



Southerner Staff
Editorial



Dear Politicians, Minneapolis
is not a prop for your political
agenda

In October, while in town for a Trump campaign fundraiser, Vice-President-to-be, JD Vance quickly swung by South Minneapolis for an impromptu press release. Instead of doing what most people would do when visiting Minneapolis, like eating a Jucy Lucy at Matt's bar, checking out the Walker Art Center, or walking across the Stone Arch Bridge, Vance visited the burned-down third precinct police station.

Only a few blocks away from South High, Vance stood in front of the third precinct, discussing the downfall of Minneapolis. He said Minneapolis was a "burned down" hellscape, "overrun with crime." An example of an "abandoned" liberal city. To cameramen and passers-by, he painted a picture of a city in decline—all thanks to a Democratic governor, his Vice presidential opponent, Tim Walz.

Since the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police Department in May 2020, and the days of protest, escalation, and police intervention following, our neighborhood has become the source of national discourse. A discourse that can often turn to carelessly picking apart Minneapolis and the people within it. It's easy to quickly take an opinion on the political dynamics of Minneapolis, but spewing heavy-handed, often baseless opinions is not a solution to Minneapolis' issues. Vance did not do this press release in the interest of Minnesota, or the nation; He did it to broadcast a biased, unsubstantiated political agenda around law enforcement.

Minneapolis does have work to do. Not because it's a crime-ridden hellscape, but because it, like the rest of our nation, continues to reckon with what it means to truly serve each member of the community. Vance's press release did nothing to improve our city.

Our questions to Mr. Vance, and the countless politicians using our neighborhood to fearmonger and critique, is: How would you fix Minneapolis? What perspective do you have from thousands of miles away that will suddenly fix the long-term issues facing Minneapolis? It is all too easy to prescribe simplicity to the complicated dynamics of our city, especially around policing. It is a lot easier to say Minneapolis is run down with crime than it is to actually make meaningful change. And that's exactly what Vance did. He made hefty claims about our city, and then got on a plane and left.

So, Mr. Vance, the next time you're in town, try to see things a little differently. Don't be so quick to write us off. Walk through our snow-lined streets. Grab a burrito at Pineda. Take a dip in a lake (we have many). Watch the MayDay parade. Talk to the city you disagree with, the people who didn't vote for you. Because we aren't an enemy, we're the people you will be sworn to serve come January. And how can you serve us without actually, truly seeing who we are?

All Nations murals painted over by administration. What now?

Arabella Fracisco
Staff writer

In July of 2024, seven murals on the walls of the All Nations hallway were painted over white. The murals carried deep meaning, traditions, and memories, representing over 25 years of student participation and art work, which with the arrival of a new principal, were erased. At first, despite community outrage, there wasn't much action from administration about what took place until student leaders stepped up to lead the All Nations community in their healing.

The majority of All Nations students didn't find out that the murals were gone until the first day of school: September 3rd, and at that point, it was too late. The subject of the erased murals was brought up during a student assembly on September 5th, where All Nations students spoke to the new principal, Ahmed Amin, about the significance of the murals and the impact they had on All Nations students. During the September 5th student assembly, many students shared that they were shocked at the removal of the murals, and demanded to know why they were painted over. "I found out about the murals that were painted over on the first day of school which was September 3rd of 2024. My initial reaction was [to ask] why were these murals painted over, and at what cost did the principal [make this decision]? [Did he] learn or ask about the history of the murals? Also, I felt this was an act of some sort of racism towards All Nations or Indigenous communities," says Emmalena Espinoza, an All Nations junior and co-chair of the All Nations Student Council.

The murals were more than just paintings on a wall; they contained over 25 years of stories and meaning. "These murals had a big impact on my school experience. I watched my mom put her name on one of the murals that were for All Nations students when they graduated from South. Seeing my mom's signature on the wall gave me the confidence to finish school just like her," says Espinoza. There were two murals specifically that were about the student's journey with school. One of them displayed figures of people in graduation caps and gowns, and another was a wall of handprints. When All Nations students graduated from South, they would sign their names on the wall to celebrate completing high school. The second Mural, the wall of handprints, symbolized the start of an All Nation's students journey. All Nations freshmen would put their hands up on the wall and sign their initials. It's important to do so because some students don't get the chance to graduate, including Victoria Alvarez. Victoria lost her life at only 14 years old as a freshman in 2015. Additionally, there was a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) mural painted to honor her and many other women who unjustly lost their lives. These murals brought a sense of community to the program. "It's like a really strong sense of community and I know that All Nations has kind of had a rough spot since coming back from distance learning and COVID ... students are longing for community," said Kassie Benjamin-Ficken, a teacher on the Ed Pathway Program and All Nations Program

After observing the impact of the loss of the murals and hearing what other All Nations students had to say, I spoke with Principal Amin to figure out what steps were being taken to fix the issue. "Essentially, the process was this: we walked through the building, looking for areas that needed to be updated, and then we worked with the paint shop to identify those areas. Then we apply paint to them. So the mistake that was made in this process was [that] we identified part of the All Nations murals as areas that



All Nations students standing in front of murals, which are now erased. The removal of the murals erased the symbolism and sense of community that All Nations students look toward in the future. Photo courtesy of: Kassie Benjamin-Ficken

needed to be updated when they were not. I tell people that I grew up in the Phillips neighborhood and someone [told me], 'Well, you should know [the impacts of our community murals]. So lately, [I've been] driving around South Minneapolis [and noticing] there are a lot of murals up. I think I just never thought about murals and mural culture. What murals stood for and what they mean.'" Principal Amin stated. After the assembly, Principal Amin hosted 3 community outreach sessions that would allow up to 15 people to attend.

Being in school in general is a difficult experience for native students considering our culture's first introduction to school was residential schools, with the last one in America not being closed until 1978. Even after the schools were closed we still have a hard time in the education system due to racism and erasure still continuing. "It was residential schools that started that model, you know? That was our first contact with formal or institutionalized education, and that's what they wanted to do. To get people to assimilate us, and if they couldn't assimilate us, then get rid of us. We lost a lot of our connection to who we are as a people, our languages, our cultural practices, our traditions, and our ceremonies," said Benjamin-Ficken. "I mean, we still see that living out in this situation right here, with our murals. Like, let's continue this legacy of kill the Indian, save the man." Just because residential schools don't exist anymore doesn't mean that the generational traumas and tragedies disappear. To myself and many others, this feels like an act of erasure. Whether intentional or not.

In response to all of these factors, the All Nations Student Council (ANSC) was formed this year and right away have stepped up to lead the community in healing. The council made their first appearance with the all school smudge on September 25th and they are planning to coordinate other events like this. One goal the ANSC has is to involve not just the All Nations program, but include other students and staff from South High School, students and staff from other Minneapolis Public Schools and members of local native communities. On October 11th the ANSC hosted their own community meeting at The Indian Center asking for feedback and advice. Principal Amin has also been working with the council, following their lead in the process of healing, saying, "I have to deal with the fact that I created additional harm, and I don't get to decide what the healing looks like." To some, Principal Amin's response feels like a step in the right direction, but to others there is still a sense of doubt. "I feel like Principal Amin is trying to help us heal, but at the same time not really trying to get a good understanding of what these murals meant to All Nations Students and families," said Espinoza. Many seem to agree with Espinoza's response, and one thing is for sure: it is going to take a lot of time and effort to regain the trust of those affected by the egregious loss of these murals.

the southerner
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The Southerner is a student-written and student-produced publication. It exists as an open forum for the South High School student community and to provide information relevant to many or all of its members. Our intent is to reach and address as many parts of the community as possible. The newspaper is distributed quarterly during the school year and is free to South High students and to anyone affiliated with Minneapolis Public Schools. The Southerner also maintains a news website at <https://www.shsoutherner.net>

Meet Ahmed Amin, South's new principal

Lola Norvell
News & Multimedia Editor

After years of tumultuous principal turnover, South has found its newest leader, Ahmed Amin, stepping up to the role. Having attended a Minneapolis Public School himself, Amin has been a part of the MPS community for years. Amin is ready to help improve South, the summit, with contagious hope for what South can become.

Amin moved to South Minneapolis when he was 12 along with his 5 siblings, one of which is a South graduate. While originally from Somalia, Amin spent part of his childhood in Ethiopia. Amin never had any formal education before coming to the United States. He speaks to the impact his father had on him and his siblings, emphasizing how he was a positive role model who lived his beliefs and principles. "My dad was never concerned about having more... It always seems like the people who have the least, give the most." Growing up Amin's family didn't have a lot, as he lived in a shelter with his siblings for a period of time. He does, however, express how academic excellence was still extremely important to him and his siblings through his father's example. He ties this to his father's demonstration of service and selflessness as well, something which he is continually inspired by today.

When he moved to Minneapolis, Amin attended Sanford and later Roosevelt for high school. Amin attended the University of Minnesota for his undergraduate degree, and then graduate school soon after, studying sociology and history before becoming a teacher. Amin went on to teach at his former stomping grounds- Roosevelt. He even became a principal later at Sanford. He also had the unique opportunity of teaching in a jail, working with inmates and students to provide the education they deserve. Amin, a true lover of learning, even plans on going back to school at some point in the future, but is still deciding on how he wants to go about that.

Amin is a firm believer that everyone can succeed when they have the right tools to do so. He explains that his academic approach manifests from his belief in the success and prosperity of all students, from all backgrounds. "I think people need different levels of support but everybody can be academically oriented and achieve academic success," he explains. "It's really about the examples that they have and how we can support them to learn and grow."

As for life outside of South, Amin stays busy with a number of hobbies including powerlifting, coaching debate, and photography, to name a few. "If I'm not working, I'm probably out walking up and down Lake Street taking photos and using film." Amin mentions Gordon Parks as an inspiration for his own artistry. "There's a book about him called Choice of Weapons, so photography was my choice of weapons." The powerlifting side of Amin can squat over 530 lbs, which is more than most can imagine. On top of that, Amin frequently coached debate for a while, devoting many weekends of his time to young debaters.



Ahmed Amin is South's brand new principal. Versed in the arts of photography, powerlifting, and intellectual discourse, Amin has lived many dreams and is ready for what's next. "One of the things I stress is structure... I feel like education is so critical to everybody, and we just gotta make sure people have opportunities to go wherever they want to go." Photo courtesy of: Lifetouch

"Single story" can be defined as a narrative that presents only one perspective, repeated again and again. Amin knows how much "single stories" can negatively impact a community. "In order to challenge a single story, you've gotta create a new one." In Amin's position as principal, there's limits to what he alone can do. He emphasizes that change takes everyone's effort. In order to have a collaborative community that reaches its goals, we need to work together. "As a community of South High folks, we really have to start thinking about what our story is, and what we want to be a summit for," he states. "We, as a community, need to determine what our narrative is." To reach the top, we have to climb to the top. Amin is determined to help lead South on that trek, one step at a time. That is how we will write our story and become South, the Summit.

Is South environmentally friendly?

Adyra Fine
Staff Writer

At first glance, South looks environmentally friendly. We have bins in the lunchroom that color coordinate to trash, recycling, and compost, along with numerous water bottle fillers throughout the hallways, a garden run by a teacher that receives tending with the help of students at South, and even solar panels. Despite having all of these seemingly sustainable tools that theoretically help our environment, plus a new principal that recognizes educating students and staff about environmental sustainability is important, quite literally none of these tools actually are used. There is a lot of miscommunication surrounding the recycling situation and it is unclear whether the recycling and compost are actually put in the proper bins when they leave the building.

Students typically do not sort their trash, recycling, and compost and often will just throw their trash on the ground around the school. Juan Natera, the new lead custodian said "I have a plan for recycling, but nobody recycles here." Natera stated that students and staff at South don't respect the building. The problem with respect, he said, is that many of the staff only come here for the salary. "The people are coming only for a salary, the people aren't coming for love in this school."

Natera, who grew up in Venezuela and lived in numerous other countries like Italy, Brazil, and Spain, said that the cultural perspective of life in the United States is very different. "I see people who don't have, and people who do have." Natera is on a two-year contract so that he can get the building back "in order". He said, "The plan is, take [and] make, get this school working normally... the problem is here, this school does not have rules, we don't have consequences." With his contract being focused on the restoration of the building, his first priority has to be the organization and order in the school, not long-term environmental sustainability.

Ahmed Amin, South's new principal, has a different perspective about the recycling and trash situation. "I'm still new and learning," he said. "I think the one positive thing is that students are asked during lunch to really focus on recycling and putting items in the appropriate boxes... the times that I'm at lunch, it seems like kids are actually following through... making sure things are recycled, so we aren't putting everything in the trash." However, students throughout the school such as Mila Beitz, Liam Johnson, Sarai Rodriguez, and Valeria Cecena, said they do not see students sorting their waste into the correct bins. Simply looking outside on the practice field, where students can eat lunch, there are no recycling or compost bins, only trash bins, and there is trash everywhere. This can become a problem for not only students who just want to eat outside and then respectively throw their trash away, it is also littering and can lead to more severe environmental damage.

South's environmental club, Green Tigers, is run by co-presidents Macy Gearhart and Zora Bael-Cyr. The club meets every Thursday morning in Mr. Ponto's room, a Biology teacher. Green Tigers have been striving for sustainable changes at South for years,

such as by purchasing and installing water bottle filters, hosting plant sales, and just last year, starting up a free thrift store. Called a thrift store for a reason, students and staff are welcome to donate clothes and take clothes at no cost, with the hope of continuing the circulation of secondhand clothes and slowing down fast fashion purchases of students.

Gearhart and Bael-Cyr believe that there needs to be "more funding towards sustainable initiatives," such as the use of the solar panels and funding for replacing the water bottle filters, which Green Tigers currently is in charge of paying for. As leaders of one of many clubs working to better South High, Gearhart and Bael-Cyr hope that administrators can try to "make their own initiatives to make South more sustainable... like fixing the recycling situation."

As students, while we should be supported by administrators, we also have power over our own school environment and we can start making a difference at any point. Every time you sort your waste correctly at school, shop at the Green Tigers thrift store, pick up the trash—even if it isn't your own—from the practice field, and use the water bottle fillers with a reusable water bottle, you are making the choice to be better to the environment. Make those choices, because it starts with us.



The unsorted waste in the trash, recycling, and compost bins visually display the neglect of sustainable initiatives at South. As students, we have power over our own school environment and the ability to make it more environmentally friendly. Photo: Adyra Fine

Loving May Day—a new era arises for Powderhorn’s beloved counterculture cafe

Oliver Stricherz
Staff Writer

When given the opportunity this previous fall, workers at the fan-favorite South Minneapolis May Day Cafe took the initiative to purchase the cafe from longtime owner Andy Lunning and operate the space as a worker cooperative. The decision has been met with an outpour of community love, which can be seen greatly in the long list of people who have chipped in to support the cafe’s donation goal of \$250,000. The donation page has been up since this August and is thus far 28% fulfilled. But no decisions come without change, which of course will raise questions. To answer these questions and celebrate the dawn of this new era for May Day, the workers and community members are throwing a block party and parade, in true Powderhorn fashion. The event will go from 1-4 pm on Saturday, October 26th at the lawn of 35th and Elliot Ave and feature live music, community art, and the opportunity for any and all to learn more about May Day’s future. It’s completely free, and welcome to anyone. But to understand this all, why May Day matters, why Powderhorn matters, and most importantly why worker cooperatives matter, we must dig deeper.

May Day Cafe and the Powderhorn Neighborhood rest upon the pillars of community. Community is what makes the world go round, it’s the gasoline in the engine of the universe. We are on this earth to exist with what surrounds us. The plants, the people, the harmony of life. We are here to share, here to trust one another, here to build a sense of love with the things we call our neighbors. These are the same values that a cooperative is built on—trust, respect, care, and love. These are also the values held in the hearts of many across Minneapolis.

The news that May Day would be bought by its workers and operated as a worker co-op likely didn’t surprise many. For years, Minnesota has had a long-winded relationship with both labor and cooperatives. Cooperatives began in Minnesota long ago, although they differed greatly from the co-ops we think of today. Labor Historian Peter Rachleff stated that co-ops began much more tied to the labor movement; skilled machinists and workers in the flour industry were some of the first to cooperate in Minnesota. But as time moved on and the dog-eat-dog greed of capitalism grew, the values of cooperatives were lost. However, many years later, the youth-driven pushback against the Vietnam War would allow these values to resurface. Minneapolis was embracing change in the front of equality, and there was a rising “willingness to experiment with new ways or different ways of organizing life”, said Rachleff. In all this change, the type of co-op Minnesota knows well—the consumer cooperative—became popular. As the food we choose became more and more of a political decision, whether it be due to the meat industry’s contribution to climate change or the DDT and pesticides in produce, food co-ops sprouted up in Minneapolis, including the Powderhorn Food Co-op, which formerly occupied the space we now know as May Day. Longtime Southsider and South art teacher Corbin Doty

fondly remembers playing with toys in the play area of the co-op while his parents would volunteer so he could eat healthy food. When he visits May Day now, he can still smell what used to be there, transporting him back to his childhood.

Operating as a worker co-op means May Day workers will be able to own the means of their production, therefore creating less concern regarding profits. The worker-owners will be able to focus more on catering a space for people to gather and unwind. Straying away from traditional management styles that often come with toxic power dynamics, worker co-ops give all workers an equal voice; they are all owners. This greatly differs from that of the consumer co-op, which have seen scrutiny for not committing to co-op values and treating workers unfairly. This shows in the fact that many workers at co-ops around the Twin Cities are unionizing, as recently as last month with the employees at St. Paul’s Mississippi Market. But in worker cooperatives, this shouldn’t be the problem. The first and most important concerns in a worker co-op are that of the worker-owners, who then will make decisions to benefit both the workers and the consumers. Being able to change fluidly and sustainably as a business means that May Day is much more flexible, and can therefore easily shift to manage any problems that may arise.

However, all the familiarity in the world surrounding co-ops couldn’t curb the question of change. To those afraid of their adored May Day changing forever, Mira Klein, worker-owner and leading voice in this new initiative, provided a sense of clarity and relief. “I think people are really attached to the way things are; I think that’s really reasonable. People feel a lot of attachment to their rhythms and routines and connections and their own histories and stories connected to this place. I think that’s what makes it so strong and also what makes the change so scary.” She further explained, “Of course there will be some changes because we can’t do things the same way, but I think we’ve been really clear the whole time that what’s important is to keep the vibe and the core and the essence.” She added, “And that’s what I also love about this place, so that’s not going anywhere. It’s being created by the people who are making it and the people who work here, and that’s really important.”

Nestled near the intersection of 35th Street and Bloomington Avenue, May Day and the surrounding Powderhorn neighborhood have for many years been a place where people can feel welcome. A cafe should be a space for that, right? The best cafes aren’t just a place to get your coffee, they hold a complex hub of communication. There’s a network of orders, conversation, and artistry, all sprouted from the passions of the people who occupy the space. When talking to South staff member and May Day fan Bri Salhus, she spoke on this concept. “There’s so much that happens in a coffee shop. People get broken up with, people get jobs. So many different things that happen in that space and so many people move through it; it’s really nice to have a place in the neighborhood where everybody who looks like anybody feels



The outside of the May Day Cafe. Photo: Oliver Stricherz welcomed.”

May Day provides a warm and cozy space for anyone to gather and enjoy delicious and sustainably sourced fare. Because of its proximity to South, you’ll most likely see a South student or Staff member there, catching up on work or chatting with a buddy. Zora Bael-Cyr, a South senior and lifelong May Day fan talks of her love for the cafe. “I’ve been going to May Day for as long as I can remember. I used to go every Sunday with my family. I have grown up there, and it feels like an integral part of the Powderhorn community. I love seeing the new art come in every few months, and have grown relationships with many of the baristas over the years.”

When May Day started their fundraising campaign for \$250,000 in August, people showed support quickly. Klein explained this donation goal. “We needed to raise more money to complete the purchase of the cafe and the building; it’s a pretty big purchase.” Klein said that the rest revolves around working capital: money to pay workers, buy ingredients, pay bills, along with other expenses. Klein hopes that if possible, May Day will be able to start paying down their mortgage, which means that May Day “can focus on the important things: making affordable delicious food, providing a community gathering spot, investing in the cafe as owners, and making a better place for people to come, to sustain it. So the more we can pay down our mortgage, the easier that will be.”

When thinking about these two histories and their values, the success that cooperatives have garnered over time in Minneapolis, and the togetherness in Powderhorn, it almost seems like May Day’s future is a recipe for success. Of course, May Day won’t find their footing perfectly from day one. But fear not, because history has shown that people are here for May Day, they care about May Day, and they are willing to help. May Day’s neighbors, a diverse group of working-class people tethered together by this beautiful concept of true community, know that this cafe survives on reciprocity. To have this haven, the Powderhorn neighborhood had to support May Day, and with a little push, it became what we know today. So now, this story begins again, and although it is unsure if the ending will be the same, it is becoming clear already that Powderhorn is ready to give May Day that beginning push once more.

How decorations in classrooms benefit students

Everly Comeaux
Staff Writer

Decorations inside classrooms can make a huge difference in how students perceive a class; being able to focus more on work and less on the room helps productivity. Having a classroom for students to feel represented and comfortable makes the class more enjoyable.

From another standpoint, too many decorations in classrooms can over-stimulate and distract students, keeping them from focusing on lessons and class work. Finding the right balance between a welcoming and well-decorated classroom is challenging, rather than an overly decorated one.

A study in 2014 showed that kindergarten classrooms performed better on tasks than in a classroom with just bare walls. In this study, they said it’s what you decorate your classroom with, not how you do it. We tend to see more mindful decorations in South, because of the content we are learning and how we are learning it. 10th-grade students George Lange and Edie Egerdahl agreed that a few fun posters, lamps, and student artwork were all in their ideal classrooms. “I enjoy having student art up, and bright posters,” Egerdahl said.

Lange said classroom decorations make them feel more productive, making it easier to work. “I think it relieves some of my stress. When I’m in a relaxed environment, I’m more relaxed.” Students can focus more on their work rather than thinking about how uncomfortable they are and how much they don’t want to be there.

Egerdahl said, “I really do appreciate when teachers put thought into their classrooms.” Egerdahl said plants and posters help a classroom, along with a light source other than the bright lights. “Fairy lights or lamps are so much better than the bright ones.”

U.S. History teacher Abby Gaul said something similar. “Sometimes school can feel very cold, and not welcoming. I try to counter that. If students have their basic needs met, then more learning can happen.” Gaul said she would describe her room as a welcoming and safe space for students. “It’s not my classroom, it’s our classroom,” she said. Having an inclusive environment for students to work in can make students feel like they are welcomed and celebrated in that space.

Amy Shafer-Mayhew, South’s Education Pathway teacher, said, “I try to make my room feel less like a classroom and more like a local cafe or a well-designed office.” Shafer-Mayhew says the budget can affect how a



Ms. Gaul’s room shows the importance of classroom decorations. Students describe her classroom as welcoming and a safe space to work and feel seen, helping students focus. Photo: Everly Comeaux

classroom looks and feels. She tries to take decorations from her house that she feels don’t fit quite right to use in her space. Gaul agrees with her, “Pretty much everything that you see in here that’s sort of special, it’s stuff that I bought with my own money.” Gaul said that after 12 years of teaching at South, she’s collected things like books, posters, flags, lamps, and more. Teacher’s dedication to a classroom shows that it’s more than just desks and chairs, it’s a learning environment for students to feel successful.

Homecoming Dance 2024: Bop or flop?

Annika Lara Walen
Staff Writer

On the evening of September 21st, South held the annual homecoming dance in the gym. Every year, homecoming is a highly anticipated event, bringing tiger spirit into the new school year. This year was no different, with festivities of spirit week, the pep fest, the homecoming football game and the homecoming dance. As always, student council worked very hard to bring these events to life. The theme for this year's dance was "Under the Sea," and the decorations portrayed this theme well; with a large jellyfish, clam, and other fish hanging around the gym made by student council members. Students Macy Gearhart and Frances Pickar led the creation of the decorations.

Many enjoyed the dance, such as freshman Danny Vanpelt who stated, "It was fun to dance and hang out with my friends." However, there were some moments of confusion that made an impression on the dance's general atmosphere. Some of this stems from miscommunication between admin and student council. Immediately coming to the dance, students saw a line outside of the school of people waiting to get in. This raised questions among students regarding if the multi-step process of checking in to the dance was even necessary. In order to enter the dance, you needed a permission slip and your student ID. Once you got to the front of the line, you were asked for these two items, and once looked over, you were guided into the school entrance where another set of admin looked through these same items. This process went fairly quickly if you were turning your permission slip in at the dance. However, for the people who had turned in their permission slips in advance, they had to wait as admin searched for their names on a long list of students and in some cases, their names were not found. There seemed to be a disconnect between students turning in their permission slips and then being added to the list because this was not an uncommon story. And while those people were all eventually let into the dance, it held up the line for others and also let down some excitement for the dance, as they had to wait to find out if they were allowed in.

Another miscommunication also involved permission slips. Student council vice president Vivan Jones remarked that admin gave student council the permission slips to hand out and said they could be turned in at the dance and gave no further instruction. However, when students signed permission slips to bring guests into the dance, they were denied at the door, with admin claiming permission slips for guests had to be turned in beforehand. This caused uncertainty throughout the students and guests as they were told to wait to the side for someone to talk to them, but it seemed no one was coming. Jones commented, "It ended up being that Shondrelle Burkhalter had to personally approve people to come in, which was just time consuming because there's only one of her and there's a lot of people that need to get in." Jones notes that for the fu-



This year's homecoming dance, held in the gym, was decorated with a large jellyfish and other sea creatures to portray the theme of "Under the Sea." Macy Gearhart led the creation of many of these decorations, working hard with Student Council to create a good environment for the dance. Photo courtesy of: Frances Pickar

ture, she hopes that communication between admin and student council can improve to minimize bumps in planning events like this. These factors led to some negative feelings about the dance, but in all was not the deciding factor on the dance's success.

One positive about the dance this year was the cost: completely free! This created an incentive to come to the dance, as there was no big commitment to make by coming. Student council events chair Frances Pickar noted the reason behind the decision to make the dance free. "We wanted as many people to be able to come as possible." Adding on to Pickar's comment, Jones stated, "There's not really a point [in the dance costing money], we didn't put a crazy amount of money into it, so we don't have all that much to make back from it."

As well as the cost, there was high praise for the decorations at the dance with junior Eleri Peterson highlighting it as one of her favorite things about the dance. Pickar also mentioned it being a part of the dance she was proud of. "We put a lot of effort into those decorations and we genuinely had the best intentions in mind and tried our hardest."

South's new pass rules and the effect they have on using the bathroom

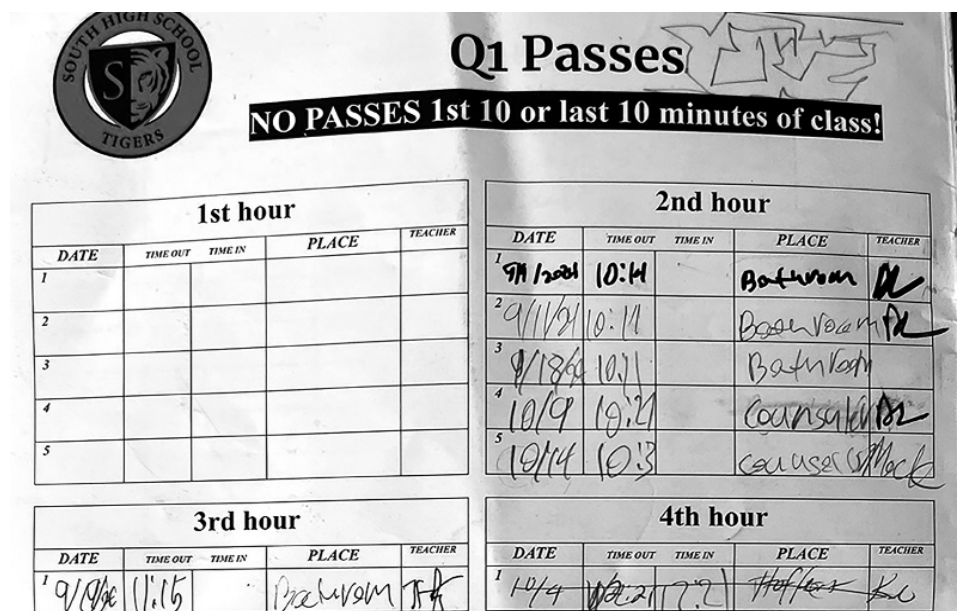
Abraham Tekele
Staff Writer

Five passes per quarter for each class, that's how many times you are allowed to leave the classroom to either go to a different class, the library, or even the bathroom. The five pass rule confines students from frequently leaving the classroom.

This new rule was introduced at the beginning of the school year. Along with other new school wide rules such as no phones allowed in the classroom. The pass rule located on students' planners indicates, "All students will get 5 passes for each classroom per quarter. There are additional passes for the office, nurse's office, etc. You cannot leave class without a pass." This is the rule that all students must follow and teachers must enforce.

The 5 pass rule was implemented to keep students in class, and to get them to a point where they prioritize staying in class. According to dean Alex Endeshaw he believes it creates the thought for students that, "this is what's most important and if I have to be outside of class I have to make sure I actually have to get out of class."

The new pass rule has had quite an impact on some students. Students have stated that they feel the new pass rules are too extreme and that 5 passes per quarter is not enough. According to Bladder and Bowel, "the normal number of times to urinate per day is between 6 - 7 in a 24 hour period." "And when you take into account that in a quarter there are 64 days, 5 passes per quarter for each class is unrealistic. That is why staff recommend students to go to the restroom during their passing hours, but that has its own issues as well. Generally bathrooms have space for 2-5 people for use, but during passing hours the bathroom is beyond capacity. Student Mubashir Muhammad states that, "During passing hour, I can't even go into the bathroom. There's too many guys in there, at least 20 of them just standing there. It's basically impossible to go during passing



These are the 5 passes per quarter given to students. As you can see this student has already finished some of their passes in certain class hours and the quarter has not ended. Photo: Abraham Tekele

hour." Other students share the same feeling towards the restrooms, indicating that going during their passing hour doesn't always work.

Leaving to use the restroom with your pass can also be a hassle. The rules for the bathroom are that they are open only during passing hours, and when class starts they are locked. So when students need to go to the bathroom during class time they are forced to look for a dean to open the bathroom doors, which sometimes can take a while resulting in students missing out on their lessons.



A student attempting to open a locked bathroom door on the third floor. Photo: Alice Conry

Crossword answers (p. 10)

- Across:
- 1: Kloubuchar
 - 3: Jellyfish
 - 4: MayDay
 - 8: Republican
 - 9: TNT
 - 10: Stress
- Down:
- 2: Roosevelt
 - 4: Murals
 - 5: Blue
 - 6: Brat
 - 7: Five

Trump What does that lo

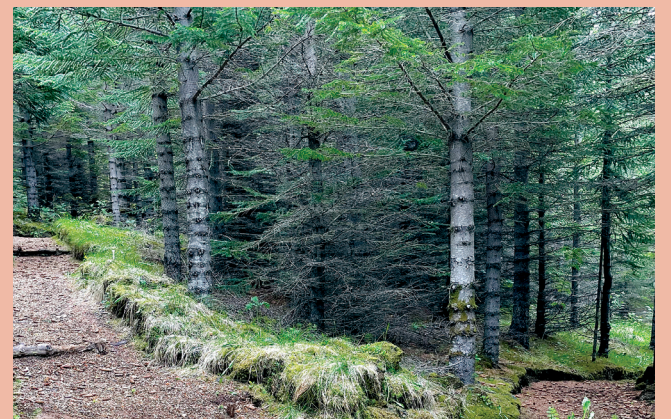
South students have some concerns about Trump's second term:

"Because the Supreme court, House and Senate are all republican [majority] at this point, I feel like the interests of marginalized communities, and the political opinions of Minneapolis will not be taken into account." - Peter



"I have a lot off family who wanted to come to the US, but I think it's going to be a lot harder with what he's going to put in place with the borders." - Angel

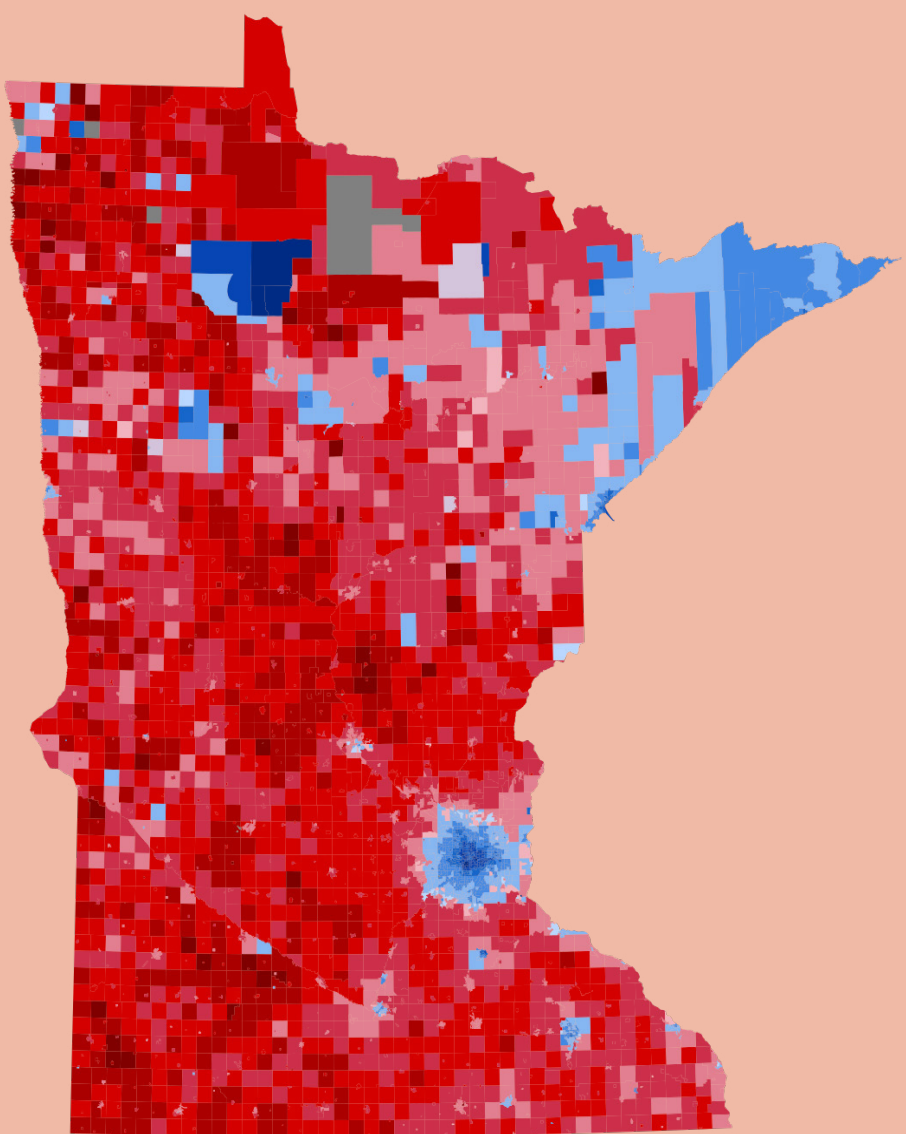
"I'm really scared for our environment, because I dont think that will be [Trump's] first priority. Also reproductive rights, I think that'll be hard." - Audrey



"I definetly think Trump's presidency is going to impact a lot of people over the years... I dont think that the economy is going to be fixed, if anything, I worry it might deteriorate even more." - Jaz

o won. ook like at South?

Whats happening in Minnesota?



- Local politics matter just as much as national politics. State and city policy can and do have a great impact on your daily life, oftentimes more than national politics will.
- Minnesota elected Kamala Harris, providing her 10 electoral votes.
- Amy Klobuchar won re-election for her 4th term as MN state senator
- Ilhan Omar won re-election for Minnesota's 5th congressional district, which includes Minneapolis and surrounding areas.
- Around 76% of eligible voters in Minnesota voted in the 2024 election.
- Minneapolis voted in favor of a tech levy for Minneapolis Public schools, which will give the district a \$20 million surplus of funding dedicated to technology. MPS said, "This would effectively minimize the amount of reductions needed by \$20 million." With budget cuts hitting so close to home at South, this is definitely a change we at The Southerner will be keeping our attention on.

What are Trump's plans for education?

Trump has said that he will remove the department of education. The Department of Education provides financial aid, research, and discrimination prevention. One consequence of removing The Department of Education is the removal of federal student aid, something which would impact students applying to and attending college all over the nation, including at South.

He has also discouraged schools teaching critical race theory and gender and sexuality studies. In the 2024 GOP platform education plan, there is a point that reads, "6. Knowledge and Skills, Not CRT and Gender Indoctrination. Republicans will ensure children are taught fundamentals like Reading, History, Science, and Math, not Leftwing propaganda. We will defund schools that engage in inappropriate political indoctrination of our children using Federal Taxpayer Dollars."

This plan would censor the topics on the minds of young people, and cause repercussions for educators teaching race or gender theory in their classroom. As a newspaper committed to fair and free information, this is deeply concerning to us.

The upcoming CLUE performance highlights the importance of the South Theater

Tahj Flores
Staff Writer

A new performance is being put on at South through the South High theater program. The performance is the comedic murder mystery CLUE. South can expect to see this performance on December 12th, 13th, and 14th all at 7pm, an additional school performance in the 5th and 6th hour of school on the 12th. CLUE is a show about 6 guests at an evening gathering, who all have a massive secret that they are hiding from the others, with each character leaving an impact on the outcome of the play itself. The directors, Bri Salhus and Miller Sterling, are anxious to continue the rehearsal period. Salhus showing excitement for “The experiences and memories that are being made.”

CLUE is an exciting, fun show that is focused on a lot of practical humor, as well as funny dialogue interactions between the main 6 guests. CLUE is about a dinner party where each guest has a secret motive that creates conflict between the guests. Henry Grogan, a Senior who is playing Professor Plum in the performance, says “It’s a very fast pace, action filled play with lots of body comedy and stand up [humor].”

CLUE was decided as the play for this winter according to Salhus “Because the kids wanted to do it, it’s a fun show, and because much like [last year’s production of] Foot-loose you can put [any kind of person] in a role.” This freedom has also allowed everyone who was at rehearsal to get a role in the CLUE performance, with 23 actors and around 40 students total a part of the entire production when including everyone involved in tech along with the actors.

With CLUE recently starting its production, there are many challenges that the students and directors have to overcome while developing their own spin on CLUE. The directors are currently developing how they want to implement the existing characters into the students, assuring that while the characters are still the same at their core, student’s individualism is still shown when performing. There are also many moving parts as there are multiple rooms with different set pieces that are constantly changing.

The students involved with the play are showing excitement around many different aspects surrounding the production and the performance. Emma Greene, a freshman understudy and part of tech, said “I’m excited for acting, if I get [the chance] to act in it [and] learning more about tech.” Grogan also mentioned his excitement for the choreography in the performance, saying “It’s a very fast paced, body comedy play... there’s a lot of moving props and sets... [Its] Like a well oiled machine, or a clock with all the cogs working together.”

Many students who have joined the performance share a similar reason behind why they choose to pursue the South High Theater: a general love for theater as a whole. Many students have been a part of previous performances, at South, another school, or even performance companies outside of school. Many students agree that they would likely be there regardless of what the performance is, because of their passion for theater. Greene highlights another reason why students join theater, saying “It’s a new way to express yourself and find what interests you and meet new people.”

The individual experience that is given in the theater program allows for great personal development in both skills inside theater and out. Duncan Headley is a senior



CLUE is a comedic murder mystery play that takes place inside of a mansion. It is being performed December 12, 13, and 14 2024. This performance and theater is important to the South community as a whole, with the amount of effort and passion behind the performance being something that all students should see. Photo courtesy of: Bri Salhus

who is heavily involved in the lighting design for South performances. Headley has been involved with the theater program at South since his first introduction to the program during his freshman year when he helped make the set for *Once On This Island*. Since then, he has greatly improved his work in tech, as well as learned how to become a supportive member of the tech crew that people can rely on.

There is a massive lack of recognition for the students involved in tech, which is a shared sentiment across the entire theater program at South. Most if not all of the students in the theater program at South contribute to some part of tech, with a large number of students only working on tech for CLUE and past performances. Headley feels as though tech is “Where everything else comes into play, letting [the audience] see [the performance], letting [the audience] hear [the performance].” Tech is the reason actors are able to perform. The tech crew creates immersion with the audience, manages set and costume design, syncs the lights, and runs all of the behind the scenes during a performance.

The upcoming performance of CLUE highlights the amount of passion and effort within the theater program at South. The South High Theater is a crucial part of the community of the school. The people involved with the performances at South, often participate for multiple years, because the theater program at South means so much to them. People showing up to these performances this December greatly benefits the quality of future productions, as well as allowing for everyone who is putting in the months of effort to get the appreciation that they deserve.

Charli XCX’s brat is an exceptional exploration in honesty

Alice Conry
Editor-in-Chief

Charli XCX’s (also known as Charlotte Aitchison) 6th studio album *brat* shook the music world with its ultra-distinct chartreuse cover, and incredibly recognizable sound when it was released in early June. From the first play, XCX fans and unsuspecting listeners alike realized that this record was doing something special, and would soon become the backbeat for summer car rides with bumping speakers, sweaty nights in crowded mosh pits, and intimate bedroom dance parties.

From start to finish, listeners are transported through not only an excellent 40-minute listen, but a neon green fever dream that gives a winding, vivid, sometimes exposing look into XCX’s mind and experiences. Tracks range from tantalizing beats that leave a room wanting more, to visceral ballads that set an ambivalent ambiance, much akin to real life.

But what actually makes *brat* so poignant? It’s raw, unashamed, and most importantly, honest.

In a world of curating, aestheticizing, and microtrends, it can be hard to find media that feels like it can conceptualize culture in a fully realized way, while also forgetting itself. *brat* gets it. *brat* is fully tuned into the pop world, as well as what it means to create without having all the answers. XCX feels the pressure of the world, just like any listener does. The current conflicts raging her life seep into her record, somehow effortlessly mixing with her club sound to make a relatable, energizing listen.

The best representation of this is in XCX’s first track, “360”. An electronic, bouncy, dance-inducing song that starts the listening experience off strong. It also has openly emotional lyrics regarding her time in the music industry. Both of these factors give listeners a hint about the record’s intentions. In the song, XCX shares the line, “If you love it, if you hate it, I don’t fucking care what you think.” Which acts as almost a warning to listeners; This isn’t about good or bad, it’s just *brat*.

Another track, “I think about it all the time,” is sandwiched between two hard-hitting tracks, and acts as a thoughtful interlude. It’s mainly focused on XCX’s mental battle with deciding whether or not she wants to have children, an unexpected turn that ends up being a highlight of the album. In the song she shares the lyric, “... And a baby might be mine, cause maybe one day I might, if I don’t run out of time, would it give my life a new purpose? I think about it all the time.”



“brat summer” is over, now we’re wondering, what actually made *brat* so loveable? Photo courtesy of: Atlantic Records

brat is a conversation with culture, not a submission to it. The pop world gets to have a *brat* summer, political candidates like Kamala Harris get to be ‘bratified’ and social media can keep “bumping that.” Even so, XCX’s album is not pandering to a commodifiable sound. *brat* is messy and singular, using creative sounds to express a thoughtful look into XCX’s view of the world.

Although *brat* summer is over, its ghost will live on through smudged eyeliner, club bathroom mirrors, and an unforgettable 15-song catalog.

A casual thrill-seeker's visit to the Dead End Hayride

Griffin Larson
Features, A&E, and Visuals Editor

The Dead End Hayride has long been a popular attraction among many Minneapolis thrill-seekers during the spooky season. "Thrill-seeking," however, is not generally a group I would identify with, so when my co-editors initially pitched the idea of an expedition to the Dead End Hayride, I was skeptical. But after some contemplation, I reluctantly agreed to make the 45-minute trek up to Wyoming, Minnesota, unsure of what to expect.

After quickly making our way through the entrance and running past a handful of food trucks and shops, we secured our spot in line. Our tickets were for 9 pm, but the time slots are pretty flexible, so you don't have to worry about being early or late, within reason. We opted for the fast pass tickets, which were a decent addition to the cost but a welcomed benefit for a busy Friday night. With the fast pass, we were in line for no more than 10-15 minutes, but visitors were already put on their toes with actors walking around the line and interacting with guests.

After being loaded onto the hayride and listening to a short safety spiel, we were off into the dark. At this point, I was incredibly nervous. I had never been to a haunted house or anything similar before, and I had no idea what I was in store for.

Being called the Dead End Hayride, the first part of the attraction is... a hayride. We rode down a trail and through a few different barns, each with its own flavor of scare, making a couple of stops for different storylines, such as a woman dealing with her unfaithful husband and a shotgun-firing cowboy laying down the law. Many times, actors even jumped onto the moving hayride, grabbing attendees, talking to them, taking a (safely sheathed, but definitely real) chainsaw to them, and more. While it was gruesome and intense at times, it wasn't anything too over-the-top that a more casual hayride-goer like me couldn't handle.

While sitting down on the hayride, you still have a sense of protection and camaraderie with the group around you. It's also easy to keep the mood lighthearted among all the scares, with the whole hayride laughing together at everyone's reactions and one-liners. Once we got to the end of the hayride, however, we didn't have that same protection; We were thrown straight into the haunted house and it became up close and personal. After climbing down the steps, we rushed to get to the front of the line, where we waited no more than a couple of minutes. I definitely appreciated being in a group that had been on the hayride before in moments like this, otherwise, I wouldn't have known to rush to get ahead of the crowd to get in line.

We were quickly immersed in a Halloween-themed prison, funneled in by prison



The Dead End Hayride in Wyoming, MN is a staple attraction for many during the Halloween season. Photo: Griffin Larson

guards and taken through various rooms, all featuring their own twist to keep things unexpected. The prison was just the beginning, though, and we made our way through the twists and turns of many different themed buildings. There are many actors waiting around corners and behind curtains leaving you constantly on edge, wondering who (or what) might grab you from behind or jump out at you. There are also plenty of flashing lights, fog machines, loud noises, pyrotechnics, and moving parts that all enhance the experience and bring plenty of scares.

Because I had no idea what to expect going into the Dead End Hayride, I wasn't sure how much I would enjoy it. But, after the 2-hour-long journey, I walked out pleasantly surprised; I really enjoyed the thrill of it all. Walking out the final door, I was disappointed to be leaving. With the fast pass the day after Halloween, we each spent about \$50 all-in, excluding food. While the cost can feel like a big hit to your checking account, especially for minimum wage-making high school students like ourselves, the amount of effort put into the Dead End Hayride is apparent and very impressive. We felt like we got our money's worth and were impressed with how much thought, skill, and effort was put into creating the experience.

CHROMAKOPIA is a gorgeous, wowing album that encapsulates the time we live in

Arabella Fracisco
Staff Writer

Tyler, The Creator's (also known as Tyler Gregory Okonma) newest album CHROMAKOPIA, composed of 14 tracks dropped October 28th, 2024. It was an instant hit, scoring Okonma his third No. 1 album on Billboard 200 as of November 9th. CHROMAKOPIA plays with vibrant and creative sounds creating a thought provoking, engaging listening experience, while also featuring many beloved artists such as Sexyy Red, Daniel Caesar, GloRilla, Lil Wayne, and more. Within these 14 tracks Okonma dives into themes like self discovery, identity, the fear of getting older, anxieties of celebrity culture, romantic relationships, an absent father, and more while his mom, Bonita Smith is featured at the beginning of a few songs giving words of advice and affirmation.

St. Chroma is the first track on the album featuring gorgeous vocals by Daniel Caesar. This song was teased on October 16th and had everyone hooked. It was the world's first taste of the album and introduces the character of St. Chroma to the listeners. It didn't disappoint, being a great first introduction to how powerful the album is.

Noid is the third track on the album. The song touches on Okonma's consuming paranoia as a figure in the public eye, constantly feeling chased and watched. "Someone's keepin' watch I feel them on my shoulder." He sets a scene where he drives away from everyone peering into his life, imagining that a car is following him with a gun, and threatening him in his own home.

The fifth track on the album, Hey Jane, unpacks the shocks of an unplanned pregnancy within a no-strings-attached relationship. The song is told from both the perspective of Okonma and his partner in the format of a letter. The two discuss their mixed feelings with Okonma struggling with the daunting responsibility of raising a child, while she's conflicted over possibly having to raise the child alone. The name Hey Jane also refers to an abortion clinic based in New York by the same name, which you can use to infer the outcome of the discussion between the couple.

I Killed You, the sixth track on the album, focused on the complex relationship that black people have with their hair. Society often frowns upon natural styles leading

many to "kill" their hair by cutting or straightening it. "But I guess the coils and kinks became an issue,therefore bitch I killed you with Jerrie's and Mimis, I burnt you, I cut you, I filled you up with chemies." The song captures the struggle between self identity and societal expectations, which can often erase the things that make us who we are.

Sticky, the eighth track that features GloRilla, Sexyy Red, and Lil Wayne, is one of the more fun, and upbeat songs on the album. Okonma and his collaborators rap about embracing their success and individuality. The artists bring bold, humorous, and clever lines about relationships, life, and fame.

Take Your Mask Off is the ninth track on the album featuring Daniel Caesar and LaToiya Williams. This song follows the theme of growing up in a city around a diverse group of people from different cultures and origins. Okonma sings about living in the shadow of these people and having to wear a "mask" to fit in. The "mask" being a made up persona put on for the validation of others. The lines "I hope you find yourself, and I hope you take your mask off," are sung not only for himself but for everyone listening.

The twelfth track on the album, Like Him, featuring Lola Young, beautifully tells the story of the absence of a father. At the beginning Okonma's mom is telling Okonma how similar he is to his father. "She said that I make expressions like him, my legs to my shoulders and my chin like him, my waist and my posture like him." In this song Okonma sings about how he is chasing a "ghost," the ghost being the father he doesn't know. He's tackling his grief and confusion from never knowing his father, and wishing his father was there to watch him grow up, but also not wanting to judge his mother for it. "You gave me love, and affection, attention, protection, how could I ever miss something that I've never had? I would never judge you, cause everything worked out without him."

On track thirteen, Balloon, featuring DoeChii, Okonma sings about his beliefs, success and ambitions to a fun, playful beat. "Why I work so hard? My soul profit" He reflects on his hard work and determination whilst being in the music industry and his dislikes for small talk and superficiality. "Why I hate small talk? I like topics" Another great addition to CHROMAKOPIA adding another



"I hope you find yourself, and I hope you take your mask off." Photo courtesy of: Columbia Records

layer of intimate reflection to the album.

CHROMAKOPIA gives listeners a expansive, captivating look into the world of not only Tyler, The Creator, but Tyler Okonma as well. The album has reached beyond Okonma's typical fans, and into the headphones and car speakers of music listeners everywhere; listening, analyzing and hitting replay.



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Athlete of the month of October 2024: Liam Johnson

Alex Karlen
Staff writer

The Southerner's pick for the September-October 2024 Athlete of the Month is Liam Johnson, the goalkeeper and senior captain for the South Men's Soccer team and the kicker for the South Men's Football team, having outstanding seasons in both sports.

Up until this year, Johnson had only played soccer, however this season he joined the football team as well. "One day at soccer practice, the football coach came up to me and said they needed a kicker, so I said why not," Johnson said.

The soccer season did not go as well as the team had hoped, with a record of 1-10-4. Even though the record was unfortunate, Johnson's goalkeeping was a bright spot, making over 131 saves and being selected to the All City team, playing in the 'Stars of the Cities' Minneapolis vs St Paul all star game. The soccer season ended after a heartbreaking loss to Edison high school in the section 2A quarterfinal, losing in a penalty shootout after a 1-1 draw. When asked about the results Johnson said, "I don't think [the season reflects] the effort and skill on the team and I think it's unfortunate, but it is what it is."

On the football field, Johnson is breaking records from between the hash marks, kicking a 51 yard field goal, the longest field goal kicked in Minneapolis Public School history, and the 5th longest in Minnesota high school football history. The football team has also had an unfortunate performance this season, finishing 1-7 and losing their section playoff game to Roosevelt 21-14.

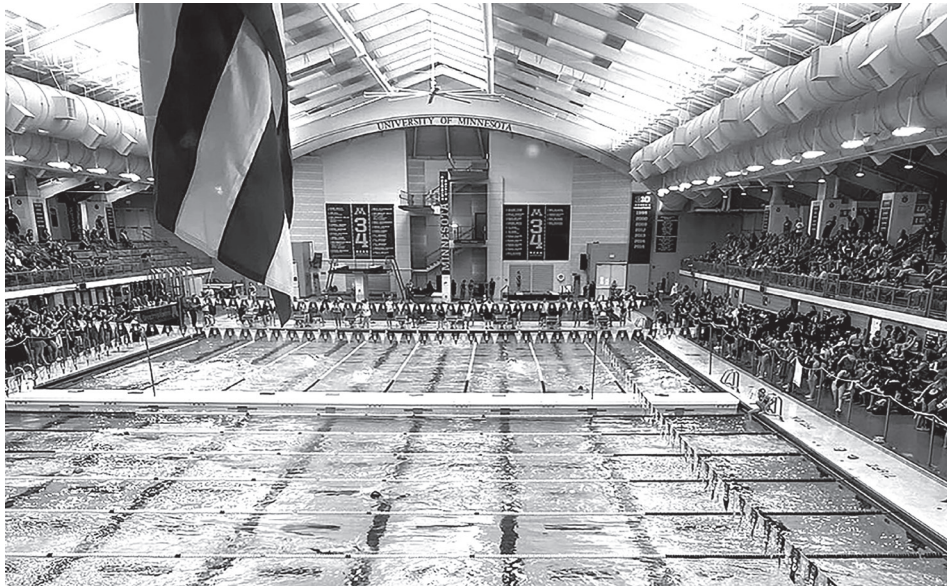
When asked what his favorite part of playing for South, he said "It's a good group of people, and we have fun at practices, but we also know how to take it seriously." As for next year, his plans are to stay active after high school. "I'm planning on playing soccer in college, but football is also an option." Johnson says.



Liam Johnson lining up to kick for the South High football team. He has made quite a stir with an impressive first season. Photo courtesy of: Avery Larson

Making waves: TNT swimmers power through the season

Emery Taylor
Staff writer



TNT swimmers excited to showcase their talents in the pool at the annual Maroon & Gold meet. Photo courtesy of: Lennon Wendelberger

In an impressive display of skill and teamwork, the TNT girls swimming team recently competed at the annual Maroon and Gold swim meet held at Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center. Every year, TNT hosts this meet for the girls season, for the boys season. It's a fun tradition that gives TNT the privilege of inviting teams from across the state to compete, and it has been going on for years.

TNT went through lots of preparation hosting this meet. TNT swimmer Lennon Wendelberger talks about what went on behind the scenes. "I did a lot of, like, working with people" "a lot of behind the scenes organization with volunteers and making sure we had food we needed". With teams from across the state participating, the meet showcased the skills of swimmers from all around Minnesota. TNT entered the meet with high hopes, determined to improve upon their previous performances and make a splash in the standings.

TNT swimmer Nina Randall praised the team for their high enthusiasm and energy during the meet. "I feel like there was a lot of spirit in the air," said Randall. "And it went well, I think, for everyone." The encouragement from both teammates and coaches contributed to a supportive environment, allowing each swimmer to perform at their best.

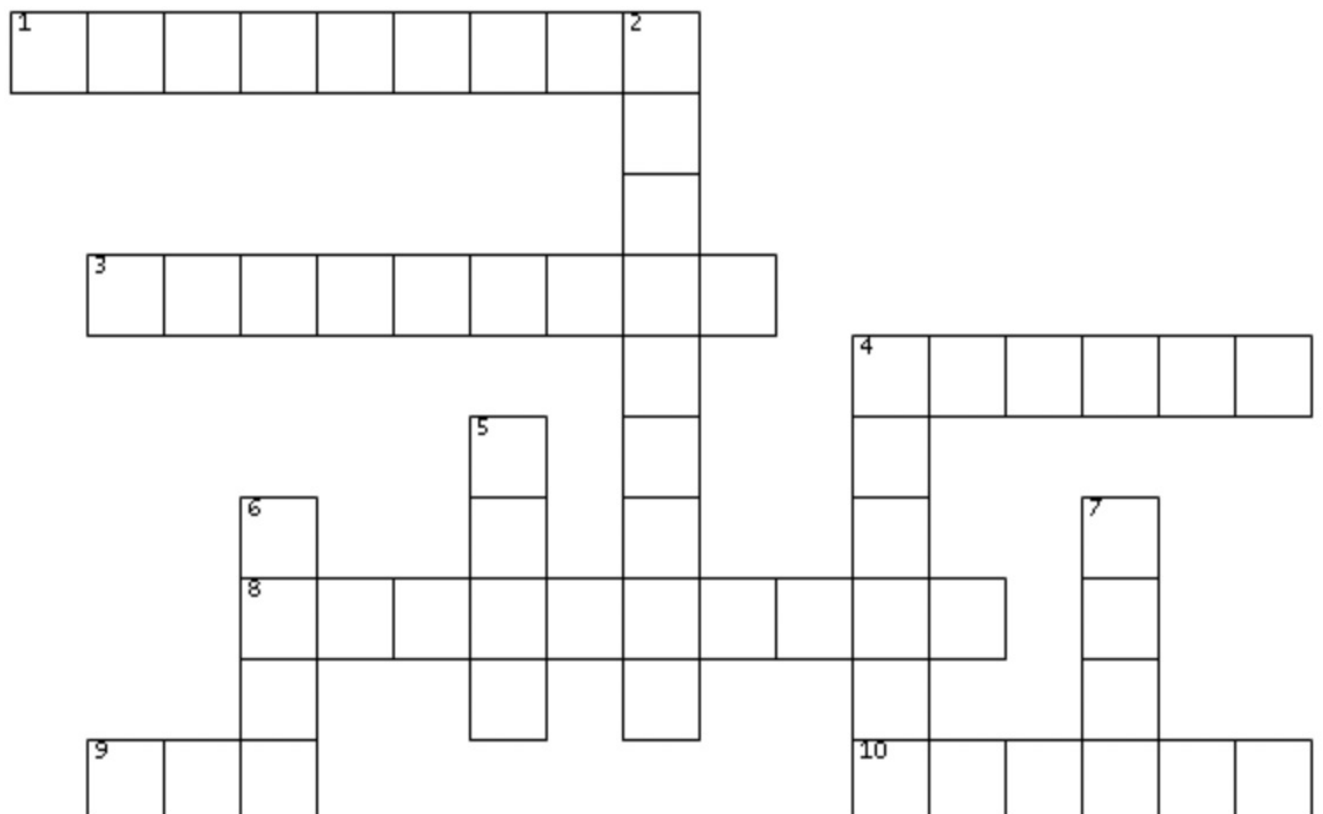
As the season progresses, the TNT girls swim team looks forward to upcoming events, including the sections meet. With their recent successes and strong team dynamics, they are sure to continue making waves in the league. The excitement surrounding the team is contagious, with fans eager to see what the rest of the season holds for these talented athletes.

Across

1. The last name of the senator re-elected in MN.
3. The animal decoration found at the homecoming dance.
4. A popular South Minneapolis institution which is now a co-op
8. The political party which the president elect belongs to.
9. The name of the South swimming team
10. One thing that classroom decorations relieve.

Down

2. The high school Ahmed Amin graduated from.
4. Student art turned white
5. The color of the recycling bins in the lunchroom
6. An album made popular this summer
7. The number of passes allowed in a given class per quarter



Volleyball



Zora Bael-Cyr
Varsity Captain

“The fall season went pretty good, we had fun. It’s going to be sad losing some senior players. I feel bitter-sweet about my final season cause I’ve spent a long time playing South volleyball.”

Men’s Soccer



Binyam Hedge
Varsity Captain

“At the start of the season, we didn’t glue together as much, but at the end we we’re really a team. Every practice we had fun, and made eachother laugh.”

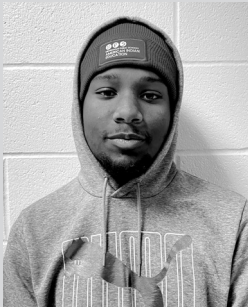
Women’s Soccer



Addie Lafave
Varsity Player

“Our program is really depleted based on redistricting. We had a low turnout of players, and lost a lot of senior players last year. The highlight of the season was our first game against Richfield.”

Football



Riley Archie
Linebacker

“The season was pretty rough, but we did our best and next year will be better. we’re all ready to get back out there again next season.”

Fall Sports Recap

Ultimate Frisbee



Iris Noren
Mixed Team Captain

“The season we ended up having a pretty strong mixed team. We had a few new people on the team, which was really fun, and we’re feeling really great.”

Women’s Tennis



Clara Nerbonne
Captain

“This was a season full of growth. Even though we didn’t have a lot of wins, we had a lot of wins in team work and positivity. We’re feeling sad cause it’s a lot of seniors last year playing, but we’re overall content with the season.”

Cross Country



Elle Merlin
Captain

“We had a really successful season, with a lot of people getting season bests. We were also able to send a girl to state for the first time since 2011, which was really cool. The team has shrunk since years past, but we’re still on the up, with really good vibes all around.”

Women’s Swimming



Lillian Washington
Varsity Swimmer

“We had a bit of a rough start to the season. We had a lot of new people, but we came together as a team and had a good sections meet. The team got really close this year and we’re feeling great.”

Fit Check!



Muniratu Shaibu

Muniratu is wearing a blue and gold abaya gifted to her by her mom. She explains that she doesn't favor wearing the color black, but opts for bright and vibrant colors instead.



Oliver Lindstrom

Ollie is wearing a Metallica t-shirt, Perfect Game shorts, snazzy white crocs and a guitar pick necklace to top it all off. He describes his style as casual and, "nothing too crazy."



Travon Doty

Travon is wearing a black Kid Cudi hoodie along with some ripped jeans and some Jordan 4s. He describes his style as fine and looking good.



Emma Murray

Emma is wearing a Ralph Lauren sweater along with birks and jeans that she sewed bows onto at the ankles. Emma's style varies a lot, but overall she likes fun colors and comfortable fits.



Margaret Fraedrich

Margaret is wearing a graphic tee with shorts over ripped leggings and some thrifted combat boots. Margaret doesn't have a style inspo, but opts to make it up in their head as they go.



Carma Lina

Carma is wearing some black cargo pants along with a cropped brown tee, an oversized brown zip up, and some Air Forces. Carma gets a lot of their outfit ideas and inspo from pinterst.