

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

Volume CIX, Issue 1 Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee September 8th, 2023

Anchored In The Community

By Caitlin Vining

“3, 2, 1...” The sister reveal. Sophomore, junior, and senior Anchor Club members have come prepared, and are ready with open arms for their new little sisters.

Themed shirts—which are usually homemade—are spread out between all of the girls: some are safarians waiting for their little cheetah, others are referencing Taylor Swift by being in their “Big Era” or “Little Era”.

But Lily Hughes is anticipatedly waiting for her basketball teammates. As her feet hit the brick of Tennessee High’s front steps, Lily is finally able to meet her big sisters, Madison Manahan and Aniston Barnette.

Lily loved the warm welcome, and is beyond excited to “get more involved with not only the community, but fun-loving girls who work together for the world around them.”

Anchor is the largest girl-based club at Tennessee High. It is run by students for the community, hosting many fundraisers throughout the year. The most noteworthy fundraiser being sponsoring the pink-out football game.

Annually, Anchor partners with the club Civinettes in a powderpuff game. This game helps both girl-based clubs become more involved with one another, as well as creating

“
**Reputation is
what people
think one is,
and character
is who one
truly is.**
”

an event for other students, such as the football players, to participate on the sidelines and in the student section.

All funds raised by Anchor goes towards the breast cancer foundation Susan G. Komen for the Cure; last year the club raised around \$15,000 for the foundation.

Today Anchor is striving to not only double that number, but

sponsor more fundraisers for the cause in the future.

This piece of information is usually lost in the belief that Anchor is a “high school sorority.” Today the true meaning behind Anchor has been misplaced.

While some only see the club as pink boas—whose feathers can be found throughout the school the day of reveals—and matching t-shirts, Anchor holds a base of “bringing leaders together to make a positive impact on [THS] and the community” according to new Anchor sponsor, Mrs. Dunkerly.

Mrs. Dunkerly hopes to clear up misconceptions about the club’s reputation. “Reputation is what people think one is, and character is who one truly is. Anchor’s character is exactly where it needs to be with a solid foundation, Anchor’s reputation will follow. It is time the reputation changes.”

Approaching Anchor with an open-mind and open-arms—and a short conversation with former anchor sponsor, Chancli Declerq—Mrs. Dunkerly was so appreciative of the girls stepping up and coming together to help not only her, but also “the greater good of the club.”

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Drum Majors March To Success

By Ada Ritchie

With nervously shaking legs, 13-year-olds Macy Galloway and Ella-marie Finch walk up to the stage of their 8th grade award ceremony. They both gratefully accept medals for most improved and most outstanding 8th grade band members.

As a result of their hard work, both have received numerous band awards throughout their high school career. Macy has won awards such as Most Improved Freshman, Most Dedicated Sophomore, and Most Outstanding Leadership for an underclassman. Ella-marie has won awards including Most Outstanding Freshman, Best Marcher for Underclassmen, and Best Leader.

Now, after five years of relentless ambition, Macy won the title of Drum Major and Ella-marie Assistant Drum Major.

Despite their accomplishments—and seemingly inevitable progression—

both experienced anxiety during auditions.

Macy joined the band later than

for she had a natural talent for the Euphonium (baritone) and a rare drive to improve her craft.



Drum Major Macy Galloway leads the Mighty Vikings as they practice their new marching show “The Last Straw”. Photo by Caden Cartwright.

most, and was constantly worried about “catching up to her peers.” She, however, had no need to worry,

Macy described the audition process as “quite scary,” going on to say that “conducting is not something you do

in front of other people [very] often.” Over the summer, Macy attended The Governor’s School for the Arts. The surreal experience allowed her to “create music with people” who “cared so much about their music and their craft.”

Ella-marie recalls her first experience, Enka, as moving, due to the “the band [coming] together like a family.” Winning this competition was a “prideful moment” for the band.

As a team, they strive to be approachable, as well as figures fellow band members can look up to. Past Drum Majors such as Maddie Smith and Amy Shi inspire them because “[they are both]very confident and sure of themselves” and “supporting in all ways,” which according to Macy, makes them “great leaders.”

With their combined talents and eagerness, Macy and Ella-marie seek to command the band, note by note.

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Pickleball: What’s The Big Dill?

By Halle Mullins

“Get out of the kitchen!” a player yells from across the court. Instructing their teammate to back up from the painted box which surrounds the net, these athletes attempt to score a point in the rapidly growing sport of pickleball.

Many don’t understand the hype encompassing pickleball given how similar the game is to tennis. However, the two sports are not as akin as they may seem. Besides a few logistical differences, the main deviations include: trading in a racket for a paddle and switching the usual bouncy neon ball for a hollow plastic one.

The popularity stems from a simple scoring system, the lack of experience needed, and the social aspect of the game.

Pickleball has even spread to Tennessee High.

When THS tennis coach, Ms. Kitzmiller, noticed last year that PE classes were teaching the game, she quickly observed that it was “really popular with students.”

This led her to a fundraising idea for the THS tennis team: hosting their very own pickleball tournament. The tournament will be held October 7th at the Ida Stone Jones Community Courts.

Proceeds from the tournament will go towards “tennis balls, grip tape, and the expenses needed for the team to travel”, according to Coach Kitzmiller.

The event is open to everyone in the community—so if you’ve never held a pickleball paddle, or you play every weekend, you’re welcome to participate.

Ms. Kitzmiller urges everyone to “come out

and support the Tennessee High Tennis team, while also enjoying the fun of pickleball!”



Students play pickleball under the sunset.
Photo by Arabella Taylor

Viking Football Gears Up for Conference Win

By Caden Cartwright

With the orange of autumn on the horizon, Tennessee High’s football team begins working towards playoffs. But to make it there in November, the Vikings must earn their place in the top four teams of the conference.

The most formidable opponents will be “Morristown West, Sevier County, and West Ridge,” according to senior quarterback Jimmy Phipps. “Morristown is a big conference game, and they’re a strong football team all-around, so I think it’s gonna be close.”

Despite a loss against Greeneville, the Vikings played strong the next week, winning a historic game against East.

The Vikings are eager to measure up against opponents. “The foundations of football are

consistency, simplicity, and discipline,” says Head Coach Josh Holt. “We’ve got high-character kids; they’re already great with each aspect, and they get better every day.”

Now, excitement brews both on and off the field. The cheer and dance teams, band, and color guard rally Viking players and spectators alike.

The student section is alive with school spirit, led by our seniors. “Just try not to be shy; let loose a bit, have fun, and cheer along. It’s better when you’re not just standing there awkwardly,” senior Maddie Harris advises.

Next Friday, The Vikings play Sevier County, with a game against Abingdon at home one week later.



Sophomore Braden Howard practices receiving a pass on the 5-yard line during halftime against Morris-town West. Photo by Caden Cartwright.

SEPTEMBER

*sports*

1-**Football**; Morristown West @ home
1/2-**Volleyball**; Choo Choo Classic (Chattanooga)
5-**Volleyball**; Elizabethton (away)
5-**Soccer**; East (away)
7-**Volleyball**; West Ridge @ home
7-**Soccer**; Dobyns-Bennett (away)
11-**Volleyball**; Virginia High @ home
12-**Soccer**; Crockett (away)
12-**Volleyball**; Science Hill (away)
14-**Soccer**; Jefferson County (away)
14-**Volleyball**; Dobyns-Bennett (away)
15-**Football**; Sevier County (away)
16-**Cross Country**; Marion (away)
18-**Volleyball**; Sullivan East @ home
19-**Soccer**; Unicoi @ home
19-**Volleyball**; Daniel Boone (away)
21-**Soccer**; Science Hill @ home
21-**Volleyball**; Crockett @ home
22- **Football**; Abingdon @ home
23-**Cross Country**; Cherokee Classic
23-**Volleyball**; Stateline Slam @ home
25-**Volleyball**; Abingdon @ home
26-**Soccer**; Volunteer (away)
28-**Volleyball**; Freshman Tournament (Dobyns-Bennett)
29-**Football**; Gate City @ home
30-**Volleyball JV Tournament** (Dobyns-Bennett)



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Frost Bite
BY DUNCAN

duncankteacher@yahoo.com

Bristol: A Better

How Do Our Twin

By Ryan Bunning and

A walk downtown for Rhythm and Roots festival-goers might begin with parking behind the WCYB newsroom in Virginia. Then, crossing State Street, they might join some friends for fresh sushi at 620 State in Tennessee. Next, they might cross back over into Virginia for live music at Quaker Steak and Lube.

Most people hardly ever notice crossing the border between Tennessee and Virginia, but they likely do it everyday. Whether window shopping on State Street or going out to Exit 7 for food, it is hard to avoid the interdependence of Bristol's twin cities.

Moving between state lines, however, carries a lot of legal, economic, and fiscal implications, but how exactly do the cities of Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia differ? Or more surprisingly, how are they alike?



Brayden Nichols, former resident of Bristol, VA.
Photo by Ryan Bunning.

City Histories:

The two Bristols have unsurprisingly shared much of their history since their founding. Their land was formerly owned by Cherokee Native Americans who lived in towns and settlements throughout the Southern Appalachians.

Most Cherokee were forcibly removed from the region under the inhumane Indian Removal Act of 1830 and the resulting 1835 Treaty of New Echota. By the 1850s, crucial railroads were opened right through what would become the downtown, prompting development nearby.

The first buildings of Bristol, TN—named after the English port city of the same name—rose in 1853. Rapid development on both sides of the border continued thereafter.

Later, in 1856, the settlements of future Bristol, VA were incorporated into Goodson, VA, a name that would be retained until 1890.

After 1890, the city officially became known as “Bristol, Virginia”, a nickname that had already been coined by locals.

Decades later, the split city garnered fame from the influential 1927 Bristol Sessions—one of the first recording sessions of country music. To this day, the sessions are regarded as a fundamental founder in country music's history—a claim to fame shared by both cities.

High Schools:

Both Bristols have their own high school named after their respective states. Our Tennessee High School has over 1,100 students, well beyond the 600 of Virginia High. U.S. News & World Report, who ranks high schools across the nation, gave THS an overall score of 81.44 out of 100.

That stands in stark contrast to the overall score Virginia High received: “less than 25” out of 100. The Report's ranking factors in student's college-readiness, state test scores, graduation rate, and underserved students' performance, among other things.

For students, the two high schools offer very different experiences. “The funding at Tennessee High is much higher,” says junior Landen Trent, who transferred to Virginia High his sophomore year before transferring back to Tennessee High his junior year.

“The upkeep at Virginia High is decent, but [Tennessee High's] bathrooms are much nicer, as is our football stadium.” It also seems that Virginia High offers many classes that Tennessee High does not, such as horticulture and floriculture.

Such discrepancies in school performance are a driving motive for some wealthier families of Bristol, VA choosing to pay significant tuition—\$12,000 a year—to send their children to Tennessee High.



THS Senior Pavitra Surma has experienced how difficult it can be to cross the arterial streets of Bristol. Photo by Bree Eaton

Walkability:

Both cities have near identically poor Walk Scores, both being in the high twenties range, and each has their own small bus service. It's unfortunately common to see streets without sidewalks or safe crosswalks in both cities.

These streets are often designed to handle traffic moving at much higher speeds than the posted speed limit, encouraging speeding by

providing a false sense of safety to the driver. Such can have disastrous consequences for motorists and especially pedestrians.

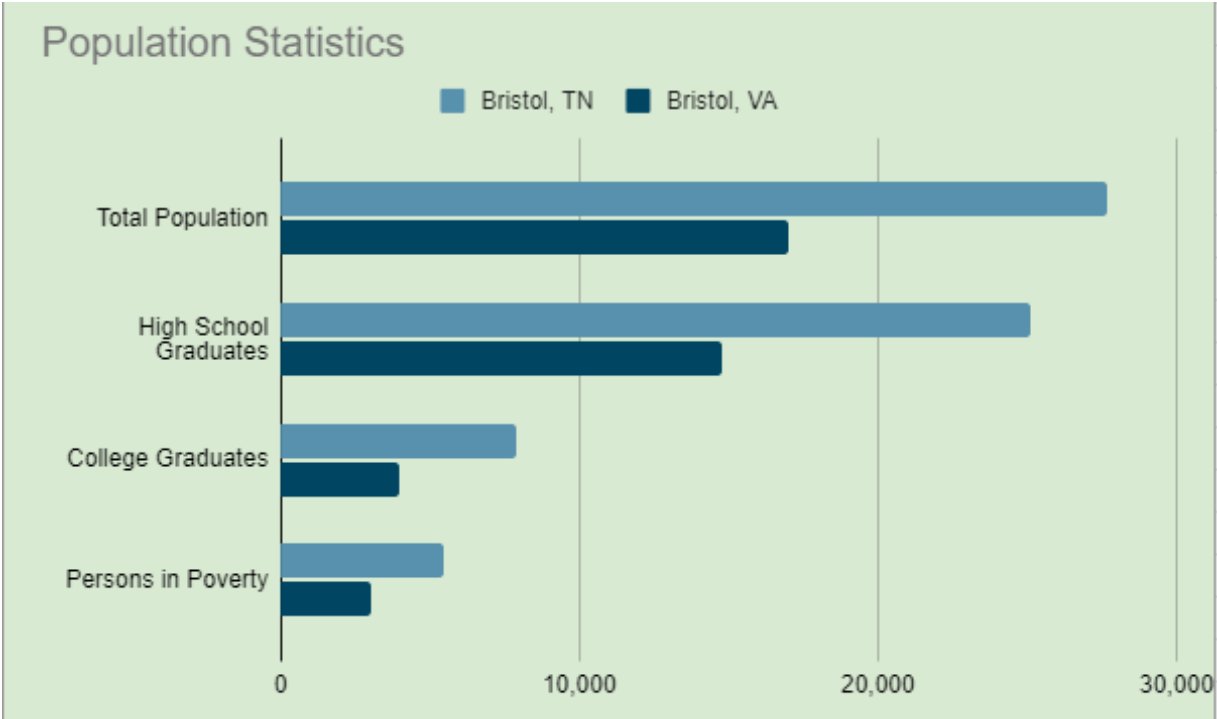
Being a pedestrian in most of the neighborhoods is frustratingly difficult. Crossing important central-city arteries like Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard or the eastern stretch of Anderson Street can feel unsafe and risky.

THS Senior Pavitra Surma, who walked to school along the

Place To Live?

Cities Compare?

and Joseph Burriss



Quick comparison of the cities’ populations and their overlapping components. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau. Photo Credit: Joseph Burriss.



Volunteer Parkway Corridor almost every day for the last three years, tells us that “most of the pedestrian signals throughout Bristol [TN] don’t work”.

Population and Growth:

The Tennessee side has a significant lead in terms of population with 27,700, compared to Bristol, VA’s 17,000. Over the past few censuses, Bristol, TN has been growing at a small rate, while its twin shrank between 2010 and 2020. Bristol’s growth lags behind the other two of the Tri-Cities, Kingsport and Johnson City, TN.

Some residents, like Brayden Nichols and his family (now of Blacksburg, VA), moved elsewhere for greater employment or educational opportunities not afforded in the area.

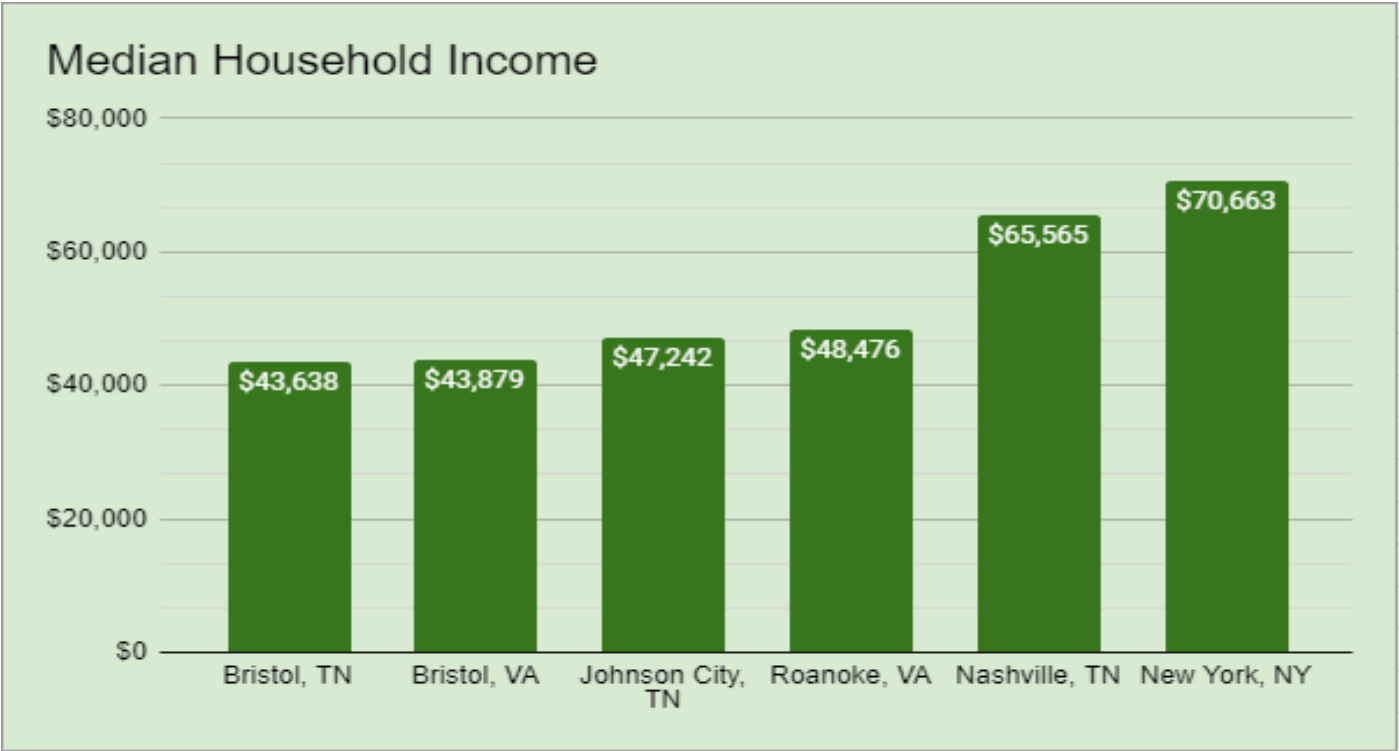
Making his way through his senior year, Brayden believes that “Blacksburg High School provides lots of unique classes and opportunities, such as a small animal care, drones class, and First Robotics.” These options were not available to him in Bristol, Virginia.

Government and Taxes:

Tennessee’s lacks a state income tax, making them one of only nine states without one. The lack of such a tax could be a contributor to Bristol, TN’s larger population and growth rate, as Tennesseans walk home with a greater share of their income than Virginians.

Where the State of Tennessee regenerates that tax money, however, is through steeper sales taxes. Shoppers in Sullivan County, TN pay a whopping 9.25% sales tax on their purchases, well above Bristol, VA’s 5.3% and most other rates in the US.

It is not at all uncommon for Tennessee residents, including THS students, to shop across the line to save on sales taxes.



Median household income of the Bristols compared to two fellow Appalachian examples and two large U.S. cities. Note: this is a comparison of central cities, not metropolitan areas. Data source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Income:

Median household income does not vary too greatly between the twin cities, with only a few hundred dollars’ worth of difference between the two. The roughly \$44,000 median household income of the Bristols ranks well below the national median of \$71,000, though that number seems to be on par with many other small/medium cities in Southern Appalachia. Asheville, NC and Greenville, SC far exceed the statistics of Bristol, but both cities have been the leaders in growth for the region in recent years.

11.6% of Americans live below the national poverty line, however Bristol again performs a bit worse than the national average. The poverty rates for Bristol, TN and Bristol, VA are 19.6% and 17.7%, respectively.

That puts the Bristols about on par with nearby Roanoke, VA and Charleston, WV. Some may be surprised to hear that Bristol, VA has the lower poverty rate, as public perception generally tends to believe the inverse to be true.

Conclusion:

The separation between our twin cities is far from the dramatic, even walled, division between other famous split cities like Nogales or El Paso/Ciudad Juárez.

In fact, if there was no constant reminder that Bristol is unique in its location, it would be easy to forget that there is a boundary running down the center of our main drag.

Culturally and economically, the cities are as one. The greatest divides between the two can be attributed to differences in county systems or

taxes, but those decisions were made in the seemingly distant capitals of Nashville and Richmond.

A walk across State Street is not a walk into an entirely separated town, but more a stroll into a neighborhood that happens to fly a different flag. On both sides of the border the sound of the train can still be heard rumbling by in the night, just as the same birds chirp as they fly across and the same wind blows between the two.



Barbie: Feminist or Fascist?

Meet the Maroon & White Fall Staff

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"The Bearded One"

By Hayden Arnett and Callie Eckley

Since the beginning of time, little girls have played with baby dolls. They nurture them, pretend to feed them, rock them; conditioning them to be moms.

For centuries, this was the only option: born to give birth, expected to solely be a mom, daughter, and wife—all with a constant smile on their face.

The shift in this expectation may not have been as dramatic as it was portrayed in the opening sequences of the Barbie movie—where the arrival of a 50ft doll causes young girls to smash their baby dolls into pieces—but, the introduction of the Barbie doll represented all the independent thoughts and interests girls felt they weren't allowed to have.

This gave them a reason to explore themselves outside of the male gaze. Instead of being an accessory to men, women were doctors and lawyers, fashion designers and models, marine biologists and veterinarians—while still also being sisters and friends.

Even though all of this sounds ideal in theory, the progression and execution is hindered by how

intertwined the patriarchy is within our lives.

This insight into what our lives could be without the patriarchy sounds ideal, but there are times when Barbie is still in its own way.

For instance, the outdated body type of the original doll—which wasn't updated until 2016—was the catalyst for arguably "unachievable" beauty standards, an argument that often discredited how revolutionary the doll was.

In the Barbie movie, we see Sasha—a sassy, distant teen, played by actress Ariana Greenblatt—criticize Barbie, blaming her for "making girls feel bad about themselves" and later referring to her as a "fascist." Yet, Barbie still had to be modeled after someone.

But as soon as the patriarchy got its hand on the wholesome concept, the idea was misconstrued to fit their narrative.

The patriarchy saw that Barbie could empower women, so they did everything they could to stop it—such as smearing its reputation by honing in on her "unavailable" beauty standards. When in fact, many women look like Barbie.

We see this in the Barbie movie, when the Kens force the Barbies to dress as housewives, which not only buys into the outdated idea of a 50's housewife, it also forces the audience to see the Barbies in a bad light. The Kens--or men--are not inherently evil like some extreme-feminist propaganda may suggest; the harmful system they were taught to follow is the result of generations of powerful men before them.

In the end, Barbie reinforces the idea that women are not a thoughtless, one-dimensional idea of what we've been made to believe girls are. The movie poses the question: how can women be viewed so poorly that little girls everywhere all think they're unique just for having independent thoughts and interests.

Even though patriarchal insults, such as "like a girl" counteract the message that Barbie's trying to provide, all the different hobbies, jobs, and appearances of Barbie represent how girls can be powerful and still be attached to their femininity. Girls run like a girl and laugh like a girl, because they are a girl.

Everything Is Not What It Seems: High School Cliches

By Nancy Smith

Welcome to the first day of highschool: grown adults roam the hallways, couples openly express their PDA, and the inescapable swamp of work piles up. It feels like being an extra in a typical high school movie.

From Mean Girls to The Breakfast Club, and all the early 2000's Disney Channel Originals in between, a huge selection of films have been created over the last 50 years to romanticize and dramatize high school.

As children of the late 2000's, we've obviously seen all of them and--News Flash--these clichés are very real. Mean girls exist, cocky jocks exist, and nerds that know everything about Star Trek, sadly, exist.

Unlike the cut-throat climax of every movie, Regina George does not actually spread the "Burn Book" everywhere. Instead, she posts about people on her private story (which they're still on btw). It's obvious that not everything

or everyone fits the stereotypical mold of a highschool student cliché; some people are way too funny, pretty, and smart to ever be in a low budget 2000's movie.

Long story short, not everyone is praying for others' downfall. Even though when one student records another without their knowledge and posts it to their public spam account, it sure does feel like it.

Some people might be looking for a fight, but most are just trying to pass their classes and make memories with their friends. The rest are just trying to survive the main staircase.

Whoever we decide to be, this is our high school reality, where there's no pause button, no rewind, and no skip.



Students Bryant Rife, Rylee LeBlanc, Roan Meares, and Caleb Wagner defy high school clichés by laughing together at the library. Photo by Nancy Smith



TIMELY
Or
TIMELESS?



By Callie Eckley

We are constantly consumed by the past: we view ancient art in museums, read fabled classics, and take history classes during our entire academic career. The reference of the past is perpetual and necessary in life.

Taking note of such chronicles with the desire to contemplate allows us to change along with the passage of time.

From news on sports to questioning their own culture, decades upon decades of students have documented articles in the Maroon and White newspaper (the oldest school newspaper in the state of Tennessee), dating back to 1915.

It is all here: in this community, in this building, in the very room I am writing this in. The issues are archived, messily at times, but under this roof nonetheless.

We dig up these records in awe, laughing at the dated hairstyles captured in time, and smile gently at the reviews of movies we consider classics nowadays.

When we, the Maroon and White staff, are lost, stuck, or just in need of some inspiration, we reference these newspapers. They serve as our own personal THS time capsule, still full of so many grand ideas just waiting to be dug up again.

My past articles are stored with those that came before, their own unique writing styles and perspectives differentiating them. My previous opinion

editorials always end up with a common, completely unintentional theme: reflecting on time.

Time haunts me, like it does many, but I confront this looming feeling by facing it through my writing.

My first article of this style was about the loss of individuality in a generation with simplified logos, diving into my own research on generational preferences and what that says about our conformity.

The second highlighted the dangers of growing up on the internet as a kid and how Creepypasta played a role in the mental development of our generation.

The third article spoke on the guilt of becoming an adult during the holidays, touching on the revival of Christmas magic as it seems to die out more and more over the years.

There is just a part of me that can't help but step back and look at the bigger picture. So for each issue of the paper this year, I will use my editor's column to do what I know best: reflect.

I'll pull past papers from the archives, choose articles that resonate with me, and declare them timely or timeless. I plan on taking a deep dive into who we are as a collective, what got us there, and where we are going next.

It is important to hold on to the past—without becoming tethered to it—while we move forward each day, each edition.

Time haunts me, like it does many, but I confront this looming feeling by facing it through my writing.

Joan's Comic Corner
By Joan Weddington



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How do I drop a fake friend?

How do I get my crush to like me?

How do I get my parents to understand my viewpoint during an argument??

How do I get a job?



Ask Miss Know It All

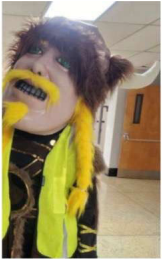


Coming Soon!

Meme of the Month

By Torey Walk

I would go to school if



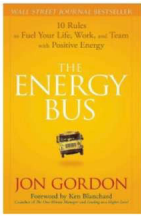
This was the teacher



This was the uniform



This was the bus



(Just kidding)

This was the book

Teacher Crossword

By Kacey Hamrick

Word Bank:

- Chef
- Morelock
- Greer
- Vickers
- Davis
- Quales
- Sutherland
- Bittinger
- Arnold
- Graham
- Lewis
- Tiller
- Blevins
- Grindstaff
- Story
- Kitzmiller
- Slone

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G	W	G	H	K	C	V	Z	U	K	M	S	G	R	L
V	B	Q	H	J	A	R	N	O	L	D	E	B	G	K

Vikings Vocalize

“What Football Theme that we have not done would you like to see and WHY?”

Elayna Makres, 9th grade:
“Frat theme, because I want to dress like Adam Sandler.”

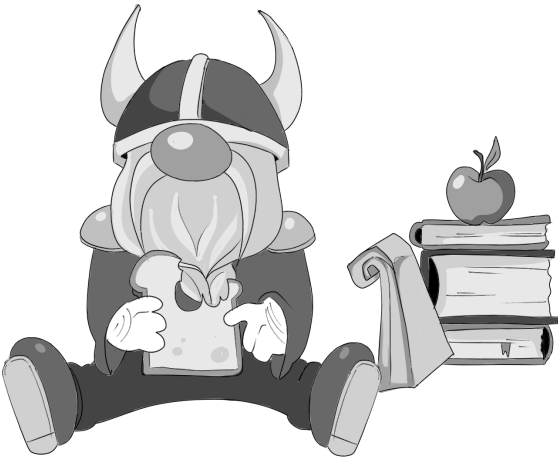
Alexis Williams, 10th grade
“Punk, because I love punk culture.”

Aubrie Harmon, 11th grade
“Twilight, because I’m Team Edward.”

Ella-Marie Finch, 12th grade
“Dress like your parents, because I love my parents.”

Sydney Gassiot, 12th grade
“Toga party, because it’s different and not a lot of schools do it.”

Mr. Cross, Teacher:
“Whiteout. Our colors are maroon & white, and like UT or Penn State, we could cover the whole stadium in white.”



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