

“Sensitive materials” policy fails



Photo by Alex Clark | Life Editor

A-State students have been attending the Library Board meetings alongside community members. At the Oct. 11 meeting, they held up red or green cards to show their agreement or disagreement with speakers.

ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

A policy proposal for the Craighead County Jonesboro Public Library Board to receive prior awareness of “sensitive materials” failed at the Sensitive Materials Subcommittee meeting. The policy, proposed at Monday’s meeting, required the Library Board to be made aware of the purchase and placement of any “sensitive materials,” and create a process to assure the community the library board is considerate of a parent’s role in a child’s life. The Library Board would be given a three-month notice of intended purchases and dis-

plays by the children’s, juvenile and teen areas under this policy. The policy lists “sensitive materials” as topics of any sexual and romantic attraction and experience, topics of “gender fluidity” or other gender theories and topics of family planning such as abortion, sex education and birth control. The policy was intended to be exercised in a neutral manner and consider all viewpoints. All subcommittee members, except Mark Nichols, voted against the policy. The proposal will go to the full Library Board. The library controversy over sensitive materials began in June when community members spoke out against a Pride Month display. The Library

Board’s monthly meetings have included community speakers on the issue from both sides, and the Library Board has not yet voted on what to do regarding “sensitive materials.” Following the resignation of Amanda Escue and Curt Hawkins from the Library Board, Judge Marvin Day nominated Michael Watkins and Whitney Hicks to be on the Library Board. Watkins’ nomination advanced, but Hicks’ failed. Judge Day nominated Kailey Holt Luster in Hicks’ place, and both nominations were passed unanimously at the Quorum Court meeting Oct. 25. The next full Library Board meeting will be Nov. 8 at 5:30 p.m.

¡Feliz Día de los Muertos!

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON

COLUMN BY ALEX CLARK

LIFE EDITOR

Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, is a Mexican celebration of the deceased returning to visit their loved ones. Día de los Muertos is celebrated Nov. 1-2. Traditional decorations for Día de los Muertos include an ofrenda honoring dead loved

ones, and marigolds believed to attract spirits with their color and scent. Another tradition for Día de los Muertos is making decorative Calaveras, or sugar skulls, which can be made of candy or clay, and is also seen as a style of face painting. Families will visit cemeteries to decorate and clean gravestones. Though Día de los Muertos is frequently viewed

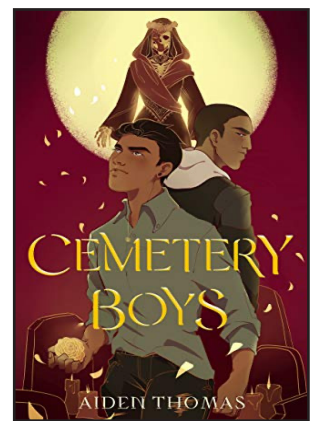
as “Mexican Halloween,” this is inaccurate. Halloween derives from a Celtic festival of lighting bonfires and wearing costumes to ward off ghosts, while Day of the Dead is a celebration of death as a part of life. Below are a few recommendations of things you can watch or read, which accurately portray Mexican culture around Día de los Muertos.



“Coco” (2017)
- dir. Lee Unkrich



“Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Life” (2020)
- dir. Denise Richards



“Cemetery Boys”
- Aiden Thomas

THIS WEEK’S POP PICK

REVIEW BY LILY CABIBI-WILKIN | OPINION EDITOR

“Caramelldansen” - Caramella Girls

“Caramelldansen,” the hit dance-pop track that has been featured in memes and party playlists over the last decade, turned 20 yesterday. The original version, which is a lot slower than the version most are familiar with, was released by Swedish group Caramell, and was produced under the company Remixed Records. In 2006, a 19.38% sped-up version of the song, referred to as a “Speedycake” (similar to nightcore), was released on 4chan. The sped up version gained popularity and was eventually released in Asia in 2008 by Quake Inc., a Japanese music distribution company. The dance associated with the song, where dancers swing their hips and wave their hands over their heads to imitate rabbit ears, came from a GIF from the anime of Japanese visual novel “Popotan.” The GIF was combined with a separate version of the sped-up “Caramelldansen” and the two have been linked ever since.



SCREENSHOT COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

A remaster of the “Caramelldansen” music video features the iconic dance associated with the song.

The popularity of the song led Remixed Records to change their name to Caramella Girls, and to change the focus of their branding to the anime-esque characters we know now. They are Mindy (blonde), Nadine (purple) and Vera (brunette). The song received versions in Japanese, English, German, Spanish and Portuguese. The song has also seen several re-releases and remixes, with the latest being a 4K version of the song released in March. I guess you could say “they have heard this meme all around the world.”

HOROSCOPES

☀️ - IN SEASON

ALEX CLARK

MYSTIC CORRESPONDENT

<p>ARIES + (March 22 - April 19)</p> <p>Sometimes the best thing to do is let go. Don't beat a dead horse.</p>	<p>TAURUS (April 20 - May 20)</p> <p>Stop thinking with your heart for a bit. Take a step back and look at what's really there.</p>	<p>GEMINI (May 21 - June 20)</p> <p>You are compassionate while staying in control of yourself. You don't let the feelings of others affect you.</p>	<p>CANCER + (June 21 - July 22)</p> <p>Things in your life are stabilizing. Take advantage of this to practice extra self-care.</p>
<p>LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p>Don't fear every change coming to your life. Things may be scary, but you should embrace new experiences.</p>	<p>VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p>Don't let the chaos of life overwhelm you. Take a break to get your bearings.</p>	<p>☀️ LIBRA ☀️ + (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)</p> <p>Do not isolate yourself. If you feel lost, rely on your loved ones to help you – you don't have to do everything yourself.</p>	<p>SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)</p> <p>Now is a good time to try something new. Take an opportunity that presents itself to you.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)</p> <p>Things are changing, and you need to change with them. Figure out your priorities and find a balance.</p>	<p>♄️ CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)</p> <p>Having high standards is good, but don't crush yourself under the pressure. Keep moving forward.</p>	<p>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)</p> <p>You have a lot of motivation and ideas. Make sure to prioritize and get as much done as you can.</p>	<p>PISCES + (Feb. 19 - March 21)</p> <p>Not everything is going to work out how you want, and you won't always get closure. Find your own peace.</p>

Interested in reporting? Join us every Monday at 5 p.m. in room 224 in the Communications Building.