



Celebrating Excellence

Makayla McDaniel '26

On September 10th, 2025, during the board meeting, Ms. Ashley was proudly recognized as Staff Member of the Month! For those who may not be familiar with her, Ms. Ashley is a valued member of the elementary office staff. She is also a devoted mother of five and a proud grandmother of one. When she finds a moment of free time (which, as a mother and grandmother, is a rare luxury!), Ms. Ashley enjoys getting lost in a good book. This award was presented to her in recognition of her unwavering commitment to our school community. Ms. Ashley is always willing to lend a helping hand and is actively involved in numerous school activities. Her love for the children shines through in everything she does. Whether it's going the extra mile for her colleagues, organizing events, or simply offering a listening ear to the students, Ms. Ashley consistently goes above and beyond expectations. Her dedication, kindness, and work ethic make her an irreplaceable asset to our school. Congratulations to Ms. Ashley one very much deserving of this award!

Cosmetology

Kourti Hawthorne '28

Have you ever wanted to learn how to do hair and what cosmetology students do in their class? Cosmetology is a program that we have at our school that teaches kids not only to do hair but a bunch of life skills. Our instructors are Mrs. Jamie (or burns) and Ms. Tabb (or cross), they are the ones who teach us how to be sanitized at all times, how to do hair, how to wax, makeup, nails, ECT. At the beginning of the year Mrs. Jamie does this thing called "boot camp". It's where all the new juniors get to do stuff they have never done before and seniors get to relearn things they forgot how to do. Throughout the year you learn how to do a lot like updos, perms, roller sets, braiding, highlights, hair color, all sorts of stuff like that. Ms Tabb teaches more theory and makeup stuff like that, you have to take theory to be able to take the state board exam. And for clients we run as a real salon, you can call up there to get an appointment.

Important Dates in October

Oct 1st - Bow season / Walk-to-School day

Oct 10th - Homecoming Game + Parade

Oct 8th - Picture Day

Oct 11th - Homecoming

Oct 15th and Oct 17th - FASFA Rep (Seniors)

Oct 31st - Halloween



1. In fall do our clocks go forward or back?

- a. Forward
- b. Stays the same
- c. Idk
- d. Back

2. What fruit is the most fresh in fall?

- a. Pears
- b. Strawberries
- c. Apples
- d. Star Fruit

3. What is the full name of Halloween

- a. All Howls Eve
- b. Samhain
- c. Halloween
- d. All Hallows' Eve

4. What fall month are the most babies born in?

- a. August
- b. September
- c. October
- d. November

N5. Are pumpkins fruit or vegetables?

- a. Fruit
- b. Neither
- c. Vegetables
- d. Both

CTE PAGE



The General Mechanics of Automotive Welding

Lawson mark '27

Lincoln DeLong '28

The field of automotive-related work has been around since the late 1800s and has been a viable career path with the constant usage of vehicles in our modern world. It even started in our own state of Michigan. Not surprisingly, this may have indirectly led to our own school having an optional class dedicated to it. While the history of our Automotive building is relatively bland, the over two-hundred years of vehicular history is not.

As previously mentioned, the automotive industry kicked off in the late 1800's. In 1885, a man named Karl Benz created the first gas-powered vehicle with a combustion engine. Twenty years later in 1903, a man named Henry Ford entered the public scene. He had already created what was, in essence, a four-wheeled bicycle with an engine. He called it the Quadricycle, and it was completed in 1896. This being said, it was no surprise that automotive advancements led Ford to found the Ford Motor Company in 1903, along with 12 others (Ford Motor Company, 2024). Once this started, it never stopped as the automotive industry began expanding into public life, the military, sports and more. By 1980, less than 100 years later, it had become a global industry through marketing and road construction.

Learning or working in the automotive trade is a decent skill for almost everyone these days with how common owning a vehicle is. You can understand valuable skills such as changing brakes or oil yourself instead of paying a mechanic to do it for you. On the contrary, you can be that mechanic that rakes in money from people that don't understand why their car sounds like a deflating balloon when their brakes need replacing. Many things can go wrong with something as complex as a vehicle, so understanding it can save you a lot of trouble...and money.

As explained, the skills that you learn in the automotive industry are versatile and valuable. It can simply be a get-out-of-jail-free card for if your car is malfunctioning, or an entire career path that'll set you up with a very liveable wage. So, if any of those reasons sound convincing, consider joining and trying out our Automotive CTE. Unless you can't stand having dirty hands, in that case, you might want to reconsider.

There are several different types of welds such as Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW, or Stick), Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW, or MIG), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW, or TIG), and Flux-Cored Arc Welding. There are other different types of joints, like butt joints, tee joints, lap joints, corner joints, and edge joints.

The first welder was invented 1885 by Elihu Thomson & Nikolai Benedones. The first originated in the Bronze and Iron Ages (starting around 3000 BC) with forge welding, a method of joining metals by heating and hammering them together.

If you don't know how to weld, and you think it's cool, you should do welding. The process of fusing materials using intense heat has ancient origins in the Bronze Age and is vital for manufacturing 50% of products from smartphones to bridges. It occurs in various extreme environments, including deep underwater and in space. Welding technology advanced significantly during World War II and the early 1800s with the discovery of the electrical arc, and the first industrial robot was a welding machine.

Today, welding is not just for metal, as ultrasonic methods can join plastics. The welding industry remains a high-demand, well-paying career that doesn't require a college degree. There are different types of welding jobs to do, such as structural welders for buildings, pipefitters for industrial piping, aerospace welders for aircrafts, and underwater welders for specialized deep-sea work. They get paid well for underwater welding (average ~\$54,000/year), and pipe welding (~\$63,000/year), to aerospace welding (\$60,000–\$100,000+), and welding engineering(\$66,000–\$107,000).

Thank you for reading, keep calm and weld on!

CLUBS & CLASSES

Chapter Chat

Grace Brethauer '26

Book club '26 is run by Nikki Ulrich, who is the World History and Teacher Cadet teacher. She is accompanied by Ms. Knox, who is the teacher of Biology, Forensics, and Anatomy.

The first meeting was held in Ulrich's room during lunch on Wednesday, September 3rd.

During the meeting, we went through some books we thought we might like to read. The book for the month of September is called *Ten*, written by Gretchen McNeil. Some of the books we are considering for the next few months include *Shatter Me* by Tahereh Mafi, *The Prison Healer* by Lynette Noni, and *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart.



Senior Capstone Stars in Class Lineup

Emma Koontz '26

Most high school students graduate knowing how to find when y equals x , elements on the periodic table, and where to put commas, but they leave having never learned to file taxes, build credit, or even buy car insurance.

This year, Charleton Heston Academy (CHA) has added "Senior Capstone" to its course list! An all-in-one crash course on transitioning from high school into adulthood. This class, specifically designed for seniors by our dear Mrs. Vanwormer, to instill practical skills in students to navigate decisions they will face soon after graduation.

Senior Capstone addresses a blend of topics that fall into three main categories:

Finance and Independence: Students learn income-specific budgeting, apartment hunting, understanding loans, credit cards, and insurance

Career Prep: Lessons include, but are not limited to resume writing, interview practice, building a professional network, and even creating a LinkedIn profile

Education and Planning Ahead: guidance on the college application process, filling out FAFSA forms, and overall gaining confidence in their approach to the future

Mrs. VanWormer and the board of CHA hope to ease the leap from high school hallways to college campuses and first apartments. "It's about more than academics, It's about helping students feel prepared for life," Mrs. VanWormer said.

No longer do the students of CHA have to fear the future. Senior Capstone is an opportunity to sit back and experience the joys of coming of age – the most unique initiative to address the specific needs of the next graduating class.

The course has already generated buzz among students:

"My resume was literally blank before this class. Now it looks professional, and I even scored my first job interview."
— Khloe Bohm

"Honestly, the budgeting unit saved me from blowing my paycheck on fast food—ignoring the fact that it's fake. My mom was impressed." — Remington Harowski

"This is the first class that feels like it's about my future, not just a grade." — Brandi Edmond

With Senior Capstone, CHA is proving that preparation for adulthood can be taught—and that students are eager to learn it.



Theater Auditions

Dakota Williams '28

September 3rd and 4th were the auditions for the fall play, *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. This play was voted on by last year's drama club and some audience members. A great deal of people auditioned, 29 in total, breaking the school record for the most auditioned for show in the club's near-10-year history, according to director, Mr. Schafer.

Everyone who tried out did great. They put their best effort into getting the role they wanted. Mr. Schafer, Ms. Emma, Mrs. Shah, and Ms. Rory Bailey worked together to shape the cast into what it is now. On the morning of September 5th, Mr. Schafer announced the cast by posting the cast list in three different spots; Ms. Emma's door, the Patriot Press board, and his own door.

The lead roles consist of: Emily Maynard as Charlie Bucket, Nevaeh Martray as Willy Wonka, Lincoln DeLong voicing The Narrator, and Auggy Dilley as Grandpa Joe. Up until November, these actors will be practicing their lines and movements, also called "blocking," to put this show all together. Some years Ms. Mercier's Art Club helps build props and set pieces that bring the stage to life. In November there will be in school and after school shows as well as a dinner theater charity event held with Saint Helen Helping Hands.

Our club will be working hard for months to put this show together, and in the end, all of the effort will be worth it. So come out in November and support your Patriot Players by watching our performance of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*!



Senior Sunrise

Makayla McDaniel '26'

First day of school for the seniors was made extra special with a Senior Sunrise, an event that kicked off the school year with excitement. The night before, a group of seniors gathered on the soccer field to camp out! It was a night full of laughter, connection, and bonding. The evening began with a group of girls heading to the message board and the boys playing soccer. At the message board the girls worked together using sticks to spell out the words "Patriots Class of 2026". Going around asking the senior girls who participated in doing the board how they felt, one of the seniors' responses that stood out was Grace Brethauers '26 she explained "Doing the message board with the girls was such a fun bonding experience and I didn't know I would have that great of a time". As the night went on, everyone chilled out and gathered around the bonfire to watch a movie. The seniors woke up early to watch the sky slowly start to change from night to day. There was something about watching the sun rise together, knowing it symbolized the start of their final year in high school. The mix of emotions, from excitement to nostalgia, was in the air, and for a brief moment, time seemed to stand still. As the morning brightened, everyone began to head back to their homes to prepare for the school day ahead, a reminder that senior year is about more than just academics, it's about moments like these that make high school unforgettable.

Empowering Future Teachers

Grace Brethauer '26

Teacher Cadet was founded by Nikki Ulrich, who is also our World History teacher. She started this Program through LSSU, which means it counts as a college credit. She started this program in 2022. She only had a few students, but as the years went on, the class sizes grew. She teaches us how to be a part of the classroom and how to observe the teacher's routine. Every Tuesday and Thursday, we are assigned a classroom to observe. We start by entering the classroom and introducing ourselves as a Teacher Cadet.



Art of Movement

Kourtni Hawthorne '28

Coulter's fitness class offers a dynamic environment that combines physical exertion with community support, transforming workouts from mundane tasks into engaging experiences. Moving through different exercises, from energetic cardio to strength training and flexibility work, builds not only physical strength but also mental resilience and sense of accomplishment. Coulter would also love to get this out to the community so parents know what this class is about to try and encourage their kids to do this class because of how good it is for you, he makes sure not to push you to your absolute limit but will try to make you muscles work properly and train you to have proper form for everything so you don't get hurt doing certain exercises activities. Coulter works really well with athletes and building their strength for their sports, and he's not all just about lifting heavy weights. You can talk to Mrs. Crall to get into that class next year or next semester if you're interested.

SPORTS

Red, White, and Bows Soccer

Abigayle Newton '27

Victoria Klumpp, who has been coaching cheerleading for around 5 years. Started coaching the sideline cheer team of 25-26 on August 25th after school, to prepare the girls for the season. This season's cheerleading team consists of 12 girls. She holds practice everyday from 3-5 in the elementary school gym. These practices are held to prepare the girls for Friday night lights. Patriots sideline cheer team travels with the football team to away games to cheer them on to the wins. While the cheerleaders and the football team have their ups and downs, Mrs. Klumpp will always be there to keep a smile on their faces and their spirits high. Through the wins and losses of the season the cheerleaders will be there to cheer their football team on regardless of the outcome of the game. The girls are currently preparing for the homecoming game halftime show, they are putting in a lot of hard work to perfect this dance and make it the best it can be. Through all their hard work and determination the girls have come a long way from the start of the season, they have learned the proper form and technique. They also have learned stretches that will keep them flexible and help them not hurt themselves on the field. With the stunts they throw and the cheers they do the risk for injury is quite high, and they work as hard as they can to prevent the injuries that can put them out for the rest of the season. Victoria Klumpp works to keep these girls prepared and on the right track. While the girls keep smiles on their faces, the coach keeps the love and hope in the team. Cheerleaders are the heart of the field, and the spirit of the school.

Football

Daxton McCleese '27

The 2024 Charlton Heston Academy football team had their best season in CHA history (4-5). The first game of the year they faced off Breckenridge, a loss, 21-6. That next week they did not have an opponent due to Posen Vikings not having a Varsity team. Week 4 was another away game against the 1-1 Atlanta Huskies. The Patriots beat the Huskies 24-20!! Week 5 against Mio Thunderbolts, who were also 2-1 was competitive, sadly the Patriots lost this game 22-20. Week 6 the Patriots played Rogers City Hurons that were 4-0 and the Patriots were 2-2 so the Patriots went in as the underdogs... BUT they came up with an upset win over Rogers City winning 36-0, marking Rogers City first lost of the season. The Patriots' next game is Friday, October 3rd in Alcona, who are currently 1-4; and our Homecoming against Hillman will be on October 10th. If the team manages to win out, which is very possible, this could be our best season ever!

Marissa Patterson '27

Heads up! The Patriot soccer team has had an outstanding season so far. Bryce McDaniel scored the first ever goal this year while playing crossroads. He runs up from the halfway line sprinting, about 35 feet out he shoots the ball with strength making it in the goal. The coach, Dave Patterson, is dedicated to winning every chance we get. Mickey Kimball also scores a goal against crossroads. The soccer team's success is a direct result of their unwavering hard work and perseverance. Every practice and game showcases the players' effort and drive to improvement. They only have 10 players and are trying to recruit more so feel free to join. They are a committed group of players who leave everything on the field. The team has proven its resilience in the face of any challenge. While the wins haven't come yet, our team's determination to keep improving is stronger than ever. They are focused on the journey. Our soccer team works hard every day and always gives full force on and off the field. A soccer team isn't just a collection of players, it's a game where there are shared goals and mutual respect for each other. Each player brings a unique skill and specific role to the team, and they all trust each other to perform their duties on the field. The squad overcomes each mistake as a team and works it out. Work together, play for the name on the front of the jersey, and they'll remember the number on the back.



In this photo, you can see (left to right) Trinity Sullivan, Ashlen Willett, Marissa Patterson, Bryce McDaniel, and Larry Bauman grouping up to discuss strategies.

OPINION

Changing School Times

Aireanna Haney '27

Students are tired, teachers are tired, everyone is tired. All because school starts too early. Many students wake up hours before school starts. Sometimes as early as 4 am. Between long bus rides, chores, and helping family members, students are often tired before they even arrive at school. Teachers have a similar issue, with staying up grading and lesson planning then starting the day with little sleep.

Lack of sleep makes students less likely to focus on long boring lessons and more likely to ask when class ends every hour. This also causes teachers to struggle trying to get a classroom of tired and irritated teenagers to stay focused while they also are tired.

If school was to start an hour later and end an hour later, students and teachers could get more sleep and be more productive. A later start time could also fix the inconsistent schedule times that confuse everyone.

Class start and end times are confusing because they are set at odd, inconsistent times. Each hour ends in different multiples of seven, making it difficult for students to keep track. Trying to remember when one class begins and another ends is frustrating. This problem could be fixed with a simple schedule adjustment.

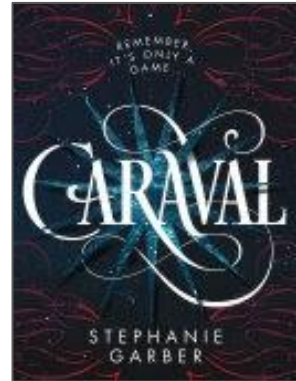
School starting later wouldn't just improve students and teachers' rest, it could potentially improve behavior, grades and attitude. While it may seem like a big change, it would be a great improvement to everyone's day to day.

High School Schedule

8:00-8:58	1 st hour Breakfast/Announcement
8:58-9:03	Transition
9:03-9:51	2 nd hour
9:51-9:56	Transition
9:56-10:44	3 rd hour
10:44-10:49	Transition
10:49-11:37	4 th hour
11:37-12:21	Lunch
12:21-12:26	Transition
12:26-1:14	5 th hour
1:14-1:19	Transition
1:19-2:07	6 th hour
2:07-2:12	Transition
2:12-3:00	7 th hour

Popular Book Review: Caraval by Stephanie Garber Lillian Wiles '27

(Minimal Spoilers) Caraval book 1 by Stephanie Garber has promise but leaves quite a bit to be desired. This book features the main character Scarlett and her younger sister Tella escaping their wicked father to attend an odd combination play-festival-murder-mystery conglomerate, called Caraval, on a distant island. Aforementioned sister and a random sailor she met kidnap Scarlett and whisk her away to Caraval. Very wholesome.



Upon arriving at said island, Tella immediately disappears without a trace, leaving Scarlett stuck with Julian The Sailor Guy. Through a long line of endlessly random events, our heroine and hero discover the truth of just how twisted this "game" really is.

I thought the book was entertaining but the plot felt messy and forced. It was a book that felt like you were being told a story by a detached narrator who demanded that you believe their words without question. Similarly, Scarlett was highly clichéd as a main character. She panicked at the slightest challenge, cried at the slightest inconvenience, and just as a whole, relied solely on other characters to solve her problems. While I can appreciate dynamic characters who change throughout the book, she showed little true change. Some characters had promise at the beginning of the book but soon were revealed to be incredibly shallow or to have a predictable backstory revealed at the very end as if it was revolutionary or unforeseen.

The book was not entirely unenjoyable, though. To those who enjoy somewhat delirious plots that act as a PG-13+ Alice in Wonderland in which all the characters become vaguely unhinged, I think this book would be perfect for you. It has many elements of a good high fantasy novel; twisted magic, an ominous villain, highly mysterious side characters, and a well-executed red herring. I believe enjoyment of this book simply depends on what every reader's preferences are.



OPINIONS

Pokémon Legends ZA: What We Know So Far Parker Vasold '27

The upcoming Pokémon Legends ZA is set to be released on October 16th, 2025. The game takes players to a setting inspired by France. Like previous titles in the Pokémon Legends series, ZA promises an immersive experience.

A major highlight for fans is the selection of starter Pokémon for this game. Players will have the opportunity to choose between Totodile, Chikorita, and Tepig, three beloved Pokémon from Generation 2 & 5. These options are sure to stir up for longtime fans of the series, but also raise excitement for what new evolutions and typings may await these familiar faces in their final forms.

In terms of battle mechanics, Pokémon Legends ZA introduces several new mega evolutions. Confirmed so far are Mega Dragonite, Victreebel, Hawlucha, Malamar, Pikachu, and the Kalos starters. These powerful new forms promise to shake up strategies and team-building as players explore the world of ZA.

While we don't have full details yet, fans are already speculating about potential evolutions and typing changes. A popular theory is that Totodile's final evolution, Feraligatr, could gain a Dark typing, adding a fresh edge to its moveset. Similarly, there's hope that Chikorita's final evolution, Meganium, might be re-typed as a Fairy-type, which could give it new strength in battle.

Comparisons to Pokémon Legends: Arceus are inevitable, and there are some things fans are hoping to see improved. In Arceus, battles often felt either too easy or too reliant on luck, which led to some frustration among players. Fans hope Pokémon Legends ZA will offer a more balanced experience.

Personally, I hope for the return of abilities and move boosts that were missing in Arceus. Abilities like Intimidate, which lowers an opponent's Attack stat, were removed in Arceus, and many players hope they return in ZA. The return of move boosts like Overgrowth, which powers up Grass-type moves when a Pokémon's HP is low, would also be nice.

As Pokémon Legends ZA approaches its release, fans are buzzing with anticipation. Whether it's the promise of new mega evolutions, new typings for fan-favorite Pokémon, or improvements to the battle system, Legends ZA is shaping up to be an exciting new chapter in the Pokémon series. With its release just around the corner, trainers everywhere are eagerly awaiting what the French-inspired region of ZA will bring.



Mega Pikachu X & Y



Mega Greninja



The Lunch Line System is Broken Sarah Erdelyi '27

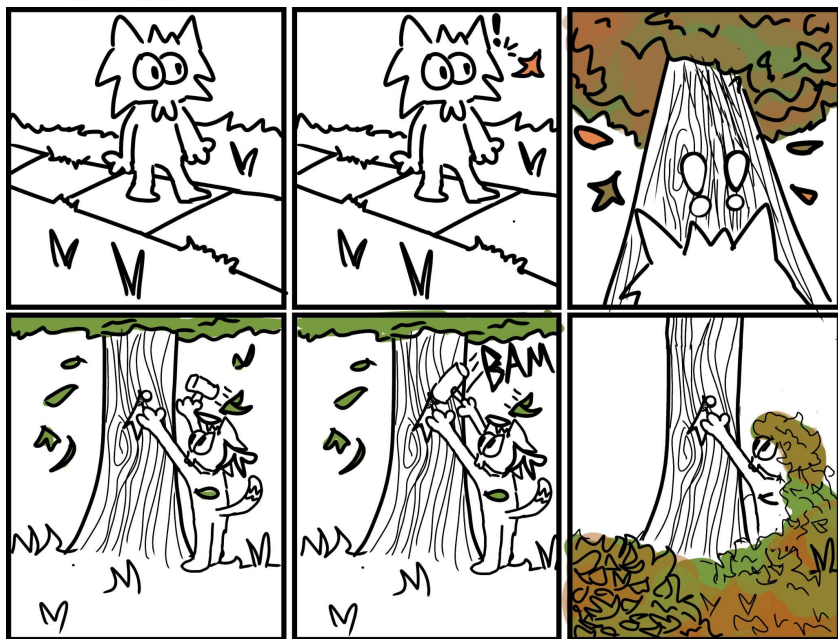
There's nothing more exciting than finally getting a break after being in class all morning. You get to see your friends, and you get to eat if you're hungry. However the new lunch set up makes it stressful and difficult to enjoy your break. Having the whole high school in one room just sets us up for chaos.

For people who choose to eat, they have to wait over half the lunch to be able to relieve their food depending on where they are in line. And for people who just want to socialize and hang out with friends, they have to deal with all the kids swarming around them and being loud. And people are constantly running into each other due to lack of room, which is just gross. All the voices coming from people in the cafeteria lead to it being very loud and hard to communicate with people around you.

I feel that there are so many better ways to have our lunch set up. And then at 11:55 everyone is free to leave the cafeteria. Most go to the gym, which is even more chaos. All of the high schoolers together in one gym leads to a lot of drama and ruckus. Such as stuff being thrown around, people chasing each other, and people screaming. With a different lunch set up I believe things would go by smoother, make getting your lunch a little faster, and lead to a more peaceful environment in our cafeteria.



BACKPAGE



Andie Gearhart '26



Grace Brethauer '26

Diving into Helldivers 2

Aiden Ausbrook '27

Helldivers 2 is a 3rd person live service PvE horde shooter released by Arrowhead Game Studios and published by Sony Interactive Entertainment. Helldivers 2 was initially released on PS5 and computer but recently has been released on Xbox. In the game you start by selecting your weapons and armor then a faction to fight against. There are 3 factions in total 1 the Terminids (bugs) 2 Automatons (robots) and 3 Illuminate (Aliens). After you choose one of the factions you then choose a planet to fight on, not all planets are available only the ones being attacked are available. Then, once you've selected a planet you choose an operation. Operations consist of 1-3 missions depending on the difficulty you choose. After you have selected an operation and mission you get to choose your stratagems, there are 3 different categories of stratagems 1 defensive (sentries, emplacements, and mines) 2 support (big weapons, backpacks, and vehicles) and 3 offensive (eagle airstrikes, and orbitals). You get 4 slots to choose your stratagems and one booster (a booster is something that passively helps your whole team). You can have up to 4 players in one mission after you choose all this and ready up you land on the planet and have to complete the objective. The way you call in your stratagems is much different then most games in helldivers 2 you basically have to play Dance Dance Revolution with your fingers on the arrow keys. The story of helldivers 2 is ongoing because of the way the game works. So far it follows the humans of Super Earth warring against the three factions. The game was inspired by the movie *Starship Troopers*, for those who haven't seen it, it is a comedic sci-fi film centered around an authoritarian earth.