

The REDHAWK REVIEW



SFS Heads to the Capital

By Sawyer Duval

Nine students from Students for Sustainability (SFS) traveled to the Washington State Capitol Building in Olympia on Martin Luther King Day to talk about the Re-WRAP Act (HB 2049 / SB 6005). The Re-WRAP Act establishes a producer responsibility program that requires consumer product producers to fund statewide residential recycling services for packaging and paper products. Currently, eight states have

banned single-use plastic, including California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont. SFS is hoping Washington will be next! Throughout the day, students from SFS participated in a lobbying campaign with environmental groups from around the state. They also spoke with Senator Kevin Van De Wege and Representative Mike Chapman. They even got the chance to be in the Governor's Office! This is the second year that SFS has gone to Olympia to express concern about plastic in our state.

Vice-President of SFS, Dustin Hines, shared a touching story about how he was involved in a Recycling Audit last year and how all of the trash that he saw was contaminated. Sophomore Dustin Hines told Rep. Mike Chapman, "If there is too much contamination, the entire pile does not get recycled. It just goes straight to the landfill, even if it contains a large amount of recyclables. I saw so many random accessories like plastic bags, pipes, containers of packaged food, and even sinks! It seemed like people didn't really know how recycling

worked." This story that Dustin shared brought a lot of emotion, questions, and thoughts to Rep. Chapman and everyone he shared this story with.

The Re-WRAP Act is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology at 1:30 pm on January 24, 2024. Students in Students for Sustainability have been trying to reduce wasteful packaging, and they hope that the Re-WRAP Act will modernize recycling and help create a better future for Washington State.

New Pool

By Maggie Emery

Building a new pool, more specifically, funding the construction of this pool, has been hotly debated across the community throughout the past year, though it's a topic discussed numerous times in the past decade. Is a new pool really necessary? Is it worth the toll it will take on our community? These are questions echoing through town, voiced in board meetings, social media, yard signs, and newspapers.

Many agree that it's important to have a pool in our community. Port Townsend is surrounded by water on three sides. Local kids frequent the beaches in summer, running and splashing through the water. The schools take advantage of the nearby ocean with place-based learning: beach walk days, releasing salmon, Fort Worden field trips, and, most prominently, the 7th grade Maritime Field Trip. It's important for every single child in this community to learn to swim. This is part of the reason Salish Coast has resumed weekly swim lessons for kids in transitional kindergarten through third grade. With our aging community, a pool isn't just about teaching kids to swim. It's also a place for

people to do water walking and water aerobics, both exercises that can build muscle when other options aren't feasible. The pool is also a place to make friends, build community, and generally have fun. I've had such a fun time swimming on Saturday mornings now and then, trying to keep up with the speedy swimmers amongst us and watching as kids make friends playing "mermaids".

Our current pool was built as an outdoor pool in 1963, and a roof was put over it in 1967. The roof has been replaced multiple times since and will likely need to be replaced again in the near future, requiring significant funding from the community. It wouldn't need more funding than a new pool, but fixing the roof would just be a temporary patch, and the new pool discussion came up again in 5 to 7 years. The pool boiler often breaks too, requiring intense maintenance that causes the pool to be closed for days on end. Along with maintenance troubles, the current pool isn't regulation size for swim meets. Our swim team, who go to State every year, are practicing in a 20-meter pool. The blocks that the team dives off of run in the other direction, a shorter distance of 18.75 meters. Swim meets held at our pool don't count towards

district times, and often, our team is forced to travel to schools with proper 25-meter pools. If we want a pool to meet the needs of our community, it's critical that the current one is replaced.

The difficulty in the new pool decision lies in its funding source. The county commissioners did not approve a county-wide sales tax (which averages about \$10 to \$30 per person annually), but would the other option, a property tax (\$0.20 per \$1000 in property value), be better? A sales tax would collect a significant percentage of funding from tourists, while a property tax is solely put on the residents of Jefferson County. The property tax would only be applied to those in the allocated municipal parks district (the map hasn't been drawn out yet) and wouldn't affect people far away from the pool who are less likely to use it. At the same time, this means greater cost for fewer people. County Commissioner Dean mentioned, "This is a regional facility; there are many facilities that we all pay into that aren't in our hamlet." Taxation, in general, would be harder on some families than others, and it's an issue of inequity that must be considered.

Sequim's YMCA Pool is just 45 minutes away. It's an easy day trip on weekends. However, many

families and community members aren't able to make it all the way to Sequim either because they don't have the means or the time to get themselves there and back. There are private pools in Cape George and Port Ludlow, but they don't serve the larger community. Lacking the opportunity to learn to swim, do physical therapy exercises like water walking or water aerobics, or simply just swim for fun is an inequity that is geographic (we're a rural community with not many other options nearby), but to a greater extent, an economic inequality. Many people could no longer access any pool at all.

A pool is necessary for the health of the people in our community. It's a community focal point and one that brings numerous benefits with it. Pools are family-friendly facilities that help attract and keep young people in the county. Our current pool has done its job for many years, but it just isn't logical to try to preserve it and not build a new pool. While a tax would put a strain on many county residents, the inequity of living in a rural community and not being able to access a pool is one that isn't fair to people of all ages living in Jefferson County.

The Benefits of Playgrounds in New Zealand

By Halsey Emery

Over winter break, I took a trip with my family across the equator to New Zealand. One thing was clear as we drove across the islands: the playgrounds were much more extravagant and exciting. These playgrounds had structures I had never seen in the US before. They had ziplines, huge climbing towers, and swings that spun around like a merry-go-round. One playground, in particular, had human-sized hamster wheels. They were so fun that teenagers would play on them as if they were kids. Every

playground had something special and unique about it. Overall, the playgrounds there were simply better. The Ohakune Carrot Adventure Park was one of the best playgrounds we visited. It had a zipline, a BMX, an obstacle course, swings, slides, and a rope tower. Everywhere you walked, you would find something new and fun to do.

One of the main reasons playgrounds in New Zealand were better is their lack of regulations. A lot of their playgrounds aren't as safe as America's playgrounds. The hamster wheels, for example, have exposed bearings that can easily catch fingers. Although

they were super fun, I came out with skinned elbows. Since these playgrounds are considered dangerous, a lot of their aspects are rare in the US.

Seesaws are the most prominent playground feature regulated by the United States. Seesaws are thought of as too dangerous and too easy to cause a lawsuit. The possible dangers are endless, but if you live without danger, your life will, inevitably, be dull. In the year 2000, seesaws could be found in 55% of playgrounds, while nowadays, seesaws can only be found in 11%. Zip lines are a rare find in the US, but if you go to almost

any playground in New Zealand, there will be one or even two. When I went to New Zealand, I was surprised by the abundance of zip lines. This goes back to safety like the seesaw.

Many people think that the playgrounds are becoming almost too safe to have fun. It's important for kids to test their limits. These play structures can even benefit kids in more ways than just their happiness but also their sensory experiences. Overall, New Zealand playgrounds reminded me why it can be so fun to be a kid and simply play.

They Both Die In The End, by Adam Silvera



Overall rating: 5 stars
CONTAINS SPOILERS

By Zoe Pruden

Over winter break, I finally read *They Both Die In The End* by Adam Silvera. Yes, there are spoilers in this review, and yes, it's become one of my favorite books. A dystopian, emotional narrative focuses on two boys, oscillating between two clashing, contrasting monologues between protagonists Rufus and Matteo. The one thing they have in common? They have less than twenty-four hours left to live.

Our world opens through the terrified eyes of Matteo, an eighteen-year-old boy who's too terrified of the unknown beyond his bedroom window to live his life. At 12 am, he's called by a company named Deathcast, who quickly informs him he has less than twenty-four hours to live. In this world, it's normal and inevitable. Matteo, with no mother and a comatose father, spirals into depressive self-hatred. How could he leave his father like this? How could he let his life waste away? Matteo decides at that very

moment he will live the rest of his painfully short life for others.

Our narrative switches to ruffian Rufus as he jumps and nearly kills his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, a slimy scumbag named Peck. Rufus is interrupted by the telltale call from Deathcast and promptly decides to host his own funeral. Reunited with the Plutos—his found family of foster kids—Rufus holds his own funeral, painfully interrupted by the police as they attempt to arrest Rufus for battery and assault. He flees, and our protagonists' paths are set to collide.

Back in Matteo's room, he decides to download an app called Last Friend, an excellent example of humanity in this world. The idea is simple: meet with other Deckers—people with less than a day to live—and find a friend to live out your day with. Matteo and Rufus connect, and our slow-burn relationship begins.

They Both Die In The End is an excellent example of how opposites attract, despite the horrors that both eighteen-year-old boys face on their last day. The spark between Matteo and Rufus is clear from their first meeting. Rufus pledges to pull Matteo out of his shell and to truly live their lives together. Both reminisce about their pasts, and Rufus begins to see how pure a person Matteo is, donating hundreds of dollars to a homeless man and burying a dead bird. While Rufus helps Matteo live, Matteo helps Rufus love his life.

Their relationship starts off awkward and slow like a child taking its first steps. But as the novel continues, we see the banter between the boys grow until they know more about each other—traumas, pasts, hopes, and

dreams—than any other. As each other's Last Friend, they finish their bucket lists (Rufus: host a funeral, Matteo: visit his comatose father) and attempt to forge meaningful memories together. However, Silvera shows once again the importance of humanity and connection over falsehood as the boys attempt to go skydiving at a company dubbed Make A Memory. A mix of dangerous sports and VR allow Deckers to experience once-in-a-lifetime memories, but both Rufus and Matteo agree their precious time was wasted after the experience. They'd rather spend time with each other.

We see Rufus and Matteo's friendship flourish as they begin to call each other lovingly their first and last friend. Between inside jokes, hopes, and dreams, the boys begin to notice little things about each other that make their hearts swell. For Matteo, he notices Rufus' nice eyes and loyalty to coaxing Matteo out of his shell. For Rufus, he sees Matteo's unburdened kindness and his relaxed smile. As soft touches and careful glances push Rufus and Matteo closer, it's clear that their friendship is more than just that.

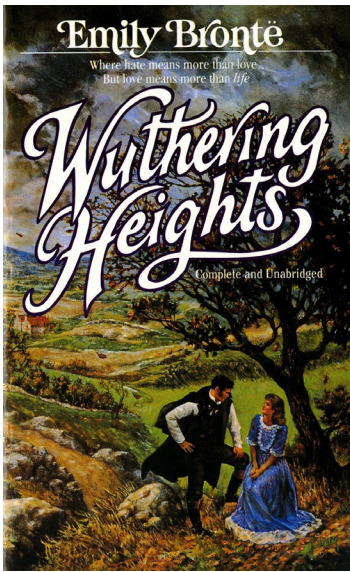
One of my favorite parts in *They Both Die In The End* is the focus on each character's individual flaws and how the love interest helps abate their suffering. I relate the most to Matteo, so choked by his own fear that he needs another to coax him out of the prison of his own mind. His self-hatred and fear is so prevalent in the beginning of the book that it's a breath of fresh air to read later chapters where he truly learns to let go. Matteo even sings karaoke, my favorite scene in the entire novel. Rufus is stuck

in the past, reliving the trauma of watching his entire family drown and being unable to do anything. Matteo is able to abate Rufus' guilt and help him shoulder the responsibility of living a "perfect" last day. Rufus is dedicated to showing Matteo he's more than a violent orphan and prove to the world that he isn't a criminal. In the eyes of the law, Rufus doesn't change anything, but for Matteo, the moral, he can see the truth behind Rufus' eyes. Rather than let each other drown in the sorrow of their last day, Rufus and Matteo live it for each other.

It's clear a theme in this book is learning to live while you have the time left, which is an idea that I think the whole world needs to hear right now. Everyone is so focused on their past or future that it becomes continually difficult to live for yourself in the present. *They Both Die In The End* is an amazing example of how much humanity needs connection, socialization, and understanding from fellow humans. We're social creatures, as my mom would say. The motif of the Last Friend, an app made specifically for users who can only ever use it for less than twenty-four hours, encapsulates that theme perfectly. Matteo and Rufus met over the last life and lived and loved each other for less than a day. Their connection speaks to the human needs every person feels. To be understood and to be loved. That is why *They Both Die In The End* is one of my favorite books. Props to Adam Silvera, an easy five-star read.

And yes, they both die in the end.

Wuthering Heights, by Emily Brontë



By Rennie O'Donnell

Some books are complimented for their plots, some for characters, some for writing style, and for a very select few,

a combination of all of those. As I read *Wuthering Heights*, each chapter led me to a new appreciation of each. The plot deepened and intensified as the writing progressed, and there were new discoveries in the unfolding storyline. As soon as I picked the book up, I found myself unable to put it down because I was so drawn into Heathcliff and the Catherines' stories and ended up feeling just as enthralled Mr. Lockwood.

In comparison to similar tropes and crazy plotlines of the Gothic era, *Wuthering Heights* was somehow a little more tame than others, such as *Jane Eyre*, which I read in APLIT this past semester. However, the strange and intensely captivating characters completely shut down any possibility of the book being boring, but were also perfectly balanced

to allow a rest after a long run of action and drama.

It is told from the perspective of Mr. Lockwood but only as he listens to the long story told by Nelly Dean, who helped raise Heathcliff and the Earnshaws. Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw, who are the two characters on the cover, have a strained and complex relationship where the worst of each of them is brought out. However, they can't stay away from one another until tragedy separates them. Though it is their story that the plot seems to lay around, the horrible mistreatment by Catherines' brother and everyone else towards Heathcliff makes you pity the man whom you are made to hate in the beginning. Everything unfolds, though, as Emily Bronte pulls the reader through the story, and you grow to hate some characters

and love others. Without spoiling anything, it's safe to say there are some surprises on who becomes easy to pity and who you find yourself feeling angry with. I have never read another book that comes anywhere close to the emotional control achieved by Bronte in this book.

Out of all the books I have read, this is probably tied with Ottessa Moshfegh's "My Year of Rest and Relaxation" as my favorite. They share dark and complex themes with indescribably intense and strange protagonists. In my opinion, though, neither would be enjoyed by people who prefer action-packed and light stories. *Wuthering Heights* is very much a gothic novel, and its setting and characters don't allow for any more than a very small glimmer of hope at the end.

Where There's a Will, There's a Way

By Adeline McMillan

In the early hours of Sunday the 20th, our Mock Trial team went head to head in their first scrimmage of the season with Mount Si, arguing the same case that will later be used in districts. Every other year, the type of case differentiates between Civil and Criminal. This year has landed on a civil case regarding a challenged will.

A couple of months before her death, Cordelia Lear, a very wealthy and fictional member of the community, had changed her will and deed. Stating that when she passed, most of her estate and assets were to be left to a cat charity she had spent the last couple of months working with. Alongside this, she also left a great sum to her son and a sparse one to her daughter. In

the months leading up to her death, she had grown close to the non-profit's owner, Bergan Henry, who was even in the room when she changed her will. When her daughter caught wind of this, she moved back home, raised her eyebrow at the cat organization and its owner, and promptly took over the position of her mother's caretaker. Sometime after this, Cordelia altered her will again, this time in favor of her daughter. Weeks later, she was dead. The son is challenging the paperwork, claiming that his mother was in no state to hike up her sleeves and take a red pen to her will.

Though the results of the scrimmage did not include a winner, Port Townsend sailed through the trial with ease. Honing their wits and shaping the law to their advantage to impress everyone within the courtroom.

The Redhawk Review

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We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2023-2024 Redhawk Review! This paper is written and produced by students, for students. Its aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school, community, and world, and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of independent pieces. In addition to welcoming articles, we are eager to work with students interested in creative writing, poetry, photography, cartooning, illustration, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We would love to have you on board. We are creating this with the student interest in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always appreciated!

Thanks for reading,

Maggie

