

“His comedy made everyone laugh.”

JOSIE MILN '26

OCT. 28 - comments on the sudden death of Matthew Perry, who played Chandler in the popular 90s and 2000s sitcom ‘Friends.’



“MY UNCLE
AND HIS
FAMILY WERE
AFFECTED BY
THE SCARCITY
OF SUPPLIES
IN THE CITY.”

MR. KEALA KEANAIANA

AUG 8-11 - on the devastating Maui wildfires, killing over 115 people and displacing thousands more.

75,000

OCT 4 - The number of Kaiser Permanente employees who went on strike on Oct. 4 to protest for higher wages and better staffing. It was the second time they went on strike in 2023.
“KTLA 5”

AUG 23 - country to land on the south pole of the moon is India. The Chandrayaan-3 mission makes them the fourth nation to successfully land on the Moon.
“CSIS”

“THE MEDIA IS CONFLICTING.”

JAMIE WADE '24,

speaks on the Israel-Hamas war and the different ways media is portraying the information through popular social media sites.

12 ft

AUG. 26 - The height of the waves as Hurricane Idalia raged over the Caribbean, compared to the average adult male.
“National Weather Service”



“She was a
pioneer for
women’s rights.”

KAVYA UMMEYTHALA '23

SEP. 29 - on Diane Feinstein, the first female senator elected to California legislature, dies. She impacted millions as she was a pioneering woman in the male-dominated field of politics.

93%

OCT 20 - overall rating of landmark film “Killers of the Flower Moon.” Heralded for it’s depiction of the killings of members of the Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma over oil and mineral rights. Based on the novel written by David Grann.
“Rotten Tomatoes”

#NATURE

from #FALLAESTHETIC to #AUTUMN, #SPOOKYSEASON to #COZYTOX, all were encompassed in #NATURE, with over 831 million posts using it. There isn’t a better way to represent Fall!

“best-hashtags.com”

it’s a lot
to CONSIDER

MEDIA BIAS
& FAKE NEWS

In light of recent events, particularly developments in the Israel-Hamas conflict, pervasive media bias has illuminated how difficult it is to inform readers accurately and reliably: something educators and students grapple with everyday.

WITHIN THE PAST COUPLE of decades, media has become increasingly accessible to the world. Through social media and the Internet, news is literally just a click away. A variety of information that develops our worldview and opinions, comes from an immense number of news reporting sites and accounts. But within the last five years, the news has undergone a level of polarization and political scrutiny, leading to an increase of misinformation according to the National Library of Medicine. With students around the world using social media as a tool to expose themselves to the news of the world, it’s become increasingly difficult to identify sources that present biased information. The news being reported also began to come with more and more underlying motives. The focus of some articles began leaving out details, obscuring the full picture of the situation.

However, media bias is not a new phenomenon, as explained by DON CARROLL, Newspaper Advisor, English and AP Government Teacher: “If you look back into the 19th century, American newspapers were for the most part partisan newspapers written to support one or another party. And there was an openness about that. There was no pretense to objectivity. Or they pretended that they were objective, but

they were always right and I was wrong. It was a terrible media landscape.”

But in the early 20th century newspapers started to professionalize themselves, distancing from their previous affiliations. This was around the time when journalistic ethics, as in truth, accuracy, and objectivity, were

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becoming more popular in the profession, in addition to the official opening of journalistic schools and programs. While there were those who retained obvious affiliations, journalists felt obligated to maintain an unbiased perspective. Regardless of intention though, oftentimes journalists have not been immune to inserting biases into their articles, according to AllSides Technologies Inc.

“Journalism is tied to a set of ethical standards and values... However,

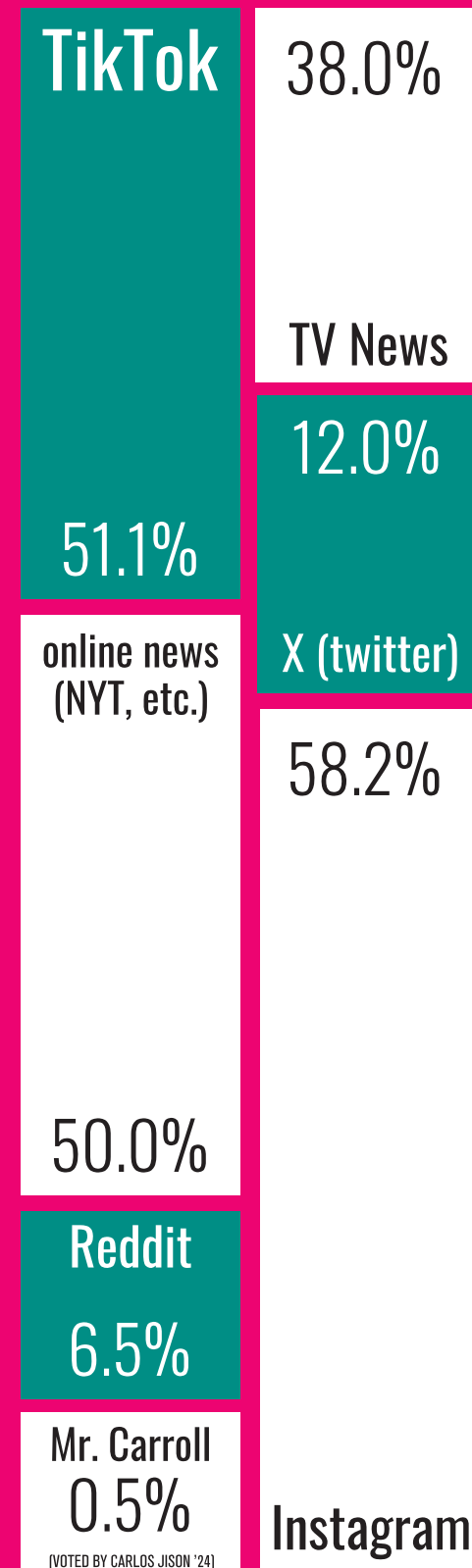
journalism today often strays from objective fact, resulting in biased news and endless examples of media bias. Media bias isn't necessarily a bad thing. But hidden bias misleads, manipulates and divides us... 72 percent of Americans believe traditional news sources report fake news, falsehoods, or content that is purposely misleading. With trust in media declining, media consumers must learn how to spot different types of media bias,” writes AllSides.

ELIMINATING BIAS IS NOT BY any means easy. Humans naturally favor perspectives that align with their interests and experiences, oftentimes subconsciously, and words have been taken out of context before, and misinterpreted. Now with the Internet being able to spread those words faster than others can correct them, the possibility of skewed intentions is greater than previous generations.

“Ironically, in being so committed to treating both sides of an issue, they may elevate one side beyond what is appropriate. So, for example, this comes up a lot in science journalism, if there's a debate over, climate science, I may feel compelled to put in the opinion to people who don't think it exists, in the name of fairness, which elevates a small

cite your SOURCES

We collected data from over 180 students asking them to identify their main sources of information online. Over half of these students said that they only rate the reliability of their sources a 5/10.



number of people who are not necessarily even being sincere in their arguments to the bulk of the scientific community, and suddenly it equivalates them. And so even the attempt to be unbiased can create outcomes you may not want," explains **CARROLL**.

THERE HAVE BEEN CASES OF media broadcast companies purposefully increasing the bias in their content, in order to strike controversy. Those arguments culminated in more views, meaning more money for the company. It also brought them a loyal following, again culminating in increased financial gains.

"The development of Fox, and its model was, we can make a lot of money by hyping up a right wing populist position. So, through cable, Fox and then, MSNBC, they realize that there's money and appealing to these particular, ideological groupings, who silo themselves off. And what we end up with are these echo chambers and some people who listen to Fox or MSNBC. They think they know everything, but they know very little because TV is terrible at informing people," adds on **CARROLL**.

"WE FAIL TO REALIZE THE GRAVITY OF THIS SITUATION."

Information taken is displayed with biases or certain perspectives in mind, the consequences are more than material. It created a group who believed completely in their fabrications and who stopped getting alternative perspectives on both sides of the political spectrum.

CALEB OBICO '25 says, "If you are purely structuring your media intake based on what provokes the strongest emotion and means that we don't typically tend to stop and think about information all

the time, which is dangerous, especially in times like political elections, which we're going through right now, we've seen a lot of people who are very reluctant to absorb new information just purely because they've been fed one viewpoint, definitely."

Also, a degree of accountability needs to be applied to people who only get their information from one source. Even when presented with opposing viewpoints from others, there has been a collective effort to ignore those voices.

"Because of what the media is, you have a media that's pretty much a spokesperson for a party, a political party. I feel like that's not authentic journalism one but two, then you're just keep spreading to a ton of people who are just going to believe whatever the news reporter says. On the TV. And so they don't really stop to think for themselves. And I think that is a huge issue," comments **KYLIE CHEN '24**.

POLARIZATION HAS BECOME so prevalent in our society, we fail to realize the gravity of this situation. The news has already proven to incite widespread panic and sometimes rioting, with people standing up for what they believe to be true, yet not acknowledging the harm they are consequently causing.

At our own news publication The Lancer, similar concerns have been taken into account, and their articles are vetted out carefully to ensure validity, credibility, and honesty. With the growing amount of uncertainty, the editors and advisors of The Lancer have made sure that their writing went through multiple rounds of edits, before publishing. They have taken conscientious steps to ensure that whatever they put out is something that wouldn't be a fabrication or oversight.

CHEN, who is on the editorial board at The Lancer, says, "We tell our science and opinions editors specifically, especially to fact check and we ask our

writers to provide sources that they used. I mean, also a lot of times since our articles go through **MR. CARROLL**. And he's pretty knowledgeable on a lot of the topics that we cover. It's the second screening, for fact-checking. I think the biggest thing we try to do is make sure that the writers are providing sources so that we can trust what they're writing more."

"COMPLETELY ELIMINATING BIAS IS IMPOSSIBLE."

More ways to identify biased reporting and misinformation have been discovered. New sites like AllSides and FactCheck, and new studies have come out in recent years to inform people how to spot media bias, and how to combat it in their own research.

OBICO comments, "It's more of trying to analyze the intent of the publication, like, why was this ever made? By presenting information, the author is making a

conscious choice about what to tell people, and you should think about why they might be doing it. I mean, if they support a certain political viewpoint, or if they're trying to push a certain agenda, even subconsciously."

PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HAD biases, it is a natural part of life. It's incredibly hard to be objective, when we all have had experiences, education, and beliefs that dictate the way we view the world. While it has been possible to minimize bias, there will always be an unlying perspective at hand, whether it comes from the reader's interpretation or the writer's intention.

CHEN says, "I think it's part of being human, the purpose of input and having morals and stuff so that you care about the people around you, the world around you. I think that's part of the reason why in some ways bias is natural. Of course, it was humbling, because now in media, where it's super polarizing, different stories, but I do think being biased is kind of inevitable, and that's what makes us human."

This is why understanding different perspectives has become imperative in our current society. Completely eliminating bias is impossible, but understanding it will help us reduce the blinding influence it can have. To better understand the world, one must first understand the ideas and viewpoints of other people.

CARROLL advises, "You should read opinions from other people. It may change, especially as you're still developing. As younger people, you're still developing your ideas. You don't know enough yet."

Allsides Inc. states, "Good reporting can shed valuable light on our biases — good and bad. By learning how to spot media bias, how it works, and how it might blind us, we can avoid being fooled by media bias and fake news. We can learn to identify and appreciate different perspectives — and ultimately, come to a more wholesome view."

show us THE RECEIPTS

We've looked at the issues with media bias and why it's a dangerous trap, but how can we "fix" it? The school librarians have the following advice:

- 1 Black and White?**
"One idea that I like is that sometimes people talk about biased and unbiased sources, but I think that thinking of it more in terms of a spectrum is helpful. As humans, we're going to have biases, but it's more useful to think about it in a way where you're finding things that are 'less' biased rather than 'not' biased."
MEGAN BIRDSONG
- 2 Disinformation vs. Misinformation**
"Disinformation is deliberately spreading incorrect facts, whereas misinformation might just be more the result of you getting really riled up about something you read that's not quite right, but you keep spreading it because you just need to share that, with the excitement you felt."
MEI YANG
- 3 Resources On Campus**
"On the library website there's a fact checker and bias checker section, we're working on transferring the information to a new website, but it is there. And we do post on Instagram (@sfhs_library) every once in a while with quick tips and tricks. And of course we have the bookmark."
MEI YANG



pick up this bookmark in the library!