



Everything You Need to Know About the Trump-Ukraine Scandal

Sophia Piper, Junior
NEWS EDITOR

Since July of this year, we've been bombarded with news articles concerning President Trump and Ukraine (more specifically, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelensky). This controversy has prompted Democrats to call for impeachment. However, the details on what really happened are still blurry, and we still aren't quite sure what went on behind the scenes.

In August, a whistleblower reported that Trump had asked President Zelensky to investigate Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, and his son, Hunter Biden. The whistleblower also said that Trump threatened to withhold aid if Zelensky didn't investigate. Just days before the call, Trump had withdrawn 391 million dollars in aid for Ukraine. A non-verbatim transcript of the call was released and showed that Trump asked Zelensky to reopen the Biden investigation but did not explicitly say he would withhold aid if Ukraine didn't investigate. White House Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney wrote that the United States withheld aid "because of concern about lack of support from other nations and concerns over corruption." This investigation is still ongoing, as the whistleblower says that there is more evidence against Trump.

The background behind this controversy is a confusing mess, but hopefully this summary will shed a little bit of light on the subject. During Obama's presidency, Joe Biden was supportive of aid towards Ukraine after the violent 2014 revolution. While this was happening, Hunter Biden joined the board of directors at a Ukrainian energy company named Burisma. Burisma had been under investigation in 2012 for money-related crimes, and the case still hadn't been closed. Hunter's association with Burisma and his father's support for aid towards Ukraine led many Republicans to think that something fishy was going on. The investigation restarted and again was closed; there was no evidence found against the Bidens.

This was of little concern until this presidential election, during which Trump is going to run against an unknown Democratic nominee. Joe Biden, having been vice president already, is a strong contender. Trump may have wanted Zelensky to investigate Biden in order to weaken Biden's support, thus giving himself a better chance of winning in 2020. Due to this possibility, Democrats are pressing for Trump's impeachment. Nancy Pelosi recently announced that the formal impeachment inquiry of Trump would begin. This has been talked about since the beginning of Trump's term. However, even if Trump was impeached, he could be acquitted by the Senate, which is majority Republican. Either way, it will be exciting (or stressful) to see how this whole thing unfolds.

The Story Behind B307

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A series dedicated to the posters, murals, pictures, and miscellaneous objects that fill the classrooms of Marblehead High School, and the stories behind these decorations.

Every school day, Daniel Ritchie teaches his students about the history of the United States, detailing American life from the first colonizers up to the 2016 election. The 2019-20 school year marks Mr. Ritchie's tenth time teaching this course, and his tenth round of teaching in the same classroom: B307. Tucked in the middle of the B-wing hallway on Marblehead High School's third floor, B307 is just one of many interestingly-decorated classrooms of the school.



The most eye-catching elements of B307 hang on its walls, which Mr. Ritchie has decorated with framed historical quotes and mottos, artifacts from past classes, and, most notably, "Mr. Ritchie's AP 5 Club." The room is a collage of life at the high school, as well as that of an entire country beyond this town and time period. While Mr. Ritchie's selection of decorations may appear to be only a stylistic choice, he values the meaning behind everything he has hung up throughout the room and hopes his students will as well. Here are some of the standouts:

Keep Calm and Carry On – Hanging between two of the classroom's windows is a large-scale print of the World War II-era motto, "Keep Calm and Carry On," a sentiment both relevant to the class curriculum as well as his students' lives. If nothing else, Mr. Ritchie hopes that the next time students stress about an upcoming assignment, they can remember that at least they are not facing the ongoing bomb threat that the English were accustomed to during the 1940s. **Class photos** – A few feet over, Mr. Ritchie displays photos of the boys' lacrosse team he coaches, as well as a class snapshot from a field trip to Bunker Hill, a picture he promises to update in the coming weeks as this year's class embarks on the same trip. "I'd like to continue to add onto things over the years..." he says, although he wants these additions "to have some sort of personal meaning versus just putting up a poster for the sake of putting up a poster."

V-J Day Mural – Another chunk of the wall is decorated with a student mural, painted by the Class of 2001's Britney Ficaro for her senior project. The work depicts the iconic "V-J Day" photograph of a sailor victoriously kissing a young nurse in Times Square after the war with Japan was officially ended. Mr. Ritchie and Ficaro decided upon this image together, debating between this shot and that of Neil Armstrong on the moon. Ultimately, "V-J Day" was a more colorful and appropriately-sized image for the wall, but Mr. Ritchie hopes that someday, another student will volunteer to create an additional mural.

APUSH 5 Club – To the left of the mural and above the whiteboard is Mr. Ritchie's favorite part of the classroom: a stretch of nine frames listing the members of his "APUSH 5 Club." To be a part of the group, students have to earn a five on their AP United States History exam, the highest score possible. Mr. Ritchie prints out a list of these students' names every year and frames it to live in his hall of fame. Just last week, Mr. Ritchie hung up his members from the 2019 test,



pointing it out to all his classes that day. While this tradition may have started as a "way to motivate students," the club has allowed Mr. Ritchie to, "visually see the impact that you make as a teacher and how you've helped a lot of people along the way." Whether or not it is the reason students score a five on their exam, it certainly sets the tone for the kind of teacher Mr. Ritchie is and the appreciation he has for his students.



Of course, there is only so much a teacher can do to modify the appearance of his or her classroom. The paint on the walls will always be white, save for a few murals, and the furniture and layout is also predetermined. Teachers at MHS build on this canvas though, making their classrooms a welcoming learning environment for students, whether that be, in Mr. Ritchie's case, with a framed silly T-shirt the class of 2013 gave him, old student artwork on the walls, or even the instrumental music he plays during class. All of these things make the classroom that much happier of a place to spend 55 minutes every day, and if a few decorations is all this takes, why not go for it? Surely, things have changed throughout Daniel Ritchie's ten years spent teaching at MHS, but as history teaches us, some things will always stay the same, and that definitely remains true for the positive spirit of B307.



Mr. Ritchie's AP USH 5 Club wall of fame.

Climate Change: How to Act

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From September 20th to 27th, over seven million people from around the world participated in the Global Climate Strike for climate action. During the largest climate strike in history, participants were able to spread awareness about the current climate crisis and demand action from world leaders. In Boston, thousands gathered in City Hall Plaza to demand that Governor Charlie Baker declare a statewide climate emergency, that lawmakers pass laws to help those living in polluted and poor areas, and that Massachusetts citizens stop using fossil fuels.

Climate change is a major problem that is already extremely severe. At this point, researchers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the University of California, Irvine have concluded that the West Antarctic Ice Sheet has already melted to the point that there is no way to stop the retreat of these glaciers, even if immediate action is taken. Luckily, many species and ecosystems that are being impacted by climate change will benefit from climate action. For example, coral reefs can regain the vital photosynthetic algae called Zooxanthellae that they've lost due to increased ocean temperatures. If these corals are able to regain their algae, the nutrients provided by these living coral reefs will be able to support reef populations.

Actions such as the Global Climate Strike are a major step in spreading awareness about climate change and demanding that policies be made to reduce carbon emissions, but I believe that there is much more that must be done in order to drastically reduce carbon emissions and have an actual impact on the global temperature.

In addition to community and state-level actions, people must realize their own, individual ecological footprints. In the United States, the average American emits 20 metric tons of carbon dioxide per year. While global action is vital, we must also take action by making small changes in our own lifestyles.

Just by making simple changes such as reducing meat consumption or travelling less, we decrease how much carbon dioxide we are individually emitting. It is vital that each person understands the changes that will have a large effect on their ecological footprint, as some actions emit more carbon than others. For example, the carbon emission of a single-use plastic straw is 1.46 grams, whereas a cheeseburger is 3.4 to 4.82 kilograms! Just by eating one cheeseburger, you have emitted around 4,000 more grams of carbon dioxide than you would by using a straw.

When spreading awareness about climate action, we must take an all-inclusive approach. Climate change is not a simple problem, and there is no one answer for how to effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions. By providing people with information about how world leaders can help, in addition to which individual changes have the largest impact, we can best address the climate crisis.

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