MITCHEM (RIGHT), VIA LARGENT (FAR RIGHT)



# PROBLEMATIC instagram PAGES

ARIANNA BOTELLO, 2023

This article is based on different varieties of Instagram pages that are related to Clay High School made by anonymous students and here are the top four pages:

## *CHS Sleep Page:*

This account is about students throughout the whole school that tend to fall asleep in the classrooms. It can be fun to look at by seeing your friends getting posted on it, but the issue is others can be uncomfortable when they don't ask for consent because it usually invades other people's privacy, which can result in copyright infringement. Another reason would be the student could be having a difficult time at home with sleeping due to personal issues. In the posts, the captions would be something along the lines of "caught you lacking again (name of the student)" or the name in general and they would put this smiling purple devil emoji.

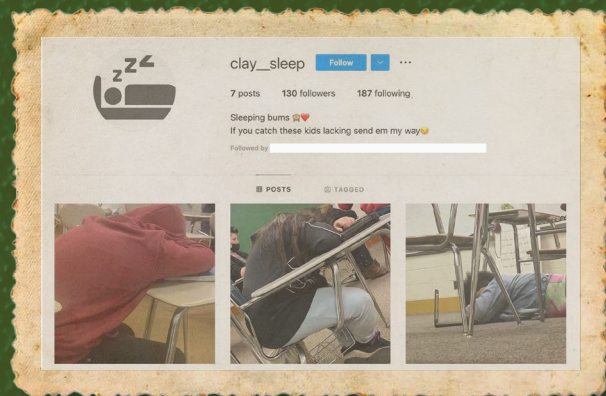
## *CHS Fight Page:*

This account is about the fights that occur here at Clay High School throughout 2021-2022 in the hallways, bathrooms, or classrooms for entertainment purposes. Having these kinds of videos that are floating around the internet could lead to a bad

reputation for the school that can interfere with learning activities for the students and it is a situation because it will make the administrators get in trouble with the filming, fighting, and the participation that the students get involved with.

## *Mr. Albin Fan Page:*

The Stan account is about a teacher by the name of Mr. Albin who works in the theater production here at Clay High School. The word stan is a term to describe fans that are obsessed with a particular person. The page is about fun activities or entertainment the teacher performs to make the students laugh. The teacher doesn't mind the students posting videos or pictures about him as long as he gives permission to do so without getting in trouble.





### *CHS Band Page:*

The account is run by the students who are part of the music strand, the band program at Clay High School. The page shows different varieties of activities the band performs at the school. The Clay band attends football games to perform their halftime show, sits out in the stands to play pep tunes, plays music at the basketball games, hallway gigs for jazz band or pep band, senior nights, ISSMA, and so much more!

Some of these accounts can be alright to those who enjoy it, but there can be limits to those who don't find it enjoyable. There is a law from the Third Party that describes photographing others without their permission and in the party, it talks about a person's statement of their opinion on how it affects them.

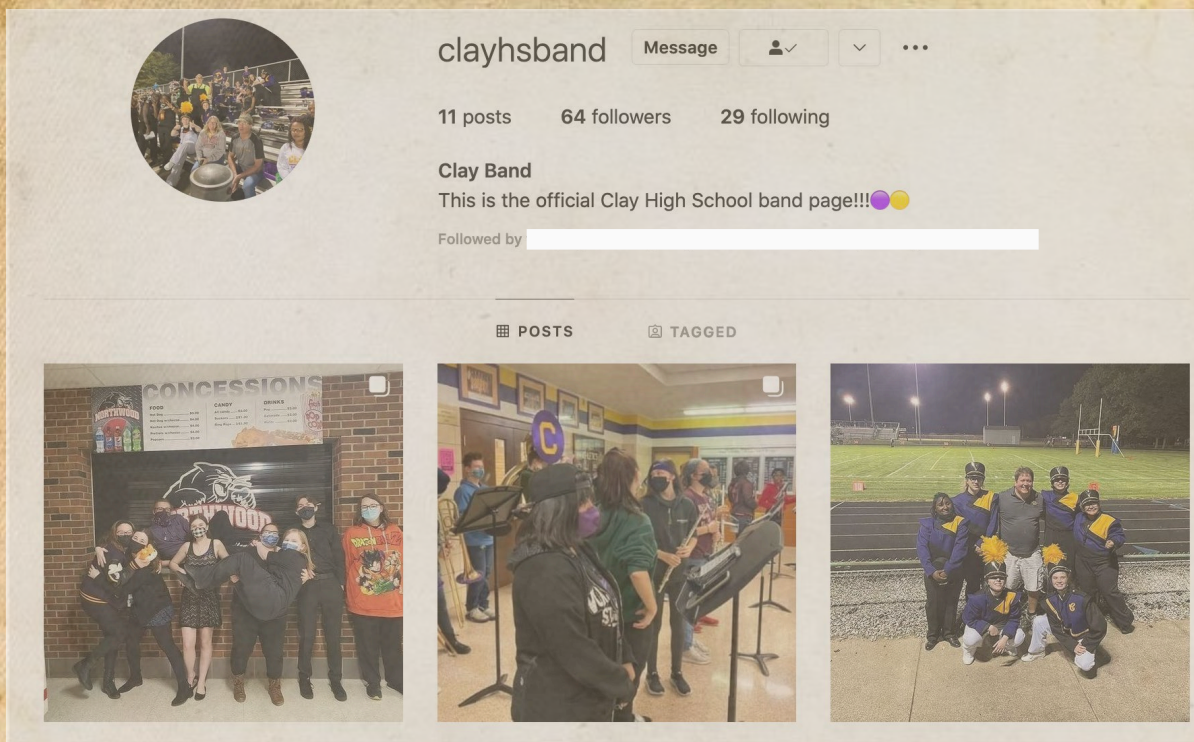


PHOTO PROVIDED BY CLAYHSBAND ON INSTAGRAM.COM



# TOXIC male behavior

CHARLOTTE GRIFFITH, 2024

Clay senior Oli Hupp's first experience with catcalling was when they were eight. Once they reached high school, it only got worse. "Two things I've always noticed when getting catcalled are that I'm almost always alone, and there's at least one other person there laughing," they said.

"The second case was my freshman year," Hupp recalled. "I distinctly remember leaving Mock Trial practice and heading off to a pep band game... I was walking down [the hall] and trying to mind my own business, and I just hear 'hey'. I look up and I see this [guy] and two other kids."

The unnamed student went on to ask if Hupp was single and then propositioned them, asking what it would take to "get with" them. When Hupp said no, the catcaller responded with verbal abuse. "They shouted after me as I was trying to get into the band room. [It] made me want to cry."

Unfortunately, these situations, as uncomfortable as they are, are not uncommon. According to a study conducted in 2015 by Cornell University in collaboration with anti-harassment advocacy group Hollaback!, 85% of US women will be catcalled before age 17. And that doesn't account for the 50% of women globally who have reported being groped or fondled and the 71% worldwide that have reported being followed. Schools are no

exception to this trend, where out of the 48% of all high school students that are sexually harassed, 11% of them experience sexual assault, and only 20% report it.

So, what is the link? What is the tissue that connects all of these incidents, from women followed by creeps in subway stations to peeping toms and campus assault scandals? That question may never be answered. But there is one thing that may be found at the root of many of these incidents- especially when young women and girls are concerned- and that thing is "Bro Culture."

"Bro Culture," as defined by Wikipedia, is "a subculture of young men who spend time partying with others like themselves." Among the trends found in "Bro Culture," (besides alcohol graveyards and muscle tees of course) are the trivialization, exclusion, objectification, and intimidation of women. "Bro Culture" is so associated with misogyny that the hatred and degradation of women are considered one of the subculture's unifying features. So what does this mean?

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## *Trivialization*

When talking about women, "Bros" will often reduce them by representing them and their interests as unimportant or trivial. For example, "Bro" will often make fun of things



associated with women and girls, such as romantic books and movies, makeup, or fashion. They also frequently represent those interests as lesser than things associated with men and boys such as video games, sports, or action movies. This is done to belittle women which, in turn, justifies their poor treatment. If you belittle a person's interests and personality, it is easier to ignore their feelings when you hurt them.

#### *Example: Girls Vs. Boys Memes*

"Girls Vs. Boys" memes are a specific type of meme that tries to portray, (and often exaggerates), the perceived differences between girls and boys. A common trope in "Girls Vs. Boys" memes is that some girls will be shown to be doing something boring and girly, and then the boys will be shown to be doing something considered cooler or is the punchline of the meme Is it the most serious case of online misogyny? No. But it is a cross-section- of a much larger issue. A culture of comparing boys and girls in a way that boys always come out on top.

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#### *Exclusion:*

"Bros" don't like it when women know more than they do. If a woman is superior in any way to a "Bro", that means he's a "weak man." Because men are supposed to be better than women, right? This is why some men exclude women from their fandoms. D&D, comics, movies, anime—it's all dominated by men because they can't stand the idea of a woman knowing more about a given topic than they do. This fear leads to mansplaining, gatekeeping, and overall exclusion of female fans from predominantly male fandoms.

#### *Example:*

In 2014, a harassment campaign was launched online. Coined as "GamerGate" by actor Adam Baldwin, the hashtag "GamerGate" quickly began trending on sites like 4chan, Twitter, and Reddit. The campaign was a response to the increasing diversity in 2010's video games, with nonwhite and female characters becoming more common as those kinds of women began to break into the gaming industry. It is important to note that GamerGate was spearheaded almost exclusively by young, white men.

Throughout 2014, the number of posts belittling so-called "gamer-girls" and their defenders, the "Social Justice Warriors," (a derogatory term for an—often female—overly politically correct internet user) skyrocketed, as did the harassment of female gamers and game developers. Among the women affected by GamerGate was the creator of Depression Quest, developer Zoë Quinn. Quinn eventually had to flee her home after her address was leaked by a GamerGate supporter.

Later, it came to light that the campaign had started as a personal attack on Quinn by her ex-boyfriend, Eron Gjoni. The complaints about political correctness "ruining" video games had been a shallow excuse to harass an innocent woman. It was a smear campaign, a public effort to defame and harass someone that at least 10,000 men became involved in, and that countless women, many of them without platforms to defend themselves, were affected by.

The story of GamerGate remains to this day a testament to the process of internet harassment and the fact that nerdy men can



be just as misogynistic as “The Boiz.”

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### *Objectification:*

In “Bro Culture”, a woman’s worth is generally equal to what she can do for the men around her. If a woman is unattractive, she is deemed unworthy of respect and fair game to be ridiculed. If she is attractive, she is deemed worthy of male attention.

### *Example: Billie Eilish Gets Body-Shamed on Twitter*

It all started with a tweet from the user @GamesNosh on Twitter which read “In 10 months Billie Eilish has developed a mid-30’s wine mom body.” This was written in response to a recent picture of Billie uploaded to the musician’s Instagram, which featured her wearing a tight tank-top and shorts that showed off her full figure. Up until this point, Billie’s style had been defined by the oversized silhouettes of streetwear- baggy bottoms and baggier tops. But regardless of the jarring shift in style, almost all of her fans knew that Nosh’s tweet was not okay. Countless people retweeted @GamesNosh, calling out his behavior. Before long, the tweet had gone viral.

Beyond the obvious cruelty of body-shaming, the thing that stuck out to many internet users at the time was that no male celebrities ever seemed to be treated like Billie was. Jack Black, James Corden, and Jonah Hill are all examples of male public figures living in bigger bodies. @GamesNosh himself falls under that category of a fat man with an online presence. It’s not that these men never get comments on their bodies, but those comments are not a given fact of their existence. Women are objectified and

belittled for their bodies no matter what they look like.

Even when Billie dressed more conservatively, she was still objectified. Pictures of her were uploaded to NSFW subreddits like r/2bustyzhide. She was even made the subject of the NSFW subreddit r/Billie Eilish GoneWild on which one Reddit user called her a “dirty version of Scarlet Johansson.” While the users of these subreddits almost certainly find Billie attractive, it is still objectification.

The truth is, no matter what decisions Billie made, whether to cover up or cut loose, she was always going to be sexualized. Once a celebrity makes it big, they aren’t offered very much protection or autonomy over their image - a fact only compounded by the internet whose very nature makes it nearly impossible for posted information to disappear.

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### *Intimidating:*

When a “Bro” doesn’t get what he wants from a woman (like in Oli Hupp’s case), he will often react by trying to intimidate her into giving him what he wants. When rejected, “Bros” will often make threats, a trend often seen on dating sites. A man will proposition a woman for something (i.e pictures, dates, attention), and when the woman refuses, he will respond with abuse and threatening language.

### *Example: Dating App Rejections*

It’s a tale as old as time. A girl opens her private messages on a dating app. She sees that a guy has messaged her, asking her to go out with him, and she goes to check out his



profile. Deciding she isn't interested, she says no. The guy then responds to her answer with verbal abuse. He tells her that she's worthless, stupid, and ugly. He calls her names and even threatens to assault her. Sometimes the guy is just lashing out and thinks a woman who doesn't find him attractive is a worthy target. And sometimes he genuinely believes that he can scare her into giving him a chance. Either way, intimidation is a common response and tactic in dating, especially with men.

In some cases, the intimidation escalates to stalking, like in the case of a young woman dubbed "Emma" for privacy purposes, who matched with an abusive man on Tinder. In the beginning, he seemed nice, but he quickly became possessive. He got angry when she didn't reply to his messages soon enough. When she told him she wasn't interested anymore, he threatened her, saying he would "find her". He wasn't lying, either. Emma's match kept trying to reach her through any means possible, going as far as to contact her friends on social media, and to show up at her work. "I felt trapped," Emma recalled in her interview with VICE magazine.

Emma's story brings to mind an important question. What was her match trying to achieve? Was he trying to scare her? Win her back? Get revenge? Or did he simply want to stay in her life, no matter how tangentially? Nobody knows, but his use of intimidation is clear and chilling regardless.

Women face intimidation at the hands of abusive men every single day. Whether it's a partner, a co-worker, or a total stranger. It's terrifying and demoralizing. Intimidation is used to frighten women into submission, to control them, and to silence them. It gives "The Boiz" a license to behave however they

want, without fear of consequences, and while women suffer in silence.

"Bro Culture" probably won't be disappearing any time soon. This culture that prioritizes arrogant, brash men encourages misogyny and is ingrained deeply within every society. Wherever you go, you will find pockets of "Bro Culture" - it's in government, it's in workplaces, it's in schools, it's in fraternities and D&D clubs, comic-book shops, and gaming chats. Misogyny is a deep-seated hatred, after all. One that may never be entirely eradicated.

That being said, it should be both women's and men's responsibility to call out other men when they are being misogynistic. When male-dominated spaces become cliquish and unaccepting, the men in those circles should do their best to be welcoming to women and to the ideas they bring with them. When a woman is being pressured or intimidated, the other people around her should step in and help. It's not White Knighting- it's human kindness, which is something "Bro Culture" is sadly lacking in.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PEXELS.COM



# UKRAINE poetry

ROBIN SHEPLEY, 2023

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The city with a sky on fire (Ukraine)  
My home was destroyed not long ago.

The unthinkable happened.

I was jolted awake by the sirens in the city.  
My family packed up like refugees and fled.

No one wanted to look at the sky.

I looked, expecting it to be as gray as smoke from a fire.

It was as if the sky was ablaze.

We reached the line, crossing into another country.  
Our hearts no longer yearning for the city that had been  
our home forever.

The city with a sky on fire.

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