

Gym Night 2016

# Playwickian

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PHOTOS/ GRACE MARION



# International Women's Day: mindsets changing with time

By Abena Oforiwaa Ampofo

According to a popular African saying, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a nation." Over the years, the gaps that define gender inequality have been a barrier to women and girls all over the world, limiting their potentials by archaic ideals. Gender inequality is the belief that men and women are unequal, subjecting them to the double standards of the world.

For many years, the woman has been portrayed as a stay-at-home caretaker with praised characteristics such as: sensitivity, timidity and subservience. Accompanying these values is the image of the perfect woman: thin, tall and "Victoria Secret" beautiful. Females, implied as the 'inferior' gender are subject to all forms of abuse for daring to step outside of their kennels- being petite and curvy, having a career and being unafraid to say what is on her mind.

In past centuries, the maltreatment of females has been accepted as a norm, with males being the ultimate power in deciding whether a woman is worthy or unworthy. In both developed and developing countries, women are used as currency such as in marriages for familial and social advancement and by companies only for the opportunity of recognition as Equal Opportunity Establishments. In over 30 countries, primarily in Africa and the Middle East, many girls under the age of 15 are married off to men old enough to be their grandparents and who already have multiple wives.

Girls in these areas are also subjected to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), the practice of cutting away the clitoris of a young woman to deter premarital and extramarital affairs and to decrease sexual satisfaction. In China, the one-child policy has led to the preference of male children and the subsequent abandonment and killings of the 'inferior' gender.



**SHOWING SUPPORT -** NHS roadies support International Women's Day and the fight for gender equality

International Women's Day (IWD), celebrated on March 8 annually is an occasion for women to have their voices heard and to take steps

for empowerment. By wearing purple ribbons, people worldwide celebrate women's economic, social and political advancement.

This year's theme declared by the United Nations is "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality." This initiative is geared toward gender equality by the year 2030 with increased laws to protect human rights of women all over the world and promote gender equality. Last Tuesday, millions of people worldwide commemorated the occasion with a variety of events beginning with the official U.N. commemoration which took place at the Trusteeship Council at the U.N. Secretariat in New York City.

The commemoration ceremony was the venue of musical performances and panel discussions on the steps crucial to achieving gender equality. Elsewhere, marches were held in honor of the event as well as soccer match in Tanzania. "I feel like women have come a long way in the fight for gender equality but more women should advocate for themselves and things that we need to have equality on," said Kate Fleming, an English teacher at the Neshaminy High School.

"I think women have come a long way but there's still work to be done concerning equal pay and equal seats in government. I think Neshaminy does a great job giving both boys and girls equal opportunity in education and sports and other programs like the clubs and music programs," said Kathleen Houser, Social Studies teacher at the Neshaminy high school.

Social Studies teacher at Neshaminy High School, Christopher Capecci said, "I think women have come a long way from the past when the role of the woman was confined to her home or stereotypical jobs such as secretary or nurse, to high power executives and politicians." Individuals all around the world who could not attend events close to them took to social media, tagging their posts and tweets with the hashtag, #IWD2016.

## Navy Seal recognized by Obama for heroism

By Regina Thomas

On Monday Feb. 29, President Barack Obama awarded Navy Seal Edward Byers Jr. with the highest military honor- the Medal of Honor. He was awarded this for his brave rescue of American citizen Dr. Dilip Joseph who was held hostage by the Taliban back in 2012.

Byers was a part of Navy SEAL Team 6- the famous group who took down al-Qaeda founder and leader Osama bin Laden. The rescue of Joseph took place on the night of December 9, 2012 in eastern Afghanistan. SEAL Team 6 was less than 100 feet away from the building where Joseph was being held when bullets started flying. SEALs rushed to the door and Byers ripped off the blanket that covered it- exposing him to enemy fire. As Byers moved inside, a rifle was aimed at him, but Byers fired back. He threw himself over the hostage, protecting him from the bullets.

Joseph describes the rescue to CBS stating, "The first thing I heard was a gunshot. Then I heard my name, 'is Dilip Joseph here?' and that hit me, 'boy this is a rescue.'"

But tragedy also came with this successful mission. Leader of the mission, Nicolas Checque, was shot as soon as he entered the door. Joseph told CBS, "He died to save my life. It is hard to live with the idea that somebody died for my sake."

The special thing about this award is that only five other SEALs have ever received it before. Those being Lt. Joseph R Kerrey in 1970, Lt. Thomas R Norris in 1976, PO Michael E Thornton in 1973, Lt. Michael P Murphy in 2007, and PO Michael A Monsoor in 2008.

Joseph was glad to hear about Byers' award and told CNN that he was "thrilled that he is getting this accolade and being honored this way," declaring that he was, "more than worthy" of the award. Joseph continued, "Byers gave me a second chance in life."



# Climate change affects mental health



By Madison Pickul

Climate change is defined as a change in global or regional climate patterns, but it is has created a change in mental health, known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). The disorder is a type of depression related to seasonal changes that starts and ends at the same times every year. Most people's symptoms start in Autumn and continue on into Winter, which lowers energy levels and causes mood swings. Some people experience the opposite and have symptoms from Spring to Summer.

Symptoms of Autumn and Winter SAD include; irritability, weight gain, and oversleeping, while the Spring and Summer SAD symptoms include; weight loss, depression, and anxiety. In both cases, symptoms can start out mild and become more severe as the seasons progresses. People ages 14 and up are most commonly affected by SAD.

Another way climate affects mental health is natural disasters such as hurricanes, tsunamis, and tornadoes. According to psychologist and a professor at the University of New Orleans,

Carl F. Weems, "An intensely traumatic event will have a substantial effect on the mental health of many survivors."

"The more severe and intense your exposure to traumatic experiences during a disaster, the more likely that you will have severe mental health symptoms. If you watch someone die or your house floods, you tend to have more intense effects." Weems research suggests that 25 to 50 percent of all people exposed to an extreme weather disaster may experience negative mental health effects.

Heat is the temperature that can have the most negative effect on your mental health. Due to the rise in global temperature it can lead to increased heat exposure. It's been suggested there is a relationship between aggressive behavior and rising temperatures. This is shown through the rise in crime rates during the summer months. Events such as heat waves have been associated with mood and anxiety disorders, and dementia.

"In this country alone we expect that over 200 million Americans will have some mental

health problem because of climate change," according to Elizabeth Haase, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry at Columbia University and New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

Neshaminy senior, Caitlin O'Neill, and her mother both suffer from Seasonal Affective Disorder. O'Neill said, "The winter months are the worst for me and because of SAD my school work suffers." She has missed multiple days of school due to the lack of motivation to do anything and her grades go down from A's to B's. "I feel teachers should be aware of SAD," O'Neill responded when asked if she thought teachers were aware some students suffer from SAD. O'Neill went on to say that, "If a teacher notices a student struggling for no obvious reasons then they should talk to them. Just by talking to a student they can make it slightly less stressful for them."

## Neshaminy to hold workshop addressing science, arts

By Ashley Reiss

There are prevalent areas in the United States academic curriculum that are lacking when it comes to children's education. Thus the creation of S.T.E.M was put in place, an initiative to encourage shortcomings of interest by students when it comes to science, technology, engineering and mathematics—all fields increasingly becoming more popular as society moves to a more technological based world.

Although another category is lacking in the curriculum of education that is

highly influential in today's job market—art. Many forget how imperative art is, especially for children who are growing in a time when creativity seems a miss.

"Art adds the dynamics of aesthetic. The ability to make something function but pleasing to the human eye, the viewer, adding dynamic to the interaction of the viewer as well," said art teacher Solstice.

But that's why it needed to be added, STEAM which is now including the letter A for art, is something that is going to be stressed in children's education curriculum, something that has been mandated in other districts and was actually introduced last year in ours.

"I started out as a print designer with a little bit of stem in there but now it's different, if you can't code you can't design-design a website, its stem, and bringing them together that's where the money is," said art teacher Sid White.

According to STEAM their mission statement reminds us that new industries are looking for innovation when it comes to their employees and art is exactly what is necessary for more intuition to flourish. It will help new industries spur in the future and help our future economic wellbeing as a society.

Neshaminy school district, in support of the new category is now holding an expo at Neshaminy High School on April 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 for lower grade levels from kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

A night that is filled with demonstrations and fun activities to help bring light to this new initiative sponsored by the teachers of the Neshaminy school district including various other outside groups like Bucks County Community Colleges, the Art Museum, Mad Science and a myriad other groups that are there for a new experience.



PHOTO AND TEXT/NESHAMINY.ORG

**STEAM -** The senior Earth and Space Science class at Neshaminy. This STEAM activity is a wrap up of Geology and involves engineering. The students worked in groups to create a building out of straws, pins, and string that can withstand an earthquake with weight on each floor.





PHOTO/MCT CAMPUS

# Supreme Court Justice's death arises questions, concerns

By Tim Cho

In the wake of former Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's death, the balance within the Supreme Court is now in question, especially with the upcoming election quickly approaching. While Senators struggle to find a compromise with the President, the Supreme Court itself is put in an awkward, but not uncommon, situation.

Formerly consisting of nine justices, the current court, with eight justices, are evenly split in terms of political ideology; John Roberts, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito stand for generally conservative beliefs and interpretations of the Constitution, while Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan represent the liberal beliefs.

This even divide presents an issue for those attempting to resolve their lawsuits at the Supreme Court—if the justices vote four-to-four, then the case does not continue in the Supreme Court and the decision made by the lower court stands as the final decision.

Thus, controversial and potentially ground-breaking cases, like those regarding abortion or religion, may end in a stalemate in the Supreme Court and be resolved

by the lower court's ruling.

However, there stands a greater problem. In the American government structure, there are three branches of power: the executive branch (President and the White House), the legislative branch (Senate and House of Representatives) and the judicial branch (Supreme Court).

What happens to one branch has an effect on the other two branches, and this relationship is being exemplified right now.

Under the Constitution, when there exists a vacancy in the Supreme Court, it is the President's responsibility to nominate a candidate to fulfill that vacant position and the Senate is responsible for either allowing or denying the chosen candidate their position as a justice.

However, the current Senate is composed of a Republican majority, and many Republican Senators have made it clear that they will oppose whoever President Barack Obama decides to nominate. Thus, a stalemate is reached between the executive and legislative branches, at the expense of the judicial branch.

The likely result is that no justice will rise to the vacant position until the elections come to an end in November. For now, the President and Congress will continue to conflict, while the Supreme Court will continue its session with eight justices.

## Hydroponics: Planting without soil

By Maggie Aldrich

In James Maloney's AP Environmental class, there will now be a futuristic method of plant growing. Hydroponics, a way to grow plants without soil, has recently been installed in his classroom.

There are many forms of hydroponic systems in the plant growing world; the type in Maloney's class is identified as a wick system.

"It's a custom built apparatus in which we're going to have netted cups sitting into a flow stream which will pump every time interval of the hour, so we're going to experiment with it and see how it goes," Maloney said.

A wick system contains four main parts: a grow tray, a reservoir, some sort of aeration system, and the most important of all, the wicks.

The grow tray's main purpose is to hold the seeds that are planted into it. The reservoir sits beneath the grow tray and directly supplies the plants with water and nutrients.

The air stone and pump are a part of the aeration system and both

do their part to supply the water with oxygen in order for the plant's roots to dry. Last but certainly not least, the wicks provide nutrients to the roots. In most wick systems, they usually carry one to two wicks and sit in the grow tray.

Maloney's intent is to use the system early in the spring season of 2016 for first testing simple plants such as kale, lettuce, and baby broccoli.

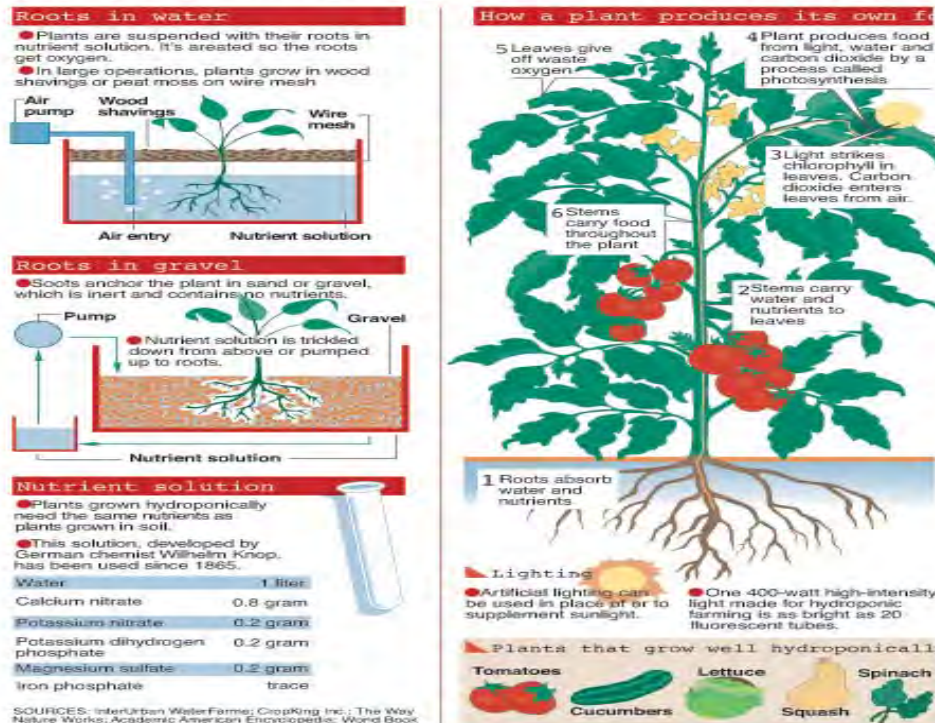
"I'm looking forward to next year to understand more about hydroponics, especially since it is such a unique way to grow plants," said freshman Evelyn Alexander who is taking AP Environmental next year.

Plants undergoing hydroponics grow much faster than plants growing in soil since they are receiving direct nutrients.

"AP Environmental science, one of our curriculum aspects, is on agricultural foods and soil conservation, so by looking at alternatives to soil for agriculture we're looking at ways to conserve soil hands on in classroom activity," said Maloney.

## Hydroponics

Hydroponic growing replaces with a water solution the soil that normally supplies nutrients to a plant.





# Señor Kain: Spanish teacher, student council leader, trickster

By Connor Menzel

22 years ago, an amazing teacher began working at Neshaminy High School. Over the course of these years, he has influenced the lives of countless students, helped out with the community, and above all, made a difference in the Neshaminy High School community. This teacher's name is Richard Kain.

Kain graduated from Neshaminy in 1988, and got a teaching job six years later in 1994. For as long as he could remember, he always knew that he would become a teacher. It is evident that he loves his job. "He creates a very fun environment for the students, and he is a great

teacher," current freshman student, Michael Russo said.

"The best part of teaching is being part of my students' lives," Kain said. "I enjoy helping them get something out of learning and watching them grow as people." He definitely is an important teacher at Neshaminy. He also is the Student Council advisor, and loves to help out with the community. Advising the student council is one of the favorite parts of his job.

"He grew up in this area, and he shows a loyal connection to Neshaminy by always wanting to give back," said Diana Jennings, a fellow Spanish teacher.

Everyone who meets

Kain becomes very good friends with him. Other teachers have said he is a very kind teacher and coworker.

The world language teachers are all part of a kind of "dysfunctional family" as Kain put it. He was out of school for two weeks with pneumonia in January, and he said that the other language teachers really helped him get through those tough days. They covered his classes and helped out with grading.

In addition to being a kind and caring teacher and coworker, Kain loves to have some fun. In the summer of 2013, he traveled to Spain and France with 14 students. He enjoyed this trip very much, and he wants to go on

it again.

He also plays some tricks on other language teachers. Once, Kain took the keys to teacher Jennings' car and parked it in front of McGee's office. Jennings laughed as she told this story. "I knew it was him, because he's the only one in the department other than me who knows how to drive stick shift."

Overall, Kain is a very caring and intelligent teacher at Neshaminy High School. Every world language student should hope they have Señor Kain as a Spanish teacher for one of their four years.

PHOTO/ASHLEY REISS



## Political Science Club on the rise

By Leanne Khov

"A bunch of my friends used to meet up sometimes, drink coffee, and talk about politics- a real bunch of dorks, I know- and so when in AP Euro we started talking about Jacobins, and my classmates said that they'd like a club like that, I decided I'd try to combine the two activities. I haven't quite figured out how to get coffee there, yet," said sophomore Grace Marion, one of the founders of the newly formed Political Science Club in Neshaminy.

This year, Neshaminy High School is offering a new club where a series of discussion can be made about social and political ideas about past or current events shown through societies as well as allow students to

share ideas on political concepts and tactics in relation to period events in a friendly way. Out of the many clubs created in Neshaminy, the Political Science Club reaches to students whose interests lie in politics and are willing to spread their opinions about these topics.

Despite the club being executed for the first time, about 15-30 students have already shown up at the door, eagerly waiting to know what topic is to be discussed about for the day. The club is mainly run by junior Dan Cho, sophomore Jacob VanDine, Anton Bluymen, Marion, Joe Stanford, and Ethan Baran with Josh Stoner, an AP US History teacher, as the advisor.

The club has already covered economic stances of its members,

whether they are socially moderate or libertarian. It has also covered other ism topics including authoritarianism and anarchism as well as the Supreme Court.

"I don't know much of politics but I go to learn more, we get to see every point of view with people who are all over the political spectrum, and it's fun and interesting," Bluymen said.

In the future, its members hope to go over the different types of propaganda with examples from the D.P.R.K. Videos and the second amendment rights. They also hope to cover classic books that had major influences over the course in political history such as "Leviathan," and "Das Kapital."

"I think this club could help expose students to new ideas, since

there is such a range of ideologies present. The club also hopes to provide a place to discuss political history and the effects of social movements on policy, so I think that hearing different views on those subjects might help kids develop their own opinions about those things, without just being exposed to one side. I like that there are a lot of different groups of kids showing up. When you interact with one group politically, you run out of things to talk about. The discussion should be interesting," said Marion.

Students interested in political science and expressing their opinions on political concepts are welcomed to join with another meeting expected to be held after spring break.

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# Look at it our way: Block scheduling helps long-term learning

It happens every year, a process formally known by the education system as "course selection," during which students determine the path of their upcoming year. At Neshaminy, the current schedule is set up such that students take eight courses over four marking periods on a six-day rotation. In neighboring school districts and states, the schedule is set up such that students take four courses over two semesters on a six-day rotation dubbed "block scheduling."

The merits of this type of education experience school boards have debated widely and Neshaminy too should consider its implementation. Far too many students are short changed on time on a daily basis between extracurriculars and then six-classes worth of homework to squeeze in on a five-hour period. Far too many assignments are completed during homeroom, the last few minutes of lunch or during another class. Perhaps if students had only four classes to attend per day, less of a burden would be placed upon them afterschool and they would develop a greater sense of time management.

The college admissions process also plays in instrumental role in what classes students choose to pursue and the attached workload and the attached state of mental health for the corresponding year. If a student wanted to pursue higher level classes, but was worried about balancing it with athletic or artistic involvement, block scheduling

would enable him/her to indulge in both the academic and co-curricular experience with reduced stress.

From the learning perspective, longer classes mean extended focus on a specific topic and better retention of information beyond just the Advanced Placement exam. Teachers would also have a more personalized approach toward lessons and interaction with students; since they only receive four-classes worth of tests and paperwork to grade a greater amount of time exists to make comments and invest energy per essay.

In the twenty-first century, education reforms have occurred

throughout the nation as several educators and researchers have studied what is the best way to shape a classroom in modern day with the presence of technology. The presence of block scheduling benefits the quality of lectures and fosters discussion-based learning based on longer class periods and less stress on students so more of their attention is directed toward the lesson.

**\*\*\*Editors' note:** Other variations to block scheduling include four classes per day alternated every other day over four marking periods or taking three courses daily over three trimesters.

**This editorial represents the majority view of the editorial board with 6-9 editors in agreement**



The following is an excerpt from Policy 600, which the Playwickian staff must follow. The excerpt is not representative of Policy 600 in its entirety. The Playwickian has been directed to publish this excerpt of the Policy in its masthead. The staff feels this section of the policy is also important to be featured in the masthead: "It is the intent of the Board of School Directors of the School District that School District publications be considered government speech for purposes of the First Amendment and to the extent permitted by the First Amendment." Playwickian Policy: The policy of the Playwickian which shall be published as part of the masthead of the newspaper shall be as follows:

"Policy. Subject to applicable law and the terms, conditions and limitations set forth in Policy 600 of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District and this policy statement, it is the policy of School District that student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of the Playwickian. Except for advertisements, all content shall be prepared by students, subject to editing by others.

Students: (a) strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness; (b) review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation; (c) check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and (d) in the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate. As examples, and not limitations on the proper authority of school officials, the following types of expression will not be approved for publication: (a) material that is obscene; (b) the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value; (c) indecent or vulgar language is not obscene; (d) material that violates the legal or constitutional rights of others; (e) material that will cause a material and substantial disruption of school activities; and (f) any other material that the school authorities reasonably believe should be prohibited.

Within the terms, conditions and limitations of Policy 600 and this policy statement, students are free to express opinions. Specifically, a student may criticize school policy or the performance of teachers, administrators, school officials and other school employees.

The viewpoints expressed by anyone in this paper shall not be deemed to be the viewpoints of the School District, any official or employee of the School District, or any student other than the student or students who expressed the viewpoint.

**The Playwickian**  
**March 17, 2016**



# Look at it our way: Block scheduling bad idea, harmful to students

While some school districts, such as Neshaminy's neighbor Pennsbury, have implemented "block scheduling"- a scheduling system that mimics that of a college schedule, with half the classes and double the daily class time for a single semester, rather than an entire school year - Neshaminy has not. Some may argue that block scheduling is beneficial to the students in that it creates a less stressed student population as a result of fewer classes, however, this clean-cut benefit is greatly outweighed by the consequences of such schedules.

Teenagers, having more gray matter within their brains than adults as they are still developing, face much more difficulty focusing

for long periods of time than their biologically matured, college counterparts. Healthy adults can have attention spans of 15-20 minutes on average, which means teens, who are not equipped with such focus, are forced to refocus even within the 45 minute periods typically seen within non-block scheduling.

Because of this, extending the period of time in which students are forced to learn about a single subject makes it much harder for children and teens to keep their minds on the topic at hand for the duration of class. Unable to pay attention, students find it difficult to comprehend new information and concepts.

At the beginning of each school year many teachers are forced to review predeceasing material as a

result of their students having little recollection of what they had learned in the previous year. In a block scheduled school, as each subject is taken only one semester per year, it is possible for a student to not have a subject for an entire year, and having less of a timespan to review, students are much less likely to review and catch up to the class adequately. Just as how "summer learning loss," in which the student 'loses' bits of what they learned in the previous year during the summer, has become a major issue for students, block scheduling faces the same problem.

Moving forward, classes of different disciplines can aid each other and the separation of, e.g. science and math can hurt students in their learning. Interdisciplinary

learning in high school is what allows students to establish a full grasp of their knowledge, rather than separated fragments that are harder to connect with block scheduling.

With the added hour of learning that block scheduling presents, it is harder to make up work in a class if a student is out for a few days. Much like college, missing one class can add on tons of work within a short period of time. Cramming so much work into half a year is also going to put stress on a student to be able to do well on tests and remembering everything.

Block scheduling is not only extremely stressful on students, but in the end, it's not much more beneficial than having a class during the entire year.

This editorial represents the dissenting view of the editorial board

# Federal Bureau of Investigation versus Apple

## How this battle over privacy affects Apple users

By Thomas Banks

"If you have nothing to hide, then you have nothing to worry about," has been a common phrase used by Americans since 2013 when Edward Snowden, a former contractor for the CIA, leaked classified documents detailing extensive internet and phone surveillance by the American government. Although Snowden has since fled the United States to seek temporary asylum in Russia, his disclosures present the debate of how much the government should surveil its citizens without their consent. This debate rages on as the FBI desperately battles for a back-door to an iPhone used by Syed Rizwan Farook, an alleged San Bernardino shooter.

Apple, in the software used to lock iPhones, has a function that erases the data on the phone after too many login attempts. The federal government has made no attempts to hide their opposition to this function when Google and Apple announced their implementation of it on newer phones.

You may be asking yourself "How will this back-door hurt me?" The answer is clear: this back-door is accessible to anyone. This includes government agencies, hackers and hostile authoritarian governments such as Russia and China that will demand greater access to Apple's mobile data if this back-door is created. Not to mention the fact that the United States failed to protect its on data during a disgusting data breach of the Office of Personnel Management that compromised the sensitive information of over 20 million people in 2015.

Fortunately, Apple officials have denied the request to create a back-door for the NSA and Tim Cook has taken to making a statement defending his decision against it, acknowledging the negative repercussions that will undoubtedly follow. "The FBI may use different words to describe this tool, but make no mistake: Building a version of iOS that bypasses security in this way would undeniably create a backdoor. And while the government may argue that its use would be limited to this case, there is no way to guarantee

such control," he wrote.

Another criticism of a back-door for Apple is that it is unconstitutional. In the past 15 years, the American government has dismantled our rights to privacy and unlawful search and seizure disguised as "anti-terrorism." A back-door to Apple would add one more example of how the government has disregarded our constitutional rights to privacy.



PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

### PRIVACY -

The war on personal privacy reached an all-time high when the FBI demanded Apple to allow the bureau of investigation access into the alleged San Bernardino shooter.

# Avoid getting 'Bern'd'; build the movement

By Spencer David Potts

This election cycle has proved to be unique for many independent movements. Formerly Independent Senator Bernie Sanders has put up a fight for the Democratic nomination for the presidency, winning many states in a tight race against former Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. Sanders's campaign has focused heavily on economic inequality and a fight against Wall Street, appearing to be a culmination of the Occupy Movement. Sanders has drawn in large crowds and energized millennials and left-wingers alike. However; his campaign is built on an uphill battle and Clinton is still seen by many as the presumptive nominee. In the situation that Sanders does not win the nomination, there will be many energized Sanders fans feeling Bern'd. Where these fans go will be crucial to whether or not the world of politics will remain in "business as usual" mode.

In the American two-party system, people are guilted into voting for the "lesser of two evils." Democrats are certainly at fault for this. In the 1890s a large populist movement grew, the left-wing farmers were consumed by the Democratic Party in the 1896 election with the nomination of populist-leaning Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, ultimately an unsuccessful candidate. There was the consumption of the labor movement by the New Deal Democrats. There were the "New Left" and Civil Rights movements consumed by the Democrats with the failed nomination of protest candidate Senator Eugene McCarthy in 1968, Jesse Jackson in 1968 and the nomination of protest candidate Senator George McGovern who lost in the general election.

Senator Eugene McCarthy's bid for the presidency in 1968 is comparable to Senator Sanders's. McCarthy's bid was a direct response to the anti-Vietnam war "Dump Johnson" movement of the time, running against the presumptive nominee and current president Lyndon B. Johnson. The Democrats in all branches of government supported the war as much as their republican counterparts. Despite putting up a strong fight, he only won 23 percent of the delegates and vice president Hubert Humphrey won the nomination. Humphrey was not an anti-Vietnam war candidate but the movement had to vote

for him in the general election, he was the "lesser of two evils", there are many who fear this will happen to senator Sanders.

The independent left movements have been the backbone of the Sanders campaign. Sanders uses the same rhetoric of the Occupy Movement, utilizing the policies and goals along with the class struggle critique. Prominent members of the Black Lives Matter movement have

not representative of the movements Sanders is. When Sanders plans to fight against mass incarceration, he is fighting against the mass incarceration policies of the Democrats like Clinton and the money moderates have received from the private prison industry. When Sanders plans for a single-payer healthcare system, he is planning against the goals of Clinton and other democrats supporting only Obamacare, something entirely



PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**BERN** - Presidential candidate Bernie Sanders gains support from citizens and has continuously found popularity among the independent voters

met with the senator to discuss his positions on police reform and his policies certainly reflect that. Sanders appears to have energized a new labor movement in a way, many poor white voters in Oklahoma and other rural states that were disenfranchised by the Democrats. Sanders easily fits under the label of a "Social Democrat" but considers himself a "Democratic Socialist" and regardless of the label there are new polls showing that a growing percentage of self-described socialists. 43 percent of Iowa Democrats considered themselves socialists according to a Des Moines register poll. 43 percent of Americans under 30 had a favorable view of socialism according to a YouGov poll, less than a third of them had a favorable view of capitalism. These movements have built the base support of Sanders's campaign.

Clinton's support has not been as enthusiastic and her policies and elected endorsers represent that.

The elected moderate Democrats supporting Clinton are

different from Sanders plan. Sanders support with and from the Black Lives Matter movement is something not many Democrats have, calling for the resignation of mayor of Chicago Rahm Emanuel is something unique to Sanders and few elected Democrats. Fighting corporations and corporate welfare is a whole different ballgame. Obama's cabinet retains former CEOs and Clinton was once a prominent member of the Walmart board. Sanders wants to repeal Citizens United, a decision with wide bipartisan support. Elected Democrats do not come close to representing the independent movements.

Independent politics are what the movements have to turn to when the Democratic party is ignorant to the movements of change or even a complacent force in what independents want to change, but there isn't much to turn to. Senator Sanders represents the success an independent politician could have. Sanders himself was an independent

for a majority of his political career. Starting as a four-term independent Mayor of Burlington, Vermont, to serving as a representative of Vermont's at-large congressional district for 16 years and his current position as Vermont Senator since 2007. His success is unique, but there are some smaller examples of outspoken socialist independents doing well.

"They make it very hard to have like a third party or an independent who can run and really hold a lot of power at the federal level so independents can through making their voices reverberate through the two-party system," said Mike Kelly, president of world affairs club and co-captain of the debate club. "I don't think that on a wide scale an independent party could hold a lot of power in American politics."

Kshama Sawant's role in her local government also shows what one can accomplish in local politics even as an independent in the two-party system. Sawant ran in the "Socialist Alternative" party for the Washington House of Representatives and sued the Washington secretary of state for her right to be listed under her party and won, she received 29% of the vote and placed second. She then entered the race for the Seattle City Council and won, becoming the first socialist elected to a political office in Seattle since a school board member in 1916. Other third party candidates have had little success in recent years as bipartisan rivalries have heightened, but there are still many vying for political offices.

To truly work towards change in this movement, there needs to be legitimate activism not just internet slacktivism.

"To be more involved you can volunteer for campaigns, there are many independent interest groups and advocacy groups you can join, there are protests," Mike Kelly added, "it depends on the level people want to become involved in. There are actually a lot of things to get involved in, we have a relatively decentralized government, there are many access points to get involved. Really I would recommend people choose their passion then find an interest group that advocates for that position."

The Playwickian  
March 17, 2016



# Worlds safe haven turns into a nightmare

By Brianna Rayner

As the sun kissed the stunning city of Houston, Texas farewell; the moon has grown to be the only serenity remaining for a young, humble, in particular soul. As he lay in his single bed of his buttoned up dorm room, the innocent disorder has begun taking full control of his mind and actions. He shortly began pondering about, in sever panic. He believed it was best for him to seek medical attention immediately, and took it upon himself to attempt to drive to the hospital... The hallucinations made it extremely difficult for him to be aware of his whereabouts. Do to that he managed to safely arrive at the hospital with only hitting a few cars in the parking lot.

He was taken in immediately for overnight monitoring when noticed by the shocked hospital staff. As time intensely kept slowly dragging on to the puzzled patient he continued lacking a psychiatrist attention for bipolar disorder. He began to be delusional and vigorously uncooperative for the staff. Shortly after that security was called to the scene. The innocent, non-aggressive patient ended up brutally tasered, shot and hand cuffed that night. On the bright side, he was lucky enough to have spared a second chance at this beautiful, rare life we are lucky to be given. This issue is surprising very common in the United States. Most people just



GRAPHIC/RYAN MILLER

**FLAG-** Patients deserve to be completely safe in hospitals and not have to fear for their safety

Unfortunately don't truly see the true tragedy behind this issue.

This acquitted man in particular, Alan Pean just so happens to also be African American. This makes the situation a tab bit sketchier, due to the fact that, according to mappingpoliceviolence.com, "Police killed at least 103 unarmed black people in 2015, nearly twice in a week."

Many police officers let their beliefs interfere with their duty, resulting in a lack of pure justice being served and also virtuous people getting injured or in most cases killed. Some cops take it upon themselves to believe that African Americans are somehow always guilty, and

deserving of the abuse they are given. This is absolutely discriminating, and disgraceful. The innovative concern is: cops and security having weapons that have the potential to kill people, due to the recent examples of them taking a broad advantage of their power to serve "justice." Is it really necessary to carry around armed weapons in a hospital?

I personally think that it is very strange that they have the need to carry around an armed weapon. I could understand if they carry around a taser, (or something that can impermanent halt someone from doing foolish actions, etc.). But a gun is basically going straight to murder. Pean, was unintentionally doing wrong by undressing and walking into the hallways. He obviously didn't deserve getting shot once so ever. For instance if they had a taser at the scene and deprived of a gun, the security would have no other choice but to use that against him. This would have been expectable if he was uncontrollable. Of course it is upsetting this situation even occurred to him, but the taser wouldn't have threatened his life like the bullets did. I understand that irrational occurrences happen in public places, like mass shootings, etc. and they must have some sort of protection... And that I believe should be metal detectors, and gun locked away and hidden in the area. It may be more intricate, but if that is what needs to be done to keep blameless

## Abortion every women's right

By Brynn MacDougall

Easy access to safe abortion is crucial to reproductive rights, yet clinics are closing at an unprecedented rate in the United States.

Many feel that the government placing restrictions in addition to shutting down clinics is interfering with their right to make decisions about their own bodies and an invasion of their privacy, as a woman's body belongs to her and she alone and no one should have the right to interfere with it. The majority of the lawmakers being men only furthers this belief.

Many would argue that abortion is wrong and should not be legal except in extreme, life threatening cases. The reasoning is

often that life begins at conception, making abortion murder in their opinion. However, most abortions take place in the first trimester, when a fetus is unable to live without the support of the mother and is not considered sentient. Since the fetus can't survive outside the womb, it shouldn't be regarded as a separate being.

The only reason an abortion would occur after the first trimester is because of the lack of available abortion clinics.

Pro-life activists are also fond of claiming that abortion hurts women. On the contrary, abortions have actually helped numerous women. "The risk of death from childbirth is 10x higher

than the risk of death from having an abortion," according to Health Research Funding's "20 Remarkable Pro Choice Abortion Facts and Statistics".

"I was able to...have an abortion. I knew this decision was the right choice for me. It gave me the same opportunity that middle class men have enjoyed for centuries -- to not be tied down in youth, to have time to explore the world, and to decide what my place in that world would be," Amy Oppenheimer wrote for the Huffington Post. She had her abortion in 1973. Oppenheimer later went on to become a administrative law judge and is now a lawyer at her own law firm.

According to WebMD, some

of the most common reasons women get abortions is birth control failure or an inability to support a child. How can someone claim to be pro-life when they believe in sticking a woman with a baby she is unable to take care of?

Religious reasons are often cited in pro-life arguments. However, religious arguments are invalid as forcing one's beliefs on another using the government violates the first amendment.

Abortion is a personal choice that every woman has the right to make without interference. Closing abortion clinics limits, or takes away, opportunities and choices from women.



# Why music education matters for students

## Editor in Chief receives first place for editorial regarding importance of music education in schools

*On Mar. 4, 2016, Editor in Chief Timothy Cho traveled to Penn State University and received First Place from the Scholastic Journalism Competitions organization for his editorial regarding the importance of music education in public schools.*

By Timothy Cho

*Participants in the Editorial Category were tasked with attending a press conference with Penn State University's marching band director Gregory Drane and, "write a 200-word editorial on either the press conference as a whole or a particular topic discussed by the speaker, Gregory Drane [and] determine which information is relevant and important to the editorial."*

### Speaker bio:

Gregory Drane, a native of Miami, Florida, earned bachelor's degrees in music education and music performance (saxophone) from Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Holding a master's degree in music education from Penn State, he has completed his coursework towards a Ph.D. in Music Education, also at Penn State.

Drane directs the Penn State Marching Blue Band and oversees the Athletic Bands program including the Fall Athletic Band (volleyball band), the Pride of the Lions (POTL) basketball pep bands, and the Power Players Hockey pep band. He is active as an arranger and marching band drill designer. In addition to his duties with the Athletic Bands program, he assists with conducting concert bands and is an instructor for music courses offered to non-majors for general arts credit.

Drane is an active researcher with interests in African American contributions to American music education, leadership in the music classroom, and historical music ensembles. He is a member of Phi Mu Alpha and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association.

High schools across America are seeing their music education programs being left behind in the wake of decreasing federal funding. However, while music education programs struggle to stay afloat, music education continues to provide students with vital life teachings.

Penn State University's band director, Gregory Drane, spoke about the importance of music education on March 4, 2016, at Penn State's main campus.

Having been part of the marching band program since middle school, Drane finds music to be a staple of general education, because as humans, "what defines us is language, communication and music...it's what we do," Drane said.

"Music united humans," and today, it continues to do so. Music provides a common ground for people to share and express themselves, and schools ought to encourage and promote that, not continue to cut funding, making it more difficult to promote creativity.

Whether or not one plays an instrument, they are still a participant, an investor, of music. In any setting, music serves as the guardian of imagination, and in the school environment, music, alongside academics and athletics, allow students to harness their innate talents in new ways.

To Drane, "instruments are just as vital as books and chairs," and he is absolutely correct. The mind feeds the body, but music feeds the soul. Music is a staple in forging success; it is time for schools to realize and embrace this.

PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE





# Prom severely overrated

By Lea Hartley

It's the end of high school and the seniors are eager, anxious, optimistic, or overwhelmed with the new life that they will experience. Graduation is creeping up, but first, Prom. It's the last dance they will ever experience as a group of high school students before moving on. They all know what prom is, the elegant dress, the perfect date, the thousands of pictures our parents force us to take. But is this really worth the hype?

"Last year at junior prom there was barely any room to walk or dance because the area we were in was so packed," said an anonymous Neshaminy High School senior. "Everyone either shows up to the place drunk, or they sneak alcohol in."

"Honestly my favorite part about the night was taking pictures," an anonymous Neshaminy alumni said. "My date was horrible."

Promposals frequently

happen at Neshaminy High School around this time. A promposal is a public and elaborate way of asking a date to go to prom. The average cost of promposals last year in 2015 was \$324, according to USA Today.

Almost every high school movie has a scene about prom. However, Prom is not as perfect as it is on a screen. It is unlikely anyone will marry their date. Someone else might wear that dress. Not everyone's crush will ask them to go with them. A random person won't heroically be crowned prom king or queen. And someone won't embarrass themselves enough to become the laughing stock of the school. Yes, prom is definitely not like it is on TV.

People should not get their expectations up too high since prom is just a glorified dance. It can obviously be a wonderful night, but it won't be perfect. Besides, it's not Prom that will be the most memorable moment from high school, it will be the thousands of others created with friends over these past four years.



PHOTO/NHS YEARBOOK

PROM - With prom around the corner, pressure to attend it is at its peak, but the question remains: Is it worth it?

## Mental illnesses in school: Students with mental illnesses face disadvantages in public education

By Kirsten Magas

Throughout the school year, plenty of students have been absent due to flu symptoms, strep throat, and other physical illnesses. However, not many students find it acceptable to stay home because of stress or other triggers associated with mental illness.

According to a study the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 in 5 children between the ages 13-18 has or will have a serious mental illness. Not enough attention has been given to this alarming statistic and the real question is: How can it be managed?

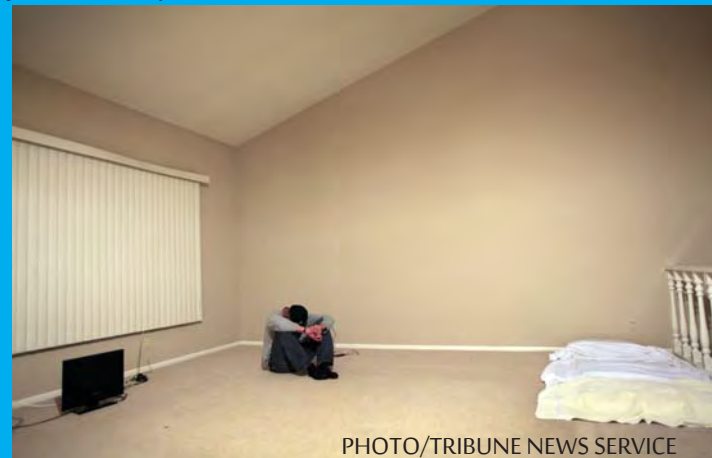
Mental illnesses may be invisible, but they are, in fact, very real: a PET Scan shows that there is significantly less brain activity in the hippocampus, which is associated with acquiring new memories and recalling old ones, and therefore crucial to the learning process that includes tons of memorizing vocabulary words and math equations.

Tests can send students with panic disorder into attacks and group activities can be nearly impossible for students with social anxiety. It is not the obligation of Neshaminy to form the curriculum around these students, however, communication between these students and their teachers and guidance counselors is key. Teachers learn just as much as their students learn from them and try their best to accommodate for the needs of the student and help the students understand any missed work for mental health days and guidance counselors are very helpful in having someone to talk to when life just piles up.

In many cases, mental illnesses are diagnosed very late to the point where the patient is self-harming or suicidal. In many cases, mental illnesses go undiagnosed. If mental health screenings became a requirement in schools just like checking vision and hearing, help could be offered at the earlier stages.

"I think it would be a really good idea. I don't know about our money situation all too well, but if it helps the learning process for the students I think the school should look into it" said Neshaminy senior, Erika Walter. Imagine all of the kids with ADD that don't have to have an "F" etched into their report card before attention is brought to their disorder.

Boston Public Schools have implemented mental health screenings and have had major success directing students in need to support groups. Neshaminy should do just that.



PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

ILLNESS - Students with mental illnesses tend to struggle more in school and lead to even further problems



# Leafing Through Time: Spring Vacation, Explained Causation Spring Break: Smells Like Teen Spirit

PHOTO/GAURI MANGALA

By Jenna Kaufman

Spring break is a time of warm weather, silly teenagers, crowded beaches, and students desperate for a good time. But who made all of the Spring break traditions?

Originally, Spring break was a few days off from school to spend time at home, with family for Easter. It was a relaxing vacation to sit back and enjoy a peaceful few days away from stress, work, and school. Needless to say, it has drastically changed.

The first Spring Break took place in 1935, when a swimming coach from Colgate University took his athletes to Fort Lauderdale Beach to compete.

Spring Break didn't gain its overbearing popularity until 1958 when an english professor tagged along to Fort Lauderdale to see what his students were buzzing about. Surrounded by out of control partiers, it was clear that the conservative Easter recess had become something very different.

Immediately upon returning home, Professor Swarthout wrote a book, "Where the Boys Are," which was later turned into a song by Connie Francis, as well as movie which Francis played the female lead.

"That was where life imitated art," said John Laurie, a business consultant at the Kauffman Foundation, in an article in the New York Times Magazine by Pagan

Kennedy. According to Laurie, after the movie came out in 1960, the previous 20,000 students, became 50,000 migrating to the Florida Beaches to experience the jaw dropping excitement they had seen on screen.

"My last [spring break] was Panama City Beach, Fla., which was then the spring-break capital of the world," stated Laurie, "After college, you can't go to spring break anymore. It's no longer socially acceptable. When it's done, it's done, and — at least for you — it's not coming back."

As if the student population wasn't already overwhelming down south, the televised broadcast of MTV's first annual "Spring Break" special aired in '86; the attention drawn to spring

break had more than doubled.

"I've never done anything for spring break, but a lot of my friends have gone to Punta Cana or Cancun," said Catherine Murphy, a Neshaminy Graduate of the class of 2011. "All kids go on a crazy extravagant springmonotonous day you enter the break trip- do some stupid things andsame block building in subzero post everything on social media,"temperatures that you presumably hate or despise--at this point of the Murphy said.

Today more than 500,000year, but then suddenly the weather students are getting ready for theirtakes a turn for warmth, spring. trip to Panama City, Fl. CancunYou're about done with pulling all-Mexico, South Padre Island, andnights to finish projects that have no many other beaches throughout thepoint and attaining grades that don't south, while others are keeping itreflect the hard work you're putting traditional with a few days of hittingin (or maybe not), so when spring the snooze button in their bed atbreak comes, it's a relief for students home.

everywhere—a week to let off steam that has built up and to forget about school (as much as you can) in weather that is actually enjoyable to go outside in, without three hundred layers of shirts squeezed into a north face.

When "letting off steam" and "forgetting about school" goes too far however, the presumed "spring breakers gone wild" is attained when college kids and some daring high school upperclassman take it to extremes, inhaling as much alcohol as possible while forgetting any of their agendas at all.

Some can venture that it's the school's fault that these kids are put into situations when stress builds up, so of course they will seek places where this stress can be released. But also it might have to do with the stereotype. That during spring

While the locals feel otherwise, they are left floundering and to deal with these teenagers running amuck doing things they won't remember a day from now leading to fights and for the college kids unintentional outcomes. Yet, the communities themselves—bars, restaurants, stores and hotels, are profiting.

Yet when so many teenagers are under the influence and in mass mobs, unquestionable things could

happen. Spring break has been synonymous with exploiting teenagers when they are in incoherent states producing viral videos and shows featured on MTV about spring breakers as well as people mocking the crazy behavior of these individuals. Movies have

portrayed spring break like "Spring Breakers" which covers the story of intense crime within the setting of spring break.

Some crime shows even portray heinous things happening during spring break and cop shows have special episodes themed Spring Break, showing underage drinking and inappropriate behavior without

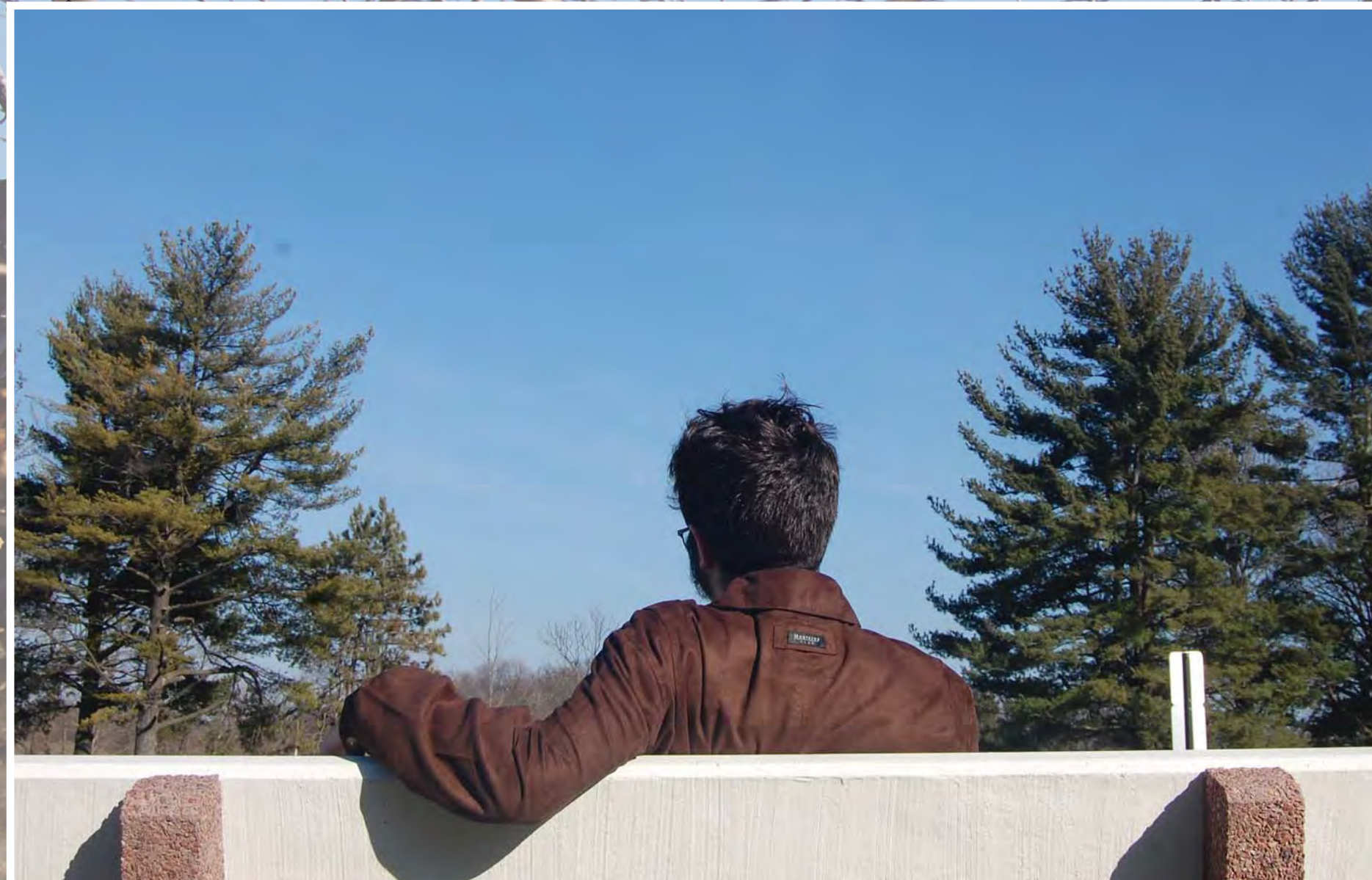
to have a fun time, according to 850 magazines, "community spends thousands of dollars every year to attract college kids from across the southeast." But places actually want these disorderly masses of students to come to their neighborhood because that means money. Even gyms are generating profits, because as mentioned in Penn State's paper, The Collegian, "we have an increase in gym memberships at the beginning of the semester," dealing with kids who want to look good for spring break and summer-partying on beaches.

parental supervision. But spring break didn't start with crazed teenagers looking for something to do and with businesses needing to profit off them; it goes back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. According to SunSentinel spring was celebrated with wine—ringing in the new season. Thus it isn't far-fetched that we still celebrate the ringing in the new season with alcohol now, except it turned to a teenage themed crazed extravaganza.

Spring break is not necessarily a bad thing, it's a time to have fun—which is what teenagers should be able to do from time to time, but safety is important. Nobody wants to shut down spring break altogether because of the mass profit that is generated from eager kids who will do about anything that is guaranteed a fun time.

In moderate amounts of fun is key, gather a group of friends and do

something out of the ordinary or take a day of seclusion in the park to read a novel because in just one week you will be immersed into the grueling final stretch of school till summer. One week can go by insanely fast, as a result make the most of your week of freedom from the tedious workload and not be in a purely obliterated state leading you to forget your whole week off and lend you right back into school without any fun of remembrance.



BACKGROUND/GAURI MANGALA

PHOTO/GAURI MANGALA

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PHOTO/GAURI MANGALA

break you have to go to a beach with thousands of these other students and go wild.

Not only are students peer pressured into going, or just going

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PHOTO/GAURI MANGALA

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# SPRING BREAK

## 2016

GRAPHIC/ZOEY JOYCE

## Expectation v.s. Reality of Spring Break



EXPECTATION

By Gauri Mangala



REALITY

ART/KEKE CRESCENSO

**Expectation:**  
Hanging with the crew all week long and getting a head start on all the things you wanted to do over summer break.

**Expectation:**  
Seeing all the new movies that you have been dying to watch.

**Expectation:**  
Waking up at 8 every morning so you don't get your school sleep schedule messed up.

**Expectation:**  
Getting a jumpstart on the upcoming workload.

**Expectation:**  
Catching up on your evident lack of sleep.

**Reality:**  
Texting that one friend, but nothing more substantial than "lol".

**Reality:**  
Marathoning Gossip Girl on Netflix for a third time.

**Reality:**  
Nothing says breakfast like 2 in the afternoon!

**Reality:**  
What classes do you even take?

**Reality:**  
You haven't slept all break but it's fine... that's what blinking is for.



# Which Destination For Spring Break?

By Zoey Joyce

Would you like to go on an adventure?

Start Here

Yes

No

Would you be okay with taking a roadtrip?

Do you appreciate looking at art?

Yes

No

Yes

No

Destination: Centralia

Centralia is an eerie ghost town. With adventures around every corner. There is no way that a fun spirited adventurer with a love for excitement could be dissappointed at this destination.

Destination: Comcast Experience HD Wall

The Comcast Center has become a tourist destination thanks to the Comcast Experience HD Wall. It's a 2100 square-foot video wall that displays art, pictures and also videos from around the world.

Destination: Philadelphia Art Museum

One of the largest art museums in the nation. The Philadelphia Art Museum is only 20\$ to get into. The tickets last for two days. Any person with an eye for art and expression will enjoy a day roaming through these halls.

Destination: Your House

It's free and you don't even need to move! Veg out and Netflix it up. The home is the best destination for a relaxing time for yourself and maybe a couple friends.

PHOTO/JESSICA MOUSLEY



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PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS



PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS



PHOTO/TRIBUNE NEWS

Spring Break | 15





*In 2015 Taylor Swift's 1989 sold 34,000 vinyl copies in 2015, topping the sales chart for the year.*

*The Arctic Monkeys album, AM, sold 27,000 vinyls in 2015. Alabama Shake's Sound & Color sold 26,000 copies the same year.*



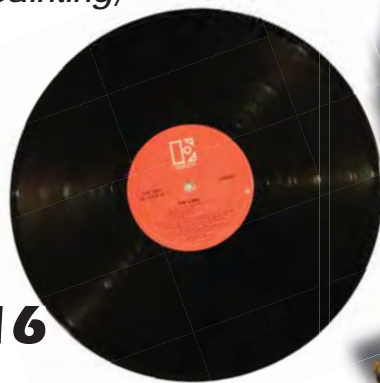
*In 1984 Micheal Jackson's Thriller, Huey Lewis's Sports, and Lionel Richie's Can't Slow Down topped vinyl record sales.*

*The first published 12-inch vinyl record was Beethoven's Fifth Symphony.*



*A vinyl copy of Velvet Underground's acetate set once sold for 25,000 dollars. It was one of two copies, the other of which was swapped for an original Andy Warhol painting,*

*Sam Smith's In the Lonely Hour sold 23,000 vinyl copies in 2015, as did the reprint of Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon.*





# Vinyls records return to music market

By Grace Marion

Like print books after the Kindle, after the popularization of CDs vinyl sales took a smash- but like a phoenix, the LP had to burn before it could be born again. Vinyl single sales peaked with 228 million units in 1973, the first year tracked by the RIAA, or Recording Industry Association of America, and LP/EPs hit their top at 341.3 million in 1978. CDs first scraped into the market in 1984, consuming, then surpassing vinyl sales.

Vinyl sales maintained at relatively the same levels between 1995 and 2012 with avid music collectors, 12 track jukeboxes, and radio stations maintaining the market, but in 2014 vinyl sales in the United States more than doubled.

The RIAA stated that they haven't seen vinyl sales this strong since 1989. More than half of current vinyl buyers are under the age of 25, consisting mostly of males, according to industry research organization, MusicWatch.

Many of the vinyl presses that have been revamped as a result of this boom in sales are finding themselves under more pressure than they can handle, more than the 100 tons of pressure needed to create the shiny, black disks they produce, as a result of excessive demand for their product concurrent with a shortage of the machinery used to make it.

"Our demand far exceeds that," General Manager Sean Rutkowski said. "We could run these presses 24 hours a day, seven days a week and still not be able to meet demand. Capacity is really the choke point in the vinyl industry right now," said Sean Rutkowski, the General Manager at Independent Record Pressing in Bordentown, New Jersey in an interview with CNBC in November.

Those who clung to the polyester ways of the pre-CD music world through the fall of vinyls hailed them as an experience for the decades, a way of life. The experience of buying a record, the warm mahogany sound that just can't quite be found on digital, the absence of top 40 artists in local record stores, being able to physically own your music.

Technically, vinyls don't sound better than CDs. "According to science, a CD and a vinyl record being pulled from the same original material are mathematically identical.

Without going to [sic] far into it, suffice it to say that the 44.1 kHz/16-bit CD-quality spec isn't random—it's based on sampling theory, which proves that given that the highest frequency you can hear is 20,000 Hz, using a higher sampling rate or resolution is mathematically inconsequential," said journalist, Mario Aguilar, in an article he wrote for Gizmo in 2014.

The same can not be said for digital recordings. "Most of the music you listen to is stored and broadcast in a lossy format, where details are lost and quality is reduced. This is because audio is compressed in order to make it small enough to shove on a phone, or to broadcast over the airwaves... Vinyl is what's called a lossless format... It sounds as good as the producer or band intended," said software developer, Matthew Hughes, in an article he wrote for Make Use Of in April.

Many theorize that the new-age wave of vinyl addicts aren't so concerned about the sound. Listeners seem to be finding their own ways to fall in love with the format. "I personally like records because they make me listen to the full album rather than streaming music where I can skip songs at the press of a button. There's a lot more concentration that goes into records than there is downloading it onto a computer," said Neshaminy Senior, Thomas Banks.

"I think it might be for nostalgic purposes. My father played a lot of records when I was growing up, so that definitely influenced my decision to buy records. Maybe it's the same way for other people," continued Banks.

"Something about putting on a record brings [me] a good feeling," said Stroker.

"We're in the hipster era and everyone is trying to channel the times when vinyls were popular, plus they look pretty cool. Once the hipster phase passes so will their popularity," said Neshaminy Sophomore, Rebecca

The Playwickian

March 17, 2016

PHOTOS/ GRACE MARION





# SUP OF A DAD

AN EP  
BY  
MIKAL CASTLE



*"Music to me is everything; it's amazing to have it in my life and being able to create it is even better."*

PHOTOS/MIKE CASSELL

*"Keep an open mind, listen to what I have to say; they [the listeners] are free to interpret the songs anyway they please."*







# Neshaminy Senior drops new album

By Timothy Cho

Mike Cassell, Neshaminy senior, has released his latest album, "Son of a Dad." While a student releasing an album is an enormous feat as it is, what makes this particular album a work of wonder is the amount of work Cassell put into it--alone.

"Son of a Dad," was created solely by Cassell; every instrument was played, recorded and edited by him, while featuring himself as the sole singer. He contributed his motivation to make this album to, "the fact that I had never done anything like it before in music."

From beginning to finish, Cassell's album is entirely his. "The album represents hard work and dedication...Spending hours of time perfecting something," he said.

But this album goes beyond hard work or dedication--it reflects Cassell's love for music, from composing to playing to editing it. "Son of a Dad" shows listeners that music is not just a hobby or interest, but that it is a step forward into Cassell's future as an artist.

This album's only consistent theme is that each song deals with various types of relationships people have. Each song tackles a unique kind, whether from a romantic relationship to relationships with parents and, "how one would deal with the complications that occur with each one."

One song, "Lover Boy," Cassell's favorite in the album, discusses romance and dealing with someone the listener may love, which he thinks "a lot of people would enjoy it for that reason."

Cassell's album covers a broad range of topics, expanding his horizons and message to as many listeners as possible. While he has no specific aim or target, Cassell utilized all of his talents to construct "Son of a Dad," in order to relate his message with a larger audience.

Since he has no specific focus, he recommends listeners, "Keep an open mind, listen to what I have to say; they [the listeners] are free to interpret the songs anyway they please." This album is more than a collection of songs—it's Cassell speaking directly to his audience, speaking his own story through the music and sharing his ideas.

Cassell has played music for most of his life, and while balancing school and music was difficult, Cassell followed his heart and continued to pursue music. "I'm interested in music because it is the only thing that had ever made sense to me in such a way that I can understand it better than I can with anything else," said Cassell.

"Son of a Dad" does not fit into any easily-definable genre of music; it incorporates various music styles and utilizes techniques found across the music genre of spectrum. The result is an album that seemingly creates a new genre of music, somewhere between melodic, soothing funk and self-conscious, reflective pop music.

Thus, Cassell stitches together a bridge between various music types, constructed by his experience in music and hard-earned talent. "Music to me is everything; it's amazing to have it in my life and being able to create it is even better."

He has never made an album like this before, but it reflects his desire to complete a massive project independently, something, "that is all your own."



# Beyoncé's race-based Superbowl message stirs disagreement among public

By Nina Taranenko

Beyoncé is one of the most well-known singers of this generation. Starting off in Destiny's child in 1990(then known as Girl's Tyme), she turned to a solo career in 2002 with many hit singles throughout the years. Her newest single "Formation" has caused a lot of controversy to arise on racism.

The lyrics to the song consist of Beyoncé expressing her pride in being black and her heritage. Lyrics such as, "I like my baby hairs with baby hair and afros. I like my negro nose with Jackson 5 nostrils". The song showcases how young black children shouldn't be afraid to show their natural parts, or try to change them.

The video is where many say the racism lies; Beyoncé is shown in a river standing on top of a police car. Though there is no direct link between this part of the video and the song, she leaves it open for interpretation.

When asked how she interpreted it, junior Jessica Whelan said "I took it as a message against police brutality. The cops keep killing blacks and using excessive force that isn't needed and the cops are getting away with it, so basically the blacks and their rights and safety are drowning"

Many seem to take this as Beyoncé attacking the police, what many interpret the Black Lives Matter movement as.

Beyoncé performed the song at the Super Bowl 50 halftime show, starring alongside Coldplay and Bruno Mars. Coming out as the third act, she and the dancers were dressed in leather body suit and black berets, similar to those of The Black Panthers.

Many tweeted during the halftime show that Beyoncé was racist and they were disgusted that the NFL would allow her to perform,

"#Boycott Beyoncé She's a racist who advocates violence against Police. -Richard Hartley (@GringoTJ) said February 8, 2016"

"I will #BoycottBeyonce and #boycotjayz now. They are part of what's wrong with society today. #police #BlueLivesMatter-Br0k3n (@TheSax0n) said February 8, 2016"

Beyoncé is a singer who expresses reality through her music, and will not let criticism stop her from making her art form. Many people speak through their talents, and Beyoncé will continue to do so, until justice [in her eyes] has been made.



**Br0k3n**

@TheSax0n

I will #BoycottBeyonce and #boycotjayz now. They are part of what's wrong with society today. #police #BlueLivesMatter



**Manti Te'o**

@MTeo\_5



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BEYONCE JUST KILLED THAT PERFORMANCE!!!! WOW!!! #superbowl

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FAVORITES



8:22 PM - 3 Feb 13



**Richard Hartley**

@GringoTJ



#BoycottBeyonce She's a racist who advocates violence against Police. [twitter.com/BocaRatonRC/st...](https://twitter.com/BocaRatonRC/status/511111111111111111)

11:11 AM - 8 Feb 2016



1



1

**Khalil P. Garriott**

@khalilgarriott

During the halftime show, Beyoncé averaged 147,000 tweets per minute, besting Coldplay's (83,000) & Bruno Mars (28,000). @liahaberman



**MyLovelyPlanner**

@plannerhabit

When I read tweets or comments about #Beyonce Super Bowl halftime performance I see a lot of #racist #sexist #ignorance



# NYC Fashion Week returns

By Liz Daniel

One of the most anticipated events in the fashion world is New York Fashion Week. New York Fashion Week is where international designers get the opportunity to showcase their designs to the public on the runway. The array of styles can go from comfy, exaggerated street wear to sheer beaded gowns.

Designers such as Marc Jacobs, Ralph Lauren, J. Mendel, DKNY, Tom Lorenzo and many more have set the bar for what 2016 fashion has in store. Marc Jacobs gave new meaning to chunky boots with his super high platforms worn by the iconic Lady Gaga paired with oversized jackets and sweaters. The theatrical makeup and 40's style finger waves encouraged the dreamy vintage-grunge doll look.

The perfect combination of Japanese street style, athletic wear, and goth resulted in Rihanna's Fenty Puma collection, unexpectedly putting Puma back on the map. The oversized zip-ups and high-waisted briefs made each look seem effortless, accessorized with black lips and hair sleeked with white paint. The black and white unisex collection exudes sexiness and confidence perfectly describing Rihanna herself.

Dao-Yi Chow and Maxwell Osborne's DKNY show celebrate minimalism in fashion with their crisp, androgynous 90's girl-band theme. The tailored jackets, slouchy overalls, and shredded fabrics were bold but still wearable and its urban tomboy vibe brought back memories of our favorite 90's girl groups such as TLC or singer, Aaliyah.

The models of Marchesa embodied art as they graced the runway in floral gowns interpreted from landscape paintings by artist, John Singer Sargent. Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig, designers of the collection, wanted to channel Sargent's landscapes and incorporate an Edwardian opulence in their evening gowns. From velvet flowers to sparkling embellishments to layers of pastel-colored tulle, each garment was just as eye catching and breath-taking as the next. The collection was truly royal and gracefully displayed power and femininity.

The ready to wear collection from Rag and Bone brought cool spring style to the runway with trendy silhouetted dresses, baggy parkas, paired with sneakers or strappy sandals. Designers, David Neville and Marcus Wainwright reimaged style of the late 90's in London, where the two were born and raised, with ribbed, knit midi dresses and hoop earrings. The military referencing parkas tied together the looks, adding just enough structure to collection and making it a go-to for this Spring of 2016.





# Twin Peaks to return to prime time after 16 years

By Sara Xibos

For hopeful fans that have been waiting for the return of beloved 1990's TV series, *Twin Peaks*, their long wait has been answered. The adventures and mysterious surrounding FBI agent Dale Cooper will soon return to the screen during the first half of 2017. The series follow Dale Cooper investigating the murder of Laura Palmer, who is the homecoming queen. In the town of Twin Peaks, Washington nothing is as it seems. Some characters that appear innocent are revealed they to be actually living double lives. The TV show is a mystery/ crime drama, having viewers at the edge of their seat at the suspense of every episode.

"I'm excited to tell you that David Lynch is now more than halfway through his shooting schedule, and the limited series will premiere in the first half of 2017," [Showtime CEO David Nevins said](#). And well, that's about all the information he was willing to share.

In the pilot episode FBI special agent Dale Cooper says that Twin Peaks is "five miles south of the Canadian border, and twelve miles west of the state line," located in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. But many outside scenes were filmed in Malibu, California. Most inside scenes were filmed in sets in San Fernando Valley warehouse.

*Twin Peaks* was one of the top rated shows of 1990. It captured a cult following and was referenced in many things like comic books, songs, commercials and video games. The pilot episode was ranked number 25 on TV Guide's 1997 100 Greatest Episodes of All Time. Then the series was ranked number 45 on TV Guide's 50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time in 2002. Also in 2013's 60 shows that were "Canceled Too Soon."

"I'm very excited to return to the strange world of Twin Peaks," Kyle MacLachlan, actor for Dale Cooper, said way back in January 2015. "May the forest be with you." Showtime president David Nevins added that "he'll be leading the show".

Besides the return of some of the original cast, two more actors have also found their way into the Twin Peaks, Washington. The two new faces are Patrick Fischler and David Dastmalchian who are experienced in playing mysterious and putting off characters. Already well known in the entertainment world, many have high expectations for what they can execute and give to the classic show.

Although there is not much known about the shoot and what the show will be like when it returns, Deadline has reported many others returning including, Sherilyn Fenn, Miguel Ferrer, Sheryl Lee, David Patrick Kelly, and Richard Beymer are all likely among the players too. The one who is not returning is actress Lara Flynn Boyle, who played Donna Hayward in 1990 version of the show.

Despite 2017 seems so far away, most fans are not able to hold back their anticipation.

## Movie Review

# Zootopia stuns audiences

By Kristen Wright

Who doesn't love a Disney movie? People are thrilled about Disney's latest movie release, "*Zootopia*", directed by Bryon Howard and Richard Moore. "*Zootopia*" has been getting a lot of focus lately for its wide appeal to both kids and adults. It is close to home with a bright and vibrant animation style we all enjoyed as kids. It got an incredible review on Rotten Tomatoes of 99%!

"*Zootopia*" is a kids adventure comedy that is filled with fun and witty humor. All of the dialogue is clever and well planned out with barely any cliché or corny remarks from any of characters. "*Zootopia*" has received lots of praise for its amazing graphic design, well written script, and great choice of voice actors. These actors include Jason Bateman, well known from the movie *Horrible Bosses*, and Ginnifer Goodwin recognizable from the television show *Once Upon a Time*. Together these two play as an exciting and lovable team.

There isn't much to say about this movie except that if you love children classics, then you'll love "*Zootopia*". I give this movie a 4 turkeys out of 5. "*Zootopia*" is playing in all theaters and was released March 4th. If you're interested in seeing a great movie in the near future, definitely consider "*Zootopia*" as your choice!



The Playwickian  
March 17, 2016



# New Better Call Saul: Pleasant

By Brendan McGoldrick

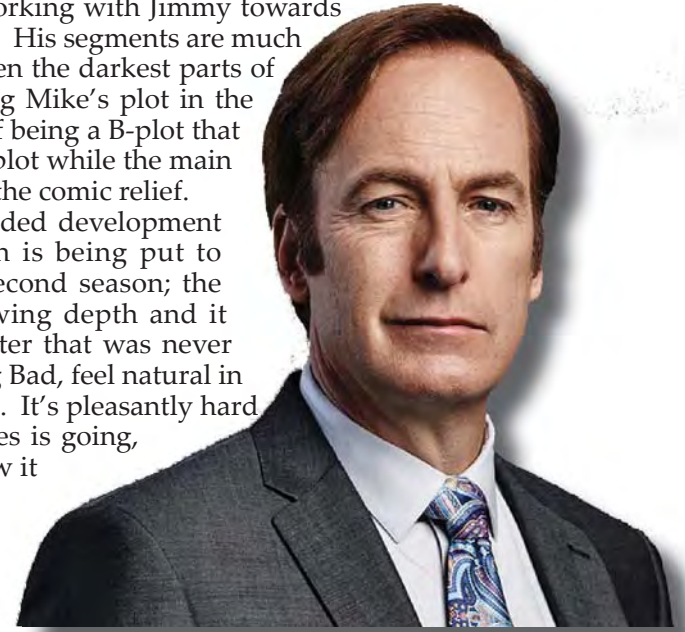
Better Call Saul's (BCS) second season has so far started off pleasantly well, and is really starting to come into its own compared to the first season, which seemed obligated to check off of a list of references to Breaking Bad. So far, it's a sizable step up from the slow-boil drama of the first season into a constantly tense series worth watching for those who might have passed up on the first season.

Picking up after protagonist Jimmy McGill (Later known as Saul Goodman, referenced in the title) had a tough falling-out with his brother, Jimmy leaves behind his dead-end job as a state-appointed attorney after he gets referred to work at a professional law firm. Jimmy has to balance his unusual, and probably unethical practices, in his fancy new environment to avoid getting himself fired and embarrassing his love interest, Kim Wexler, who stuck her head out to put him in the firm. At the same time, Jimmy wants to show to his brother Chuck, who earlier was found to be blocking Jimmy's progress as a lawyer for years, that he can be successful in the firm.

At the same time, Mike Ehrmantraut, the ex-cop and drug worker to-be, is working on his own odd jobs, only occasionally crossing paths with Jimmy to tie up some loose ends with legal issues. A surprising amount of screen time is spent on the B-plot that is Mike's story, and it's definitely more engaging than in the first season now that Mike has had his backstory as a cop explored and his

professionalism in working with Jimmy towards the end of last season. His segments are much more serious than even the darkest parts of Jimmy's story, putting Mike's plot in the interesting position of being a B-plot that serves as the serious plot while the main one contains most of the comic relief.

So far, the added development from the first season is being put to good use in BCS's second season; the characters have growing depth and it made Mike, a character that was never intended for Breaking Bad, feel natural in the well-rounded cast. It's pleasantly hard to tell where the series is going, even if it's known how it will end for the main characters.



PHOTO/HTTP://WWW.AMC.COM/SHOWS/BETTER-CALL-SAUL/  
CAST-CREW

## Movie Preview

# Anticipation for new High School Musical building

By Brianna Herder

Finally, after years of waiting, Disney is giving the public a fourth installment of "High School Musical". The only thing that doesn't sit well with many fans is the fact that the original cast won't be returning to do the movie. All new characters have been made for all new aspiring actors and actresses to play.

The cast reunited back in January to celebrate their tenth anniversary, and Zac Efron's absence caused a frenzy on many social media platforms. Nonetheless, many were excited about the cast reuniting, and even more were excited about the recent announcement of the fourth "High School Musical." Fans were anticipating being able to see where their beloved characters ended up and how they are doing, but those bubbles were quickly burst when Disney announced

their nationwide search for a new cast. The new characters have been confirmed since the announcement was made, and it didn't take die-hard fans very long to notice that they were all strikingly similar to the originals.

Although the characters are all new, it is pretty easy to pin point similarities between the old and the new characters. Tamara is a cheerleader who wants nothing more than to appear as the heroine of everyone's lives, followed by Erin, a determined soccer player who falls in love with a bad boy she knows she should stay away from. Derek would be the bad boy Erin is head over heels for, but in a twist of events turns out to be a pretty nice boy. In fact, he teaches little girls to dance in his family's dance studio. Meanwhile, Campbell is another dancer

who happens to like Erin. Last but not least, Nathalie is Erin's cheerleader best friend.

Disney was quick to share the details on the nationwide cast search, yet they have been quiet about sharing if there will be any cameos from the old cast. Fans took to Twitter posting their reactions to the news of the shockingly drastic changes. Prior to the recent buzz, fans had their own speculations about what the next HSM would be like, the most popular being "College Years" which would keep the original cast since many argue they are too old to act as high schoolers, and it would open up a whole new plot rather than the East High Wildcats and West High Knights rivalry this movie is rumored to be about.



# League of their own

## Senior sweeps away competition

### Fast Facts

8

Years spent running competitively

1:56

The new school record for the 800m run

7

Conway is ranked 7th in the state for the 800m run

# BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY

PHOTO/LIAM KRIMMEL



#### STATE CHAMP-

Sean Conway secured a seventh place finish in the 800m run at the PIAA State championships.

By Natalie Pietrowski

"I was very relaxed but I was so eager to see what my time was," senior Sean Conway said.

Conway, a middle distance runner and captain of the Boys' Track and Field team, placed seventh overall in the 800m race at PIAA State Championship race on Feb. 28. His time of 1:56 minutes is now the new school record.

"Immediately after I crossed the finish line, I looked to the big screen and saw that I had achieved my goal," Conway said. "I was at peace mentally because I had completed the task I had been working so hard

towards for so many months."

Competition is anything but new for the recently committed Bucknell University athlete. "I have been running since 4th grade and I always loved racing kids during recess," he said.

Last year Conway secured a sixth place finish in the 400m race before suffering from a hamstring injury during the spring season. But Conway's story is one of perseverance. "The injury has been a motivating factor," Distance Coach Sean DeLosAngeles said in interview with papreplive. "He's driven to push himself more now than ever before."

There is no doubt that the injury has changed Conway's mentality toward the sport. "Although much of your improvement does come from how much you push yourself during workouts coaches assign you, its crucial that you are taking care of yourself," Conway said. "And not doing stupid things outside of your sport that can put you at risk for an injury."

In addition to being a captain of the Boys' Track team, Conway is also a part of the NHS Roadies, a club that is designed to showcase the talents of exceptional actors and actresses.

Conway now proves to be a threat in both the 400m and 800m races, as well as numerous relays. "There is nothing better than running in a high quality 4x400 meter relay."

#### MULTI-TALENTED-

When senior Sean Conway isn't running on the track in preparation for the next meet, he's in the drama department, rehearsing for the next performance.

PHOTO/ZOEY JOYCE





# Girls' Basketball

## Playoff run falls short

By Maggie Aldrich and  
Liam Krimmel

Neshaminy has had a great year with many teams achieving many great accomplishments. The girls basketball team is having the season to remember this year, winning their league conference undefeated and being the first team in many years to go to the state finals this year. The team has had many standout athletes this season, including Morgan Goldenbaum, Devon Storms, Thyra Tuttle, Tiara Porterfield and Emily Alexis.

The potential of winning a league title takes a lot of work, but to win the title, go undefeated, and go to states takes something else. The girls always practice four to five times every week to prepare themselves mentally and physically. The girls recently had another basketball game on Friday night against Hazelton high school, where they were down seven points during the first half but came back with nine points to win the game 50-41.

"At half time we talked about defense and how our defense had to be stronger, so we knew we had to stick to our man and not let anyone get an open shot, cut through, get open," Goldenbaum said. "We tried on offense putting me and Brooke down low, getting the ball in to post up which also created times where we could pass the ball out and get open jump shots. So we adjusted a lot which helped us win the game,"

The experience at a state competition is one that cannot be explained with words, but by

actions and opportunities that are there for the taking. "It's a cool experience to do this all, like go to states, ride a two hour bus ride with your team, have food on the way, it's going to be even cooler to come back to the high school in a couple of years and see your banner still up there saying you were the first team to go to states and the first team to be undefeated in the SOL," said Devon Storms.

Last week, the girls took on Upper Dublin on Mar. 8 in the second round of the playoffs. The girls took the win with the final score of 53-35.

Neshaminy advanced to the "Elite Eight" of the state through capturing in both the first and second rounds in the PIAA AAAA class tournament.

All good things must come to an end eventually, and this is exactly what happened on Friday night (March 11). While much of the Neshaminy student body was participating in the 63rd annual Gym Night, the girls basketball team was battling North Penn for a place in the state semi-finals.

Neshaminy was in the lead for the majority of the game excluding the last few minutes. By the time the final buzzer sounded North Penn had overcome a 12 point deficit beating Neshaminy 42-41.

Goldenbaum led the team in scoring with a total of 13 points. Freshmen Brooke Mullin followed close behind with 10 points. Allison Harvey, also a freshman, totaled seven points.

"It's just a cool experience because it's not going to happen a lot," Storms said.

**SWOOSH--** Freshman [Brooke Mullin](#) lines up for a basket at a game on Fri. March 5. Mullin was a leading scorer last game, totaling 10 points against North Penn.

**SCORE--** Freshman [Allison Harvey](#) lines up for a shot at a game on Fri. March 5. Harvey was also a leading scorer last game, totaling seven points against North Penn.



PHOTOS/MAGGIE ALDRICH







## Cheerleading season ends on high note

By Natalie Pietrowski

"Cheerleading has developed into way more than just side line chants and dances. Competitive routines are 2 and a half minutes of pushing your body to its limits" varsity cheerleading Coach Michelle Mazur said.

During the competitive season this year, the varsity cheerleading team secured 6 first place trophies and 5 grand champ titles along with a fully

paid bid to the US Finals. Back in February the Varsity team placed first at the "Gotta Cheer" competition in New Jersey, and was crowned Grand Champs.

"We compete 6-8 times during our regular season and then finish up with a national competition in late February or early March- Locations change year to year," Mazur said. This year the competitions took place in Orlando Florida, and the Neshaminy Varsity team was crowned first place champions, finishing with an

undefeated record.

Captains this year include Gianna Casmirri, Lauren Henry, Haylee Starrett and Sarah Pringle. "They really are the glue that keeps this team as close as they are," Mazur said. Key seniors are Lauryn Heil, Annie Lostracco and Britt Fantini.

The girls attend multiple choreography classes as well as weekly tumbling classes in order to prepare for competitions. Often times, these preparations start before school the school year

does. "In the beginning of the season, we practice 5 days a week and then we scale back to 3x a week. 1 day a week is at The Nac so we can practice our tumbling," Mazur explained.

There is more to the cheer team than competitions though. Every year the team participates in several community events. "We cheered on the walkers at the Susan G. Koman walk," Mazur said. "We also collected baby items during the football season... benefiting low income babies."