

CARTER CORPS NEWS



A Newsletter for Students, Parents, and Community Members Who Support Carter High School

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Movie Review: *Cocaine Bear* Proves to Be a Satisfying High

By: Laiken Wolfenbarger

When one hears that a film is titled *Cocaine Bear*, one's mind races in curiosity. You wonder if the film will live up to its gaudy premise. Will it be a low-budget Sci-Fi channel original? Will it be a crowd-pleasing B-film? Elizabeth Banks's 3rd directorial feature is the latter. When a drug smuggler's plane is going down over Knoxville, TN, he drops his load of cocaine and jumps. Unfortunately for the diver, he hits his head and falls to his death. Unfortunately for everyone else in the film, the portion of the narcotics dropped over Blood Mountain in Chattahoochee National Park in Georgia. Here, a black bear ingests the cocaine and goes on a rampage. The bear crosses paths with a variety of interesting characters including Tennessee police officer Bob, mother Sari, her daughter DeeDee, DeeDee's friend Henry, and several others. While each human character has his or her own arc and story, what everyone goes to the theater to see is the gory ways they meet their demise at the hands of the titular bear. Of course, this is all not historical. Based very loosely on a true story, *Cocaine Bear* actually has a

near-factual beginning in reality. Andrew Thornton, a drug smuggler, died by falling out of the plane over Knoxville after he attempted to parachute. He had several bags of cocaine in his possession where he was found in a neighborhood driveway, wearing a bullet-proof vest and Gucci loafers. They later



found the aircraft in North Carolina's mountains along with nine other duffel bags of cocaine. Three months later, a dead black bear and a tenth bag of cocaine were found. The bear had ingested at least three or four grams of cocaine, but the only ones harmed in the event were Thornton, of his own stupidity, and

the bear due to being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Today, the taxidermy of the bear is displayed at the Kentucky Fun Mall in Lexington. When focusing on the more exaggerated version, my personal favorite side character was the hilarious Ranger Liz, portrayed by beloved character actress Margo Martindale. While the movie will certainly win no Oscars with its relatively weak script, its overreliance on joking about its own existence, and its lack of cultural staying power, it does succeed on the only thing it promises: a bear does cocaine and goes on a rampage. That is the only thing one should expect from this movie, and if one accepts that, then it is a ridiculous, fun ride. Seeing this movie at home will never be able to recreate the experience of laughing together with 50 other people, cringing and shielding away through the gory moments, at an intoxicated bear murdering her way through a bunch of idiots. "I'd love to not remember this. But it kind of seems like the thing that stays with a man forever," Henry remarks after a tense scene. And man, I hear you.

By: Jacelynn Pratt **Opinion: Carter High School Needs More Clubs**

Carter High School should offer more clubs to students. They should have a variety of different clubs to choose from. Most students would like to have more clubs to join. There are only a few clubs as of right now, so more clubs would be a good idea. I think this school needs to offer more clubs to students. Most students would enjoy having a club with their interests to go to and hang out with friends. A couple clubs that could be added are a pottery club and a game club, and other clubs would surely appeal to others, too. These clubs could be a good way

to socialize and make friends outside of school. Students could find friends with similar interests as them and hang out with them. Students might enjoy going to the clubs and seeing people they are already friends with or new people. Students could find more things they could be interested in doing. They might find an art club, for example, and find out that they really enjoy art. They might find something they never thought that they'd be interested in but might actually love it. Having different clubs could help students find a way to be more involved in things. Some students might

not be involved in clubs because they aren't interested in them, so more clubs could be a way for students to get involved in things more. Although, some students might not like the idea of clubs because they could seem useless or they just don't like clubs, I believe that having more clubs would be a great idea and a way for students to have more fun. In the end, Carter High School should offer more clubs to help students make friends, be involved and find out their interests. Most students would love to have more opportunities to develop their interests and hang out with others.

Educating, Motivating, and Producing Responsible Citizens of Tomorrow

Admin and Parent React to Having to Pay for Lunch

By: Ace Lowe

This school year, Knox County Schools have made changes with lunch prices. They've made lunch no longer free. Students have to pay \$3 for lunch. Many students have reported that they don't have the money to pay for lunch or they don't think the food is good enough to pay \$3 every day for lunch. This seems to have become a problem with several people. Several students have gone hungry from the simple fact that school lunches are pricey and not all that good. A mother of a CHS student says, "I think it's ridiculous that parents have to pay because they don't have the money to pay for lunches. The poverty in America hasn't changed, if anything it's grown more now because of things like this sudden change from free to having to pay for lunch." This statement can be backed up by many experiencing this unfortunate situation. National poverty rates have had an amazing in-

crease within the year 2021 and 2022. In 2021, poverty rates were at a whopping 11.6 percent with 37.9 million people in poverty. In 2022, poverty rates were at a slight increase of 14.4 percent. CHS assistant principal Karyn Lee says, "There are pros and cons in paying for lunch. It teaches budgeting skills." Plenty of parents and staff would agree that budgeting money at a young age is important in learning to manage your money. Students should be taught how to budget money because not everything is free once you get out of highschool. Mrs. Lee also stated, "I do wish they would look into more vendors and more variety in choice of food with the county." Plenty of people would agree that there needs to be more food choices. Our main foods are always nuggets, pizza, nachos, cheeseburger, etc. There definitely needs to be more options. Not everyone likes these foods every week. If anything they should have

tastier more health options along with the choice of food we are offered now. If you are struggling with payments towards lunch for your kids or you're a high-school student paying for yourself. There are papers in the office that you can sign to get free lunch or lower prices on lunch food. You can also visit www.lunchapplication.com. This website is also available for any information you need on the free lunch and you can apply for your child to receive this option of free lunch.



Students Weigh in on CHS Medication Rule

By: Lexi Hunt

Some students are upset by the medication rule at Carter High School. The rule does not allow you to bring or take any medication without getting permission from a nurse or the office. Many students think that this rule is unfair and could use some improvement. "I think that the rule is stupid, honestly," says Sailor Bivens, a freshman. She continues to say that the rule especially isn't fair for girls when they have their periods, as they need pain medication, usually, to relieve cramps and headaches. She feels that it is fair sometimes though, as you don't want people misusing drugs, but it just isn't fair to the people who need normal medication on occasion. The rule would be much better if we were allowed to take just the basic medications without having to see a nurse or the office. Sailor isn't the only one to have poor experiences and a dislike for the rule. "I have really bad headaches every day in band, and I'm unable to take medicine for it because of the rule," says Pierce

McNew, a junior. The rule seems fair in some situations, but unfair in others. It could be improved by changing it to allow students to take regular medicine whenever they want to, but they would have to take other prescription medications in the nurse's office. However, some have different opinions on the matter, as they actually agree with the policy. Stacie Osborne, the school nurse, says, "I feel that this process is efficient in keeping our students safe and healthy. This also allows me, as the nurse, to be aware of medications that students are taking daily or as needed." Drug use and overdoses aren't uncommon in high school. Even though over-the-counter medications are usually harmless, we need these rules to keep it in check. She uses the example of, "A student has a headache and tells someone on the bus, the other student gives them a pill and says it's Tylenol, the student takes the pill trusting that it is harmless...What can happen?"

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