

A L A L L A G O

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I talked to some of my classmates about this issue and they had a few things to say about it. Wiley Krab states, "They should be innocent until proven guilty, even though there is a large sum of evidence against some of these billionaire island visitors."

Colton Laflan said, "I feel like they play a part in this stuff and they watched it happen and didn't tell anyone so they can't really not be proven guilty because nobody could really tell. All of the people on the island could be telling lies too. So they could be labeled as sex offenders. They can't be innocent because they watched it happen and there is an entire pile of evidence as you said so then like they're sex offenders until proven otherwise. If they compile enough evidence against them being sex offenders then they won't be but I'd say that if you watch it happen and don't let anyone then you're part of what's happening."

It is true that some people did illegal and inhumane things on Epstein island, but not everyone who went there did. Just because you go to the island does not mean you should be subject to mass hate and criticism.

Quite frankly, if Epstein asked me to go to that island to hang out with him, I probably would. He is a billionaire with a private island. Now if I knew the things he did before going to the island, I would most likely refrain from going, considering I don't participate in illegal activities like that. Most of these billionaires who went to the island probably just wanted to hang on a private island with their buddy Jeff Epstein, and they may not have engaged in illegal activities. These

island goers are innocent until proven guilty, billionaire or not, it is not okay to continuously falsely accuse people when the criticsizers themselves do not have all of the facts, or any for that matter.

In conclusion, many people visited Epstein's island, but that doesn't mean all of those people did bad things, and that assumption is running rampant throughout my town, my state, and all of America. I am not defending Epstein's actions, I am merely defending the group of innocent people who went to the island and came back without doing anything illegal with their buddy Epstein.

Shop small - think big- in downtown Ogallala

by Ella Mueller

As seniors, we're constantly told to think about our future — our careers, college plans, and the adults we want to become. But we don't always think about the future of our town. The truth is, we shape that future every time we decide where to spend our money.

Big stores like Costco and Walmart are convenient and affordable. Most of us have wandered their huge aisles while our parents argue about purchasing a 20 pound bag of cheese. For many families, the lower prices that these big companies offer is a necessity and not a luxury.

At the same time, local businesses are struggling. Several shops in Ogallala have closed on Spruce Street. They didn't close because the owners weren't working hard

but They closed because they couldn't compete with WalMart when it moved into our town in 2015. In the 1990s, the big corporation of Cabelas tried to open up a store in Ogallala but were voted down by the town. If they would have built a store our local business of Eichner's Sales and Service probably would have gone under.

Our librarian, Mrs. Tuttle pointed out that shopping locally helps our neighbors pay bills and support their families. But Mrs. Davis also mentioned that shopping locally can be more expensive and less convenient. Both perspectives are fair.

This issue isn't about completely avoiding big corporations. It's about balance. Choosing to buy a gift downtown or eat at a local restaurant once in a while can make a difference. Small choices add up.

As seniors getting ready to leave, we should care about what we're leaving behind. Big corporations will survive no matter what. Our local businesses won't. If we want to come back to a town that still feels alive, we need to be intentional now. Where we spend our money says a lot about what we value.

Finding your tribe at OHS

by Addison Slama

A noticeable divide exists in our school when it comes to extracurricular involvement. A small group of students participates in nearly every sport and club available, while others are not involved in any activities at all.