

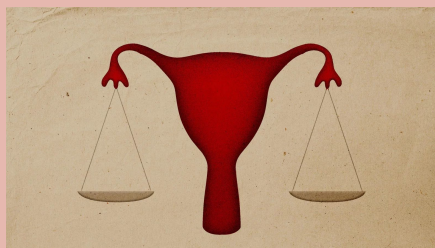
The Horizon Newsletter

May 2019

Alabama's Abortion Ban

By: Pavitra Madala

The anti-abortion policy signed by the governor of Alabama recently left many American citizens shocked. This controversial topic has been circulating over media because it outlaws all abortions, even ones resulting from unwanted pregnancies such as rape and incest. For



about half a century, the Roe v. Wade court case decision has been practiced, and this law supports the end of this policy. This court case established that women had the liberty to choose whether or not she should have an abortion; this policy had many supporters. Currently, however, seventy percent of Americans are against Alabama's ban. The removal of the widely popular rape and incest exemption from the recent bans show how far this topic has gotten in protecting the rights of either the mother or the fetus.

ACT Perfect Scores Rise

By: Shrihan Dadi

The number of ACT perfect scores has been on the rise, doubling since 2015. Back in 2010, 1 out of every 2,600 students got a perfect score. In 2018, 1 out every 500 students managed to nail the test. The number of students scoring perfect quickly went from just a few to over thousands of people. The average score, however, has stayed at around 21 for the past 5 years. The gap between average and the top can most likely be explained by the rise in the test-prep industry. A lot of prospective parents and students see the benefits of investing thousands of dollars in test prep programs for tests such as the ACT and the SAT in order to gain an advantage over other students. Even though this might seem a bit extreme, the benefits do play out. For example, a 5 point jump on the ACT could result in students being eligible for tens of thousands of dollars of financial aid. In fact, the test preparation business totaled up to 25 billion dollars in 2016. Top students and top high schools are helping to drive up these perfect scores by focusing more extensively on test preparation. Many high schoolers are getting the message that excelling on these tests is important for getting into good colleges. The perfect score boom itself is convincing many of these students to study extensively for these tests. As a result, peer pressure can build, creating spirits of competition in order to motivate students to work hard. Stress can rise in groups of the best students in the best schools, leading to a loss of priorities and negative effects. Even though, ACT perfect scores soared over the past decade, many effects concurred from the rise. So, does this mean that the ACT is easier than SAT? No! Students usually excel on one of the two tests much better than the other. The ACT measures achievement while the SAT measures aptitude. Some people say that the ACT is easier than the SAT. It may appear like that only because a higher proportion of students excel on the ACT compared to the



SAT. Personally, I would recommend trying both tests and focusing on the one which you score best.

Trade Tariff Tensions

By: Arya Bharti

On Monday, investors were forced to respond to the escalating trade war between the U.S and China after Beijing announced an addition of a total of \$60 billion worth of tariffs on American goods. The trading sessions targeted companies with great exposure to China, such as Boeing and Dow Jones, and they ended up taking the largest hits.



Currently the U.S. imports more goods from China than it exports to China. This is something that U.S. President Donald Trump has called unacceptable. He also says China has not been fair in its trade practices, and when a deal wasn't reached last Friday, the U.S. government raised its tariff rate from 10 percent to 25 percent on about \$200 billion worth of

Chinese goods. The U.S. government says China went back on promises it made earlier in the negotiations. But Trump is confident and happy in the position in the United States is currently in, with him stating on Twitter, “The only problem is that they know I am going to win (best economy & employment numbers in U.S. history, & much more), and the deal will become far worse for them if it has to be negotiated in my second term. It would be wise for them to act now, but both leaders love collecting “BIG TARIFFS!”

CO₂ effect

By: Sumant Anantha

Most of the gas that is contained in the air is Carbon Dioxide. Too much of Carbon Dioxide will poison the atmosphere. Michael Mann, an eminent professor of Meteorology at Penn State University, states, “every year, 3 ppm (parts per million) of Carbon Dioxide is added to the atmosphere.” On May 11th 2019, Saturday, the levels of the greenhouse gases reached 415 ppm. This will start to wither down the process of the Carbon Cycle and start putting any abiotic or biotic factors at risk. Climate changes are constantly becoming affected from the concentrated levels of the greenhouse gases. Climate change does not



only surround the increasing average temperature (global warming) but also the extreme weather events. This makes animals move to other habitats or make the sea levels rise. The more heat the planet generates, the more pressure the environment will experience.