



# THE VOICE

March 2021

President

Michelle Ly

Vice President

Lea Mcguigan

Editor

Hannah Nettikadan

Graphic Designer

Josie Lee

Writers

Sara Perkins

Hannah Nettikadan

Lea Mcguigan

Artwork

Michelle Ly

Josie Lee

Isabel Lopez

Precious Gichane

Taisiya Petrova

Jociah Kautz

Advisors

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Art by Josie Lee

# DEBATE: Should the Minimum Wage be Increased?

Sara Perkins

The current federal minimum wage (exempting employees such as: workers with disabilities, full-time students, youth under age 20 in their first 90 consecutive calendar days of employment, tipped employees and student-learners) is \$7.25. A minimum wage is the lowest amount that employers are allowed to legally pay their employees. Employees are impacted by both federal and local minimum wages, and receive whichever is higher in their district of work. Though the American people have borne witness to various changes to the minimum wage over the years, is it time to see it get a significant increase? Many are divided on the issue. Read below to get more insight on both sides.

Yes, it should: The purpose of a minimum wage is to provide workers with a living wage. If we calculate the yearly income of someone working on minimum wage, assuming they work an 8-hour workday, 5 days a week, with no vacation time, they make about \$15,000 a year. The current price of living in the US costs about \$10,000 to \$12,000, and prices are increasingly inflating and rent skyrocketing. This leaves about, assuming one spends on the lower side, around \$5,000 to work with, surplus. While this number may seem large, it discounts the expenses of accidents, children, elderly care, hospital bills—things Americans have to pay for on a regular basis. Someone making \$15,000 wouldn't even come close to being able to pay that. This leads to an increasing number of citizens on the streets, and for no logical reason. Increasing the minimum wage to allow families to afford a stable living would increase the quality of life in the US. Within the times of Covid, increasing the minimum wage has become extremely important to the health and status of the American public. The unemployment rate was around 6.7% in December and the current homelessness rate is at about 0.17%. This means that about 560,000 people in the US are currently homeless. In times like these, it is imperative that something is done to help people in need.



No, it shouldn't: This plan's foundation crumbles soon after you consider the repercussions. Increasing the minimum wage would increase costs for employers, after having to spend more of their money paying employees. These employers will then let go more employees or decrease the number of hours employees can work to make up for that loss in money. Employers who deal in good distribution will also price their goods higher because of this, making the increase in minimum wage worthless as the cost of living will also increase. The government only has the means to increase the minimum wage by a small amount. This would do little to increase the quality of life and ability to pay for the cost of living for those that struggle to do so. If we expect businesses to make up for the wage increases, they will have to increase their sales tenfold, an almost impossible feat. Forcing this on the American people is cruel, especially since fewer and fewer people have the money nor the means to pay for more goods and services currently.



Whether or not you think the minimum wage should be increased, many can agree that something must be done to improve the standard of living in the US, regardless of the solution. This is no analysis, and if you're interested in this subject it'd be better to do individual research. The purpose of this column is to try and summarize the best we can. Please email me at [ps232700@cpslions.com](mailto:ps232700@cpslions.com) if you have any suggestions for further debates. Thanks for reading!

# Behind the Scenes

with Chelmsford News 3.0 Producer, Haley Ruccio

By Hannah Nettikadan

Filled with a cast of zany characters, from the bumbling, perpetually-ill "Dr" Saliva of the Pandemic Patrol Enforcement Squad to the dynamic duo of anchors, Ron Violet and Winnifred Kennedy, Chelmsford News 3.0, or simply "3.0", as it's known by its production team, is one of the latest COVID-safe productions made by the TV Club and the Theatre Guild. "Chelmsford News 3.0 is a bimonthly sketch show that's a parody of a newscast, in the vein of Saturday Night Live's Weekend Update or Anchorman, where we take the different aspects of a newscast, like the anchors and the traffic reporters and spin it all on its head," says Haley Ruccio ('21), Executive Producer and Editor of the newscast. I spoke with Ruccio to get a picture of what it's like to be behind the camera, putting this great project together.

Ruccio has been a member of the Theatre Guild all through high school, and has always enjoyed making videos for both classes and for fun as early as elementary school. But it was actually a random choice that sparked her passion for film. Sophomore year of high school, Haley took Communications and Media, an elective offered here at Chelmsford High, just to fill a hole in her schedule. The class covers a variety of topics on the ins-and-outs of TV production and broadcasting. That class, as she said, "brought everything together and made me realize [that] this was something I would actually love doing as a career". In college, Haley plans to study in the field of Film and Broadcasting.

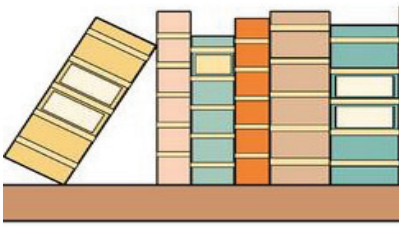
You may have noticed that the episodes of Chelmsford News 3.0 filmed this year started counting with Episode 2. Is Episode 1 some sort of elusive, Snyder Cut-esque mystery project locked away forever? Not really. The origins of 3.0 are very different from the grand newscast we know and love today. "3.0 was born when quarantine started, as an outlet for the TV Club and the Theatre Guild... to be able to work on something creative while still obeying social distancing and quarantine laws. So, we decided to do an entirely remote, skit-based show." This first episode featured student submissions of skits and was released in the Spring 2020, around the time it became apparent that a traditional Spring theater season, as well as a return to school, was not going to happen. As COVID surged on into the 2020-2021 school year, the Guild and the TV Club agreed to continue the project and evolved it into a much higher-level production.



It certainly comes with its fair share of work. As Executive Producer and Editor, there's a lot of work which goes into this newscast on Ruccio's behalf. There are many moving parts which must be kept in order. "In our most recent episode, there were 42 people involved with the production," she says. "Being able to manage all those people and making sure that timelines are being kept and everything is running smoothly and communication is being kept and stress levels are down-- just, that everything comes together to create the final product is definitely the most difficult part." But the passion project isn't all work and no play. "It's really exciting to see all these aspects that I've been working on for so long... come together. Being able to actually transform what were once words on a piece of paper, in a script, to actual video footage with music and graphics and things, is very exciting, very fulfilling, and a lot of fun."

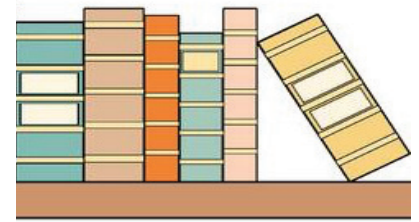
Chelmsford News has just released their second episode, the Valentine's Day special, and production has already begun on the next episode, which will be released around the beginning of April. You can find this episode or previous ones on Chelmsford TV's Youtube Channel, as well as on the CHSTv Instagram and Facebook pages.





# Lea's Reads

Lea Mcguigan



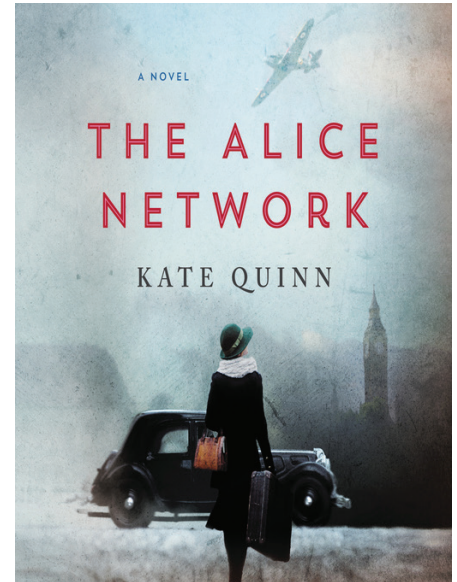
Title: The Alice Network

Author: Kate Quinn

Rating: 5/5 stars

Summary: The Alice Network is told from two points of view: one from 1915, by Eve, a spy recruited to the Alice Network and sent to France; one from Charlie, a college girl searching for her cousin who went missing in 1947, right after WWII. Charlie meets an elderly Eve and they work together while revealing to each other unspoken parts of their lives.

Review: There are not enough good things that can be said about The Alice Network. It was gorgeous, heart-breaking, breathtaking and I was devastated when it was over. The book never loses its steam and keeps the reader going up until the final page. If anyone ever has the slightest idea to read The Alice Network, do it. You will not be disappointed.



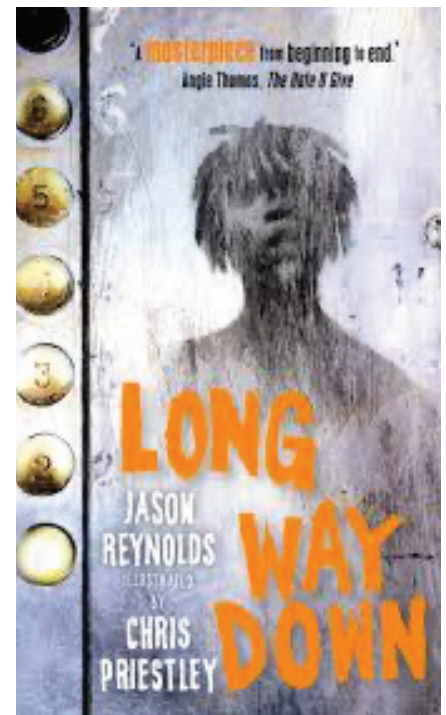
Title: Long Way Down

Author: Jason Reynolds

Rating: 4/5 stars

Summary: The whole poetry novel takes place in 60 seconds, set in the mind of a teen riding the elevator. Will's brother has just been shot and Will decides to get his revenge. While riding the elevator down to his apartment lobby, Will comes across people from his life who help him decide what he wants to do.

Review: I'm not a poetry fan at all. That being said, this book was good. It was very quick to read and flowed beautifully. Even though the characters were minor, I got very interested in their lives and end up wanting to see more from them. The ending was a bit confusing and I ended the book by asking myself "what just happened?" Nonetheless, I'd recommend it to anyone who likes poetry (and even if you think you don't), and is looking for some good, diverse stuff.



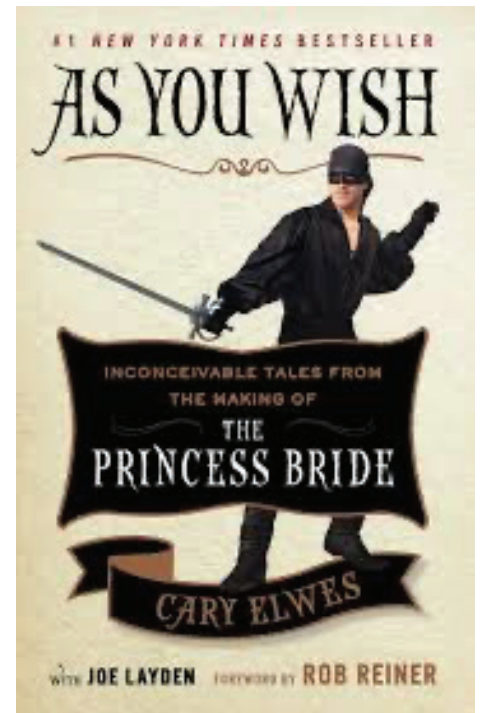
Title: As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of the Princess Bride

Author: Cary Elwes

Rating: 5/5 stars

Summary: The Princess Bride is a beloved classic film with stellar actors, and lines that are still quoted to-day. Cary Elwes stars as Wesley and takes us behind the scenes breaking down everything from ROUS (Rodents of Unusual Size) to one of the most beloved swordfights in movie history.

Review: It is chock-full of hilarious stories about every aspect of the making of this movie, but still a relatively short book that can be finished in a few days. Cary Elwes has a very natural writing style that is easy to understand. Any fan of The Princess Bride would devour this book.



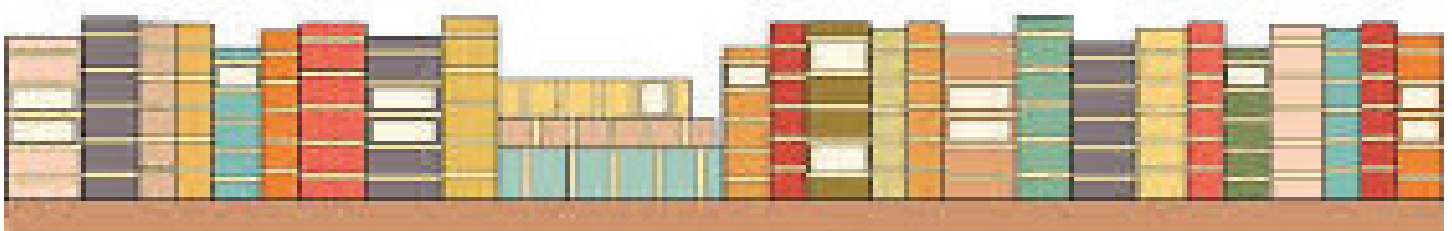
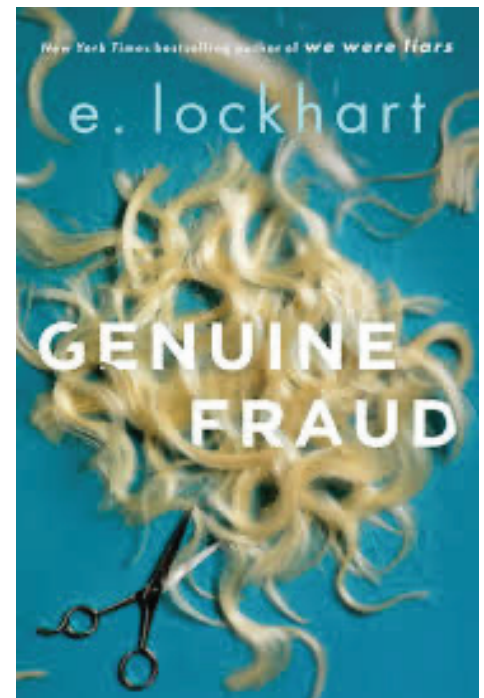
Title: Genuine Fraud

Author: E. Lockhart

Rating: 2/5 stars

Summary: Jules is a girl trying to heal after the death of her rich, carefree friend Imogen. She starts to recall some memories realizing that what she remembers is not necessarily what happened. As the fog in her mind fades, Jules sees what really went down the day Imogen died and how she could danger herself and others.

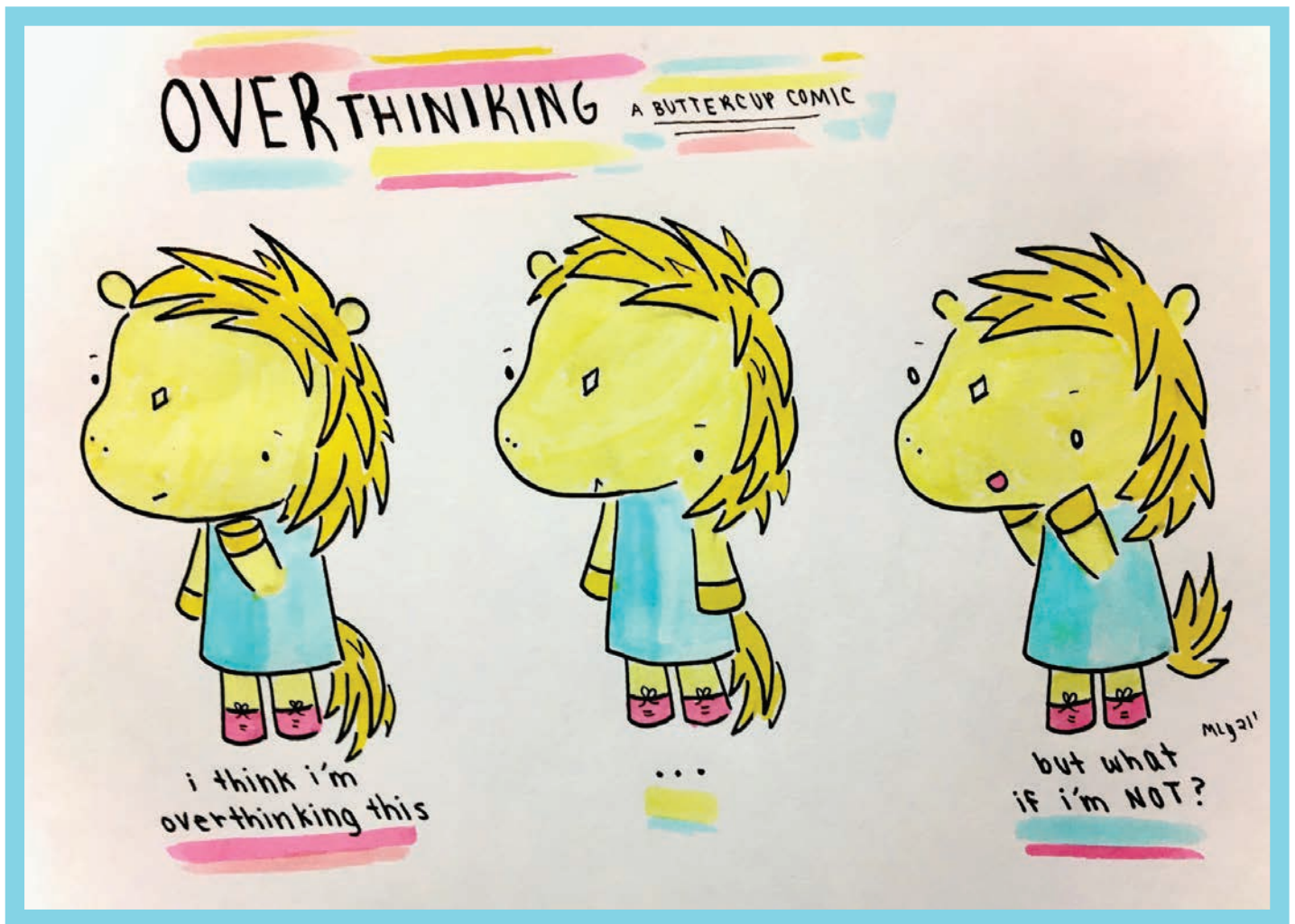
Review: Genuine Fraud was horrible. The plot made absolutely no sense and every character was annoying. The timeline was a main cause of the confusing plot. It moves backwards and sometimes forwards leaving me to question when everything was going on. Trust me, do yourself a favor and pass this book up.





# Buttercup Comics

Michelle Ly





# STAGES of waiting for COLLEGE decisions

A BUTTERCUP COMIC ~



STAGE 1:  
THE SATISFIED



STAGE 2:  
THE "JUST CHECKING"



STAGE 3:  
THE "I'M FINE"



STAGE 4:  
THE "IT'S OK FOR REAL"



STAGE 5:  
THE "JUST CHECKING"  
part 2



STAGE 6:  
THE DECISION



Isabel Lopez

Precious Gichane

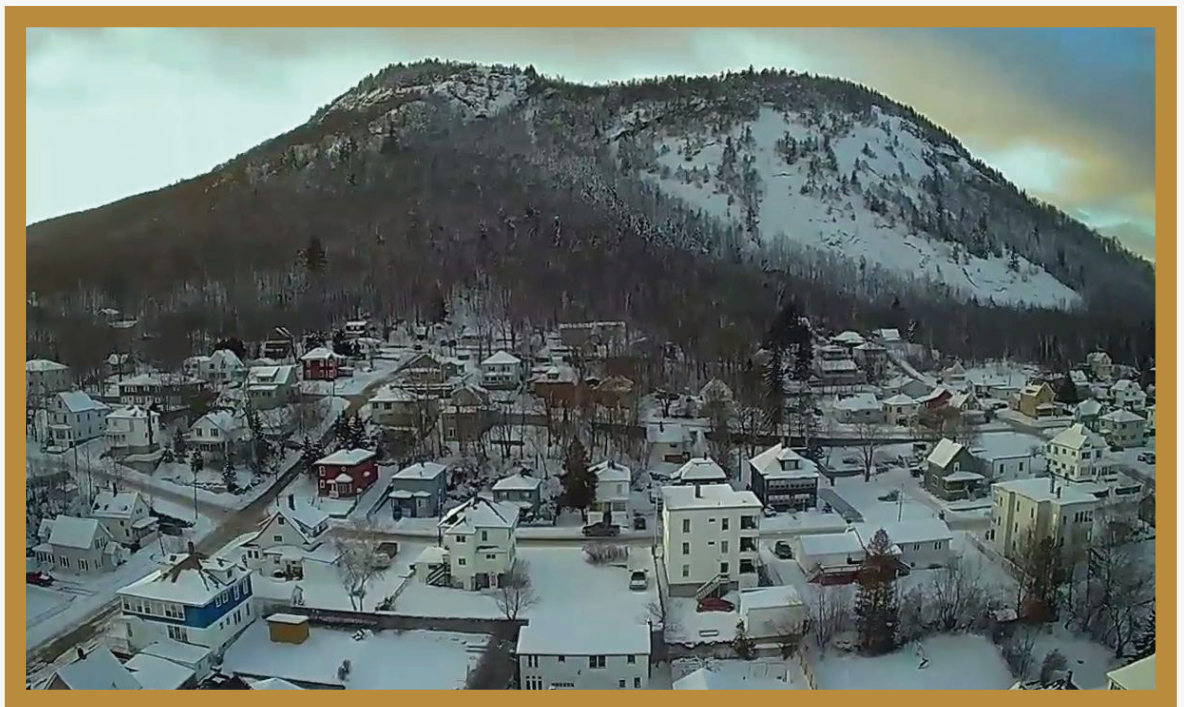


# ARTIST SPOTLIGHT





Taisiya Petrova



Jociah Kautz