



SENIORITIS

By Trevor Engel

About twelve years ago, I was thrust into a systematic education against my will. Initially rebellious, I soon realized the futility of resistance. I came to understand that school is a necessary obstacle, an unavoidable marathon; where endurance is the only option. With that realization, I spent the next eleven years mastering its standard of linear progression.

When I reached high school, my mind was a freight train; rigid, efficient, and bound to the rails by an inflexible intellectual complex that demanded perfection. Freshman year was a rehearsal, a time to find my footing. Sophomore year became a concert, culminating in the final MCAS of my life, which I was more than happy to be over with. Junior year transformed into a world tour, where I pushed through every class to build an immaculate GPA, one that promised acceptance into any college I desired. Over those three years, I amassed twelve report cards, each a perfect array of A's. It felt like the curtain had closed; as though I had peaked academically. Yet, my sense of finality was an illusion, for life demanded an encore.

I was exhausted when senior year started; but instead of giving up, my engine kept chugging. I chose the three hardest CE classes available and submitted all my college applications before Halloween. While my classmates were overwhelmed: stressing about portfolios, complaining about workloads, or scrambling to keep up, I strolled through the hallways carefree. But then came one fateful day: no homework, no hangouts, no tests to study for. I took another shower,

dried off, and looked in the mirror. In that single moment of reflection, the cycle broke, the train derailed, and my self-esteem shattered into infinite, microscopic pieces.

Senioritis isn't juvenile laziness; it's definitive angst. It's the moment you realize that everything you've worked for over the last decade won't matter the day after graduation. It's when you recognize that, despite knowing biology, calculus, history, psychology, chemistry, and physics, you can't name a single defining trait of yourself. Even if I were valedictorian, a three-time gold medalist at SkillsUSA, or if my academic achievements were so extraordinary they brought me instant fame and fortune, I still wouldn't feel any better about myself. The truth is, I would trade a perfect 1600 SAT score for even a minute ounce of purpose.

Don't misinterpret my words; I still see the value in my education. But I've spent so much time abiding by its linearity that I've never grown in any other direction. This isn't just a critique of the systematic society we live in; it's a critique of myself for molding my identity in its image. In reality, senior year isn't an end; it's a mirage, leading into a systematic life shaped by a systematic society and ruled by a systematic government. The same demands persist, only now at a greater magnitude and with harsher consequences. It's like a light at the end of a tunnel that only gets dimmer the

closer you get.

As my final curtain call looms closer, I'm plagued by mixed feelings. I want to believe my mother's words; that someday it'll all make sense and my hard work will pay off. But doubt whispers inside me, growing louder by the hour, a constant reminder of an undefined future. By the time I leave college, I could be jobless, one of countless 'overachievers' defined by little more than a master's degree. If I stop now, I may never make it to college, though it might give me time to figure things out. But what if I can't? What if there's no answer, only a sealed fate that diminishes everything I've worked for? Still, I push forward, not because I'm certain of success, but because stopping feels like surrender.

I want to clarify that this isn't a 'cry for help' or a 'call to action.' It's a reminder that senioritis is no trivial matter. It can affect anyone, even the most diligent students who seem like they have everything to be proud of. My life has been built around my education, and sometimes I wish it weren't the case. If I had spent more time understanding myself beyond academics, perhaps I'd feel more secure about the road ahead. But for now, I'll never know if the actions of today will reward me tomorrow. If only I could close my eyes and hope for the best, for the most practical breed of hope is blind.



CITIZENSHIP AWARDS



On the evening of January 9, Shawsheen celebrated 9th and 11th graders and on January 16, celebrated 11th and 12th graders with a delicious ice cream social. These exceptional individuals were recognized for embodying the school's core values of Respect, Integrity, and Accountability. Congratulations to all students who earned these awards!



OLLIE & COSMO- FAIL!

By Onyx Paquin



THAT'S SO *RELATABLE...*

By Melissa Marrero

We've all been there: you're arguing with your parents and as soon as you start to speak for yourself, aha! Your parents immediately say that you are "talking back," and might even say that you are disrespecting them. It's frustrating, isn't it? Especially when you have an actual good point, but your parents immediately shut it down. And even if you're able to make your point, your parents will pull an "Uno-reverse" and take your phone away! Pretty much a lose-lose scenario.

TOYS FOR TOTS

Congratulations to Shawsheen Tech's SkillsUSA Leadership team who collected 321 toys for Toys for Tots this year!



Students Back Row: Spencer Tabot, Carmella Deacy, Carly Heichman, Eliel Soto, Sofia Medeiros, Tyler Labeta, Kevin Pio, Braedon Brazil, Nariah Oscar, Devyn Donnelly, Karina Palencia, Millie Hardy, Finn Shibbles, Mackenzie Miller and Giana Manoloulis



Coming Soon...

MAY 9TH & 10TH

AROUND THE WORLD: SYRIA



Join us each month as Nishtha, our tour guide, will teach us about different countries of the world.

By Nishtha Lamsal

Amidst marvelous mountain ranges, dry deserts, and extensive plains is the nation of Syria. According to the article "Syria" published by Gale, part of Cengage group, it is a land teeming with history and political turmoil situated in West Asia next to the Mediterranean Sea and countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan. Syria was once a territory

2024, where he fled from the capital of Damascus to Russia. He allegedly fled due to conflict with an assortment of rebel fighters, guided by the Islamist group Hayat Tahir al-Sham. Starting from March 2011, the nation has been enduring a civil war. Another such jihadist group in this crisis is the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which has upheld its appearance

the Syrians have experienced. The president retains its power under the Syrian constitution and through prevailing in a vote, is appointed to a seven-year term role. Assad won the 2007 election, where he presumably apprehended 97.62% of the vote and then won both the 2014 and 2021 elections. Nonetheless, Western critics believe both the latter elections were corrupted by the small number of votes, fraud, and the persecution of voters. The Syrian civil war initiated with the Arab Spring movement in 2010, a succession of anti-government revolts in the Arab world. The movement started out with amicable protests and Assad indicated that he would make certain changes. Nevertheless, in the ancient city of Daraa, a cluster of teenagers were tormented because they produced anti-dictatorship graffiti on local walls. After this incident in Daraa, there was an increase in rebellion occurrences that Assad took offense to with military vigor ("Syria").



under the rule of the Ottoman Empire from 1500-1922, an Islamic state that dominated over many areas in Southeast Europe, West Asia, and North Africa. However, as a byproduct of World War I (1914-1918), the nation of France assumed Syria from 1920 up until their independence in 1946. The year 1970 came alongside a coup and a new president, Hafez al-Assad. His son, Bashar al-Assad, then took claim of Syria in 2000 until December 8th,

since the civil war and is highly against Assad's government backed by the Ba'ath party. Due to the conflicts in this nation, many Syrian citizens depart in hopes to find refuge in countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Germany, Iraq, Egypt, Sweden, and Sudan. Through understanding the government while it had been under the totalitarian Assad regime, there is a clear picture of the grief

Works Cited

"Syria." Gale Global Issues Online Collection, Gale, 2024. Gale In Context: Global Issues, link.gale.com/apps/doc/CP3208530166/GIC?u=mclin_nshawvvt&sid=bookmark-GIC&xid=19e6a551. Accessed 6 Jan. 2025.

Image

Google Maps

WINTER SPORTS

By Madeline Manning



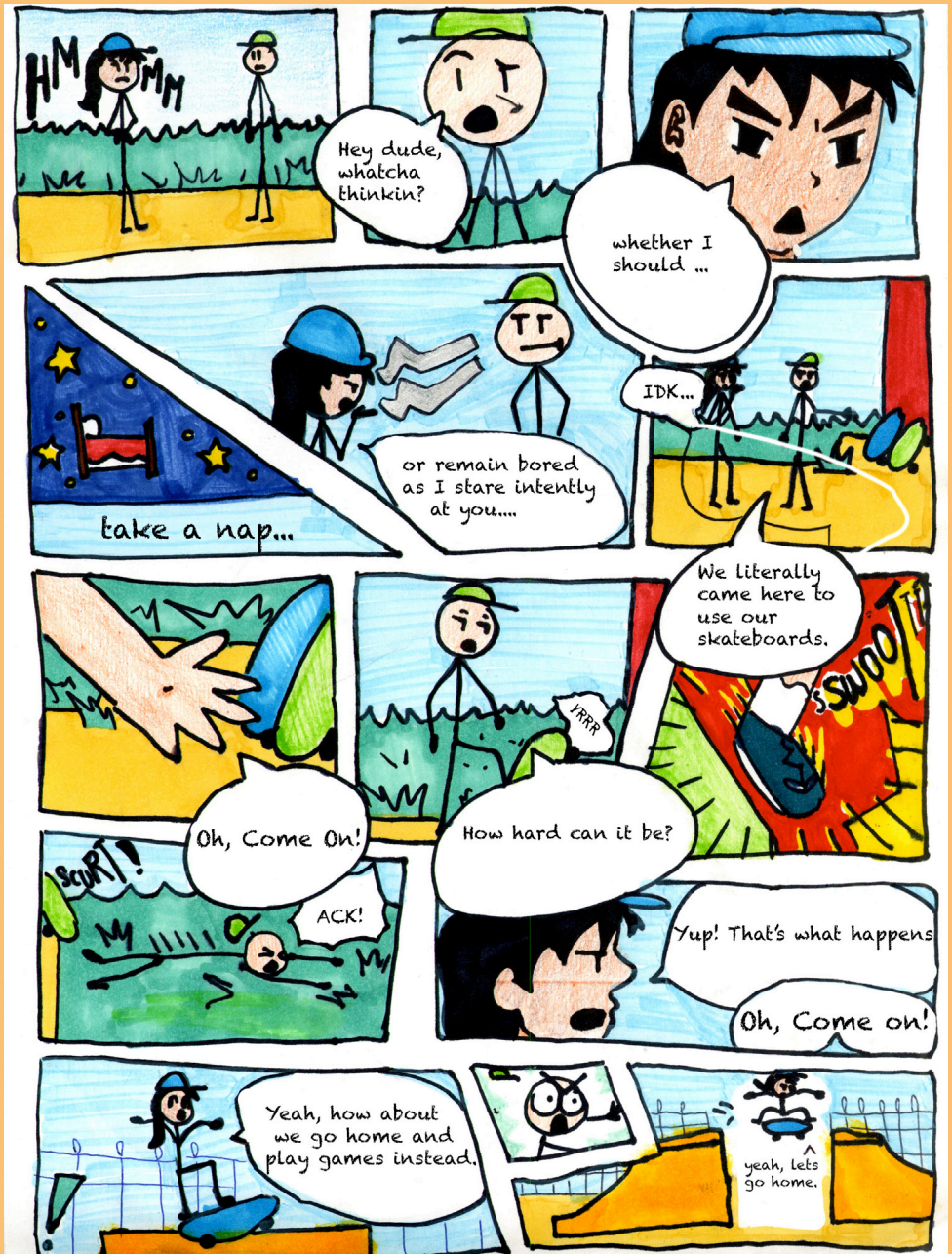
WINTER SPORTS

continued....



SKATEPARK

By Ava Dicrescenzo



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