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LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
VENEZUELA: A LESSON IN SOCIALISM

In 1998 Venezuelan president of Hugo Chavez turned to socialism. In 2007 the Venezuelan government took control of the means of oil production. Things looked pretty good in 2013 when oil prices were high, but as oil prices dropped the weaknesses of socialism have reared their head. In just three years (2013-2016) the GDP has dropped 12%. Unemployment is now at 80% and inflation is a whopping 720%. The Venezuelan currency (the bolivar) has gone from 64 bolivars= 1 dollar US in 2014 to 959 bolivars= 1 dollar US in 2016. The Maduro regime is so terrified of public discourse that it has stopped publishing basic economic data. An inflated welfare state, government control of industry and prices, the printing of money and corruption has led to a full blown economic disaster. Any of that sound familiar? Many young people see socialism as a viable alternative to capitalism because they think it offers a solution to the basic inequalities that exist in every society. The problem is that taking money and property from those who earn it and giving it to those who don't crushes incentive to earn, as wek as jobs. Many former socialist countries are moving back towards capitalism to spur their stagnant socialist economies. Imagine what American society would be like if we were socialist. Autos, computers, medicine, the cell phone, and numerous other inventions probably would never have been developed, or their quality and affordability would have been greatly diminished without the monetary incentives and completion capitalism demands. Capitalism is the only social system that rewards virtue and punishes vice. Yet there are winners and losers in capitalism. The winners are those who are lazy, extravagant, negligent, imprudent and inefficient. With socialism, the only winners are politicians. Americans would be wise to take a lesson from Venezuela.

Jeff Morey

STAFF EDITORIAL:
STAFF SAYS “THANK YOU” TO BISHOP

BOOSTER STAFF
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Following principal Jon Bishop's announcement of resignation earlier this month, the staff reflected on everything he has accomplished throughout his years at the high school. Bishop has always been adamant about implementing new policies with students' interests in mind. His contributions to the school include various new AP and college courses, student identification badges and a Character Education Grant, just to name a few. This provides the schools with freshmen and sophomore advocates, Jobs for America's Graduates and Link Crew. All of these programs allow students to be better prepared for life after high school and adding support for the journey through high school. They focus on predisposing students to real world skills they will need during their life. His advocacy for improvement and student support services assisted in earning PHS the National School of Character award, and he has won several individual awards, including the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Administrator of the Year in 2015, a SkillsUSA Administrator of the Year award, in addition to the Kansas Music Education Association's principal of the year, once again, to name a few. Over the years, Bishop has been very supportive of the newspaper. He has been a proponent of our first amendment, and an advocate for the students. He has always supported the staff through even the most controversial issues which included topics that some may have found uncomfortable. Bishop has allowed us to travel from coast to coast to improve our journalism skills. We are grateful for everything Bishop has done for us during his time here at PHS, and we wish him all the best. GO DRAGONS.

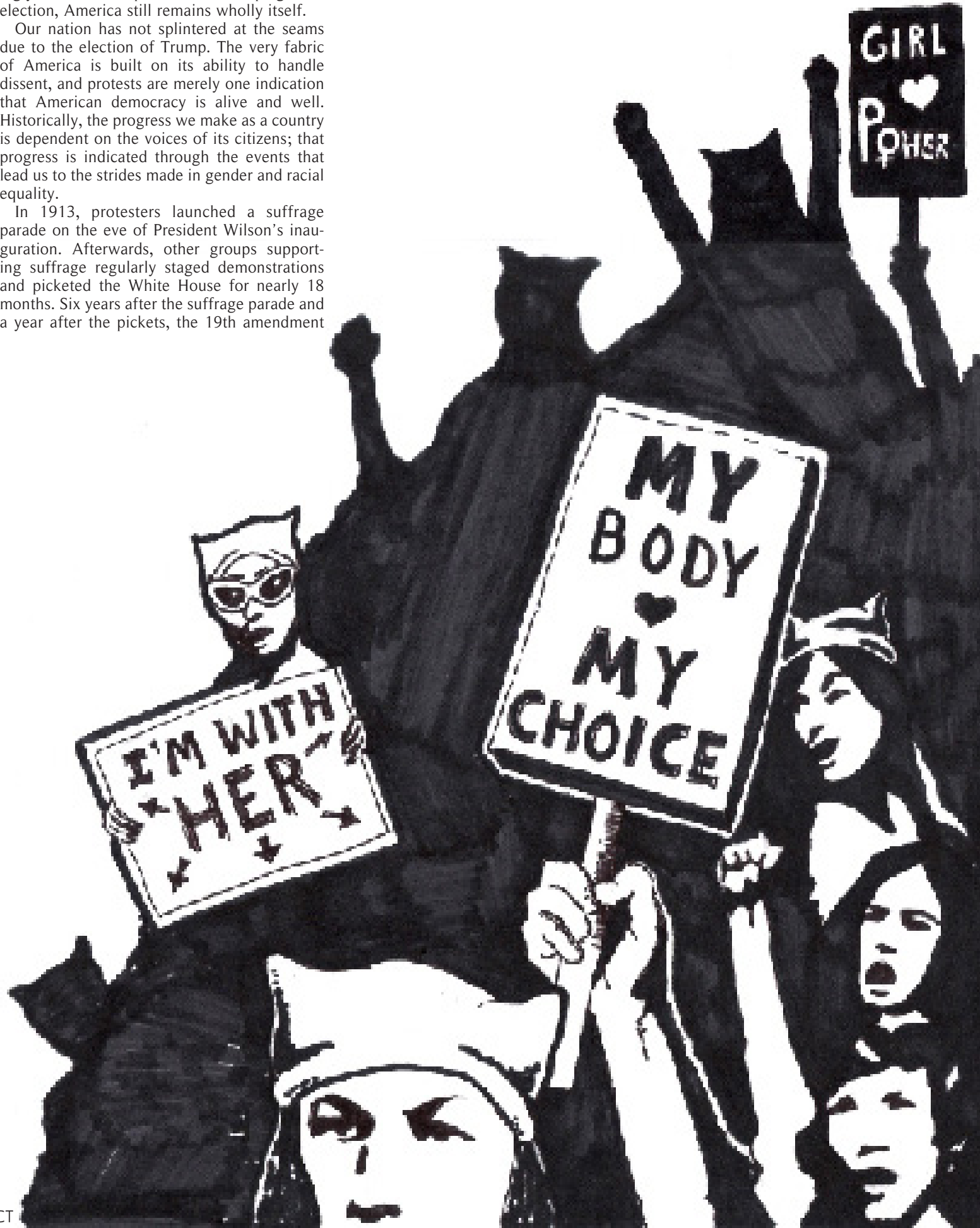
AMERICA: THE UNBROKEN

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Millions of women around the world, equipped with signs ranging from “we the people are greater than fear” to “the future is female”, marched under a united loathing of America’s president. While people poured out to watch Donald J. Trump’s inauguration in Washington DC the previous day, many more took to the streets the next day in Nairobi, Boston, London and other cities to show peaceful opposition to him. Articles like “The America we lost when Trump won” and “The Divided States: Trump’s inauguration and how democracy failed” all seemed to declare the notion that America had become fundamentally different when Trump was elected. While protests and marches assert that Americans have become increasingly divided in response to the campaign and election, America still remains wholly itself. Our nation has not splintered at the seams due to the election of Trump. The very fabric of America is built on its ability to handle dissent, and protests are merely one indication that American democracy is alive and well. Historically, the progress we make as a country is dependent on the voices of its citizens; that progress is indicated through the events that lead us to the strides made in gender and racial equality. In 1913, protesters launched a suffrage parade on the eve of President Wilson’s inauguration. Afterwards, other groups supporting suffrage regularly staged demonstrations and picketed the White House for nearly 18 months. Six years after the suffrage parade and a year after the pickets, the 19th amendment

passed, finally guaranteeing women the right to vote. In 1963, more than 200,000 Americans gathered for the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. The march helped to rally support for the civil rights of blacks. President Kennedy viewed the success of the march as an opportunity to advocate for the passage of a civil rights bill. One year after the celebrated march, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensuring no discrimination based on race, religion, sex or ethnicity, was finally passed by Kennedy’s successor, President Johnson. America’s landmark decisions to grant women the right to vote and to end racial discrimination occurred because groups were active and vocal in their resistance

to the status quo. America may be divided now, but unified agreement wasn’t and isn’t necessary for America to thrive. The advancements we’ve made as a nation have occurred despite division and in part, due to it. America, in its very essence, must be in some state of discord. Without discord, America no longer possesses the diversity of thought that creates progress. Our capability to disagree and agree with one another is what drove us to revolt against the British, to abolish slavery, and to rally together after 9/11. Dissent and disagreement are essential to America’s democracy; we are not broken, we are whole because we allow ourselves to have divides.



ART BY ALIVIA BENEDICT