

A couple in formal wear (a white shirt and blue vest for the man, a black sequined dress for the woman) are looking up at a large screen. The screen displays an underwater scene with green and purple coral and a small, glowing light source. The title 'Golden Trident' is overlaid on the top left, with a yellow pencil graphic integrated into the letter 'G'.

Golden Trident

So long for summer, Demons!

See some of the best outfits from this year's prom! (pg. 10 and 11)

Read how to sign up for sports teams over the summer! (pg. 5)

May 2024

Summer Dan Coloring Page



Maggie Toohill

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“It’s not even journalism, it’s just articles”

Is That The Girl Who Went To Harvard?

By Lila Qualteri

Photo courtesy of Solideea Ficco

Last year one of Golden's best and brightest moved on to bigger things. Our own Solideea (Soli) Ficco was accepted into Harvard University on March 30th, 2023 which came as a major surprise to her.

"I thought it was a scam. I was shocked. I go into my account and there's confetti raining down from the screen and they're like, 'Congratulations, you did it'. They're lying and hacking my email and I'm doing a bunch of things. I just started crying."

Ficco had been rejected from her dream college, Vanderbilt, and decided to apply to Harvard on a whim. Ficco says that she opened the email right before a lacrosse game thinking that she would use her rejection to

fuel her fire. Turns out she was instead among the 4.5% who were able to successfully walk through the halls of Harvard, and she instead used that success to win her game.

Ficco was undoubtedly one of the most active participants in the community. From being a major player on Golden's lacrosse team to leading the school as student body president, Ficco was always busy doing what she could to succeed. Ficco stated many different ways lacrosse shaped and changed her along her journey saying,

"Lacrosse and being on a team teaches you a ton about teamwork, and how different people react in different situations and how to, you know, be sort of a social-minded person in that way. Whether you guys have a win or whether you have a loss, you as a person have your own reaction to it. But the team as a whole also has its own reaction to that as well. So you learn how different personalities work in different sports for each person's talents."



Soli and Paul Evans at graduation

how to work with them, as well as instituting her mental toughness.

After her acceptance to Harvard, Ficco has pursued the astrophysics path. She has taken many interesting classes such as Calculus II, astronomy classes, and chemistry classes, taught by some of the brightest minds. Ficco described the professors, saying "It's incredible. It's fascinating to meet these professors and you're like, oh, my God. You're in. And they've done crazy things. They've written books, they've spoken in TED Talks. It's fascinating."

Ficco felt that part of her ability to express herself so beautifully was because of Golden. It is "a beautiful place with passionate people." When asked if she missed Golden, both as a school and a community, Ficco had nothing but courteous words to say.

"I felt like I became a really strong part of the community and the support of peers, adults, teachers, mentors, students around me not only made me feel like I was welcome in Golden's community but also that whatever I gave, I can give back and we can all contribute to something beyond ourselves." Golden has become a beautiful place for those who have been lucky enough to be a part of it.

The Golden community is sure that Ficco is onto amazing things, (Yes apparently it gets more amazing than Harvard). Ficco plans to go to grad school after graduating and hopes to begin a career in astrophysics. Truly one of Golden's best, we know you'll do amazing things Soli.

NBA Analytics, Ancient Rome, and the Risk of Not Taking Risks

By Theo Sieber

On August 9th, 48 BC, following his failed siege of Dyrrhachium, Julius Caesar positioned his army to fight his civil war opponent, Gnaeus Pompey, somewhere around the city of Pharsalus. Seeing that Pompey's army (in historical estimate) outnumbered Caesar's 44,000 to 23,000, Pompey decided to deploy defensively and play it safe. In other words, he would wait for Caesar to attack first. Caesar did just that, and ordered his men to fight aggressively, hiding further lines of reinforcement to disguise the small number of men he had. The exact number of casualties are debated by historians, but what's not debated is that Pompey lost, and by a wide margin. His conservative strategies did not pay off. Caesar won by taking calculated risks.

Caesar's army fought hard, not in spite of their lack of numbers, but because of it, and interestingly enough, the NBA often draws a striking parallel to this concept- it's what analysts call Rubber Band Theory. Matthew Goldman and Justin Rao write in their groundbreaking 2013 paper, *Live by the Three, Die by the Three? The*



Price of Risk in the NBA, "a given lineup sees a boost in efficiency for both 2s and 3s- combined with the sub-optimal shot selection of the leading teams, this helps explain the surprising frequency of comebacks in the NBA and means clutch moments tend to occur more frequently than we'd otherwise expect." What Goldman and Rao sought to find out in their study is why NBA teams mount comebacks far more than what's predictable statistically. What they found, outside of 'well, the leading teams shoot worse and defend worse,' is that they just kind of do. There were no statistics that could explain it.

The leading theory as to why it happens, though, is that coaches, when their teams are up by a sizable amount, tend to coach their teams conservatively, in an attempt to, well, conserve their leads. But, what ends up happening is that the coaches whose teams are down begin to coach aggressively, taking more risks, which according to Goldman and Rao's study, pays off. So, in their attempt to conserve their leads by playing it safe, coaches put their teams at higher risk of losing them. Caesar once said, "Today victory had been with the enemy, if they had a victor in command."

You can't avoid risk because doing so is itself a risk. Pompey could tell you about that if he wasn't assassinated by the king of Egypt while trying to flee to Egypt after Caesar defeated him at Pharsalus- or maybe if he didn't live in the BC's. As Dennis Waitley said, "Life is inherently risky. There is only one big risk you should avoid at all costs, and that is the risk of doing nothing." By choosing inaction, you risk losing any possible rewards of action. By choosing to pursue what you consider as a safe career or a safe job, citing 'low risk,' instead of what you really want to do, you put yourself at a significantly high risk of not doing anything fulfilling with your life.

Rudy Francisco says in his poem, *The Heart and the Fist*, "The only difference between a garden and a graveyard is what you choose to put in the ground." You take a certain amount of risk by planting a garden. Some of those plants might die, after all, due to poor weather or poor gardening skills. But where's the point in not planting anything at all? You can say it would be a waste of time if the plants die, but wouldn't it be even more of a waste of time digging a grave when you actually want to be gardening?

On December 6th, 1901, the Duluth News-Tribune wrote, "President (Theodore) Roosevelt thinks that warships are not built to rust and rot in harbor. He wants them kept moving so that crews can keep in full practice at their seamanship, gunnery, etc."

4 Take your ship out of the harbor.

Golden Summer Sports Information

By Rowan Watkins

Fall sports have summer pre-seasons to help athletes prepare for the upcoming season. Through summer pre-seasons and camps, athletes build strength and hone skills needed for their sport. As well as growing as athletes, teams can bond and create a community during pre-season. Often, athletes will take breaks or not be in shape after the summer. Pre-season can help them be ready to perform at their best. Overall, the summer practices and camps will benefit the sports program and the athletes.

Golden High School (GHS) has multiple fall sports teams participating in pre-season and summer practices which we've listed below.

CHEER- GHS cheer camp begins on July 29 and ends on August 1st. During this time they will review routines and create their team environment. For more information email Coach Day, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website

FOOTBALL- Football summer practices and training begin on June 3 and ends on July 31. After the summer practices, preseason begins in early August, and practice and games begin. For more information email Coach McDougal, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website.

GOLF- Boy's Golf offers practices beginning at the end of July. For more information email Coach Sena, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website.



SOCCER- GHS's boys' soccer team starts summer practices the third week of June on the 17th and ends on July 31st. The preseason begins in early August and continues into tryouts. For more information email Coach Scarcliff, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website.

SOFTBALL- Softball practices begin on July 17 and continue until tryouts begin. For more information, email Coach Martinez, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website.

VOLLEYBALL- The GHS girl's volleyball team begins summer practices on June 10 and ends on July 31. After this, they begin preparing for tryouts and the upcoming season. For more information, email Coach Montijo, talk to Ms. Hayes, or check the GHS website.

If you want to become a part of these teams or participate in summer practices please look at the GHS Demons Athletic website or talk to GHS's Athletic secretary Ms. Hayes in the office or over email. All these summer practices and preseasons will be filled with fun exercises and will be a chance to meet new people while staying healthy. Have fun this summer Demons!



A Pillar of the Golden Community

By Evy Goff and Jayden Bates-Bland

She is on the ready to help out all around the school, she makes sure the environment at school is not only safe but clean. She helps out and comes to the rescue no matter what.

The Director of Operations here at Golden High School, Mirela Ahmetspahic, also known as Mimi, is a very kind and positive person who does many jobs around the school. She puts safety first and loves working here and with the other staff. She helps with jobs such as snow removal, cleaning the bathrooms, landscaping, and anything else you can think of. She also organizes her team on how to be efficient and is always on the go getting things done.

“I love the school, I love the culture, I love the scenery. And it really keeps me on my toes, and I love that I am never bored.”

She isn't originally from the United States though and her story is fascinating. Ahmetspahic was born in Bosnia and came to the U.S. in 1997 after a fierce war from 1993 to 1997. She was married at 17 and became a refugee before she immigrated with her husband.

Adjusting to American living was difficult. There were many things that she had to become accustomed to such as the food, and speaking English. She started as a housekeeper in a hotel which is where she began speaking the most English. Before arriving in Colorado she had to go to New York, and then she arrived here because this



is where her ex-husband had family. She says that she was lucky that her ex-husband had family here because it would have been incredibly difficult to immigrate otherwise considering the fact that they had to prioritize the refugees, and her having a place to go made her a priority.

Ahmetspahic has a past of teaching. She has been working in Jeffco Public Schools for 10 years. Before, she worked for seven years as a teacher, five years teaching a kindergarten class, and two years teaching at a Montessori school. She really enjoys being around kids and making an impact. Before she started at Golden High School as the Director of Operations she moved around as a custodian and then a facility manager. She was asked to fill in here at Golden and decided to take the offer and now she has been working here since the beginning of the school year.

Talking about how it is much different working at a high school than working at a middle school, Ahmetspahic says, “High school is giant, so a lot changes about your job and the level of work. High school, it's so much more, but also I like it and it is fun.”

Mimi has a full day of making sure everything is clean and also fixing things that might have broken around the school. For example, she is asked to fix the water fountains and help prepare for games such as basketball games in the gym where it might need to be cleaned first. Mimi says, “This includes always looking out for the safety of the kids. You never know, [so] my main issue that I focus on is safety. And then cleaning, to be clean because if it is not clean then everyone will get sick.”

Mimi always prioritizes safety, which is very important especially in schools because sickness and germs spread faster when we are all together at school all day. It is because of people like Ahmetspahic and her crew that we have a good environment to come and learn in each day, and sometimes we take advantage of that. Some ways for students to help make the lives of the hard-working staff at school easier may be as simple as picking up trash we left on a lunch table, but we can also tell them how much we appreciate how hard they work.

“Master Of Puppets”

Metallica

1986

“Master of Puppets” may just be one of the most influential metal albums of all time. This album was mind-blowing upon release, its titular track inspiring thousands of people to pick up guitars and learn and the rest of the album being full of hits as well as lesser-known hidden gems. “Master of Puppets” was the band’s third studio album, and is easily their big break. It was their first album to go platinum, as well as the first “thrash metal” album to do so. Over time it was eventually registered as 6 times platinum. It was also their first album with very good production quality which likely added to its success. However, what really made it shine was the music itself. Its style was much further removed from the classic rock roots of the hair metal that preceded it, really rocketing metal as a genre into its own style outside of rock. Its riffs were fast and hit hard while its lyrics tackled drug abuse and addiction. One particular track, “Orion”, especially stands out. It’s an instrumental piece that slows down a lot compared to the other songs, but manages to weave together a beautiful sound that is somehow still distinctly metal. For many, most Metallica albums have a few hits that they enjoy while the rest of the songs tend to be mediocre, but “Master of Puppets” is different in that every track feels like a hit and has its place within the album. It is cohesive, and captures something indescribable that none of their albums before or since really have. It’s a true metal masterpiece. **-Mario Dalcanale-Csapo**



“Ice Age”

2002 (PG)

Starring: Ray Romano, Darryl Leary, and John Leguizamo

“Ice Age” is a computer-animated film by now-defunct Blue Sky Studios. This movie was the first movie made by Blue Sky, released on March 15, 2002. Despite its age, “Ice Age” is a pretty good movie. The story is about how a mammoth named Manny (voiced by Ray Romano) has to transport an abandoned baby back to the humans with the help of Sid the Sloth (voiced by John Leguizamo) and Diego (voiced by Denis Leary). The movie’s greatness can be mostly attributed to the character dynamic of the main trio, which only applies to this film, as characters are one of the weakest aspects in future sequels. They bounce off of each other

extremely well. The story plays with this by making Diego a villain who wants the baby for the pack of saber tooth tigers he is a part of. This allows the trio to work together, resulting in both hijinx and character development. This film is generally entertaining, having a good balance of both witty dialogue and slapstick. This is not to say that it lacks emotion, as certain scenes, such as the cave painting scene, are the best the movie has to offer. Another amazing aspect of “Ice Age” is the animation, even though this movie is over 20 years old. Most of the movie has great animation, most notably the forest of red leaves and the ice cave, though some scenes are very barren and empty. These scenes are accompanied by a stellar soundtrack, made up of mostly original music. There is also some licensed music, most notably Rusted Root’s song “Send Me On My Way.” “Ice Age” was a great start for the studio, as it still holds up as a 2000s classic. **-Olly Johnson**



← **Watch! Read! Listen! Enjoy! Scan here for more reviews!**

Summer Bucket List

1. Concerts

Here are some artists coming Denver this year:

Olivia Rodrigo on July 30th at Ball Arena
Green Day, Smashing Pumpkins, Rancid, and The Linda Lindas at Coors Field on September 7th.

Mitski and Laufey at Red Rocks Amphitheater on September 16th, and
Fiddler's Green Amphitheater on September 18th.

2. Hike

Hikes are a good way to get exercise and depending on where you go can be relaxing. You could take a hike at Red Rocks or Lair o' the Bear!

3. Have a picnic

Boulder, Red Rocks, and Bear Creek are all great places to have a picnic with your family, or with your friends.

4. Do a craft

Crafts are a great way to spend time doing something productive. Bikini boxes, painting, key chains, and friendship bracelets are some of the fun crafts you could do!

5. Water balloon fights

Water balloon fights are perfect to cool off and have fun at home! Invite some friends and let the game begin!

Scan this QR code for more fun things to do this summer!



Summer

Why We Need a Condom Jar at GHS

By The Golden Trident Staff

Access to condoms for teens and young adults keeps teen pregnancies, STIs, STDs, and HPV from occurring as often as they do now. For every 1,000 teen girls, 14 of them will become pregnant during their teenage years. 1 in every 4 teens have or will contract a sexually transmitted disease before their twentieth birthday.

People tend to believe that if schools have a place for students to access condoms they will be promoting sex, but in reality, this is anything but true. Research from the National Institute of Health (NIH) has proven that having a condom jar or a place to access condoms does not promote sexual activity in general but promotes safe sexual activity.

Having a place where students can access condoms and not be shamed for it can help to prevent HIV, unwanted pregnancies, STDs, and STIs. After speaking with the office it is confirmed that GHS has no place for students to access condoms. To protect the sexual and overall health of GHS students we need a condom jar. A major part of why people do not feel safe asking for condoms is because of the shame society has put around the topic. Many teens don't feel comfortable talking to their parents or family members about their need for condoms or their sexual activity in general and most never end up asking.

Although abstinence is the only form of birth control that is 100% effective, using condoms and practicing safe sex keeps people from contracting diseases, and is 98% effective in preventing pregnancy. Using any form of birth control should not be frowned upon.



Teen pregnancies occur more often than one would think. Over 750,000 teens in the United States experience pregnancy a year. Teen pregnancy forces teens to mature at a quicker rate and leaves them unable to experience their teenage years.

On top of the social aspect, teen parents are more likely to drop out of school to take care of their children. The teens, as well as all women across the country, had the choice to abort a pregnancy for decades. Still, since June 24, 2022, women across the country have been continuously stripped of their rights to their bodily autonomy.

Luckily, the state of Colorado has chosen to protect women's rights. And although this does help young women if they get pregnant, it shouldn't be the only option they have. Going through pregnancy at a young age changes your body forever and will affect your life tremendously. Working to prevent teen pregnancies, in general, is exactly what the condom jar would accomplish. Having the option to abort a pregnancy is important but if students have access to condoms abortion will not be needed. To keep students safe, GHS should have a safe place to access condoms.

Students don't always have access to condoms outside of school and this is one of the main reasons why STIs and STDs are spread. Even though schools may be wary of having condoms out for students to take, it is still important for students' sexual health to be protected. Allowing access to condoms will keep teen pregnancies from occurring and keep more people in school for longer. Overall, GHS students deserve to have a safe judgment-free place to access condoms no matter the circumstance.

Prom 2024: Under the Sea

Prom Royalty



King and Queen



Maya Nichterlein (12) and Erik Yderstad (12)

Prince and Princess



Emily Ha (11) and Liam Mapes (11)



Demon Style: Best Dressed



Maggie Toohill
(12)



Aireana Fobb
(12)



Alex Nelson (11) and
Riley Sharp (11)



Alex Gardner (12)
and Perla Perez (11)



Catherine Marshall
(12)



Gwyn Hirsch
(12)



Corbin Wilson
(12)



Lilly Ingram
(12)



Valeska Trujillo (9), Kayleigh
Ewing (11), and Lucinda Morris
(11)

Dear Demon Dan...

I have been told by many people that I would be a good mascot and I am really interested in becoming Demon Dan.

Dear Demon,

Thanks for writing. After carefully reading your question, I have spawned a response. I firstly must warn you, it is not easy being me. I am a very important person, or demon I guess. As Demon Dan, you will represent the school, and more than that, the community. You must embrace the demon. However, if you are truly set on becoming part of the long line of Demon Dans to walk Golden's hallways, I suppose I could give you some instructions. First of all, Demon Dan is a very high-stakes position. You are sworn to absolute secrecy including even your closest friends and family. No one can know of the person behind the mask. Secondly, once you are in the costume you may speak only to your helper for that day, which will most likely be cheer coach Ms. Ashlyn or Mr. Templeton. You may talk to either of them about becoming Demon Dan. As with any sport or extracurricular, you must put school above and make sure to keep eligible grades so that you can attend every event. And finally and most importantly, Demon Dan must be energetic. He is meant to hype up the crowd in any way he can. Please consider all of these things when you apply to be the next Demon Dan!

I can never find a parking spot.

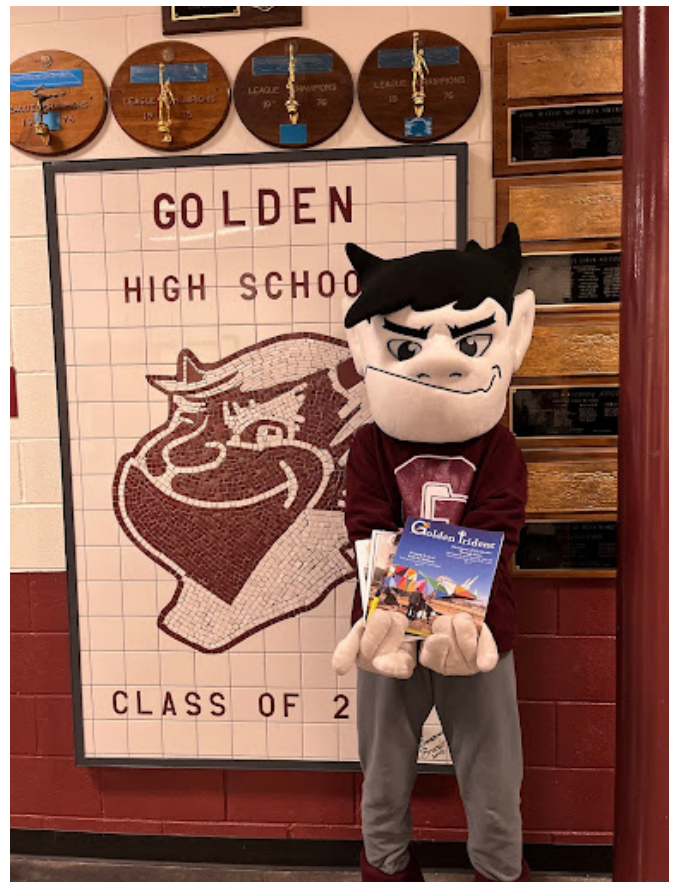
Dear Demon,

Your complaint is not the first that we have had. It is a very popular issue at Golden High School. However, I am here to help you solve it. First, I would like you to think about what time you are arriving at the school. Since I have lived here for many years, I find myself taking walks in the parking lot quite often. And I have noticed that the earlier you arrive, the more spots there are! Isn't that just crazy? So my first thought would be to try and make it here a bit earlier. I know how much you humans like to whine about your sleep, but I would stop complaining and start doing something about it. Another thing that you may find helpful is looking for spots closer to the back. Of course, I understand that it requires much more walking time, but it generally has more spots available and can save you the hassle of searching in the front. I do hope this helps you and you can always write me with more questions.

Sincerely,

Demon Dan

If you would like to ask Demon Dan for advice scan this QR code!



Demon Dan

It's Bigger Than Biology

By Jayden Bates-Bland

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Blincoe

Even if you haven't actually met Jeremy Blincoe, it is likely that you have heard him at least once. Blincoe can usually be found in the science hall screaming about how good of a day it will be today, or how excited students should be for school. Without his positivity, Golden High School would be majorly lacking, especially in the mornings when no one is ready to learn.

Blincoe has been at Golden for 27 years now making him the second-longest teacher at Golden just behind Harrison Reid. He came to Golden right out of college because he was able to get an interview, and got recommended by several people. Of course, he was one of the last people to be interviewed since he came from outside of the Jeffco school district, but fortunately, the school realized that he was a perfect fit for Golden and he has been teaching here ever since.



him.

When asked if he'll continue teaching, Blincoe says, "As long as I enjoy it I would like to continue to do it. Being in the classroom, standing in front of the class, I absolutely enjoy that. I love explaining the natural world around people and having them look at things differently. It's the same for me because I'm explaining the same thing year after year after year, but it's that explanation of now all of a sudden something's new and a kid sees a connection to something real in their world, something tangible to them, and that, that is what brings me joy, as far as making it so they understand the world around them a little better."

Sometimes students consider Blincoe's class to be very difficult, and while he isn't aiming for his students to fail, he does have goals for them. He often says that he believes it's okay to fail, and if he can be there to help you through that failure, and lead you to success, that's what truly matters.

Blincoe shared a final philosophy.

"I think relationships are really important, and developing those relationships and trying to understand different views of the world. I think we've become very narrow-focused in a lot of places, people look in their echo chambers way too often and they don't see outside their little boundaries, and I think being more worldly is something we as people need to do a better job of doing."

So whether you have had Blincoe as a teacher, a coach, or just heard him yelling at one point or another, it's important that he is acknowledged and respected for the immense impact he has had on Golden. While he is not always the easiest person to develop a relationship with, and his class is not always the easiest class to do well in, in his heart his only goal is the success of his students. That is something that can always be appreciated.

Scan here to read the full article!



November Fourth, Vote for Someone Else

By Astrid Fabinski

Cartoon created by Nyah Marquez-Dean

The 2024 election is not going to be pretty. No matter who you are, no matter your political ideology, it is impossible to ignore the truly horrendous position the American voter will find themselves in, come November fifth. Pitting a wannabe Barack Obama (drone strikes included!) against the best shot America has at total authoritarianism is destining the U.S. for a miserable four years. Biden or Trump, we're guaranteed to be eroded and robbed of our liberties in the exact same way we have been for the last 23 years.

A lot of the issues around this election come from America's lack of political awareness. Since the September 11th Al-Qaeda attack on America in 2001, the government has abused the patriotic psyche of Americans to advance political agendas without really having any discussion at all. Voters simply don't care.

Not only do these presidents get away with war, but they also get away with abuses at home. Under Trump, the Supreme Court was filled with right-wing judges. Under Biden, these judges were very easily able to overturn Roe V Wade, as well establish a right for businesses to discriminate against queer people. Under both Trump and Biden, police forces budgets have expanded despite the continued brutality against and killings of people of color. It doesn't matter who's in office, the same horrors continue.



Why support the status quo, vote for the "better" guy, when the better guy authorized Alaskan oil drilling in my already melting world? Why support the guy who called himself an authoritarian? Why support the guy who facilitated the deaths of 34,000 Palestinians? Why vote for the other guy who'll do the exact same thing? If the 2024 election continues in the same unintelligent way that elections have gone since 2016, we'll be stuck with imperialism and civil failings.

As young voters, it's important that the world knows these failings are not acceptable. A very easy way to do this is to just not vote for a primary candidate. While it may seem like you're letting the other candidate win,

when the options are as bleak as they now are, it's more important to support the idea of more candidates in the future. Even if there's not a large impact this election, when people see a third party candidate getting more votes, they may at least believe in the possibility of having one more candidate. A candidate who is motivated not just for Republicans, not just for Democrats, but motivated by what the people want to vote for. One that campaigns on issues not to polarize them, but to fix them. A candidate that will let the Trumps and Bidens of the world see there are consequences, no matter how minute, for doing the wrong thing. Independent voting is an option in America, no matter how much it feels as if a vote for a smaller party amounts to nothing. If you feel that a candidate doesn't represent you, that they're a compromise to a greater evil, then find someone who does campaign for what you believe in. These evils don't simply disappear because they lost an election by a few thousand votes. They disappear when nobody considers them an option. So, don't consider either of these men an option if you truly want to keep the greatest evil out of office. Vote independent, or socialist, or libertarian, or green. Maybe don't even vote at all. Just don't compromise your morals come November.

Perfection of Pimping a Butterfly

By Reid Greyer

These songs are explicit

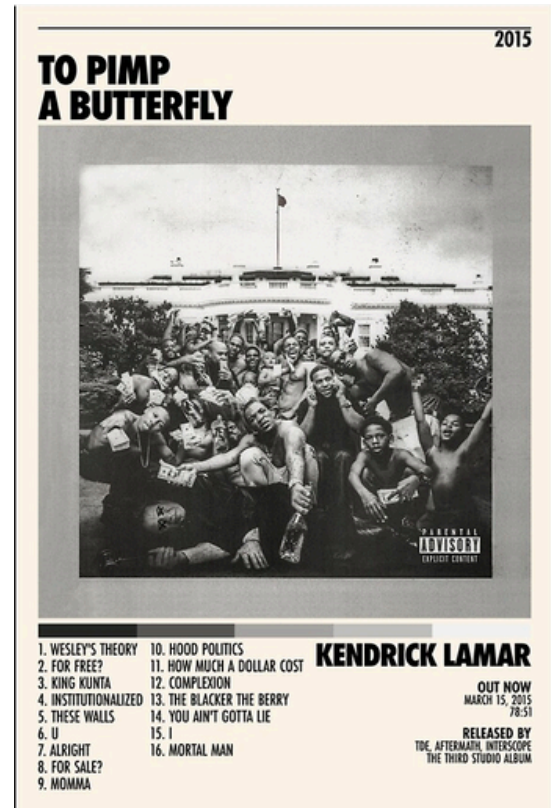
The Kendrick Lamar album “To Pimp a Butterfly” is arguably one of his best albums. From tracks like “u”, to “Alright” Lamar has always used rhetoric in his songs. He develops an idea and wrings it out as much as possible. He did this with his first album “Section.80” which tells a story about two girls named “Tammy” and “Keisha”. He has done it with all of his albums including “DAMN”, which when played in reverse tells a completely different story. Kendrick uses a significant amount of rhetoric in his albums especially in “To Pimp a Butterfly”.

The name “To Pimp a Butterfly” is interesting rhetoric. This album is full of stories and deeper meanings inside the tracks. I was talking in the car with one of my friends on the way home from school one day & We were talking about “good kid, m.A.A.d City”, and “To Pimp a Butterfly”, which got me thinking about the name “To Pimp a Butterfly”. This name is contradictory. “To Pimp a Butterfly” juxtaposes itself. In this title, a butterfly is a metaphor for something beautiful and delicate. Kendrick uses a lot of rhetorical devices like metaphors in this album. But the first part of this album is so interesting. The act of pimping is something quite aggressive. A butterfly is extremely delicate. These two things contrast each other in the sense that a beautiful and delicate thing, aka the butterfly, is getting its innocence ripped away. Lamar writes in Wesley's Theory “To pimp a butterfly? At first, I did love you But now I just wanna...” The two show the human nature of aggression. Loving something delicate at first, but then only wanting it for the small amount of pleasure it truly gives you. Just like in the title.

Lamar then states “Tossed and turned, lesson learned”. This juxtaposition appeals to another part of human nature. Guilt. That is a huge shift in perspective for people. The moment when you gain awareness of how your actions truly affect someone. When you are able to empathize and sympathize you go from being a person to a human being. To feel guilt is to be human. If you don't show remorse for hurtful actions you are not really human. So by saying he learned his lesson he shows the listener that he is striving for perfection. Lamar shows the internal struggle



metaphor for something beautiful being destroyed. It is a metaphor for human nature.



people deal with on a day to day basis. The internal struggle between satisfying the primal urges with the perfection that we strive for. This title isn't just about a delicate butterfly. It's a metaphor for the internal struggles we deal with. We struggle to be perfect.

We have an innate human nature to be perfect. Striving for perfection is an innate human nature and value, but to reach perfection is impossible. To be a human is to embrace your flaws and work on them to better yourself but to actually reach perfection is to not be human anymore. “To Pimp a Butterfly” is not just a

A Solar Spectacle

By Olly Johnson



April 8th. Most years, this day is the pinnacle of “alright.” It is usually a fairly normal day but this year was different for two reasons. First, the Golden Trident published our second print edition of the semester that day. But most people will remember it as the day of the 2024 total solar eclipse.

The solar eclipse is caused by the sun being obscured by the moon, blocking out some of the UV rays. This does not mean looking at the sun is safe, as looking at it will cause solar retinopathy (otherwise known as temporary blindness.) Happening every few years in varying spots, the 2024 eclipse was the last one to happen in the states since 2017, and it was also a total eclipse, a rarer, full eclipse where the moon completely covers the sun. Suffice to say, this was a very big deal. Several events around the nation were held to watch the eclipse, some held festivals, and NASA held a massive watch party. Even big brands like Lays Sunchips and Sonic Drive-In had several limited-time offers for specialty eclipse-themed items. It was a major headline for the nation for nearly a month.

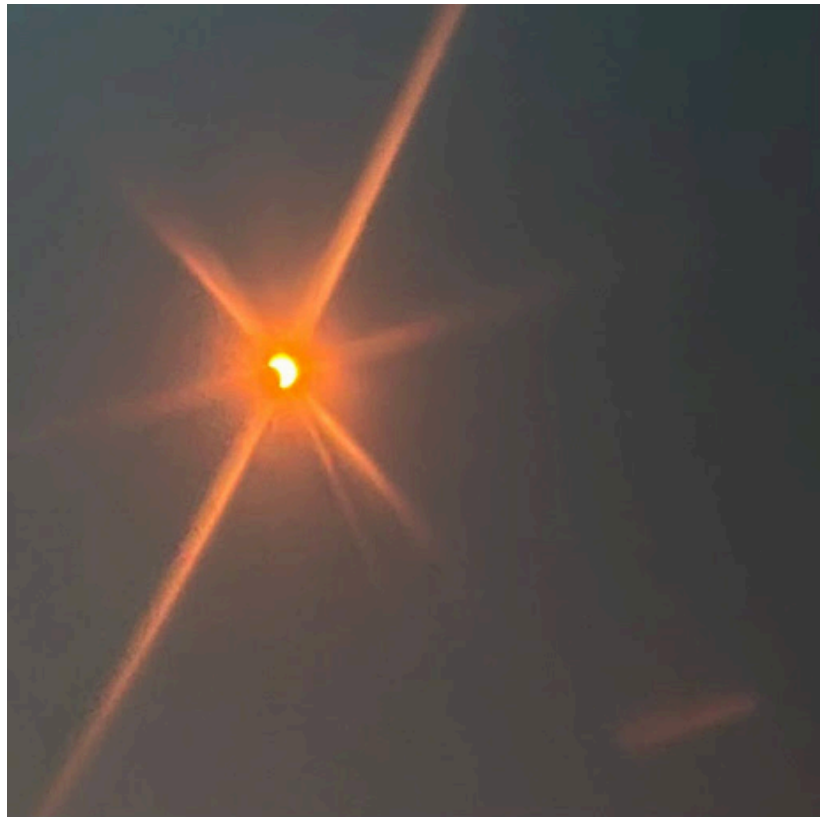
Golden High School similarly celebrated, with hundreds of students and staff looking towards the sky. Jon Christians, the astronomy and former earth science teacher, brought out a specialty telescope to let people see the eclipse who didn’t have solar goggles. When asked about the events, he stated “It was actually pretty good! We had a little bit of trouble with the start-up due to a technical issue, but we got that figured out and from that point on everyone really enjoyed what we were doing.”

Several hundred people experienced the eclipse in GHS from 12pm to 1pm. Most reacted with positivity.

“I thought it was pretty cool. I didn’t have very good glasses to look through, so it just kinda got dark” stated London Wager.

Similarly, Wyatt Perry stated “It was pretty flipping awesome. Was expecting a biblical prophecy though, but it didn’t happen.” Some reacted with a little hint of pain. “It hurt my eyeballs a little bit, but it was really cool,” added Zack Yourd.

The 2024 solar eclipse was a spectacular display of the stars. It was truly a solar spectacle (hopefully enjoyed with solar spectacles.)



Go With The Flow with Waters

By Channing Bruce

Photo courtesy of Teresa Waters

You might have noticed a bright and bubbly face on the top floor standing in the foreign language hallway. Teresa Waters is a Spanish III and IV teacher who's been here for six years.

Waters was born in Michigan yet moved immediately to the San Francisco Bay Area of California where she spent some of her early childhood. But Waters claims that she is from Chicago because that's where she spent her "growing up years." She attended school at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign then moved back to Chicago, then back to the Bay Area, then finally arrived here in Colorado.

A big reason Waters moved here to Colorado is because her parents retired here. Her sister still lives in Chicago so when Waters visits, she loves to spend time with her two nephews.

Waters has always had the urge to be a teacher ever since she was little. By being the older sister to her sister, she would force her to play school and deal with the burdens of homework. Growing up she drifted away from the idea of teaching to broaden her horizons, but through her accrued college credit with Spanish from high school, her perfect mesh would soon blossom into her career as a Spanish teacher.

Her choice of Spanish as her preferred subject is as simple as it gets.

"I always thought it would be so cool to be fluent one day."

Her motivations can be seen within her curriculums. Her goal for her students is that she can make her students feel confident and strong about their usage of Spanish. She wants to build a solid foundation for student's curiosity for potential Spanish explorers like herself.

So why did Waters choose Golden High School? Before moving to Colorado, she sought out a school that was sustainable and allowed her to settle down for a while.

"I didn't really know exactly what that meant but I know what it didn't mean. And for me it didn't mean a school that was new, turning over a bunch of stuff, trying out new initiatives because I've been there and done that." She was attracted to the community that Golden has. "It's evident even from the outside."

When she was interviewed for her position, she noted that her fellow staff members were talking to her like she was already part of the team.

"It feels like a family, yeah we go through hard times and yeah we don't always agree in every aspect, but we want to maintain healthy relationships with students, with each other, and we're always looking out for the best of the student community."

"I've never been at a school before where students say thank you at the end of a lesson."

Sometimes during a passing period, you can notice that Waters mainly converses with her colleagues in Spanish.



"I rarely speak in English on a given day in school, which has just done wonders for my proficiency. Most of my days I just speak Spanish." But her most practical use of Spanish outside the class is for traveling.

Waters' extensive background with her world of travel makes her an exceptional teacher for Spanish. She's been all around but the community is glad that she settled here.



← Scan here to read the full article!

Heart of the Math Department

By Jacey Powell and Landace Doyle

Photos courtesy of Kimberly Aksamit

Kimberly Aksamit started an internship at the Colorado Department of Transportation in 2008 until she realized her true passion for teaching math.

"I worked on the modeling, modeling the timing of stoplights so when you go down a street you're not stopping at every light." After a year there, she realized sitting behind a desk all day wasn't for her. During her time interning she was tutoring college-bound students. "I look[ed] forward more to that time of the week more than I did doing what I was in grad school for." So she dropped out of the program and got her graduate degree and teaching license from the University of Denver.

This year she is teaching college algebra and geometry, but she has the ability to teach any math class. Originally, Aksamit got her degree in pure mathematics from Marquette University. Pure mathematics is the study of applying any type of mathematics to outside the math world.

Aksamit always knew she wanted to do something math related.



"Yeah ever since I was little I just love that there's a puzzle in math and I think the puzzle is more important than the content most of the time."

She grew up in a small town called Rothway, Minnesota, with her three siblings, a sister and two brothers. Her town was so small she only had a graduating class of 17 people.

Besides Minnesota, Aksamit has lived in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Omaha, Nebraska, and in eastern Pennsylvania for a summer with her sister. She then moved to Colorado to get her bachelor's degree.

"When I decided to move here it was for grad school so I had a purpose and then I just fell in love with the mountains, hiking and all the outdoorsy things you can do. So to me it was worth it to stay."

She loves concerts and is a big Deadhead. Along with that she loves gardening and cooking. Her favorite summer activities are paddle boarding and kayaking. "I don't really do winter sports. I don't like being cold. Yeah but the rest of it, I love all that stuff."

A fun fact about Aksamit is her first company job was as a Certified Nursing Assistant.

"I mostly did nursing home stuff, but also did a little bit of triage in an ER, which was cool and then some clinic work."

So what drove Aksamit to become a teacher? And why did she choose high school?

"I just like working with kids. Number one, y'all are funny. I don't know if you realize it. You're just at this critical stage of your life where you're learning new things constantly and adjusting. I find it amusing to be around and also I love it. Part of the reason I teach college algebra is I love seeing that you have a path to do something bigger than yourselves one day..."

Just by knowing Aksamit, you can tell how much she loves her job, students, and coworkers. You will always see her with a bright smile. She cares about her students learning, and they're never scared to approach her because of her kind presence. This definitely stems from her teachers growing up.

From her starting her lessons by calling us "lovely humans", to her funny math jokes, Aksamit is truly one of the best teachers and she continually inspires her students and everyone around her. Golden High School is so lucky to have this lovely human.



Scan here to read the full article!

Senior Send Offs



Jayden Bates-Bland: Editor-in-Chief

Jayden has been with the Golden Trident for three years and they have done many reviews on productions from Stage Right, and profiles on teachers. They say that their favorite piece was “Next Stop: Costa Rica” and their favorite memory was when the class threw a surprise birthday party for them. After high school, they plan to go to the University of Missouri, Columbia for college with a major in journalism.

Channing Bruce: Editor-in-Chief

Channing has been in the Golden Trident for three years and has covered a lot of protests and other concerning issues in our community. Her favorite piece was “Underlying Systemic Racism in GHS” and her favorite memory was when she decided to bring back the paper print, something that was very appreciated by the school. After high school, she plans to go to Red Rocks Community College for an AA and certification in Music and Audio Production.



Jacey Powell: Editor

Jacey has been in the Golden Trident for the entire four years it has been around, making her the person on staff who’s been here the longest. She has given us many pieces about lesser-discussed important topics and her favorite piece she has written is “Eating Disorder Culture”. Her favorite memory was when we opened our first print and saw all of our hard work come to life. After high school, she plans to go to Red Rocks Community College for journalism and film photography.

Landace Doyle: Editor

Landace has been with the Golden Trident for two and a half years and she has been one of our main sources of fashion news around the school. Her favorite piece was “All Hail the Fashion Lord” which was an extensive deep dive into Dylan Lewis and his fashion sense. Her favorite memory was the birth of Deathslayer 4000, the class pet/Roomba. After high school, she plans on attending Red Rock Community College and eventually wants to pursue a career in fashion.



Theo Sieber: Writer

Theo has been with the Golden Trident for two years and in that time he has given us many thought-provoking pieces. His favorite piece that he has written is “NBA Analytics, Ancient Rome, and the Risk of Not Taking Risks”. He says that his favorite memory was when he put out his first piece and got a lot of positive feedback and support. After high school, he plans on going to either Western Washington or Humboldt State with a major in political science.



Mario Dalcanale-Csapo: Writer

Mario has been with the Golden Trident for one year and in that time he has produced several pieces that were much appreciated by the student body. His favorite article that he has published was “Golden High’s Complicated Parking Situation” and his favorite memory is when his first piece was published and everyone really enjoyed it which made him proud. After high school, he plans to go to CU Denver to study music production and hopefully become a musician.



Shaylin Moxley: Writer

Shaylin has been with the Golden Trident for a year and a half and gave insight into astrology and other lesser-known things. Her favorite piece she wrote was “Golden High’s Complicated Parking Situation” and her favorite memory is when we put a speaker on our class Roomba and played music throughout the classroom. After high school, she plans on working to become an ultrasound technician.

