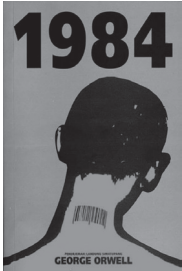


6 Commonly Banned Books*

*According to Butler University, Libraries and Center for Academic Technology

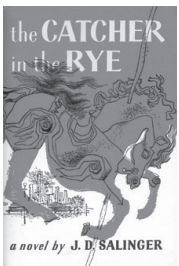
1. *1984* by George Orwell



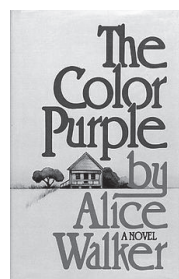
2. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain



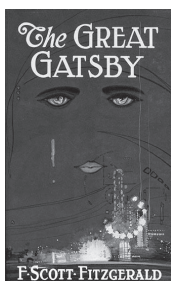
3. *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger



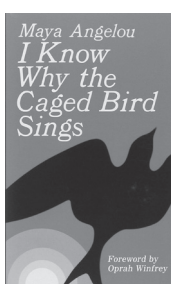
4. *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker



5. *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald



6. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou



More on Climate Change...

Penny for Your Thoughts

A column by Brenna Hildebrand

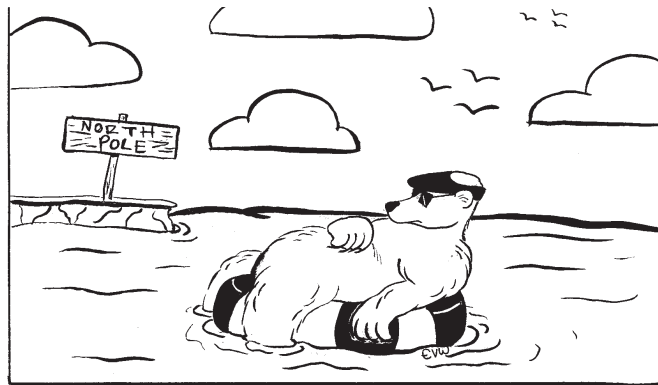
If you care about your future, then you should care about the Earth. The Earth is what gives us all of our resources; it is where we live. As we don't have the technology to colonize other planets, the Earth is all we have. Right now, however, the Earth is in danger. Global warming is tearing at the ozone and causing large environmental changes. The only way to help this is to actively avoid producing greenhouse gasses and to clean up what we have already made a mess of on this Earth. There are those in our government, however, who seem to be trying to avoid the responsibility of cleaning up our planet.

The EPA, or the Environmental Protection Agency, was created in 1970 by President Nixon to protect the environment in order to protect human health. A few ways the EPA does this is by educating and encouraging work forces to practice sustainable energy uses and continuing research on creating and advancing these sustainability indicators, metrics, and tools.

The problem is, there was a bill proposed to disband the EPA. The bill most likely isn't going to get passed; it was the first bill created by a freshman lawmaker and has just three co-sponsors, so there's no real threat of this bill being passed. However, that doesn't mean that the EPA is in the clear. The attorney general of Oklahoma, Scott Pruitt, was put in charge of the EPA. This is the same attorney general who has been known to target the EPA with several lawsuits at a time. Many fear that Pruitt will

dismantle the EPA from the inside. However, Pruitt has also led a historic water rights settlement that preserved the ecosystem of scenic lakes and rivers. He has also pledged to lead the EPA in a way that ensures our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment. I suppose the only way to tell if he will live up to his statements is to wait and see.

The EPA is very important to our country and the future of our people. The organization is being threatened, which could spell disaster for all of us. We must protect our future and the future of our children. Luckily, there are ways you can help out the planet while waiting to see if Pruitt will do anything beneficial for the environment. You can help protect our Earth by going to the EPA website to donate to their cause. You can also find information there about what you can specifically do in your community to help diminish the effects of climate change.



Cartoon by Elizabeth Van Wellden

Pelladium Staff Editorial: Climate Change

There have been many important social issues surrounding our government in 2017. One of the most controversial is climate change. Is it real? Is it a hoax? Is it a lie created by the Chinese to drive their own economy? Whatever you believe, one thing is for certain: the things we do in our day to day life hurt our planet. Whether it's throwing away that Walmart sack, eating a hamburger, or putting a recyclable in a receptacle without credibility, these things have

been scientifically proven to hurt our mother earth. So, next time you eat a burger, throw away the sack, or recycle, think. What are you doing to change our earth?

With these articles, we hope that you see how simple and thoughtless actions affect our world. The beef industry uses gallons and gallons of water every year just to provide for the masses, and to counteract this, people are going vegan. People are reluctant to make changes

since many issues are not brought to light, but we hope this edition opens your eyes to the possibilities you have to change our earth for the better.

*The Pelladium Staff unanimously voted in favor of this editorial.

Censorship in Today's World

In schools, workplaces, and the greater world beyond, one of the fiercest debates of today is over the issue of censorship. Well, then, for starters-- what exactly is censorship? Censorship, to define it broadly, is the suppression of speech that tends to, in one way or another, step on somebody's feet in a way that they don't like. This can take on a myriad of forms: whether it's an "offensive" work of literature, something too "sensitive" or "touchy" for a broader audience, or "hate speech" on political grounds. If there's a way to express something controversially, you can bet that there's some group of people out there pining to stop it from being expressed.

Which brings me to the next question: who/ what are the main targets for censorship today, and who are the censors pulling the strings? Some of the biggest candidates for censorship today are the books on school curriculum reading lists: *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Huck Finn* are constantly under fire for their usage of racial slurs, and even seemingly harmless books like

Moby-Dick have been held to the flame in a few school districts.

This October, a Mississippi high school pulled *To Kill a Mockingbird* from its reading list, with the school board citing the book's language as untenable for a classroom setting. To quote the board exactly: "There is some language in the book that makes people uncomfortable." That's a very warped reason to ban a book. Unless you're reading *Dick & Jane*, there's probably something in every classroom novel that some parent out there will find objectionable-- so, if, when banning books, schools start going by the 'uncomfortability' standard, it'll be a miracle if students have anything left to read at all.

Reading the great American classics is one of the essential tenets of our education system, as novels like *To Kill a Mockingbird* are intricately weaved into our culture and help keep the spirit of literature alive in today's generation. Caving in to the weaponized outrage of angry parents who haven't read a book since their senior year book

report on *The Great Gatsby* will only prevent innocent kids from getting a good literary education.

As for *Mockingbird*, it's completely fine if you personally don't happen to like the visual aesthetics of the n-word, but that's not the point of why it's being used-- it's a historically accurate portrayal (and commentary on) the southern culture and racism of the time period. Lee didn't write all those slurs for the shock factor, and barring kids from learning about this historical prejudice is a good way for that history to repeat itself. High school students are more than able to handle glancing over a few slurs if it's for their greater good.

School censorship of these kinds of books implies that students aren't mature enough to handle reading serious literature, which undermines both the students and their education.