

# HSAS COMMON SENSE: CURRENT EVENTS RELEASE

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## Global Events: Solar Storm Causing Northern Lights Around the World

*Theodore Cacy, Grade 10, News Editor, and Jack McCurry, Grade 11, Staff Writer*

- The biggest solar storm since October 2003 occurred over the weekend.
  - Solar storms happen during periods of Solar Maximum, when solar flares are most active. These specific flares are associated with a sunspot that is 16 times the diameter of Earth.
  - Though typically seen in regions near or within the Arctic Circle, a dazzling array of northern lights were seen as far south as Alabama over the weekend.
  - The solar storms are putting pressure on SpaceX's Starlink satellites, potentially causing communication outages or blackouts.
  - In the past, extreme solar storms like this one have had major impacts on power grids, but there have been no reports of significant damage, so far.
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## American Politics: College Encampments

*Adam Ripp and Maya Brener, Grade 11, Editors-in-Chief*

- College encampments began across the country in protest of the conduct of the Israel-Hamas War in Gaza. Student protesters are demanding that their schools divest from Israel-aligned entities.
  - It was catalyzed by the arrest of 108 pro-Palestine protesters on the Columbia campus on April 18. This followed a congressional hearing involving Columbia's president, Minouche Shafik, on anti-semitism, perhaps encouraging her to crack down on protests.
  - Administrations have responded to the encampments in different ways. Some have agreed to work with students on a solution in schools such as Brown, Harvard, and Northwestern. Others have dealt with the protests more aggressively, calling in police to physically remove and sometimes arrest students, in schools such as CCNY, Emory, and Columbia.
  - At UCLA, violence broke out between counterprotesters and those in the encampment, injuring over 30 protestors. Security officers stood by and did not intervene for hours. Police are being investigated for their inaction.
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## Miscellaneous News:

*Ari Schaer, Grade 11, Staff Writer, and Amena Steenhuis, Grade 11, Entertainment Editor*

- The Eurovision Song Contest concluded with Nemo of Switzerland winning for his song "The Code." The competition was full of controversy over the involvement of Israeli contestant Eden Golan. Netherlands contestant Joost Klein was disqualified from the competition following remarks about Golan at a press conference. In Malmo, where the contest took place, large pro-Palestinian protests were outside the arena.
- Eight TikTok content creators are suing the US government over the recently passed ban forcing TikTok to either sell to an American company or be banned in America. These content creators claim that the ban violates their First Amendment rights. TikTok is providing these content creators with free legal counsel during the suit.
- Reigning Miss USA and Miss Teen USA resigned from their titles two days apart. Miss USA Noelia Veight cited mental health reasons and said that the toxic work environment silenced her. Miss Teen USA UmaSofia Srivastava soon followed suit, stating she resigned because her values no longer match the organization's.

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