

# COYOTE DROPPINGS

OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF CHANDLER EARLY  
COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

Chandler Early  
College High School  
NEWSPAPER

Chandler  
Early  
College

## CEC'S MR. MITCHELL ON TV!

CEC Principal Shawn Mitchell one of  
several dignitaries in Chandler featured  
on Annual State of City broadcast

COMPLETE STORY ON P. 2



ISSUE 2



## KYLE CHAUS CEC MVP

Sophomore Kyle Chaus receives  
coveted PRIDE award at recent  
ceremony

FINISH READING ON P. 3



## CEC CHOCK FULL OF CREATIVITY

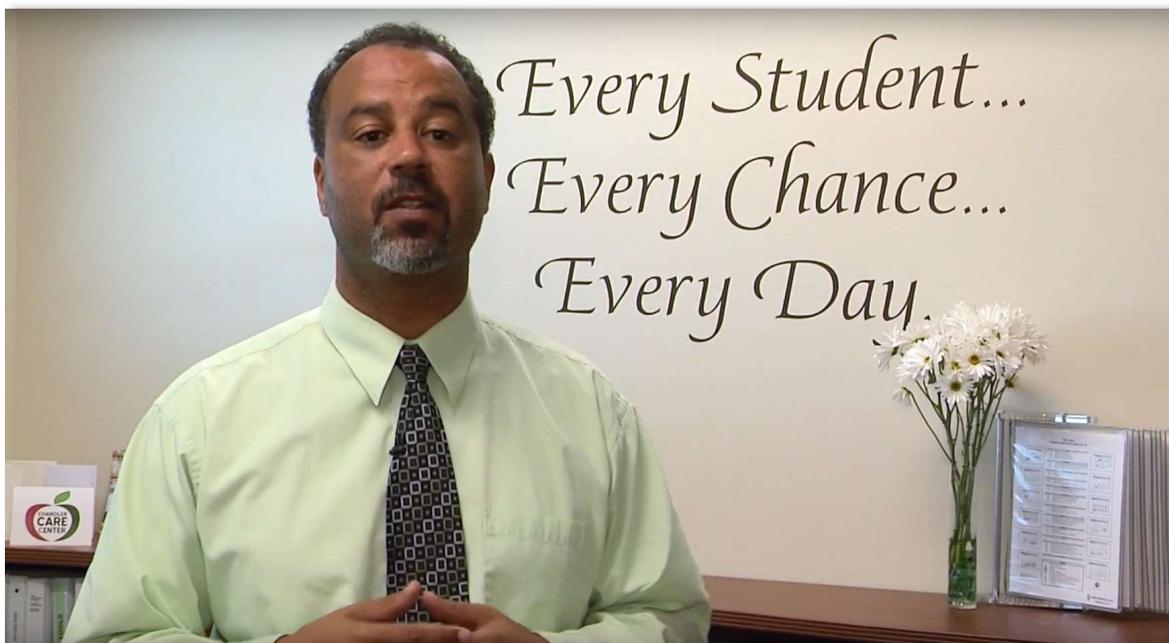
Paintings and drawings adorn walls of  
CEC classroom

READ MORE ON P. 4



# PRINCIPAL MITCHELL FEATURED BY CITY OF CHANDLER

ONLY SELECT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE BEST OF THE CITY



As part of the State of the City video presentation, CEC Principal Shawn Mitchell talked about what it means to be a citizen of Chandler.

## *By Serenity Spencer*

Every year, the City of Chandler conducts the State of the City address. In preparation for this event, organizers created a video presentation for the purpose of showcasing residents, volunteers and business owners who choose Chandler as their home. Because of his efforts as a school administrator, community volunteer, and valued member of the community, Chandler Early College's Principal Shawn Mitchell was one of the people featured in the video.

"Overall, this has been a very humbling experience," he said. "I never imagined this would come about. Like a lot of others in the community, we do what we do because it's what's best for the community."

Mitchell began his career in education back in his home state of Washington. As a young teacher, the goal was not necessarily to move into a leadership position, but instead to positively impact young people on a daily basis.

"As a teacher, I found myself wanting to provide for my students the support system and nurturing environment that I did not have growing up," he said. "Then one day someone said to me, 'If you are seeing this much success in the classroom, imagine how many people you could reach in a whole building?'"

"It was at that moment that I knew I wanted to be an administrator."

Mitchell came to the Chandler Unified School District in 2013 and has been principal of CEC since 2015. He hopes that this exposure will highlight Chandler Early College and its staff and students.

"This gives the opportunity for people in the community to learn more about us," he said. "We want everyone to see what we are about and what we can offer high school students and their families."

Mitchell says he could not do the things he does without the love and support of the CEC teachers and students. He says his staff works tirelessly to spotlight CEC students and their successes.

"We're a family here at CEC," he said. "The staff, the students...we all work hand-in-hand to make sure every one of our students is ready for college, for the workforce, and for life."

The video featuring CEC Principal Shawn Mitchell can be found on the City of Chandler website at [www.chandleraz.gov/government/mayor-and-council/state-of-the-city](http://www.chandleraz.gov/government/mayor-and-council/state-of-the-city), or by accessing the City of Chandler's YouTube channel.

# KYLE CHAUS WINS CEC PRIDE AWARD

*By Joel Espinoza*

As many of you know, sophomore Kyle Chaus joined our school back in 2017, one of the rare freshman to find his or her way to CEC. Fast forward to today and Kyle has cemented a reputation as someone who is kind, helpful, respectful, and always up for a good laugh. Furthermore, his fellow students will tell you that he is always there to help others, whether it's a computer issue, schoolwork, or simply showing new students around the campus.

This month, Chaus's good citizenship and warm heart paid off, when he was awarded the PRIDE Award for Chandler Early College. The PRIDE Award is given to one student from each campus across the district. A ceremony was held at the Chandler Center for the Arts earlier this month. Students from across the district were honored in front of a packed audience.

"It was a lot of fun!" Chaus said. "I got to shake hands with like ten people and afterwards I ate like three M&M cookies."

Chaus didn't expect to win the award. He didn't even know that there was such a thing as the PRIDE award until he won it.

"I was happy and excited when I won the award, because it is such an honor," he said.

He believes he won the award because staff and students have seen him offering a helping hand to those around him.

"I enjoy helping others, both staff and



*Photo by Staff*

**Kyle Chaus (10) poses with his PRIDE Award plaque at the recent PRIDE award ceremony held at the Chandler Center for the Arts earlier this month.**

students," he said. "I never felt like I deserved an award. I am just kind to others because it feels good and is the right thing to do."

Chaus really enjoys attending CEC because of its smaller size, which makes it easier to get to know others.

"It's like a big family, and I know a lot of people here," he said. "It's somewhere where I feel included."

Chaus is not 100% certain of his plans for the future once he graduates from CEC, but he knows he wants to work with technology and computers.

# CEC STUDENTS SHOWCASE



# TALENTS

*By Collin Collins*

CEC is a school bursting with the diversity of students who come from different cultural backgrounds, each one possessing a variety of unique talents. This is no more evident than in the realm of art. Ask a dozen CEC students to paint what they believe is a beautiful sunset and you will get back twelve completely different images.

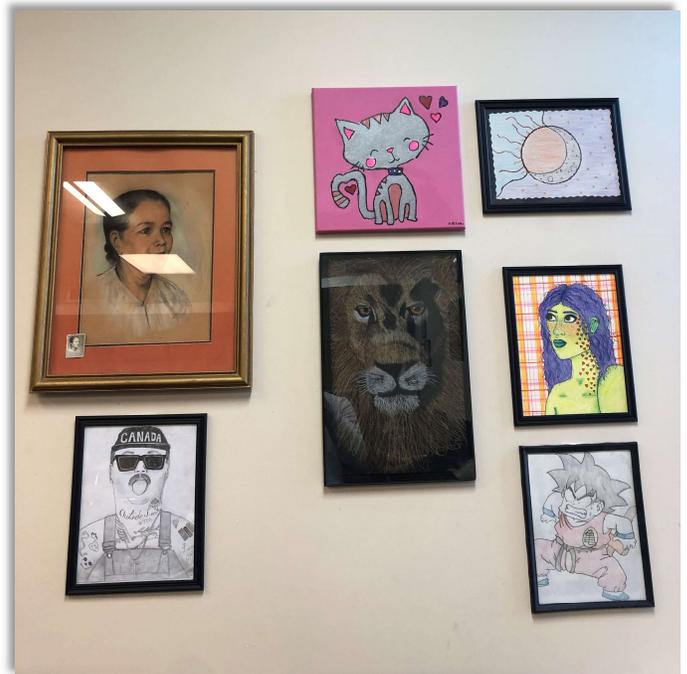
For CEC Art teacher Sharon Hickson, this is exactly what she is looking for. Hickson, who primarily teaches history and government, also offers art class as an elective. It would seem all-too-easy to prematurely judge an elective art class as an afterthought. Hickson, however, sees the class as an opportunity to peer into the hearts of her students and find the creative spirit she believes they all possess.

"I let the kids do what they like," she said. "In the spirit of art, the Kids should be allowed to pick what art they want to create."

Hickson relishes the opportunity to have her students express themselves and show their creative side, and the walls of her classroom are evidence of this.

"I don't have a favorite form of art," she said. "I let my students do what they think is creative. The end goal is for them to reach down deep and find the creativity within themselves."

Anyone looking to catch a glimpse of the many piece of art CEC students have created can make your way into Hickson's room, where you will find a number of student-created pieces adorning her walls.

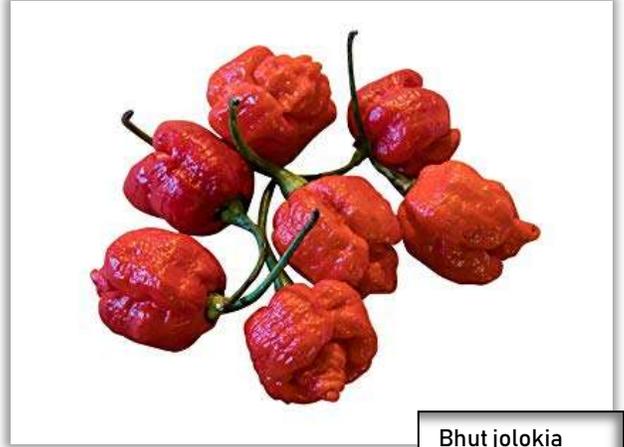


# HOT AND SPICY!

## THE FIERIEST PEPPERS ON THE PLANET!



Carolina Reaper



Bhut jolokia

*By Jocelyn Perez*

Here are a few of the world's hottest chili peppers: the Carolina Reaper, the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, the Naga Morich, and the Bhut jolokia. Each one of these has the potential of burning a hole in your tongue if you are not careful. Hot peppers are ranked according to the Scoville scale, which measures the spiciness of chile peppers and other spicy foods. It was invented by American pharmacist Wilbur Scoville in 1912.

The spiciest pepper on record is the Trinidad Moruga Scorpion, a chile pepper native to the district of Moruga in Trinidad and Tobago. This Bad Boy has a mean heat of 1.2 million Scoville units. Researchers at New Mexico State's Chile Pepper Institute found that if you put two of these together, it tops out at a whopping 2 million SHU!

The Bhut jolokia pepper, also known as the ghost pepper, is cultivated in India, and rates at an SHU of over a million. The Indian government has used ghost pepper chili grenades to safely immobilize terrorists and other criminal suspects. The bomb's smoke creates a near-automatic chile burning experience, which forces people out of buildings and other hide-outs. Animals in that region, no matter how big or small, want nothing to do with chile peppers, and this is especially true for something as hot as ghost pepper. Villages that are in or near the wilderness in India have used this strategy to keep their property, people, and crops safe from wild elephants, as it is an effective and non-toxic animal repellent.

The hottest pepper in the world, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, is the Carolina Reaper. This small red pepper is a cultivar of the *Capsicum Chinense* plant and began its life as HP22B before being renamed the Carolina Reaper. It was created by "Smokin" Ed Currie, a hot pepper sauce creator out of South Carolina. The Carolina Reaper pepper has an average heat rating of 1,569,300 SHU, though its rating has peaked at 2,200,000. Eating one will cause the body to overheat. Your eyes will immediately turn red, and you will feel an instant burning from the inside. Your mouth will become numb and you won't even recognize when all your saliva is dripping down your shirt. Those who have eaten the Carolina Reaper report symptoms similar to having a stroke!

# BORN TO



## CHANDLER SKATERS AND NON-SKATERS ALIKE FLOCK TO SNEDIGAR SPORTS COMPLEX

*By Jed Gallego*

Arizona is a beautiful state known for the Grand Canyon, warm weather and its desert landscape. Among skateboarders, however, Arizona is known for our famous skate parks and hangout spots. Many professional skateboarders call our beautiful state home. Pro skateboarder Dashawn Jordan grew up in Chandler and spent his formative years skating at Snedigar Sports Complex. Snedigar, or Sned as the locals call it, is a 35,000-square-foot facility that invites skaters of all skill levels. Because the park was built in 2000, there are a few cracks and imperfections in the concrete from being skated on over time.

Nevertheless, the park is still considered one of the top skate parks in the country, and sports a variety of ramps, rails, boxes, ledges, bowls, and a vert ramp. Sned caters more towards transition skateboarding, rather than street skating. One of the highlights of the park is the six foot extension quarter pipe, located in the center of the skate park. As for the skaters who frequent the park, most



Jed Gallego (10), left, poses for a photo with Sned regular Bradley Church.

are up for giving advice or showing a few skills.

CEC senior Yael Tizler frequents Sned, mostly as a spectator, but occasionally skates herself.

"If you're there to skate, skate," she said. "If you're there to learn, learn."

A familiar face at the Sned is 15-year-old Bradley Church, who has already made a name for himself as a skater.

"I have been skating at Sned

because it's right by my house and all my friends skate here," he said.

Church's signature move is the heel flip.

"It's what I am known for, but my favorite part of the park is the bump to ledge," he said.

Church is already sponsored, currently riding for Pow Skateboards, Es skateboarding, and Saggy Clips.

# SIZE 8: TOO FAT?!

## MUSICIAN BEBE REXHA TOLD SHE IS TOO BIG TO WEAR DESIGNER DRESSES AT GRAMMYS

By Jaquelyn Perez

Rising artist Bebe Rexha, whose real name is Bleta, (which means "Bumble Bee" in Albanian) co-wrote "The Monster" with rapper Eminem and singer Rihanna. She was also the main vocalist for the band *Black Cards* from 2010 to 2012. From there, she embarked on a solo career where she sang vocals for "Me, Myself, and I" with rapper G-Eazy and performed "In the Name of Love" with Martin Garrix.

For this year's Grammy Awards, Rexha was nominated for both Best New Artist and Best Country Duo/Group Performance. However, before the event began, it turned out that Rexha had a wardrobe issue. She wanted a designer dress, but designers declined to make her one because she was a size 8, instead of a runway size 6.

The backlash was palatable, with Rexha responding with a viral video on Instagram explaining the situation.

"So, I finally get nominated at the Grammys and it's like the coolest thing ever," she said from her Instagram video. "I had my team hit up a lot of designers and a lot of them do not want to dress me because I'm too big."

Rexha mentioned later that she posted in order to get it off her chest. After the video was posted, many of the same designers that dissed her reached out to her to let her know they would be glad to make her a dress. Yet, the question begs to be asked: Does it really have to take a public social media post to get the fashion industry to do the right thing?

In the end, a designer dress-less Rexha stood tall and walked in style during the ceremony, but it was Dua Lipa who took home the Grammy for Best New Artist.

Experts say size discrimination is a valid issue in today's society and only by recognizing inequality can we begin to change the situation.



Photo Courtesy Associated Press

Rexha stunned at the Grammys in her red princess gown designed by up-and-coming designer Shaima Monsoori.

Actress Emma Watson is a strong supporter of equality among those of different sizes.

"Both men and women should feel free to be sensitive," she said. "Both men and women should feel free to be strong...it is time that we all perceive gender on a spectrum, not as two opposing sets of ideals."

Supporters of the "Health at Every Sizes" movement believe designers should have a built in sense of equality and thus respect women of all sizes by providing garments for them. Activists, celebrities, designers and others have come out saying they will work together to achieve this goal.

In the meantime, Rexha is also fighting a new battle: Her recent video for her song "Last Hurrah" came under fire by her own father, who called it pornography. Rexha has come out saying she will not be "slut shamed", even by her own family.

# MEET MRS. HICKSON!

*By Connor Keith*

History teacher Sharon Hickson loves her job and loves the students she gets to teach every day. Not only does she instill a sense of civic pride in each of them, but her past experiences make her tailor-made for the unique learning environment here at CEC. *Coyote Droppings* corralled Mrs. Hickson in order to see what makes her tick.

## **What made you want to be a teacher?**

I worked as a counselor in a juvenile prison and most of the clients I worked with were uneducated: they couldn't read, write or use logic to solve problems (real life problems: most of their decisions were based on emotions or their perceptions of people doing them wrong). After 5 years of seeing the same type of individuals pass through my doors; I got the idea that education was the key to giving young people options. I believe that if a child has a solid education, they have the ability to get out of the cycle of poverty and crime because they'll have more options available to them. I choose to work in schools that were found in low income areas, as this was the area that most of our incarcerated youth come from, and I felt that I would have more of an impact.

## **What makes CEC special over other schools in the district?**

I really like CEC because it is something I have never done before—a change of scenery. I believe I'm finally mature enough to be in high school. I'm very ADHD, and this environment is perfect for me, as every nine weeks the entire course changes, students change and my workload changes. I'm never bored, always learning and meeting new students. Students at CEC have a solid foundation in their education, but their stories of why they came to CEC is why I think this is the place for me.

## **Why is history your favorite subject to teach?**

History is all about people and the choices they



*Photo by Connor Keith*

Made, creating the world today. This is fascinating to me. If you dig deep enough you can find the weirdest things about the people from the past – you know, the stuff movies are made of.

## **Do you have any interesting stories from your years of teaching?**

Too many 😊, one day I will write a book – it will either be seen as a comedy or a tragedy, not sure at the moment.

## **What are your hobbies and what do you do in your free time?**

Hiking, reading mysteries, and gardening. The perfect day for me is going on a hike, coming home and reading a book or two outside in the garden with a great cup of coffee.



# THE REVIEW BROS.

By Brady Bauman and Charlie Goodmiller

Ah, chips. The “Oh, today is my cheat day so I can eat as much junk food as I want and not gain anything!” food. Well, we’re here to help you figure out which chips to choose, and which to leave on the shelf. We ranked these chips using five measures: 1). The crunching sensation when you bite into the chip, 2). The correlation between the actual flavor and the chip name, 3). The scrumptious flavor dust that rubs off onto your fingers and whether it’s a good dusting or a poor dusting, 4.) The overall texture, and 5). The overall flavor of the chip as a whole. Each category was given a score of 0-10 (10 being excellent, and 0 being horrible). We then added them all up to see which had the best score out of 50. Here are our 5 favorite chips!



**Takis:** Leaves the OG Cheeto-like cheese fingers, combined with its tasty red hot finger dust. **46/50**



**Pizza Flavor Pringles:** The insane relation from the chip name to its flavor is impeccable! **43/50**



**Spicy Nacho Doritos:** This chip had the most original chip style and aesthetic. **42/50**



**Ruffles Cheddar and Sour Cream:** This chip isn't bad, it just isn't that good. It didn't have the STRONGEST flavor, nor was it particularly cheesy. **28/50**



**Lays Sour Cream and Onion:** This chip didn't leave any of that tasty powdery residue on your fingers, which meant less cleanup, but also less flavor. **40/50**

# DID THE SIMPSONS PREDICT THE FUTURE?

WITTY WRITERS SAW EVENTS  
BEFORE THEY HAPPENED



Photo Courtesy 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox

*By Emi Paduret*

Conspiracy Theories: Many of us ascribe to them, and many more of us will at least read them for their entertainment value. Conspiracies are often just plausible enough to convince people that they may be true, and most conspiracy theories are helped along by the fact that they often help us write our own narratives. And, perhaps most importantly, many conspiracies are fueled along by the fact that the events themselves were often seemingly predicted years ahead of time.

When it comes to conspiracy theories, perhaps none are more prevailing than the events surrounding September 11, 2001. At first, people did not question who destroyed the World Trade Center—they were terrorists who hated the West and all that it stands for. But soon thereafter came the conspiracy theories to tell people what “really” happened.

The 911 conspiracies that have arisen since that tragic day have gotten more and more intense as the years have passed. You can now find people who believe that there were no actual airplanes, or that the buildings were detonated by bombs placed beforehand. Some conspiracies assert that there were both planes and bombs.

Could the main source of all this apprehension and doubt be none other than Homer and Marge Simpson and their children?! *The Simpsons*, the longest-running TV show of all time with 30 seasons, predicted 9/11 with an alarming amount of detail in a 1997 episode. This left many with the burning question: How did the writers know 911 was going to happen? If they knew, why didn't they warn us?

Remarkably, *The Simpsons* has a reputation of predicting a number of events years before these events occurred. The show predicted Donald Trump becoming president, the major Ebola outbreak, the Higgs boson particle, the acquisition of Fox by Disney, and several Super Bowl winners. Were these simply lucky guesses, or were the writers of *The Simpsons* soothsayers who were sending out legitimate predictions in order to warn us?

The reality is the writers for the show, present and past, were brilliant men and women who knew the value in assessing current events, the prevailing mood, and the possible future when you combine the two. By utilizing and cross-referencing art, literature, pop culture, politics and science, *The Simpsons* writers struck gold time and time again in “predicting” the future.

# BREAKING THOSE HABITS

## Don't Let Bad Behaviors Weigh You Down



Photos by Nayelli Aguirre-Morales

Jordan Jones (12) browses his phone during a break from his studies. Many teenagers report cell phone use as one of their worst habits.

By Nayelli Aguirre-Morales

Teenagers are creatures of habit—and often these are not good habits. Bad habits include nail biting, procrastinating, swearing, spending too much time online, spending more and saving less, and using your cell phone in bed. Unfortunately, these habits are often carried over into adulthood. But why do people form these hard to break habits in the first place? It all comes down to stress and boredom.

Stressful situations can cause a person to start biting their nails.

"I bite my nails because I am stressed," CEC Senior Leif Schlueter said. "It's an unconscious thing and I really don't think about it."



For those who wish to stop biting their nails, experts suggest cutting them short. If there's not enough nail to grab with your teeth, it won't feel as satisfying when you give biting a try. You could also coat them with a bad taste, splurge on manicures, wear gloves, and simply keep your hands or mouth busy.

Another bad habit is shopping mindlessly due to boredom. CEC Sophomore Emi Paduret shops at least 2 to 3 times a week and always walks out of the mall with something. She calls it "therapy".

"Shopping kind of fills a void in my heart," she said. "The reward of buying stuff gives me a sense of lasting fulfillment."

"It's my coping mechanism. Last night I literally went to Walmart at 9 at night and bought some puzzles."

Habits can be difficult to change, due to the perceived benefit each one gives us. For example, using your phone in bed keeps you from being bored. Experts suggest switching to a similar activity that is less addictive, such as reading a book, or writing in a journal.



*Photo Courtesy E! Online*

# EVEN TALENTED MUSICIANS CAN'T SEEM TO SAVE THE GRAMMYS

**Viewership Numbers  
Down for Second Year  
in a Row.**

*By Jack Eckert*

The first Annual Grammy Awards were held on May 4, 1959 in Beverly Hills. Sixty years later and the event continues to hand out awards to America's most talented musicians.

One of this year's Grammy Award winners was Childish Gambino (actor and musician Donald Glover), for his song "This is America". Gambino is the first rapper to take home a Grammy for Record of the Year for "This is America". He also received an award for best Rap/sung performance of the year and for Song of the Year.

Kacey Musgraves swept the country music portion of the event, winning Best Country Album for "Golden hour", as well as Best Country song, and Best Solo Performance.

Dua Lipa was awarded Best New Artist of the Year.

Ariana Grande won in the Best Pop Vocal Album category for her song, "Sweetener."

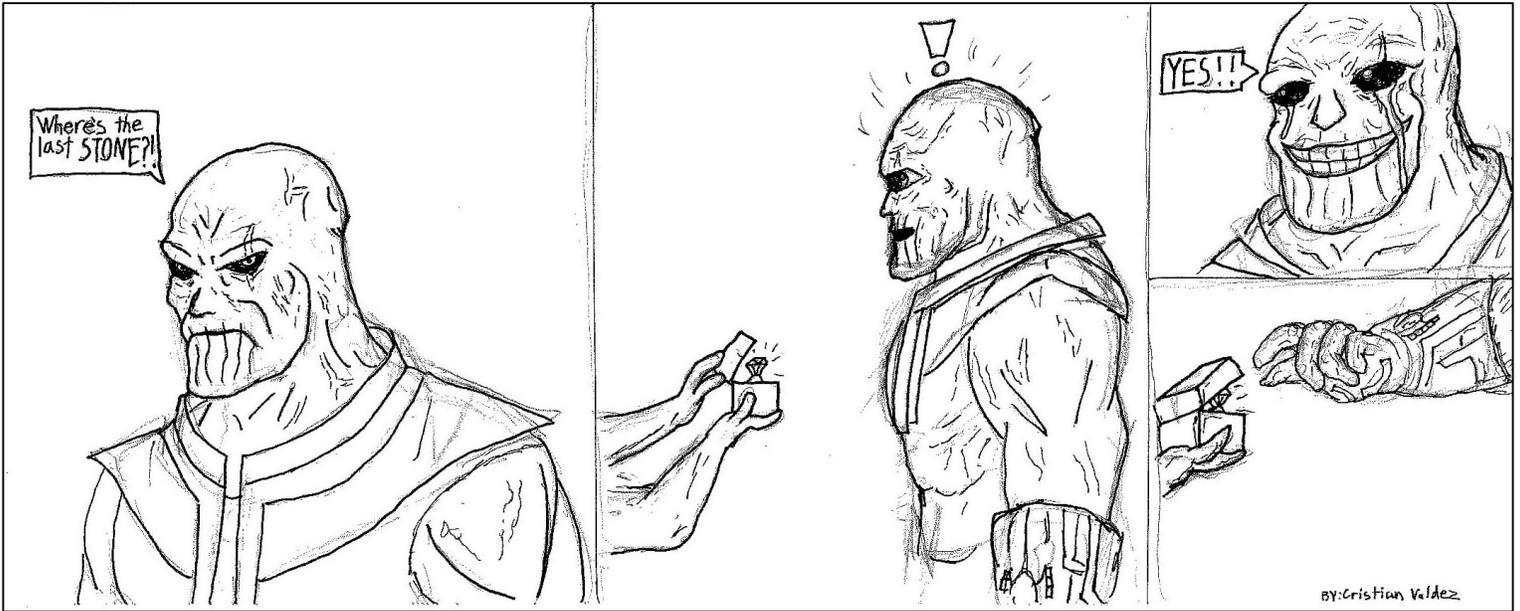
Ever since the first Grammy Award was handed out – a monumental achievement within the music industry – musical acts have dreamed of being on the receiving end of one. Nevertheless, in recent years, ratings for the Grammys have declined because many people have Grammys, while others do not. In fact, this year's Grammys took in only 19.9 million viewers, which is down 24 percent from only two years ago, when 26.1 million people tuned in.

As for reasons why the numbers are so low, many argue that the length of the broadcast was simply too long for a Sunday night broadcast. Others believe the event was just too boring. In fact, many viewers took to social media to ask others if they, too, were uninterested in the broadcast.

"I found myself asking folks on Twitter and Facebook if they felt bored too," said Adrienne Gibbs.

Experts point to the fact that other organized broadcast events have also seen a decline in recent years. The Oscars, the Golden Globes, and even the Super Bowl have seen a drop in ratings and viewership, perhaps signaling a trend on behalf of viewers across the country. This year's Oscars ceremony drew a slightly larger viewing crowd than last year. This year was the first year the Oscars did not have a host.

# COMIC BOOK ZEROS by Cristian Valdez



**COYOTE  DROPPINGS**  
OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF CHANDLER EARLY  
 COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Mitchell shows students Tyrell Shepherd (12) and Brandin Simon-Marks (11) how to win at dominoes.



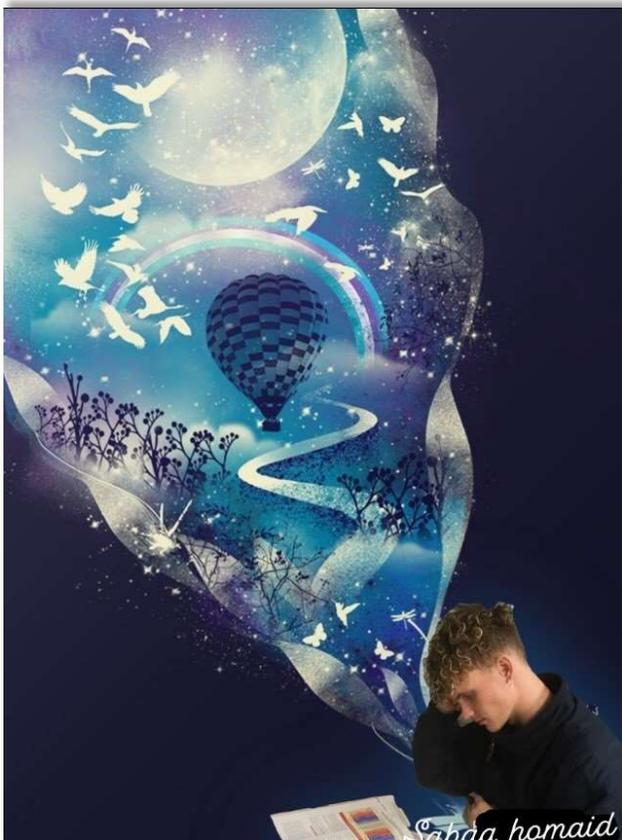
CEC students enjoy food and fellowship to close out Black History Month.

# THE STUFF DREAMS ARE MADE OF

## Dreams May Mean More Than You Think

By Sabaa Homaid

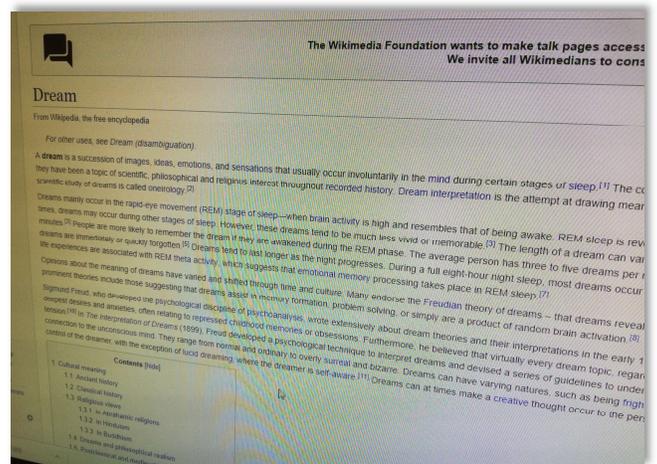
The mind is perhaps the most intriguing part of the body. It has the ability to remember and forget events that happened. At the same time, it possesses the capacity to come up with endless amounts of ridiculous thoughts. Perhaps the mind's most alluring gift is its ability to dream. Have you ever wondered where dreams come from? Many people believe that dreams are recollections of events that have happened previously, or even submerged memories from the past. Yet, some dream experts believe dreams provide a brief glimpse of the future, much like an extended version of déjà vu.



Here are some facts about dreams. First, you forget about 90% of your dreams. Within 5 minutes of waking up, the dream is half forgotten, and within 10 minutes 90% is gone. You can have four to seven dreams in one night. And in our dreams, we only see faces that we already know or seen before. Our minds can't invent faces, we see real faces of real people that we have seen during our life, but may not know or remember.

In some religions, dreams have a deeper meaning. For example, in Islam and Christianity, dreams are meant to give devout followers a deeper insight into a truth that is not readily available in our waking realities. Perhaps God is communicating with us through our dreams, but we don't remember or aren't paying enough attention to fully try to understand our dreams?

In order to keep track of your dreams and perhaps set about researching what they mean, experts suggest using a journal to write down the dreams you have so you won't forget them.





# MOVIE



## REVIEWS

🐾 = Yuck. 🐾🐾 = Meh. 🐾🐾🐾 = It's OK. 🐾🐾🐾🐾 = Pretty darn good! 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 = It's a Classic

### Bumblebee Transforms into a Blockbuster



Photo Courtesy Paramount Pictures

“You got people out there who need you!”  
– Charlie Watson

By Aliyah Stinemates

Most people have seen, or at least heard of, the *Transformers* series. The most recent installment, *Bumblebee* is truly one of a kind. Case-in-point: The other *Transformers* movies range from a 15% to 57% on *Rotten Tomatoes*. However, *Bumblebee* received a 93%, the highest rating of any in the *Transformers* series by a landslide.

*Bumblebee* is a prequel origin story of why the Transformers came to Earth in the first place. For those who are not aware, Transformers are automobiles and other vehicles that transform into large metal robots similar anatomically to humans, and they call themselves the Autobots. In the sequels, of course, the Transformers are already on Earth, but *Bumblebee* shows viewers that their own planet was destroyed by a devastating civil war. The leader of the rebellion, Optimus Prime, sends Bumblebee to Earth to set up a base for their kind. From there, a young girl named Charlie Watson, played by Hailee Seinfeld, discovers an old beat-up Volkswagen Beetle in a junkyard that later turns out to be Bumblebee. She falls in love at first sight with what amounts to her first automobile, but when she brings the car home and parks it in the garage, it transforms into a large robot. Although she is frightened at first, she befriends Bumblebee, and he in turn becomes protective over her. When the inevitable happens and we learn that Bumblebee's enemies have followed him to Earth in a quest to destroy both him and the planet, Charlie and Bumblebee team up to stop them.

The movie keeps the audience's attention from the first minute of the film. Its building story line and jaw-dropping action scenes mean your eyes will stay glued to the screen. The intimate connection between Charlie and Bumblebee, made stronger by the commitment and loyalty Bumblebee has towards his cause, is both intriguing and captivating. Actor John Cena, who plays Agent Burns, gives us a twist at the end that is nothing short of brilliant cinema.

This prequel defines Bumblebee and his purpose. For example, we learn why he is unable to speak. It also clarifies why Bumblebee is a Beetle and why in the other *Transformers* movies he is a Camaro. With a bittersweet ending, this box office smash will leave you more than gratified. 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾



# MOVIE



## REVIEWS

🐾 = Yuck. 🐾🐾 = Meh. 🐾🐾🐾 = It's OK. 🐾🐾🐾🐾 = Pretty darn good! 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 = It's a Classic

*By Aden Proctor*

Directed by Brad Anderson, this psychological thriller constantly makes you wonder just *who* the main character really is, and what made him *what* he is.

From the first scene of the movie, it seems like a typical murder film, with the main character trying to get rid of the body of a victim. But soon after the initial scene, you can see that the movie is more about a mentally disturbed individual trying to figure out who he is.

The directing is truly amazing. From the manipulation of the lighting, to the interactions with the characters, Anderson creates an atmosphere that is truly dark and mysterious. This movie is particularly unique due to its depth and the way it twists your mind, making you change your opinions often about the direction of the plot.

Christian Bale gives a landmark performance and his overall commitment to the movie makes it what it is. For the role, Bale literally starved himself until he was an emaciated mess, all so he could truly fit the character of a paranoid insomniac with a host of mental and physical health issues. His performance truly amplifies the movie-watching experience.

*The Machinist* is 102 minutes long of intrigue and suspense. Bale is supported by standout performances by Jennifer Jason Leigh, John Sharian, and Aitana Sánchez-Gijón, to name a few. I would highly recommend this movie to anyone, especially those interested in psychological thrillers who wish to dig deeper into the meaning of the story.



### *The Machinist:* Arguably Christian Bale's Finest Work



*Photo Courtesy Paramount Pictures*

"Don't I look okay?" –  
Trevor Reznik



# MOVIE



## REVIEWS

🐾 = Yuck. 🐾🐾 = Meh. 🐾🐾🐾 = It's OK. 🐾🐾🐾🐾 = Pretty darn good! 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾 = It's a Classic

### **Kill Bill: A Cultural Phenomenon or A Violent Mess?**



*Photo Courtesy Miramax*

"I need Japanese steel."  
– The Bride

*By Madison Schultz*

*Kill Bill* shatters conventional movie stereotypes by jumping straight into the action and leaving the backstory as a secondary focus—at least at first. This unconventional aspect allows for the viewer to be engrossed as soon as the movie starts. The viewer starts out knowing nothing of the character's motives. Nothing is confirmed, we are to put together the pieces ourselves. This makes the story so much more interesting as you, the viewer, are just thrown into it.

*Kill Bill* is both violent and gory, which some claim destroys the integrity of the movie. However, delving into the movie itself, we see that the action acts as a mere a supplement to the narrative and, without it, the movie plot could not exist. The violence is the main character, simply known as, "The Bride".

We are introduced to The Bride and learn that she has experienced some form of trauma, which has transformed her into a cold-blooded assassin. Again, without violence, there would be no way to showcase The Bride's struggle or the number of ways her trauma developed her as a character.

*Kill Bill* is a classic movie worthy of legendary status. The depth and layers to the movie have no rival and the movie should be watched by everyone at least once. It is a movie that is both remarkable and worthy of praise, if for nothing else than its complex themes and for the characters journey through the story. 🐾🐾🐾🐾🐾



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## REVIEWS

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### Remember *The Titans* as Good as it Gets



Photo Courtesy Buena Vista Pictures

*By Eric Bolger*

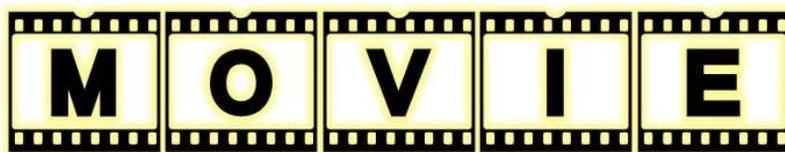
Football in America is huge, especially in the South. In 1971, the game of high school football was put to test when an all-black school and an all-white school, both from Virginia, were merged together during the wave of integration in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Newly hired African-American coach, Herman Boone (portrayed by Denzel Washington), takes the head coaching job previously held by Bill Yoast (Will Patton), who is white. Yoast (begrudgingly, at least in the beginning) accepts the assistant coach position before the two men are tasked with leading this newly integrated team toward a winning season. Boone and company whip the boys into shape and, once the season begins, the boys are put to the test by having to ask time-and-time-again what it means to be human, no matter your skin color.

As the season moves forward, Boone's team wins all of their games. The community begins to embrace the team and they, too, begin to realize the fact that everyone is the same no matter their skin tone. Remember the Titans is a feel-good blockbuster football fans and non-football fans will adore.

"This movie is very touching and will leave you with goosebumps," said senior Collin Collins. 🐾🐾🐾🐾

"You take one last good look at her. Cause once you step on that bus you ain't got your mama anymore. You got your brothers on the team and you got your daddy."  
– Coach Herman Boone



# REVIEWS

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## Get Stung Once Again by *Bee Movie*

*By Joey Hensley*

If you like bees and jazz than this is the right movie for you!! The main character is Berry "Bee" Benson who wants to be a pollen jockey. Pollen jockeys go out of the hive and get pollen from plants. He doesn't know what job to pursue because he does not want to be stuck with the same job for the rest of his bee life. So, to figure everything out, he goes outside of the hive. There, among the humans, he meets a wonderful woman named Vanessa Bloome and they end up developing a relationship.

*Bee Movie* is a delightful movie with an uplifting message: Bee Yourself and Don't Let Anyone Change You. I recommend the *Bee Movie* to everyone because it is both humorous and inspiring. With the movie also being a video game, it is a great way to unwind and "bee" around the whole family.



"We're the only ones who make honey, pollinate flowers, and dress like this!"  
– Barry B. Benson

