Sherwood High School
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Warrior

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Illustration by Natalie Murray '18

by Kimberly Greulich '18

Sherwood has a plethora of clubs, from academic clubs like the Chemistry club and Eco-Sherwood, to political and social activism clubs like the Young Democrats/Republicans and Amnesty International. It's part of what makes Sherwood such a community – it has a place for every kind of person to feel included and involved.

But what does the school actually do for these clubs? Recently, The X-STEM Club had to find a way to raise money to attend a STEM Convention in Washington D.C. They chose fundraising this time, and worked with Chipotle to raise money, but that was not how they always accomplished things. "Because any projects we do, all the money comes straight from Mrs. Orange," explained the X-STEM Club president, senior Alexander Richman, about science teacher and club sponsor Kristina Orange. "So, it's nice to give her money back."

School clubs seem to have very limited options in gaining the funding they need to participate in educational and interesting activities: fundraising, or paying for it themselves. Neither the school nor MCPS offers financial assistance.

"Clubs have to be self-sufficient," said Principal Bill Gregory. "School funds don't go to support clubs; school funds go to support big things in the school."

see CLUBS, pg. 3

MCPS Approves Calendar for 2018-2019

by Mallory Carlson '19

After Governor Larry Hogan passed legislation requiring Maryland public schools to start after Labor Day, finish by June 15, and include 180 days of instruction, MCPS took the school calendar structure into consideration. On November 14, the Board of Education made a final decision; the 2018-2019 school year will begin on September 4 and end on June 13, with 182 instructional days, an abbreviated spring break, and Thanksgiving and winter breaks staying the same.

The shortening of spring break is likely the most notable change, at least to students. Currently, it is a week long (preceding Easter). This school year, students and staff will be off the week of March 26-30, and April 2 (Easter Monday). But in compliance with the state mandate, the board has chosen to cut spring break; in 2019, the break will last from Wednesday, April 17 to Tuesday, April 23, a total of 7 days of vacation.

Many are unhappy with the choice to cut spring break, including some members of the board itself. "We should be leaving spring break intact … It's the one thing I've heard from the majority of people that they want preserved," said board member Rebecca Smondrowski, who cast the one dissenting vote.

The governor's office continues to defend the decision, despite arguments that the change does not benefit students or teachers. "The overwhelming majority of Marylanders, including parents, students and teachers, support Governor Hogan's efforts to return to common sense schooling scheduling, and for school administrators to pretend that starting school after Labor Day put religious holidays and spring break in jeopardy is simply dishonest," said Amelia Chasse, a spokeswoman for the governor.

In other regards, the calendar is similar to the current structure. There will be half days in between quarters and a full professional day in between semesters. Schools will close on two Jewish holidays, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, as officials cite high student and staff absenteeism on those days. In addition, one professional day will be on June 5, the Muslim holiday Eid al-Fitr. Many citizens, especially those of the Muslim community, are pleased with the change, as families will be able to celebrate the holiday without the concern of missed school, but there is some disapproval surrounding the fact that the date is also considered a makeup day in case of snow.

Some teachers have expressed concern that there are not more professional days included in the calendar. "Our students need meticulously planned, dynamic lessons that use a variety of strategies. They need timely feedback so that they can improve. Students need attention and support," said Richard Montgomery teacher Leah Wilson at the board meeting. "Student instructional prep time is essential to student learning."

Sexual Assault Cases Build After Weinstein Accusations

by Colleen Yates '18

Recently, a number of sexual misconduct scandals have come to light, beginning with Hollywood stars and spanning all the way to a candidate as well as a sitting member of the U.S. Senate.

On October 5, the New York Times published an explosive article that Harvey Weinstein, a prominent Hollywood producer, for years sexually harassed and assaulted women. In the weeks that followed, more than 50 women accused him of sexual misconduct. The scandal soon was followed by allegations against actor Kevin Spacey, comedian Louis C.K., and others. Both celebrities and everyday people have come forward and spoken out after years of being silenced. The hashtag "#metoo" began trending on Twitter, encouraging victims of harassment and assault to speak out.

In the midst of these highly publicized cases of sexual misconduct, consent signs appeared in every bathroom stall at Sherwood, encouraging students to read about consent and how it is expressed. "The most important concept for teenagers to understand is consent." said the person who led the campaign to put up the signs and asked to remain anonymous. "It is a vital part of communication in relationships. A definition of the term combined with examples and nonexamples is the best way to teach a concept. Combine this with repetition and you have learning,"

Suddenly, pressure is intensifying in workplaces and institutions to address the issue of sexual harassment and assault. Even local school districts are under scrutiny to show how they will be part of the solution, rather than the sources of the problem of sexual misconduct.

Last year two Maryland democratic delegates, Ariana Kelly

See CONSENT, pg. 4

What's Inside

Harassment and the #MeToo Movement

Starting October 5, waves of sexual assault accusations have sparked a national conversation.

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New 'Star Wars' Movie Faces High Expectations

The newest Star Wars movie seeks to establish originality while maintaining the authenticity of prior films.

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New Minimum Wage is Approved

by Mallory Carlson '19

In early November, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett signed the legislation that makes the minimum wage in Montgomery County $15, a significant increase from the current 10.75.

The new law will begin to be enforced in 2021, but only for businesses with 51 employees or more, while smaller business will be given more time to implement the policy. Leggett, a democrat who is currently in the third year of his third (and final) term in office, said "Montgomery County has done what is right, what is appropriate, and what is reasonable under the circumstances and conditions … we should take a great deal of pride in [the law]."

Not all Montgomery County officials are completely pleased with the change. Gigi Goodwin, who is the president and CEO of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, testified against the law earlier in the fall and expressed concerns over the county's competitiveness in attracting various businesses, especially as some relatively low-wage positions are being replaced by new, innovative technology.

County Launches 'BTheOne' Program

by Lexi Matthews '18

County Executive Ike Leggett launched the public awareness campaign "BTheOne" this October in partnership with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, MCPS, and local mental health organizations EveryMind and Family Services, Inc. The campaign, which aims to "reach teens in the community with important messages about preventing suicide and drug abuse," kicked off with the circulation of ads at bus stations and inside schools across the county, as well as the commencement of a corresponding webpage.

Both promote a five step system for a person to 'BTheOne' to make a difference in the life of someone considering self harming or abusing drugs by asking them if they need help, keeping them safe, being there for them, helping them connect with a support system, and following up on their progress. The website notes that its fight was inspired by the CDC findings that from 2007 to 2015, suicide rates doubled among teen girls and by more than 30 percent among teen boys.

Other inspirations for the campaign include 19 year-old August Balderson of Gaithersburg, currently recovering from substance abuse, and Evan Rosenstock, a Churchill student who took his own life in 2013. Balderson and Susan Rosenstock, Evan's mother, both play instrumental roles in running the program. While the group still exists in its developmental stages, they plan to expand to giving speeches and assemblies in the near future.

MCPS Plans New Infrastructure Projects

by Isabella Pilot '18

Due to massive growth throughout the county, Superintendent Jack Smith recently recommended a 1.8 billion dollar infrastructure plan for the next six years. MCPS has gained nearly 22,000 students over the past years with 3,000 new students last year alone, so the county is responding with proposals for two new high schools, three new elementary schools, and additions at many existing schools.

Crown High School will be built in the Gaithersburg Crowne area near the RIO movie theatre, and Woodward High School will be reopened in Bethesda (it was closed during a period of decline in enrollment). As the county has recently switched over to a new system to find the most cost effective way to go about renovations, the opening dates for these schools are still to be determined. The last time a new high school was opened in MCPS was Clarksburg in 2006.

As far as renovations to existing schools, Kennedy will receive an addition including a turf field, and there will be a comprehensive addition project at Northwood. Each of these projects are aimed towards alleviating overcapacity in the down-county.

Multiple Olney Businesses Replaced

by Sydney Henry '20

Jackie Vilaseca '19

The newly constructed restaurant had its grand opening on December 7.

If you grew up in Olney, you might have experienced the well-known tradition of going to Sakura for someone's birthday. You can remember the impossible competition to catch a piece of meat in your mouth, or the iconic slice of cheesecake with the umbrella and the cherry on top. But those traditions will no longer take place in Olney. As of Sunday, November 18, Sakura gave up its lease on the location and will soon be replaced by the popular breakfast chain, IHOP.

But this isn't the first time an Olney business was replaced by something bigger.

Olney is turning into a town mainly defined by corporation businesses and chain restaurants, losing a lot of its small-town feel. Although some may not remember, the shopping center that now contains Harris Teeter, Grill Marx, Panera, and many more, once contained a rundown, locally owned movie theater and the ever-popular deli, B.J. Pumpernickels. Since then, many other stores have moved out of Olney, or closed down all together.

Some students do not like the direction Olney is going in. "I don't want to see Olney losing the town feel and becoming too crowded and full of chains," said sophomore Natalie Cavanaugh.

If more businesses and restaurants run by larger corporations continue to replace small businesses, the rent for buildings in Olney will rise. This puts any local owner, who can't match the rent of larger stores, out of business.

According to an online business leasing company in Olney, an office space available in the same building as Burk & Flinn Orthodontics and across the street from Giant, is leasing for a rental cost of about $33 per square foot, per year. The space is around 2,000 square feet, which adds up to a total rental cost of roughly $66,000 per year.

Out of a sampling of 40 businesses in Olney, 26, or sixty-five percent, are corporations or chain restaurants, and 14, thirty-five percent, are small businesses usually run by local owners.

In a survey by The Warrior that asked students about where they preferred to hang out with friends in Montgomery County, most responded with places outside of Olney. "In places like Rockville and Gaithersburg ... they have more stores [for teens]," explained junior Drew Hughes. "Olney is mostly food, banks, and grocery stores."

As senior Emily Schmidt lamented, "spending money on food is really the only thing to do in Olney."

English 12 Helps Students Find Their Wings

by Journalism Class

Days before Thanksgiving, origami butterflies fluttered throughout Sherwood's halls. Those butterflies symbolize the struggles of women around the world, and the need to take a stand against violence. The English Department brought attention to the issues presented in "In the Time of the Butterflies," a book new to the 12th grade curriculum about the sisters who fought to overcome a ruthless dictator.

The English Department, along with help from EmpowHER and the International Club, raised money through a fundraiser of selling origami butterflies. With the fundraiser being during the week of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the profits went towards The House of Ruth, a nonprofit organization that serves more than 600 women and children who are abused and homeless in Washington D.C.

For students who come from the Dominican Republic, the story told in "In the Time of Butterflies" is a real part of their families' heritage. Senior Lis Taveras moved from the Dominican Republic two years ago, and she has been hearing stories about the Rafael Trujillo regime and the resistance of the Mirabal sisters through family stories and at school. Trujillo was a dictator for decades in the Dominican Republic until his assassination in 1961. "My grandma told me … there was lots of whispering [because] you didn't know if the government was listening," said Taveras. "You had to have a picture of [Trujillo] in your house."

Another Dominican Republic native, sophomore Eli Mercedes, came one year ago to Sherwood. "The Mirabal sisters wanted to fight for the rights of the people, and wanted people to be free," Mercedes said. The people Trujillo killed often included those who opposed him and his ruthless policies. However, once the murders of the Mirabal sisters took place, Mercedes said the eyes of the people were opened to governmental atrocities under Trujillo's regime, in which tens of thousands of people were killed.

MCPS adapted a new curriculum in order to incorporate more international literature at school. The Sherwood English department's decided to dedicate each quarter to a specific region of the world. Since this marking period is focused on Latin America, English 12 teachers Samantha Ager and Christiane Lock chose the historical fiction novel, "In the Time of the Butterflies."

"I think that there are not a lot of female voices in our literary curriculum, especially if you look at the 10th grade curriculum—there are essentially no women writers," said Ager, who began teaching Honors English 12 this year. "In 11th grade, when I was teaching last year, I had maybe one female writer, so I thought it was important to incorporate not just a writer of a different color, but also a writer who is a woman telling stories about women. We don't hear those voices in school [as] often [as we should], especially when more than 50 percent of the population is female."

The Mirabal sisters were known as "Las Mariposas" or "The Butterflies." However, once the nature of their activities were discovered, they were murdered by supporters of Trujillo. They are now considered national heroes by the Dominican people for standing up against injustice and fighting for their rights.

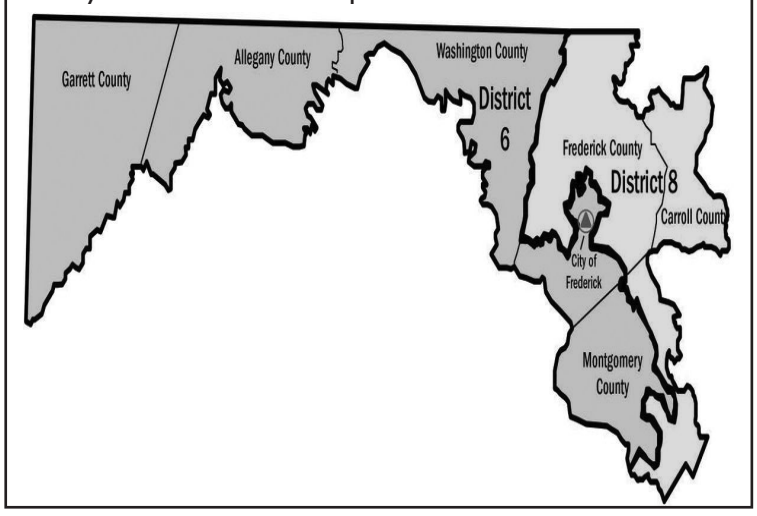
"For us, [the sisters' deaths] that happened in the Dominican Republic is really important," said Taveras. "The government says it's really important to never forget this event." Taveras says she feels pride when reading about the Dominican Republic resistance movement in "In the Time of Butterflies," and that it accurately represents the struggle of the Mirabal sisters and the eventual impact it had on their country.

She also supports the book's involvement in the Sherwood English curriculum, and believes it conveys an important message. "Anyone can make a difference in the world, and in violence against women," said Taveras.

Court Case May Help End Gerrymandering

by Josh Averbach '18

Olney lies at the intersection of district 8, district 6, and district 3, all three of which extend into areas far from Montgomery County. Democrats designed these districts to manipulate the distribution of voters from predominantly Democratic and Republican areas.



On December 8, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) agreed to mediate a dispute over the constitutionality of the Maryland state legislature's use of gerrymandering--the practice through which state legislatures intentionally draw skewed districts for congressional and state legislature races to benefit their own party. The case involves district 6, which includes much of far-Western Maryland and some of Montgomery County, including a small part of Olney. In October, SCOTUS began hearing a separate gerrymandering case regarding Wisconsin's districts.

State legislatures have long used their control over congressional districts for partisan gain. District-creators may spread opponents' supporters so thin across districts that their numbers are insignificant everywhere. Conversely, they also may compact much of a party's support into one district. Either method can cause a mismatch between voter support and representation. In the 2016 congressional elections, Republicans (who control most state legislatures) won 49.9 percent of votes nationwide but control 55 percent of House of Representatives seats, while Democrats received 47.3 percent of votes but only hold 44.8 percent of seats.

While Republicans have gained the most notoriety for gerrymandering, it is also used in blue states like Maryland, which sends seven Democrats and one Republican to the House of Representatives. Former Governor Martin O'Malley has admitted in a court deposition that "part of my intent was to create a map that, all things being legal and equal, would, nonetheless, be more likely to elect more Democrats rather than less."

Montgomery County exhibits much of Maryland's gerrymandering. Olney includes parts of district 8 (represented by Democrat Jamie Raskin), district 3 (represented by Democrat John Sarbanes), and district 6 (represented by Democrat John Delaney). District 3 combines areas of Montgomery County, Howard County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and Baltimore City into what a federal judge once described as "reminiscent of a broken-winged pterodactyl lying prostrate across the center of the state." Maryland's legislature carved up liberal Montgomery County so that a piece of it could be added to the rural, relatively conservative sixth district, allowing them to unseat a Republican who had represented the area for over two decades.

SCOTUS has a potential landmark case in Maryland's Benisek v. Lamone. The plaintiffs, a group of district 6 Republicans, accuse O'Malley and the state legislature of violating their First Amendment rights by retaliating against them for their past support of Republicans. The district's former representative, Republican Roscoe Bartlett, won reelection by 28 percent in 2010, but he lost by 21 percent in 2012 after redistricting.

Wisconsin's case, Gill v. Whitford, addresses a different constitutional issue than does Maryland's; the plaintiffs argue that Wisconsin's Republican-skewed map violates their 14th Amendment right to equal protection. A victory for the plaintiff in either case could prompt SCOTUS to declare all partisan gerrymandering unconstitutional or to limit it, undeniably altering the balance of power in American politics. SCOTUS is expected to release a decision in the Wisconsin case by springtime, but the Maryland case's timetable remains unclear.

Clubs and Organizations Struggle to Raise Funds

From CLUBS, Cover

"Self-sufficient" has turned into clubs running to local restaurants, just like X-STEM, and mainly finding themselves at Chipotle to get the money they need. Last year, there were 16 fundraisers at various restaurants, 13 of them at Chipotle. Those 13 Chipotle fundraisers, in which clubs receive 50 percent of the profits, raised $15,136.62 in total, according to the Independent Activities Fund public document. Through the end of November this year, there have already been 12 fundraisers, 10 of them at Chipotle. Every request for a fundraiser goes through Sherwood's business office.

"For any fundraiser you have, you have to stipulate what the money is being used for... And that's signed off by Mr. Gregory for final approval," said school financial specialist Cynthia Saul.

Before the request arrives at Gregory's desk, it goes through a multi-step process. Serious problems emerge when this system is bypassed. "We've had some issues this year, where the student leaders – while very impressive, and very organized, and very motivated – have not followed the proper channels," said Assistant School Administrator Stephanie Gelfand. "We get audited by the state, and all that stuff is under that audit. So, the minute we don't follow those rules, we could get in serious trouble. So that's, I think, the problem with the fundraisers... [the] order... isn't being followed for whatever reason."

When fundraiser requests go through the system correctly and reach the principal, they have a strong chance of getting approved. Gregory cannot remember ever saying no to a fundraiser. He's extremely supportive of clubs finding ways to get the money they need to participate in activities they are interested in with people who share their enthusiasm."

The school uses any discretionary funds based on the "instructional needs" of Sherwood students, said Saul. Clubs don't fall in this bracket, though there are clubs that actively provide students with SSL hours, for example, which are a requirement to graduate.

Take the club Give to Live, whose focus is to give to the less fortunate and create change for the people who need it most. They recently held a fundraiser at Café Rio to raise money to buy the ingredients they needed for a Thanksgiving dinner for the soup kitchen Loaves & Fishes in D.C.

"[Last year], we got six 24-pound turkeys, 30 cranberry sauces, 30 boxes of stuffing, six 10-pound bags of potatoes . . . And that's what we try to do every year. We use that money to buy the stuff, and then bring it," said club president, senior Lexi Swiat. "I would say the maximum [SSL hours] you would get in a semester would be 30, 40 hours."

Even a club as successful as Give to Live, which gives students invaluable real-world experiences as well as SSL hours that are required for graduation, does not count as covering a student's "instructional needs." Therefore, the club does not receive school funding support for its various charitable activities.

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Post-Weinstein Cases of Sexual Misconduct

October 29: Kevin Spacey

The actor was accused by more than a dozen men of harassment and attempted assault. He was promptly fired from 'House of Cards' and issued an apology for his actions.

November 7: Ed Westwick

The English actor has been accused of assault and misconduct by three women. He has denied the allegations, but his current television shows, like Netflix's 'White Gold,' have been postponed.

November 9: Roy Moore

The politician was accused of misconduct with several underage women during his time as a judge while in his thirties. He lost the December 12 Alabama Senate election, despite being backed by the President.

November 29: Matt Lauer

After multiple stories of harassment and assault broke, Lauer was immediately fired from his longtime position of anchor on "The Today Show."

Compiled by Mallory Carlson '19

Schools Respond to Issue of Consent

from ASSAULT, cover

and Marice Morales, attempted to add to the topic of consent into the school curriculums in Maryland. Under the proposal, the topic of consent is to be added to the family life and sex education unit in health classes. The legislature would require public schools to teach a "yes means yes" standard for sexual consent.

The bill failed to pass, but MCPS Legislative Aide Patricia Swanson has hopes that it will be reintroduced this upcoming January. "Often, when a bill is introduced for the first time in the General Assembly, it will take more than one session to pass. This bill was also not brought up for debate on the Senate floor until very late on the last day of Session so it did not have time to make it to the final stage of passage before the General Assembly adjourned at midnight."

While the bill stalls in debate, MCPS has moved forward to address the topic of consent in its Health classes. "During the legislative session last year, MCPS staff met with the non-profit Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA), to analyze our curriculum and see where MCPS could improve or expand. While MCASA did say MCPS was ahead in its teachings concerning communication skills paired with healthy relationships and consent topics, MCPS wanted to do more. As such, MCPS applied and was approved for grant writing money to enhance our current lessons," said Swanson.

Cara Grant, the Supervisor for health education in MCPS, explained that the framework in the curriculum has added information on effective ways to prevent sexual aggression as well as provide resources for victims of sexual aggression. The standards for health education now include demonstrations of how to effectively ask for assistance along with ways to prevent sexual aggression and find warning signs of abusive relationships.

While both staff and students may not want to admit it, incidents of sexual assault and misconduct happen at a high school level. Students at every grade level talk about different stories they have heard or experienced over the years regarding cases of assault or often sexual misbehavior. These incidences have included students sexually assaulting other students who are drunk and incapacitated, groping without consent, and possessing explicit pictures without permission. Catcalling and other harassing behavior frequently occur in the school hallways.

The school's counselors encourage victims of sexual harassment or assault to come forward. Resource counselor Elizabeth Giffen emphasizes that any information that a student tells a counselor is treated as confidential. Counselors are able to provide emotional support to the student, as well as suggestions for how to get additional help or therapy.

Teacher Encourages Open Discussion

by Emma Shuster '18

In this day and age, the United States remains a place in which men as a whole have more power than women in society. As a result of male dominance, many women and young girls face acts of sexism and routinely feel discouraged and powerless. To help them feel empowered, worthy, and confident in the work they do in society, social studies teacher Beth Shevitz created the Women's Studies elective, which began in the fall of 2016.

"Women's Studies has made an impact on me because it has helped me understand a bunch of women's issues that are not talked about a lot in everyday life," said senior Caroline Hill. "The class has expanded on a lot of issues like the tampon tax and assault on college campuses that I think should be discussed more in the media."

Shevitz bases her lessons on current events in the media and issues that women have been facing throughout history. The class has discussed a wide array of topics, including, health issues, stereotypes, self esteem, sexual harassment, and the workforce. "I like to stress to my students that women are not held to the same standards as men," said Shevitz. "No one would tell a man 'You don't smile enough,' or 'Your pants are too tight, you know you want it,' or 'Your tank top is too revealing, therefore you must want sex.'" To address these prominent issues, Shevitz provides her class with articles, movies, songs, and discussions.

Aside from her teaching, Shevitz is the sponsor of EmpowHER, a club which encourages students to become activists in solving current women's issues. Women's Studies is more about education and raising awareness for issues, while EmpowHER allows students to take what they know and what they have experienced and do something about it. For example, Shevitz hopes to raise awareness about women's issues and implement a teach-in for the International Day of the Woman in March.

Because sexual harassment and discrimination has always been a challenge in women's lives, the hashtag #MeToo was created, inspiring women to know that they are not alone. Shevitz hopes that women will stop blaming themselves for these incidents and that they will be taken seriously.

Shevitz believes sexual harassment is an issue at Sherwood, and she encourages students to report any incidents of harassment on the school bullying form. Some students do not know that catcalling is a form of harassment, so informing boys and girls on this issue and what it looks like teaches people that they can prevent it and not be silent bystanders. Such issues and examples have been brought to Shevitz's attention, and she believes that because of Women's Studies and EmpowHER, female students are becoming more comfortable in presenting their stories to her.

"If students could take away one thing from Women's Studies and EmpowHER, I would tell them to not accept the status quo. Change can be made that will bring equality for women. I hope that men too can develop a sense of pride to call themselves feminists. Society does not have to be the way it is. Women can be equal without taking away power from men or threatening men. Men and women can help make gender equality," said Shevitz.

1991: Clarence Thomas

Thomas was accused of sexually harassing his colleague, Anita Hill, and despite lengthy hearing about the allegations, he was approved by a Senate vote of 52 to 48 and appointed to the Supreme Court.

1992: Bob Packwood

Soon after reelection to the Senate, The Washington Post published a story revealing the senator's sexual misconduct as reported by 10 women. He resigned in 1995 after threats of expulsion.

1999: Bill Clinton

Clinton was accused of sexual relations with 22-year-old intern Monica Lewinsky while he was President. After an investigation, Congress attempted to impeach Clinton but was not successful.

2006: Mark Foley

While a House representative, Foley sent explicit emails and messages to many women, but was exposed and resigned shortly after.

2011: Anthony Weiner

Accused of sexting many young women, Weiner resigned as a representative in Congress but later revived his political career. He was recently sentenced to 21 months in prison for sexting a minor.

2016: Roger Ailes

A former staffer at Fox News alleged she was fired when she refused sexual advances from Ailes. At least five more women, including Megyn Kelly, also came forward. He eventually was removed from his position as CEO and Chairman of Fox News.

2016: Donald Trump

Trump was caught on tape bragging about grabbing women by the genitals, which he later dismissed as "locker room talk." Months later he won the presidency.

2017: Bill O'Reilly

The New York Times exposed O'Reilly for paying off women that he had harassed. He was removed from his position as a host on Fox News.

Compiled by Colleen Yates '18

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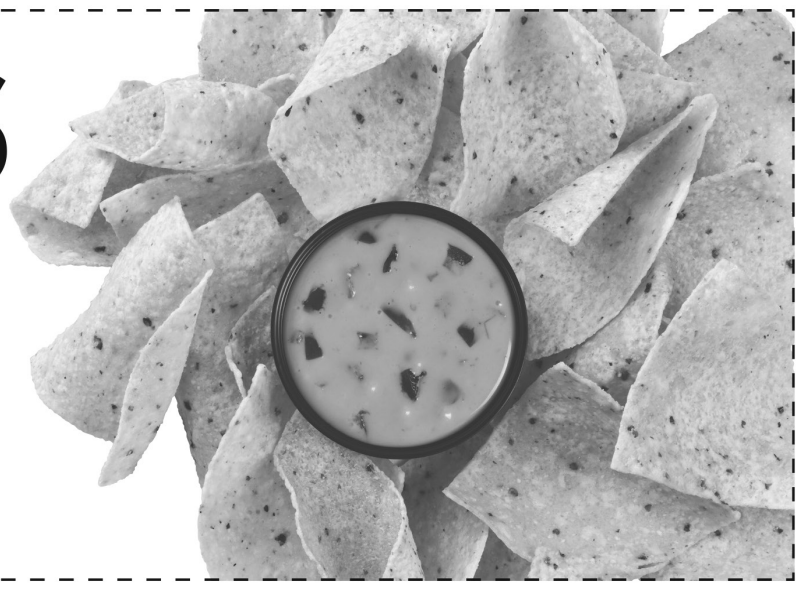

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Student Coaches Allied Sports Teams

by Danielle Katz '18

Many MCPS students enjoy being a part of sports teams, whether they play or manage. However, Junior Jett Clarke took his managing role to the next level, serving as Sherwood's first ever student head coach.

After participating in handball freshman year, Clarke decided to join the basketball team, which resulted in his ineligibility to play handball because students can not play two sports in the same season. This rule led him to try team managing other sports in order to both play basketball and be involved in allied sports.

Clarke recently ended his season coaching handball, after previously aiding in coaching allied softball and helping to manage the bocce team. During handball season, Clarke ran practices, coached the team, made substitutions, and wrote up game plans. His coaching varies in specific responsibilities, as being a part of allied sports brings different challenges and rewards than managing a standard team. Every team coached by Clarke has won their way to a spot in the state semi-finals, with allied softball winning the state championship.

"You can't be too hard on the kids," said Clarke. "I don't know their backgrounds, so I am gentle and encouraging. I make sure they are included and have fun."

These experiences also help Clarke grow as an individual and develop important life skills, like empathy and good leadership, that he would otherwise not have a medium to build.

"It's helped me be a lot more patient and have a positive attitude," said Clarke. "As frustrated as I may want to get sometimes, I can't. I have to stay level-headed, so that the players can all stay level-headed. It has definitely developed my patience and responsibility a ton."

Junior Jett Clarke coaches with Katie Nichols during an allied softball game against Paint Branch last year.

Clarke's efforts in the allied sports community have recently received recognition by both Sherwood and MCPS.

Beyond the countless shoutouts and awards at many sports banquets, MCPS Sports Insight interviewed him about his experiences in leading the allied teams as well as for general excellence in team managing. His achievements are in line to receive the Sherwood Student Managing scholarship at the end of his senior year.

Guest speaker Robert Thomas lectures about heavy metals to a combined Honors and AP Chemistry class.

Speaker Teaches from Experience

by Adam Levine '20

In chemistry classes at Sherwood, Fridays may also be known as "Thomas Friday," a name coined by the chemistry teachers who organized the weekly, specialized learning class period. The day gets its name from the guest speaker, Robert Thomas, who comes to the school weekly to speak about chemistry and its applications to the real world.

"I always liked the sciences in school," said Thomas. "I knew when I went to university, I was always going to major in chemistry." As he ended high school, Thomas began to take advanced level classes in chemistry, physics, and math, and at University of Wales, Thomas majored in Pure and Applied Chemistry while also taking a variety of different chemistry classes.

For over 30 years, Thomas worked in the field of scientific instrumentation research for the PerkinElmer Corporation. Now, Thomas spends his time writing about the same topic, whether it be writing for different scientific magazines or journals or writing his very own chemistry textbooks.

Thomas also volunteers at Sherwood with a program linked to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) called the AAAS STEM volunteer program. This aims to teach kids of all ages about science, technology, engineering, and math through the real world experiences of retired scientists, like Thomas.

Thomas found out about the program from an ad in a local newspaper and took the opportunity to be more involved in the education of his daughters, who attended a nearby school. He wanted to know what his daughters were learning in chemistry and how he could relate it to the real-world applications of science. In 2008, Thomas began speaking to chemistry classes at Sherwood. For "Thomas Friday," he prepares a lesson in the form of a PowerPoint presentation that details certain real-world applications of chemistry.

The first Sherwood teacher Thomas supported was chemistry teacher Michael Miehl. "It's just a way to go beyond what we are doing in the classroom that we wouldn't have time to research or to prepare a presentation or to know because we're teachers [and] he's a professional chemist," said Miehl. "He's lived his life doing chemistry and can share that with us."

Thomas' ten years of volunteering with AAAS STEM earned him the position as a Team Leader of the Montgomery County volunteer teams. The program supports other school systems in the area, in both Maryland and Virgina. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering with the AAAS STEM program, please email Thomas at robert.james.thomas@verizon.net.

Student Takes on Going Vegan during November

by Sofia Estela '20

For the entire month of November I decided to challenge myself to go vegan, and the main reason as to why I embarked on this journey was to complete my overall goal of being healthier. I decided that clean eating would be my first step. There was no specific source for my idea besides the fact that I had always wanted to give veganism a try, and it was much more difficult than I had anticipated.

Day 1: This vegan thing might be easier than I thought because more food is vegan than I expected, and I like the meat substitutes. However, it seems very expensive (we spent almost $200 at the grocery store!), and the fresh food that I have chosen to incorporate into my diet goes bad very fast.

Day 3: I am doing well with this experiment, but it is difficult to stick to it when my friends and family continuously offer me food with milk or cheese in it.

Day 7: A week down and three more to go. I've been living off of a strict diet of veggie burgers and fruit smoothies, but I don't mind.

Day 12: Eating out is a lot trickier than expected because I don't know what products are involved in the preparation behind the scenes. I'm pretty sure I ate broccoli with butter on it, but I was very hungry and I couldn't resist.

Day 15: Halfway done with my vegan adventure and I'm considering doing this for longer. I find that I have fewer headaches and maybe that's because I've been cooking with better food products. I'm beginning to like this lifestyle and might even consider picking up yoga and campaigning for PETA . Just kidding, my mom is eating chocolate right in front of my face and I might cry.

Day 17: We're running out of food, and I'm getting anxious. What else can I eat? At the moment I'm forced to eat dry Cheerios and spoonfuls of peanut butter. Send help!

Day 23: Thanksgiving. It was a mess, both the vegan and the traditional meal didn't work out and I was confined to chips and guacamole. It sure didn't feel like Thanksgiving. I really wanted to binge on a huge glob of mashed potatoes, but I stuck with it. Although I feel much better physically being vegan, my heart tells me to eat a whole wheel of cheese.

Day 27: We went out for Chinese food this evening and it was pleasantly surprising. They had a ton of vegan and vegetarian options that were all very tasty. A plus for Hunan Delight.

Day 30: Finally this is over. It was not so bad, but I really do miss all of my favorite foods. To wrap up the month I ate a cheese quesadilla. Overall, I felt way better mentally and physically, so maybe it's time to make some permanent healthy changes in my life, even if the changes are not completely vegan.

Internships Offer Students Many Notable Skills and Opportunities

Students commonly wonder whether or not internships are worthwhile. A Warrior staff member reflects on his positive experience having an internship during the school year.

by Alex Nnabue '18

My internship at the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office has enabled me to assist in a variety of county-wide programs, but my favorite one has been the Truancy Prevention Program (TPP). I intern for a prosecuting attorney who is the head of the office's community outreach team and serves as a TPP facilitator at various middle schools.

TPP is a voluntary 10-week early intervention program for middle school students with attendance issues that aims to discover the causes of truancy and provide the students and families with plausible solutions. TPP keeps families out of court by working with students to address academic, personal, and family-related factors that prohibit them from attending school daily or on time.

TPP is semester-long and held once a week in 18 middle schools throughout the county. During my first day, it was interesting watching the students enter the room one by one to discuss their truancy and academic issues. Many of them were intimidated at first, as the room they entered was full of two lawyers, myself, and two counselors with their progress reports and attendance records. Some students originally had a difficult time opening up while others were more talkative and interested in addressing their academic struggles and absence issues.

Some students come from families with financial hardships while others are not fluent in English and need a translator in the room. Each individual is dedicated on improving their attendance and academic success. The participants gain special attention from mentors and a supportive environment.

We converse with the students about their attendance and weekly goals; afterwards, their counselors read the students their teacher's weekly evaluations and grade reports. If the student has made improvement, they can select a snack and another incentive, such as an iPhone case or drawstring backpack.

Week after week, as each five minute session progressed, a change was evident in all students. I have witnessed one sixth grader, who missed approximately 40 days of school last year and received failing grades, grow into a candidate for student government with a 4.0 GPA and perfect attendance. A seventh grader, who was shy during the first session, now recites an original corny joke for us every week.

Students who were at first uninterested in their classes and teachers now tell us about the topics they are excited about learning in science class, the excitement they had when they finally participated in class, and how pleased they are with TPP. As the semester progresses, every student becomes increasingly goal oriented, dedicated, and motivated.

During the 2016-2017 school year, over 245 students were involved with TPP and 175 graduated, after reducing their truancy by 60 percent or more. TPP graduates are honored by State Attorney John McCarthy at the Montgomery County Circuit Court. I am grateful for my experience because it exposes me to the diversity of the field of law and the importance of public service.

Many Common Illnesses Have Natural Remedies

by Katherine Sperduto '19

Americans are justifiably known for their dependency on medications to solve a majority of health ailments. A Google Trends Comparison from November 5 to November 11 shows that on a rage from 1 to 100 (100 representing the peak popularity of a searched term), medication-related searches ranked 97 in popularity in the United States while natural remedies only ranked 20. However, natural remedies are not packaged with all of the potential risks and side effects that many over the counter medications have. Here are some natural remedies to solve common health issues faced by teens.

Headaches: Painful headaches, often a result of poor blood flow, make many teens tired, irritable, and unwilling to learn. WebMD notes that the majority of headaches are caused by stress, dehydration, lack of sleep, caffeine, or too much screen time. So along with limiting and addressing these harmful behaviors, it is recommended to apply a cold ice pack or take a nap to help reduce inflammation of the blood vessels. DailyNaturalRemedies.com also claims that by smelling peppermint oil, which has vasoconstriction and vasodilating properties that help control blood flow in the body, proper blood flow can be restored by opening and closing the vessels.

Colds: A terrible cough, stuffy nose, and sore throat are the main indicators of a cold. Mayo Clinic states that a sore throat can be eased through gargling warm salt water along with eating ice chips and that congestion can be loosened by inhaling steam making it easier to breathe. Honey can also coat the throat and reduce the urge the cough because it has antioxidant, antiviral, and antibacterial properties that combat cold and flu symptoms.

Acne: According to Laser and Dermatology Institute of California, at least 85 percent of the American population suffered from acne at least once in their lifetime. Many teens turn to Clearasil, Proactiv, Neutrogena, and other products to clear up acne. WebMD warns that over time, the acne-causing bacteria can be resistant to the medication, forcing teens to switch to an alternative route. Along with drinking plenty of water, applying a mixture of baking soda and apple cider vinegar can drastically reduce one's acne. Baking soda helps reduce the inflammation of pimples, exfoliates the skin, and eliminates future breakouts. Apple cider vinegar has antibacterial and anti-fungal properties that help fight the breakout.

Menstrual Cramps: The Huffington Post reports that at least 40 to 70 percent of women experience some type of menstruation cramps. Whether the cramps are in the abdomen, breasts, or back, nutritionist Kathy Smart says drinking a mixture of parsley in green tea will relax the muscles and eating celery will help fight fluid retention. The Mayo Clinic recommends limiting caffeine intake to help relieve cramps by relaxing the muscles.

Choosing Your Charities

by Dinah Aguilar '19

In wake of the recent natural disasters in the United States and around the world, people are looking for a way to help. Many believe that donating to charities and organizations is the best way to go about this, but very few look to see how the money is actually used.

In the past year the Red Cross, was found in an investigation to use 25 percent of donations for its administration and staff, shocking the millions of people who donated and expected money to be used for relief and repair. In comparison, organizations such as Direct Relief and Americares spend 90 percent or more on their programs and 10 percent or less is given to administrative costs.

Before jumping to help, people should do their research. Start with what your preferences or priorities are, whether it be the environment, childhood hunger or animal welfare. Then choose where you want your charity to do its work: community-based, national, or international. Then verify the organization's legitimacy: check where the money is going, if it has a clear mission, and if stated goal are attainable.

Sherwood has many clubs dedicated to raising money and support for relief organizations helping the United States and other parts of the world in need. These clubs may seem to have some overlap but each one serves a different purpose; from community based to internationally based; or writing letters to donating money.

The following is a list of Sherwood's official charitable clubs. These clubs follow their bigger organization's decisions when choosing what service or organization to donate and support. Other clubs may donate or raise money for an organization or cause, but it is not the main purpose of the club.

Key Club
Mission: "an international student-led organization which provides its members with opportunities to provide service, volunteer, build character and develop leadership."

Leo Club
Mission: "empowers volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding to eventually be global leader in community and humanitarian service."

Give to Live
Mission: "helps the homeless and volunteers in soup kitchens in Washington D.C."

Stand Up to Cancer
Mission: "raise funds to accelerate the pace of groundbreaking translational research that can get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives now."

One way to contribute to multiple causes is through joining Key Club or Leo Club. They both serve their schools, communities, and larger issues. Leo Club spreads its service through big organizations such as UNICEF and community efforts such as raising money for leader dogs. They also do international aid like collecting shoes for a Ugandan school and nation-wide support like writing letters for veterans.

To support more specific causes, students can join clubs like She's the First help women around the world in low-income countries that cannot pay for college or are the first in their family to go to college. Happy Paws is another cause that raises money for dogs.

If a student wants to help a specific organization alone, the newly created UNICEF club is a good choice. This club mainly focuses on education, raising awareness, and advocating for the underrepresented children of the world, rather than solely fundraising.

A way to help that does not require joining a club is through SGA-sponsored activities like canned-food drives, and the Doctors of Tomorrow holds an annual blood drive.

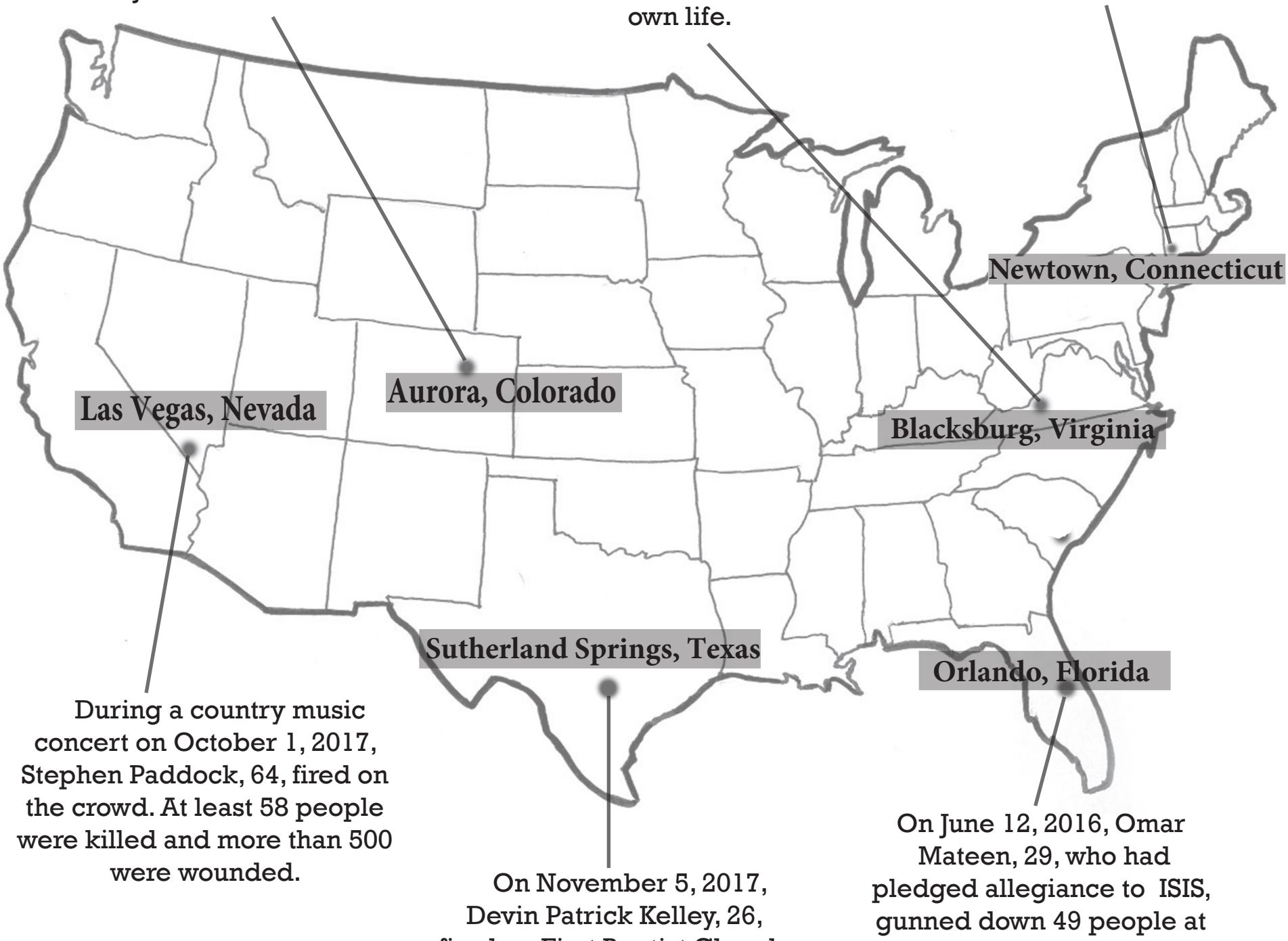
While the FBI does not have an official definition for the term "mass shooting," the Mass Shooting Tracker defines it as "a single incident in which four or more people were shot, regardless of whether they were killed." As of December 11, 406 mass shootings have occurred in 2017.

Mass Shootings Nationwide: 2007~2017

On June 20, 2012, James Holmes, 25, walked into the midnight premiere of "The Dark Night Rises" with four guns, killing 12 people and injured dozens more.

On April 16, 2007, Seung-Hui Cho, 23, a senior at Virginia Tech, killed 32 people on campus before taking his own life.

On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza, 20, shot and killed 20 students and six adults in an elementary school.



During a country music concert on October 1, 2017, Stephen Paddock, 64, fired on the crowd. At least 58 people were killed and more than 500 were wounded.

On November 5, 2017, Devin Patrick Kelley, 26, fired on First Baptist Church, killing 26 and wounding 20.

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen, 29, who had pledged allegiance to ISIS, gunned down 49 people at Pulse, a gay nightclub.

Compiled by Brynn Smith '19

Texas Shooting Raises Controversy over 'Good Guys with Guns'

by Lucy Kuchma '18

The national conversation about gun control intensified after the November 5th shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas.

After gunman Devin Kelley opened fire on nearly 50 congregants of First Baptist Church, a local resident, Stephen Willeford, ran barefoot from his home holding only his semi-automatic rifle. Willeford shot Kelley and hit Kelley twice, prompting the perpetrator to ceasefire and flee the premises. Kelley later died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound during a police pursuit of his vehicle.

On one hand, the result of Willeford's interference in Sutherland Springs represents the argument that arming and training the citizens is the best defensive against mass shootings; at any given time, there is someone who is prepared to respond immediately.

Since the mid-1990s, the debate over whether citizens possessing weapons would inhibit or amplify violent crime has raged among politicians and laymen alike.

Between 1981 and 2014, 33 states have established open-carry gun policies which allow individuals to maintain a non-concealed weapon on the body at all times. Forty-five states allow for residents to carry visible firearms, with varying degrees of necessary permits. All fifty states, however, theoretically allow for concealed carry, although these policies also differ by state in terms of the strictness of licensing requirements.

These laws were set in place largely because many Americans wish to be able to protect themselves against a perpetrator outside of their homes (where all 50 states allow guns to be kept).

Proponents of less restrictive gun laws often refer to a 1997 study by two University of Chicago economists. The researchers concluded that "right to carry" laws are the most "cost-effective method of reducing violent crime." However, 20 years later, a group of researchers concluded that the contrary is true.

A study performed by the nonpartisan National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) from early 2017 estimated that, after ten years of open-carry legality in any given state, violent crime is between 13- and 15-percent higher than it would have been without the law. The study discusses both sides of the argument, with researchers claiming, "because guns are used frequently in self-defense they act as an effective deterrent to criminal activity." The study also featured the counterargument that, "gun ownership serves to increase crime, either by increasing the likelihood that any crime will result in a victim's death or by increasing the chance that a domestic dispute will result in the death of one or more individuals."

The study further revealed that self-defense only accounts for roughly two-percent of all violent crimes, and of that, only three-percent of victims successfully used a gun against their attacker.

Stephen Willeford's case is an anomaly, seeing as the vast majority of individuals are never faced with a situation in which they might have to protect nearly a hundred people from a violent perpetrator, with only a split second to act. That being said, the controversy remains over whether making guns easier to attain and carry is necessary and safe.

There is a commonly-held impression that gun-related deaths in the United States have risen.

What Exactly Are the Facts and Figures?

~On average, 93 people are killed by guns in the U.S. each day.
everytownsresearch.org

~Gun homicide rates are 25.2 times higher in the U.S. than in any other high income countries.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

~44 percent of U.S. adults say they personally know someone who has been shot.
Pewsocialtrends.org

~The rate of gun deaths in the United States rose in 2016 from 11 to about 12 per 100,000 people over the span of a year.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

~Suicides account for 60 percent of firearm-related deaths.
bostonglobe.com

~El Salvador is currently home to the most gun-related murders on earth, with guns killing 90 people for every 100,000 of the population.
CNN, Smallarmssurvey.org

~More than 33,000 people are fatally shot in the U.S. each year.
fivethirtyeight.com

Compiled by Katherine Sperduto '19

How Easy (or Hard) Is It To Legally Purchase Firearms?

AGE:

Federal law requires a person to be 21 to carry a handgun. To purchase a long gun, a person must be in the range of 16-21, varying by state. To possess a handgun, a person must be 19-21, varying by state. For a long gun, anywhere from 14-21. Federal law prohibits handgun ownership by anyone under 18. Exceptions to this include the temporary possession of handguns for specified activities like ranching, farming, target practice and hunting.

BACKGROUND CHECKS:

When a person goes to a retailer to purchase a firearm, the retailer contacts the FBI to run a background check on each purchaser. The FBI checks the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to see if they are a prohibited purchaser. The Brady Bill of 1993 requires criminal background checks at federally licensed dealers to prevent dangerous people from purchasing guns. This includes people who have been convicted felons, fugitives from justice, or perpetrators of domestic violence.

REGISTRATION:

There is no comprehensive national system of gun registration in the United States. In fact, federal law prohibits the use of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System to create any system of registration of firearms or firearm owners. Although there is no specific federal laws, there are state gun registration laws.

Compiled by Malec Fahmy '20

Become a Member of The Warrior!

2018-2019 class registration is this January, make sure to sign up for Newspaper and join our staff!

Write articles! Take photos! Design pages! Draw cartoons! Manage our social media! Learn valuable skills for the working world!

Class codes:
Newspaper A (Semester 1): 1152
Newspaper B (Semester 2): 1153

A NOTE TO OUR READERS: It has come to our attention that some articles in this section have been mistaken for "fake news." Although this *is* the Humor section, as indicated by the bolded 32-point font at the top of this page, this section is the only trustworthy source of news in this entire newspaper. *The Warrior* may contain fake news, but everything in the Humor section is true. We apologize for any confusion.

Radical Olney loyalists have conducted air strikes on several sites in Brookeville, including the Brighton Dam.

Olney and Brookeville Start World War 3

by Jared Schwartz '18

An international crisis has recently developed over escalating tensions between the towns of Olney and Brookeville. Many Brookevillians are calling for autonomy from Olney's tyranny.

It remains unclear how Olney in any way has control over Brookeville, as Olney is an unincorporated town with no formal government. Still, Brookeville's three town commissioners have voted to unilaterally declare independence from the greater Olney area and establish their own sovereignty. In order to accomplish this, the Brookevillian government has designed a plan to dig the entire town of Brookeville out of the Earth, attach rockets to it, and fly it somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean.

The core issue of the conflict seems to be one of relevancy. Many Brookevillians have expressed ire at the fact that Olney is objectively more relevant than Brookeville.

"It's just not fair! How can Olney claim to be more relevant than Brookeville?! We were capital for a day!" cried Brookeville resident, Edward Lubbers, desperately clinging to a historical event that occurred 200 years ago to feel secure in his town's relevancy.

A loose confederation of Olney Home Owners Associations have decided to launch an offensive against the Brookeville independence movement. The coalition has taken several measures, including vandalizing street signs with pro-Olney propaganda and conducting drone strikes on the Brighton Dam, Sunshine Burger, and the Brookeville Beer Farm.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett gave an official statement on the crisis, saying, "Brookeville is an extremely valuable part of the Montgomery County community. Losing it would cost the county much in its tax— I mean culture and heritage."

The U.S. Pentagon has drafted up a plan to begin funding "moderate rebels" in Brookeville in the hopes of establishing a regime friendlier to American interests. However, the plan was scrapped when it was discovered that Brookeville and Olney are in fact a part of the United States.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia and Iran have somehow found a reason to turn the crisis into a proxy-conflict, with the Iranians funneling arms to the Brookeville government, and the Saudis funding the Olney resistance.

When asked about the crisis, President Trump said that he has not ruled out the possibility of using a nuclear first-strike against Brookeville. When a reporter commented that the White House would be well within the range of the fallout of the nuclear attack, Trump responded, "wrong."

Communism Is Cool Again

by Noah Corman '19

Increasing numbers of Americans' political leanings have shifted towards communism. Drawn in by a link titled, "What economic system are you?" test-takers nearly crashed BuzzFeed's servers with their eagerness and political curiosity. The single-question test asked people whether they enjoy free stuff. After confirming everyone's love for complimentary items, BuzzFeed's complicated algorithm identified the vast majority of test-takers as aspiring communists.

"I am not surprised by the sharp shift in political allegiances. The American people have become increasingly dissatisfied with the government and the two major political parties," said John McNeil, professor of economics at Dartmouth. "The bright side of communism is that everyone gets some free stuff. The potential downside is that the country will likely collapse and take decades to recover."

After years of opposition to the economic system most known for its role in the USSR and People's Republic of China, the American people made an important distinction. Communism actually does not denote oppression, godless heathens, or Russia. Americans have finally envisioned what they believe is true communism. They know that communism actually gives citizens free swag with no economic repercussions.

As for the tens of millions of people who died under Joseph Stalin's rule during the mid-20th century, most Americans displayed either indifference or ignorance to historical events that expose communism's potential drawbacks.

"Millions of people died during a communist regime?" questioned Laura Wright, Chief of BuzzFeed's Test Results Analysis Council, after learning of Stalin's brutal reign. "Well, that wasn't true communism; like, where's the free swag?"

In an attempt to stamp out the recent excitement over communism, democratic and republican congressional representatives alike have taken a firm stance against it. They claimed it does not present an viable plan for economic growth. They also stated that giving away free items runs counter to capitalism, which gives citizens an avenue to achieving the American dream.

"I have a degree in economics, so I know for a fact that it's a terrible idea. The only thing that the government should be providing our citizens is life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," said Paul Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives. "But not healthcare."

In spite of many prominent American figures openly opposing communism, it continues to gain new supporters.

"Capitalism just doesn't give me enough free swag. I need some new Supreme gear, and the government is not pulling through. I can't even remember the last time they gave me anything free," said Jordan Franklin, beneficiary of food stamps, Obamacare, public schooling, and government-legalized marijuana.

Some well-known political figures, eager to use the sudden passion to their advantage, plan to include communist ideals in their platforms. Hoping to please their constituency, some are openly supporting communist values.

"Communism has some excellent ideas regarding the principles of government and the economy. I support the complete overthrow of the existing government," said Steve Bannon, ex-Chief White House Strategist, sporting a fresh tattoo of Karl Marx on his forehead.

Vine's Legacy Continues To Live on after Death

by Lucy Kuchma '18

It's been almost a year since Vine was officially shut down, but the true Vine-lovers out there have not failed to keep its legacy alive. When Vine first announced it would be ending, it was stated that the company would keep the website around so that, although new Vines wouldn't be created, people could continue to refer to previously uploaded material for a good laugh. However, the company secretly knew they'd be boosting their total popularity by millions of views and shares by "killing" Vine.

Although it did eventually become quite popular, it wasn't always smooth sailing for the video site. The Twitter-owned application went through a tumultuous period before its rise to prominence. Just weeks after the website went live, and Vine hit the app store, clips starting popping up left and right that featured pornographic material, prompting Gawker to label the source "America's Hottest New Porn Search Engine." In fact, the "Editor's Picks" category, which features videos chosen by Vine representatives for their humor or relatability, once donned a sexually explicit video, and the Twitter spokesperson had to release a public apology for the "human error."

Once that little blunder was dealt with, Vine rocketed to popularity.

In the 332 days since the app was destroyed, Vine has arguably become even more iconic. All of the current Vine press can be almost completely attributed to Twitter and YouTube compilations that serve to keep the hilarity alive. As hard as it may be, there's no sense in hating on the people who only started watching vines once it ended. For instance, the works of Van Gogh only became famous after he died; the same has happened with countless examples of artistic expression over the years. In a sense, one might say that Vine dying is the best thing that could have happened to Vine. And what a surprise, Vine 2.0 is set to launch sometime soon, according to a tweet from the creator. It's a smart little marketing scheme on the part of the Vine staff, and it'll pay off when the new app comes out. As much as people think they're being ironic in memorializing an iconic platform, we all just fell into the company's marketing trap.

Do You Know...

What's 9+10? _____

"Didn't see ya there. I was too busy blockin' out the_____"

"Why you always _____?"

"Chris! Is that a _____?" "No, this is a _____"

"Hi welcome to _____"

"It's _____ my dudes"

"I can't believe you've _____ _____"

"Stop! I could have dropped my _____"

RIPPED *from the* Headlines

NEW STUDY SHOWS VAPING INCREASES INTELLIGENCE AND ATTRACTIVENESS

OIL EXECUTIVES MISTAKE TURMOIL IN MIDDLE EAST FOR ACTUAL OIL

LEFT-WING GROUPS CANCEL CHRISTMAS TO AVOID OFFENDING PEOPLE AND THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN VALUES

ARE MEN REALLY ALL THAT BAD? MEN WEIGH IN!

SENATE REPUBLICANS SECRETLY CRAFT A BILL TO CREATE AN AMERICAN HUNGER GAMES

MATHEMATICIANS PROVE THAT NEWSPAPER IS BETTER THAN YEARBOOK

SMOB MATT POST FIRED AFTER BEING ACCUSED OF NOT DOING ANYTHING

PRESIDENT TRUMP ABOLISHES NEW YEARS, SWITCHES UNITED STATES TO MAYAN CALENDAR

ADMINISTRATION GETS INTO BRAWL OVER HOW TO REDUCE FIGHTS IN SCHOOL

Locals Worry That Olney Is Becoming Too Gentrified

by Josh Averbach '18
and Lexi Matthews '18

Olney has welcomed a score of new businesses to bolster the booming metropolis. One developer called the new Olney "an oasis in the desert that is Northeastern Montgomery County." While many are excited to see their doors open, some worry that the Washington suburb may be losing touch with its roots.

"I'm sick of these vultures coming in and stealing what our town has stood for," said Sherwood senior Ruth Huffman. "Our town has always been known for BJ Pumpernickel and Cheeburger Cheeburger and … Cheeburger Cheeburger." Huffman seethed. "The sight of these slimy, white-collar bigwigs ruining that makes me absolutely sick."

The corporate grip on Olney's throat first tightened with the fall of the beloved Olney Bagel Bakery in late 2016. Crowds gathered and openly wept as construction workers hoisted down the 'Olney' part of the sign and replaced it with 'Royal' to signify its absorption into the Germantown-based chain. Protesters held signs with slogans such as "Royal Bagel Bakery? More like SPOILED Bagel Bakery am I right," "Occupy Town Center Drive," and "We'll never be royals."

The transfer of power in the now-regal breakfast establishment was instantly met with plummeting Yelp scores from disgruntled locals. "I will NOT be buying my no-foam, half-soy, double-whipped cream caramel latte from these sellouts any longer. Where did Olney's integrity go? I guess it got torn down with the movie theater," wrote soccer mom Linda Johnson on the reviewing website. Johnson then vulgarly responded to several comments suggesting that it was too soon for jokes about the movie theater.

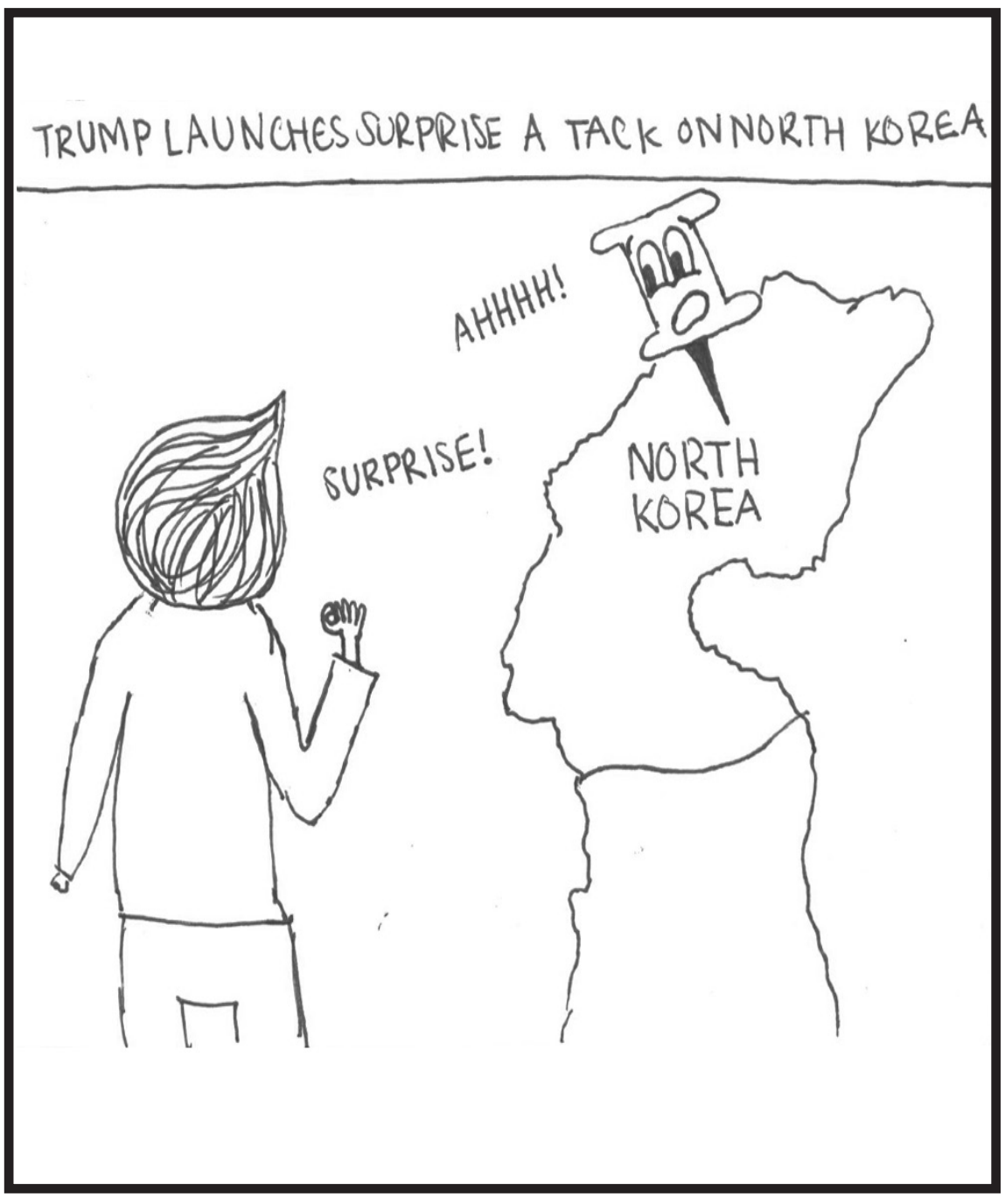
Many wonder about the economic impact of the changes to the Olney skyline. These concerns come as Olney struggles to be taken seriously among Montgomery County's "superpowers," such as Rockville and Gaithersburg.

"All of our hard-working people are getting shipped off to places like Rockville. This town just isn't the same anymore..." junior Scott Young could be heard mumbling wistfully as he sat on the curb just outside of the now-closed Sakura. Young then proceeded to scoop up a handful of dirt and watch it blow away in the wind somberly before getting up and skateboarding to the Starbucks in Harris Teeter.

The last straw for many Olneyites was the construction of the brand new Chick-fil-A in the heart of downtown Olney this fall. "First the evil one percent infiltrates our breakfast with Royal Bagel Bakery, and now they've got their greedy hands on our lunch too?!" cried local man Greg Lowry while waving a fist in the air. "The real zest, the real salt of our hometown is lost now that we've torn down that weird karate studio slash nail salon that no one really went to." Lowry then told reporters that, despite his convictions, he still plans to eat regularly at the restaurant.

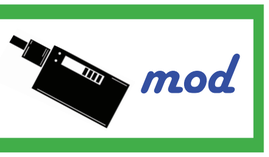
The anger truly became palpable once it was discovered on a brisk October morning that someone had spray-painted 'capitalism kills' onto Chick-fil-A's fresh brick. "Haha, that's crazy … Who would have been brave enough to do that … and so smart to do it so close to the 100-year anniversary of the communist revolution," a red-bandanna-clad Huffman commented as she scrambled to shove a spray paint can-shaped object into her backpack.

While many have resigned to overcome this tragedy with their heads held high, some locals fear their small-town lives are forever tainted. "At least we'll always have Brookeville…" Young sighed dreamily, a single tear rolling down his cheek.



by Colleen Yates '18

Vaping at Sherwood



mod

Parts of a Vape

Battery
Mouth Piece
Coil
Atomizer
Tank
E-Liquid

Vaper

Someone who vapes.

juul

Juice

Term for E-liquid.

Cloud-Chaser

A user whose intention is to produce large clouds of vapor.

pen

Nic Buzz

The feeling a vaper gets from consuming nicotine

Clouds

Term used to describe vapor production.

School Faculty Troubled by Increase in Vaping

by Owen Steffan '18

Vaping has become a problem at Sherwood in the past year and the administration is trying to cut down on its use by students on school grounds. Although vaping has been popular among students in years past, it has skyrocketed in 2017. Due to the sudden rise of vape use at Sherwood, teachers are becoming increasingly frustrated.

English teacher Lori Leonard is one of many teachers who feel that punishments being dished out for vape use have been too mild. "I wish that MCPS would relook at the policy and treat any student bringing a vaping device to school as if he or she had brought any other drug. I believe there should be stricter punishments to deter vaping," she said.

MCPS prohibits the use of vaping on school grounds with consequences ranging from level 1 to level 2 offenses; however, Sherwood's administration has recently been cracking down on vaping, increasing the consequences to include in-school and out-of-school suspensions. The uncertainty surrounding the severity of punishments has upset some teachers.

Social studies teacher Todd Rubenstein, who is an Elected Faculty Representative, said that he can sometimes receive, "Up to five to six complaints per week from teachers." Rubenstein also noted that some common complaints include, "students vaping in classrooms or bathrooms and teachers not knowing what to look for to detect a vaping device."

Vape can take several forms including a flashdrive-looking device known as a Juul and a flat, skinny device known as a Suorin Air. Because vape devices can be hard to detect and are always evolving, teachers just do not know how to identify whether something is a vape or not. Nicotine vaping is very common at Sherwood, but there is just no clear way to tell if students have nicotine in their vapes or not.

"It is time for vaping to stop," said Principal Bill Gregory. "The agenda book lists e-cigarettes as a level 1 to level 2 offense, but students are using more than just e-cigarettes nowadays. With these new devices, a possibility of a drug has to be assumed and we have handed out level 3 to 4 punishments for vape use. I know that this is not just an issue at Sherwood, as I have spoken to other principals dealing with the same problems, but regardless, it is time for vaping to stop," he said.

Is Vaping a Gateway Drug?

by Lexi Matthews '18

Despite the claim of their creation being to deter further cigarette use by weaning smokers off of nicotine dependency, fears have grown that e-cigarettes are actually contributing to a growing drug culture among teens.

The concept of a substance being a gateway drug was first popularized in the 1980s; the theory suggested that those who smoked marijuana were much more likely to try harder drugs in the future. While the scientific community is split on whether these so-called gateway drugs lead to higher schedule drugs through causation or correlation, the trend between vaping and other drug use is undeniable. A 2015 report by the Journal of American Medical Association posited that 67 percent of vape users age 16-26 who had never previously smoked move on to smoke cigarettes. A similar survey conducted by The Warrior found that four of five vape users also smoke other substances.

The Warrior's survey, however, leans more towards the theory of correlation than causation. A majority of those surveyed said that they had already been exposed to cigarettes and/or marijuana long before they began to vape. "I've smoked [marijuana] for over a year now. I started vaping this year because my friends just did it and it seemed like innocent fun. If anything, I'd say [marijuana] was the gateway for me. Since I already have screwed with my lungs by doing that, I just figured, why not?" said an anonymous senior. Addiction experts often propose the idea that those those who consume illicit substances already have an inherent risk-taking mindset that leads them to try new drugs rather than the initial drug itself.

Handfuls of vape users, however, have never smoked anything except e-cigarettes. Three out of five underclassmen surveyed by The Warrior reported vape being the first and only drug they had ever consumed. This can largely be attributed to the ease and discretion that comes with vapes, as the devices produce smoke that leaves behind no trace seconds after use. Vapes are also much easier to purchase than 'real' drugs, as materials can be bought online or at gas stations often without requiring proof of age.

Vaping Accessibility and Cost

by Leah Peloff '18

As the number of Sherwood students who vape on a regular basis has increased enormously, the question arises of how so many teens can both acquire products that are illegal to adolescents under the age of 18, and, even for those who meet the age requirement, how they afford a potentially very expensive habit.

For students over 18, it is legal for them to purchase vape supplies from local vape shops such as Vape Social, Rost, or Cloud 33 Smoke & Vape. Many of these places card people right as they walk in, however, so minors have to find other ways of accessing the materials. One option for minors is to order their vapes online, but this could be problematic upon delivery if they are asked for an ID, or if a parent opens the door and sees the package. According to a student who wishes to remain anonymous, the most common way that Sherwood students get their vapes and juice is via a sort of dealer who buys supplies in bulk and sells it to others for a profit. This is often a student who is over 18 or has a fake ID.

Even if one is able to successfully access the materials, the cost of the habit is hefty. The average vape sells for approximately $50-100 with elaborate ones selling for $200 or more. "I got my vape online for $69.95 which to me was a pretty good deal," said a Sherwood senior. On top of the cost of the vape itself, one must consider the price of buying the juice that goes into it, which adds up over time. According to ECigg International, a 10ml pod of juice lasts a frequent vaper approximately two weeks, and each pod is about $15-30. So, if someone spends $75 on a vape, then $20 every two weeks on juice, that is almost $600 per year, not even including a likely purchase of a new vape at some point during the year, adding another possible $100.

PRO V. CON

What steps are being taken to help combat mental illness among teens?

What should school systems do to help students in the wake of tragedy?

Has Sherwood done enough to keep its community up to date on these important issues?

MCPS Must End The Silence

There have been at least five teen suicides in Montgomery County in 2017, nearly doubling the number of suicides in both 2016 and 2015, according to WUSA9. Two of these deaths, those of Jordana Greenberg, a sophomore at Whitman, and Thomas Silva, a junior from Walter Johnson, occurred within one week of each other (November 27-December 2).

As of December 12, MCPS has neither released a formal statement nor sent a letter to the community. Meanwhile, platforms such as Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook were flooded by posts memorializing the students and begging for change. Students even began petitions on change.org asking for increased mental health support in schools, one of which earned over 3,700 signatures.

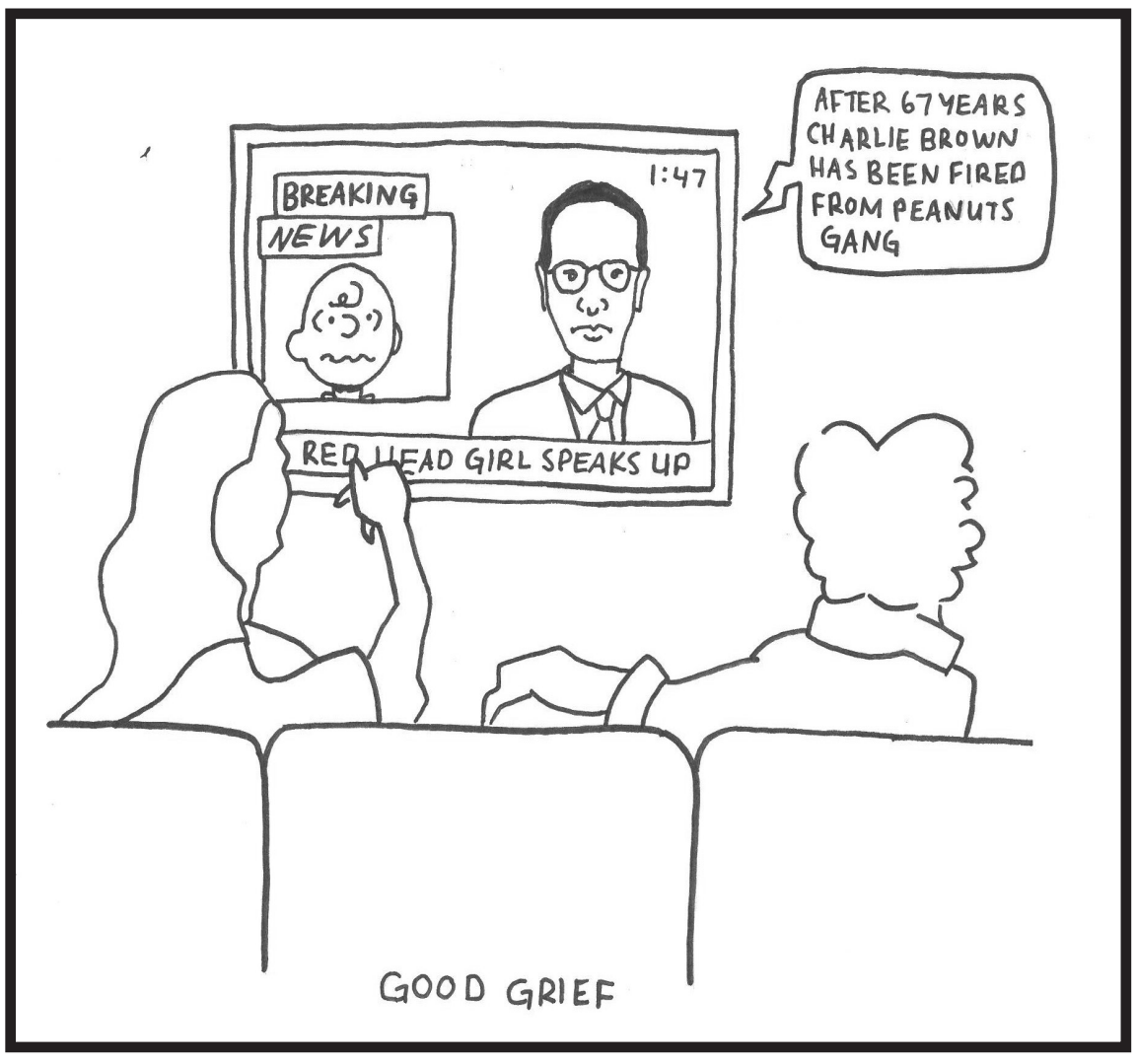
While students managed to become activists and share their stances on mental illness within the community, MCPS remained silent, undermining the significance of suicide and ignoring the tragic effects of depression and other mental illnesses within its own schools. This undoubtedly reveals to suffering students that their anguish does not deserve a mere mention, and that their mental illnesses do not represent a serious issue to their school system.

Furthermore, the lack of an official statement stigmatizes mental illnesses in a world where society has just begun perceiving depression and anxiety as acceptable discussion topics, inhibiting mental health conversations between parents, students, and teachers. Despite directly facing two student suicides in such a brief time span, the fact that MCPS refuses to acknowledge these tragedies reveals its saddening and costly preference of avoiding controversial topics over discussing serious issues.

The lack of leadership and guidance from the Central Office of MCPS also has put its schools in a bind. Principals and school counselors have been left on their own to make decisions if and how to inform their own communities about these tragedies, or if they are even permitted to do it. If certain schools do send or email letters, there a strong possibility that the messaging and information will not be consistent from one school to the next. MCPS, in its silence, is creating a situation in which students and parents are left more confused.

In an age where information can be shared in seconds, schools and towns miles apart are more connected than ever. Some argue that because these tragedies occurred in the Bethesda area, only those schools should be releasing statements and offering support to students. While that argument may have been valid decades ago, it no longer applies in the 21st century. The widespread use of social media has only widened the scope of sadness felt in the wake of these tragedies.

There is never a clear way to move forward following tragedies, especially those involving our peers, but the answer is never to be silent. At a minimum, MCPS should ensure that students and parents are aware of resources such as www.BtheOne.com and www.sptsusa.org/parents. A brief message reminding students across the county that they are valued and have resources available to them can go a long way, in fact, it might even save a life.



Dinah Aguilar '19

the Warrior

Published six times a year, The Warrior serves as Sherwood High School's premier news source. Over the years, it has received numerous state and national honors. With a staff of 26 students, The Warrior keeps the Sherwood community apprised of local and national events.

All opinion articles represent the viewpoint of the writer. The unsigned staff editorials solely represent the opinions of the newspaper staff. These articles do not necessarily represent the views of Sherwood High School.

The Warrior welcomes Letters to the Editor of 250 words or less. They may be submitted to room C268 or emailed to thewarrioronline.shs@gmail.com. Letters must be signed, and all content received by the newspaper is subject to editing.

The Warrior staff invites feedback and corrections to printed inaccuracies.

The Warrior reserves the right to refuse advertisements.

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When Girls are Allowed to be Boy Scouts, Everyone Benefits

by Anika Mittu '19

Both the Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of the USA possess similar core beliefs, as both seek to aid in the creation of moral, knowledgeable young adults and citizens. So, why must the two organizations be divided by gender? According to the Boy Scouts, the split is simply no longer necessary. On October 11, the Boy Scouts of America announced a plan for allowing young women into the Cub Scout rank next year, eventually allowing the older girls to gain the revered Eagle Scout title beginning in 2019.

Throughout the months preceding the announcement, the Girl Scouts repeatedly articulated that the Boy Scouts should focus their energies on recruiting the overwhelming majority of young males unenrolled in troops, rather than taking from the Girl Scout base for potential recruits. Naturally, when the decision became public, Girl Scouts reacted immediately, claiming that "only Girl Scouts has the expertise to give girls and young women the tools they need for success."

However, if the Girl Scouts truly valued female empowerment, they would support all of the young girls who respond better to the activities of Boy Scouts, rather than merely declaring their own methods perfectly suited for young girls. The activities found within Boy Scout troops often allow for greater self-expression, as opposed to the emphasis on group work highlighted by Girl Scouts. For many young females, this particular learning method may feel far more natural, allowing these individuals to succeed through a format unused by Girl Scouts.

Furthermore, despite reforms to offer increased STEM badges within the Girl Scouts, they do not compare to the level of science education apparent in Boy Scouts. The inclusion of young women into Boy Scouts allows for girls interested in STEM to access experiences they could never get in Girl Scouts. Evidently, Boy Scouts of America caters to the strengths of these individuals, emphasizing that Girl Scouts lacks the ability to completely appease the diverse personalities and interests of all female adolescents.

Despite the fact that the Girl Scouts has served as a tremendous influence in inspiring young women over the last century, the opportunities available within Girl Scouts do not always appeal to the learning styles and diverse aptitudes of young women. Unfortunately, if Girl Scouts fails to adapt their content to the interests of young women in the 21st century, girls should actively embrace the opportunity to learn in an environment that suits their needs and allows them to pursue their true passions.

Living in the Trump Era

Children are growing up at a time when the president is modeling hateful language.

by Leah Peloff '18

The President of the United States of America is a leader and role model figure to the children growing up under his/ her term in office. Presidents set the tone and direction of America's future and henceforth have an enormous impact on the developing youth.

Since Donald Trump has taken office on January 20, 2017, there has been a huge resurgence of racism, sexism, white nationalism, and overall hate. Many Americans disagree with the new policies by the Trump administration that appear to condone, or even support, intolerance and inequality; however, one's opinion on these could be based more exclusively on political differences.

But there is an almost bigger issue than president Trump's actions; his words. Through his own statements (and tweets), Trump sets an example for children about how they should be talking to and treating others. This is not a debate about politics, but one of human decency. For instance, our president has called Mexicans murderers and rapists, while referring to the white supremacists and neo-Nazis of the Charlottesville riots as "fine people." Trump has also been caught profanely referring to women's genitals, made fun of disabled Americans, called NFL players "Sons of Bitches," nicknamed his political opponent "Crooked Hillary," and referred to Native American senator Elizabeth Warren as "Pocahontas." The list goes on.

Having a bully as our nation's mentor is something that goes against much of our recent progress against discrimination and towards acceptance. A half-century ago, it would have been sadly more common to slander people on the basis of race or religion, but we have come so far as a country that this kind of behavior should no longer be tolerated. Having our president make openly discriminatory remarks, however, has given the green light to many previously contained groups, such as those in Charlottesville, who feel newly welcomed and able to convey messages of hate, following their president's lead. This is not a partisan issue nor is it a debate on political ideology. It is a problem with how we as humans treat each other. And if a 12-year-old is hearing such nasty remarks from a man who they are supposed to be looking up to, what are they going to think? They will learn that bigoted language is okay.

Sometimes these things seem intangible when they are happening in a far off place and not impacting one's daily life, but this is not some distant issue. The first year of the Trump administration has brought several instances of hateful messages right here to Montgomery County. For example, in Bethesda this past September, several Jewish families found anti-Semitic pamphlets on their front doors. "Written in words that are printed in different directions on the page, the flier includes screeds against Jews, connecting them to Hurricane Harvey and plans of world dominance," reported an article by Joe Zimmerman in the Bethesda Magazine. Dr. Zainab Chaudry of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) elaborated on this by saying, "These disturbing [pamphlets] are yet another example of the mainstreaming of hate and intolerance in society." The Washington Post stated that, "school incidents involving hate symbols and racial slurs appear to have more than tripled during the past school year in [the suburbs] outside Washington."

We are now, more than ever, witnessing a dramatic change in our country's unity. Children are growing up seeing the normalization of hatefulness and will think that this is just how life is. It is crucial for everyone to do their part in showing the youth, who will one day be running the world, that divisive discourse is not normal. Young people should be taught not to judge others because of race, origin, gender, or sexuality. They should hear daily lessons of empathy and respect to combat the voices of intolerance. Only through these methods can civility survive the Trump Era.

There Is No Such Thing As 'Jewish Christmas'

by Jared Schwartz '18

Tonight marks the fourth night of Hanukkah, which means that Christmas is fast approaching. Due to the fact that both holidays occur during the same time of the year, many people tend to think of Hanukkah as simply the Jewish version of Christmas. This could not be further from the truth. Hanukkah is a relatively minor Jewish holiday that most people only know of due to the fact that it takes place near Christmas, while Christmas is one of the most important Christian holidays of the year. Still, one cannot blame people for making this mistake. Hanukkah has a gift-giving tradition and it has been commercialized, just as Christmas has.

While there is nothing wrong with celebrating one's cultural traditions, the Christmasification of Hanukkah has gone too far. As a Jew, I cannot help but hate the tacky light-up menorah that my mother hangs up in our house's window. No culture is completely pure from the influence of other cultures, and Jews should not necessarily stop giving gifts on Hanukkah. However, Jews need to stop pretending that Hanukkah is the Jewish version of Christmas because doing diminishes our collective Jewish identity rather than asserting it.

Locals Lead the Way On The Environment

by Danielle Katz '18

Montgomery County declared a "climate emergency" on December 5, followed by a proposed resolution aimed at creating a dramatic cut in greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution has been approved by an all-Democratic council, and the sponsors hope to see great change from the bill. Arguably, the bill is incredibly ambitious, striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2027, but it is highly encouraging to see local governments strive to care for the future of the planet, while the White House works to destroy any possibility of a healthy environmental future.

As Trump repeals laws aimed to curb the national carbon footprint, local governments across the nation have taken it into their own hands to secure their citizens' rights to environmental health. From coast to coast, these efforts will serve as the sole protection to the planet, as the global community's efforts to combat climate change mean nothing without American participation. When the current national environmental "leaders" fail to nationalize environmental protection, counties across the country should follow the Montgomery County Council's steps and take action against one of the deadliest threats this planet has seen.

Amnesty International Advocates for Refugees

by Amnesty International Club

Around the world, people are driven to flee their homes to escape political conflicts and violence each day. From Syria to Somalia, millions of innocent people, more than half of which are children, are forced to abandon their countries in order to survive. The U.S. has always been known as a country for those seeking refuge and safety. However, even in light of the current global state of emergency, the U.S. has not made proactive efforts to send a message of hope and welcoming to these refugees; many officials have made it a priority to send messages of fear and hate.

We are a welcoming people and should increase the number of refugees allowed to resettle in the U.S. That is why we at Amnesty International Club are working to support Amnesty International's 'I Welcome Campaign' in which groups across the U.S. are showing that they and their schools welcome refugees. Throughout the year, we will be advocating for refugees to be allowed into the U.S. and for an end to legislation that halts the resettlement of refugees based on discrimination. The United States must uphold its central values instead of turning away those who seek refuge in our great country.

Politicians Are Exploiting Christmas

by Hena Hussain '20

"Guess what, we're saying Merry Christmas again," said President Donald Trump to a cheering crowd at this year's Values Voter Summit, an annual gathering of conservatives. The President's remarks brought forward another round of debate on a controversial question: should people refrain from saying "Merry Christmas" during the holiday season to avoid offending those who don't celebrate the holiday?

On one side, people believe that saying "Merry Christmas" and other allusions to Christmas in the public sphere is offensive in that it excludes those who observe other faiths and holidays. On the other side, the common belief is that refraining from talking about Christmas is an unnecessary attempt to be politically correct, and that the holiday season is and should be Christmas oriented.

This issue has often divided people each holiday season, with various companies avoiding not only association with the Christian holiday, but imagery of the winter season altogether. An infamous example of corporations getting caught up in this debate is the 2015 Starbucks red cup: many people found the lack of winter designs offensive against Christmas. This reignited the so-called "War on Christmas," a term used to describe the gradual removal of associations with the holiday.

As is the case with heated public debates, politicians got involved. As a presidential candidate, Trump spoke at a rally in Springfield, Illinois in 2015, negatively condemning Starbucks' decision and even promoting a boycott of the company, taking advantage of public divisiveness to gain the support of Christian voters at that stage of the Republican primaries.

Whichever side one may agree with, there is one standard that should be made clear: the politicization of Christmas needs to stop. As elected officials, the topic of holiday greetings is irrelevant to the main job of acting as public servants. Unfortunately, since expressing polarized opinions during campaigns help politicians win elections, those seeking support from certain blocs of Americans make extensive efforts to parrot the views of that particular group.

However, at the end of the day, real issues like healthcare and tax reform still need to be addressed. The fact that politicians add unnecessary opinions to their platforms regardless of divisiveness and relevance to legitimate policy demonstrates a much larger problem than seasonal greetings. This inflamed rhetoric from high level figures causes divisive ideology to form in the American public, often splitting people into two sides. Yet politicians continue to spout harmful statements to advance political agendas at the expense of our country's well being.

The idea of how someone chooses to address others during the holidays can seem trivial at first. However, the debate ultimately represents the larger issue of how leaders choose to address and utilize the passions of the American public.

The Pulse

Political Correctness

As defined by Merriam Webster, Political Correctness is the avoidance, often considered as taken to extremes, of expression or action that are perceived to exclude, marginalize, or insult groups of people who are socially disadvantaged or discriminated against. While the word first entered the English lexicon in 1934, it rose to social prominence in 2017 with debates over what constitutes as vulgarity or free expression. The Warrior surveyed 132 9-12th grade students on their thoughts.

Compiled by Emma Shuster '18

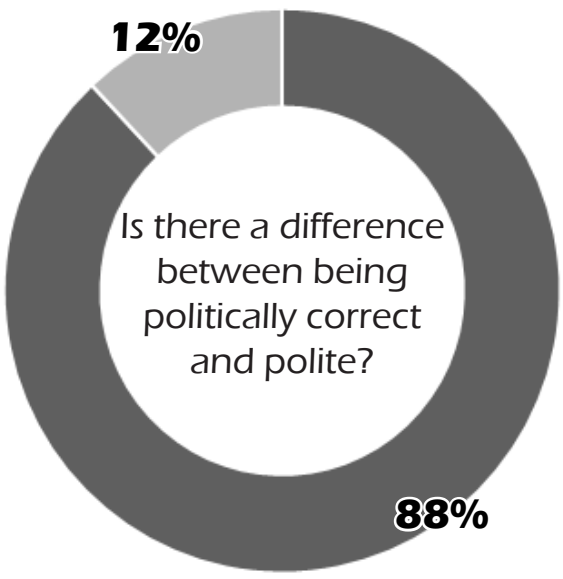
How do you personally define political correctness?

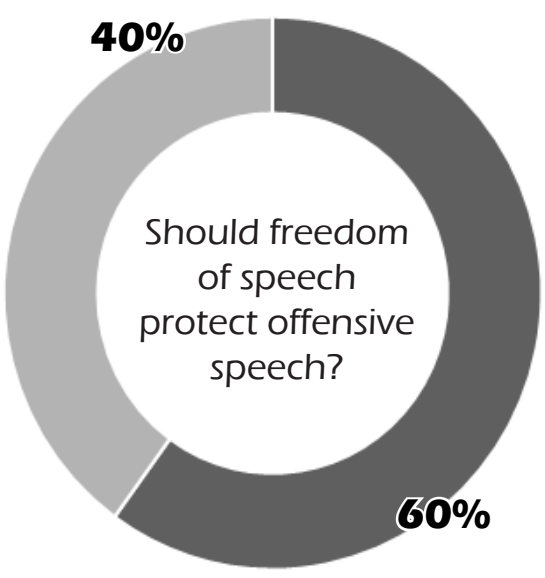
"Not being racist or being a bigot"

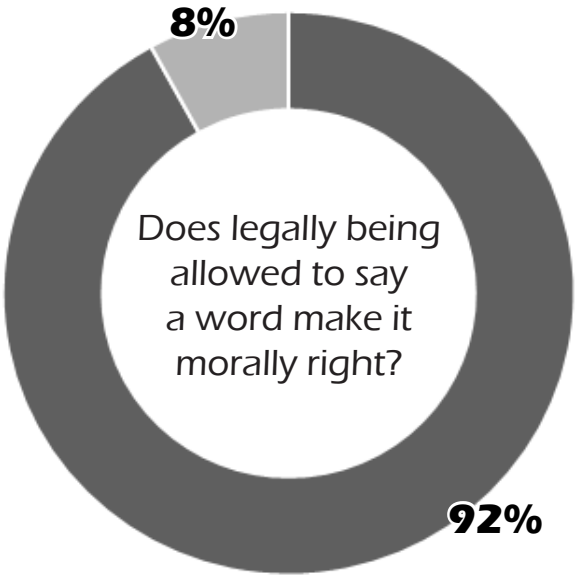
"Following the rules so you don't piss anyone off"

"Speaking in a socially acceptable way that does not offend anyone"

"Not saying or doing anything that could offend anyone"







Have you ever been personally offended by somebody's particular speech? Why?

"Speech is only offensive if you take offense to it. I choose not to be offended because generally offensive speech is not used seriously."

"Just because the words people say are not directed at me all the time, it hurts me when people intentionally hurt others."

Has the increase in political correctness harmed or improved communication? Why?

"It has harmed our communication; people are way too sensitive about everything nowadays."

"Political correctness has improved the way we talk; it makes people who typically feel targeted by certain language more comfortable."

PRO V. CON

ECONOMIC ACTIVISM

The practice of boycotting has a long history in the United States as a form of political action. Boycotts have recently become a topic of conversation, as several companies such as Keurig, Chick-fil-A, and Starbucks have received both positive and negative attention for conducting political acts. Two student journalists from The Warrior now debate whether boycotting corporations for political reasons is acceptable.

Boycotting Is An Admirable Activity

by Noah Corman '19

It is human nature to stand up for one's beliefs. When an organization uses their profits to support controversial causes, one must question whether or not they want to give their money to such a business. In fact, boycotting this institution would be commendable. People need to be more active and fulfill their duty as citizens of their town, state, and country by expressing disapproval of whatever they feel should be changed.

Individuals do and can make a difference and should not let the fear of having no impact stop them. It is honorable to stand up to injustice, especially in an era where indifference to such intolerance has become the norm. Indifference is one of the world's greatest dangers, and people who do not care will not strive to change anything. People who are truly interested in helping a cause will do what they can to help those in need, even if that action is seemingly minor and has no immediate effect.

One might argue that spending or not spending $20 a month will have no impact on the business practices or politics of a multinational corporation that makes billions of dollars in revenue each year. With that kind of thinking, one could consume products from that business often with minimal impact or guilty feelings. However, many people choose to sit at home on election day because they believe that they are only one person and their single vote cannot possibly affect the outcome. If everyone had a similar mindset, then no one would vote. When everyone believes that their small contribution means something and can initiate change, a boycott can and will be more successful.

Many large corporations ultimately benefit from child laborers and underpaid laborers that are in other countries or even the United States. It is true that supporting those corporations monetarily does indirectly maintain those malpractices.

However, with so many businesses doing unsavory things that may range from outsourcing jobs to evading taxes, it is clear that no one can boycott everything. The consumer can still choose whether or not to defend their values, so making an effort to protect one's beliefs is a more noble act than doing nothing.

Combatting inequality and greed should be encouraged. People who deprive immoral businesses of profit, regardless of the way they do it, deserve respect. Not enough people are willing to put words into action and stand up for their values, so it is praiseworthy when someone does so. Believing in the ability to create change is the first step towards making that change into reality. Everyone who has ever created big change has started off small.

76

Companies listed as boycott-worthy by grabyourwallet.com, an anti-Trump campaign.

107

million dollars donated to Trump's inaugural funds by 250 large corporations.

Boycotting Does Not Equal Activism

by Jared Schwartz '18

Almost everything you buy is a product of exploitation. The clothes you wear and your iPhone are probably made by child laborers under horrible, repressive conditions. Even supposedly "good" corporations exploit their workers taking the profit of their labor for their owners instead of giving it to the workers. No matter what, odds are that whatever you buy supports some amoral cause.

The fact of the matter is that corporations are amoral entities that seek nothing but profit. Any corporation that chooses to produce its goods ethically will have higher prices and find it harder to compete in a competitive economy. In our society, it is nearly impossible to avoid buying goods that were produced free from exploitation. It does not make sense to boycott a corporation on moral issues because corporations do not have morals.

Still, some corporations have worse politics than others and corporations do have the power to influence government policy. For companies which support backwards policies on social issues, boycotting is unnecessary. In such a polarized country as the United States, people are so set in their beliefs with regards to social issues, so corporations are unlikely to change public opinion or the opinions of legislatures in any meaningful name. Thus, buying products from such companies would do little to further their political agenda.

Corporations have more influence with regards to economic policies than with social issues. For example, the pharmaceutical and oil industries actively influence governmental policy to serve their own economic interests by making campaign contributions and lobbying members of the government. The problem in this situation is not the corporations, as corporations will nearly always promote their interests at the expense of the common good. Instead, the problem is with the role of money in our political process. Reducing the role of money in politics is the only effective way to stop corporations from promoting their own interests through the government.

Ultimately, boycotting is an ineffective tactic in today's society. Any company large enough to wield a significant amount of political power is probably unlikely to be affected by a boycott anyway. Even if one was to launch a successful boycott against a corporation, the cut in profits that a corporation would suffer from such a boycott would be mitigated by the backlash that the corporation would suffer from changing their stance.

While there is nothing wrong with choosing not to buy products from corporations with terrible politics, one should not feel guilty for doing so.

Transgender Senator-Elect Inspires LGBT+ Community

Elizabeth Lanning '20

On the night of November 7, 2017, Danica Roem became the first openly transgender person elected to state legislature in the United States. Her election is a monumental event, and will likely be known as a landmark achievement for the LGBT+ community.

Roem's opponent, the 13-term incumbent Robert Marshall, had previously dubbed himself "Virginia's chief homophobe," and has lived up to his self-imposed title. Marshall has introduced and sponsored numerous pieces of legislature which would regulate the public bathrooms that transgender people could use and is a staunch opponent of LGBT+ rights activists.

Many in the LGBT+ community agree that Roem's success is one of the most significant accomplishments for transgender women since Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera of the 1969 Stonewall Riots, the gateway into LGBT+ pride.

A significant step that both Johnson and Rivera, alongside Roem, have made, aside from their championing for LGBT+ rights, is their nonchalant attitudes in regards to their identities. "I'm tired of living with labels," Rivera wrote in her 2002 essay, "Queens In Exile, The Forgotten Ones." "I just want to be who I am. I am Sylvia Rivera. Ray Rivera left home at the age of 10 to become Sylvia. And that's who I am."

Similarly, Roem didn't focus on her identity as a transgender woman during the campaign. As Marshall continuously misgendered Roem and attacked her status as a woman during the campaign, Roem gracefully ignored his attacks and focused on her constituents.

Roem's chief campaign issue was the traffic and congestion in her district, making sure to focus on local issues, as opposed to running solely on her gender identity. She didn't hide her gender and was very open about her transition, but she didn't make it her primary focus either, even as media and journalists badgered her about it.

On November 19, pop star Demi Lovato reached out to now delegate-elect Roem and invited her to speak against bullying as her date to the American Music Awards. Lovato said she was "just completely inspired" by Roem's story, and feels that they've "been through some of the same things" in regards to bullying and discrimination. Roem said that she too was inspired by Lovato's advocacy, and was honored to join her to help make America's schools more inclusive- a topic which is very important to me.

The entire LGBT+ community, including myself, is ecstatic over Roem's election. Her accomplishment has opened up a gateway to new opportunities for the community, and the way she handled herself during the campaign did an excellent job of showcasing the chief issue we've fought so hard for: that our identities aren't weird, wrong, or out of the ordinary, and we shouldn't be treated any differently because of them. I am grateful to Roem for her advocacy for LGBT+ people, and her achievement isn't only a landmark for transgender women, but for all LGBT+ people in America.

THE WARRIOR WONDERS...

Do you buy gifts for friends?

Yes 79% **No 21%**

Do you buy gifts for siblings?

Yes 77% **No 23%**

Do you buy gifts for parents?

Yes 84% **No 16%**

Do you buy gifts for teachers?

Yes 27% **No 73%**

How do you feel about the holiday season?

Love it!	*Like it*	*Hate it!*	*Don't care*
68%	*20%*	*4%*	*8%*

How important are family traditions to you?

Very	*Somewhat*	*Not at all*
55%	*34%*	*11%*

How important are holidays to you?

Very	*Somewhat*	*Not at all*
63%	*29%*	*8%*

Does your family have any unique holiday traditions?

"Watching 'It's a Wonderful Life.'"
-Madison Zanville '19

"We do Secret Santa with our cousins."
-Victoria Murray '20

"We go to a farm and chop down a Christmas Tree."
-Elizabeth Oliver '20

"We have to put up our tree the day after thanksgiving."
-Claudia Bowes '18

Do you travel for the holidays?

"San Francisco." -Nick Stonesifer '20

"New Jersey." -Estefany Serrano '20

What gifts do you want most this year?

"iPhone X." -Farooq Uddin '18

"A car." -Matt Levy '18

What is the worst gift you have ever received?

"Socks." -Natalia Arrazola '19

"A pillow shaped like French fries." -Jacob Miller '18

"The announcement of a new brother." -Gabby Ferraro '19

"Books." -Pisey Em '18

What is your favorite food to eat during the holiday season?

"Candy Canes and Cookies." -Melody Britton '19

"Mac & Cheese." -Madison Bliss '18

"Hot Chocolate." -Taylor Wallace '21

"Pumpkin Pie." -Conall Sahler '20

100 students surveyed
Compiled by Colleen Yates '18

‘The Last Jedi’ Keeps the Legacy Alive

by Peter Niverth ‘18

With seven blockbuster movies preceding it, the new Star Wars installment has a large audience to please.

As the most well known science fiction series in Hollywood history, the Star Wars saga continues its storyline set up nearly half a century ago by the first movie, “A New Hope.” “The Last Jedi,” set to premiere December 15th, is the latest installment in the franchise after “The Force Awakens,” which kicked off the newest trilogy two years ago. The film’s opening weekend is anticipated to make an upwards amount of $200 million, just under The Force Awakens’ $248 million.

In 1977, “A New Hope” premiered as the first Star Wars movie. Two more followed in 1980 with “The Empire Strikes Back” and another in 1983 with “The Return of the Jedi.” The commercial success generated by the first trilogy led to the production of a new trilogy set prior to the events of the first. “The Phantom Menace” in 1999 signaled the start of the prequels, as they came to be called. The 2002 and 2005 films, “Attack of the Clones” and “Revenge of the Sith” finished the prequels, though to little fan approval.

Both critics and fans alike agree that the prequels did not hold up in comparison to the original trilogy. With lengthy talk scenes instead of action scenes and annoying characters, the prequels are regarded as a disappointing continuation of the saga.

So while “The Last Jedi” carries the hope of continuing a beloved franchise into a new generation, it also carries the baggage from the older generation. By far the biggest fear for the upcoming premiere, however, is not the quality of the movie but instead its originality (or lack thereof).

The “Force Awakens” took a lot of criticism for seemingly having the same plot as “A New Hope” from the original trilogy. In “The Force Awakens,” Rey, the hero of the story and an unknown scavenger on a remote planet, learns that she possesses a strange yet strong connection to the force. In “A New Hope,” Luke Skywalker discovers his own connection to the force in the same manner as Rey. Both heroes also are hunted down by masked villains with a seemingly strong aptitude for violence. In fact, Kylo Ren, the antagonist of “The Force Awakens,” worships the Sith lord Darth Vader from “A New Hope.”

Due to this, many wonder if “The Last Jedi” will follow the pattern of the original trilogy and have a similar plot as “The Empire Strikes Back.” The trailers already indicate that this could be the case. Similar to how Yoda, a jedi master in “The Empire Strikes Back,” trained a young Luke Skywalker, Rey is being trained by an older Luke. Even the famous scene with Darth Vader and Luke is analogous to a conversation between Kylo Ren and Rey.

Regardless of how original or groundbreaking the film is, or even how well made it is, Star Wars fans everywhere will want to see “The Last Jedi,” even if only to decide whether or not the movie makes its own mark on the 40-year-old saga.

Ladybird Is a Modern Coming-of-Age Story

by Collen Yates ‘18

With its portrayal of the college application process, confusing teen relationships, and highly charged arguments with parents, “Lady Bird” is an incredibly relatable film, with a totally relatable main character, for teenagers. With a unique personality and social awkwardness, the film’s protagonist struggles to find her place in her family as well as her society. Lady Bird, whose real name is Christine, is a senior at a Catholic high school in Sacramento, California in 2002. While she struggles with relationships with boys, friends, and her parents, Lady Bird is able to keep her individualism and values with her at all times and rarely loses sight of herself. Saoirse Ronan (23) plays a believable 17-year-old and is able to accurately display the emotions and experiences that affect teenagers.

The movie most closely follows the relationship between Lady Bird and her mother, Marion (Laurie Metcalf), who somehow fail to successfully communicate despite their obvious similarities. They love and care about each other, but have trouble showing it and end up saying the wrong thing in almost every situation. When Lady Bird is trying on prom dresses, Marion struggles to say something positive and ends up arguing with Lady Bird over every dress she tries on. After Lady Bird’s father loses his job and struggles to find new work, the family becomes even tighter with money. Lady Bird’s mother works two shifts as a nurse, and she takes a job at a coffee shop. While Lady Bird wants to go to an East-Coast college, her mom wants her to remain in-state so that it is more affordable. Although many of the adults in her life tell her that she will not get accepted, Lady Bird and her father (Tracy Letts) secretly apply to schools in New York along with filling out forms for financial aid and scholarships.

Lady Bird tries out many new things throughout the movie such as joining a musical and becoming part of a new group of people. While she tries to fit in with different cliques, she does not change herself or let others influence what she wants to do. Lady Bird can be impulsive and often has an unintentionally egotistical outlook on her life. This creates problems for her in friendships and her relationship with her mother. The movie has many ups and downs and is an emotional roller-coaster. While it took a little time to get going, “Lady Bird” is incredibly entertaining, moving, and relatable.

GRADE: A+

Wolf Alice’s Breathtaking Performance Shakes D.C.

by Paulina Lopez ‘19

Indie-rock band Wolf Alice performs new music at the 9:30 Club in D.C.

Indie-rock band Wolf Alice return to DC with a stunning, vivid and gallant performance that showcased their astounding new album, “Visions of a Life”.

North-London quartet Wolf Alice, comprised of Ellie Rowsell (vocals, guitar), Joff Oddie (guitars, vocals), Theo Ellis (bass), and Joel Amey (drums, vocals), has received a lot of notoriety since their debut album release of “My Love is Cool” in 2015; the album’s sound has been described as invigorating indie-rock with foundations of 90s/00s shoegaze and grunge, and has won the band accolades such as iTunes Best New Band/Artist of 2015 and New Music Express’ Best Live Band. Earlier this year, they released their electric second album “Visions of a Life.”

The crowd was overcome with elation, when the indie-rock heroes sauntered on stage at the 9:30 Club, as many devoted fans have been waiting since the summer to be blessed with the chance of hearing Wolf Alice’s sophomore album come to life. The atmosphere was automatically permeated with a comforting, nostalgic warmth, that the next few hours would provide the perfect mystical madness fans have desired since the release of “Visions of A Life” on September 29.

The stage aesthetic of blaring purples, blues, greens, and reds, accompanied with glimmering white lights illuminated the forest backdrop and complemented the artwork of the album. With the setlist lasting nearly two hours, it was amazing to witness all four members exude endless energy throughout the entirety of the show.

The kaleidoscopic distortion and spiritual elements within “Visions of A Life” were impeccably executed as the cohesive musical efforts of Theo, Joff and Joel, laid the foundation for Ellie to display her immaculate vocals within delicate harmonies and heavy, explosive riffs, as showcased in ‘Sadboy’ and ‘St Purple and Green.’

Ending the show with ‘Giant Peach’ was an incredibly emotive experience for youthful and older fans alike to lose themselves in a moment of carelessness, as they forget about the everyday frustrations that come with life. When Ellie clambered towards the barrier, screaming and clutching at her fans, the whole world seemed to revolve around that single moment. As if synchronized, the whole crowd absorbed and reciprocated all of Ellie’s high-pitched shrieks, and every sound and movement was performed with such extreme sentiment, courage, and perfection you wished the concert wasn’t coming to its end.

GRADE: A

'Cuphead' is New and Novel in Game Industry

by Luke Weiner '20

In a market filled with gaming companies that try to milk every single cent out of their players, "Cuphead" is an absolute blessing, at an affordable price of only $20.

On the fictional Inkwell Isle, Cuphead and his brother Mugman are on a winning streak at the devil's casino. Cuphead and Mugman are so caught up in the game that they end up betting their souls to the devil and lose. The brothers beg for mercy from the devil, so he makes a deal with them: they must collect contracts from other creatures who have lost their souls to the devil across Inkwell Isle.

"Cuphead" is honestly like nothing that I have ever played before. The game features beautifully hand-drawn graphics based on 1930s cartoons. These graphics have a lot of attention to detail while still staying minimalistic, which makes the game much more appealing to the eye. "Cuphead" also features excellent imagery without dwelling on any particular image for too long. The beautifully-crafted pastel watercolor backgrounds of lollipop trees and cotton candy clouds in the level "Sugarland Shimmy" are a perfect example of this phenomenon.

"Cuphead" is infuriatingly hard, which actually is a reason to love it. To beat one of the many ruthless bosses in this game, a player must be constantly shooting while simultaneously dodging, jumping, and ducking away from all the crazy stuff the boss throws. My favorite instance of this is when the player has to dodge all of the tears of a crying onion. "Cuphead" is a game that doesn't hold your hand; It grabs you and throws you in the deep end right from the get-go. It is the type of excellent challenge for the experienced gamer that more game studios should try to replicate.

If you want a beautifully designed game that will push your patience to the limit, then "Cuphead" is right for you. If you're more of a casual gamer, this game will be frustrating at first, but if you keep at it, it will ultimately improve your gaming skills.

GRADE:
A-

English Teacher Spends Free Time in the Spotlight

by Emma Shuster '18

Through her passions for both teaching and music, Elizabeth Kominski truly lives the best of both worlds. This is Kominski's first year at Sherwood and she teaches English 9 and 11. Prior to coming to the Sherwood, Kominski taught at Northwest for 10 years as an English, theatre, and public speaking teacher and debate coach.

Music plays a prominent role in the Kominski's life, who grew up listening to her brother's Led Zeppelin CDs. She taught herself to play guitar when she was a senior at Magruder, and took part in Michael D'Anna's renowned theatre program. D'Anna is now a part of the signature arts and humanities program at Blake and a mentor to Kominski. Her profound love for music led her to play at coffee shops during college.

While studying at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, she crossed paths with the members of the band, Lloyd Dobler Effect (LDE), who stayed with Kominski and her roommates. The LDE members assisted Kominski in producing a demo, and she soon began singing with LDE in 2001. Through her work with LDE, Kominski fell in love with her husband Phil, the lead singer of the band. Phil now is a full-time musician as well as music agent.

"You have to find a way to make having a career in the arts work. For us, that was having a bunch of different groups and different genres of music. You definitely can make it work but it usually does not look like how you envisioned it. Find ways to make it work and be flexible," said Kominski.

In 2005, Kominski, her husband, and her friend Chris, formed Elizabeth, Phil, and Chris, which performs acoustic shows. After several side gigs here and there, the three did a performance in Vienna, Virginia. The show grew and eventually became an annual Christmas event. The trio eventually began selling out the Black Rock Theatre in Germantown in addition to another theatre in Rockville.

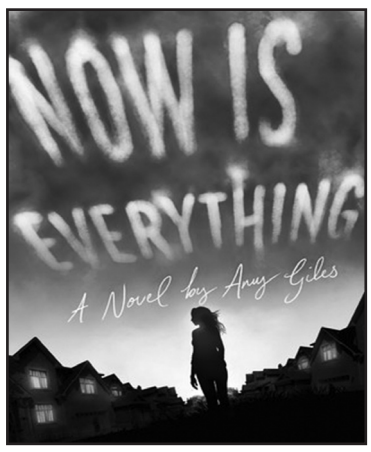
Now, Kominski and her husband play with more professional musicians in the Washington DC area, forming the Guys and Doll last year, which performs at fancy corporate events and private parties. Kominski is part of another band, The Bubbas, consisting of her and her husband, playing acoustic music as well as children's tunes.

Frequently compared by listeners to American singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant, Kominski still performs during the school year, and a few weeks ago, Kominski and her husband performed at DAR Constitution Hall. Aside from performing with her bands, Kominski is also is involved in storytelling on a regular basis. She is part of a group called Story District, in which participants have ten minutes to tell their personal story through the theme of the show.

"Theatre is my first love. I decided I didn't want to pursue being an actress. It was my original plan, but it really is a difficult life. It can often feel kind of hollow. My ultimate goal was most definitely not recognition or fame. What's the point of that? I felt like when I found teaching and hoping to inspire other people, all of a sudden I was using performance and it had a greater meaning beyond my own career, which is really important to me," said Kominski.

‘Now Is Everything’ Captivates Readers

by Mollie Howard ‘20



Amy Giles’ debut novel, “Now is Everything” is a contemporary young-adult work with beautifully developed characters and an expertly crafted plot that keeps readers on the edge of their seat. Readers follow Hadley McCauley, the main character, through the “then” and “now.” In the “now,” Hadley is recovering in the hospital after a tragic accident, but before she can get treatment, she tries to take her own life. No one has any idea why. In the “then,” Hadley is maneuvering the “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” violent tendencies of her father, and his control over the entire McCauley family, specifically over her life. In the midst of it all, Hadley also falls head-over-heels for “player” Charlie Simmons.

Upfront for the readers to know, Giles has an art to writing that stands out in the sea of literary cliches. “Now is Everything” has arms that draw you deep into the story. The arms crush in response to the father’s kick and the arms embrace when reacting to the warmth of Charlie’s love for Hadley. There’s an aspect to the novel that makes any reader want to sit it out until the very end, turning page after page, and there is the “then” and “now” alternating chapters that complement each other in a way that ties everything together.

The McCauleys resonate with the readers in a haunting way--the things they say and do seem so real. They appear to be the perfect family, but behind closed doors, there is chaos.

If readers want a quick read, this is it. Also, “Now is Everything” is a perfect choice for fans of contemporary best-selling author, Sarah Dessen.

GRADE: A

Glee Club Makes Its Debut With Their ‘Broadway Revue’

by Izzy Pilot ‘18

The third weekend of this upcoming January, Sherwood’s Glee Club will make its premiere with a Broadway Revue at The Olney Theatre. The club and performance were the idea of senior Evan Neufeld, director of the show, who has lots of experience working with a professional theatre company and wanted to try out directing a show for himself.

A revue is a multi-act performance combining music, dance, and sketches with a general theme tying the show together. Sherwood’s performance will revolve around dilemmas faced by high school students such as homosexuality, abusive relationships, coping with failure, and college stress. “The scenes will help guide the audience as to what’s going to happen next,” said Neufeld.

Aside from some behind-the-scenes help from area professionals, the club is entirely student-run, with seniors Lauren Day and Grayson Willis as choreographers, junior Juliana Gross as musical director, and junior Sabina Jafri as stage manager. Casting and song/scene selection were a creative team effort, explained Neufeld.

The biggest challenge in organizing the show has been finding time to rehearse in the midst of this busy time of year. Between the fall musical ending and Rock ‘n’ Roll beginning, the only time for rehearsals has been during lunch and very occasionally after school. “Lunch is only 35 minutes. Having a productive rehearsal in that amount of time is very difficult,” said Neufeld.

Unlike the usual fall musical and spring play, this show does not have any ‘leads’ or ‘ensemble.’ In regards to casting, “Everyone at some point is ensemble and everyone at some point is at least a supporting role. Their character only survives for the current scene. But one thing is for sure: they are playing characters, not just singing songs in costumes,” said Neufeld.

Though “Broadway Revue” holds some similarities to Rock ‘n’ Roll Revival in its structure, Neufeld stresses that it is a very different performance, saying, “Rock ‘n’ Roll is more of a concert, but this has a story.”

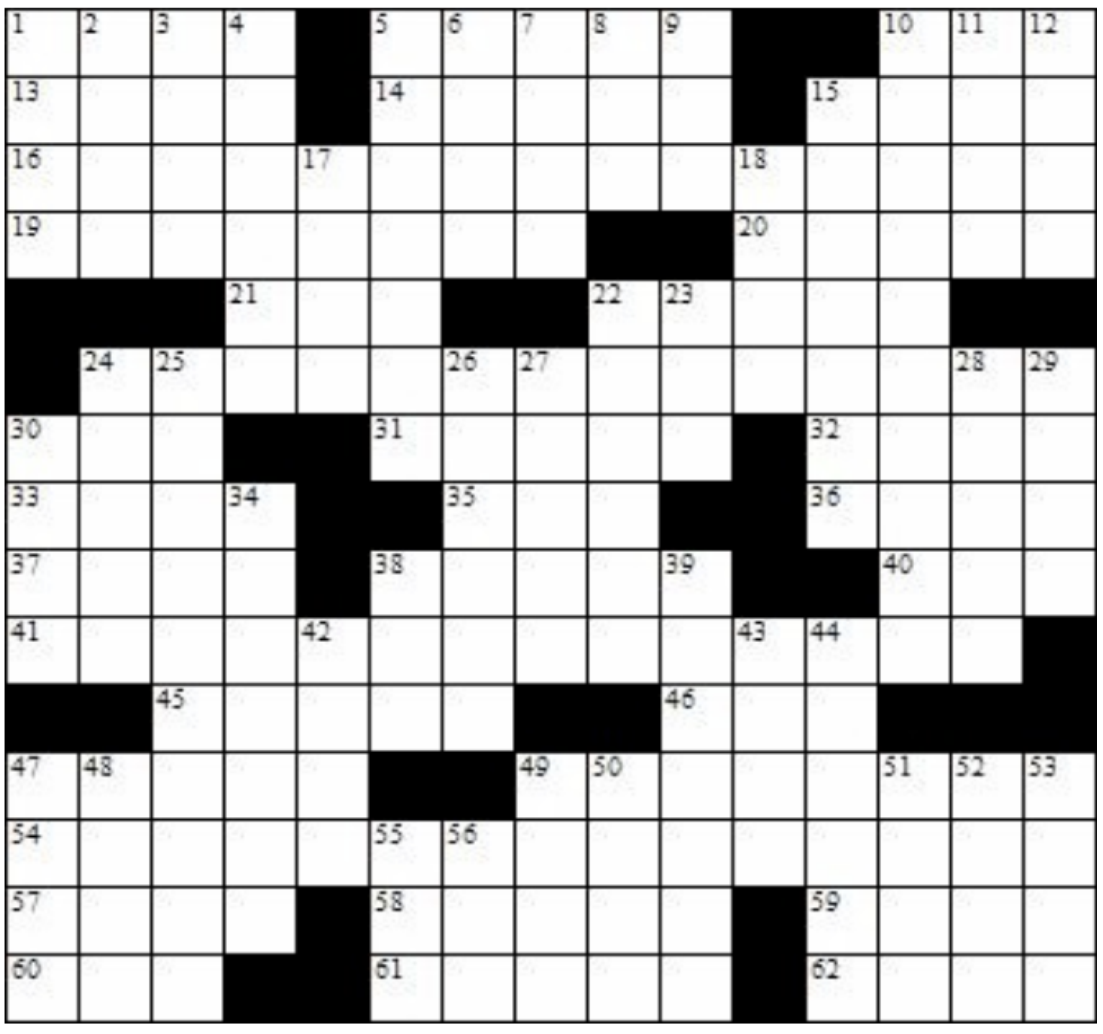
Some highlights of the performance will be the opening number, A Musical from “Something Rotten,” performed by junior Nick Weinrich, which sets the stage for the rest of the performance, and the closing number of Act One, My Strongest Suit from “Aida,” performed by senior Lucy Kuchma. “[My Strongest Suit] is the song closest to stereotypical Broadway. Glitter, glitz, costume changes, a big ensemble--everything that screams ‘60’s Broadway musical,” said Neufeld.

While he is incredibly excited to see his work come together on stage, Neufeld also stresses the importance of the tech crew in pulling off a smooth show. “Someone once said, ‘without a tech crew, the actors would be late, naked, and in the dark.’ People often forget when they see a well-polished show that there are people behind the scenes, pulling the strings. Someone has to code a lighting console and use a mic board,” he said.

As for the club’s future, Neufeld is unsure if this will become an annual event. At the moment there are no other performances planned for this school year; however, the creative team has been “spit-balling some other ideas.”

“Let It Snow”

by Josh Averbach ‘18, Lucy Kuchma ‘18
Lexi Matthews ‘18 and Izzy Pilot ‘18



Across

1. Pronto
5. Encrypted
10. Venomous snake
13. Not on time
14. When one door closes, another door _____
15. Right wing attorney org.
16. Christmas song featuring the lyrics “Down through the chimney with Old Saint Nick”
19. Multi-million dollar homes
20. Indigestion
21. Average profit over initial investment, in economics
22. Leading HIV/AIDS research institution
24. How Santa enters your home
30. Soda, if you live in the south
31. After quinto, before septimo
32. With ‘Mount,’ active volcano in Sicily
33. Takes litigative action against
35. You need to find this to add fractions (abr.)
36. Eggs of lice
37. Rank above Corp. and below Maj.
38. Archaic weapon
40. Comes after Thurs.
41. “The first noel, _____”
45. Opposite of look forward to
46. Chinese dynasty between Han and Tang
47. Name of the motel in “Psycho”
49. Freezes water
54. “I’m dreaming of ____”
57. Observed
58. Actor Foxx who starred in “Django Unchained”
59. Cardinal direction in which the sun rises
60. Skrillex’s genre
61. He makes top-notch glue
62. Jliets’s star-crossed lover (not a typo)

Down

1. Very poor neighborhood
2. Small dish or appetizer served at Spanish restaurants
3. 2,000 pounds
4. River in Alabama whose name sounds like a large amount of hand tools
5. Supporters or companions
6. Agape
7. Acronym for 2017’s Musical of the Year
8. Popular brand of hammock
9. College in Dover, briefly
10. Against the ‘Alt-Left’?
11. Narrow opening
12. Father, colloquially
15. A daily routine, often in terms of health or beauty
17. Transplantation and Immunology Research Network
18. Traditional Indian apparel for a woman
22. Pretend to be angry
23. Comedian Margaret
24. Money, slangily
25. What many children did with their Christmas presents last December 25
26. Assisted
27. Microsoft program used to make spreadsheets
28. Item written into a diary
29. Name of tropical cyclone that hit Australia in 2011
30. Whisper noise
34. Peek inside for an extended period of time
38. School org. that is responsible for organizing Homecoming Halls, etc.
39. More dangerous
42. Bird abode
43. Obligatory payments
44. Malia, to Sasha
47. Alkaline substance
48. Wowed
49. Affirmative noise
50. Luyendyk Jr., racecar driver who is set to be the star of the 2018 season of “The Bachelor”
51. Islamic worship leader
52. Word that often follows ‘brief’ or ‘cold’
53. ‘This,’ to a Chilean
55. Spanish for axis
56. A nickname for president Coolidge

for answers, please visit www.thewarrioronline.com/ on December 18

Girls' Swim Team Looks To Continue Their Success from Previous Seasons

by Paige Stahley '20

With the winter sports season in full swing, several athletes are putting in the work on the court by shooting hoops or playing bocce, practicing wrestling skills on the mat, or running indoor track to stay in shape. Or, if you are the Sherwood swim team, you are trying to uphold a reputation of being some of the fastest swimmers in the state.

According to Coach Brendan Lees, the Sherwood girls' swim team is known throughout the state for being one of the "powerhouses" of girls' swimming for the past six years. With six straight 4A/3A North Regional titles, three runner-up titles at States, one runner-up at Metros, one state championship, and one D.C. Metros Championship under their belts, the pressure is on for the girls to swim to their full potential and strive to make each year better than the last. Along with focusing on upholding their winning streak, two Sherwood swimmers this year are also preparing to swim in college.

Seniors Kelly Kolanowski and Grace Giddings have both been on the Sherwood swim team since they were freshmen. The word dedication is an understatement for these two swimmers. Both girls swim for clubs outside of school, which can add up to having ten practices a week. Giddings, who will be attending the University of Pennsylvania, and Kolanowski, who will be attending the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, have high expectations for this season, looking to finish their swimming careers at Sherwood on a good note.

"The goal this season is definitely to win States and Metros again [as a team], but we know we must work hard and stay humble in order to do so," said Giddings.

As the girls look to claim their second Metros championship in three years, upperclassmen including Giddings and Kolanowski will be well-rounded due to the freshmen, sophomores and juniors who are expected to contribute toward the ongoing legacy. "I think [the success of Sherwood swim] is very motivating for them to do their best," said Lees. "About six years ago, we started getting a steady flow of new swimmers every year that have helped contribute to our team's success. Once that started, it has motivated more and more of our swimmers to keep working harder to get better."

by Malec Fahmy '20

Junior Abbey Rose waits in the water, preparing to start the 100-meter backstroke event.

Being on a team that is consistently successful brings on the pressure not only for the seniors, but for the rising upperclassmen as well. One of these swimmers is sophomore Amanda Wenhold, who is turning the hype into drive.

"Some may think of living up to the legacy as a lot of pressure, but I look at it as a goal and something that would be cool to continue," said Wenhold.

Whether they are using their reputation as pressure or motivation, Sherwood girls' swimming must be doing something right. With a prediction of yet another standout season, the real question is: who can stop Sherwood girls' swim?

Boys' Swim Set Out To Repeat Regionals Win

by Paige Stahley '20

For boys' swim, there is one goal, and one goal only this season, and that is to dominate in what they do best. The boys' senior swimming class this year is one of the strongest yet—not only have they swam together in the pool for a long time, they all share a tight bond outside of swimming. This makes them even more motivated to be unified and lead their team to a victorious season.

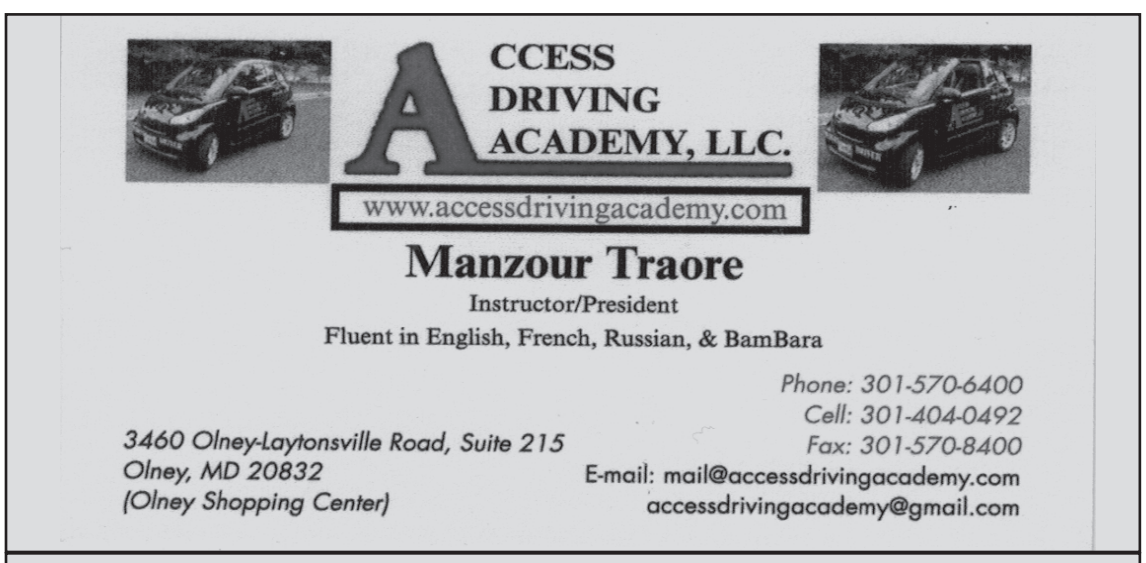
"We have a good amount of senior boys that are excited to have a successful senior year. I think their leadership will help the boys do well this year. The boys have won two Regional titles in a row, and they want to continue that success," said Lees.

With a powerful senior class and several other key swimmers for the boys, the stakes are set high for the team. Hoping to continue their streak and have a "threepeat" at Regionals this year, their goal is to stay at the top, and that is where they are aiming.

"In order to reach these goals [of winning Regionals and beyond], the boys are going to have to not only be pumped for every race, but we have to motivate each other to crush the competition and stay positive," said senior captain Andrew Martinez.

Along with the Warriors standout senior class, the boys' will be backed by a strong junior, sophomore, and freshman class. This years boys' team is among the strongest Sherwood has had in many years, and what would be a better way to send the seniors off with a third consecutive regionals title.

The Warriors depth has alreadty shown as seniors Declan Black, Andrew Christianson, Jason Kim, as well as junior Jamison Crow, sophomore Malec Fahmy, and freshman Michael Parker placed first in a 135- 49 victory against Quince Orchard.



Girls' Basketball Plans To Remain Competitive

After star player Amanda Allen graduated last year, the girls' basketball team is struggling to compensate for her absence.

by Jackson Hongtong '21
and Aaron Jaffe '21

This season for the girls' varsity basketball team is filled with uncertainties, in which nearly half of the roster are first-year varsity players and the team will need to replace the contributions of former graduated star Amanda Allen, who averaged more than 20 points a game.

"Amanda was one of the best players in the country the last two years. We are entirely different without her," said Coach Tim Hobbs, who is going into his 4th year coaching girls' varsity basketball at Sherwood and has coached high school basketball for 11 years prior.

Hobbs said that his team plays an uptempo style and that he likes to "run every chance we get." This style seemed to have paid off as Sherwood beat Rockville 47-19. Senior Madison Bliss, junior Caroline Bidwick, and sophomore Hannah St. Laurent all led the team in scoring with nine points each in the away win on December 5.

Sherwood faced a tougher test on the road against Churchill on December 8 and lost 59-34. Sherwood had their home opener against Clarksburg on December 11 to try to earn their second win on the season. However, Sherwood came up short and lost 67-64.

Hobbs said before the season that he felt that he had, "a competitive group this year but in terms of wins and losses, I'm not sure what to expect."

Sherwood now heads to play their rival Magruder in an important game at home tonight. This matchup against a mediocre opponent could forecast what to expect for the rest of the Warriors' season: a win providing a boost of confidence and a loss digging Sherwood into a 1-3 hole that would be difficult to climb out of.

Varsity Basketball Is Looking For More Consistent Offense

by Frank Platko'19

Following a 12-11 finish and first-round playoff exit, Coach Tim Gilchrist hopes to guide the varsity basketball team to a more successful season this year.

With six returning seniors from last season, there is a strong leadership presence within the locker room and on the court. However, younger players like sophomores Nate Lacey and Evan Long will be expected to contribute.

"We are asking a lot of any player that steps on the floor whether they have varsity experience or not," said Gilchrist. "Once a player hits the floor in a game situation, all the cards are on the table."

Still, much of team's success will ride on the shoulders of senior guard and captain Davis Long, who led the team in scoring last season at 14.7 PPG. Long has serious interest from Division 1 schools, such as Wisconsin, Delaware, Colorado State and several others.

Long experienced a breakout season last year, and appears poised to take an even bigger leap this year. "I worked on my athleticism and conditioning a lot this offseason," said Long. "Being more explosive will make it easier to make plays for myself and teammates." That explosiveness could be seen in the team's first preseason scrimmage against Wheaton when Long threw down his first in-game dunk.

On December 5, Sherwood hosted Rockville in the season opener. Behind a raucous student section, the Warriors were able to pull away in the second half and defeat the Rams, 55-40.

Senior Davis Long dunks the ball in the game against the Rockville Rams.

Long threw down another dunk midway through the second quarter; however, he scored just 11 points in the game and struggled from the field. Junior forward Domenico Martella tied for the game-high points with 11 of his own.

Sherwood took on the Churchill Bulldogs in their second regular season matchup on Friday, December 8. The Warriors played aggressive defense throughout the entire game, forcing the Bulldogs into a whopping 27 turnovers. This helped make up for another subpar offensive performance. Long led the team in scoring with 12 points, on an efficient 57 percent from the field. Sherwood responded well to runs by Churchill in the second half to grind out a victory, 50-42.

The Warriors suffered their first loss of the season when they traveled to face Clarksburg on December 11. The final score, 64-48, is not indicative of how competitive the game actually was. The Warriors hung tight until the final minutes of the 4th quarter, when Clarksburg began to pull away. Clarksburg senior forward Stephen Freeman led all scorers with 24 points.

Missed free throws and foul trouble ultimately proved to be deciding factors in the Warriors' defeat. Despite the loss, Long and his teammates remain optimistic.

"If we remain positive and leave it all out on the court, we will be successful. It will take time to gel offensively, but we will be fine," said Long, who leads the 2-1 Warriors in scoring at 11.0 PPG.

The Warriors look to bounce back in their next matchup when they host the rival Magruder Colonels tonight at 5:30. Magruder enters the game with a 2-0 record while averaging 75 points per game.

ON SPORTS

NHL Bans Players from The Olympic Games

by Malec Fahmy '20 and Brynn Smith '19

The National Hockey League (NHL) announced, in April 3, that none of its players will be permitted to participate in the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. Some of the best hockey players in the world, like Edmonton Oilers' Connor Mcdavid and New York Rangers' Henrik Lundvqist, will not be permitted to play in the Games, and both have expressed their disappointment over this decision.

"Disappointing news, @NHL won't be part of the Olympics 2018. A huge opportunity to market the game at the biggest stage wasted," tweeted Lundvqist, the Rangers' star goaltender. "But most of all, disappointing for all the players that can't be part of the most special adventure in sports."

Even though the league has been letting its players go to the Olympics since 1998, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman has had an obvious change of heart, as he now believes the negatives outweigh the positives when talking about the Olympics. "It's hard to envision scenario where [returning to the Olympics] makes sense," said Bettman. The NHL had many reasons for pulling its players out of the international competition, the most prominent being how much it would disrupt the 2017-2018 season.

The thing that Bettman needs to understand are opinions from the fans' perspective. They want to see their favorite players represent their country on the biggest stage in the world. During the two weeks of the games, quite frankly, no one cares about the NHL season. Being able to watch the best players in the league and the young, up and coming phenoms is an incredible experience that will now be missed as a result of league's decision.

The league reasons that shutting down its season mid-February--the time of year it isn't competing with football or baseball--is not worth it anymore. Not only is there a stoppage in regular season games and therefore a loss of revenue, but players sustain season ending injuries during the competition.

The problem with those argu ments is that by allowing their players to compete at Pyeongchang would expand the fanbase of the game. The Olympics provide a platform in other countries that the NHL just can't reach. And only four players suffered season-ending injuries at the Sochi Olympics in 2014. In any given two-week period of the NHL regular season, there is at least that. Many hockey fans believe that barring NHL players from the Olympics is the wrong move.

Not only do fans miss their favorite players competing on an international stage, but the game remains stagnant. As of now, the hockey community is small. By letting NHL players participate in the Olympic games, the game grows.

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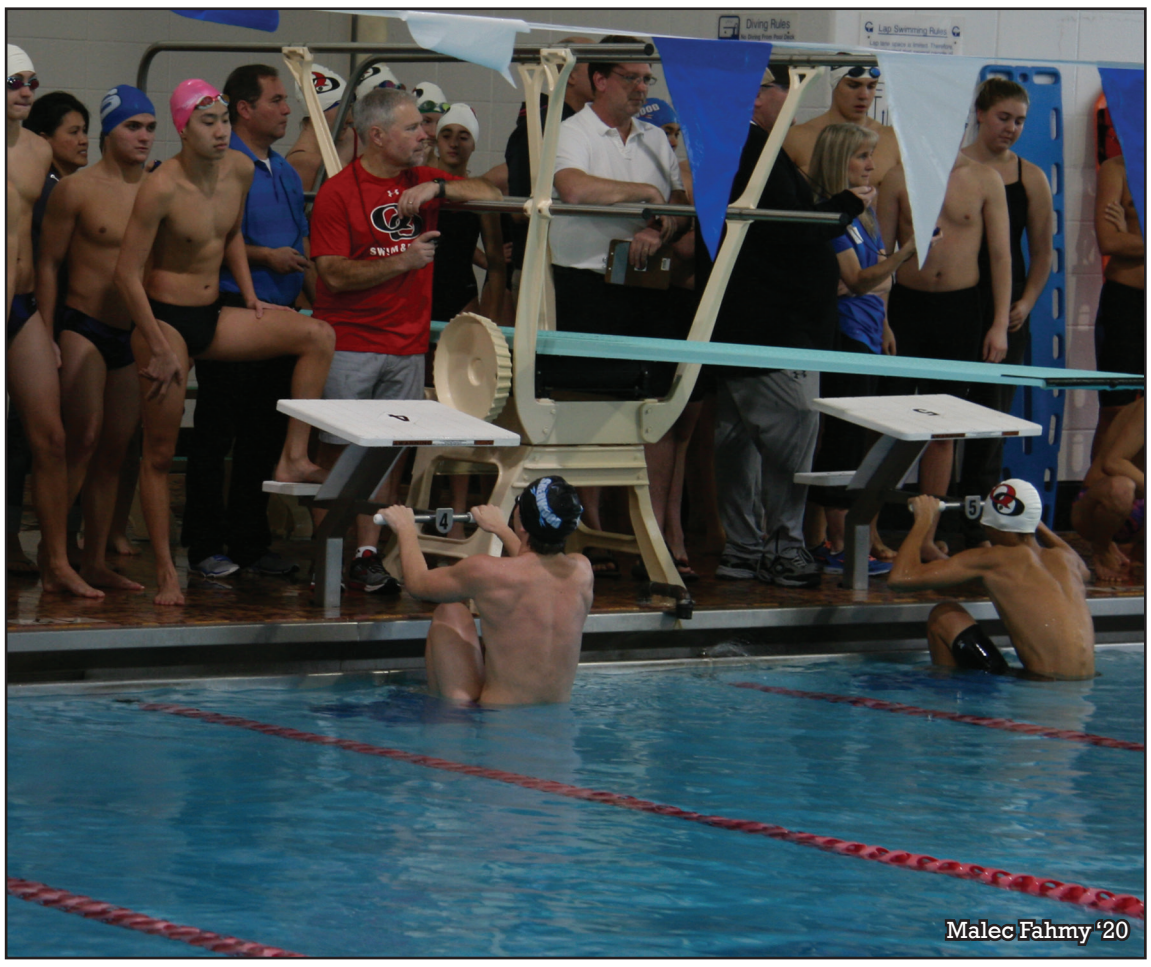
FROM THE SIDELINES

WINTER **2017**

The Sherwood cheerleaders do a cheer at a boys' baskeball game.



Senior captain Declan Black prepares to start the backstroke portion of the boys' 200-meter medley relay.

Congratulations to the boys' soccer team for making it to the State Semifinals! The team advanced to the semifinals after beating Howard 2-0 to become the Maryland 4A East Regional Champions. However, Bethesda Chevy-Chase beat them 1-0, and later went on to become State Champions.

The poms pose before starting a routine at a boys' basketball game against Churchill.

The boys' basketball team huddles during their first game against Rockville, which they won 55-40. Come support the 1-2 Warriors tonight at home against rival Magruder!