

THE RIVER HAWK REVIEW

WE'RE BACK, BABY!

Civil Rights Team's Day of Welcome



Image Courtesy of Mr. Jones

By L. Hoover

The Day of Welcome is a day that reminds the school that people can be themselves, including their religion, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, race and skin color, national origin and ancestry, disability, or religion.

The Day of Welcome is a statewide initiative to welcome students into their schools and educate them about the 6 areas of bias protected by law,” said Señora Irish.

This event is intended to support the people who identify with any of the six biases. The Civil Rights Team educates about bullying, including mocking someone's religion, belief, ancestry, race/color or gender. The ways the CRT display their cause is by decorating the bus doors and the lobby as well as the whole school with posters, providing activities during Advisory like slideshows and Kahoots that provide

information about the six areas of bias, and lastly, providing stickers of the Day of Welcome. Their goal is to help educate the schools, and they have a bulletin board that will change every month to discuss civil rights.

“It's a kick off of the Civil Rights Team. It's really to introduce ourselves and the six areas of bias, a day where the school embraces the Day of Welcome, so we can educate the school throughout the year,” said Mr. Jones.

They have also done some events last year that allowed them to join the Student Council and JMG. By this November they plan to have a conference with The Maine Youth Leadership. In the future, they will plant tulips for an event.

Civil Rights Teams have been enacting these events for 26 years with about 200 schools participating. Our school's CRT meets in the library every week on Tuesday. They are always looking for any suggestions for their cause.



Image of Areas of Bias Logo

Maine State Supreme Court Visits Skowhegan Area High School



Image Courtesy of Canva's AI Image Generator

By L.Hoover

SAHS got an opportunity to watch the Maine Supreme Court session happen in the school. It was shown in the auditorium with different grades watching different court arguments. Each grade was very respectful of the court sessions, and people were very quiet.

"The vibe was very serious," said Mr. Smith.

There were three court arguments presented. The first concerned a child who took fentanyl. The father forgot to put away his drugs, which caused his child to take some of the drugs. The man faced many charges; however, the discussion was about an assault charge.

"I don't think that the state provided enough to place it as assault. The assault charge will be overturned," said Mr. Lightbody.

The next one was about Solar panels. The town wants solar panels but can't place them on someone's property. The main concern was interference with farm life.

"I can understand why he didn't want that on his property. I think he should've thought about everything," said Cynthia Morin.

The last case was about a police officer, a drunk driver, and the driver's property. A police officer followed a alleged drunk driver home into the curtilage of the property. The police officer had time to pull the drunk driver to the side of the road to use the breathalyzer, but for some reason the police officer followed him home. The discussion was where the curtilage was supposed to be. The court argument was to determine if the evidence of the drunk driver was obtained illegally.

"I hope the state wins; however the defense has a good point," said Delani Weeks.

The Phone Debate

"I think you should be able to use your phone during study hall if you have the grades." This opinion is expressed by Tristan, a sophomore, who believes that phones should be allowed in study halls.

"I believe that you should be able to use your phone anytime," said Yash, another sophomore, who believes that you should be able to use your phone at all times.

This phone conflict takes place at our school and has lasted for a long time, ever since phones existed in schools. Here is my take on the phone policy. I'm taking Tristan's side on this.

First, phones distract most people during class. When I was in class one day, someone decided to pull out their phone; this caused the class to pay attention to the phone and not the teacher. Second, phones in class make the person holding it not able to focus. As a student, I have seen people on phones, especially when they are texting someone, that aren't focused on class. Instead they are focusing on their phones. Third, the phone during study hall, not class, feels

rewarding.

When I was able to use my phone during study hall, it felt nice as it allowed me to look at the news in the world, while fully knowing I had the grades to do that. Finally, phones allow us to enjoy ourselves during study hall. When I'm in study hall, I usually have all my work done, which means I get bored, and I start going to stuff that is not allowed on the laptop.

That's why in my opinion and Tristan's opinion, you should be able to use your phone during study hall, but not during class.

Student Editorial by Dyllan Foster



Image Courtesy of Canva's AI Image Generator

AI: Is it the Future?

As I'm sure you've noticed, AI, or artificial intelligence, is all around us. Every website and mobile app seems to be jumping on the wagon of using AI to help its users be more efficient and accurate. But is this trend really a good thing? In this article I hope to dive into the pros and cons of AI.

One example of AI that I'm sure most people have come into contact with is Snapchat's My AI. This AI bot lives at the top of your friends list, and is there as a virtual chat bot for anything you ask it.

The question about this is whether or not it is good to allow everyone access to this bot. I can tell you from experience that the Snapchat bot is not accurate and has shown its own biases. This is nothing new with AI, as most people know not to trust everything they say. But where this could be a problem is when you think about how many people have access to this bot. Snapchat is a very popular texting app, and its AI is probably the one that is most accessible to people. This could create a problem if the AI is wrong, as many people could be influenced by this information. Most people I know don't use the bot, but Snapchat still heavily promotes it at the top of your friends list.

Another example of an accessible AI is the one most people have probably heard of, ChatGPT. Like the Snapchat AI, ChatGPT is a textbot that you can ask any questions you have and give it any commands. I think ChatGPT feels a little less weird though, because it isn't presented as a virtual person like the Snapchat bot is. Instead it is just an anonymous computer that answers the questions, which to me makes it feel less intrusive. I have also found that ChatGPT can be more accurate and less biased with its answers, however, it still gets things wrong from time to time.

Whether AI is a good thing for the public or not, it can't be denied that some of the things that it can do are incredible. There are many websites now for artificial image generation, where you can type in a prompt and the computer will create an image. The results can range from crazy realistic to oddly disfigured, but the fact that a computer can create an image in different styles based on what you ask is cool regardless. It can also be interesting to observe the output of these bots when you give them a story or essay prompt. It can be neat to see what random story the bot comes up with, but with AI writing, there is a sense of unnatural perfection with the way it writes. The sentences are all cohesive and some common phrases are used, but because it comes



Image Courtesy of Canva's AI Image Generator

from a computer, the stories and information feel unnaturally even, if that makes sense.

To complete this article, I would like to show you an example of AI at work. On ChatGPT, I typed in “Create a conclusion for an article talking about AI” and this is what it had to say.

“In conclusion, artificial intelligence stands as a transformative force in our rapidly evolving world. With its boundless potential, AI has already impacted various sectors, from healthcare to finance, and continues to shape the way we work, live, and interact. While we marvel at its capabilities, it is essential to address the ethical, privacy, and security concerns that accompany this technology. As AI becomes increasingly integrated into our daily lives, responsible development, transparency, and ongoing research are paramount to ensure that AI remains a tool for the betterment of humanity rather than a source of unintended consequences. The future of AI holds exciting promise, and it is our collective responsibility to navigate this path with care, innovation, and a steadfast commitment to the greater good.”

Student Editorial by James Weeks

Free Ghost Or Undesirable Being

I have a ghost and I have named it Jerry. He is an undesirable ghost that requires a lot of my family's attention.

This undesirable ghost makes the kitchenware on the counter fall by batting it slowly off the counter. He ruins our rugs and carpets by peeling it slowly apart, making me and my family hear each thread fall and tear apart slowly. He likes to turn on and off the T.V and causes trouble in the house. He likes to run down the halls and knock down the plastic bottles.



Image Courtesy of Canva's AI Image Generator

Of course it can make me laugh and makes my dog very curious about Jerry. He makes my dog go to the bedroom door and points to the hallway. Do you wake up by hearing bottles move or making tapping sounds? It gives me and my family a lot of stories to tell to you friends and family. He is so annoying to me, and maybe he will even make your life a little more fun. The undesirable being or ghost consistently knocks down our cookware and opens and closes our doors. Do you like hearing the pots and pans rattle in your house? Do you like constant noise? Do you have enough kitchenware supplies that he can possibly destroy? I now need to replace my kitchenware at least every month.

That includes pots, pans, whisks, and lids. Do you have pets that are ghost friendly? This undesirable ghost makes our lights flicker in the house and messes up my bed. Do you like having your lights flicker in the house? Are you ok with your bed messed up? Do you have time to take care of undesirable ghost like Jerry? If you like ghosts, then an undesirable ghost is the perfect ghost for you.

This undesirable ghost is free, no tax and no extra fees for shipping. You can order your undesirable ghost today by using your grandparents ouija board today.

By L.Hoover

A Tale of Shadows

Chapter Four: The Monster with a Pure Soul

([Italic] Text inside apostrophes means internal thoughts)

Present time

Our prophecy chosen Tiefling, Skamos had woken up Stone with his shriek, which was caused by Hailstorm's reflective scales shining the blinding morning sunlight in his eyes.

Stone had yelled at Skamos, drawing the attention of a strange creature in the trees.

"Sorry! Just the usual morning blindness!" Skamos yelled back, a bit embarrassed, Hailstorm rolling his eyes while carving at wood.

Stone still seemed mad but sighed.

"We need to get some food and pack up. I'll let this slide if you go and get some food!" Stone pointed at Skamos as he gave his demand.

"Alright! I'll get going!" Skamos responded, accepting his offer, and started running into the forest, his tail trailing behind him. Stone sighed and went back into his tent.

The gray eyes in the trees follow Skamos' movement as he passes by, almost curiously, but they then disappear behind the leaves of the tree, and a black blur darts out from the tree and jumps from tree to tree to keep up with Skamos, not making a sound.

One day earlier

Back in Shadowfell, our monk creature of darkness Nightshade had impressed the Grandmaster of the monks: Nightbringer, with his display of strength, but the atmosphere became tense as the elderly monk had become more serious.

"However, there is one final thing you need to learn to be called a Master in this monastery." He closed his eye, and placed his hands near his chest, both palms facing inward, but not touching.

"My perfected technique, that you will be the first to learn." He began to make a sequence of motions, the first, he quickly spun to his left, his arms going in a circular motion in correlation with his rotation, his smoke-like aura trailing his arms as he did so.

Then, when he stopped his rotation, he lowered his arms close to the ground, palms up, and raised them upwards slowly, conjuring strands of dark matter into the air from the ground.

Shade looks in excitement.

The master repeated his previous movement, except he was pulling the energy into a spin with him, creating a partially transparent sphere around him. When he stopped again, he placed his hands together. Shade watched in suspense, as the master was doing so, before being startled by the light blue glow of Nightbringer's eye shining from inside. Shade stared in astonishment as the master transformed himself into a flying torrent of dark energy, darting around Shade, before landing on the mat, becoming the shadowy creature he was before.

“Dark Torrent.” He stated simply. Shade’s eyes gleamed with excitement and eagerness.

“I have reached the point of being able to use it at will. However, the series of movements that I have shown you demonstrates how we are one with our magic,” Nightbringer explains, Shade listening intently.

“To clarify, the string of movements represents the following in order: Connect, Envision, Preparation, Enaction, and Completion. Explaining further, connect to your souls’ magic, envision your magic effect, or how you will use it. Prepare for the magic effect to occur, enact your envisioned idea, or plan, and complete your task, or conclude your magical technique.” Shade nods in understanding.

“Now, it’s your turn! Show me that you have potential!” He stretched his arm out to him, pointing.

“Of course, master.” Shade began his attempt to copy his movements. He did very well in replicating the starting stance. He waited until he got into the mindset.

‘Ok, keep calm, imagine being like... the wind.’ He soon got this into his mind and decided that he could move on to the next step, so he started moving up to the point before the fourth step.

While putting the energy into motion, however, the energy began to twist and swirl around him like a small orb of pure darkness, Shade continued, a bit excited. Nightbringer seemed troubled.

‘This... isn’t normal... is it? I’m the only monster in this realm that has ever used this technique successfully, so is this normal for other monsters? But it should at least be somewhat more similar to me than... this.’ Nightbringer gazed at the anomaly that was Shade’s attempt at replicating his technique.

With Shade, however, something’s not right. He hears growls inside his head, similar sounding to a canines’. He has some wild feeling in his soul, like an urge to lash out, and feels dizzy, or disoriented.

The energy reached a point of hiding Shade, but then!

Suddenly, the energy began to warp and distort from a perfect sphere to create ripples, wavering, as if it was unstable. This troubled Nightbringer further.

Shade had reached the final step, the orb suddenly gained a pair of eyes, similar to Shade’s, but more intense. It was a reddish-orange rim around a sunshine-yellow parallelogram, each had an orange lightning shape that stretched from the rim, projected into being, like a Chinese dragons’ whiskers, which moved like ribbons with his eyes. The sphere also began to morph and ripple even more intensely.

Something was about to happen, and it wouldn’t be pretty. Large, black wolf paws sprouted from the orb, each being the size of a tiger’s claws.

A wolf-like snout forms as well, with a gaping maw, which then closes, the piercing eyes moved onto the wolf head.

The ball of energy that Shade once was completely transformed into an admittedly large sized wolf, which had an orange-tinted, fire-like aura around its front paws, and a mane of black, quill-like fur which had a hint of yellow in each strand.

Nightbringer flinched back, arms raised to his sides.

‘What is he doing!? I haven’t seen anything like this before. Something like this would take a toll on a Monster’s Soul!’ Nightbringer created a dark purple orb above his head.

‘This should calm him down-’ Before he was able to fire the orb, a circle of yellow quills appeared around the orb, which all flew into it, causing it to create a small explosion. Nightbringer flinched back, arms raised to defend against the blast.

The wolf leaped at Nightbringer, with its claws extended, maw gaping.

As it was doing so, its mane twitched, before firing out an alarming amount of quills, which all arced towards Nightbringer like homing missiles.

‘I never expected Shade to be so skilled against a new opponent, especially in this wild state!’ Nightbringer used Dark Torrent to quickly avoid the attack and appear on the ground behind Shade, hands behind his lower back.

Meanwhile, Shade slashed at the air, and closed his maw as he landed on all fours. He could tell that his Master avoided the attack.

The quills stopped where Nightbringer was prior to evasion, and Shade’s fangs curled into a malicious smile as it thought up a strategy. Using the quills, Shade created a sharp-pointed appendage from his mane, which looked like a deadly weapon.

Shade leapt at the wall that was in front of him and sprung off of the wall to swing his weapon of quills at Nightbringer, who couldn’t avoid the attack, so instead used his arms to block the attack, which was partially successful, but caused him to fly back, almost hitting the wall a few yards away.

‘Of course I have to deal with this directly AFTER having the guards incapacitated by Shade.’ Nightbringer realizes that with his current magic power, he wouldn’t be able to defeat Shade, so he decides to use his forbidden technique, he decided to focus surrounding energy into himself, then threw his arms outward, causing a wave of energy to befall the room, which distorted the room and the lighting, creating a sort of inverted room color, with red flames, and an icy bluish-black surroundings. Shade’s appearance also was altered. Nightbringers’ light blue eye flickers red for a moment- like a flashlight that was dropped onto a hard surface, flashing its light in short frames of time- before switching back to blue. His eye closed for a second, before opening and blazing into an ominous Purple color, he doesn’t seem to be holding back anymore.

‘I guess I have to use My Special Attacks.’

To be continued...

By Joshua B.

Join or Write for The River Hawk Review!

If you are interested in news, stories, graphic design, or are just plain nosy, join the River Hawk Review staff! We primarily meet once a week for an hour after school to create the school newspaper. Come see Mr. Smith in O6 or Miss Johnson in P4 for more information. No skills or experience necessary!

Not interested in joining, but have a great idea?

Submit story ideas (or stories, or articles!), responses to Mr. Seagull, and anonymous tips to our Google Form. The staff will review responses each week and make a decision on what to write about or include in the next issue. Use the QR code below!





Mr. Skowhegan Seagull's Horrible Advice Column

DEAR Mr. Seagull,

I have reason to believe that my locker is inhabited by a ghost. It keeps slamming shut, it keeps getting jammed, and the ghost always writes the wrong answers to my math homework. What should I do?

- Spooked Sophomore.

DEAR Spooked,

Have you tried summoning a more powerful demon to get rid of it? If not, buy black candles.

- Mr. Seagull

DEAR Mr. Seagull,

I haven't done a single homework assignment for my English class, and it's almost the end of the quarter. How do I pass my class?

- Lazy student

DEAR Lazy,

That sounds like a you problem.

- Mr. Seagull

DEAR Mr. Seagull,

I have a few friends in English class, and they are very talkative, even when the teacher tells them to be quiet, and they attack each other with the fidgets. Do you have any advice for someone who just wants a minute of peace and quiet?

- Steaming Sophomore.

DEAR Steaming,

That does seem like a problem, and I have a solution. Have you ever heard of spray bottles? Well, it's quite simple really. You fill one with water and spray them with it. From my own experience with wild dogs, it is a very effective method. Let me know if it works.

- Seagull