

## Rapid-Fire Opinions

### Favorite drink?

Sweet tea. If you're from the south and say otherwise then you're lying.

### Best animal?

Orangutans. They're my spirit animal.

### Favorite class you've taken so far?

Definitely creative writing. It's fun to read other student's stuff and hear critiques about my own.

### Favorite book?

Viscious by V.E. Schwab. You may or may not be able to read more about that on the life page; who knows?

### Thoughts on little mermaid casting?

Halle Bailey's race is not relevant to the plot, so I don't see why people are so unreasonably upset about it. It kind of gives me the same vibes as Tucker Carlson's M&M incident.

### Hottest M&M?

Green one. Carlson knows what I'm talking about.

### Sweet or spicy?

I will live and die by spicy food.

### Hot or cold tea?

I gotta give it to cold tea, but I do drink hot tea way more often.

### Favorite exercise?

Cycling. Just cardio in general honestly.

Due to technical difficulties, polls are put on hold.

## The Problem With Senator Graham's Abortion Bill

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Throughout history, men have always found a way to make something solely about women their personal concern. They involve themselves in topics like periods, our "virtue" and most recently, abortion.

Senator Graham, the Republican senator of South Carolina, proposed a federal abortion ban which divided

even the Republican party. Some might wonder what the ban consists of to know how it would affect women across the U.S.

The bill would ban any abortion after 15 weeks, unless in the case of rape or incest. Although these seem like reasonable conditions, there are few intricacies to consider. If a woman were to seek an abortion 15 weeks after the rape, she would have to have had

"Men want their own bodily autonomy, so why try to take away women's?"

counseling or medical treatment for the assault. Incest cases do not apply to women who are over the age of 18. In the case of a minor, if one is seeking an abortion for rape or incest after 15 weeks, they must have reported it to the

authorities.

Although these "rules" may seem acceptable, matters like reporting to the police should not be mandatory for an abortion. Neither should a rule that only gives women power over their body once they have been violated. Republicans claim they want to leave the choice up to the states, but why don't we go a step further and leave it up to a woman and her doctor? Men want their own bodily autonomy, so why try to take away women's? An abortion is healthcare, something that everyone needs access to regardless of what got them in that situation.

Furthering the issue with abortion care is the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), which states that a patient's privacy is protected by law from prying eyes. If we are going to force an abortion to be submitted to the state, then we should make all reproductive surgeries

required to be turned into the state. It is hypocritical to make a woman's surgery public knowledge if we are not requiring it for every surgery.

Another issue with the bill is the fact that it requires a woman to report her rape if she is seeking an abortion after 15 weeks. According to rainn.org, 975 sex offenders out of 1000 will go free. These statistics give no comfort to a woman seeking help. If it is unlikely anything will happen, why should a woman need to subject themselves to even more violations – even if it is medical.

The need for men to be making decisions on a woman's body is unnecessary. A woman has the right to decide if they want to carry a child or if it would be too much for them. Since a man cannot do that, they should not have a say on the matter.

## What Is Greenwashing And Why Is It An Issue?

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Greenwashing has been the center of conversations surrounding many brands and big corporations recently. Probably the biggest recent news surrounding the term includes Coca-Cola switching Sprite's green bottles for clear ones and Kourtney Kardashian being accused of greenwashing with her fashion collab with the company Boohoo, Nestlé, Ikea and several fast fashion brands.

### What is Greenwashing?

Merriam-Webster added 370 new terms this month with one of them being "greenwashing." This is when a company claims that they make products more environmentally friendly even though they're not. The official definition of the term is "Disinformation disseminated by an organization so as to present an environmentally responsible public

image."

### Coca-Cola Scandal

Coca-Cola changed Sprite's iconic green bottle to a clear bottle and claimed to do so to be more environmentally friendly. In the official statement from the company "During the sorting process, green and other coloured PET (polyethylene terephthalate) is separated from clear material to avoid discoloring recycled food-grade packaging required to make new PET bottles."

Backlash followed shortly after Fredrick Njehu, Greenpeace Africa's senior political advisor, and several other environmentalists criticized the company for greenwashing. According to the annual reports by Break Free From Plastic, Coca-Cola was the world's biggest plastic pollution. Environmental groups say single use plastic is the issue.

In 2020 Coca-Cola said they would not get rid of plastic bottles. Some speculated that the change from green to clear bottles would rid them of the obvious plastic pollution in photos because the iconic green bottle wouldn't be so noticeable.

### Fast Fashion

Fast fashion companies use greenwashing constantly, with many announcing "sustainable collections" or "more environmentally friendly packaging," ultimately ignoring the bigger issues. Boohoo announced a

sustainable collection, but many of the collection still included material such as acrylic.

Fast fashion is cheap, mass-produced clothes that have negative effects on the environment and are often catering to the current micro trend. They bring up a multitude of other ethical issues including human rights, since a lot of the items are made in sweatshops. "Inexpensive clothes [are] produced rapidly by mass-market retailers in response to the latest trends" according to Oxford. Some of these brands include Forever 21, H&M, Shein and Urban Outfitters.

Fast Fashion greatly affects CO2 emissions, plastic and synthetic fiber waste, water pollution and more. Clothing production in general uses nearly 79 billion cubic meters of water annually. Synthetic fiber and plastic

materials, when washed, break off microplastics that end up in water that negatively affects aquatic life and ultimately us as a whole. We have seen that microplastics have been found in our food and water.

### Why Does It Matter?

Anything negatively impacting the environment is wrong. It's unethical when corporations try to sell their products as eco-friendly, making consumers want to support the product more -- even when it is actively harming the environment. Of course a lot of people are just doing the best they can with recycling and limiting consumption.

Misleading consumers into buying a product is wrong, especially when it puts the environment and people at risk. We only have one Earth, and we have to take care of it.



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