THE VERMONT

BERNIE BUZZ

News from Senator Bernie Sanders

MAE SEARLES

"An Unfortunate Truth"

Senior, Newport/Hyde Park, VT

For those readers who don't know you, could you tell us a bit about yourself? (Age, grade, school, hometown, etc.)

I am 17 years old and a senior at Lamoille Union High School, but I am enrolled at Northern Vermont University as an early college student. I was born in Newport, Vermont but have spent most of my life in Hyde Park, Vermont.

What interested/inspired you to become an artist? What does being an artist mean to you?

I've enjoyed creating art since I was a child. During the pandemic my art became more meaningful. This focus transferred into my art class where I learned more about myself as an artist. For me, art is a way for me to express my creativity and pass the time.

Do you have any advice for other students and/or people of all ages who are thinking about getting involved in art?

My biggest piece of advice is to try new things that push you out of your comfort zone, whether that's joining a class, using a new medium or trying to capture something different in your art.

Can you tell us a bit about your piece and its meaning? What inspired you to create this work?

In my art class, I was instructed to create a piece using any medium that contained a form of irony. I chose to exhibit the irony of being able to record any moment in time with our phones, but at what cost? If you're experiencing a moment while recording it through your phone, are you truly experiencing it?

Why do you think art is important? For our communities, for individuals, for society etc.

I think that art is more than something beautiful to look at and admire. It is capable of sending a message and holding meaning. I believe that art can shape the world to be a better place.

Art aside, what is one other way you like to spend your time, for example?

During the winters, I spend most of my free time nordic skiing with my school team and with my family.