



TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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Back From Extinction Scientists Genetic Engineering Taking Bold Steps

By Joshua Krugman
Staff Writer

The woolly mammoth (*Mammuthus Primigenius*) is an extinct species of mammoth closely related to the Asian elephant of today. But scientists are close to bringing the mammoth back to life.

According to *CNN* writer Katie Hunt, scientists at Colossal Biosciences have genetically engineered a new organism: The woolly mouse, a genetically modified rodent with woolly mammoth traits.

This could be the first step in reviving the woolly mammoth and other extinct creatures. Colossal Biosciences also plans to resurrect the Dodo bird and Tasmanian tiger and return them to their natural habitat. Over the next few years, scientific advancements could allow scientists to bring back extinct creatures.

The woolly mammoth began dying off during the Holocene epoch after the last ice age ended 11,700 years ago. We are still experiencing the Anthropocene period to the present day, and the climate is still warming.

The last woolly mammoths went extinct 4,000 years ago. Due to the relatively recent extinction of the woolly mammoth, and the possession of perfectly preserved mammoth corpses frozen in ice, scientists have the genome (genetic information) necessary to recreate the woolly mammoth.

Woolly mice have certain woolly mammoth traits such as fast-growing, thick fur. It might not be possible to create or clone the woolly mammoth with 100 percent accuracy to its extinct forerunner. A genetically similar, lab-created mammoth would be close to the original creature but not a carbon copy.

"In many regards, if they (Colossal Biosciences) truly pieced together the full genome of these creatures, it would be the real thing but not 100 percent truly a woolly mammoth," Triton science teacher Thomas Horsley said.

Horsley is enthusiastic about bringing back extinct creatures for the evolution of scientific and medical advancement.

"There is value beyond resurrecting these species, such as medical benefits," Horsley said.

Bringing back extinct creatures is an exciting premise, but whether doing so is a good idea is an ethical concern.

"It is a thorny issue to bring back extinct creatures. Introducing mammoths into the wild would have to be closely monitored because other creatures have filled the void of the mammoth, and reintroducing them could throw off the natural balance," Triton science teacher Adam Lothrop said.

Triton science teacher Ivan Ferron thinks we should preserve the species we still have instead of bringing back extinct ones. For example, the North Atlantic Right Whale has a sparse population of 370 members. Species with a dire need to be protected should take priority over those already extinct.

"I love the idea of bringing back extinct species, but we should focus on preserving the ones we have



Science teacher Mr. Tom Horsley holds the skulls of deceased animals (Krugman photo).

now," said Ferron.

Humanity has been responsible for the direct and indirect extinction of over 381,000 species from the first homo-sapiens that walked the Earth over 300,000 years ago. Thousands of other species are at risk of extinction due to humans in the future.

According to *Science Alert* writer Nick Longrich, "The spread of modern humans out of Africa has caused a sixth mass extinction, The greater than 40,000-year event extends from the disappearance of ice age mammals to the destruction of rainforests by civilization today."

The Neanderthal, an archaic human species, which appeared to have shared similar intelligence as early humans was also pushed past the brink of extinction by those same humans. It is a tragedy considering that the Neanderthals were likely just as smart as us.

"We continue to cause species to go extinct, and instead of saying 'oh, we can bring it back, we should keep them from going extinct in the first place,' we should save this technology until we fix the current problem," Ferron said.

"We hunted them to extinction. We are responsible for the extinction of these animals, so if we can give them another chance, I think that would be really cool," Horsley said.

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Summer Jobs Make the Most of Your Summer Break

Riley McIsaac, Staff Writer



Triton junior Charlotte Hergel works at Majestic Harbor

School in Rowley, a daycare for children. On an average afternoon, she walks through the daycare doors and is greeted by a variety of little faces, excited to say, "hello." One of her favorite parts of her day is getting to put the kids to bed during naptime. After a long day of school, it's a nice break.

Asked if she recommended this job to highschoolers, Hergel stated, "I would recommend this job to people who have patience and genuinely enjoy being with kids."

As high school students are rounding the corner to summer, many are on job hunt. Summer is seven weeks away, and lasts about ten weeks, so kids want to know which jobs are fun and interesting and which ones are boring. Common summer jobs are scooping ice cream or working at a restaurant, but the *Triton Voice* wants to know what jobs get students doing something more original.

"I enjoy working with kids and the bond you get to form with each kid, as well as helping them throughout their day."

"Recently I became a CNA at Port Healthcare Center in Newburyport. I get to help the elderly with their daily routines because, sadly, most of them can't do it for themselves anymore," said Triton senior Cole Sanders.

"I would recommend this job because you get to listen to their advice and really get to know them, and you find comfort in knowing you're helping someone," said Sanders.

"I am going to spend my summer working at a summer camp called Camp Cedar Mill in Rowley. I am going to be a counselor," said Triton junior Abigail Richard.

"I would definitely recommend this job because I get to be outside during the warm weather and do fun activities to break the day up with the kids there!" said Richard.

It seems to be that the most interesting and fun jobs are the ones where you get to form bonds and help others. Whether it is being with kids like Richard, spending the day playing with babies, like Hergel, or helping the elderly like Cole — there is a summer job out there for everyone.

Review Warfare film Brings Reality, Controversy to Screens

By Mike Coco & Harry Pike
Staff Writers

A deafening explosion rips through the theater's speakers. Audience members' ears ring and hearts pound.

Alex Garland's newest film *Warfare*, released in theaters on April 11, follows a Navy SEAL surveillance mission gone wrong in the midst of the war in Iraq. The film is getting attention from the media recently due to its unique approaches to filmmaking and storytelling.

Taking place during the Iraq War in 2006, after the Battle of Ramadi, the film is based on co-director/co-writer Ray Mendoza's personal experience as a Navy SEAL during a mission gone wrong. The film starts off as typical war movies are portrayed, with a cast of young Hollywood actors showing comradery in an

almost comical manner. This fun quickly fades within seconds and we learn what the real tone of the film will be.

The film does a lot of things really well but also manages to do things differently from traditional movies we see today. For instance, the 95 minute run time takes no time cuts and instead creates a more realistic feeling for the audience, as if audience members are experiencing the mission with the characters. Garland and Mendoza created the film based on the real account of the mission from the soldiers who experienced it. Mendoza's point in creating the film from his real experiences was to help former Navy SEAL and member of the same platoon as Garland, Elliot Miller, put the pieces of the experience back together since he had

experienced a traumatic brain injury during the real 2006 mission

The film features Will Poulter, Kit Connor and Cosmo Jarvis along other young Hollywood actors who do a sensational job of bringing their real life counterpart's actual experience to the big screen. They do such a good job at becoming the characters and bringing their real pain and trauma from that mission to the audience that it can make the film uncomfortable at times.

Sound designer Glenn Freemantle worked to create a sound design for *Warfare* unlike anything else we've seen. The film took a risk excluding a more traditional soundtrack for the film. This is also one of the film's best attributes as

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Triton Theater Takes Flight with *Layover*

By Tim Clark, Staff Writer

The Massachusetts Educational Theater Guild (METG) Drama Festival is a competitive program that features 88 one-act plays produced by high schools all over the state. Of those 88 plays, only 42 are selected to advance to the second round in which schools compete for a shot at the final round where only 15 schools qualify.

On March 1st at Melrose High School, Triton’s play, *The Layover*, competed against seven other schools in the preliminary round. Of the eight schools performing, only four would be selected for the semifinal round. The four acts selected were: Everett High School’s *The 146 Point Flame*, Melrose High School’s *The Outsiders*, Georgetown High School’s *By The Tall Trees*, and Triton Regional’s *The Layover*.

The Layover revolves around the main character, Shellie, played by Heidi Sanger, at an airport where she is awaiting her flight. After her bag is stolen, she meets several new characters in attempts to recover it, and all the people she meets have their own unique stories. In the end, most of the conflict is resolved, but not before a surprise ending.

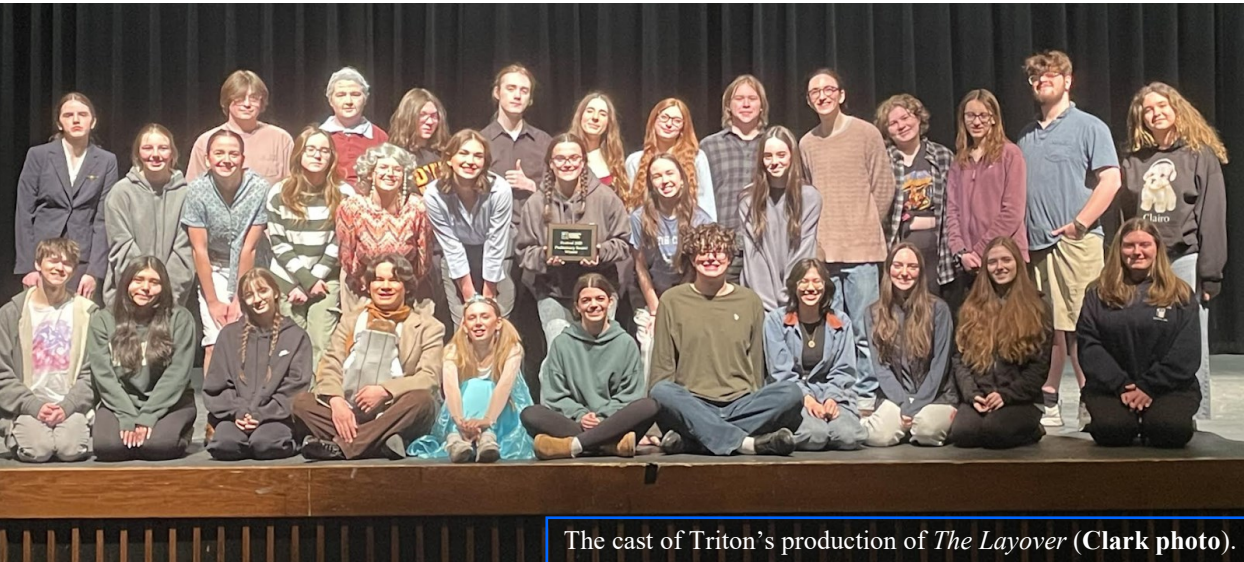
Qualifying for the semi finals is something that Triton has fallen short of for nearly a decade, but this year, some-

thing was different for the Vikings.’

“This year, one of our alumni, Alexandra Messina, directed the play, which allowed me to focus solely on tech and all the paperwork that comes with taking students to competitions,” said Natalie Safley, the head of the drama department. “Normally, I have to manage everything, but this time, I could put my full energy into the technical side. The process felt really strong, and while art is subjective, I think it came together really well.”

For the students, making it to the semi-finals was an unforgettable experience, filled with anticipation and excitement. The announcement of the advancing schools was nerve-wracking, especially as Triton was the last name to be called.

“They announced four schools moving on, and we were the last one called,” senior Alyssa Ewell said. “It took a few days to even process it.” Compared to the ma-



The cast of Triton’s production of *The Layover* (Clark photo).

jority of their performances, the feeling of being in a competition with other schools was something that a lot of the actors have never experienced.

“The audience is full of theater kids who notice every little detail,” said Taryn Irvin. “They laugh at the right moments, and they’re more appreciative. But it’s also more stressful because you know you’re being judged.”

Beyond just advancing in the competition, the festival gave the students a new sense of confidence and validation. For

years, Triton’s theater program has encouraged its students to believe in their talent, and this achievement has confirmed that, Safley said.

“It definitely boosted their confidence,” Safley said. “Messina and I always tell them, ‘You’re just as good as the others—you just don’t believe it yet.’ This experience helped them silence those voices of doubt and realize, ‘We can do this. We are good enough.’”

Opinion Students Should be Drug Tested

By Riley McIsaac, Staff Writer

In Oklahoma, students participating in extracurricular activities are required to partake in random drug testing. While there's been a recurring argument that drug testing shouldn't be allowed for school or extracurricular activities around the country, the bottom line is that it is legal and should be required.

By signing up for a sport, you are committing to obey the rules of the game. Athletes have a bad reputation for taking performance enhancing drugs in the modern age. That’s why students participating in extracurricular activities and sports should be drug tested.

If you play a sport that primarily relies on contact, for example football, then not only are you harming yourself by using drugs, but you can similarly be hurting your peers around you as well as your own teammates. Drugs help add muscle more quickly, making it easier to unintentionally hurt someone else. When a student athlete gets caught with drugs, it becomes a problem for the entire team. They can get suspended, kicked out of games, cause forfeits, or cause searches of every player. This can all be avoided if every student is required to take a drug test because fewer students would take the drugs knowing they could get caught.

One argument is that if the drug is medically prescribed, it's okay. The popular drug referred to in these cases is medical marijuana. An article written by Tom Kelly for the *Education Commission of the States*, talks about the laws for medical marijuana in Illinois, Colorado, Maine and New Jersey:

- 1.Students using medical marijuana products must have a valid medical recommendation
- 2.Only non-smokable marijuana products may be administered on school grounds
- 3.Only parents, legal guardians, or primary caregivers may administer the substance
- 4.Students cannot be punished for medical marijuana use on school grounds

Medical marijuana is said to help with pain relief, nausea and vomiting, appetite stimulation, MS symptoms, epilepsy and seizures, anxiety and insomnia, and other potential uses for treating Tourette Syndrome and Crohn's disease. Sometimes, students need this to get through their everyday lives and they should not be tested if an administrator sees a valid recommendation from a doctor. Random drug testing avoids conflict if a student shows proof, and fishes out the students who do it without proof.

High school athletes should get drug tested just as Olympians do. Any athlete “participating at an event or competition sanctioned” by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee will be drug tested. Due to the United States Anti-Doping Agency, there are both in competition and out-of-competition drug tests for athletes. Drug testing happens either through urine or blood tests and they are notified by a doping control officer. After testing positive on drug tests, it's most likely that they will be disqualified or suspended.

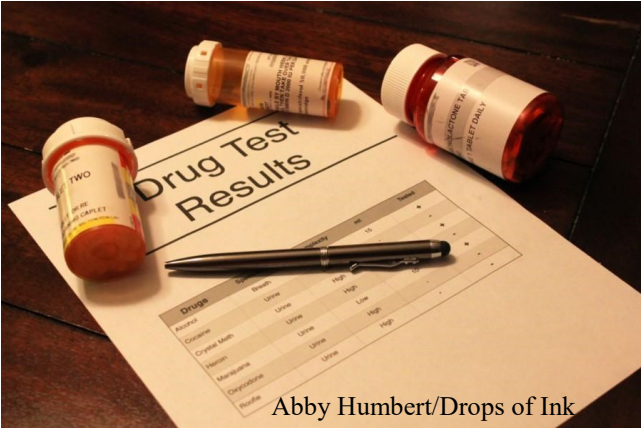
In one landmark Supreme Court case, *BOE of Independent School District No. 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls* (2002), two students and their parents argued against the school for drug testing athletes. They said it violated their Fourth Amendment right for protection against unreasonable searches (the Court of Appeals

soon held that the policy did in fact violate their Fourth Amendment.).

According to an article by Oyez media search, which is a publisher of Supreme Court cases, “The appellate court concluded that before imposing a suspicionless drug-testing program a school must demonstrate some identifiable drug abuse problem among a sufficient number of those tested, such that testing that group will actually redress its drug problem, which the School District had failed to demonstrate.”

On appeal, the Supreme Court held that the drug testing policy was constitutional. The nine justices: Rehnquist, Stevens, O’Connor, Scalia, Kennedy, Souter, Thomas, Ginsburg, and Bryer ruled that students in extracurricular activities had a reduced expectation of privacy and the school had an interest in preventing drug use.

The impact of this case expanded schools’ authority to implement suspicionless drug testing policies for students involved in non-athletic extracurricular activities. In the end, the reasoning is clear: students should be drug tested for extracurricular activities because they know what they are signing up for.



Abby Humbert/Drops of Ink

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it features no songs or score but instead relies on a hyper-realistic sound design meant to immerse the audience in the chaos of the combat. Radio chatter, IED explosions, tank and gunfire, yelling commands, and wounded soldiers screaming out gives the audience one of the most terrifying and realistic depictions of a real life combat mission put to screen.

The lack of representation of the Iraqi family whose house was taken over by the SEAL team and the portrayal of some SEALs being heroes during the battle has sparked controversy online. Many people believe the Iraq war was wrong and that this movie fails to show what Iraqi civilians went through during it and how the United States and all the soldiers involved were an evil invading power. However, because the film is solely from the perspective and memory of the SEALs, it makes sense that the film would focus on realism and the mission.

The movie was made to show a realistic representation of the horrors of modern combat, not to explain how the US invasion of Iraq was wrong or how Iraqi civilians suffered through the war. Certain soldiers are depicted as heroes because that is what actually happened during that mission and their actions were heroic, not because the directors wanted them to be heroes. Some soldiers are also shown as being more afraid to fight or risk their lives which just adds to the realism of the movie.

Opinion Out For Lunch

By Tim Clark, Staff Writer

For years students at Triton have talked about and yearned for something better than stuffed crust pizza on a cardboard tray in a cafeteria filled to the brim with people.

Discussion about the privilege of leaving campus for lunch time has been on students’ lips for quite some time, but concerns for student safety has been a major road-block.

“It would be way more enjoyable to leave school for lunch because you can go eat whatever you want and hang out with your friends,” said senior Bradyn Lopes.

“I understand the safety concerns with leaving,” adds junior Angela Simmons, “but it would be so much better to have an open campus.”

Not only are students affected by the idea but staff are as well, a significant number of snack sales and lunch supplies would decrease leaving staff worried for what might come. “The cafeteria and lunch ladies might have more of a hard time finding work because so many students would leave I feel like,” said senior Aiden Moriarty.

Although it will be hard to convince staff who’s main priority is the students and their safety at Triton, an open campus lunch would provide a unique experience for young adults to enjoy a more relaxed lifestyle and break from their academic day.



Project Bread Staff Visits Triton’s Cafeteria (Project Bread Image).

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Everyone has their favorite extinct animals and would love to see them alive again. The ability to resurrect certain extinct species provides an opportunity to see them.

“If I could bring back one extinct species, I would choose the passenger pigeon. Horsley said. “I am on team passenger pigeon!”

“I would like to see a woolly mammoth,” Lothrop said.

“I want to know what dinosaurs looked like.” Said Ferron.

The continued growth in the human population across the planet leads to animal habitats being destroyed, more fossil fuels being burned, and more damage to the ecosystem. Humanity already has the blood of so many species on its hands, but with the technology to bring extinct creatures back to life, we can begin rectifying our mistakes.