

Why Is Junior Year So Hard?

by Kara Thompson '20

Junior year is notorious for being the hardest year of high school. Many students who plan to attend a four-year college balance three or more AP classes, honors courses, and the approaching SAT and ACT. There are also outside stressors such as getting a driver's license and participating in sports and extracurriculars. Students seem to accept that the workload is just the way it goes during junior year, and that there's nothing that can diminish the stress.

"The stress is mostly evident in like subconscious thoughts. I spent so much of my time thinking about assignments and tests that have happened, that I'm working on, or that are coming up that my mind can't focus on anything else," explained junior Carlee Malone.

The level of rigor and amount of homework are noticeably different in the jump from sophomore to junior year. Honors Precalculus, AP Lang, AP World, and an AP science class can be found on most schedules for college-bound juniors. "With the choice of jumping from one AP to three APs and knowing the workload would be ridiculous, I wasn't entirely surprised [at my increased stress levels]," said Elizabeth Oliver.

The fact that students like Oliver knew junior year would be very difficult may indicate that students have internalized messaging that they must take the most rigorous courses. "It's ridiculous [the emphasis MCPS puts on kids to take rigorous courses]," commented counselor Jamii Avery. "I think that MCPS really does push way too hard, I think that parents push kids way too hard, and I think teachers sometimes push kids way too hard."

AP World teacher Joshua Kinnetz agrees. "The best proactive way I think [students] can manage is to not get hung up on how many AP classes they 'need' to take in order to be ready for college," he advised. "Be realistic as to what you can handle."

It's not even always the content material of the classes themselves—it's the crushing workload that comes with them. Many students have hours of homework each night, as each teacher believes that their course is crucial and possibly more im-

portant than other classes. "I'd say I spend about four-five hours on homework [a night], maybe more," said Malone. "But combined with after-school activities and just taking a little bit of time to myself, I still end up staying up pretty late doing work."

Shelley Jackson, English Department head, says that in general Lang teachers give the same major assignments with a similar amount of time. They also try to give deadlines enough in advance that it is manageable for students. Jackson believes the main problem is that students don't typically look at their junior year overall when picking classes and end up overestimating their ability to complete the work efficiently.

The other heads of departments and the administrators for 11th and 12th grade did not respond to the questions about the prevalence of overstressed students. The departments do not coordinate with each other to see when assignments and tests are due, nor has the school devoted staff training or meetings to the topic of homework.

AP Biology teacher Rebekah Harrison thinks that the late school year start date quickens the pace of AP classes. "We start after Labor Day ... and because AP exams are still in May and the date doesn't change, we have to cram more information into shorter amounts of time, which ... makes our class have to go a lot faster, and makes [students] have a lot more homework."

The abundance of homework leaves juniors with little time to do things they enjoy, especially if the student plays a sport. "Not playing a sport would give me more time to do my homework and do other recreational activities, so I would probably be less stressed. However, I think the advantages of being on a team outweigh the consequence of stress," said Eliza Averbach, captain of the girls' varsity soccer team.

Counselors recommend cutting back on stress by being realistic when picking your junior year schedule. "You have to put it in perspective [when choosing classes]: what else do you do outside of school, what else is going on in your life ... you need a balance," cautioned Avery. For many juniors, however, this advice may be easier said than done.

Girls Avoid Taking Engineering Classes

by Lauren Hesse '19

Of 24 students enrolled in Aerospace Engineering, three are female. Seventeen students are enrolled in Civil Engineering, but just two are female. Only eight of the students enrolled in Digital Electronics (a class focusing on electrical engineering) are female. Yet, the ratio of females to males enrolled in other advanced STEM classes like Honors Chemistry, AP Chemistry, and AP Calculus BC is closer to 50-50. Girls are interested in math and science; however, this interest apparently does not extend to engineering.

One possible reason for this discrepancy is that there are misconceptions about what engineering really is. "I think girls don't enroll in the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pathway because they don't know enough about engineering or what you actually do in the classes," explained Deesha Ajmera, a senior in the program. It is precisely this lack of accurate information that leads to incorrect assumptions.

"A lot of girls think the classes are going to be too boring or hard, but when they actually take them, they realize how rewarding they really are," added Fatima Koroma, another senior in the

PLTW program. The type of reward many girls are looking for when they take difficult classes differs from most of their male classmates.

Brendan Lees, a PLTW teacher, explained that "when surveyed, more females than males say they want to make a difference with their career choices." This is clearly demonstrated by the overwhelming majority of girls enrolled in the Academy of Health Professions (medicine) and Early Child Development (teaching) career pathways. However, "for some reason, they don't think this includes engineering" added Lees.

Engineering is problem solving. At its most basic level, it is designing solutions that improve the world or humanity's quality of life. Whether it is a biomedical engineer creating a new, inexpensive way to deliver a life saving drug, a materials scientist and engineer creating an everything-proof coating that repels just about every known liquid to keep surfaces clean, or a civil engineer designing environmentally friendly buildings, engineers make a difference.

Aside from a misunderstanding of what engineering is, some female students may not to pursue the field because they lack confidence in their abilities and take failures and mistakes much more personally than male

see DISPARITY, pg. 2

Juul Stops Selling Flavored Pods in Retail Stores



JUUL products are for sale at the Shell gas station on Georgia Avenue.

by Christianna Tran '20

Juul Labs, the e-cigarette manufacturer, announced November 11 that it will stop selling many flavored pods in retail stores and put an end to its social media promotion. Juul removed all social media accounts, except Twitter, in order to stop exposing and attracting teenagers to the products. The company decided keep Twitter but not use it for product promotion.

The changes by Juul Labs came a month after the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expressed concern for the health of underage teens who have been illegally obtaining the e-cigarettes. According to a study by the FDA, vaping has increased 80 percent among high schoolers and 50 percent among middle schoolers since last year. The FDA began making statements in early September about the epidemic of youth vaping and then took action against more than 1,300 retailers and five major manufacturers for

their roles in allowing youth access to e-cigarette products.

The administration has also gone after misleading e-liquids resembling kid-friendly items such as cookies, candy, and juice boxes, blaming the companies for targeting youths. FDA commissioner Scott Gottlieb explained that the agency cannot "allow a whole new generation to become addicted to nicotine."

As the FDA was investigating Juul's sales and marketing practices, Juul preemptively announced their "action plan," a statement posted online that explained its future efforts to end the outbreak of teen vaping. Juul intends to stop fulfilling orders from retailers looking to stock its creme, cucumber, fruit and mango flavored Juul pods. Therefore, only mint, menthol and tobacco will be sold in retail stores and the rest of their sweeter, teen-favored flavors will be sold strictly online.

This way, customers must provide their social security number, address, name, and date of

birth in order to confirm that they are of age to buy Juul's products. With this age verification system, only those who are 21 years and older can order from the company's secure website. However, in Maryland a person 18 years and older with a valid ID can purchase pods in retail stores.

The company, which holds 75 percent of the e-cigarette market in the U.S., has for a long time explained how its goal was to never attract teens into vaping but instead to provide adults who have been previously addicted to nicotine through cigarettes an alternative that allows for fewer toxins. However, the FDA believes that Juul has in fact been attracting teens to their products through their marketing and advertising strategies, teens who will then develop an addiction to nicotine. The CEO of the company, Kevin Burns, has described one of the company's goals to develop technology that ensures that retailers comply with the necessary age requirements and restrictions.

Gottlieb is also accusing Juul of not keeping the promises they have made about keeping e-cigarettes away from minors. The FDA views that the company's recent actions regarding their partnership with another cigarette company, contradicts the previous agreements to prevent underage vaping. However, Juul states that the company is sticking to its plan to curb youth vaping and plans to reach the FDA's criteria.

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Immigration Timeline

For many years now, immigration along the southern border of the U.S. has been a hot-button issue.

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Up-and-Coming Clubs

There are so many clubs at Sherwood, and oftentimes their smaller size means that they may not be as well known.

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Sherwood Scores Highly on Accountability Report Card

by Liam Kennedy '19

Sherwood earned four out of five stars on the new Maryland State Department of Education Accountability Report Card. Out of 90 possible points, Sherwood earned 63.5 of them, netting 70 percent of possible points and being ranked in the 70th percentile throughout the entire state. Sherwood was also ranked the seventh highest out of all MCPS high schools on the report card.

The report card, an accountability model designed in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), a successor of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), was released on December 4, and measures school success in various aspects of both academic achievements and overall school environment. Even though the report card was released in the middle of the year, Principal Eric Minus still finds the information provided by the report card to be helpful at this time. "Since the School Improvement Process is cyclical in nature and is supposed [to] be revisited throughout the year, we can use components of this data to help inform us about our direction as a school," Minus said.

The grading of the report card is different for each type of school. For high schools, the scores are an accumulation of points from five categories: Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate, Progress in Achieving English Language Proficiency, Readiness for Post-Secondary Success, and School Quality and Student Success. Each category is worth a different amount of points, and are based on a set of data points like PARCC test results and the percent of students enrolled in a well-rounded curriculum.

Boys' Bathrooms Lack the Basics

by Zach Weisenthal '19

Keeping hands clean through washing one's hands with soap and water is one of the most important steps one can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Hand-washing is crucial in staying healthy year round, but especially during the winter months with more germs present.

Students and staff began noticing the lack of hand soap in early December. "The soap dispensers are being destroyed by students everyday," reported Linda Berkheimer, the school business administrator and who is responsible for purchasing new dispensers.

Security is aware of the issue, but are in no rush to replace them. "Boys are continuing to disrespect the facilities. In the meantime, we suggest that boys carry hand soap with them, and take advantage of hand sanitizer," said the new head of security, Neil Owens.

Many teachers are not aware of this problem as they use staff bathrooms themselves. "I would be outraged if my son did not have hand soap to wash his hands at school," said science teacher Britani Greco.

White House Scraps Obama School Discipline Policy

by Anjali Verma '20

The Trump administration's Department of Education, led by Secretary Betsy DeVos, has chosen to cancel a school discipline policy from the Obama administration that worked to limit racial bias in schools. Obama implemented this policy in part because black students in the United States were three times more likely to be disciplined than their white classmates.

The 2014 policy's intention was to limit racial bias when it came to suspensions and expulsions of students. If a school's statistics exceeded the standards for discipline against certain races, then its federal funding could be cut or the school could face a federal investigation. Under the new directive, federal officials will not intervene with school disciplinary actions as long as they do not infringe with federal discrimination laws.

Supporters of the new policy are happy because they believe Obama's policy exceeded federal authority and in turn made schools unwilling to take action against students that may be disruptive or violent. Critics of Trump's actions argue that by revoking the policy, there will be no oversight of schools that disproportionately suspend or expel minority students, thereby limiting their right to an education.

Dispensary Comes to Olney

by Sarah Nove '20

Olney soon will be home to Sweetspot, a medical marijuana dispensary scheduled to open this month. In an interview with two of Sweetspot's employees, Kevin Fox, Inventory Manager, and Peter Franklin, Dispensary Manager, the pair emphasized the staff's focus on legitimacy and safety.

In accordance with state laws, no edibles will be distributed. Additionally, the dispensary will only sell to individuals with a Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission (MMCC) patient identification card and, for minors, accompanied by a caregiver. The state of Maryland defines a caregiver as "an individual 21 years old or older designated by a patient who has agreed to assist with a qualifying patient's medical use of medical cannabis" or, if the patient is a minor, a parent or legal guardian. Adults without an MMCC card will be allowed to enter the community area of the store, but only card-holders will be allowed onto the retail floor. Minors without both a MMCC card and a caregiver present will not be allowed inside the storefront.

The dispensary is in its final stages of construction in The Olney Center off of Georgia Avenue, in the space that previously housed Armand's Pizzeria. The interior of the building has a large glass window through which cus-



Sweetspot dispensary plans on taking over space off of Georgia Ave.

tomers can watch the production process. However, not all of the production happens in-house; marijuana must first go through an extensive testing process in a lab to ensure the safety and high quality of the goods prior to distribution.

"Everything goes through analytical testing for pesticides, heavy metals—basically a breakdown of its potency," explained Fox. "It's [a] very in-depth [process] prior to even coming to market so nothing even has the chance of being tainted or moldy."

In addition to quality and transparency, Fox and Franklin hope that Sweetspot's presence in Olney will neutralize the stigmas surrounding marijuana consumption for medical purposes.

"Our main goal is not ... [to]

sell as much as possible; we want to educate the community, we want to help out as much as we can, we want to be a part of this community," said Franklin.

According to Fox, they have been "welcomed with open arms" by the community so far, with friendly responses from neighboring business, like the local sign shop, Signs One Hour, who helped them paint a sign on their storefront. Fox and Franklin hope the community will see Sweetspot as a business, not something taboo.

"Put bluntly, we're here for qualifying patient's safe access to the medicine they have been recommended ... we want people to know that this is a professional establishment," said Fox. "We're here for the community, and we're very excited to open."

Gender Disparity Continues in Classes

from ENGINEERING, cover

students do. "Some of my best students have been female, but many of my female students lack confidence," explained Thomas Cohan, the AP Calculus BC teacher. "I have noticed that more girls come in to ask for clarification or for me to check their work and that when girls get a problem wrong they take it much harder than boys do."

Various studies have shown that girls are far more likely to blame their failures and mistakes on their own shortcomings. In a field like engineering, where failing is basically a daily occurrence, taking every mistake as a reflection of your abilities is incredibly detrimental, and it can discourage even the most capable, bright girls from further pursuing engineering.

Girls who have no reason to question themselves end up self-selecting themselves out of engineering, meaning they choose another career path. This helps explain why only 11 percent of current practicing engineers are female, and highly lauded engineering programs at schools like the University of Michigan are content with and even brag in information sessions for prospective students that their engineering student body is 27-percent female.

Losing any capable female engineers due to a lack of confidence or a misunderstanding

| Class | # of Female Students | # of Students | % of Females |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| AP Physics | 13 | 46 | 28% |
| AP Chem | 20 | 43 | 47% |
| Civil Engineering and Architecture | 2 | 17 | 12% |
| Aerospace Engineering | 3 | 24 | 13% |
| Principles of Engineering | 17 | 68 | 25% |
| Digital Electronics | 8 | 39 | 21% |
| Introduction to Engineering Design | 53 | 155 | 34% |
| AP Calculus BC | 28 | 65 | 43% |
| Engineering Design and Development | 7 | 28 | 25% |
| Hon Chem | 177 | 325 | 55% |
| AP Bio | 79 | 133 | 59% |
| AP Lit | 92 | 149 | 62% |
| Medical Science | 30 | 33 | 91% |
| Adv. Child Development | 30 | 32 | 94% |

Source: SIMS Database

of the field itself is troublesome. "One reason there is such a big push to try to get more females interested in STEM and specifically engineering is that tech companies have realized that they are more productive and creative when they have close to a 50-50

ratio of men and women," explained Lees. With so many problems to solve in today's world, the need exists to maximize the productivity of design teams and ensure that our talented individuals, regardless of gender, are working to solve such problems.

College Board Struggles With Lower Student Trust

by Adam Levine '20

If you've taken any standardized test in high school, chances are you have interacted with the College Board. Though in recent months, the nonprofit organization has been the subject of controversies regarding its SATs.

The June 2018 SAT marked the beginning of the recent backlash the College Board faced. The College Board's system of equating, which, according to the organization, "makes sure that a score for a test taken on one date is equivalent to a score from another date," left many June test-takers upset. Many students received scores much worse than they had initially expected.

When test takers receive their scores, it is accompanied by a breakdown of their score by each section and a description of each question, which contains the difficulty and subsection of each question and whether the student answered it correctly or not. This allows students to compare their growth over multiple tests by seeing the change in how many they answered correctly or not.

Angry students nationwide took to social media to berate the College Board's actions. One solution many test-takers demanded was a rescore of their June tests, but the organization claims, "The June scores ... are accurate—the result would be the same even if [they] rescored it."

Senior Lexi Paulson was one of the many students who took the controversial June exam. "I think that College Board could've handled the situation better when they saw that people were really upset about the situation instead of essentially telling people to suck it up and deal with it," Paul-

son explained.

For their subsequent exams, the College Board seems to be on a trend following their June SAT. The fall 2018 SATs have been relatively easier, made evident by how harshly the tests have been "equated." On these more recent tests, incorrect questions have had more weight on one's overall score than in years past.

Junior Laura Meng took the November 2018 exam. "The [scaling] for reading was much harsher than the one for August. When I compared scores with my friend, she got 13 more questions wrong, but only 60 points worse. I understand that it means that the reading must have been harder but sometimes it just seems like the [equating system] on the test negatively affect our scores," explained Meng.

The controversies continued after the August SAT. While nothing has been confirmed by the College Board, it is widely believed by test takers that the exam was previously administered as the October 2017 international SAT and some questions off that exam were leaked shortly after.

"It's kind of crazy that College Board thought it was a good idea to recycle a test that was taken by kids that were still in high school and could still be testing," said senior Claire Moran, who took the August 2018 exam.

After two controversies in one year, many students have formed strong opinions about the organization. It also brings up questions about the testing process in general. "While hypothetically a standardized way to compare students makes sense, its execution, and the fact it is left in the hands of major corporations, is questionable," said Moran.

School Plan Focuses on Student Engagement

by Katherine Spurduto '19

What is the ideal way for teachers to engage students and get them thinking on their own? Sherwood thinks it has the answer: students should be frequently in small groups and held accountable to help each other succeed with the material they are learning.

The School Improvement Plan (SIP) is an annual plan created each summer by Sherwood's Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) that sets specific goals for the school. To achieve these objectives for literacy and mathematics, teachers are expected to implement certain teaching practices into their daily instruction. The three strategies that the Sherwood administration decided on was cooperative learning, probing questions, and higher-order questioning.

To choose these teaching practices, "the ILT collects school-wide data from all stakeholders along with District measures, it is analyzed during the school year and over the summer to determine and identify what students at Sherwood are struggling with the most. We conduct a comprehensive root-cause analysis of all the data points," said Staff Development teacher Catina Wist. "We don't just make stuff up out of thin air. The county has a Resource for Equitable Classroom Practices that contains 27 high-impact teaching strategies that have been researched and proven. Out of the 27, the highest 2 to 3 impact strategies were chosen to be a focus of our instruction to benefit Sherwood students the most."

Teachers are expected to support these strategies within their lessons plan. All teachers are expected to continuously learn

1. Cooperative Learning

Examples

- Positive Interdependence
- Face-to-Face Interaction
- Interpersonal & Small-Group Skills
- Group Processing
- Individual & Group Accountability

Non-examples

- Only teacher-directed instruction
- Use of only one of the strategies listed above
- Use of only group work

2. Probing and Clarifying Techniques

Examples

- Rephrasing Questions
- Giving hints
- Asking related questions

Non-Examples

- Not requiring students to explain their thinking
- Moving to another student when no response or an incorrect one is provided
- Fails to help students to respond

3. Asking Higher-Order Questions

Examples

- Use random calling method
- Provide think time
- Ask analysis, synthesis, and evaluation questions

Non-examples

- Only asking these questions of advanced students
- Only allowing those who raise hand to respond to questions

Source: MCPS

and alter their practices; however, their lessons should revolve around the three strategies.

Teachers are advised to use their professional judgment when it comes to which strategy to utilize the most with a class. "I think that a majority of the teachers here at Sherwood are professionals and utilize the tools they have been given. Each discipline is different, which means that learning looks different," said English teacher Samantha Ager.

"My teaching methods are centered around student inquiry, so it would be really hard to pick just one method that I think would be most effective," said science teacher Laura Dinerman. "It is important to use a variety

of methods, reduce student stress while urging them to take academic risks, and to share information effectively in the classroom community."

To ensure that these practices are effectively applied in the classroom, informal observations are conducted by administrators and department leads in which the observer completes a form. If it's determined a teacher is struggling with a specific practice, that teacher will receive feedback that same day.

"I want my students to be successful in everything that they do. They are our future leaders and we need them to be educated, critical thinkers so that our civilization can prosper," said Ager.

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Democratic House Moves To Investigate Trump

by Nathan Lampshire '19

The 116th Congress assembled in the U.S. Capitol on January 3 to be sworn in as new lawmakers. The GOP maintains the majority of the Senate by 6 votes, while Democrats have control of the House by 33 votes. Notably, this term's lawmakers bring an unprecedented diversity to Congress with 25 women in the Senate and 333 women in the House.

Democrats will now become chairs of various committees involved in investigations against President Trump himself, as well as his administration and his businesses. Democrat Adam Schiff, or "little Adam Schitt" as Trump says, is incoming chair to the House Intelligence Committee and is working to fully release transcripts from the panel interviews to Robert Mueller's investigation, a major concern for Trump and his administration.

More importantly, however, is the Democrats first priority to disclose Trump's tax returns. Democratic Rep. Richard Neal is now head of the House Ways and Means committee, which has the legal authority to formally request to obtain years' worth of Trump's tax returns. In addition, Democrats have revised H.R.1, a House bill that would require president and vice president nominees to disclose three years' worth of tax returns. The revision has changed the three-year requirement to 10 years. However, Democrats will face heavy opposition both from the Republican controlled Senate and House Republicans such as Mark Meadows, the Freedom Caucus leader, who has sworn to protecting the president and his agenda.

A new bill has been introduced in the House in an attempt

Chances for Bipartisanship?
With the current polarization in Congress, legislation is difficult to pass, but here are a few areas where the two parties may compromise.

Privacy with Technology:
 Privacy with regards to technology is an increasingly bipartisan issue across the nation. Breaches in technology include personal and governmental data collection, political manipulation, and financial meddling. The increasing use of technology indicates that these issues will persist until legislation is passed. The 116th Congress appears to be converging on shared perspectives towards privacy issues.

Prescription Drugs:
 With nearly 10-percent growth in drug spending annually over the past decade, it is not surprising that Congress is attempting to tackle the rising cost of prescription drug prices, which has nearly doubled in the past decade. Both Democrats and President Trump have made this issue a priority.

Transportation:
 The transportation and infrastructure issues in the nation have typically been bipartisan issues. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio (D-OR) is attempting to push an infrastructure bill through Congress for highways and airports, transit, and water projects. Trump has said that he believes it is one of the issues that both parties may come together on.

to protect special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into Trump's alleged Russian ties. The bill states that if Trump is to fire Mueller, Mueller can appeal to a panel of federal judges to determine if he will continue his investigation. The bill will easily pass in the House, but will face opposition in the Republican Senate as they believe Trump would not act so recklessly, or the bill will lead to more unwanted investigations into members of Trump's administration.

Trump is facing a challenging road ahead of him as he enters the third year of his presidential term. Democratic Representative Elijah Cummings has become the chair of the House committee on oversight and government reform. After sitting through many investigations led by Republicans

against Obama, Cummings now has his time in power. He will pursue two tracks of investigations. The first will investigate whether Trump has profited from the presidency, the decision to add a citizenship question to the U.S. census, and the hush payments to Trump's alleged affairs. The second track will investigate Trump's proposal to overhaul the U.S. Postal Service and the proposal to set a Medicare International Pricing Index- a proposal which would set prescription drug prices to the same as those of other industrial countries.

One thing is for certain, however. The 116th Congress is like none other and the diversity and polarization will continue the fiery opposition between the GOP and Democrats as Trump's presidential term enters its third year.

Technology's Role in Classrooms Expands

by Thomas Johnson '19

The rise of smartphones and the implementation of various new software and equipment in school systems has impacted education across the world. As a result, the educational experience our parents and grandparents received is far different from what we have come to know today.

Perhaps the most significant effect technology has had on education has been its effect on how teachers run their classroom. Rather than in the past where textbooks were the primary form of instruction, teachers now have access to thousands of documentaries and resources, making class far more engaging for students. Student accountability has also been positively affected by the advancement of technology. Thanks to websites like turnitin.com, teachers can now more easily check for plagiarism and ensure that the work students turn in is their own.

Students are also able to stay on top of their grades more easily than in the past. Apps such as MCPS Helper allow students to know what grade they have in a class and be aware of any missing assignments that their teacher did not inform them of.

Standardized testing organizations have also taken interest in updating their tests to take advantage of modern technology. The College Board has stated that it is interested in offering a computerized version of the SAT in the future, but currently has no plans to do so. The ACT, on the other hand, has already begun administering computerized tests

at designated centers. The main attraction of a computerized test is that students receive their test scores almost immediately after finishing. Another benefit of computer-based testing is that the test can actually adapt to test-takers' proficiency based on the correct number of responses they have entered so far. This feature allows less proficient test takers to receive questions more at their level, and gives better test takers the chance to challenge themselves.

While there have undoubtedly been large improvements in the quality and ease of education due to the advancement of technology, there have also been a number unforeseen downsides. Student attention has been negatively affected by the existence of smartphones, allowing students to distract themselves by going on social media, texting friends, or playing mobile games, rather than paying attention in class. School systems have attempted to combat smartphone use by enacting zero tolerance policies for cellphones in class; however because smartphones are so small and easy to conceal, these policies end up being difficult to enforce.

Another frustration for teachers caused by the development of technology is the creation of online homework resources. These resources allow students to find answers to almost any assignment rather than actually having to do the assignment themselves. A study done by Rutgers University shows that over 95 percent of students admitted to copying homework (either from another student or from an online resource) at some point in their life.

The Southern Border: Five Years of Rhetoric and Little Progress

April 2013: Gang Of Eight bill proposal

The so-called "gang of eight," a bipartisan group of four Democratic and four Republican senators, proposed a comprehensive immigration reform bill that addressed a path-to-citizenship, more border security, and changes to guest worker programs. The bill passed in the Senate 68-32 in June of 2013, but was not considered by the U.S. House of Representatives. Because of this, the bill did not make it out of the 113th Congress.

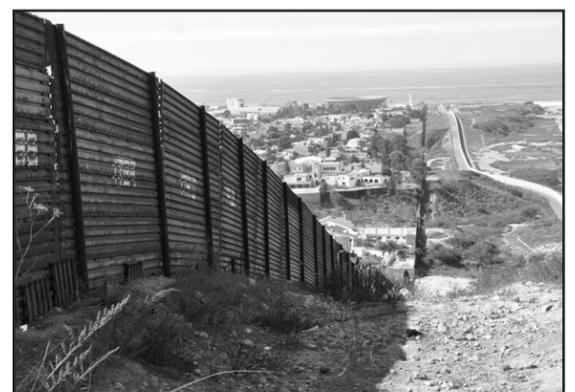


January 2017: Mexico, Pay for Wall

A main promise of Trump's presidency is to build a wall along the southern border with the idea that Mexico would pay for it. "I want to get the wall started," he said in a speech. "I don't want to wait a year and a half until I make my deal with Mexico. They will reimburse us for the cost of the wall, whether it's a tax or whether it's a payment. Probably less likely that it's a payment."

June 2015: Trump Calls Mexicans Rapists

In the same speech during which he announced his candidacy for president, Trump said, "when Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you." He added that, "they're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."



Meaning of Socialism Shifts for Young American People

by Julia Robins '20

As Mahatma Gandhi once said, “there is enough for everyone’s need, but not enough for everyone’s greed.” For all who benefit, capitalism also has resulted in economic disparities in which a privileged few are extremely wealthy and many more suffer in poverty. According to a report from the Federal Reserve, 36.8 percent of wealth in this country is staying with the richest 1 percent of the population. Currently with close to 40 million U.S. citizens living in poverty and 1 in 6 people facing food insecurity, an economy that promotes greater equality is appealing; for many, that new system is socialism.

According to a poll in late August from Gallup, 51 percent of millennials (ages 18-29) favor socialism, compared to just 45 percent for capitalism. For previous generations, socialism was associated with concepts such as communism in places like Russia and China. Now, one might think of countries like Sweden and Norway, where people report being happy while having subsidized health care and college tuition. Through education in history classes and simply watching the news, teens no longer are living in the shadow of fear from communism and socialism; they see potential and hope for a higher, equal standard of living where the government would distribute the nation’s wealth equally to its citizens.

The country is seeing a shift in the Democratic party to becoming “Democratic Socialists,” which is how Bernie Sanders identifies himself. Capitalism is

looking very red these days, and socialism is being painted bluer. The appeal of “socialism” is moving away from an economic system as it traditionally was defined to a political affiliation, or progressivism; socialist ideas that promote equality from a social standpoint. Most “socialist” ideas are also liberal Democratic visions, and those who strongly identify with capitalism, (Republicans), are more likely to oppose millennials on social issues.

Obamacare, free college tuition, and LGBTQ+ rights are a few social justice issues that ensure a leveling of the social hierarchy and a closing of the opportunity gap. Progression of these ideas would result in an entirely new political structure for the country, and that is how millennials are starting to think, vote, and legally support—independent from their elders and the capitalist belief that money is everything.

According to The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), nationwide the average U.S. college student in the U.S. graduates with 28,650 dollars in student loans, and according to ThinkAdvisor, 83 percent of Americans say they cannot afford college. It’s no wonder millennials are turning to a system where college could be tuition-free, where poverty could be lessened, where they would not have to worry about health insurance or putting food on the table. As millennials will be taking matters into their own hands in the coming future elections, this country may start to see a shift to socialism and a push for equality for all citizens, regardless of sexuality, gender, race, religion, or color.



On December 10, leaders of various countries around the world gathered to discuss climate change policy.

President Trump’s New Environmental Policies Seem at Odds with Recent Scientific Evidence

by Brenna Henderson '21

The Trump administration is continuing to dismiss or deny scientific findings that human-caused climate change is resulting in serious consequences for the planet. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) from President Trump’s own U.S. government is giving him this fact-based information, but Trump still chooses to ignore what these scientists are saying.

On November 22, NOAA released the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which stated that the environment is a serious problem and threat to humans and other animals. Katharine Hayhoe, who was the main writer, and more than 300 other contributors concluded in their report that rising temperatures, drought, wildfires on rangelands and heavy downpours will increasingly damage the quality and quantity of U.S. crop yields, livestock health, and livelihoods in rural areas. Climate change also threatens the health and well-being of the public by causing extreme weather, changes to air quality, the spread of new diseases through insects and pests, and changes to the availability of food and water. The as-

essment concludes not only that the world’s temperature is rising but also that the preponderance of evidence shows human actions play a role in it.

Even so, on the Monday after Thanksgiving, Trump told reporters, “I don’t believe it,” completely ignoring everything agencies in his own government told him. The Trump administration does not plan on implementing or even coming up with a plan to solve the environmental crisis, and many even speculate that the Trump administration intentionally released the report on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, because Americans were busy shopping and would not have time to follow news about the NOAA report.

Scientists and environmental experts from around the world agree that fossil fuels are one of the main sources that are increasing the temperature of Earth and yet on December 10, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, the U.S. Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Wells Griffith, told an audience, “the United States has an abundance of natural resources and is not going to keep them in the ground.” Griffith attempted to continue to say, “we

strongly believe that no country should have to sacrifice their economic prosperity or energy security in pursuit of environmental sustainability” but was interrupted by the audience booing and chanting “keep it in the ground!” Not only is the Trump administration dismissing the issue of climate change but attempting to discredit it, claiming that countries should continue to pollute the environment by burning fossil fuels.

The Trump administration is looking to justify its position on climate change by pointing to recent events concerning Emmanuel Macron, the president of France. On December 4, the French government backed off of its plan of raising fuel taxes to help the environment because of violent riots and protests from the public. Trump continued his support of burning fossil fuels by commenting on Twitter, “I am glad that my friend Emmanuel Macron and the protesters in Paris have agreed with the conclusion I reached two years ago,” referring to himself pulling out of the Paris Accords in which nearly every country in the world vowed to limit the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere.

The Southern Border: Five Years of Rhetoric and Little Progress



June 2018: Family Separations

On June 20, Trump signs an executive order to keep families together at the southern U.S.-Mexico border after a national outcry from reports of more than 2,000 children being separated from their families. Homeland Security was directed to keep families together after they are detained crossing the border.



January 2017: DACA

Trump issued an executive order removing protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a federal program made during the years of the Obama administration for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children or adolescents. On September 4 of the same year, the Justice Department formally ended DACA, meaning that the Trump Administration will not allow new applications for legal status.



December 2018: Government Shutdown

The partial government shutdown, beginning on December 21, over funding for a border wall reached the longest on record as Democrats insisted a wall is an ineffective use of resources, instead opting for a technology route using drones and tunnel detection. Trump has kept with his plan of Mexico paying for the wall but now “indirectly by the great new trade deal we have made.”

January 18, 2019

Minus' 'Holiday Renditions' Decks the Halls

by Sabina Jafri '20

The holiday season has brought a wave of discussion about a musical album created by one of Sherwood's very own warriors. Indeed, on November 20, 2018, Principal Eric Minus and his brother, Daryl, released "Holiday Renditions," an album composed of wintertime classics.

"Holiday Renditions" consists of six Christmas songs, all largely instrumental, compiled with a jazzy twist. The duo writes, arranges, produces and engineers all of the songs themselves, and throughout the album, Minus is featured on the piano, horns, electric bass, electric guitar, and even chimes in with a few vocals.

The Minus brothers' natural curiosity led them to form their group, Minus2. Minus shares that when they were younger, the boys got along on most days due to a shared passion for music. Minus2 was born out of a conversation over 15 years ago, when they decided to stop lending their talents on other artists' projects and

make music on their own terms. Together, they combine musical elements they were exposed to in their youth. Listeners of "Holiday Renditions" will hear elements of gospel, jazz, funk, symphonic, and several other smaller genres. This is what the brothers feel makes their sound unique.

"I hope this project relays a message of good cheer and positive vibes regardless of religious or social beliefs about the holiday season," said Minus. "Sometimes we should just enjoy listening to music regardless of genre. If it sounds good and feels good, then it is good."

Minus also makes it clear that he does not feel he could be an adequate educator without the balance of being a musician as well. "I would like student listeners at Sherwood to know that music is an expression and a language, and that it is through our ability to express ourselves through this form of creativity that brings balance to who we are as individuals."

Several of the classic songs were selected for the album be-

cause they are the favorites of Minus' children. The album was built out of the love and tradition circulating the Minus family during the holidays. One distinct family tradition that Minus proudly shares is that of "shutting everything down."

"We stop everything for the holidays, including my children's numerous activities, and anything else that take us away from the family," he explained. "We really spend the holiday staying close to each other and reconnecting after what always seems to be a hectic year with everyone going in different directions."

Minus2 is already moving forward with new projects, including a tribute to Holland-Dozier-Holland, the production team that were responsible for the Motown sound of the 1960s. They are thrilled to be commissioned by an arts organization in North Carolina for this tribute. Listeners should look out for the project, as well as an unnamed 4th album that the team will be recording sometime this year.



Kelly Seganish '19

Mkrtyumyan ('20) is currently hard at work in difficult academic classes.

Armenian Exchange Student Maximizes His Experiences

by Adam Levine '20
and Anjali Verma '20

Originally from Syunik, Armenia, junior Armen Mkrtyumyan, a happy-go-lucky regional chess champion, is a new exchange student here at Sherwood. Staying for the full school year, he is participating in the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program.

The FLEX program is funded by the U.S. Department of State. It supports students from Europe and Eurasia with merit-based scholarships as they spend one academic year immersed in the United States experience. Students across 21 countries come to America to gain leadership skills and learn about American culture while also forming new relationships with citizens of the United States and other countries.

Mkrtyumyan first learned about the program from his peers who had returned from a year abroad in 2015. After hearing his friends rave about the program, Mkrtyumyan decided to apply, becoming one of the 25,000 applicants applying from Armenia alone.

While he is here, Mkrtyumyan is tasked with three projects. The first is to discuss leadership with a leader in the community. "I chose our principal, Dr. Minus," said Mkrtyumyan. "I had [a] meeting with him, which I learned a lot from." The second project requires students to find someone who is not from the United States and discuss their cultural differences. Lastly, the third project is a community service-oriented one. "I might do something with like Boy Scouts to do clean-up somewhere." In addition to projects, FLEX students visit different places monthly.

Mkrtyumyan pointed out that Armenian and American culture differed in three main aspects: religion, organization, and communication. "Armenia was the

first country to embrace Christianity and our churches are a lot more different ... that was one of the culture shocks," commented Mkrtyumyan. "I found that Americans are a little bit more organized ... and that's very interesting ... I like that way of living." He noted that Americans commonly used the phrases "thank you" and "please" more than he was used to, which came as a shock.

Mkrtyumyan is staying with an experienced host family, who has hosted a young Ukrainian woman in the past. Furthermore, his host parents lived in Germany, so they are well-versed in the world of exchange. Through his host family, Armen has been able to partake in many new experiences including going swing dancing and playing guitar in a bluegrass jam.

"He is just so incredibly open to new experiences. He's ... come with the right attitude," said Susan Milner, Mkrtyumyan's host mother. "I don't think he's ever turned us down when we've said do you want to go do this, do you want to go do that."

Discovering what makes him happy and becoming more independent everyday, Mkrtyumyan maintains a positive outlook on his experience here. Just like any other high school student, Mkrtyumyan encounters the toughness of APs and the struggle to stay afloat in this competitive world. His humble and gracious outlook on the United States and his experiences here have brought him a lot of happiness. Mkrtyumyan looks forward to his future which may involve college in the States but more importantly a focus in engineering and programming.

"This is [a] great experience," said Mkrtyumyan. "I am [challenging] myself ... [and] learning new stuff everyday, and I am just having a lot of fun here. This is great."

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Find Your New Clique in a Sherwood Club

by Will Unger '19

Before you read on, I challenge you to take a minute and count how many clubs you know at Sherwood.

Got a number?

Well I'll bet it wasn't 60, which is the official count from the list of clubs on the Sherwood website (A list anyone can access, if you're interested).

I'm a senior who's been part of a fairly diverse number of groups, and I had not heard of a good

number of them until I began researching for this article. Beyond honor-societies and more established clubs like Chemistry club or Film club, there are all sorts of smaller groups that represent a broad range of interests. There are so many clubs for everything from Corn Hole, to Fishing, to Latin Dance.

In this and upcoming articles online, I'll be highlighting some lesser-known clubs at Sherwood to bring them to the attention of the larger student body.

Learn a Couple New Moves With the Latin Dance Club!

If you're like me, a white Olneyite with no outwardly discernible ethnic background, you probably don't know too much about Latin Dance. It's also likely that you didn't know that Sherwood has a Latin Dance Club.

Well it does! Latin Dance Club, led by co-captains junior Anna Chacon and senior Natalia Arrazola, is a new club at Sherwood this year that aims to "[expose students] to different Latin cultures through dance," according to the club's mission statement. "We started it because other schools have Latin dance teams, and we wanted to have one at Sherwood, so we took it into our own hands," explained Chacon.

The club is performance-oriented, so meetings, which take place after school on Tuesdays, begin with stretches and then the members go right into practicing their dance routines. Because of this, "it's a lot more structured,"

said Chacon. "...But occasionally people will drop by to observe."

Currently, the club has plans to be teaching different dances to the Spanish classes on Friday, January 18. "Latin dance has a lot of separate categories," said Chacon. "The few ones we focus on are merengue, bachata, salsa, and cumbia. My personal favorite is merengue because it moves so quickly and I think it's the most fun." In the coming months, the group will also be participating in Sherwood's International Show and Rockville's International Night.

Anyone can join the club, but Chacon warns that it can be difficult to bring people in while training for a performance. Just go talk to Spanish teacher Tanya Aguilar to join. The club meets after school on Tuesdays, in the Little Theatre. They're also trying to meet after school on Thursdays and do occasionally meet at lunch.

Kind and Respectful, Ally or Gay, Join Stand Proud Today!

Despite the fact that it's 2019, and you'd think such outdated and malignant ideas would be well behind us, homophobia is still an issue in the world, and sadly, here at Sherwood. Fear not though, Stand Proud is fighting to make our school a safer and more accepting place for our fellow LGBTQ+ students.

The club, which has between 20 and 30 members, meets every week with the goal of creating a safe space for students to talk about complex issues and to be themselves without fear of judgment. Meetings vary between group discussions on various topics, to therapy days where members can talk about issues amongst themselves, to free days where they just chill out with friends. "We have created a safe space by keeping the identity of our members secret," said President Diana Wasson, "and we fight to keep that safety strong in the

club."

"We always enforce respect within the club, and assure members that whatever they say will not leave the room," said Isabelle Klimanov, Stand Proud's vice president. This is important, because the open and accepting atmosphere at meetings isn't consistent throughout Sherwood.

One of the ways the club combats this is participation in the National Day of Silence. On April 27, participants take a vow of silence, which symbolically represents the silencing of LGBTQ+ students, to spread awareness about the bullying and harassment they face. The club also would like to participate in Principal Eric Minus' proposed "Unity Week."

Anybody can join the club, "as long as they're open minded and respectful," said Klimanov. Stand Proud meets every Tuesday in K279 at lunch.

Help Find Answers and Join Stand Up 2 Cancer!



Members of Stand Up 2 Cancer host a fundraiser in the media center. Courtesy of SUTC

Most people know about the various charity clubs that exist at Sherwood, or at least that they exist. You can probably name a few, but I don't think the general population really understands the difference between them.

"I think we stand apart from other clubs at Sherwood," said Club President Julianna Gross, "because everyone in our club is committed to it for their own special reason. It's a great group of really caring people!"

Gross, a senior, started the club as a sophomore in February of 2017 after her father passed away from cancer. "I really wanted to find a way to help contribute to finding the end of cancer," she recalled.

Since then, Stand Up 2 Cancer, a part of the national fundraising and cancer research organization by the same name, has raised over \$3,000.

That's not all they've done though; in addition to raising money for research, the club has

helped out locally at MedStar Montgomery Hospital. Over the holidays, the club delivered holiday cards and candy to patients in the hospital's infusion center. Through their contact with the hospital, they have also done yard work for patients. In addition, members of the club volunteered at the Olney Theater in October, acting as facilitators and ushers for a panel discussion on breast cancer hosted by MedStar Montgomery's Women's Board.

"We've loved helping with people in our community," said Gross. "It's been such a fulfilling part of what started as a fundraising-only club."

If you're interested in joining the club, text @shssu2c to the number 81010 to join the club's Remind group. You'll receive meeting alerts, and can join simply by attending a meeting. Currently, the club meets every other Monday in J271. Gross said that the club hopes to participate in a walk for cancer come spring, so join soon!

Not Just Barbecues! Join The Cornhole Club Now!

If you're here, you're probably wondering what Cornhole Club is. You may, before you can even begin to wonder what a club for it might look like, be confused about what Cornhole itself is. If you're not, what are you doing here? Cause that's what this article is about.

Cornhole (one word, not two), is according to Merriam-Webster, "a lawn game in which players toss beanbags toward a slanted platform with the aim of passing the beanbag through a hole in the center of the platform." Cornhole Club, run by seniors Benny Rubin and Chris Ryan, hosts games of Cornhole, weather permitting,

every Friday at lunch on the tennis courts.

There's more to Cornhole than that though, and there's much more to the club. It's a good way to get outside and moving and the nature of the game (typically played in teams of two) fosters friendship through competition. "Things get absolutely hectic often. People get very into their matches," said Rubin. "I've had my blowups every now and again."

Though they can only fit in about four games during each meeting, the team has a whopping 100 members. Throughout the year, the club hosts "Corna-

ments" with 32 teams of two. So that's 64 people per Cornament, "with many being replaced over each Cornament," according to Rubin.

If you have an interest in competing in a Cornament for a shot at a masterfully crafted handmade trophy, the honor of winning, and the undying respect from Rubin, which he claims "is the real prize," their March Madness tournament is coming up next month. To join the tournament, just contact Rubin or Ryan with you and your partner's name. And if you're interested in joining the club, it's as simple as showing up.

Feeling Adventurous? Join Adventure Club!

As I was looking over the list of clubs to write this article on, one that really stuck out to me was the Adventure Club. "What is Adventure Club?" you might be thinking.

According to their mission statement, the Adventure Club's purpose is to "Bring people together to share our love for trying new things in the outdoors and having fun."

They organize and go on various outdoor trips, such as hikes and visits to local recreational areas. Just a few weeks ago, they went on a hike at Lake Needwood, as well as Brookside Gardens. On January 26, they are going snow tubing at the Whitetail Resort in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

"Adventure means doing something fun you wouldn't do on an everyday basis. [It] can be anything you make it, something fun with friends" said officer, junior Ally Newby. "We try to go on adventures once a month, usually on Saturdays."

Currently the club has about



Courtesy of Emily Sianksy '22

Ally Newby '20 (right) and Tori Newby '22 (left) at Lake Needwood.

25 members. They meet twice a month at lunch on Thursdays in room E263. If you are interested in joining, you can swing by

a meeting at lunch on the first Thursday of the month, or join their Remind group by texting @shsadv2018 to 81010.

January 18, 2019

Chamber Choir Prepares for Upcoming International Tour

by Anika Mittu '19

This April, Sherwood's Chamber Choir will spend a week performing in the European cities of Prague, Ceske Budejovice, and Vienna despite the MCPS policy that international trips scheduled during instructional periods will not be school-sponsored.

As a result, students will no longer receive excused absences and teachers must take personal leave rather than professional leave. The enforcement of this policy led to the recent cancellation of the annual French Exchange and left many singers in the choir wondering whether their trip would face the same fate.

"It was a little disappointing because I had been looking forward to it for a long time," said senior Jordan Bobo, referencing the once-serious potential for the trip to be canceled. Choir members had anticipated the trip since talks of the Eastern European adventure had begun in the 2016-2017 school year.

However, soon after the MCPS decision, singers heard the relieving news that their trip would proceed as planned under the condition that their travels would not be school-sponsored. Despite the trip being technically unrelated to school, choir director Michael Maddox still expects students to follow all Sherwood behavior policies during the trip. Students are asked to behave like

they would in their classrooms as they explore towns scattered with Baroque castles, visit Beethoven's final resting place and, most importantly, sing in venues such as Prague's Holy Savior Church.

The group's repertoire covers a range of music, including anything from African freedom songs, classic English madrigals, and songs written entirely in Italian or Latin. With a group size of just around 50 singers, the choir has the capability to fill a large arena with the sounds of international music. "I'm looking forward to hearing what we sound like in a big space," said senior Claire Moran, referencing the churches and theaters that the choir will have the opportunity to use for performances.

Others, including Maddox, added that upcoming trip will allow students to truly view another culture while also performing and representing Sherwood in a foreign atmosphere. "The most exciting thing about the trip is the cultural experience of getting to explore foreign cities, taste new foods, and perform our music for enthusiastic European audiences," said Maddox. "The trip is also a memorable bonding experience for everyone traveling together."

In the months leading up to April, the choir will continue to polish and learn new music, preparing to represent Sherwood in front of a new audience.

by Julia Robins '20

The Functional Life Skills Program (FLS), part of Special Education, is where students work to earn a certificate of completion of high school. A few years ago the program received a grant to start a school-based business through Montgomery County's Department of Transition to help students gain vocational skills to utilize after they graduate.

In addition to their coffee business, the program now makes and sells greeting cards with beautiful embroiderments and designs. They produce birthday, graduation, retirement, best wishes, holidays, thank you, and congratulations cards. They also take special orders in bulk quantities. Carla Kaufman, one of their teachers, uses the money they earn for community-based instruction and field trips, allowing the special education students learn outside of the classroom.

"I am very proud of the students who put these cards together," said Kaufman. "From my perspective, I find it very exciting when I uncover a hidden talent that a student may have. I found that one student with autism has an amazing ability to look at a picture or object and quickly draw it freehand. It takes a little extra effort on the part of the teachers, but in the long run it is worth it."

They make the cards themselves during 3rd, 4th, and 6th periods. Making them is a very hands-on task, and they can pro-



Kelly Seganish '19

A student in the FLS program makes greeting cards during 3rd period.

duce about 10 cards a day. After looking online for card ideas, the teachers create templates and patterns for students to follow. They also use rubber stamps and vibrant color in the designs. The students learn vocational skills like counting money, tracking sales, and depositing money into the business office's account. They even learn to operate equipment, like a Cricut Die Cutting Machine that cuts out intricate designs. The students fold the cards and round the corners, as well. They also develop communication skills when they sell the cards.

The cards are also displayed in the faculty lounges for all the

teachers, and they are also sold at the Institution Boutique in Olney. They are currently in the process of working on marketing to the general public. While it is not currently marketed out to the students, anyone can go to Mrs. Kaufman's room in D221 and purchase a card for 1 dollar.

FLS students earn a certificate for completing high school. These students learn vital skills that they can use after their completion of high school. The skills acquired through making these cards will largely help them later in life when they have a job and are earning a living for themselves.

Let's Talk Awhile: Spanish Teachers Tackle Fluency

by Sabina Jafri '20

After MCPS declared that students couldn't be graded on verbal performance in language classes, Spanish teachers at Sherwood sought new ways to incorporate verbal practice. Deemed "too subjective," the old practice of scoring students on pronunciation and oral participation was cut from classrooms in 2013, leaving them virtually silent.

The current curriculum is designed to garner linguistic proficiency and an amount of cultural awareness. Sherwood's teachers design various creative activities to combat the deficit. "Students' biggest hindrance in terms of achieving fluency is that they are afraid to speak," said Spanish teacher Michele Bloom, who is injecting the verbal component back into her lessons by calling on every student to give answers aloud during class. "Plus," she added enthusiastically, "we have started an activity called 'Charlemos un Rato' to get students speaking more."

'Charlemos un Rato,' which directly translates to 'Let's Talk a While,' is an activity that other Sherwood language teachers use as well. It's done every Friday in Spanish 4 classes, where students have multiple conversations with their classmates.

Some students have waited a long time for such an activity to be introduced. "We Spanish enthusiasts wished we had opportunities to converse in a supportive environment, such as intercambios, oral activities, and foreign exchange programs," said a Spanish 4 student who asked to remain anonymous.

However, teachers note that one weekly activity is not likely to improve students' fluency significantly. "Proficiency in a language that is not spoken in the home is very hard to achieve and takes motivation, dedication and exposure from, to and for the learner," explained Spanish teacher Moira Kenyon. Limited by 45-minute class periods, it is difficult for high schoolers to develop passion for a language.

Spanish teachers at Sherwood are doing their best to fulfill what MCPS, despite its grading restrictions, deems a necessary facet of language classes: to prepare students to be linguistically and culturally competent in languages other than English.

Como estudiantes, es nuestro trabajo honrar esta meta. In other words, language courses should teach students how, when and why to say what to whom. It is the responsibility of those dedicated, genuine, ready-minded students to honor this goal.

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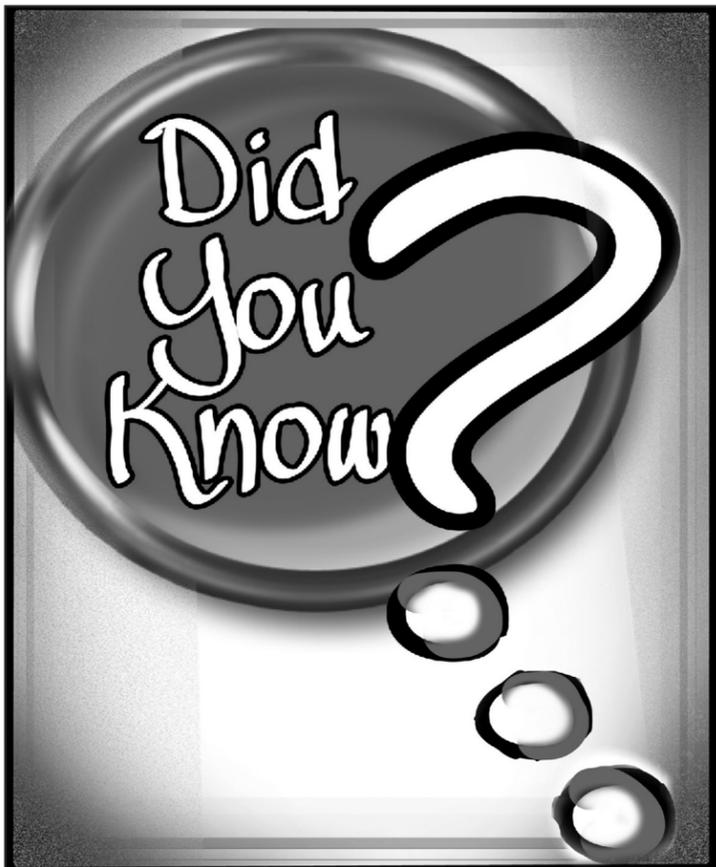
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January 18, 2019



Senior Graduates Early in an Effort To Embark on a Mission Trip Overseas

by Zach Weisenthal '19

While the typical high school senior looks forward to spending their second semester of their senior year tapping the breaks and relaxing, Emma Bartoo has not slowed down. Bartoo will be graduating this month to travel to Guatemala, where she will spend the entirety of the semester and beyond volunteering in a girls' orphanage.

Bartoo has traveled to Guatemala twice before with Camp Sonshine International and fell in love with the country and the work she completed. Bartoo spent her time volunteering at the Prince of Peace Home for Girls, working with both girls and boys with varying levels of English to make them feel safe and loved.

"Our goal was to love on the girls in the home because they weren't used to love like you and me," explained Bartoo. We wanted to share the story of Jesus Christ and tell them they always have someone, and that there is a plan for their lives even when they think there's no hope. It wasn't about building a well or painting a church. Many of the girls have been sexually or physically assaulted. One girl was dropped off [at the home] the night before her 11th birthday."

Bartoo's religion and beliefs inspired her to go abroad on her first mission trip. As stated in Matthews 28:19-20, Bartoo believes that it is her responsibility to share the wisdom of Jesus Christ with those around the world.

Being granted permission to graduate early is not a common occurrence at Sherwood. Luckily for Bartoo, she completed all of her required courses besides her fourth English credit prior to



Courtesy of Emma Bartoo

Emma Bartoo (right), at the Prince of Peace Home for Girls in Guatemala.

beginning her senior year. To satisfy her last requirement, Bartoo has been taking a second English class online, while also finding time to complete her college applications, school electives, and maintain a social life. Bartoo also holds a part-time job at Olney's Club Pilates studio to save money for her trip.

"My Spanish skills have definitely come in handy when overseas," said Bartoo. She studied through Spanish 5 and is continuing to learn independently. To keep her skills strong, Bartoo

keeps a daily journal in Spanish.

Due to her father's work in philanthropy, Bartoo has lived in Florida, Ohio, Missouri, and Maryland, exposing her to many cultures and walks of life. She attributes her interest in different cultures and love of people to her constant moving throughout her childhood.

"So much of what I want to do in my life is international travels and learning about new cultures. Olney cannot offer me anything that I have not already been exposed to," said Bartoo.

How to Make Yourself Happier

by Katherine Spurduto '19

With daily headlines about natural disasters, wars and violence, and political discord and dysfunction, a reminder of the idea of pure "happiness" is one repeatedly forgotten in today's day and age.

Although we can't alter our DNA, we can train ourselves to be happier. According to *HappifyDaily*, one's happiness is a combination of how satisfied one is with their life, and how good one feels on a day to day basis. Happiness is viewed a skill in the world of science; something you have to learn, master, and practice.

Research has found that 40 percent of our happiness is a result of our thoughts, actions and behaviors. Ten percent is influenced by our circumstances. The other 50 percent is determined by biology. The question is, how does one alter the controllable 50 percent to become happier?

Being happy doesn't mean feeling "fine" all the time, having money, or achieving one main goal in life, and it doesn't mean refusing to face the negative stuff happening in the world. Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley define happiness as having satisfaction and meaning in one's life, the natural inclination to feel positive emotions, being resilient when negative emotions emerge, and obtaining a sense of purpose.

Psychology Today states that labeling someone as a "happy person" is misleading in that no one is immune to negative emotions. However, those who tend to be happier experience more positive than negative emotions.

Each person has a genetic set point for happiness, just like weight, but reports from *HappifyDaily* claim that stating every person can control 40 percent of their happiness is an oversimplification; however, people can control the way they spend their time and the thoughts they allow to linger can really impact mood and long-term happiness.

Happier people tend to have better immunity, live longer, produce less stress hormones, eat healthy, exercise regularly, and heal faster after injuries. Research published in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine* found people who have more positive emotions are less likely to develop the common cold.

According to the *Huffington Post*, giving back is one of the fastest ways to achieve happiness, whether that is donating to charity, volunteering at a local shelter, or giving time at a soup kitchen over the holidays. Referenced in an article from "Bustle" about the science behind happiness, a study out of the British Medical Journal proved that we can feel happy just by being around other people who are happy, hence happiness is contagious.

There are immediate things that can increase one's happiness. Researchers at the University of Florida found that a flower's smell can boost one's positive emotions. A study published in the *Journal of Positive Psychology* showed that listening to upbeat music will induce positive emotions. Having deep conversations boosts one's mood, according to studies conducted at the University of Arizona. It is reported that by nurturing new relationships, having new experiences, helping others, and having gratitude are ways to increase one's happiness in the long run. But the main key to happiness is feeling connected to a deeper purpose or mission in life. Many have found meaning in their lives through obtaining a job that they are passionate about, spirituality/religion, pursuing goals that align with their core values, and by raising children.

Scientists warn about three main killers of happiness: comparing oneself to others, lacking a close friendship, and holding onto resentments. In order to feel happy, it is important to eat healthy, cultivate friendships with happy people, nourish a passion, have gratitude, give back, and stop and smell the roses.

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Come in from the Cold, Comrade Santa

by Russell Irons '19

The joyous holiday season recently ended, and citizens, happy with their gifts, now have a false sense of security. Alas, all is not well. Santa Claus is an agent of the Kremlin and a threat to the American people. Every winter he wages a new Cold War and works to spread the evil of communism throughout the lands of freedom and democracy. The gin blossom from excessive amounts of vodka and merry demeanor hide Santa's true nature.

Santa Claus proudly sports the brilliant red of the communist party and dresses in heavy fur jackets to brave the harsh Russian winters. Santa's reindeer are also Russian nationals as they can be found in abundance in the taiga of Siberia. Santa even sports facial hair that would make the likes of Joseph Stalin and Karl Marx jealous.

Appearances aside, Santa's ideologies also fall in line with those of the communist party. No entrepreneurial capitalist would go around giving free gifts to people of every economic and social class. Much like Stalin's government took grain from farmers,

Santa demands cookies from every house he invades. Santa's toys don't grow on trees, he operates a gulag, or forced labor camp, and makes elves do his bidding.

He sees you when you're sleeping, he knows when you're awake. He knows if you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness sake. Are these words from George Orwell's “1984?” Good guess, but no. Much like Big Brother, Santa sees and hears all through surveillance, and keeps a list of those who conform as well as a list of dissidents. Those who conform are rewarded with gifts, while those who aren't subservient are punished with coal. From a young age, children are conditioned to be loyal to their supreme and all-knowing overlord, Santa.

“All year long, I have to keep on my toes,” said an anonymous 5 year old. “Any act of civil disobedience is met with harsh rhetoric and threats of a giftless Christmas. It's like Santa's peering over my shoulder, watching my every move.”

One might wonder how Santa delivers gifts everywhere without setting off house alarms or getting spotted. That level of training and prowess could only come from



Illustrated by Sarah Nove '20

The communist agent Santa Claus, sporting his soulless gaze and a sly grin, plots to spread communist ideas.

one source: the Federal Security Agency (FSA). The FSA (formerly the KGB) is the Russian security agency, unmatched in

its spying and espionage tactics. In return for such skills, Santa feeds them intel from his stealth flyovers of U.S. soil. He is no

mere Christmas tradition. Every year American sovereignty is infringed by the communists and their agent Santa Claus.

Single Students May Have A Reason To Live After All

by Drew Scott '20

After nearly three months of holidays, the time has come for that dead zone of the year when, quite frankly, life sucks. It seems to be a postpartum depression of sorts, as everyone is dealing with the severance of the symbolic umbilical cord of joy that is the holiday season. However, a recent social movement has begun to gain traction with the young Gen Z and Millennial crowd. It's called “Pre-Valentine's Day,” a holiday aimed exclusively at singles. It is set to occur January 20.

Some students at Sherwood are understandably skeptical. “Are you kidding me?” said freshman Ronnie James. “I've already fallen for one capitalist ploy, I'm sure as hell not falling for another one! Especially if it's got hearts all over it!”

However, some Sherwood singles were elated. “This is great,” said junior Diane Smith. “Now I can do absolutely nothing, just like on every other holiday!” While some will be doing nothing, others will be participating in the slew of new activities for the holiday. Some of these include candygrams, which students send to themselves; the Piner's Dance, where participants can complain about how single they are; and the Mirror Flirt-Off, where participants can woo their



Hallmark now sells Post-its for romantically disadvantaged customers.

own reflections for practice.

The movement was spearheaded by a group of singles online, who were not entirely satisfied with the already existing Singles Awareness Day. They have decided to make their own holiday, and the idea of a brand new holiday spread like wildfire. Not only are regular people excited for Singletime's Day, but marketers are absolutely drooling at the concept of a new way to generate business. Pepsi has begun releasing boxes with just one can or bottle inside. Burger King's chicken nuggets are following the same trend, with the boxes reading, “Treat Yourself.” The sale of

Smart Cars has skyrocketed due to the fact that only single people can drive them.

However, skepticism still abounds at Sherwood, especially from couples. “This is so stupid,” said junior Kat McDonald. “Aren't singles supposed to be like, sad?” Another student, sophomore Jake Parker, raised a question. “Wouldn't a holiday for exclusively single people work exactly like Valentine's Day, but with extra steps?” Many couples at Sherwood share the same argument, and the Debate Team will stage a debate about whether Pre-Valentine's Day is worth the trouble for Sherwood.

Student Plans To Put Off New Year's Resolution until 2020

by Noah Corman '19

As the clock struck midnight on December 31, junior Quentin Roberts vowed to bring an end to his procrastinating ways. Sadly, he never got around to it.

Roberts claimed his desire to reinvent himself started well before New Year's. As he routinely turned in hastily copied or incomplete assignments, he had a suspicion that there might be room for improvement. “It was pretty obvious my work habits were becoming problematic,” said Roberts. “It's like I have a sixth sense for avoiding responsibility.”

After his first quarter report card yielded a 2.57 GPA, he knew his parents would ground him if he did not pull himself together soon. “It's a good thing New Year's was right around the corner,” said John Roberts, Quentin's father. “Otherwise, who knows when he would've had another opportunity to change himself.”

Roberts was intent on forming study groups and going to the library for a more productive work environment. However, hours of homework-stalling meditation led him to believe that time is just a social construct, so deadlines are relative. His teachers did not buy it.

“Believe me, I've seen it all,” said Tim Hart, Roberts' Honors Geometry teacher. “Kids have lied about having three dentist appointments in a week, worn

homemade casts for months, and even faked blindness just to get out of doing work. But this could be a new low. Questioning the validity of time itself? Really?”

Then, Roberts resorted to more fraudulent efforts to finish his homework. He looked for answer keys on the Internet but did not feel up to checking past the first page of Google's results. Instead of reading his book for English class, he was going to use SparkNotes to catch up, but the summaries were too long.

One day, however, the stars aligned, and Roberts was able to sit down and complete his two assigned math problems. “It felt so weird to wake up in the morning with even just some of my homework finished,” said Roberts. “I felt so empowered, like I had transcended my mortal form and become one with the universe.”

Only a couple days later, however, Roberts relapsed. Despite what appears to be a failure, not all is lost. He asserts that this served as an excellent learning experience. Although he returned to regularly neglecting school work, he realized that self-improvement is overrated.

“It was like I stepped onto a different planet for a little while there, but it's good to be back where I belong,” said Roberts, pretending not to notice his backpack. “Besides, 2019 is already off to a bad start. 2020 will be my year for sure though.”

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Joshua Kinnetz Has Found The Source of Immortality

by Jonah Sachs '20

Some Sherwood students were stunned to find that one of their favorite social studies teachers, Joshua Kinnetz, was older than they had previously speculated. When Kinnetz offhandedly said his age in class, students almost immediately had their suspicions as to how he achieved his youthful looks. Some students, including myself and junior Lauren Loebach, interviewed Kinnetz in a later investigation on the subject. Kinnetz, hesitant at first, shed his own light on the matter, later revealing that he is, in fact, an immortal human being.

Kinnetz, supposedly born in 1979, initially claimed that he is 39 years old, yet it was later stated that he possesses the everlasting life that has been sought for centuries. Researchers far and wide have searched for the unknown secret of eternal life, including extensive prayer and dedication to Gods, bathing in a “fountain of youth,” doing good deeds throughout life to benefit others, or one of the many other means presented to the general public. Almost every main religion in the world has included some path to everlasting life -- through mind, body, or spirit -- yet only legends exist about the true means of gaining immortality. Until today.

Kinnetz claims his age is “not false. Born 1979, August 7,” yet, he’s so adamant about correcting the accusation of being younger than he claims to be that one can only wonder the truth. Eventually, Kinnetz cracked and revealed that he was immortal and possessed everlasting youth.



Kinnetz, chilling with his youthful posse, pretends to catch some waves.

Determined to find the source of his gift, Loebach and I confronted him with questions about the state of his family’s immortality, but this caused some hesitation in his responses. “Uhhhhh.... I... I don’t know. T-that’s a good question. But- uh- but I feel immortal.” Dodging the real questions to keep his family safe from the prying ears of various religious leaders and alchemists, Kinnetz may very well have discovered the secret centuries ago.

When asked what exactly the secret is, Kinnetz cryptically ad-

mitted, “[it is] because the great Mongol leader Genghis Khan is living through my blood. In my veins. Flowing, vibrant ... and all that.” A dubious statement, Kinnetz seems to want to keep his secret to himself, potentially for reasons other than safety. “The thing is that the older I get, the better looking I get. That’s the best part about it,” he said.

Dissatisfied with this vague explanation, students will continue to press towards the real answers. “I demand a polygraph,” said Loebach.

Local Parents’ Attempts To Seem Cool Only Brings Shame to Their Children

by Malec Fahmy '20

In recent years, parents have attempted to adopt new slang to become “hip” like their children. After a survey taken by *The Warrior* of 200 kids around the county, about 80 percent of them believe their parents have failed.

The new, widespread phrase “let’s get this bread” is the latest term added to the list of things parents say but shouldn’t. The term, in its purest form, means “let’s get this money,” or to achieve a desirable outcome. This phrase could even be used as an exclamation of excitement or victory. After winning a game of “NBA 2K19,” for instance, one might feel inclined to shout “let’s get this bread.”

“My dad and I sat down to watch the Redskins game and he turned to me and said ‘let’s get this bread,’” recounted senior

Trevor Lawrence. “I turned to him and asked him to never say that again.” The bread that Lawrence’s dad was referring to was the Redskins winning the game.

An eighth grader from Farquhar Middle School recalled that after a few days of yelling “let’s get this bread” to his friends while playing Fortnite, his mom came home the next day with enough loaves of bread to feed him for weeks.

The survey also reveals a severe lack of understanding between the two groups. Children believe that parents should stick to their 80’s slang like “fresh” and “radical.”

“I’m doing this for my son. I just want to be closer to him, so I figure if I talk like his squad then he’ll want to hang with me, you feel?” said one parent of a student at Quince Orchard. “I even planned a family vacation for

April 20 since kids love that day of the year for some reason.”

Acting younger typically repels children rather than having the desired effect of family bonding. Some children, however, love the fact that their parents are trying to adapt to the “culture.” According to them, they feel closer than ever to their parents, who are sacrificing their dignity to entertain their own children.

“Just last night, I asked my dad where mom was only for him to dab and respond ‘that way.’ I just about cried,” said Miles Baker. “I’m not sure I can ever respect him again, but anyone who would sacrifice their reputation for my joy is as good a dad as I could ask for.”

Thus far, parents’ efforts have not paid off, but this will likely not discourage them. It seems unavoidable that they will one day get this bread.

RIPPED

from the

Headlines

Scientists Conclude That Water Is Just Boneless Ice

Smart Fridges Can Now Lock To Stop Overeating

Snowmen Petition Their Representatives For Universal AC

Congress Passes Bill To Disenfranchise Vegans

Students Self-Immolate In Desperate Bid For Warmth

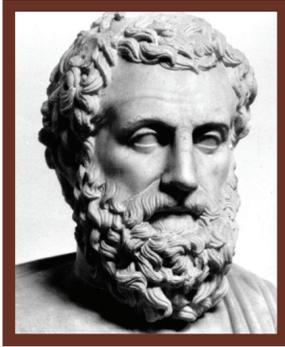
Your Dad And Bigfoot Have Never Been Seen In The Same Room

Trump Pardons Tekashi 6ix9ine And Bobby Shmurda

AirPod Ownership Directly Correlates to Genetic Superiority

philosophy.

NAME-DROPPING



ARISTOTLE
384-322 BCE

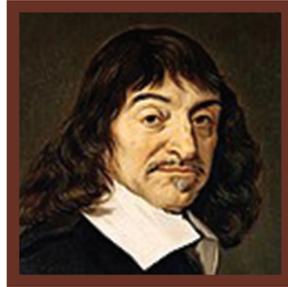
"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit."
Aristotle's scientific and philosophical contributions, such as the invention of formal logic (the field of using deductions and mathematics to solve a problem) eventually became the basis of Western Scholasticism, an ideology practiced in the Middle Ages in Europe that dealt with various religious morals and proving the existence of God. The field of virtue theory was another one of Aristotle's creations that emphasizes human well-being, self-reflection, and growth. After studying various species, he compiled his observations into *The History of Animals*, one of the first studies on biology and zoology that included microscopic details of anatomy. Aristotle was an ancient Greek philosopher who founded the Athenian school of research, Lyceum. Aristotle's influence on philosophies centuries later is only paralleled by his teacher, Plato, and Plato's mentor, Socrates.

by Vendela Krenkel '20

RENÉ DESCARTES
1596-1650

Cogito, ergo sum "I think; therefore I am."
Descartes was a famous French philosopher, scientist and mathematician. He is known for being the "father of modern philosophy" due to his abandonment of Aristotelianism and his creation of the first modern version of mind-body dualism which states that the mind and the body are each distinct. He argued that the inner-workings of the mind are completely different from those of the body indicating that it would be possible for one to exist without the accompaniment of other. Additionally, he encouraged the development of modern scientific inquiry and made noteworthy contributions to the field of mathematics.

by Adina Brenner '20



DAVID HUME
1711-1776

"A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence."
Hume was known for his many titles, some noteworthy ones being a Scottish Enlightenment philosopher, economist, historian and essayist. He is famous for creating an impactful new system of empiricism, skepticism, and naturalism. Hume explained that the only way for one to fully obtain knowledge of something is to physically experience it. Once we have experienced something, our mind is then able to create a relationship between the idea and experience of something. Hume became skeptical of religious practices and disagreed with the idea of organized religion, referring to it as a "superstition." He also concluded that there is truly no theory of reality in that there is no knowledge that can be obtained beyond experiences.

by Adina Brenner '20

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE
(1844-1900)

"To live is to suffer, to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering."
Nietzsche became associated with the term nihilism, which eventually came to characterize most of his philosophies. Despite this label, he had numerous ideas about life's meaning. People must shirk all preconceived notions about life and form their own opinions about what is and is not important. Accomplishing this would enable someone to achieve their most authentic form. Nietzsche called such a person an Übermensch, which is German for superhuman person. Nietzsche's health deteriorated due to a mental breakdown and stroke when he was in his 40s, but his legacy lives on through his works "Beyond Good and Evil" and "Thus Spoke Zarathustra," as well as his maxim "God is dead."

by Noah Corman '19



JEAN-PAUL SARTE
(1905-1980)

"Everything has been figured out, except how to live."
Sartre's existential views focus on the freedom of the individual. Morality is subjective, and humans must bear responsibility for their actions. Also, people must avoid surrendering to societal labels and make of themselves what they will. This idea, which Sartre calls "the other," recognizes this innate inclination of humans to overlook the complexities of "other" people in favor of more simplistic and often inaccurate judgments. He authored "Existentialism is a Humanism," wrote the play "No Exit," and won and declined a Nobel Prize in Literature. He further occupied himself with political activism in post-World War II Europe and is known for his decades-long relationship with philosopher and feminist Simone de Beauvoir.

by Noah Corman '19

The main branches of philosophy are:

METAPHYSICS: deals with the fundamental questions of reality.

EPISTEMOLOGY: deals with concepts of knowledge, the way we think and how we learn.

LOGIC: studies the rules of valid reasoning and argumentation.

ETHICS: concerned with human values and how individuals should act.

AESTHETICS: deals with the notion of beauty and the philosophy of art.

Which branch of philosophy would you choose to take as a semester-long course in college?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| METAPHYSICS | 21% |
| EPISTEMOLOGY | 12% |
| LOGIC | 20% |
| ETHICS | 29% |
| AESTHETICS | 18% |

WHY TAKE PHILOSOPHY?

"An adolescent is in transition from child to adult. He or she has spent their life being taught what to believe by parents, teachers, siblings, and friends. As they move into adulthood it is a time for them to start to figure out what they believe for themselves. Philosophy provides a vehicle and structure to examine the questions that all humans struggle with - Who am I? Why am I here? How do I find meaning in life? What is truth? What is justice? By reading the works of philosophers, examining their own beliefs, and discussing with peers, students begin to think critically about these questions and start to develop their own personal philosophy which (hopefully) will continue to evolve during their life."

- Ms. Games, Philosophy elective teacher

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS was created in the wake of the World Wars to set basic international rights to which all humans are entitled. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at their third session in Paris on December 10, 1948 after being drafted by 9 representative countries: Canada, United States, Lebanon, United Kingdom, China, Chile, Australia, Soviet Union, and France. The Universal Declaration was the first step in the process of creating an International Bill of Rights and has become a historical landmark document stating the fundamental rights and freedoms of all human beings. It has since contributed to many international human rights laws, and, although it is not legally binding, has become a part of customary international law.

The Universal Declaration opens with a preamble giving the historical and social reasons for creating the Declaration. The drafting committee observed the "disregard and contempt for human rights" that have "resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind." The preamble also highlights the "rebellion against tyranny and oppression;" during the period of the World Wars when people were seeking a protected rule of law for human rights.

MORALITY is defined here as code of conduct for acting rightly or wrongly.

Do you believe morality is...

| Subjective | Objective | Depends | Not Sure |
|------------|-----------|---------|----------|
| 50% | 24% | 22% | 4% |

Would you kill an innocent person against their will to save the lives of how many people?

| | | | | |
|-----|----|----|-----|-----------|
| 5 | 10 | 50 | 500 | Would not |
| 17% | 7% | 7% | 19% | 50% |

IS WATER WET?

students say...

| YES | NO | NOT SURE |
|-----|-----|----------|
| 42% | 47% | 11% |

A question so trivial puzzles great thinkers of our generation: is water wet? With over 911 million search results on Google, this question has created a schism between two sides of the internet: those who see water as wet, and those who do not.

Many scientists concur that water actually can be considered wet. Chemist Richard Saykally told *Nautilus* that the reason water is wet is, "strong tetrahedral hydrogen bonding." Furthermore, Jason A. Rush, a mathematics professor at Edinburgh University, believes, "the wetness of water is thought to be due to its high moisture content" (*The Guardian*).

The University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Science Line, a partnership between the National Science Foundation and the UCSB Materials Research Laboratory supports the opposing side of the argument, though still with a scientific approach. They hold the belief that through its properties of adhesion and cohesion, water has the ability to make other things wet, but in reality is not wet itself.

However, the UCSB Science Line does make a note that if the question is approached philosophically, one must define the word "wet." "If we define 'wet' as 'made of liquid or moisture', then water is definitely wet because it is made of liquid." (UCSB Science Line)

by Adam Levine '20

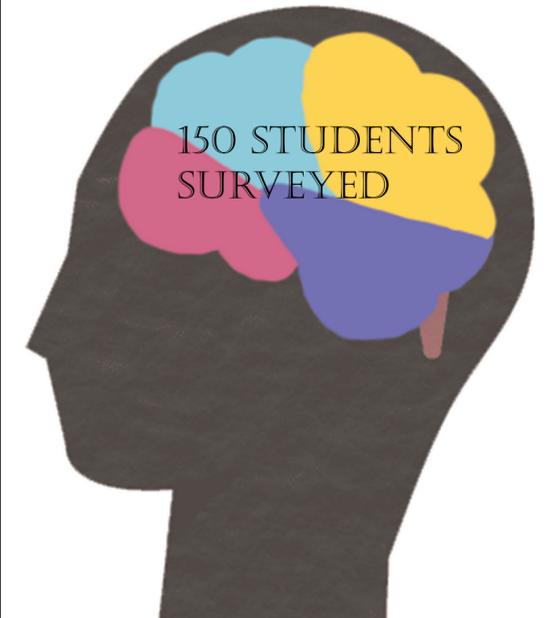
PHONES SMARTER THAN HUMANS

In the past three decades, the term "Singularity" has come to refer to the hypothetical event in which machines imbued with Artificial Intelligence (AI) gain knowledge at such a rate that they become more intelligent than humanity. The theory gained popularity after Vernor Vinge, well-known sci-fi author, mathematician, professor, and computer scientist, published an essay in 1993 describing a possible product of AI advancement, which he called "The Technological Singularity." Other experts, such as Raymond Kurzweil, have explained the theory in relation to Moore's law, which proposes that the number of transistors on a chip double every year, while the cost decreases by half. This exponential development of technology also can be applied to the development of AI—meaning that, someday, AI will surpass the speed at which humans learn, and will only accelerate from there. Since Vinge and Kurzweil's theories gained traction, various experts, including Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking, have expressed concern regarding the Singularity, and many members of the entertainment industry have explored the idea of a Singularity-related dystopia. However, critics of the theory claim that it is unfounded or only possible in the very distant future, amongst other arguments. The scientific community has yet to agree on the likelihood of the Singularity, but, as AI technology progresses, the idea has raised many questions concerning the ethics and consequences of machines with superhuman intelligence.

by Sarah Nove '20

If it becomes possible to reverse-engineer the human brain to create "thinking" Artificial Intelligence (AI), should that AI be considered a person with the same/similar rights as humans?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| YES, a person with rights | 22% |
| NO, a machine without rights | 54% |
| NOT SURE | 25% |



staff editorial

In Our Opinion...

Do you generally favor or oppose affirmative action programs for racial minorities?

Should an applicant's race be a factor of consideration for college admission?

Affirmative Action Still Necessary in Admissions

As is the case with many topics that include race and racial discrimination, the debate about affirmative action policies has been swamped by misleading and sometimes inaccurate claims. One of the most common misconceptions is that colleges and universities have racial quotas in which a certain percentage of each racial group must be admitted, when in fact, courts already have ruled that such quotas are illegal. The simple fact is that the admissions process is inherently subjective in which colleges consider factors in addition to a student's GPA and test scores.

And why shouldn't they? Students readily will say that they are more than their grades, and a person's race certainly is one aspect of who they are. Furthermore, there is indisputable statistical and anecdotal evidence that there is racial inequality and discrimination in the United States, and colleges can and should serve as institutions that strive for diversity and tolerance.

Most recently, the debate over affirmative action has concerned Harvard University, as there is a lawsuit against the Ivy League school brought by a group of Asian-American students who argue that Harvard restricts the number of Asian-American students it accepts. Harvard has responded that its admissions procedures are based on a variety of factors and that the plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate that even one Asian-American student "had been rejected on the basis of his

or her race or ethnicity."

Unsurprisingly, this high-profile case has reignited a flurry of discussion over affirmative action. Despite the fact that polls from within the past decade have determined that affirmative action is not generally favored among American citizens, the practice still has a place in today's college admissions process. Among the benefits are increased diversity, a more equal playing field, and the fact that affirmative action policies help minorities that tend to be more economically disadvantaged. Until racism in our society is eradicated or significantly less prevalent, affirmative action is necessary so that historically excluded groups are not deprived of equal opportunities.

Opponents of affirmative action policies argue that college admissions should be based solely on merit. Admissions representatives should take into consideration a student's grades, scores, extracurricular activities and leadership roles, and writing supplements. Acceptance to a college or university should be about what the student has accomplished in school.

But why do opponents of affirmative action fixate on race as a consideration and do not show the same passion for other non-academic considerations? Take so-called "legacy" admissions, for example. Whether or not a student has "legacy" at a particular college or university depends on if they had a parent or grandparent attend said school. In

terms of admissions, Harvard and other elite institutions proclaim that they utilize this information in the same way they consider race or other characteristics a student possesses: to facilitate a diverse campus and alumni community. As of November 2018, legacy students make up about 14 percent of the student population at Harvard. An analysis completed by the organization suing Harvard found that legacy applicants, between the years of 2009 and 2015, were accepted at a rate of almost 34 percent. According to the report, that number is more than five times higher than the rate of acceptance for non-legacy students, which was just 5.9 percent.

Like any programs, ones of affirmative action must be done smartly and with care. Some approaches that deserves praise include those in Texas in which the top 10-percent of the graduating senior class are automatically admitted to state institutions. Such a policy encourages racial, socio-economical, and geographical diversity without even necessarily knowing the race of the applicants.

Affirmative action policies have been debated since their origin over 50 years ago. Though there are some concerns about the practice, it continues to be necessary for today's college admissions process. With affirmative action policies in place, college campuses continue to become more diverse and enriching for all students attending.

The Warrior

Published four 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 44 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.

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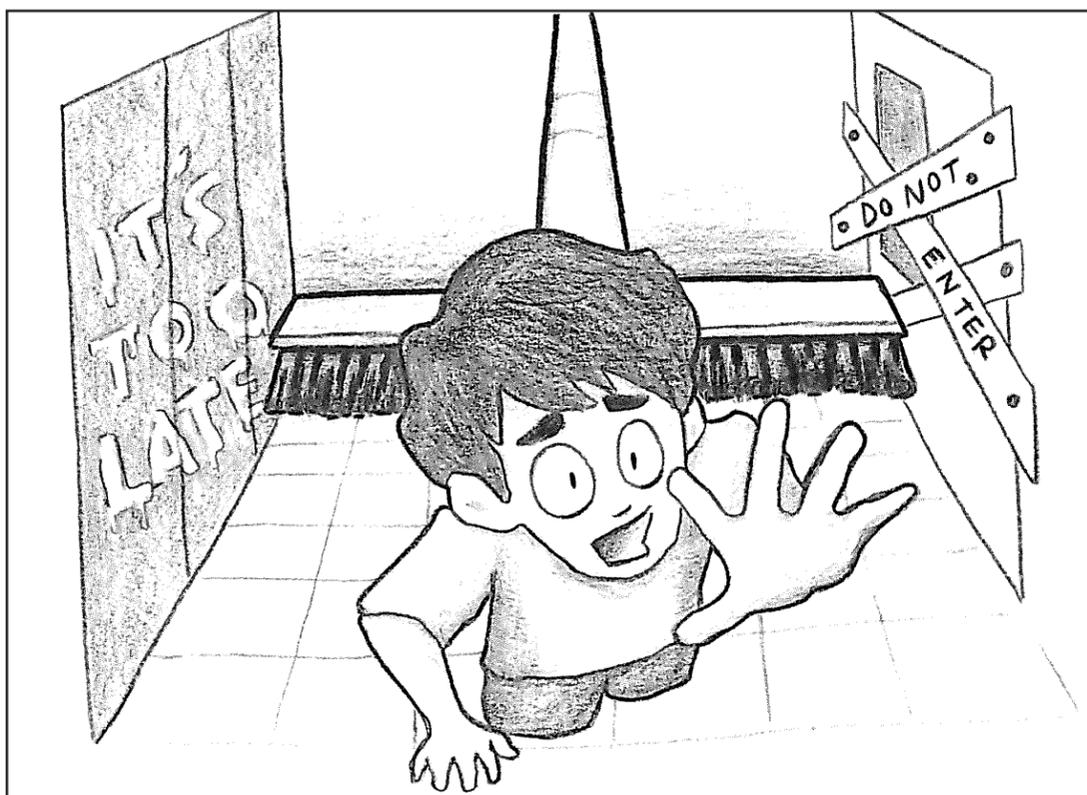
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by Dinah Aguilar '19

This past fall, Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's publicly released changes to Title IX and Obama-era policies pertaining to sexual misconduct on publicly funded campuses. The changes included limiting the scope of colleges' responsibility and requiring cross-examination of those involved. Two Warrior writers argue the merits of each side.

Pro: DeVos Safeguards Rights of the Accused

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos's changes to Obama-era policies are a step in the right direction for better ensuring that a more fair investigation goes into cases relating to sexual misconduct on college campuses. Survivors of sexual assault must be taken seriously, but the principle that one's innocent until proven guilty must be maintained.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 eliminates discrimination by sex in education, but was first created to cover sports. Title IX now encompasses much more, including sexual harassment. Under Obama, Title IX's term for what constituted as sexual harassment was extremely broad; any unwelcome conduct of sexual nature was classed as sexual harassment.

The new guidelines define sexual harassment as any unwelcome sexual conduct; or unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity. While the word 'objectively' is always difficult to define, the new standard is more specific and tougher to misapply.

Under Obama-era policies, one of the major flaws was that a case could be investigated and deliberated upon with little concrete evidence. There had to be preponderance of evidence in order for the case to proceed. Preponderance of evidence is a low standard based on probable accuracy or truth to information. This low bar was easily surmountable. DeVos's new policy still offers the option of preponderance of evidence in addition to higher standards for use in investigating. Another new provision is that colleges can only investigate what happens on school grounds, so any students who are assaulted or harassed in

places like off-campus housing and bars would not fall under their school's jurisdiction and would instead have to go to the police. Fraternities and sororities are classed as school groups and are considered on school grounds. The new policy sets a clearer standard of what locations fall under a school's jurisdiction.

Title IX cases are handled by Title IX investigators at the college, and not the police. Under the Obama-era policies, colleges use a single adjudicator model when investigating cases of sexual misconduct. The single adjudicator model is one of three investigation models outlined in Title IX. Requirements by the Office of Civil Rights to conduct a "timely investigation" and the amount of staff required to hold a panel necessary for the other methods make it easier to go with the single investigator model. With the threat of losing federal funding dangled over them if they did not deliberate quickly, colleges took the easiest and most expedient way to handle cases. The new guidelines establish due process, and the cross-examination of both the accuser and the accused. A good deal of the contention around the new policies stems from the accuser having to see or even talk to their accused, since there is no denying it is traumatic for the accuser. However, the option is open to substitute for attorneys or other representatives.

Allegations can cause the expulsion or suspension of students. DeVos's new policies reflect a desire to both take these allegations seriously and to investigate as fully as possible to help limit miscarriages of justice. While the new policies are not perfect, they are a step in the right direction towards a more just system.

by Russell Irons '19

Con: New Policies Send the Wrong Message

Sexual misconduct can't be defined as one specific act. The intention of the Obama administration's changes to Title IX policies was to not rigidly define sexual harassment or assault for the victim, because it would be presumptuous to talk about something one has not personally experienced. Instead, the Obama administration gave a general statement of harassment as "unwelcome conduct of sexual nature."

The proposal by current Education Secretary Betsy DeVos to change that definition to "unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it denies a person access to the school's education program or activity" is absurd because how is a victim or the college supposed to determine what rises to the level of "severe" or "pervasive?"

If a student on more than one occasion says sexual comments to another student in class, will that student be held accountable for harassment? Possibly not, if the school conveniently finds that the harassment does not deny access for the victim.

Schools should be encouraging students to come forward when they are sexually harassed and assaulted. However, the new policies by DeVos would make colleges less responsible for addressing instances of sexual assault that occur off-campus.

In addition, the new policy requires student victims to complete and sign a formal document before the school will even begin an investigation. This new change would possibly cause young women to feel that they can not come forward with their issues.

Not only is this dangerous for victims, but the policy also could give these

perpetrators the idea that "As long as we don't rape them, we won't get prosecuted." Do we really want students to feel like as though they cannot confide to their school when they feel unsafe?

Furthermore, the new policies seem more concerned about the rights of the accused. When new Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh faced multiple accusations of sexual assault during the time he attended high school and college, President Trump said that it's "a very scary time for young men in America." Responding to Trump's misplaced concerns, the organization NARAL Pro-Choice America tweeted: "It's a very scary time for young women in America, you know, because 1 in 6 of us have been the victim of rape or attempted rape." And yet the DeVos policies seem designed to worry about and protect the accused perpetrator of sexual assault. The accused should not be guaranteed the right to cross-examine the individual that bravely came forward as a victim of sexual misconduct. Their experience alone was traumatizing; victims don't need to be challenged by the very person that traumatized them.

Think about it. Think about how difficult it is for a victim of sexual assault to come forward and report what has happened. The new policies send the wrong message that maybe victims should keep things to themselves.

Coming forward is very unappealing and insulting to victims when they suspect that their colleges do not want to act on their behalf. Most victims fear the possible consequences they may face. Every victim of sexual harassment or assault on college campuses should be heard, not silenced.

by Sophia Wooden '20



Students Should Grade Teachers

by Jimmy Yates '21

Throughout the school year, many students pour their hearts and souls into earning grades acceptable for their parents and colleges. To add to the obstacles outside of school, students have to do their absolute best with the teacher they are given. Regarding the teaching style and the relationships with students, teachers are instrumental in affecting students' education and future success. Oftentimes, students keep their opinions about their teachers to themselves, causing future classes to undergo the same learning struggles as the previous students.

To ensure that students are able to receive the best available public education, students should be able to evaluate their teachers' performance through a survey of sorts, with the results made available to the teacher and administrators. This would help teachers reflect on if they presented an effective style of teaching, based on how their students feel about their instruction. Not only would it help teachers improve their teaching methods for future classes, but student surveys on teachers would also help administrators decide if certain teachers are successfully connecting with students, if they need to be consulted about their methods, or if they need to be removed from their position.

Biden Is the Best Bet for 2020

by Thomas Johnson '19

With the start of the new year and the government shutdown, many have begun to turn their attention to the 2020 presidential election. Currently, the most popular Democratic candidate for the 2020 presidential election is former vice president and senator Joe Biden. He has not made an official statement as to whether or not he will run in the 2020 election; however, his allies tell reporters "he is skeptical the other Democrats eyeing the White House can defeat President Trump."

Some believe that Biden, being a moderate Democrat, will be unable to inspire voters turnout when compared to a more progressive candidate like Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. However, Biden's moderate political leanings are actually likely to assist him in surpassing Trump, should he win the Democratic nomination. A recent poll from MSNBC found that approximately 51 percent of Americans identify as moderates, meaning that the current political climate favors politicians without radical viewpoints. President Trump's reputation for radical stances on immigration and outlandish comments are likely to steer these moderate voters away to different candidates. For these reasons, Joe Biden is the best Democratic candidate.

AP History, It's Time to Step Up

by Adam Levine '20

For all the AP level history courses offered at Sherwood, the writing portion takes up 60 percent of the exam. While these writing sections do allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of that respective section of history, a lot of preparation for this exam takes form in learning how to write each type of prompt, taking focus away from the content of the course. The writing sections include the Short Answer Question, Long Essay Question, and the Document Based Question.

To demonstrate a knowledge of history and also one's historical analysis abilities, one solution could be to increase the length of the multiple choice section, which tests students in their knowledge of world history and their ability to understand a document or visual. But I believe a better solution would be to offer a revised writing section with a larger focus on source analysis. While the Document Based Question does offer this in some form, it is not to the extent that this revised section could reach. This, paired with the current or a slightly larger multiple choice section, could make for a new AP history curriculum that forces students to learn how to be a good historian as well as being a good writer.

Snapchat Filters Trigger New Mental Disorder

by Brynn Smith '19

For as long as people have had the tools, they have had the desire to change the way they look. It began with procedures like piercings, scarification, and tattooing and has evolved into the multi-billion dollar cosmetic surgery industry many people know today. Since the early 19th century, augmentation procedures have been used to enhance or correct physical appearances. With the explosion of editing apps and filters, another branch of cosmetic surgery has erupted.

According to researchers from Boston University's School of Medicine, no longer do people bring pictures of celebrities to a plastic surgeon. Instead doctors have seen an increase in patients bringing in heavily edited photos of themselves. Deemed "Snapchat dysmorphia" by experts, this offshoot of body dysmorphic disorder (BDD) is cause for concern. BDD, a psychological disorder in which a person becomes obsessed with imaginary defects in their appearance, is potentially triggered by "Snapchat dysmorphia".

This particular version of dysmorphic disorder is only going to get worse. With the increase in popularity of apps like Snapchat and Facetune, people can now edit out their flaws, whiten their teeth, clear up their skin, or even make their nose smaller. When people have the ability to enhance their features in the palm of their hand, they desire to do it in real life, as well. Hence the trend of patients coming in with photoshopped pictures of themselves. These apps not only give



Snapchat filters have begun to inspire a new ideal definition of beauty.

their users a false sense of faith in the abilities of plastic surgeons, but they change the overall standard for beauty worldwide.

The people who are most impacted by this new disorder are those who use the apps the most often. Teenagers who grow up with this impactful technology, who use it everyday to achieve "physical perfection," are the ones seeking out the procedures that give the appearance of contoured cheekbones or bigger lips. Instead of going under the knife to resolve what is seen as physical imperfections, which can actually worsen underlying BDD, people need to seek out psychological help.

"Filtered selfies can make people lose touch with reality, creating the expectation we

are supposed to look perfectly primped all the time," said Dr Neelam Vashim, director of the Boston University Cosmetic and Laser Centre, in an interview with the Washington Post. "This can be especially harmful for teens and those with BDD, and it is important for providers to understand the implications of social media on body image to better treat and counsel our patients."

Plastic surgery, whether it is based off of a picture of a specific model or a heavily edited selfie, is not the way to cope with severe mental disorders or the self-esteem issues that can come with them. Apps similar to Snapchat just worsen the already overwhelming issues today's teenagers and adolescents come to experience on a daily basis.

Catholic Abuse Scandals Are a Worrying Sight

by Liam Kennedy '19

Time after time it seems that the Catholic Church cannot get it together. The Church in the United States has been hit with seemingly revelation after revelation of more priests accused of sexual abuse that were attached to some sort of cover-up or incorrect handling of the situation. Prominent Church officials, two of which led the Archdiocese of Washington, Cardinal Donald Wuerl and Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, resigned their positions as a result of these revelations. The proximity of these officials to home is quite unsettling.

First, McCarrick was removed from duty following an accusation of recurring sexual abuse of a teenager 47 years ago when McCarrick was a priest in New York. Then, it was revealed that McCarrick preyed on seminary students in the Archdiocese of Newark in the 80s. He was stripped of his title as cardinal, and essentially went into exile, now living in a Kansas friary. It has been reported that Pope Francis knew about McCarrick's abuse five years ago when he became pope. Five years of no punishment. Five years of cover-up by the man in the highest position in the Church.

Next it was Pennsylvania, where a grand jury report revealed widespread sexual abuse that was covered up in six out of eight of the state's dioceses. There was over 300 priests listed on the report with over 1,000 victims listed as well. Wuerl then resigned, taking responsibility for his involvement in the cover up when he was the Archbishop of Pittsburgh from 1988 to 2006.

Bishops all across the United States gathered in Baltimore in November to try and initiate reform, like a third-party reporting system, conduct standards, and protocols for removing bishops from office because of abuse, but the Vatican intervened and prevented them from voting, limiting them to only debating the topic. Bishops were asked to wait until a Vatican winter synod on the topic.

As a young Catholic myself, I believe there needs to be some major, church wide changes in how the Church handles sexual abuse cases. The American bishops finally were trying to do the right thing, something that they should have addressed years ago. The Vatican is hoping for a more global approach to a solution for clerical abuse, but that should not stop American bishops from enacting reform in the United States. Their efforts could have provided

a template for an international response to an increasingly worsening situation. McCarrick should have been stripped of his title and punished five years ago, not when the public learned of it five months ago. Cases in Pennsylvania should not have been hidden for 70 years without resolution. I have to question whether the officials of these dioceses truly are living the pious lives they are supposed to be.

A standard must be set on how to deal with sexual abuse because it is obvious that some Church officials have no idea how to handle the problem. The parishioners of each diocese deserve to know when a priest or bishop is legitimately accused of sexual abuse. That validity must be investigated by a third party, a separate body dedicated to investigation within the Church with no affiliation to any diocese, and if the case warrants it, it should be handed to the police for a criminal investigation. If the accuser has grounds to their claim, that clergyman should be removed from their positions. A zero-tolerance policy must be put in place for the bishops who cover up the actions of fellow clergymen. Those who commit such heinous and sinful acts like these do not deserve to be a leader in the Church.

The Pulse

This past fall, Department of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos made changes to Obama-era Title IX policies pertaining to sexual misconduct on publicly funded college campuses. The changes included limiting the scope of colleges' responsibility and permitting the cross-examination of parties involved.

Do you believe that sexual misconduct is a problem on college campuses?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 80% |
| No | 3% |
| Not Sure | 17% |

Do you believe that college students are falsely or unfairly accused of sexual misconduct?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Frequently | 6% |
| Sometimes | 60% |
| Rarely | 27% |
| Almost Never | 7% |

Should schools be held responsible for conducting investigations regarding off-campus sexual misconduct involving college students?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 27% |
| No | 21% |
| Depends | 43% |
| Not Sure | 9% |

Affirmative action policies are those which improve opportunities for historically excluded groups in American society. In higher level education, affirmative action refers to admissions policies regarding women and minorities. The constitutionality of affirmative action has been a topic of debate lately due to a current lawsuit where Asian-American students claim that Harvard University placed restrictive quotas for undergraduate admissions.

Do you generally favor or oppose affirmative action programs for racial minorities?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Favor | 38% |
| Oppose | 16% |
| Depends | 32% |
| Not Sure | 14% |

Do you think that affirmative action in which race is one of many factors of consideration is necessary in today's college admissions process?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 36% |
| No | 32% |
| Depends | 21% |
| Not Sure | 11% |

THE WARRIOR WONDERS...

What is your "dream job" and why?

"Playing at a piano bar on the water in New York or California" -J.P. Yore '19

"To be a biomedical engineer so I can design medical technology to better the lives of those around me" -Rachel Shaw '19

"Becoming a marine biologist exploring the world and seeing what very few people can see" -Josh Bloomberg '19

| | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|---|-----------------|
| Do you think high school prepares you for college? | | | Would you rather have a job you hate that pays well OR a job that makes you happy but doesn't pay well? | |
| Yes | No | Not sure | Pays a lot | Makes you happy |
| 31% | 39% | 30% | 22% | 78% |

Do you feel like your parents put too much pressure on you about going to what they consider a good college?

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Yes | No | Sometimes | Not sure |
| 18% | 49% | 31% | 2% |

What career field interests you?

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Engineering/Technology | Government/Politics/Policy | Education |
| 22% | 10% | 10% |
| Medical | Business/Finance/Accounting | Other |
| 15% | 10% | 13% |
| Communications | Arts | Not sure |
| 6% | 12% | 2% |

Do you have any interest pursuing in either of your parent's careers?

| | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|
| Yes | No | Not sure |
| 27% | 66% | 7% |

What kind of degree do you plan on getting?

| | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Bachelors | Masters | Doctorate | None | Not sure |
| 21% | 42% | 16% | 12% | 9% |

Do you have any interest in attending a private college?

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | No | Not sure |
| 54% | 20% | 26% |

Are you have interested in taking a gap year?

| | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| Yes | No | Not Sure |
| 14% | 74% | 12% |

What university or college would you most like to attend and why?

"University of Delaware because of the closeness to home, beautiful campus, and welcoming environment" -Sabrina Schipper '19

"UC Berkeley because they have a good optometry school and I want to go to California" -Laura Meng '20

"University of Maryland because it's close and in-state and an extremely good school academically and socially" -Madelyn Grant '19

January 18, 2019

The 90s Are Back, and That Seems To Be a Good Thing

by Brynn Smith '19

With the recent trend in the reboot of 90s television for today's teens, Hollywood seeks to update classic television to reflect current events and trends. Whether it's a horror version of an iconic sitcom or a multicultural and feminist adaptation of a supernatural series, the course of current television leans towards revivals.

The idea to remake the classics that were popular at the tail end of the 20th century has become the go-to for cable networks and online streaming sites alike. While every remake strives to put their own spin on the original storyline and characters, the writers and producers have to walk a fine line between old and new. Including aspects like the original cast members such as "The Connors" or similar plotlines like "Charmed" evokes familiarity and nostalgia in an audience.

While the reboots must harken back to the originals, the most successful ones freshen up the material to work better for 2019. Inevitably, with the resurgence of 90s television comes the appearance of modern storylines meant to represent the values of the time period they've been res-

urrected in. They must honor everything the original show was, while also tactfully incorporating the values of the 21st century.

Episodes having to do with sexual harassment, advanced technology, or immigration issues bring a distinctly 2018 feel to these updated classics. With the current political climate, several of these reboots even take a political stance. According to the sisters of "Charmed," Donald Trump's presidency is an omen of the apocalypse.

For every reboot that has found the formula for success with audiences and critics, there is a dud. "Fuller House," a remake of the classic 90s television sitcom about three young girls, their dad, and two uncles who do their best to raise them after their mother passes away, falls flat. Despite having four seasons on Netflix, it has a 34 percent on Rotten Tomatoes and an average rating of 4.39/10. The "X-Files," a beloved science fiction drama of the mid-90s about unsolved paranormal cases, also took a turn for the worst in 2018. The actress who played Scully, Gillian Anderson, announced that the second series of "X-Files" would be her last, and instead of



The original cast of "Charmed" (left) was replaced with a much more diverse cast (right) in the new reboot.

premiering to the fanfare of its first rebooted season in 2016, it debuted to widespread criticism.

With every reboot or adaptation, there are worries it will never match up to the original.

Lack of originality and repetitive storylines are always huge cause for concern, and, as with "Fuller House" and "X-Files," the concern is warranted. But, overall, many reboots do very well. In-

jecting current political issues and updated societal values into a tried and tested show with characters and the actors who played them or recognizable storylines seems to be a recipe for success.



"Into The Spider-Verse" shows viewers that anyone can be Spider-Man.

A Spider-Man For Everyone

by Ayana Antoine '20

Marvel first introduced the fictional character of Spider-Man August 1962 in Amazing Fantasy #15 comic book. It was a gateway to commercial success for the superhero and inspired the launch of The Amazing Spider-Man comic book series. Dozens of remakes to the teenage hero's story followed. The new animated movie "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" introduces new characters while raising the bar for future adaptations. Directed and illustrated by Peter Ramsey, this visually awe-inspiring film utilizes colorful animation to evoke emotional poignancy maintained throughout the entire movie.

"Into The Spider-Verse" focuses on the protagonist Miles Morales, a Afro-Latino student from Brooklyn, voiced by Shameik Moore. His role proves that Spider-Man can be anyone, not just the nerdy, white male portrayed previously. Ramsey felt that it was very important to live up to Stan Lee's interpretation of Spider-Man as a character "any kid could imagine themselves as."

In "Spider-Verse," one of Spider-Man's lifelong enemies, Kingpin, opened a portal to another dimension in a desperate attempt to bring his deceased family back. As Spider-Man struggles to fight Kingpin, his DNA enters the portal. As a result, anyone with matching genetic information is placed in the same dimension. This ultimately brings several different spider heroes all in the same Brooklyn. This introduced Gwen Stacy, the first female Spider-Woman. Voiced by singer and actor Hailee Steinfeld, Stacy has been rumored to get her own spinoff. The new team works to not only get back to their own dimensions but to save New York.

This PG-rated masterpiece is made with the target audience of ages 10 to 14 but can still be highly enjoyed by any comic fan. But, no matter how much the new adaptation differs for the version before it, "Into The Spider-Verse" balances the classic story so many love while adding new characters for a refreshing change.

Grade: A+

Ruth Bader Ginsburg's Inspirational Truth

by Kat Mahoney '20

"On the Basis of Sex" is a film created to inspire the nation by telling the story of current Supreme Court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's breakthrough case when she was a young lawyer in the 1970s. The story, focused on the normality of gender discrimination nationwide, shows how Ginsburg (Felicity Jones) and her husband, Martin, (Armie Hammer), use a groundbreaking tax case to fight for sexual equality.

The film starts with Ginsburg as one of the few women studying to become a lawyer at Harvard Law School. Not only does it show the challenges she faces trying to become a successful lawyer in a time where women were seen as "caregivers," but also depicts battling the challenges of motherhood and her husband's testicular cancer. She balances her education, family, and her husband's illness so well that she ends up at the top of her class at Harvard.

The film's story surrounds the case of Charles Moritz, a Denver resident denied of a caregiver tax deduction because he is male. The Ginsburg duo uses this case to highlight the abundance of gender discrimination in the United States. Just as Ginsburg starts to lose faith in herself, her daughter, Jane (Cailee Spaeny), convinces her to persevere. With the additional progressive mindset found in her daughter, Ginsburg realizes that by proving her point to the court, the nation might not only be culturally changing but also lawfully. The historic moment when she presents her case to the court is portrayed as rocky at first, but after a few minutes she comes back even stron-



Felicity Jones (center) worked with Ginsburg to portray her accurately.

ger with a flawless argument.

"On the Basis of Sex," written by Daniel Stiepleman, Ginsburg's nephew, is centered around her first-hand personal stories. With amazing acting by both Jones and Hammer, the romantic and also intellectual sparks between the two enlightens the audience on the connection between the couple in real-life.

Although the movie focuses on the main point of Ginsburg's case, it does stretch the truth too far at times. It changes around major life events causing the audience to believe a false truth about her life. The movie misses main points in her life including her time spent abroad in Sweden and her job as a clerk for district judge Edmond L. Palmieri. It incorrectly depicts the discovery of her husband's testicular

cancer, creates a fake ultimatum given by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and portrays Ginsburg's monumental speech in front of the Circuit Court of Appeals judges as messy and ruined by her nerves.

The ending scene has Jones as Ginsburg walking up the stairs of the Supreme Court before it focuses in on the real Ginsburg as she climbs the same steps grinning into the camera as the result of the tax case and her Supreme Court appointment overlays the screen. This story and its revolutionary effect sparked a nationwide change in the 1970s, by bringing it back today, the spark to improve and reshape a whole new generation has been ignited.

Grade: A

Riding Zedd's Spectrum at Echostage

by Andrew Ventura '19

I heard about raves from my older cousin because he often went to Echostage. He described it as an electric paradise filled with people that share the same love for electronic dance music. Ever since, I really wanted to go see DJs perform live there. One of my favorite DJs, Zedd, a Russian-German DJ, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter, came to Echostage on December 27, and I was not going to miss that opportunity. The first time I heard Zedd was on the radio. I remember hearing a chill but danceable beat paired with simple lyrics. The song was called "Clarity," and it is one of his most popular hits.

Tickets to Zedd at Echostage were given to me as a birthday gift. Overall, it was a pretty large venue with plenty of security and medical staff. Echostage is located on Queens Chapel Road in Northeast D.C. My cousins drove me and parking was not awful to find. Doors opened at 9 p.m. but I didn't leave the venue till 2 a.m.

Despite people offering me alcohol and drugs before the show, the incredible array of lights combined with the mu-



Courtesy of Jorge Rivas

Individuals of all genders, races, and ethnicities came to DC to enjoy Zedd's music together at the Echostage.

sic made the offers forgivable. While some people were pleasant, some were trashed, and the loud music boosted the crowd's atmosphere and the vibes were definitely at an all-time high. The only issue I found was the younger crowd not respecting

the floor space. There were a few instances I wanted to push the people around me because it was packed from the back wall to the stage. There was literally no room to get out or in of the crowd.

Zedd performed excellently. The music was perfectly synchro-

nized to the visuals and lights. Video-game style vortexes and mazes were projected onto the massive screen while fog bursts and blinding lights shot out from the sides and through the blinking chandeliers. These weren't just flashing, glaring lights ei-

ther. These lights were planned with the precision to rival pyrotechnics; creative thought went into them to ensure they reinforced the themes in the music and lyrics. Red and blue lights reminiscent of police car sirens danced to match the subtle lights in the background of the song "Spectrum" and oceans of light flowed over the audience during "Lost at Sea." Zedd was charismatic and engaged with the audience, telling jokes between songs and telling the meaning behind the lyrics. The crowd could feel the energy he transmitted with every song he played.

This was a great first time going to Echostage. The venue is really fun, and I will definitely go back again. The music was on another level and it felt so good dancing with people who like the same music. When people are the of age 18, go to Echostage to enjoy live electronic dance music. Enjoy a light show like no other and meet people with similar interests, too.

Grade:

A+

"Today's Line-Up"

by Adina Brenner '20, Adam Levine '20, Kat Mahoney '20, Kara Thompson '20, and Jimmy Yates '21

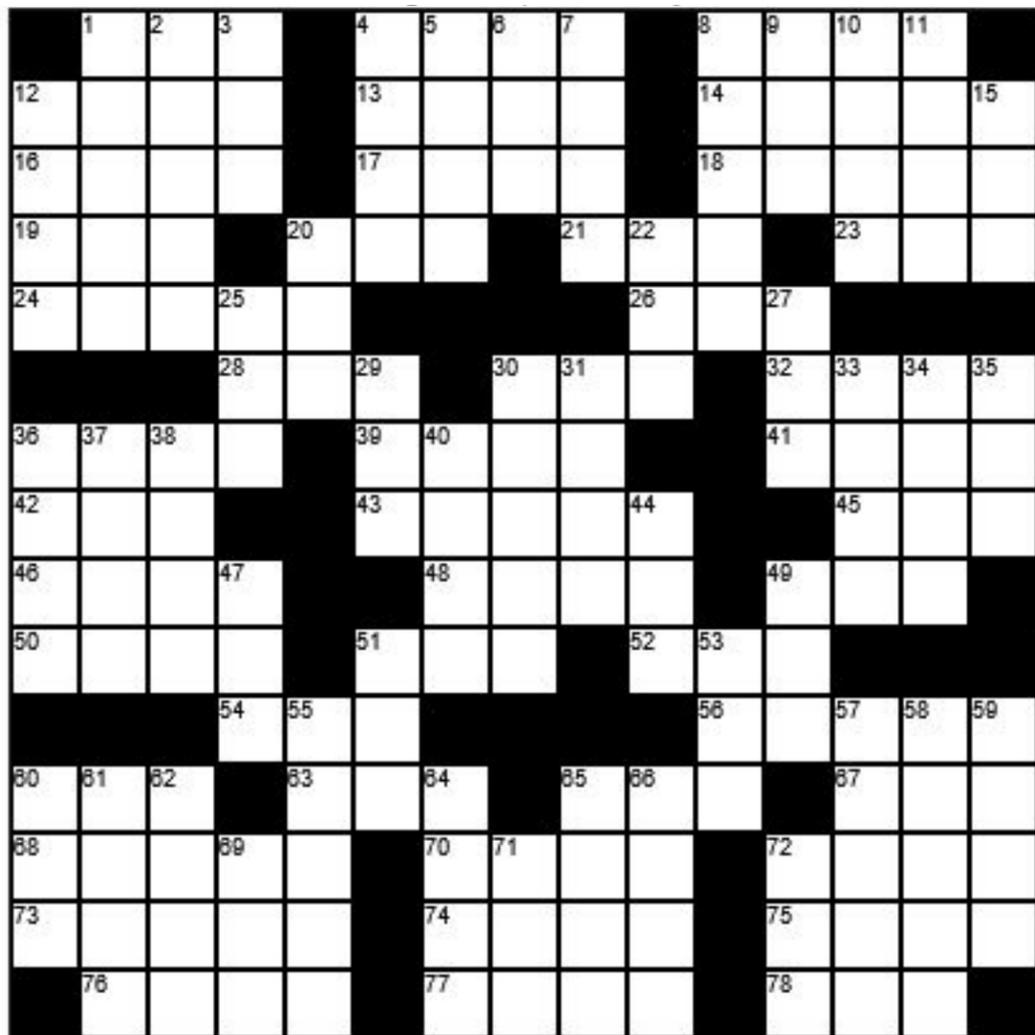
DOWN

1. Morse was a famous one
2. "De leche" caramel treat
3. Island to a Parisian
4. Australian Nickelodeon mermaid
5. Capital of Peru
6. American Eagle Outfitters (abbr.)
7. Dome-topped Mongol abode
8. Receive a pass
9. 1956 Elvis hit (abbr.)
10. Caste of Hindu Brahmin communities of Tamil origin
11. Autonomous sensory meridian response (abbr.)
12. Professional soccer governing body
15. "To be" to a Brazilian
20. Baseball instrument
22. Item to do 60 Across
25. "Nothin' but ___"
27. Notably honest Pres.
29. "Walking Dead" television channel
30. Cover, defend an opposing player
31. Base for Chipotle bowl
33. Smell; stench; scent
34. Propellant for sailboat
35. Long-term evolution in telecommunication (abbr.)
36. Horse that hasn't celebrated its first birthday
37. Not a trio, but ___ (two words)
38. South of downtown (abbr.)
40. 2010 Kanye West hit featuring Rihanna and Kid Cudi (abbr.)
44. Attraction to opposite sex (abbr.)

47. A day ___ of... (abbr.) (three words)
49. Suffix for lemon or lime drink
51. Unrefined metal
53. Result of intense torso workouts
55. Gold, silver, or bronze prizes
57. Target-piercer
58. NASCAR competitions
59. To be cheeky or impudent
60. MCPS middle school science project (abbr.)
61. Homeopathic essentials
62. To ease off something
64. "Noise" to a German
65. Soccer score
66. Wheel infrastructure
69. Harsh hydroxide cleanser
71. Beatrice nickname
72. Stiff bristle growing from barley or other grasses

ACROSS

1. Center for Diversity & Inclusion (abbr.)
4. Bills tight end Charles
8. Seed of Salvia hispanica plant
12. Infraction of basketball rules
13. In ___ of, meaning instead
14. Dark underwater chasm
16. Synonym for dormant
17. 31st weekly Torah portion
18. The ___ of this crossword is sports
19. U.S. elections regulatory committee (abbr.)
20. ___ constrictor; feather scarf
21. "Tic ___," went the clock



23. Annual March Sherwood music performance (abbr.)
24. Enclosed sports center; swimsuit brand
26. Statement of epiphany
28. Arrival time, perhaps (abbr.)
30. Sound 56 Across makes
32. Football game, "Super ___"
36. 76 Across to an American
39. Cocky Moana character
41. Polish or refine an essay
42. Star Trek character played by René Auberjonois
43. Sports team leader

45. Holding up a finger: the iconic ___ Sherwood symbol
46. Car brand, logo is 4 rings
48. Large oxygen supplier
49. Slang for alright
50. Earnings, to a pirate
51. What senior citizens are
52. Bit; smidge
54. Go to Instagram story phrase after posting (abbr.)
56. Chicago football team
60. "___, ___, ___ your boat"
63. Species include moray and conger
65. Not a liquid or solid

67. Regional Airline Association (abbr.)
68. A surface for athletic events
70. Jack-in-_- (two words)
72. Trajectories of a basketball
73. Beach to a Spaniard
74. Madrid professional soccer club
75. Troubles; distresses; sorrows
76. Fast to a Dutchman
77. Homophone for mail
78. National Weather Service (abbr.)

Upcoming Releases & Performances

Movies

| | | | |
|------|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1/25 | <i>Serenity</i> R | Director: Steven Knight Cast: Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway | Drama, Thriller |
| 2/8 | <i>The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part</i> PG | Director: Mike Mitchell, Trisha Gum Cast: Margot Robbie, Chris Pratt | Animated Adventure |
| 2/14 | <i>Alita: Battle Angel</i> PG-13 | Director: Robert Rodriguez Cast: Jennifer Connelly, Eiza González | Action, Romance |
| 3/1 | <i>Chaos Walking</i> NR | Director: Doug Liman Cast: Tom Holland, Nick Jonas, Daisy Ridley | Adventure, Science Fiction |
| 3/8 | <i>Captain Marvel</i> PG-13 | Director: Anna Boden, Ryan Fleck Cast: Brie Larson, Gemma Chan | Action-Adventure |
| 3/15 | <i>Us</i> NR | Director: Jordan Peele Cast: Elisabeth Moss, Anna Diop, Lupita Nyong'o | Horror, Thriller |



& More

Video Games:

| | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1/25 | <i>Resident Evil 2</i> (M) | PC, PS4, Xbox One |
| 1/29 | <i>Kingdom Hearts III</i> (E10+) | PS4, Xbox One |
| 2/15 | <i>Anthem</i> (RP) | PC, PS4, Xbox One |
| 3/22 | <i>Sekiro: Shadows Die Twice</i> (M) | PC, PS4, Xbox One |
| 4/23 | <i>Mortal Kombat XI</i> (M) | PC, PS4, Switch, Xbox One |

Books:

| | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1/29 | <i>King of Scars</i> (Nikolai Duology #1) | Leigh Bardugo |
| 2/5 | <i>The Love & Lies of Rukhsana Ali</i> | Sabina Khan |
| 2/5 | <i>Empty Bottles Full of Stories</i> | r. h. Sin, Robert M. Drake |
| 3/5 | <i>Superman: Dawnbreaker</i> (DC Icons #4) | Matt de la Pena |
| 3/19 | <i>Sherwood</i> | Meagan Spooner |
| 4/9 | <i>The Red Scrolls of Magic</i> (Eldest Curses Series #1) | Cassandra Clare, Wesley Chu |



Music

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|--|--------------|
| 1/24 | Scotty McCreery | <i>The Filmore Silver Spring</i> (Silver Spring) | Country |
| 1/28 | Bring Me the Horizon | <i>EagleBank Arena</i> (Fairfax) | Metalcore |
| 2/4 | Walk the Moon | <i>Rams Head Live</i> (Baltimore) | Rock |
| 2/14 | Yung Gravy | <i>The Filmore Silver Spring</i> (Silver Spring) | Rap |
| 2/19 | Michael Bublé | <i>Capital One Arena</i> (DC) | Pop |
| 2/22 | Marc Anthony | <i>Capital One Arena</i> (DC) | Latin |
| 3/7 | Mike Kroll | <i>Comet Ping Pong</i> (DC) | Garage Rock |
| 3/16 | Kelly Clarkson | <i>Royal Farms Arena</i> (Baltimore) | Country, Pop |
| 3/17 | Weezer/Pixies | <i>Royal Farms Arena</i> (Baltimore) | Rock |
| 3/21 | Meek Mill | <i>The Anthem</i> (DC) | Rap |
| 3/25 | Ariana Grande | <i>Capital One Arena</i> (DC) | Pop |
| 3/29 | Conan Gray | <i>U Street Music Hall</i> (DC) | Indie Pop |



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Netflix Show Connects Teens to the News Today

by Vendela Krenkel '20

Seven episodes into its first season, Daily Show alum Hasan Minhaj has taken the internet by storm with his political satire “Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj,” a Netflix show that blends current events and comedy in every half-hour episode that leaves viewers knowledgeable on the topic covered.

He often discusses minority representation in entertainment today and his life growing up as a child of immigrants in America. Viewers can tell he values being able to laugh at the most worrying and pressing issues of our time. In his weekly Sunday episodes, Minhaj covers topics such as affirmative action, the oil crisis, and Amazon’s growing monopoly on internet commerce.

Minhaj is the perfect host for this type of program. A set of bright neon lights and screens spread across the shot that give the show a futuristic, “Kanye vibe,” as Minhaj puts it, which is a completely accurate description of “Patriot Act” because this program is one of the first of its kind. Minhaj is the first Indian-American to host a weekly comedy show, and this type of representation is so important because not only is he representing his culture and how it impacted his youth in America, but he is paving the way



Minhaj has covered subjects ranging from straightforward, like Supreme, to controversial, like Saudi Arabia.

for other immigrants and children of immigrants in comedy.

“Patriot Act” is *the* show for millennials and Gen Z kids because Minhaj is 33, a millennial,

and understands the apathy that comes with not having an adequate source of information that appeals to the viewer. Entertainment today is severely lacking

in resources by young people for young people to become better acquainted with what’s happening around the world. Keeping up with conversations between

adults at the dinner table can be difficult when not well-informed, but becoming involved in the discussion is the first step to letting our voices be heard, and that cannot happen unless teens and millennials educate themselves on current events.

References to pop culture connect younger generations to the important news they should know about. These include mentions of trends like Supreme, sneakerheads, and basketball, as well as memes and popular TV shows of today to further link us to current events.

It’s obvious that he’s really excited about sharing this information with his audience, too, jumping around the stage and using quick-fire jokes that take a minute to sink in, leaving viewers focused throughout the episode without feeling like they’re sitting through a lecture. Listening to Minhaj explain the grim truths of immigration enforcement policies in America today sounds more like a friend relating what’s happening to you over a cup of coffee than a boring, monotone news report.

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A+

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Girls Basketball Emerges as Legitimate Power in County

by Reagan Yates '19

The Warriors girls varsity basketball team is showing strength this season with a current record of 9-0 and a lot of hope for the rest of the season. After a losing record in their 2017-18 campaign, the team had some work to do entering the 2018-19 season in order to prove themselves, but the addition of four freshmen and a 14-player roster, which is a larger team than last year, might have been just the kind of depth that the team needed.

The Warriors have a young starting lineup this season that includes just two upperclassmen and three freshman: senior Caroline Bidwick, junior Hannah St. Laurent, freshman Chase Bell, freshman Angela Nnabue, and freshman Maddie Tringone. Significant contributions also come from seniors Avery Cohen and Haley Allen, and freshman Sophia Jasnow.

“The impact on the team of having four freshmen who can contribute day in and day out is huge for the program,” said Coach Tim Hobbs, who is excited about the depth of players being added “to both the JV and varsity rosters.”

Hobbs further credits his team’s notable success so far this



Freshman guard Angela Nnabue dribbles the ball up the court in a game against Kennedy on January 7.

season to the leadership of the returning players and outstanding team chemistry. “[Our older players] have gone out of their way to welcome the younger girls to the team and because of this we have really come together as a group

much quicker than I expected.”

Players agree that the strong team connection has been a huge factor in this year’s success. “This year the team has a close bond on and off the court,” said senior Avery Cohen. Senior Caroline Bid-

wick added that everyone works hard and is engaged regardless of their role on the team.

The Warriors have not just been playing and winning, but doing so by comfortable margins. They defeated Wootton 69-

44, Northwood 61-39, Kennedy 51-26, and Springbrook 60-46 — these are just a few examples of their dominance on the hardwood. The Warriors are also able to show up when the pressure is on, winning 53-51 in overtime at Clarksburg on December 11 in a testament to the grittiness of this year’s team.

On Friday January 11, the Warriors faced off against Paint Branch, a skilled team that has been known as a powerhouse throughout the county. Sherwood’s starting line-up was able to shut down Paint Branch’s offense in the opening half and Paint Branch players had but a few chances for an open shot. Sherwood fought hard and won 59-48, after being up by almost 20 points for most of the game. Freshman Angela Nnabue was the game’s dominating player with 31 points.

The Warriors next home game is on Friday January 25 at 7:15 against Northwood. They also play a tough Paint Branch team for the second time this season on January 30 at 7:15. Their last home game for the regular season is on Friday February 15 at 7:15 against Walter Johnson. And, the last game of their entire regular season is at Blake on February 22 at 7:15.

Super Bowl LIII: The Road to Atlanta

NFC Championship:

NFL fans can finally rejoice as the postseason is here! Not only have we made it to the playoffs, but we are down to four teams with two from each conference battling it out for the ability to go all the way to the Super Bowl. The top two seeds in the National Football Conference (NFC) will battle it out in yet another regular season rematch as the high powered Rams offense heads to New Orleans to take on the Sean Payton led Saints. In their previous matchup, the then undefeated Rams were knocked off 45-35 by the Saints and are likely looking for revenge. They will not be able to defeat the Saints, however, as New Orleans is especially motivated this year due to the impending realization that this could be star quarterback Drew Brees’ last year and he only has one ring. The Rams will put up a good fight in the game, but it won’t be enough.

AFC Championship:

On the American Football League (AFC) side of things, we have a rematch of the regular season’s week six as the New England Patriots are headed to Kansas City to face off against the Chiefs. The previous matchup of these two resulted in a 43-40 win for the Patriots, who have managed to advance to their 8th straight AFC championship. Kansas City knows that beating the Patriots will be a tough task, but have faith in their young quarterback, Patrick Mahomes, to get it done. Mahomes led the league with 50 touchdown passes this season and is seen as the prime MVP candidate. However, the inexperience of Mahomes will come out during this game and the Patriots will advance to Super Bowl 53, once again showing the dominance of Belichick and Brady.

Super Bowl Prediction:

The Saints will defeat the Patriots in the Super Bowl by a score of 34-23, allowing Drew Brees to “ride off into the sunset,” ending a Hall of Fame career.



NFC Championship:

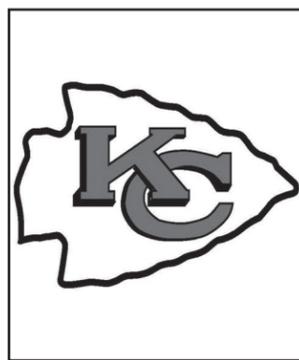
The number two seeded Los Angeles Rams will face off against the number one seeded New Orleans Saints in a much anticipated rematch. In their first matchup in November, the Rams came in as the best team in the NFC with the Saints only trailing slightly behind. In the week 9 matchup, the Saints held home field advantage and came away with a huge win, 45-35. Drew Brees and co. couldn’t be stopped as they marched down the field with ease against Rams’ defense. The game was eventually capped off by a 73-yard catch and run touchdown from Saints wide receiver Michael Thomas. In this rematch of the top teams in the NFC, don’t expect a different outcome. The Rams won’t be able to get stops when they need and in a close game, the experience of Drew Brees will send the Saints to the Super Bowl. I’m predicting 38-34 Saints.

AFC Championship:

The number one seeded Kansas City Chiefs will host the number two seeded New England Patriots in another rematch game to decide who represents the AFC in the Super Bowl. Both teams have electric offenses and major holes on defense; in their first matchup in October, New England was the home team and won on a game winning chip shot from Stephen Gostkowski, 43-40. This time at Arrowhead, fans will give the inexperienced Kansas City team an advantage over the Tom Brady-led Patriots team, who are in their 8th consecutive AFC championship game. Another shootout is certain and when the game gets late, the pass-rushers from the Chiefs will get after Tom Brady and give the Chiefs their first shot at a Super Bowl since 1970. I’m expecting it to be 41-40 Chiefs.

Super Bowl Prediction:

The matchup of these top two MVP candidates will certainly be a show but the Saints defense is no match for Kansas City’s historic offense. Chiefs take home the win 45-41.



NFC Championship:

The NFC championship game will consist of the number one-seeded Saints versus the number two-seeded Los Angeles Rams. The Saints beat the Eagles in a close contest of 20-14 in the divisional round as the Rams beat the Cowboys 30-22. The Rams looked to be the most dominant team in the league, starting off 12-0. That win streak was ended by none other than the Saints in a score 45-35 on November 4. This game looks to be a good one as both teams were top-10 offenses and both have had solid defenses towards the end of the season. Although the Rams have a good offensive unit led by Todd Gurley III and Jared Goff along with the best defensive player in the league in Aaron Donald, it will be too much for the Rams to stop the high-powered offense that is led by future hall of famer Drew Brees in the Superdome.

AFC Championship:

The AFC championship game will be played in Arrowhead stadium, as the number one-seeded Chiefs play the number two-seeded Patriots. The Chiefs beat the six-seeded Colts in dominant fashion, 31-13, while the Patriots topped the fifth-seeded Chargers 41-28. This AFC championship already has been played in week 6 of the regular season, which resulted in a Patriot win by three points. This game will be the 11th straight conference championship game for New England, as Tom Brady is in his prime postseason form. However, the likely MVP of the league, Patrick Mahomes, has been playing phenomenal with having one of the best quarterback years in NFL history. Mahomes, along with his plethora of weapons, should give Kansas City the edge in this offensive shootout and will lead them to their first super bowl appearance since 1969.

Super Bowl Prediction:

The New Orleans Saints beat the Kansas City Chiefs, 34-33, giving Drew Brees the second ring of his career for what could be the perfect retirement gift.

by Ryan Duvall '21

by Aaron Jaffe '21

by Jackson Hongtong '21

Ice Hockey Team Faces Challenges As February Playoffs are Imminent

by Adam Pfeiffer '20

The hockey team has had an up and down season, and following a 7-3 loss to Blake on New Year's Day, the Warriors held a 2-7 record. Heading into a rivalry game against Damascus on January 11, the boys knew what they had to do.

"We just need to stick to the game plan and not get dragged into playing defense the whole game ... against Damascus who plays a dirty, physical game; we need to not retaliate," explained senior Steven Blum prior to the game.

Ultimately, the boys lost 5-1. For much of the game, the Warriors and the Hornets were stalemated at a 1-1 tie, until Damascus netted three goals in the 2nd period to break the game open. Until this point, Sherwood was playing very well, and not reacting to the Hornets' physical play style. "It's definitely one of the best games

we've played all year," said Blum.

Due to graduation of key talent, there has been a drop off in the success from last year's Montgomery champions to this year's squad "It's been a really great season so far ... even though our record hasn't reflected it," said senior Sam Rudnick.

The defending champs aim to win another championship, but before they can even think of it, they need to refine and perfect their game before the playoffs start. This includes simple things such as puck movement, which will allow for more shots and success scoring. Controlling the puck will also take the pressure off the defense and goalie, limiting opponents' shots and scoring opportunities.

Hopefully, these points of emphasis will improve in the next three games (Jan. 25 vs Blair, Feb. 1 vs WJ, and Feb. 8 vs Rockville), before the play-

offs start shortly after. The team is led by Rudnick and Blum, and fellow seniors Alec Hurley, Matt Postorino, Dylan McDermitt, and Joe Diuguid have all stepped up.

Sherwood has already beaten Blair, 9-4, and Walter Johnson, 10-1, this year, although the Blair game was played in October and Walter Johnson in December. The Warriors cannot overlook these opponents, as teams improve much over the course of the year. Wins in these games will be huge, building momentum heading into the big tilt against Rockville. Momentum builds confidence, which is huge for a team who has felt their struggles throughout the year.

A confident team that is overlooked can be dangerous come the postseason, and that is what potentially could happen to this team. "[We're] definitely gonna be a big underdog. Hopefully it carries us and motivates us to work harder," said Rudnick.

Boys Varsity Basketball Keeps Focus, With Eyes on Regionals

by Aaron Jaffe '21

The Warriors' roster coming into the 2018-19 school year was one with many changes from just last season. Not only did former star player Davis Long graduate, Sherwood also lost multiple other seniors who were crucial to their rotation. However, the 2017-18 Sherwood team heavily disappointed considering the talent and potential the team had. The newest changes to the rotation ironically could be for the better as the new-look Warriors hope to improve on a 5-9 record from the year before.

The team may seem to be in a transitional year with all the graduating seniors, but they are not left without any potential stars to count on. Junior forward Nate Lacey currently has interest from multiple D-1 schools, most notably Arkansas.

Sitting at 4-4, the Warriors' record does not accurately indicate the true grit and spirit of the team. Even in their losses, Sherwood has consistently put up a good fight and always appeared to be in the game. The calling card early for Sherwood is that they are not going to cruise to a win nor will they roll over in any given game, no matter who the opponent happens to be.

Senior guard J.D. Jordan believes the Warriors are as good as any other team they will face in the future. "We're going to surprise a lot of people this year and years to come," explained Jordan, and also said that the team has the potential to be 4A regional champs.

The Warriors opened up their slate of games with an impressive 53-51 road win over Rockville on December 9. After losing their next two games against Clarks-

burg, 68-65 and Magruder, 60-48, Sherwood fell to 1-2. On December 19, Sherwood took on Wootton at home to try and stave off another forgettable season.

In overtime down by two with the clock running out, Senior guard Eddie O'Brien got the ball off an offensive rebound and banked in the game-winning three to send Sherwood to victory, 78-77.

Lacey was never in doubt of the teams' fight and spirit. "Our team this year is not a team that will give up at any time during the game. We will push through."

Every time Sherwood looked like they were going to make a run and reel off a couple wins in a row, they had a disappointing loss in games they could've won. On January 5, the Warriors lost a very winnable game to Springbrook, 61-60. Unsurprisingly, the team was in another nail-biter against

Northwood and pulled out the win with another lucky last second shot, this time a floater from Jordan. The following two games ended with one win against Kennedy by a score of 56-52 and a tough but probably predictable loss to the reigning regional champs in Gaithersburg, 73-51. On January 11, the Warriors tried to steer their record over .500 against Paint Branch but couldn't come away with a win, losing 84-76.

The meat of the schedule is coming for Sherwood and the team will need to stretch together some wins to keep their regional dreams alive. Every game will be tough but these tests will show what the 2019 Sherwood team is capable of. The consistent middle of the pack play can no longer be the norm if this year's Sherwood team wants a shot to take over as champs of the 4A region.



Kelly Seganish '19

Junior Nate Lacey drives to the lane in a game against Paint Branch.

ON SPORTS

University of Maryland Athletics Need Change

by Jimmy Yates '21

The University of Maryland (UMD) refuses to learn from its mistakes. After finally firing the heavily criticized DJ Durkin, the university turned around and overpaid a new coach, Mike Locksley whose coaching record is mixed at best. Maryland should have hired a head coach with a spotless reputation and who would take the job at a reasonable salary. Saving millions more in the university's budget, hiring a cheaper coach could allow for reforms and improvements in education and the facilities of UMD.

Let's review all that's happened over the past six months as scandal consumed the Maryland football program. On June 13, 2018, 19-year-old Maryland offensive lineman Jordan McNair died of a heart stroke and exhaustion during football practice. Months later on October 30, UMD President Wallace D. Loh announced he would step down from his position the following June. On the same day, Maryland announced that they would keep Durkin, despite the poor attention and care for McNair's health leading up to his death. Facing public criticism and attempting to avoid further disaster from the unpopular decision, the university fired Durkin on October 31, approximately 24 hours after his reinstatement.

Durkin was brought into the program in 2015 after signing a 5-year, 12.5 million dollar contract with a possible \$2.5 million more after another season. With Durkin as head coach, Maryland earned an underwhelming 10-15 overall record over two seasons, and a below .400 record against opponents within their competitive Big Ten conference.

After Durkin was released, Matt Canada, previously the UMD Offensive Coordinator, replaced him as interim head coach for the 2018 regular season. Then, on December 4, after looking for a head coach for months, Maryland signed Locksley to a 5-year deal, 10 million dollars and a possible \$2.5 million more after a sixth season. Locksley was the former interim head coach of Maryland in 2015 before mov-

ing to Alabama in 2016, where he became the Offensive Coordinator in 2017.

In 2009-2011, Locksley served as head coach at New Mexico University for the unsuccessful side of his career, earning a 2-26 record. To go along with his horrible coaching record at New Mexico, Locksley was suspended one game for punching one of his assistant coaches and was also sued by a former coworker for sexual harassment. With Locksley as offensive coordinator in 2018-19, Alabama has gone undefeated and reached the national championship. While his career at Alabama might look good, the success can't all be attributed to him. Alabama's record this year with Locksley is impressive, but the Crimson Tide have lost only three times in the previous three seasons when Locksley had little to do with Alabama's smoking hot offense.

Maryland needs to open up their eyes, stop spending so much on over-priced coaches, and stop trying to force the team to immediately become a football powerhouse. It's not realistic, nor cheap to hire a coach and expect a university to have such success. UMD should have hired a head coach with greater potential than price to improve the football program gradually rather than rushing it.

In a continuation of the head-scratching over spending and hiring decisions, Maryland is already a dominant force in other areas. The university has great academic programs including the A. James Clark School of Engineering, as well as great soccer and lacrosse programs. This year, UMD won their fourth men's NCAA national championship in soccer, beating Akron in the finals, and both men and women's lacrosse have won several championships in the last decade, and both reached the semi-finals in the spring of 2018. These programs are and will remain as the identity of Maryland's athletic program for the foreseeable future. Maryland has never been dominant at football and it won't be for a while. It's time to stop hiring the most expensive and overrated coaches and stop throwing millions of dollars down the drain.



January 18, 2019

Girls Swimming Is Blessed with Division I Talent

by Malec Fahmy '20
and Adam Pfeiffer '20

Greatness requires lots of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. Seniors Kaitlin Gravell, Erica Hjelle, and Sophia Ryan precisely embody what it takes to be great. Their sacrifices have led the girls swim team to State and Metro titles in 2016 and 2018, and resulted in Division I scholarships (Gravell-Villanova, Hjelle-Georgetown, Ryan-Virginia Tech).

At 4 a.m. most high school students enjoy the last hour or two of sleep in the morning, but these girls are not like most ones. They are on their way to their first workout of the day, spending an hour and a half in the pool before heading to school.

"I have been consistently swimming 8+ times a week since my freshman year to not only prepare for college, but to become a better swimmer to increase my chances of being recruited to swim. Additionally I do dry land exercises/ weight lifting 2 times a week to help with my strength and power," said Hjelle.

All of their training and hard work has led them to the recruitment process, where they contacted college coaches about their programs. Gravell commented on how she emailed all types of schools from big, small, ivy league, and everywhere in between in the beginning of her junior year. Eventually, after a lot of searching and looking at schools, each swimmer narrowed their list down to five or fewer schools where they would take their official visits.

Each swimmer knew when their respective schools were "the one," and they each had similar experiences to cause this decision. "I decided on Virginia Tech because it was the one school I felt at home at, and the school that I knew would provide me the best way to succeed both in the classroom and in the pool," said Ryan.

Entering the new high school season, the girls have a common goal: to end their high school careers as Division, Metro, Region, and State champions. The team appears to be primed to do so, being led by Ryan, Gravell, and Hjelle, along with junior Amanda Wenhold, another swimmer with collegiate potential, and who won individual Metro and State titles as a sopho-

A Look Forward to the Rest of the Swim and Dive Season

As Swim and Dive prepares for the championship season, the team continues to work hard to improve in the pool so that they can peak during February. As it stands, the boys currently sit at 2-2, while the girls are an undefeated 4-0.

The boys have had to fight in a very competitive division, with their biggest win coming over Blake on January 5. With a thin senior class led by captains Jamison Crow and Marco Casareto, other swimmers such as juniors Malec Fahmy and John Wilbur have had to step up. Stand out divers freshman Max Weinrich and sophomore Michael Parker have been huge contributors as they have went 1-2 every meet this season.

Compared to the boys, the girls team has a star-studded senior class led by three Division I commits in Erica Hjelle, Kaitlin Gravell, and Sophia Ryan. Winning each meet by a large margin, the girls have their toughest competition ahead as they look to defend their Metro and State titles. Junior Amanda Wenhold and sophomore Taylor Wallace have both performed very well and will be very important come February.

With the biggest meets of the year approaching, Coach Brendan Lees has highlighted the importance of working hard and focusing on everything the team can do to perform the best they can come championship season.

Compiled by Malec Fahmy '20

more.

Each swimmer has personal goals as well. "I hope to improve my record in 200 IM, and hopefully make an All-American time again," said Gravell.

By achieving these individual goals, they know that it will go long way to helping the team get where they want to go. "I am hoping for more best times and good finishes at Metros and States and to help my relay teams as well. We will accomplish these things as a team by making sure everyone is doing their best at practice and focusing during meets and races," said Hjelle.



Kelly Seganish '19

Senior Erica Hjelle swimming breaststroke in a meet against Quince Orchard on January 12.



Kelly Seganish '19

Senior Sophia Ryan swimming the 200 Freestyle against Quince Orchard on January 12.

Added Depth Will Help Wrestlers Do Well at States

by Jack DeGonia '19

This year, the varsity wrestling team is primed to make some noise at the state level. They currently hold a 6-1 record, with the lone loss a tight one to the reigning six-time state champions, the Damascus Hornets. The Warriors have a very high chance of not only competing for the regional dual title on February 6, and then the state dual title

on February 9, but also wrestling very well against these high levels of competition.

Last year, the Warriors did not win enough team dual meets to qualify for the regional duals, but did have eight individuals compete in the state tournament. With many returning high-caliber wrestlers, the varsity wrestling team has been very competitive this season. Six returning wrestlers qualified for the state

tournament last year, including the highest-placing wrestler, current senior Chris Sanchez, who placed 2nd at 138 last year and who wrestles at 145 this year. To accompany the top wrestlers, there are many hardworking underclassmen who have "worked hard over the offseason to get a lot stronger," said senior captain Yusuf Higazi, a wrestler in the 170 lb. weight class.

To reach the individual state

tournament, the Warriors will have to place top-4 in the region tournament. Throughout the season, each individual wrestler accumulates points for each win, and the top-eight point earners in each weight class in the region qualify for the regional tournament. A wrestler also can make regionals if he places top-6 at the county tournament, which takes place the weekend of February 15.

With crushing victories over Whitman, Kennedy, and Wheaton, and only losing to Damascus by six points, the Warriors have shown off a very deep roster with many younger wrestlers able to hold their own. With Higazi, Sanchez, senior Sam Ewing, and juniors Brady and Brandon Holda all wrestling at a high level, Sherwood could be bringing home an individual state champion on March 2.



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