

# PPAS Voice

*Celebrating diversity, promoting unity*

## *PPAS Club Fair—Opportunities Abound for Engagement*

By: Joelle Leopold

It is early October, the leaves are changing, school has started, and it might just be time to join a new club. PPAS has 17 amazing clubs for students to join this year! This past week was the club fair, where each club set up a booth to represent their club. Each club is so unique and has so many different things to offer. If you are struggling to pick a club, do not panic! The PPAS Voice has the top scoop on each club.

**Asian Student Alliance.** The original goal was to create a space for Asians to speak about hate crimes. The club creates a space for Asians and non-Asians to talk about what they think about the culture. The goal is to have a sense of vulnerability and educate.

**Black Student Union.** This club is a safe space for black and African American students at PPAS. However, students of any race are welcome to join. This is a place to educate non-black people on black topics. This is a safe space for anybody.

**Debate Club.** This is a place to have professional discussions and discuss your opinions. While expressing your views, you get to learn all ideas to see both sides of the story. Maybe you might even go on a tournament against other schools!

**Environmental Club.** Founded a few years ago, this club aims to work on the school's environmental function and better the planet. The club also aims to inform students about environmentalists.

**Equity Lounge Leaders.** If you have not noticed by now, room 400 is the Equity Lounge. It is just a great place to go during a free period or just hang out. There are so many awesome things to do! As a leader, you can help facilitate the room and create an equitable environment no matter your race, gender, or



sexuality. The goal is acceptance.

**Feminist Film Club.** This club is about empowering anyone who identifies as a feminist! In this club, you can watch female lead and directed films. You also can watch student-created films so we can spotlight those doing amazing things!

**Foodies Club.** In this club, there is a community where you can share recipes and cook. You can also learn about cultural foods and why food is vital to the culture. The club also travels to different restaurants. So if you love to eat, this one is for you.

**Global Glimpse.** In this club specific to Juniors, you can travel to different countries nominated by teachers. You

can go on mission trips to help people in need.

**Jewish Cultural Club.** This is a club to come together in the PPAS community and honor Jewish traditions. During Jewish holidays there will be special events to showcase the culture. Anyone can join!

**Latin Dance Fusion Club.** This club teaches a bunch of

different types of Latin dance, for example, Bachata. This club is a great way to learn about Latin culture while also having fun!

**Latinx Club.** A part of one of the cultural clubs in PPAS, you learn about different historical figures in the Latin community and historic Latin figures within the arts. The club plans to partner with other cultural clubs and also hopefully plan an assembly!

**Math Team.** This is a place just to have fun and learn. It does not matter if you are good at math or not. You can just cheer on your peers. There will also be competitions.

**Photography Club.** This is a great club if you love to take pictures. This club meets every week and discusses a new

topic each week. You can learn about different techniques while taking photos. You can use any camera, and there are two print exhibits a year.

**PPAS Democrats.** This club has conversations about current issues. You can phone the bank for elections, as they did with the Georgia and the 2020 Presidential elections. This club also partners with the Environmental Club, Asian Student Alliance, and the Black Student Union. The club is very flexible, and it's something new each week. This is the largest club in PPAS.

**Pre Med Club.** Although the club is pretty general right now, there are many q and a's with people in the medical industry. As a part of the club, you can focus on specific medical specialties.

**Self Esteem Rising** comes from a program called Beautiful Me from the Hance Family Foundation. The Beautiful Me program promotes women and self-love. The Self Esteem Rising club is also about encouraging women and self-love while also learning about mental health and how to take care of it. Anyone of any gender identity is welcome to join!

**The Voice Newspaper.** Do you like what you are reading right now? Then join the PPAS Voice! Each month you can contribute, whether it means taking a photo, sharing artwork, writing a poem, or contributing an article.

*So, which clubs will you join?*

# In California, Newsom Fends Off Republican-Led Recall Election

By: Ellis Rubin

The Democratic governor of the largest Democratic stronghold in the country risked losing his job to a Republican. A month before his September 14th recall election (a special election to remove a politician before his or her term ends), California Gov. Gavin Newsom's career hung in the balance. In a normal election, he would be all but guaranteed to win; there are roughly twice as many Democrats as Republicans in California.

But this was no normal election. To win, Newsom had to capture at least 50% of the vote, a number that polling showed he was dangerously hovering around. If he failed to secure a majority, whichever challenger got the most votes to replace him would take over. That would likely be Republican Lar-

ry Elder, a prominent libertarian radio host who had never run for office.

Betting on voter dissatisfaction with mark and vaccine mandates, Republicans hoped to repeat the 2003 recall election upset victory of movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger over incumbent Gray Davis. But Newsom did not give ground, telling supporters, "Larry Elder is an anti-vax conspiracy spreader — not the guy you want in office while [the Delta variant] rages."

The recall election was a microcosm of a national debate over voter response to coronavirus restrictions. A Newsom loss



the governor had the benefits of incumbency: a massive amount of money and strong connections.

By the end of August, pro-Newsom political action committees had raised almost \$60 million, soaring past the \$8 million collected by anti-Newsom committees. Elder's rallies lacked the star power of Newsom's, which featured celebrity Democrats such as Senator Elizabeth Warren, Vice President Kamala Harris, former presi-

would be a referendum on the national Democratic Party's pandemic strategy. Fortunately for Newsom and the Democrats,

dent Barack Obama, and President Joe Biden. Lastly, Newsom had the advantage of every registered and active voter in California being sent a mail-in ballot. Challenged by a small but passionate minority, Newsom pinned his chances on the 22 million ballots that would automatically be sent out, increasing voter participation and sinking Elder.

But would this power trifecta be enough with so little time before election day? The answer: An overwhelming yes. Newsom managed not only to survive the recall, but dominate it, garnering over 60% of the vote. Elder failed to convince Californians that they were being oppressed. Most of all, the Democratic Party avoided a reckoning with the pandemic plan they've bet their future on.

## How Broadway Came Back: A Commemoration Of The 74th Annual Tony Awards

By: Rosabella Procaro-Soler

Audiences roared as Tony winner Leslie Odom Jr. opened "The Tony Awards Present: Broadway's Back!", a concert hosted at the Winter Garden Theater which honors the return of live theatre, and commemorates the 74th annual TONY Awards. With star studded appearances from those such as Josh Groban, Lin Manuel Miranda, and Chita Rivera, the concert truly encapsulated what it means for Broadway to be back.

Donned in masks, the fully vaccinated audience is replicant of what Broadway houses will look like for the foreseeable future. These precautions will ensure the safety of every performer, crew member, and patron of Broadway.

Performances included *American Utopia's* "Burn Down the House," "For Good," performed by Kristin Chenoweth and Idina Menzel, and a recap

on the evening from *Freestyle Love Supreme*.

Along with performances, three main awards were given during the concert; Best Play, Best Revival, and Best Musical. Best Play was awarded to *Inheritance*, written by Matthew Lopez,

who is the first Latino Playwright to garnish the award. The play tells the story of two generations of gay men in New York City.

The playwright expressed a point of pride as the first Latino to win the award, but also implied that the theatrical industry could do better. *A Soldier's Play* took home Best Re-

vival, after it "received seven Tony nominations, the most of any play revival." (The New York Times) The play's director Kenny Leon accepted the award and stated the names of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd, both of whom were

killed by police in 2020.

He went on to speak about how there is a lack of diversity among famous and classic playwrights, saying "But

the table's got to be bigger." With this want for more diversity on stage, it was joyful to see two artists of color accept some of the night's biggest awards.

As for the final award, with 9 wins already under their belt, *Moulin Rouge: The Musical* completed their sweep by winning Best Musical. The stage adaptation of Baz Luhrmann's 2001 film is truly a spectacle of the current Broadway scene.

The show's lead producer, Carmen Pavlovic, gave a touching salute to all the shows of the season saying, "I feel that every show of last season deserves to be thought of as the best musical." She continued by stating, "The shows that opened, the shows that closed — not to return — the shows that nearly opened, and of course the shows that paused and are fortunate enough to be reborn."

The night signified not only the return of bright Broadway lights, but the return of the entire theatre community.



Tony winner Leslie Odom Jr. opens "The Tony Awards Present: Broadway's Back!" at the Winter Garden Theater.



# Should We Be Deleting Instagram?

By: Audrey Cross

We've all known for quite a while now that Instagram doesn't exactly help with self esteem or body image. What we didn't know is that Facebook, the company that owns Instagram, has also been aware of this. Corporate Facebook data shared through the Wall Street Journal states that, "We make body image issues worse for one in every three teen girls." So why would Facebook not do anything to remove at least some toxicity from the app? You would think that might be a priority if the platform hopes to keep up a good reputation, but that may not even be possible at this point.

Now that this information has been exposed, it's all a matter of how the company will handle the situation. According to the Head of Public Policy at Instagram, Karina Newton, "Based on our research and feedback from experts, we've developed fea-

tures so people can protect themselves from bullying, we've given everyone the option to hide like counts," As an Instagram user, I'm personally failing to see how much of a difference these small edits are making. Anyone can hide like counts on their own posts, but hiding everyone else's in hopes to ignore the temptation of comparing them to your own simply isn't possible, especially considering you can still see the number of likes your own posts have after turning off the count.

The issue here isn't the research itself, it's how little is being done with it. If Instagram really wants to make a difference in the mental health of its users, they might consider consulting them. A poll with questions about what might help to improve the app's effect on teenagers may provide the answers they need to contribute to less

suicidal thoughts and body image issues among teens.

After all, some suicidal thoughts can already be traced directly back

to Instagram, not social media as a whole. Although many users may not have ideas on how to improve the platform's general message, a lot of people who have been faced with problems due to Instagram may be able to share how others could avoid that with a few changes to the app.

Redirecting content and having the option to hide your own likes isn't what's going to make the real difference here. If Facebook hopes to do good with their research and win back the trust of some, they need to think bigger.



Enough damage has already been done to young, easily influenced teens that small token fixes won't be enough. It's all a question of where Facebook will go from here. They don't have the strongest track record when it comes to putting people before the company itself, but maybe, after all of the backlash they've received lately, they will finally change their ways and think about this from a teen's perspective. If they don't, it may be time for teens like us to reconsider just how much we need Instagram in our lives.

## Mirror, Mirror

Photography by: Ava Bales and Sheridan Hauser



# The Mid-Autumn Festival: A Timeless Tradition

By: Emma Tom

The legend centers around the tragic love story between Hou Yi and Chang'e. Back when a treacherous drought had plagued the earth, Hou Yi, a skilled archer, shot down nine out of the ten suns and ended the long war. For his efforts during the great siege, the goddess, Xiwangmu, gifted Hou Yi with the elixir of immortality, something only granted to the most honorable individuals. He refused the goddess's offer and hid the elixir away because he desired not to part from his wife, Chang'e. There are many versions of what happened next, the original one is lost in translation, but whether Chang'e selfishly drank the elixir out of greed or was forced to by her husband's apprentice, she ended up on the moon as



myriad of red lanterns, usually in shapes of animals or cartoon characters, and the people parade the streets for the annual Tai Hang fire dragon dance performed in Hong Kong. Another valued tradition is the writing of wishes, Deng Mi, for good health, marriage, and harvests. Many Malaysians pray, at

an immortal spirit. Hou Yi, enveloped in anguish, sent offerings to his wife in the forms of fruit and other confections, to honor her.

That was the birth of the Mid-Autumn festival. Every year, countries, such as China, Vietnam, Japan, Korea and Hong Kong, come together to celebrate the myth of Chang'e and eat delicious foods in her stead. The most prominent symbol of the Mid-Autumn festival is the

mooncake. The filling can be either sweet or savory: salted egg yolk, lotus seed paste, red bean paste, or chashu are some popular ones. The crust is baked to a golden brown and then stamped with the character corresponding to the mooncake filling. Many refrain from eating more than a quarter of one because, not only is it quite heavy, it also packs a dangerous 1000 calories per cake!

The streets are often lit by a

the Thean Hou Temple, to the Goddess of Heaven to continue to bless them throughout the year. The Mid-Autumn festival is a delightful explosion of cultures, traditions, and community where individuals simply celebrate the beauty of the harvest. It is a time for families to come together and pay homage to a sacred piece of history that will hopefully be carried on for many centuries to come.

## Dividing America

By: John Darkow, Columbia Missourian





## Is Senioritis Really a Bad Thing?

By: Shannon Donohue

Senioritis, the supposed slacking-off of high school students generally in the second semester of their last year, is something that students are subjected to nationally. From Texas, to Washington, to New York, students in their senior year seem to be suffering from this condition. But does senioritis deserve its negative connotation?

Seniors have gone through (almost) four years of high school, applying to colleges, and trying to figure out what they want to do after high school. A current senior at PPAS, Jalen Rivera, points out the immense responsibility that is being put on seniors and the pressure to “know what you want to do already.” Some seniors, like Anya Jimenez, are worrying, “have I done enough at this point?” Do I have enough on my resume, on my transcript?” A root cause of senioritis starts at the beginning of high school. The moment we step through the doors, pressure is put on us to take the hardest classes, be in as

many clubs as possible, rack up those extracurriculars, and of course, get the best grades possible. All of that to look good on college applications. different mindset.” Once the pressure of getting good grades and taking certain classes is off, seniors finally have the freedom to explore



If that pressure is enforced on students, how can you help but want to take a step back once the purpose of it all is done? If all the hard work is for admissions officers to see on your application, of course there is going to be a sense of purposeless once it's over.

But is that all there is to it? For some students, like John Powers, it's not. The end of applications won't mean slacking off of responsibilities, “I'm just going to have a

who they are and their own interests. Not just what admissions officers “like” to see, but what you genuinely enjoy doing. Seniors can go into a class purely to learn something rather than to check something else off the list. Rather than laziness, isn't it a shift of focus? From grades to actual knowledge. After all the work that applying to colleges is, and four years of hard work, shouldn't seniors be able to change their men-

talities from getting top marks and trying to impress admissions officers to learning for the sake of gaining knowledge? Powers mentions, “I don't think I'll ever get to a point where my grades will get far below what I'm used to, but I do think toward the end of my high school journey... I will be a little bit more relaxed and laid-back about my grades, and I don't think there's anything wrong with that, as long as I'm not potentially failing.” As long as it doesn't affect grades too much, don't seniors deserve a break at the conclusion of this phase of their life?

Though we aren't there yet. The next three to four months will be filled with lots of late nights and long hours, scrambling to finish applications while trying to keep up with regular class workloads. Jimenez advises, “the culture of empathy that we like to emphasize in PPAS is really important, especially now.”

# 2022

## Word of the Month

Taken from Merriam Webster Online Dictionary

### egregious

adjective / ih-GREE-juss

#### What It Means

*Egregious* means “obviously or noticeably bad.”

// It is an *egregious* breach of theater etiquette to not shut off one's cell phone during the performance.

# Printing Organs?!

By: Serena Cheng

## The Demand for Donors

According to the Health Resources and Services Administration, a person is added to the national transplant waiting list every 9 minutes. So it's no surprise that we are far from meeting the demand of roughly 115,000 people who are in need of a transplant--in fact, 17 people die every day waiting for one.

## 3D Printing: A Solution?

Rather than waiting for donors, what if scientists manufactured customized organs on demand? Thanks to 3D bioprinting, this is a reality. Over the decade, 3D printing--where materials are deposited, joined, and solidified under a computer's control to manufacture a three-dimensional object--grew in popularity, especially with the increasing accessibility for the general public and how time and cost-efficient the process is. Typically using plastic, resin, and metal, 3D printing has been used to cre-

ate prosthetics, make jewelry, and even construct houses.

## How does 3D Bioprinting Work?

So what printable material could form functioning organs viable for transplants? Bioink. The majority of bioink consists of water-rich molecules called hydrogels, which are mixed with millions of living cells and chemicals that encourage growth and communication. These living cells may derive from donors or from the patient's own tissue--so the organ or cartilage is less likely to be rejected by the



patient's immune system. In an extrusion-based bioprinting process, bioink is loaded into the printing chamber and, with the guidance of a computerized image, is deposited onto a flat surface or in a liquid bath. The organ, tissue, or cartilage is printed in layers with a continuous filament with the thickness of about a human fingernail. After printing, some bioinks solidify immediately while others may need UV light or a chemical or physical process to stabilize their structure. In a matter of a few hours, a syn-

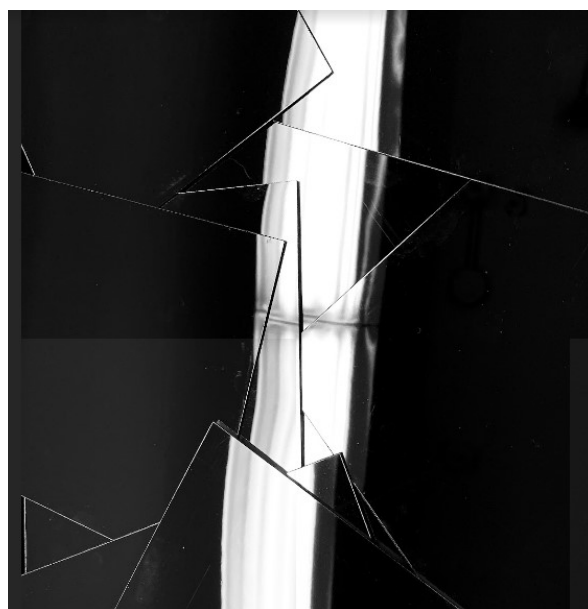
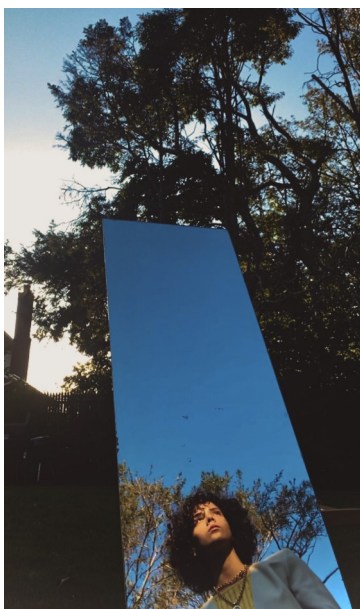
thetic biological structure--made up of cells that can multiply, transport nutrients, and produce energy--is successfully made.

## 3D Bioprinting's Potential

Bioprinting has already made relatively simple structures such as skin and cartilage. Manufacturing complex organs like hearts and livers, however, is a challenge that scientists are currently tackling--one obstacle is supplying oxygen and nutrients to all cells of a synthetic organ. Moreover, Dr. Stuart K. Williams, a cardiovascular scientist from the University of Louisville, says "[f]unding is limited in this new area." Nonetheless, bioprinting begets copious possibilities: besides meeting the demand for transplants, bioprinting could help surgeons practice surgery on realistic organs. We could even embed technology into our biological structures--with functions that go beyond normal human capabilities.

# Mirror, Mirror

Photography by: Annelise Greenwald, Danielle Manganiello, and Tanner Phillips



# Opinion: Nicki Minaj's CRAZY Tweets Shed Light on Need to REJECT Censorship

By: John Powers

In a time where boosting vaccinations is critical and maintaining a close eye on COVID-19 remains important, anyone and everyone who carries societal influence should actively work to improve America's current public health conundrum. That's why it was so disappointing to see Nicki Minaj inject the darkness and danger of vaccine misinformation into America's civil discourse. The words our celebrities utter matter. In tweeting that her cousin experienced severe side effects, a clear coverup of a STD and a claim that is rooted in an experience never reported to Trinidadian health authorities, Minaj effectively legitimized an absolutely absurd and scientifically unproven opinion that certainly puts

unguided people at risk. However, there's more to Nicki's tweets than just an explicit sense of foolishness, there's an important connection that one should make to the topic of social media censorship.

As COVID-19 has ravaged our nation, many of our leaders and fellow citizens have embraced the idea of censoring anyone who expresses an opinion of COVID-19 misinformation to protect the general public. While an easy, impactful solution, social media censorship leads our nation down a road of increased tyranny and a future where EVERY non-mainstream opinion will have the capacity to be quickly shut down. We know that censorship has been used to silence the voices of not only

conservatives, but also people on the left. We know that countries such as Israel have worked with Facebook to determine what views to censor and in fact Facebook has censored views criticizing the Israeli government.

We know that merely being tagged by someone else in a post can result in police



Minaj's unsubstantiated, rumor-based claim on Twitter.

intimidation. One California podcaster by the name of Ryan Wentz was questioned by the police after he was tagged in a post deemed threatening. We know that in times of crisis in the past, increasing powers have been granted/tolerated to gain control over the American public. The Patriot Act, passed during an unprecedented time of national fears of terrorism, was used to spy on citizens. Now fears of a virus and domestic terrorism plague America, and our government is silent in the voice of social media censorship. The fact of the matter is that when social media becomes so prevalent that it becomes a public square of ideas, either consumers or the government should intervene to protect free expression, even though the companies are private. Even ultra-conservative justice Clarence Thomas agrees that social media should be regulated like a public utility!

Though it is an easy sell for social media companies to say that they will censor crazy beliefs on science and Trump conservatives, it's not an easy sell to convince the barbz that Minaj should be censored too for her equally unsound claims. That's why Twitter claims that they didn't censor her, even though Minaj's tweets manipulated information about vaccines, a Twitter violation. So, while Nicki Minaj played with fire through her tweets, it is very useful to observe the sheer hypocrisy that Twitter engaged in. The fact that Twitter easily censors powerless independent journalists, political activists, and people with unpopular or non-mainstream beliefs, but doesn't censor elites like Minaj, shows that censorship isn't about safety. It's about complacency. It's about fostering group think. It's about taking away power from anyone who isn't a part of the establishment.



Russian state-sponsored podcaster Ryan Wentz. (Affiliated with Mafflick LLC—@AnissaNow on Twitter. Source: Fox News.)

## Every Thursday is PupilPath check-in day!

*At a minimum you should check PupilPath weekly to stay on top of your work.*



# Is Power Ethical?

By: Gregory Papadopoulos

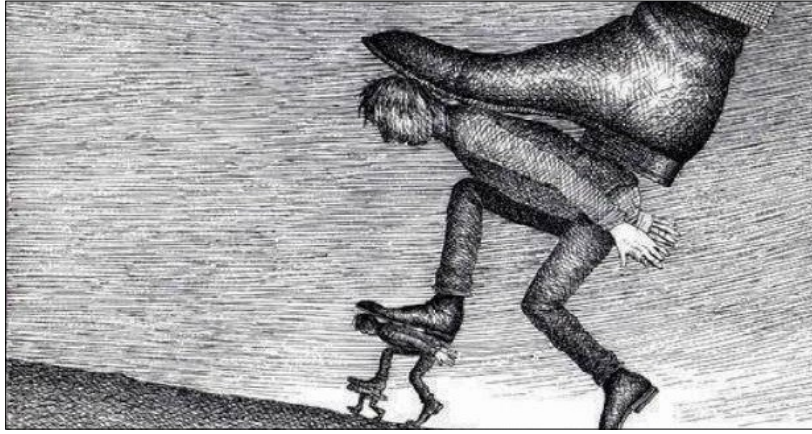
This is a loaded question, so in short, no. The overall class structure of modern society permeates the workplace. Stratified businesses and corporations imprison workers in a state of constant subordination to a higher ranking employee.

These divides stretch up to the very last position under CEO. Power is about control. Controlling someone or something gives people a sense of purpose or responsibility. As humans, we tend to like organization. We tend to like structure. We

like to think that life is easier to handle when we have goals, including other people to satisfy or take care of.

As charming and thoughtful as that may sound, power very quickly turns into exploitation and manipulation.

Managers get too used to people doing their job that they ask for more, landlords get too used to making the same money so they jack up the



rent, and a partner starts expecting too much from another in a relationship.

There is this trans-centennial idea that we must wring every last drop of juice from every human in order to achieve peak performance, i.e. full-

time minimum wage jobs. Another side of the multifaceted monster, power, is control for the sense of control. It seems credible to me that the true

evil is the need for power with the sole purpose of authority over others, a need often coming from a place of deep insecurity and emotional prematurity.

Perhaps, an overbearing amount of parental affection,

or lack thereof, at a young age, breeds a sense of entitlement as an adult, both in the workplace and in relationships.

But human society hasn't always been so hierarchical. Before capitalism, feudalism, and slavery, many societies operated with true equality, everyone had their place and function. Did greed suddenly overcome a few? Cooperation is natural, and was necessary for the success of humans as a species, so what prompted the formation of these systems

of exploitation?

Holistically, power, hierarchy, and human nature are profound areas of theory, and open to interpretation, our obligation being to understand and hypothesize justification for our history.

## Call for Contributors

# Writers! Poets! Artists!

# Photographers! Political Junkies!

If you would like to contribute an article, a work of art, a story—please contact [theppasvoice@ppasshare.org](mailto:theppasvoice@ppasshare.org).

# Join the team!



# Opinion: Safe Reproductive Choice Threatened by Texas Law

By: Tanya Jaffe

For many years, women, trans-men, and nonbinary individuals have been getting abortions, legal or not.

Before the passing of *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, it's estimated that about 20%-25% of pregnancies ended in abortions, says Karissa Haugeber, a professor at Tulane University. These at-the-time illegal procedures were extremely dangerous and often ended in infection and even death. Women would throw themselves down stairs, turn to unregulated markets, and even use coat hangers to perform their own abortions.

It's estimated that 200 women died a year of unsafe abortions before the passing of *Roe v. Wade*. This could become a new reality for many people in Texas who have passed the six-week stage of their pregnancy as outlined in the new laws in the state.



If those against abortion are arguing for the preservation of life, they should consider the lives of the parents as well as the unborn child. Giving birth can be extremely detrimental, physically and mentally for many people. In the United States, about 700 people die in childbirth each year. According to the CDC, 1 in 8 women develop postpartum depression after giving birth. New mothers also experience illnesses, diseases, or physical

disabilities.

Furthermore, being pregnant means that many people have to take maternity leave. For single parents, there may be no one to look after the child when they go back to work, and daycares can be very expensive. Also, hospital and ambulance bills are extremely costly. Other systems, like foster care can also be difficult to choose, and a large number of foster kids are neglected or abused in our flawed system.

Children are also very expensive. The average child in the United States costs about \$233,000 dollars to the age of 17 in a two parent, middle class home, and that's excluding college expenses.

What it all boils down to is what giving birth to a child in America means. In order for more people to make the choice to have children, our systems of education, foster care, child care, and finance need to be reformed.

The people making these decisions in Texas will never have to experience pregnancy or childbirth and the complications that go with it.

Getting an abortion is never a light choice for anyone to make, but if they do, it should be an available option for them, whoever they may be. Legalizing abortions isn't encouraging them, only making them safe.

## The PPAS Voice

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