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The Spectrum

◆ *ut omnes te cognoscant* ◆

FEBRUARY 2017 • VOL. 36, No. 2

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

www.thespectrumabrhs.com

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Protesters at the Boston Women's March
LUKA ILIC / Spectrum Staff

People and Their Democracy

By NITHYANI ANANDAKUGAN
Spectrum Staff

Time tests a relationship's strength; weak relationships collapse, while strong ones endure. The relationship between the American people and their democracy has withstood time's trials. However, following the 2016 election, this bond faces its greatest test yet: Donald J. Trump.

This past year, our democracy ostensibly collapsed. Our politicians stooped to dishonesty, indecency, and even obscenity. They bickered and quarrelled. And they undermined our government's values and integrity. The relationship between the people and their government became bitter and tense. Subsequently, our democracy

suffers from the threat of a disillusioned people who stand not behind but against their president. It suffers from division and animosity. It suffers from strife and contention. Our democracy is threatened.

Throughout history, American leaders have warned the people of democracy's most imminent threats. They have cautioned us against factions and political polarization. They have advised us against military expansion. They have urged us to maintain our empathy for those with different beliefs and values. Despite these warnings and the threats they expressed, democracy prevails.

In his farewell address, George Washington admonished against the dangers of political parties: “The alternate domination of one

faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid enormities, is itself a frightful despotism.” He predicted that factions would result in corruption and self-interest among politicians.

Today, polarized political parties contribute to increasingly puerile conflict in government. In fact, the Democratic and Republican parties have wanted to internal conflict and division. Many liberal Sanders supporters refused to back Hillary Clinton once she became the democratic nominee because of her dishonest conduct as the Secretary of State and while she was on the campaign trail. On the other hand, many conservative leaders openly

condemned Donald Trump for his controversial policies and offensive character. Both parties' internal turmoil and chaos have deterred many from their government.

Though Washington's parting remarks failed to prevent Americans from succumbing to factionalism, the relationship between the people and their democracy withstood. The United States continued to grow and prosper until 1961, when Dwight D. Eisenhower warned the nation of a second threat to democracy—military-industrial complex. Despite his military background, Eisenhower feared that an unhealthy alliance between the U.S. government and the arms industry diverted funds from resources critical to American

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Intro

Letter from the EIC

By POOJITHA JONNAVITHULA
Editor-in-Chief

After the 2016 election, journalism as an institution came under a great deal of fire. Its integrity and relevance, and especially credibility, led people to criticize the general state of American media both in politics and as a tool for the public. While the Trump Administration has made it quite clear how it feels about “liberal media,” one thing is obvious: we’re only just getting started. Now more than ever, a cry for critical thinkers and curious sleuths are needed to question all aspects of life. Now is the time for people to come together and share ideas, contradictory and controversial. Now is the time for a resurgence of American liberty and free press. And we at The Spectrum are not to be forgotten.

The Winter Issue: Relationships is our biggest print issue yet. We’ve worked tirelessly to put together a large range of articles, and have dedicated four pages to our theme

of “relationships.” What I love most about this issue are the different mediums at play, and whether it be a timeline, quiz, or jokey Valentine’s Day cards, our staff is no longer bound to traditional article formats. pushed the envelope. The Publicity and Finance Team has also worked tirelessly to book advertisements for us, and we appreciate their drive and the support of the local businesses that sponsor us. In addition, layout has been a learning experience, but in the end, we have seen real growth from a variety of devoted members. The Chief Staff continues to blow me away with their hard work and innovation. They are creative, thoughtful, and loyal members who are also just really great people, and Ms. Hammond once again provides much needed guidance and grammar edits; without her we would be lost. And finally, thank you dear readers, all three of you, for making all this worth it. We’ll see you this spring.

The Spectrum

Founded 1982

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Jade and June Vol. 1, Issue 2



CRISPR-cas9: Gene Technology

By SRIJA NAGIREDDY
Spectrum Staff

While CRISPR-cas9 is not a household name, it stands to be a radical force of change in everyone’s lives in the coming years. As a technology that has opened many frontiers in genetic engineering, it has started an ethical debate, sparked a massive patent battle, and brought some of humanity’s greatest dreams to life. Yet our worst dreams also may come true. There is only one thing certain about the future of CRISPR: things will never be the same again.

CRISPR, short for clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, is a gene editing tool that allows scientists to alter any piece of DNA from any species. CRISPR has many potential uses, from disabling genes in mushrooms that cause them to brown to editing mosquitos’ DNA to become resistant to malaria. In addition, its applicability to human cells opens up a wide world of possibilities. Studies are being conducted on whether CRISPR could be used to alter T cells’ genes and make them better attack cancer cells. However, this has created a controversy over ethics. Since scientists can now alter genes in human embryos, they are able to make permanent and in-

heritable changes to human DNA. Most people can agree that CRISPR is beneficial in its use of editing genes responsible for genetic diseases. But then the more controversial questions follow: is using this technology to choose a child’s hair color or improve their mathematic proficiency acceptable?

CRISPR has already been used on human embryos. Developmental biologist Kathy Niakan uses it to “understand the influence of signalling and transcription factors on differentiation during early human development,” according to the Francis Crick Institute website, where the research is conducted. These embryos are not implanted into a human and are destroyed after a week.

Furthermore, the patent battle over CRISPR has been highly covered in the news. The major teams are Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, and Feng Zhang. The fight is complicated because no one individual invented CRISPR. In 1987, researchers at Osaka University noticed something strange when they sequenced the *iap* gene: they found identical repeat segments of DNA separated by spacers with unique sequences. These were brushed off. However, when these segments started appearing again and again, they were named

clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats. CRISPR came into the limelight though a very unconventional manner: yogurt. Yogurt maker Danisco had a problem with their cultures spoiling. Rodolphe Barrangou, a microbiologist, found out that their cultures were using CRISPR, altering the taste of the yogurt. Now many manufacturers select specific CRISPR sequences in their cultures.

Doudna and Charpentier standardized CRISPR and made it easy to use. They showed that CRISPR could be used on any piece of DNA, not just bacterial. This provided the perfect alternative to previous cumbersome techniques such as zinc finger nucleases and TALENs. While it may seem like Doudna and Charpentier would get the patent rights, Feng Zhang, a biomedical engineer, also claims a large stake in this technology. He was the first person to demonstrate that CRISPR works on human DNA as well—a central part of its intended use.

CRISPR will impact our everyday lives. It can change our food, our diseases, and even our next generation. With such an influential tool in our hands it is important that everyone stays informed and watchful, as the consequences could be dire if we do not.

Acton Medical
ASSOCIATES
Adult & Pediatric Primary Care

Good News

By Olivia Marble
News Editor

Free College Degree Program For Adults

Mountain View, California has established a program for adults to get a free college education. Thanks to a partnership between online course provider Study.com, the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce, and Thomas Edison State University, residents can now apply for the Mountain View Working Scholars program. Adults in the program take college level courses online and at their own pace, allowing them to earn a degree while keeping their jobs. Approximately 45% of adults over the age of 25 that live in Mountain View do not have a bachelor’s degree, and a bachelor’s degree would open the door to many opportunities for these adults.

Canadian National Parks Free In 2017

In celebration of Canada’s 150th birthday, all national parks will offer free admission for the entirety of 2017. The only requirement is ordering a free Discovery admissions card from the park’s website. In addition, the government will announce 150 community greening initiatives, including one that will allow community organizations to apply to host planting events.

Free Kit Kats Thanks To A Tweet

A freshman at Kansas State University left his car unlocked one day, and tragically, his Kit Kat was stolen as a result. He tweeted about the incident and in response, the chocolate company sent him 6,500 Kit Kats. He decided to spread the wealth, creating the hashtag #KitKatsForEveryone and distributed them to his classmates. If only every tweet had such a sweet result!

Christmas Wishes Come True

New Yorkers Jim Glaub and

Dylan Parker received 400 letters addressed for Santa during Christmas time six years ago for no apparent reason. Since then, the couple has fulfilled every Christmas wish they have received through help from online donations, sending toys, clothes, and food to families in need. They are considering creating a nonprofit to help families year round.

Parrots for Patriots

Parrots for Patriots is an organization that pairs abandoned birds with veterans as a form of therapy. Parrots are the perfect pet for veterans, especially those suffering from PTSD, as they provide the routine that many veterans miss and they can live for up to 80 years, which means the veterans will hopefully avoid the tragedy of yet another death. In turn, the program is perfect for parrots because many parrots are abandoned due to their long lifespan.

Town Comes Together To Shovel

In a small Maine town, the only snowplow driver quit his job after a big storm, so residents decided to clear the roads. Local officials described the situation as an emergency, but the roads were almost fully cleared by the next afternoon. An ice storm that arrived soon after didn’t stop anyone. They kept clearing the roads until the job was done.

Chief Breaks Up 850 Child Marriages

Theresa Kachindamoto, the senior chief of her district in Central Malawi, has broken up 850 child marriages. She convinced 50 sub-chiefs to sign an agreement banning child marriages and allowing her to annul current ones. In the areas where children were still getting married, she fired the chiefs. Malawi has one of the highest rates of child marriages in the world. Her heroic example will hopefully inspire others to take similar actions.

News

Pride Week: Celebrating Love



Students during Pride Week 2016
Common Ground

By KATHERINE CHEN
Spectrum Staff

Pride Week, formerly known as Ally Week, took place the week of December 5th, 2016. This annual LGBTQ+ event, hosted by AB's Common Ground, invited the community to support the school's LGBT community. *The Spectrum* reached out to members of Common Ground for more information on the club and changes made this year.

Common Ground president Hannah Karp explains that the club "provides a safe space for LGBT students to be, discuss and interact with each other, while educating the greater AB community." Common Ground sponsors, organizes, and helps run a variety of different programs to educate students about LGBT issues. During the Day of Silence, students and teachers alike

pledge not to speak in solidarity for those who feel powerless due to their sexuality. The club also discusses gender and sexuality issues in freshman health classes, brings speakers to the school such as Skylar Kergil, and this year even helped create a junior high LGBT club. Common Ground combines inclusion with self acceptance in all of its projects.

Pride Week exemplifies this mission. Formerly titled "Ally Week," the name was changed this year to mark a shift in AB's growing LGBT community. Common Ground co-advisor Mr. Lewis explains, "More and more people are coming out in high school and are identifying as queer, and because they're out, they're not just allies... We thought of pride as a term... if you're an ally you can be proud, if you're out you can be proud... It allows anyone to participate without excluding some of the people in the club itself." Hannah Karp says, "Just as LGBT

people can be proud of their sexuality, straight people can be proud to support them." Common Ground wants to emphasize the significance and importance of Pride Week as an event for everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Changing the title gives agency to the queer community while also inviting the rest of the school to join. It shifts the focus from what "others" can do, and it allows everyone to participate in the discussion together. Ultimately, everyone can be an ally and everyone can be proud.

Hannah Karp goes on, "Pride Week has evolved over time, and what we currently do is invite members of AB to wear a different color of the rainbow everyday to show their support for the LGBT community. Members of Common Ground "also [led] discussions about gender and sexuality everyday in South Commons during all lunches." Other aspects of Pride Week include selling "Erase Hate" bracelets and giving out rainbow ribbons made by club members. Students signed posters and pledges "attesting why they celebrate pride," as Karp puts it. While it had a different name, the event still focused on the same things: love and support. It is important for all members of our community to feel safe, and Common Ground helps make this an actual possibility through its meaningful change.

Peanut Patch: Aid for Allergies



Peanuts: One of the most common allergens
ONLINE SOURCE

By ELIZA HOLTZ
Correspondent

Researchers estimate that about fifteen million Americans have food allergies. According to foodallergy.org, an allergic reaction sends someone to the emergency room every three minutes. Specifically, for children aged five and under, peanut allergies have doubled in the past five years. To combat this, researchers from DBV Technologies have created a peanut allergy patch called Viaskin. The patch contains tiny doses of peanut protein that eventually help users outgrow their peanut allergy. The doses build one's immune system stronger everyday, until it can eventually tolerate peanuts.

While the patch still needs to be officially approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to confirm that the product is safe, the FDA has already allowed the product to advance to Phase III trials. Once at Phase III, the patch will be tested on 1,000 to 2,000 patients for effectiveness and safety, as well as for a possible therapeutic effect. When the drug was tested in Phase

2B, results showed that 50% of children were able to tolerate about three hundred milligrams of peanut protein after using the product for a year compared to 13% previously. This is the first time that a drug for food allergies has reached Phase III, and if it is successful in the trial, it will advance to Phase IV where the long-term effects of the drug are assessed.

While this drug may give hope to parents and those with severe peanut allergies, there are down-

sides to the product as well. There are concerns that the patch may trigger severe reactions, even if it only contains small doses. Dr. Stacie Jones applied the peanut patch to several patients and reported that around 80% of them had some sort of reaction, though the majority were mild, such as rashes or bumps. In addition, the product does not result in a person being able to eat a whole jar of peanuts. Instead, it hopefully protects patients from contact or exposure to peanuts. Furthermore, the patch will cause problems if it is not applied everyday like instructed. If a patient forgets one day to apply it, they might remain intolerant to peanuts and not have a significant difference in their peanut allergy.

Viaskin was created to slowly help decrease the 200,000 emergency room visits each year due to food allergies. There are Viaskin patches for different foods as well, such as milk, eggs, and more. With this expanding range of medicinal technology, researchers hope to give parents comfort and relief the next time their children are exposed to an allergen.

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Interview with Jack

By TOM PEDUTO
Correspondent

Jack Maddox is a senior and a tri-captain on the Boys Basketball team this year. In addition to being a captain in the gym, he is a captain for the Football team and the Track and Field team. Off the court, Jack is on the board of ABSAF, an AB Ambassador, and a member of Peer Leaders. The Spectrum interviewed Jack to get the latest scoop on the 2016-17 basketball season.

How is the basketball team doing so far?

To be honest, this year we started off rough. We went 1-5 in the first six games, so we really had to dig deep so our team wouldn't fall apart. After our big win over LS, we won four more games. Our current record is 9-7 with some strong teams ahead of us. Our team spirit and optimism has improved enormously throughout the season.

What were your goals at the start of the season?

Our goal every year is to make playoffs. We haven't made playoffs in two years and we didn't want to add to that statistic. We're getting close to achieving that goal which is really exciting. Our second goal was obviously to sweep our rivals, LS and WA; we have also been successful with that so far. Additionally, one of our goals was to improve bonding within our team as well as with the fans.

What was the turning point in the season?

The turning point for us this year was beating LS at home. The rivalry against them builds every year and to win at home in front of all the AB fans was insane. After that game, we had confidence in ourselves and our teammates.

What is your favorite thing about playing basketball?

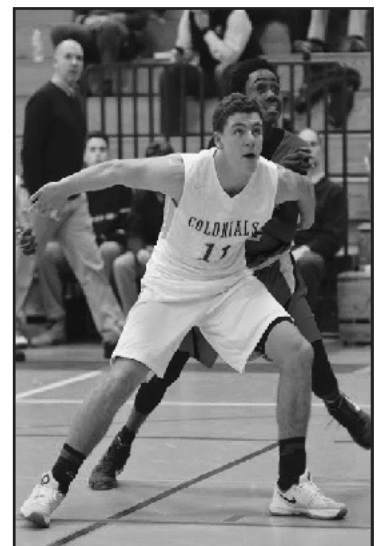
I love playing in front of the crowd. It's a surreal feeling to play in front of my classmates, teachers, friends, and family. It gets me hyped and allows me to show off my passion and sport. I also love being able to represent AB— our basketball program has a rich history of success.

Who is the heartbeat of the team?

Luke Rogers. He is committed to Tufts University for basketball next year and is our best player. His passion and love of the game is contagious. He creates an intense and fun environment for the rest of the team. Nick Giaconia is also an integral part of the team. He is consistent in his game and leads by example in many ways.

Who are the captains this year?

Luke Rogers, Nick Giaconia, and myself. These guys are my brothers and it has been a great season with them so far.



Jack Maddox on the court
Sarah Clabault / Correspondent

News

The Benefits of High School

By MADHURI RAMAN
Correspondent

Very few alumni of the Acton Boxborough school system can say that high school came easy. The endless amounts of homework, tests, essays, and projects can place stress on students to the point where that work seems almost useless. However, we often overlook the fortunate, enduring impact that the intense rigor will have on our future. High school not only prepares students for success in college but also serves to provide them with valuable life lessons, skills, and experiences that are applicable to life as adults.

The primary purpose of education is learning with respect to academics. High school provides exposure to a variety of academic fields to help students decide their stronger areas of interests and potential professional career directions. Most importantly, high school is unique in the amount of material taught in each course. High school courses teach students sufficient amounts of information so they have a basic understanding of the subject while also not teaching too in-depth that students become uninterested.

The most common response of students to some high school classes is "Why should I have to take these classes if I already know what my passion is?" Reality is that most students enter the college process not

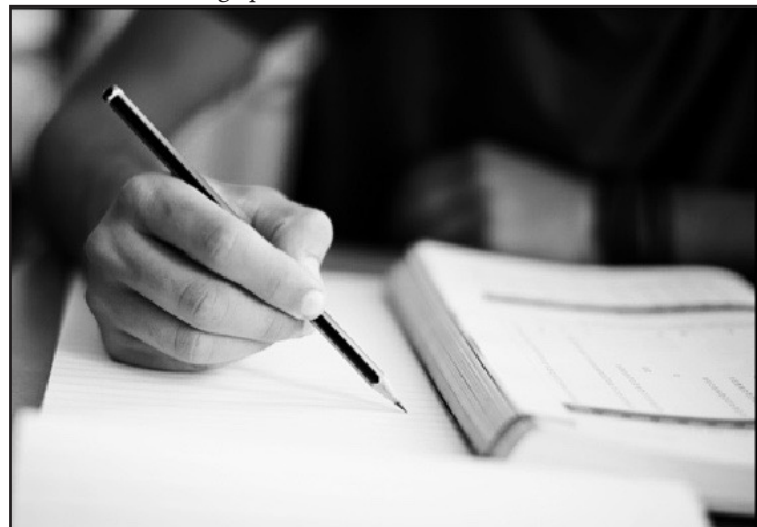
knowing exactly what they will be, and even when students think they know what they want to be, their plans often change when they are introduced to a new topic that they would not have considered if they were not "forced" to take it. In that regard, high school is great preparation for our future academic lives in university. After all, high school is the equivalent to getting your feet wet, exploring topics which may interest you. High school is merely a foundation which prepares you for college academics.

Although the primary focus of high school is academics, the high school experience also provides students with essential life skills that can not only be applied to the workplace but adult life in general. One of the most common complaints heard at AB is the time constraints of tests, and how they do not allow students to truly display their knowledge. However, students tend to overlook the value of these superficial pressured settings and their importance and prevalence in the real world. In most professions, workers are expected to meet deadlines and fulfill specific criteria, so high school's testing environment is actually good preparation. Furthermore, the main purpose of tests is to see how well students can apply concepts to new, unfamiliar settings. In the workplace, no one is going to be asked to regurgitate facts; rather, one must use their academic knowledge as a basis for

discovery. Facts have no value if students are not taught how to apply them. Contrary to the constant laments heard in school hallways, the difficulty of high school is not meant to make students feel miserable. In fact, high school is supposed to teach students to step outside of their comfort zone. Not only does that mean learning to think broadly and critically about problems or challenging points of views but also fostering responsible work ethic and collaboration skills.

In addition, challenging schools like our own do not just assume that all of its students can handle honors level courses. High schools level their courses so that students can take on whatever workload they feel comfortable with. The real world does not force you to take on more than you can handle. If we are going to bite off more than we can chew, high school is the best time to do so. We learn from our failures, and the stakes of failing in high school are remarkably low in comparison to the cost of making mistakes in the real world. In this regard, high school helps students to realize their maximum potential and to figure out what "biting off more than we can chew" actually means.

To the average student, it may seem like much of our high school education is useless, because we are forced to declare only one or two subjects as our "major" in college. But the lessons we learn from our high school careers are far more than evanescent. They stay with us throughout our lives and serve as the backbone for a healthy, happy, and successful life in the future. When you look back at your high school yearbook and you look at your picture and think about what you accomplished during those four years, you should not see high school as a duty. It should not be viewed as something you did just so you could earn a high salary. You should view it as a privilege. High school helps you to discover yourself. It helps you to discover what you like, what you do not like, and how much you can handle, all while simultaneously giving you the tools that you need to succeed at life.



The work done in high school can help in the future
ONLINE SOURCE

Color Wars: #Sharetheblack

By ALICIA WONG
Correspondent

Have you ever wanted a black that matches the darkest depths of your soul?

It might help to know that such a color *does* indeed exist. The British company Surrey NanoSystems invented a color designed to absorb all but 0.035% of light. However, you are legally barred from using this color. The company currently has only given out the artistic rights to one, and only one, artist: Anish Kapoor.

Feeling outraged? So was another British artist. Stuart Semple decided to give Kapoor a taste of his own medicine, creating and then copywriting his own color: the Pinkest Pink. Anyone is allowed to use the pink, available online at the low price of £3.99, except for Anish Kapoor.

Kapoor responded to this copyright with the amount of class expected: a middle finger dipped straight in the Pinkest Pink. Semple, not one to give up, has since

then produced an array of colors, all at affordable prices, but stamped with one condition: You are not Anish Kapoor.

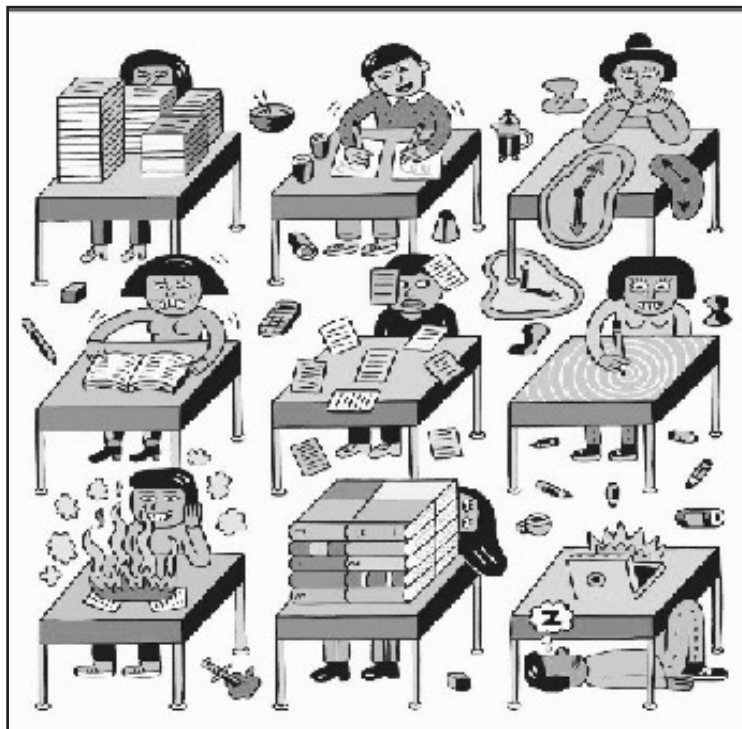
The internet has gotten involved as well. Many people argue that this monopoly withholds technology from the public, stating that Kapoor is a *mean* and *greedy* artist who is hogging all the colors. Semple harps on these sentiments, heading the "fight" against Kapoor with the hashtag "#Sharetheblack." In return, Semple has received huge amounts of positive publicity from all sorts of artists and fans. Coincidentally, his stance has brought him plenty of free advertising.

However, opposers of Kapoor have not taken the technicalities of worldwide copyright laws into account. The original owner of this product is Surrey Nanosystems, not Kapoor. The paint in question, Vantablack S-VIS, is also currently under strict UK export laws; in certain cases, in order to merely obtain a sample, one needs a special license. The producers, as well as the patented inventor of the paint,

have not yet agreed to offer mass distribution of the product to the public. Kapoor has no power on whether or not other artists can use the paint. He's not directly involved with the release of the product to the public at all. In addition, Kapoor was able to secure the artistic copyright through years of negotiation and collaboration with the company. In comparison, the artists calling to "#Sharetheblack" have put in none of this technical and necessary effort. While many people have bandwagoned onto the "GreedyMeanKapoor" train, very few of them have done much research beyond following Instagram drama. Due to this, much of the anger directed at Kapoor is either misdirected or unjustified.

The blackest black may seem like a cutesy paint spat, but it serves as a bigger reminder of the changing landscape of technology and art in our lives. Now more than ever before, the internet is playing a larger role in the spread of technology, and its time for us to decide what we deem as "fair."

Overrated Education



Studies show that over half of high school students experience chronic stress.
ONLINE SOURCE

By ETHAN MURPHY
Correspondent

In a rapidly changing world, students must be prepared to enter the workforce as soon as they leave college. However, according to recent statistics, college students are increasingly unprepared for the jobs they take after school. Along with learning the facts they need for specialized jobs, students also need to learn how to adapt to new technology, information, and industries as they become part of the adult world. A life-skills-based high school curriculum, along with a vocational college education, would be incredibly beneficial to students after they finish their schooling.

Studies show that over half of high school students experience chronic stress. Academic workloads play a large part in this statistic, but students do not only feel stressed because of school. Many students feel that they must have a job, play sports, or participate in many extracurriculars. When students reach junior and senior year, the pressure on them increases due to the beginning of the college application process. In recent years, suicide rates for the 15-24 age group, which includes the majority of high school and college students, have risen from 9.6 to 11.1 deaths per 100,000. In schools, stress is an epidemic, and it is not clear that a higher workload benefits students. According to TIME, almost half of all recent college graduates are underemployed or not utilizing their college degree. Without a rapid, sweeping change to America's education system, the cycle of overworking, stressing, and eventual unemployment will continue slowing the progress of society and the economy.

Firstly, high schools need to train their students in important skills for everyday life, like managing their finances or cooking meals for themselves. Along with essential life skills, students could still be taught in traditional school subjects, with college-like concentrations on subjects that they actually want to learn and will use in their future. A heavy focus on packing the maximum amount of learning into the minimum amount of time could help prepare students for life after high school and college.

Along with a more skill-based high school education, college courses also need to focus on creat-

ing graduates that can work in the real world. Schools with a "liberal arts" focus or broad general education requirements represent a step in the right direction, but they do not go far enough. Schools have to do away with or drastically change the way they handle majors and concentrations. Focusing on one area decreases the chances of a student getting a job in another field. Instead, students should combine classes in ways that will help them in the workforce. For instance, the Washington Post suggests generalized degrees that focus on combinations of skills like statistics, graphics, and social media marketing, all of which can be utilized in almost any job. On the other side, STEM students could be taught "soft skills" like creativity, communication, and teamwork. All of these skills are prerequisites, even in very technically-focused careers.

It is evident that an intensified workload in school increases stress in students. However, if a student knows their work is meaningful and productive, they will do it, and this would be better than a "meaningless," time-filler piece of schoolwork. Teaching students that the work they do is a means to an end will reduce stress and massively increase productivity. Students usually believe that much of their schoolwork is just busy work instead of seeing how learning "useless" knowledge teaches them how to learn and prepares them for future schooling. By showing students that schoolwork can be useful in life, schools can help their students focus more on the work and less on feeling overworked.

Schools cannot continue to lag behind as the rest of the world moves forward. The huge amount of stress created by coursework that lacks long-term usefulness prevents students from being the most productive, successful people they can be. Schools need drastic change to keep up with today's changes in society. To truly be prepared for the future, schools have to start teaching students not just the facts they need to know but also the essential life skills and innate ability to learn that drive innovation in the new millennium. Without a solid foundation, the work students do throughout secondary and postsecondary education will be wasted energy, serving only to lower their quality of life without benefitting them further down the road.

News

S. Korea's Presidential Scandal

By GEO LEE
Spectrum Staff

The United States is not the only country currently in presidential turmoil. When Korea inaugurated its first female president, it was initially seen as a positive political shift. However, following the reveal of a scandal involving deep religious and political corruption, President Park Geun-Hye faces an approval rating of 4% and social persecution at the hands of the citizens.

Choi Soon-Sil lies at the core of Park's scandal. Park's mother was killed in 1974 in a failed assassination attempt aiming for Park's father, the military leader of Korea at the time. Park, 22, stepped in for her grieving father as the president. Choi Soon-Sil's father, Choi Tae-Min, reached out to Park and convinced her that Park's deceased

mother asked him to guide Park through his pseudo-Christian society. He drew Park into his cult, and once his daughter grew older, Choi Soon-Sil became Park's confidante and advisor, accessing confidential government documents and presidential speeches without authorization or a government position. Choi also collected immense monetary donations from corporations in exchange for government favors; even the major corporation Samsung has records of approved payments totaling \$36.4m.

There has been dissent among Korean citizens regarding Park's presidential behavior for some time. In 2014, she was heavily criticized for trivially regarding the Sewol Ferry tragedy, in which over 300 students passed away when the boat capsized. She went missing for seven hours during the disaster and was suspected to have been

attending a shamanistic ritual to commemorate the 20th anniversary of Choi Tae-Min's death. The owner of the ferry operator was later revealed to be the founder of a prominent cult as well. The ferry crew, who told the students to stay put in a sinking boat and escaped themselves, is also thought to have been part of the religious scheme. This rise in religious corruption has so deeply permeated the nation to the point that it may even end a presidency.

Park was thus persecuted not only for allowing this monetary, religious, and political corruption but also for facilitating it. Impeached with a vote of 234-56, she now awaits the result of the Constitutional Court's deliberations. If six of the nine members of the Court endorse the vote, she will be required to step down from office. Otherwise, she is set to leave in February 2018 as she is unable to run in the upcoming election in December 2017. Choi is currently in custody, accused of fraud and abuse of power.

Korean citizens are hungry for change; marching the streets of Seoul in November 2016. They call for Park's immediate resignation. Hundreds of thousands of protesters have gathered since November, wielding signs, carrying candles, and holding concerts. With the numbers reaching up to 550,000 at times, the protestors are clearly showing a common sentiment in Korea: they want the president gone, and they want it now.



Massive protests over President Park Geun-Hye and Choi Soon-Sil.
ONLINE SOURCE

Oman's Economic Future

By David Damiano
Spectrum Staff

The Sultanate of Oman has gained substantial wealth from its oil production as the largest oil producer in the Middle East that is not a part of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Oman has used this revenue to drastically modernize itself from a feudalistic third-world country to a diplomatically powerful state. Much of this success can be attributed to the Sultanate's impressive monarch Sultan Qaboos, who took power in 1970 from his father's despotic and feudal regime. Sultan Qaboos has defied the democratic world's assumption that modernization and monarchism are incompatible. Funded by the oil revenue, the Sultan established government programs to modernize the country, drastically improving both the economy and the standard of living. However, the recent plummet in oil prices have jeopardized the country's future.

Recently, an OPEC-induced drop in oil prices has made Oman's oil-based economy unsustainable. Firm leadership will be necessary in the coming years as Oman enters the next phase of its development towards a post-oil economy. Sultan Qaboos has begun to take the opening steps in this transition, articulated in a five-year plan. Depending on whether Qaboos' reforms succeed, Oman may serve as a model for other oil-rich countries as they prepare to abandon the liquid gold for more modern and diverse economies.

The five-year plan has several aims. Firstly and most pivotally, it seeks to decrease Oman's reliance on oil. In December 2015, oil repre-

sented as much as 44% of Oman's GDP. By 2020 this number should be halved. Decreasing government investment is the first step in decreasing oil's role in the economy. In January 2016, Oman's cabinet did just that by approving large scale spending cuts on all fields of government expenditure, but most crucially, they reduced oil subsidies by nearly two thirds.

The second and much more difficult step is to create investments in other sectors, firstly by way of government programs, and later through foreign investment. This step is a classic example of Keynesian economics, as the government will likely need to create a deficit in order to achieve their ends. Questions emerge here about the plausibility of the Sultan's plans.

The five year plan demands 66 billion rials (about 171 billion USD) in order to spark economic growth. With Oman's current gross domestic product at just 26 billion rials as of 2016 (a 14% decrease from 2014 levels), achieving this spending goal would require almost three years of GDP. The idea is that a decrease in current expenditures will free up the revenue needed to pay for the future investments. However, expenditure cuts in 2016 only freed up 2.5 billion rials for investment, nowhere near the amount articulated by the five year plan.

If the government spending is not sufficient, Oman will need to look to foreign sources to stimulate its economy. Yet currently Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is very low in Oman, perhaps due to the large public sector and government's role in the economy. An article by *The Economist* noted that "Although Oman comes 66th of 189 countries in the World Bank's rankings

for ease of doing business, most of the businessmen who mill around Muscat's Grand Hyatt hotel complain of a lack of transparency." FDI in Oman reached a record low of negative one billion rials in 2015, meaning money is actually flowing out of the country rather than into it. This is probably due to the decrease in oil revenue and may only be temporary, but it is still an indication of how hesitant investors are to invest in a country so reliant on oil.

Still, many are confident about Oman despite these concerns. Many aspects of Oman's economy are strong, namely its relatively large work force and its recent exploitation of natural gas in Khazzan and in Iran. Furthermore, it is possible that a recovery in oil prices could increase revenue enough to actually fulfill the five year plan's ambitious investment goal.

Regardless of the likelihood of Oman's success in the upcoming years, it is clear that Middle Eastern countries will need to decrease their reliance on oil. It is imperative that Oman succeeds at least partially and provides a model for development for the rest of the region. Decreased production of oil in the Middle East would result in increased efforts to develop alternate energy sources. Natural gas seems to be getting the most attention in Oman and around the world, as there are huge amounts of untapped natural gas beneath the shale. These potential changes may also help spur increased investment in renewable energy. Sultan Qaboos' efforts to reform Oman demonstrate how otherwise obscure regions have the potential to enact massive change throughout the world.

Gibraltar's Position

By David Damiano
Spectrum Staff

Despite being just three square miles in area, Gibraltar has been the subject of considerable international attention ever since it was ceded to Great Britain from Spain in 1713. Located at the entrance of the Mediterranean, Gibraltar is certainly one of the most strategically important locations in the world. The naval base that developed there furthered the significance Gibraltar held for the United Kingdom; along with control of the Suez Canal, they have full command over the two entrances to the Mediterranean. In recent days, Gibraltar has maintained its time in the spotlight as the center of a struggle between the UK and Spain who both claim sovereignty over the peninsula.

Yet despite all this attention, the people of Gibraltar themselves are very rarely considered, even though international squabbles directly affect them. With the successful Brexit vote that took place in 2016, Gibraltar has been, pardon the pun, placed between a rock and a hard place. Despite the success the Brexit campaign had in England, 95.9% of Llanitos (Gibraltarians) voted to remain in the EU in the referendum and consequently feel estranged from their mother country. Most voted this way because Gibraltar's economy relies heavily on its relations with Spain, an EU member country. Leaving the EU would result in a hard border between Gibraltar and Spain, making passing across the border more difficult. Currently, 12,000 people commute across this border every day for work, and if this border was solidified, Gibraltar could lose 40% of its jobs.

Amidst the hysteria that emerged in Gibraltar in the wake of the successful Brexit vote, Spain has taken the opportunity to pounce. Despite a declaration of unity in 2000 that stated that "Gibraltar will never compromise, give up or trade their sovereignty or their right to self-determination; that Gibraltar wants good, neighbourly, European relations with Spain; and that Gibraltar belongs to the people of Gibraltar and is neither Spain's to claim or Britain's to give away," Spain has recently demanded that Gibraltar is rightfully Spanish and

that the British are being colonial overlords over Spanish subjects. Disregarding the legitimacy of the claims on either side, Spain's argument has always appeared futile as it is has been clear that the Llanitos have no desire to leave the UK for Spain. Yet now that Gibraltar has been betrayed by its home country, Spain's claims seem far less flimsy and now appear worthy of consideration.

Spain's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfonso Dastis, has been pushing for Anglo-Spanish joint sovereignty over Gibraltar. Dastis remarked that "If Gibraltar wishes to benefit from the rights and advantages of belonging to the EU, the best way is the proposal of shared sovereignty, which is extremely generous." Furthermore, if the offer is declined, Dastis made it clear that any relationship which Gibraltar hopes to maintain with the EU would need to be approved by Spain first—which is unlikely to ever happen given Spain's position.

Thus joint-sovereignty with Spain seems to be the most rational option for Gibraltar at this point, although few will like it. John Bromfield, one of the few Gibraltarians who voted to leave the EU, said that "Gibraltar can easily remain in Europe by going for joint sovereignty with Spain, but that is something they would never do. And if they did, Britain would walk away from that partnership, and Spain would eventually take control." Optimists suggest that leaving the EU could actually be beneficial to Gibraltar in the long run. James Tipping, finance centre director at Gibraltar Finance, argued that "Indeed a hard Brexit means that the 27 member states would not be able to access the UK. That may, in turn, provide Gibraltar with significant opportunities; as an alternative to setting up in the UK itself, institutions could set up in Gibraltar as a gateway to the UK."

Even if this does materialize, it would take some time to bring significant results. Therefore, Gibraltar will immediately be placed in a terrible situation once the UK's exit from the EU becomes formalized. Nationalism in this case proves stronger a force than rationalism, so Gibraltar will maintain its place in the international spotlight for years to come.



Gibraltar, Spain
ONLINE SOURCE

Relationships

The People...(cont.)

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welfare and unnecessarily added to the national debt. Weary of potential corruption from a partnership with the arms industry, Eisenhower urged the people to promote security without sacrificing liberty.

Despite Eisenhower's recommendation to "guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex," the United States struggles to effectively cut its defense spending. Supporting the world's most extravagant military, we ignore his prediction that "the potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist."

While division, conflict, and power imperil our democracy, perhaps its greatest threat lies in the people's inability to empathize. Many Americans neglect to understand their fellow citizens. For these Americans, emotions cloud empathy. They hear but fail to listen. In his farewell address, President Obama warned the nation against the antipathy that taints the country. He argued that "if every economic issue is framed as a struggle between a hard-working white middle class and an undeserving minority, then workers of all shades are going to be left fighting for scraps while the wealthy withdraw further into

their private enclaves." He encouraged Americans to listen, to understand, and to empathize. Obama later quoted American literary icon Atticus Finch: "you never really understand a person... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." Obama's words resonate for their prophetic quality.

His warnings, like those of previous presidents, may become hallmarks of a fractured relationship between the people and their democracy. Yet President Obama reminds us that "our democracy is threatened whenever we take it for granted." He leaves us with a message of hope: that we, the people, have the power to protect our democracy.

For its integrity, our democracy persists. It withstands even the most trying times. Despite the election's bitter and vitriolic nature, our leaders proceeded to peacefully transfer power. On January 20, our government shifted control from one political party to another. The nation's guiding principles remain steadfast while our leadership's beliefs and ideas have changed. Despite Trump's hostile rhetoric and its challenges to our nation's founding principles, our politicians will continue to preserve, protect, and defend our Constitution, our liberty, our justice, our rights. The relationship between the people and their democracy will endure.

Social Media/Friends

By SRIJA NAGIREDDY
Correspondent

Three hundred. According to Pew Research Center, that is the average number of Facebook friends a teenager has. And that was in 2013. With the arrival of social media, distance is no longer a barrier, and one is able to connect with more people than previously possible. Despite the convenience that social media has brought us, there are psychological reasons why moving towards a social media driven culture is harmful to our relationships. According to evolutionary psychologist Robin Dunbar, humans can only make around 150 meaningful relationships with others, only half of the amount we have online.

Obviously, not many of us have 150 best friends. That's not the kind of friendship that Dunbar is referring to. According to Dunbar, 150 is the maximum of "...individuals with whom we can have a genuinely social relationship, the kind of relationship that goes with knowing who they are and how they relate to us." In other words, 150 is the maximum amount of friends who you can feel comfortable around, but you would hesitate to share secrets with. However, most people have double that amount of friends on Facebook, which is only one of the many social media networks available on the Internet. Most people are quick to say that most of their online connections are simply acquaintances. Yet even to maintain acquaintances, one needs to invest time. With everyone's focus spread so thin over a wide range of contacts, the question of how casual online friends impact more important friends arises.

To formulate this number, Dunbar has studied human community numbers throughout history. In looking at these groups, Dunbar

noticed one number, 150, pop up again and again, from hunter-gatherer societies to modern military units. From these observations, Dunbar concluded that humans are not cognitively built to form more than 150 meaningful relationships. Even though there are some who do not fit this model, Dunbar believes that it holds true for the majority of people.

The ability to talk with virtually anyone in the world can be achieved with a few clicks of the mouse, so social media has redefined the physical boundaries that once determined the extent of one's friendship. While in the past there were other ways to contact others across large distances, those methods lacked the ability to let users accrue large volumes of contacts, an aspect that is an integral part of most social media platforms today. This caused Dunbar to pose the question "Does digital technology in general allow you to retain the old friends as well as the new ones and therefore increase the size of your social circle?" The answer seems to be no.

While social media has many amazing capabilities, from helping old friends stay connected to meeting new people who can help open up one's worldview, it can have adverse effects. By attempting to maintain the average 300 connections on Facebook, teens run the risk of losing special relationships with old friends. For example, someone whose friend moved away might subconsciously start neglecting to message them after a few months, focusing instead on maintaining relationships with other acquaintances. By focusing on others, the potential of losing a special relationship becomes all too real. Therefore, it is extremely important for everyone using any social media network to pay close attention to the people who really matter.

RomComs: A Flawed Portrayal

By SAM WHITTLE
Spectrum Staff

Just about everyone in our first world bubble has heard the phrase "rom-com" and groaned. Whether it's meant as an ironic joke or a gut reaction, the fact remains that romantic comedy films have acquired a bad reputation for their constant use of outdated and overused tropes and plotlines. Nevertheless, people have consistently used romantic comedies and other similar forms of entertainment throughout history as a way to be intrigued without having to be actively engaged in the drama that occurs throughout the story. Victorian society looked to popular short novellas as a form of entertainment, Marie Antoinette hosted a book club that discussed the less politically engaged works of Rousseau, and the Greeks and Romans of ancient times grew the art of theater exponentially with works of intrigue that still fascinate society today. Helen of Troy, anyone?

Today, movies like *Love, Actually* still continue to perpetuate a romanticization of love that is incredibly damaging for young people. To many people, the idea that love can be romanticized makes no sense—according to them, love is romantic. That's not always true, and it often is completely incorrect. Loving your parent is certainly not romantic unless you're in a Greek tragedy, and it can be safe to as-

sume that you're not romantically involved with every person who you say you love.

Relationships encompass several types of love, and in recent years, this has become a more important aspect to consider as more people begin to realize and accept that they are demisexual, asexual, or aromantic. Even with the growing acceptance towards demisexual and asexual people, the concept of aromanticism is still odd for many people because society assumes that romance is such a major aspect of love. However, the term romance itself is defined by Merriam-Webster as either "something (such as an extravagant story or account) that lacks basis in fact" or "an emotional attraction or aura belonging to an especially heroic era, adventure, or activity." Romance, based on these two objective definitions, is the part of a relationship that makes your heart beat faster and makes you feel nervous because of the aura, attraction, and expectation. Expectations are the key reasons why romantic comedies are, more often than not, dangerous for relationships. Romance often fades away and is rekindled in a relationship over time: it is actually not the core basis for a real relationship, but it merely provides a kind of supporting comfort in life.

But in romantic comedies, romance never dies. The combination of unexpected coincidences, consistent thoughtfulness, forgiveness, and perfect instinct creates a romance that does not die for the

characters. In these films, couples go through their ups and downs, but romance and chemical attraction keep pulling the characters together over and over again. In these stories, not only are characters attracted to one another, but fate seems determined to pull them together: they are ultimately made for each other.

In reality, though, relationships are a lot more work than that. Chemistry certainly is a factor, but the world is not going to hand you the ideal person on a platter. Nor is it going to provide a blank slate who will change every aspect of their being to fit your needs (I'm looking at you, *Grease*). Relationships mean arguments, discussions, genuine care, and acceptance. Romantic comedies hold some reality to them—yes, there will often be opportunities for romantic gestures and cute coincidences in your life, but ultimately you control your fate and your relationship. You can't rely on natural chemistry to solve every problem or keep the flame burning for your relationship. Rom-coms, while amusing, are responsible for large numbers of people who do not understand the work that relationships take. Inaccurate representations of relationships that are constantly glamorized and thrust in the faces of young children have seriously affected their lives. Instead of constantly publicizing these films that serve primarily comedic purposes, start looking into films and television that represent genuine love.

Coach and Player Dynamics



"There are no need for secrets between a player and a coach."
ONLINE SOURCE

By NIRAAGI SHAH
Correspondent

The growth of an athlete depends on many things. The most important aspect is their own effort and drive for success. However, an athlete needs a dedicated team and devoted coaches to ensure that their effort is efficient and goes in the right direction. The dynamic between the coach and the players is defined by their working and personal relationship. If a poor dynamic ensues, they both suffer since the player can't grow under the coach's authority and the coach will not be able to grow as an athletic mentor.

A healthy relationship requires honesty. There is no need for secrets between a player and coach. Keeping information from your coach will compromise the effectiveness of a training regime if your coach

does not have all the information they need from you. If you are prone to chronic injury, or suffer from something such as weak knee joints, your coach needs to know, so they can tailor your training accordingly. Although a coach can be intimidating when they are barking orders or pushing athletes past their limits, they only want to see their growth. This only happens through complete and total honesty.

Some athletes have more "star" qualities than others, but coaches know that a team is a team. Each and every player deserves a coach's undivided attention and should be treated as an equal part of a well-oiled machine. A coach ensures that every drill is fair and works with every player equally. However, coaches can't go easy on players that don't try as hard as the others. These players are equally important

as more driven athletes need to be taught that their position on the team is just as meaningful as the others. A team must perform well on the field, and every part has to work hard to achieve that. For example, the Patriots recently won Super Bowl LI against all odds because the entire team, including the players and the coaches, worked hard and never gave up. Coach Bill Belichick and quarterback Tom Brady spoke out, saying that they won the game because they "trust each other to make the right decision" as well as supporting "the team so [they] would win". Although many fans call Brady the star player of the season, the entire team contributed: Julian Edelman managed to catch an impossible throw, while Mitchell reliably received the ball to consistently get the first downs, and James White scored the game-winning touchdown in the first overtime in Super Bowl history. Super Bowl LI was one for the ages, but none of it could have happened without the dedication from the players and the coaches.

Jillian McCarthy, an AB field hockey player, said that the most important aspect in the relationship between a coach and a player is "being comfortable asking them for help on and off the field." But this shouldn't only be applicable in Acton-Boxborough. All teams require this because it builds a mutual trust between coaches and players that allows all the individuals to grow.

No matter how hard a coach pushes a player, all they want is for that player to grow. If you're an athlete, make sure you thank your coaches, because they do everything they can to ensure that you tap into all your potential and become the best player you can be.

Relationships

The Pros and Cons of Rejection



Rejection hurts.
ONLINE SOURCE

By VERA TSANG
Correspondent

You really like someone. You like them so much you tell your friends, you tell your dog, and somehow everything little thing you see or hear reminds you of them. Finally, you start talking to them. It's looking well, you're becoming closer friends with them, and they're even showing subtle signs of having an interest in you. It goes on like this for a while until you finally grow the confidence to tell them. As you confess, you hope that they will smile and say, "I like you too." You've been picturing this moment for days, weeks, months, maybe years. While standing in front of them waiting for an answer, your fantasy does not come true. Instead you get an expressionless response. They hesitate for a

second, trying not to look at you in the eyes before saying, "I'm sorry." They walk away, and a feeling of unexplainable sadness fills you. No other words are needed. The apology is already enough.

Being in a relationship seems amazing. It's a world where someone likes you back. Maybe not 'like' but possibly, love. Someone is there to make you happy; you have someone to cuddle, hug, and hold hands with. In fact, a study conducted at Duke University indicates that romantic relationships influence our happiness more than work, and interpersonal relationships lead to more satisfaction with life. Unfortunately, not everyone gets to experience this. Instead, many get a "no," and let me just say, rejection is painful...very painful.

Rejection doesn't even have to happen in romance. It can happen

in other situations too, such as not getting accepted into your dream college, not getting a promotion, getting fired, or being left out of a group. Either way, they all make you feel some level of discomfort and agony. But everyone goes through it. Everyone goes through some form of rejection before making it big and finally getting what they want. If you're someone who claims to still not have received a "no" yet, then that's because it hasn't happened to you yet. Don't believe me? Walt Disney was fired from Kansas City Star in 1919 because he "lacked imagination and had no good ideas." Anna Wintour, the editor in chief of Vogue and one of the biggest names in fashion, was fired after just nine months of working as editor of Harper's Bazaar for being "too edgy." Oprah Winfrey, yes the Oprah Winfrey, was fired from her job as an evening news reporter because she couldn't separate her emotions from her stories. Stephen King's Carrie got rejected thirty times and threw it away before his wife convinced him to re-submit. Steve Jobs got fired from his own company.

Every form of rejection hurts. Whether for social or romantic reasons, it can make us feel unwanted. But the thing is, you got to fail to succeed. We need rejection to truly become the person we're meant to be. As for a heartbreak, think about it this way: your special person, best friend, and cuddle buddy is out there breathing and walking on this earth. The only problem is, you both very likely haven't met yet. So just be patient and focus on yourself for now because soon those "no's" will really be a blessing in disguise.

The Science of Family



"...whether by blood or not, family means a home."
ONLINE SOURCE

By Anjali Raman
Correspondent

In the ancient Greek language, there are many words describing different types of love. *Philia* signifies friendship. *Agápe* is the love in which people wish the best of each other. But the most prominent love is that of *storge*—familial love.

As per usual, science lies at the base of family. The key hormones of adrenaline, dopamine, serotonin, and oxytocin help people fall in love. But in families, another hormone is more crucial—vasopressin, which is responsible for long term bonds, like those in a family. A study conducted in prairie voles shows that those who had established a long term partner and started a family presented with more of this hormone when in contact with members of their family than at any other time. When a drug suppressing the production of vasopressin was introduced to the prairie voles, bonds between family members were extinguished. Prairie voles often found new mates. Vasopressin is what allows familial love to exist because it creates consistent attachment crucial for the existence of a family.

Siblings are known to share a special bond. Especially among twins, there have been recurring reports of an almost telepathic relationship where siblings know what the other is thinking or if they are in danger. The love between siblings is often cast aside for the more stereotypical form of a sibling relationship—rivalry. According to child psychologist Sylvia Rimm, "Siblings generally spend more time together during childhood than they do with parents. The sibling bond is often complicated and influenced by factors such as parental treatment, birth order, personality, and people and experiences outside the family." In general, rivalry springs from a yearning for attention from the siblings' parents. Most importantly, it shows how the bonds of family are so interlaced because of the shared love. Children crave love from their parents, so they are driven to subconsciously hate their siblings as humans have evolved to occupy niches that their competition cannot. Yet, siblings still love each

other, demonstrating how the ties of love can overrule even evolution.

No matter what strain they are put under, the bonds of family rarely break; whether by blood or not, family means a home. There are a scarce few who would trade away a home. Family members love each other no matter what, and it is never doubted. Between parents and children, these bonds can even manifest physically. There have been reports of a phenomenon called "Super Mom" or "Hysterical Strength" where a mother develops extreme strength in order to save their endangered child, even if it poses possible harm. In 1982, a boy named Tony Cavallo got stuck while working on a car's undercarriage until his mother was able to hold the car up long enough for jacks to be placed underneath, so Tony could be freed. A middle-aged woman does not ordinarily possess the physical strength to support the weight of a car, and yet out of desire to keep her beloved son safe, Cavallo found the strength necessary. Family can make people stronger in its own inexplicable way.

Yet, family members cannot always provide in the way that is classically expected of them. When the family is unable to support each other, it is often reflected in the actions of impressionable children. A study conducted at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln showed that children whose parents faced charges for child neglect were at a higher risk for living below the poverty line later in life. However, a lack of parental reinforcement can be present in many homes in the form of simple disapproval of passions or beliefs, which can be isolating.

The love that members of a family have for each other cannot be explained in words; it is defined by actions. By blood, a family is defined by DNA, a combination of amino acids and sugar-phosphates. Physically, that constitutes a family. Yet contrary to scientific definitions, one does have the ability to choose their family. Platonic love is perhaps the strongest kind. Families are the quintessential model because they are a reflection of what a person values most. All one must do is find something to love, and from there, grows a family.

Recreation Department Seasonal Jobs

APPLY NOW!

The Town of Acton is accepting applications for the following seasonal summer 2017 positions for NARA Park and Camp, located at NARA Park 25 Ledge Rock Way, Acton MA 01720:

Water Safety Instructor:
Instructs Red Cross swim classes for NARA Swim Lesson Program and Summer Camp. Must have Red Cross Lifeguard and WSI Certification or equivalent. This position will be 30-40 hours per week, including weekends May 27 - August 25.

Lifeguard:
Performs lifesaving, first aid duties and ensures safety and comfort of beach patrons at all times. This position will be 30-40 hours per week, including weekends from May 27 - August 25. Must have Lifeguard Certification. One or more years of experience is preferred.

Camp Counselor:
Supervision and entertainment of camp children ages 4-15 in outdoor day camp setting. One or more years of experience is preferred. This position will be 35-40 hours per week from June 26 - August 25.

Snack Bar Attendant:
Operate snack bar at NARA bathhouse. One or more years of cashier experience is preferred. This position will be 20-30 hours per week, including weekends, from May 27 - August 25.

Parking Lot Attendant:
Keeps parking lot organized and shuts down lots when full. This position will be 10-20 hours per week, mostly weekends, from May 27 - August 25.

Applications available on Town website:
www.acton-ma.gov/hr. Send to: Human Resources,
472 Main St, Acton, MA 01720. (978) 929-6613.
hr@acton-ma.gov

Relationships

History of Chocolate



Yum.
ONLINE SOURCE

By JANE KIM
Correspondent

We all know about the famed Valentine's Day - a day on which couples go out and show their love for one another through various different actions. Although some romantic duos may go out to eat at a restaurant, or watch a movie together, the one most popular around the world is to give chocolates to one another. But why exactly do we do this every year?

Valentine's day didn't always involve giving chocolates to your loved ones. Usually this celebration of love would just involve the gifting of cupid-themed presents and cards. However, it would only take a small matter of time until someone would take the already popular chocolate and mold it into something that could represent love. This change first occurred around the 1800s. During these times - and any time in general, chocolate was a very popular sweet. Thus, it wasn't long until an individual attempted to invent a more palatable version of the chocolate that we had then. This individual was Richard Cadbury. He created the idea of putting this previously liquid sweet into a solid form and eating them. However, that's not all he did. He also packaged these treats into boxes that he designed himself. Soon after, in 1861, cupids and rosebuds were added to these boxes, and they were used as a symbol of love. At the turn of the century, this tradition was brought over to America, and other chocolatiers such as Milton Hershey and Russell Stover added to the new idea. Hershey created Hershey kisses - which for a fun fact actually were named after the smooching noise that the chocolates made as they were being manufactured, and Stover sold his Valentine's chocolates in heart-shaped boxes. From then on, this chocolate-giving tradition stayed, and as you can see now, it lives on until this very day.

But, what do you say now? You

haven't ever made your own homemade chocolates for this special day? Well, an easy place to start would be cocoa-powder-covered chocolate truffles. They may sound difficult, but they're actually extremely easy to make, and only require 5 ingredients: 9 ounces of dark chocolate (or 8 ounces of semi-sweet/bittersweet), 2 tablespoons of butter, a ½ cup of hot whipping/heavy cream, 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract, and some unsweetened cocoa powder.

First, melt the butter and chocolate over a double boiler. In other words, boil a little bit of water in a pot, and place a glass or metal bowl over the top of the pot. Make sure that the bowl does not have any water in it, and that the bottom does not touch the water (chocolate should never be mixed with water)! Then, place the ingredients into the bowl. They should melt from the heat created by the steam.

Once the chocolate mixture is smooth and silky, add the hot whipping cream and stir the mixture until it is fully combined. Then, add the vanilla, and stir to combine.

Next, let the chocolate mixture chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours, or until it's firm.

After they've been chilled, scoop out about a teaspoon of ganache, and roll the chocolate into a small ball. Then, roll these balls in cocoa powder. I find it easiest to do this if I put the cocoa powder in a small bowl. Then, you can just move the bowl around in a circular motion to coat the ganache. This also prevents your hands from melting too much of the chocolate. Repeat this with the rest of your ganache, and you're done!

Now, with Valentine's Day coming up, you can try out this new recipe and surprise your significant other. Maybe along the way, you can even tell them all about how this beloved action of giving chocolates even came to be. Or, if you're like me, just sit at home, make some truffles, and eat them yourself in celebration of Singles Awareness Day.

Snapchat Streaks: Social Media

By OLIVIA MARBLE
Spectrum Staff

Social media impacts our lives now more than ever, and in my opinion, Snapchat is the perfect example of a typical platform: instant, shallow, and only displaying the best of a person's life. A real confidence booster, I know. But what perplexes me the most about Snapchat are streaks. Having a streak with someone means that you have snapchatted them for three or more consecutive days. When you have a streak with someone, the length of the streak and a fire emoji appear next to the person's name.

When I first got the app, I was obsessed with keeping up streaks. Every few hours I would send my friends selfies, or if I wasn't confident that day, pictures of insignificant objects, such as a wall or a chair. Did these snaps have any value? No. But that wasn't my concern. I just wanted the number of days next to my friends' names to rise.

I remember joining my friend one night as he responded to his many snaps. As I made a peace sign for yet another selfie, I noticed something strange: every time he opened a snap, he immediately tapped the screen twice so he could respond. He didn't care what they sent, probably because he expected it would be an insignificant picture, as always.

If we only expect insignificant responses, why do we continue to keep our streaks? The number and length of streaks a person has can be a sign of popularity for the few times a person happens to be on their Snapchat. It's fun to show off how cute you look with the dog filter. And the timer icon that indicates that a streak is about to end is anxiety-inducing enough to send a snap with no real content.

Psychologically, the concept of a streak is a perfect way to keep us



"Social media will always be a burden and a gift, so it's up to us to be aware of how to best use it."

ONLINE SOURCE

ers interested. Losing a streak is a negative enforcement, as you have to bear annoyance from friends and an "unpopular" appearance. In order to avoid this negative enforcement, teens keep using the app, sending these meaningless pictures every day. We also have an automatic need to reciprocate others' gestures, such as sending a snap in time to keep up a streak, in fear that we will be perceived as rude if we don't. Some, such as writer Tristan Harris, believe that exploiting these psychological vulnerabilities is unethical. He wrote in his article, "How Technology Hijacks People's Minds," that we need technology to be "exoskeletons for our minds and interpersonal relationships that put our values, not our impulses, first." So maybe Snapchat should rethink its design to relieve the social pres-

sure many of its users feel.

Despite all this, I've also noticed that a streak is an incentive to keep in contact. And when actually important things happen, you remember to tell them about it because you're looking for something to send them anyway. Social media culture can promote sharing meaningless content, but without it, I wouldn't have remembered to tell my friend in Texas that I got a new cat, and I wouldn't have been able to see how my friend in Spain celebrated New Year's Eve. Social media has globalized the world in a way that no generation has ever seen before. Without reinforcements to use it, it's possible that the positive impact could be diminished as well. Social media will always be a burden and a gift, so it's up to us to be aware of how to best use it.

Pets: The Perfect Relationships

By MIRA MULGUND
Spectrum Staff

At the word "relationship," we immediately think of a cute couple gazing googly-eyed at each other as hearts blossom above. Or we might be reminded of our gal pals and bromances. But what about our interspecies relationships? As we approach Valentine's Day, we need to remember that pets are just as valuable as any human. Here's why:

1. An animal will never reject a proposal --- unless it's a cat, in which case there was nothing that you could have done. You can't help being inferior to felines.

2. You don't have to blow the bank at Sephora to feel good enough for your puppy's deep, soul-searching eyes.

3. No arguments during Netflix-and-chill dates! Fluffy will be content to cuddle you no matter what you want to watch, whether that be your favorite Teletubbies episode or a Twilight marathon.

4. You don't have to meet their scary judgemental parents.

5. When have you ever heard your friends whine about getting ghosted by a pet?

6. You've never gotten into angry political debates with your bunny. In fact, your bunny is the only being in this world who's never trig-

gered your electoral anxiety.

7. Dogs don't get jealous when you play fetch with other dogs. In fact, they're often the one to introduce you to the M+oon Moon down the street!

8. Your mom loves Buddy just as much as you do. Plus, your dad doesn't dream about terrorizing him in some sort of weird passive-aggressive power dynamic.

9. Your cat won't criticize you for being too broke to buy her a diamond ring...

10. (... but the thought of your cat's rage that would ensue if you

didn't bring home the Purina keeps you motivated to put up with that obnoxious coworker who always texts his girlfriend instead of doing his job.)

11. They aren't scorching on Tinder and then a catfisher IRL. I mean, this might happen in a sketchy Craigslist adoption scenario, but you're smart enough not to do that, right?

12. It's so much more fun to hug furry animals than to awkwardly hold a sweaty hand.

13. Pets are just adorable. There's no other way to put it.



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Relationships

Do Labels Matter?

By OLIVIA MARBLE
Spectrum Staff

In this changing world, differences are slowly being embraced—now more than ever. New terms for sexualities are seemingly springing up out of nowhere. Some argue that these terms are pointless and confine people to one way of being. But there are many reasons why these new terms are beneficial to those who identify with them.

First of all, it's much easier to figure out who you are when there's a word to match the way you feel. Words take big concepts and simplify them, and when you're trying to figure out what a multitude of experiences and emotions mean in terms of your identity, this can be quite useful. So instead of saying, "I don't understand what people mean when they say they find someone attractive. I understand aesthetically, but I don't feel attracted to people in that way," you could say, "I think I might be asexual." It's simpler and easier to understand.

Another reason why labels are important is that it makes it easier for you to find people who are similar to you. You can search

"bisexual" online and find posts and articles about other people's experiences. When an identity isn't normalized by society, it's difficult to find people to relate to. Having a term to identify with simplifies this process.

Lastly, having a word attached to a concept validates that concept's existence. People commonly use the phrase, "You're not bisexual, you're just confused" precisely because of this. When someone uses the word "bisexual" rather than "confused," it means that the concept of bisexuality is allowed to exist, therefore bringing society a step closer to acceptance.

Of course, choosing not to label your sexuality is fine too. Some people identify with terms such as "queer" or "questioning," because they don't want to be confined by a single term. No matter what idea a person chooses to or chooses not to identify with, the most important thing to do is to respect people's identities. Figuring out one's sexuality can be a long process, and identity is always subject to change. We need to be patient and understanding with each other rather than deciding that terms for sexuality are not necessary.



"...the most important thing to do is to respect people's identities."
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Skam : Show of the Generation

By Ana Escobedo, THANOSHI BALASURIYA
Spectrum Staff

"People experience horrible things every day and they still manage to be nice to others. Being [mean] is not something you're born with or something you become, it's a choice" - Noora from *Skam*

A Norwegian show called *Skam* has recently received a lot of positive attention in the United States for its portrayal of a gay relationship. Due to the show primarily being posted on the Internet, it has gained a large international following. It features a teenager named Isak Valtersen, who struggles with his sexuality—especially after he meets a transfer student named Even Bech Næsheim. This show arguably has one of the most developed and well-written storylines for a gay character on television. Furthermore, the show as a whole tackles other important issues that are relevant today but that don't always make it onto the screen. With *Skam*, many high schoolers are finally getting the amazing show they've been looking for.

In the latter part of season three, Isak discovers that Even is bipolar. His own mother has a mental illness, and their shaky relationship makes Isak suddenly wary of Even. He believes in the common stigma about mental illness: people with mental disorders can't be helped. This makes it harder to recognize them as people. Many, like Isak, can get this idea from other TV shows: series like *Sherlock* or *House* equate mental illness to intellectual brilliance. *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Pretty Little Liars* contribute to the "distrusting your medication" trope, which only perpetuates a culture where it's harder to ask for help. In more extreme cases, shows like *Dexter* connect mental illness to crime, or at least an excuse for bad behavior.

In *Skam*, Even is much more than his bipolar disorder. He is introduced to us as a cool, tall, friendly, rap-loving, movie-making dude. He has a completely separate personality from his disorder, rendering him a million times more complex and interesting. And after Isak gets some much-needed advice, he decides to support Even and to try to understand his disorder. When people ask for representation of neurodivergent people, they aren't asking for the familiar, offensive, and overused stereotypes that only strengthen the harmful stigma. TV show writers can do better.

Skam also takes on the underlying islamophobia in society today: the huge issue of the modern age, from America to Norway. Sana is a Muslim character introduced in season one who's completely aware of how her hijab sets her apart. She butts heads with Vilde, another teen character who doesn't understand that she sometimes perpetuates negative stereotypes, and who offends Sana due to her own ignorance. Yet they become friends after Vilde realizes that Sana isn't that much different from everyone else. Sana also has the best lines in the show, including "...Hate doesn't stem from religion, it stems from fear." With the rise in islamopho-

bia in the United States and with the scarcity of good Muslim characters in media, Sana from *Skam* is the beacon of light that the country needs to unite.

Season three has overshadowed previous seasons, because it finally focused on Isak, who was revealed to be gay in the season one finale. Not only that, but it didn't overdramatize Isak's coming out or rely on stereotypes. In a single season, we see Isak accept himself and his sexuality, come out to his friends and his family, and fall in love with Even. He represents many of the problems teenagers face when it comes to accepting themselves. He himself has stereotypes about gay people, which confuse him completely. He struggles to come out to his extremely religious mom. But in the end, Isak gets the happy ending with Even. More importantly, he decides to be happy.

The characters and their relationships are what make *Skam* so great. Acceptance is a core theme of the series, whether Isak accepting his own identity, Isak accepting Even's bipolar disorder, or Sana and Vilde accepting each other's differences. In that sense, *Skam* provides a solution to the problems of our changing society: all we have to do is keep an open mind.



The cast of *Skam*.
ONLINE SOURCE

JoeBama Timeline : The Best Bromance of the Century

2004

- 7/27/2004: Joe Biden gives address on the DNC. Barack Obama reminds the nation that "we are one people."

2006

- 11/15/2006: Obama signs the Affordable Care Act to make healthcare more accessible to Americans.

2007

- The United States enters its first attack on terror.

2008

- 1/20/2008: The Obama Administration unveils the 800 Obama 411 hotline, the number that helped the 2008 terrorist attacks.

2009

- 1/20/2009: The sacred tape people re-use over and over.

2010

- 12/07/2010: Obama signs the Affordable Care Act into law, the most comprehensive health care law in American history.

2011

- 12/07/2011: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Iraq.

2012

- 12/07/2012: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Afghanistan.

2013

- 12/07/2013: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Afghanistan.

2014

- 12/07/2014: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Afghanistan.

2015

- 12/07/2015: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Afghanistan.

2016

- 12/07/2016: Obama signs the law that ended the war in Afghanistan.

2017

- 12/07/2017: Donald Trump takes the oath of office as the 45th President.

Forum

An ABRHS Perspective on Art School: Why Apply?

By SAM WHITTLE
Forum Editor

As high schoolers, so many people in our community seem to have been frozen in time from now until March, when colleges will be responding to the seniors that applied through Regular Decision. High school seniors as a whole have a sense of solidarity as they stumble through possible majors and what seems like the final choice to determine their future. However plenty of the students who have been tumbling through the process are following a path completely different from that of their classmates. These are the students going to art colleges to become the next design team for Disney, the future web-comic artists, and the designers of every advertisement we will see for the next 10 years.

For students and parents alike, art institutes lie in an area of uncertainty. Our society has constantly fed us the story of the starving artist, and it creates a fear for anyone who has ever dreamed of professionally creating art. "I'm nervous, to be honest, ABRHS senior Nala Wu admitted, I'm constantly worried that I'm making the wrong choice," Nala has been an art student for years, and has dreamed of going to an art college and going professional since she was in middle school. So far her dreams have become reality; she's been the recipient of various art awards, won the Senior Superlative to be the next

Van Gogh, and has a massive Instagram following on her art account where she receives many commission requests. Even with her impressive resume, she remains tense about art school.

Art colleges over the country have presented to the various art classes of AB at the request of the art department. The first things each presenter speaks about when discussing their college is the post-graduation employment rate, internship opportunities, and career counseling. Art colleges know that it's a challenging career, and for representatives, it's a thin line to sell their college to students while still being honest about success in the field. Another AB senior, Arin Kaplan, said, "I'm scared I'll be a broke artist stereotype." Arin longs to go into illustration, a lucrative field that, while versatile and broad, is still difficult to break into. For many illustrators, the route to a comfortable life and eventual success is landing a job with a major corporation, such as Cartoon Network or DC Comics, which often don't cater to artist-specific visions. For fine artists, it's a still-rougher path of landing gallery exhibitions and devoting the necessary, precious time to their art without going completely broke. In the words of senior Amy Wang, who will not be pursuing art: "Being a fine artist... gives you a bit more artistic freedom, but you have way more financial constraints".

So why would anyone ever apply to art school? And besides, who

would want to do art professionally?

Well, plenty of people! Due to the filtration process of the fear-inducing "Starving Artist" parable, most of the people who attend art school are genuinely committed to it. When asked if she would recommend art school to aspiring artists, Nala said, "It depends on how much you want it." For artists like Nala Wu, the industry is something she has unfailingly longed to be a part of for years, and therefore she won't just be dissuaded by competition. Additionally, Sydney Thomas pointed out that art school is not the only way to pursue art: "There's a lot of good schools out there that aren't art based but have great programs".

Another way that art schools separate the weak from the chaff is by their admissions process. In addition to writing college essays and filling out forms like everyone else, seniors applying to art school must follow through on some extra steps. Arin noted that "portfolio creation and critique can take a long time." In order to apply to art school, students must send a portfolio of their most self-representative and highest quality work to the college, often in addition to artist statements and a resume of achievements. The time and number of perspectives that are needed to finalize these portfolios are mind-boggling. Senior Anna Rychlik "[wishes she] understood the portfolio process junior year." Portfolios take time, and any time that can be spent on them before se-

nior year is precious.

But there's still one more question—why? Why would students go through this additional work and stress in order to play around with paints? What do they want from this?

The answer varied amongst the interviewed seniors.

Nala Wu, who will be attending an undecided art college, explained that "Art is my passion and I want to pursue it. It sounds cheesy but art can change the world and I want to

be a part of that."

Anna Rychlik, who will be attending Northeastern University's College of Art and Media Design said "I love art [and] wanted the opportunity to study other things as well."

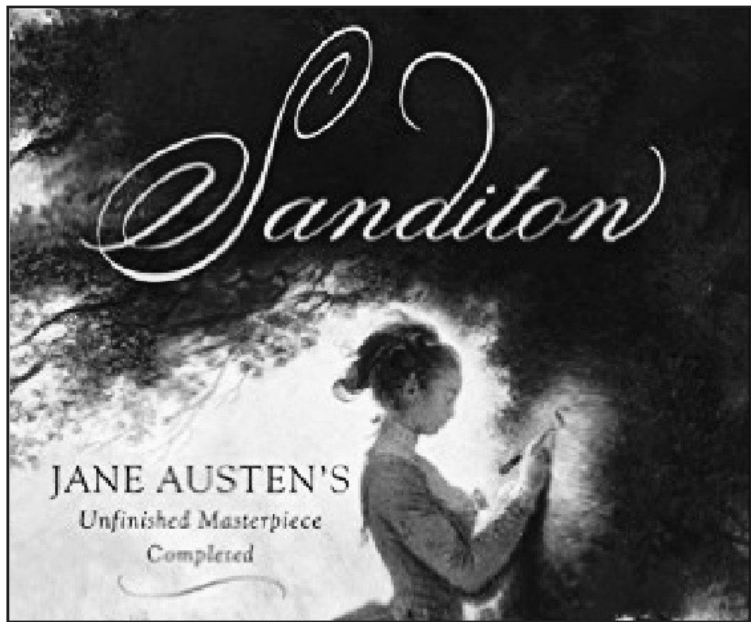
Sydney Thomas, who will be attending School of the Art Institute: "Because I've only ever really shown a profound interest in art that was backed by motivation and a talent."

Why not follow your dreams?



The School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Online Source

Books From The Bottom Shelf



Sanditon: Jane Austen's Unfinished Story
ONLINE SOURCE

By DIANA WILLAND
Spectrum Staff

Anyone who has heard of Jane Austen most likely associates her with *Pride and Prejudice* or any of her other five novels that continue to be read and loved today. What few people know, however, is that there is a seventh work of literature that Austen intended to publish, had her health permitted. Following the storyline of the Parker family and their friends, *Sanditon* is yet another display of Austen's brilliance in writing. Because it is the last work of Austen's before she died at the age of 41, the story ends after only twelve chapters as an unfinished tale, making it more of a short story than a book. The unfinished quality, however, does leave the reader

in a state of curiosity. The reader is given the rare opportunity of finishing the story themselves: speculating what Jane Austen would have gone on to write, or creating their own ending. Due to the fact that it was meant to be the beginning of a much more developed story, the *Sanditon* plot is somewhat uneventful. Though the style of *Sanditon* is slightly different, any lover of Jane Austen is sure to enjoy the setup for what surely would have been a great novel in British literature. There is still the Austen humor and drama between families, as well as the relationships and the marriages. Compared to other authors, Jane Austen has very few works available to read, and so *Sanditon* should definitely be on the list for Austen (or Regency Era) lovers.

Review of *Little Miss Sunshine*

By ANA ESCOBEDO
Spectrum Staff

Little Miss Sunshine gets better every time I see it, just like aged cheese. But it's not cheesy like some other family comedy movies out there; it's really #1 when it comes to hilarious characters that help teach universal lessons. It focuses on a broken family that embarks on a roadtrip to California because young Olive has qualified for the "Little Miss Sunshine" Beauty Pageant. This may alarm people who are disturbed by the Toddlers and Tiaras vibe. I get it. It's horrendous. But in this regard, *Little Miss Sunshine* satirizes the spray tans, the plastered makeup and the hy-

persexualized dresses. And along with the important theme of self-acceptance, *Little Miss Sunshine* goes even farther by taking the common "dysfunctional family forced to be together" trope and making it original and quirky.

In the world of *Little Miss Sunshine*, everything has a place. Yet the Hoover family seems to fit none of these conventional categories. For example, Richard, played by Greg Kinnear, is a motivational speaker obsessed with "winners" and "losers"- but his own startup fails because no one knows who Richard Hoover is. Grandpa is holed up with the Hoover family because he was kicked out of his retirement home for doing crack. Everyone in this movie seems to

be isolated from each other in the beginning: they are separated by their individual idiosyncrasies. But everything becomes clear when we see the entire family dancing on stage with Olive at the beauty pageant. These individuals fit perfectly together because of their isolating characteristics. It's a "common difference" situation. Their love for one another lets them accept each other and vice versa.

There are many different relationships in this movie that I could talk about, but I think the most important one is the father-daughter relationship between Olive and Richard. Richard preaches that "winners" are people who never give up on their dreams and never doubt for a second that they can achieve their goals. Olive is an aspiring beauty queen, but she's too young to understand the cultural aspect of pageants. Her dance routine to "Super Freak" is more important to her because she doesn't see that in the industry, beauty is more important than talent. And although Richard loves his daughter, he tries to talk her out of entering the pageant on the basis that she isn't thin enough to be a real competitor. He starts to act as the embodiment of the sexist societal expectations towards young girls by making her feel self-conscious of her body. In this case, he becomes a major hypocrite and has failed himself by promoting this negative mentality. He is the last member of the family to support Olive and accept her for who she is. But when he does finally practice what he preaches, he shows us that not only are winners defined as those who never give up, but they're also those who are confident enough in themselves to try in the first place.



Little Miss Sunshine, *The Family Comedy Sensation*
ONLINE SOURCE

Forum

Gilmore Girls Review



The Gilmore Girls Revival
ONLINE SOURCE

By SONALI DESHPANDE
Spectrum Staff

If you were one of the many to be hit by a barrage of “Gilmore Girls” ads throughout November, you may have wondered to yourself, “Didn’t that show end ten years ago?” or “What stupid new romcom is this?” or “OHMY-GOSH TEAM JESS!”

On November 25th, Netflix revived the CW series *Gilmore Girls* (2000-2007)—a fast-paced, feel-good show about a mom and her daughter living in a quintessential New England town. The revival consisted of four 90-minute long episodes, and to any fan of the show, it was a godsend. Considering how rushed and unresolved the last season felt, we were in desperate need of closure.

Spoilers Ahead

As we watched on a cozy Friday night, my friends and I found ourselves squealing and laughing at cameos of old characters we felt personally close to, as well as at witty references to the original series. Like any good *Gilmore Girls* revival should, it tickled the fans’ nostalgic memories and made it seem as though Stars Hollow hadn’t changed at all.

The underlying problem with the content of the episodes, however, was that it fast-forwarded ten years without much-needed character development. This problem was mostly apparent with Rory. In the original series, she represented everything her mother never had: a tightly-knit relationship with her family and community and a promising future. From what we fans could remember, she was kind, responsible, and incredibly intelligent—a godsend to her young mother. Yet somehow, the revival flung anything previously good about Rory down the drain. From the beginning of the show, one of the main running jokes was that she continually forgot that she had a boyfriend—despite being in a two-year relationship with him. Not to mention that, at 32, she was sleeping with her engaged ex-boyfriend. Career-wise, Rory was no longer on the path to greatness. She was “writing a book” that she seemed to put no effort into, and she believed that one successful piece in the *New Yorker* was enough to carry her through to new jobs. She walked in for the one interview she received completely unprepared, expecting to be handed the job: after all, what was “SandeeSays” when she’d

had bylines published in the *Atlantic*? Needless to say, she did not get the job, but somehow, she was surprised. The one word I’d use to describe Revival Rory is “entitled.”

Yet as I reflected, I realized that this was not new. In the original series, she strung along her solid, caring boyfriend of two years while simultaneously courting the new “bad boy” in town. When “bad boy” Jess left her, Rory raced back to boyfriend #1, sleeping with him even though he was married. After all, ‘he was hers first.’ When a newspaper mogul mentioned that she didn’t have “it,” she was destroyed, and quickly quit Yale. This shed light on the fact that Rory had never been told “no,” in her life: one criticism and she nearly threw away everything she and her mother had worked towards. After quitting, she lived in her grandparents’ pool house for free, but she rejected them when they tried to be part of her life. By the revival, Rory had not overcome the entitled nature she had in the original series. She was thirty-two years old and was still acting like she was twenty.

As I see it, Amy Sherman-Palladino, the creator of the show, had an ending in mind when she first envisioned the concept for *Gilmore Girls*. However, she had not anticipated the ten-year gap in time, and thought it was alright to continue the show as if no time had passed, as if Rory had not matured. The revival ended with a pregnant Rory, likely with the son of her engaged ex-boyfriend, and it leaves one to think: Is every *Gilmore* girl from now on destined to have an unplanned pregnancy, no matter the stability of their childhood, no matter their advantages in life? Not only is this “full circle” incredibly cheesy, but it is depressingly fatalist as well.

Despite all this, the revival was enjoyable. Though many storylines were dropped (Did Luke and Lorelai end up adopting a baby? Did Paris and Doyle work out their issues?), and they could have easily addressed them by removing the irrelevant, 20-minute Stars Hollow musical, the episodes succeeded by ending Lorelai’s plotline with a cheesy-cute marriage to Luke and by putting Emily at peace with her newfound independence. The episodes were witty, and they tugged at the heartstrings. Ultimately, the series will always remain one of my favorites, one that I will inevitably continue rewatching, and I am glad that Netflix was able to pick it up for one last run.

The Outside Context Problem

By MATT JARVIS
Spectrum Staff

What’s in a problem? Our lives are, after all, largely dedicated to solving large or small ones, and for this reason we don’t often think about their substance. Cause-and-effect can create many issues that proceed with logical and just solutions. Everything’s solved, and all involved can go home and pat themselves on the back. We depend on the world making sense so that we may feel secure about our position in the grand scheme of things.

If this is the case, what do we do when we discover a new problem with no relation to anything we’ve seen before? How do we handle something we’ve never considered, something that’s entirely outside of the context with which we are familiar?

Consider the Aztecs for a moment. They reigned over the peoples of Mesoamerica, using combinations of alliances and tactics to subjugate or enslave all who stood in their way. Their religion was respected and feared, their culture widely imitated, and their presence felt throughout the region. They were, from their own standpoint, absolutely invincible. However, they were only invincible to the threats they could know about and understand. What they failed to expect was the unexpected, that there was a civilization that would utterly destroy their own.

The arrival of the Spanish was a completely unforeseen existential threat to the Aztec way of life. A technologically superior foe attacked them with fewer men and a religious fervor that bordered on sadism. The Aztec culture was destroyed and the remains were combined with Spanish culture to form what is now Mexican culture. Though many of the natives’ beliefs and practices remain, the Mesoamerica of yesteryear is gone.

The Aztecs were just as intelligent and logical as us. Their way of doing things and their way of viewing the world led them to the same



An Aztec Calendar
ONLINE SOURCE

conclusions. Whether or not they emerged victorious in their struggles, it would be as a result of their actions. Note how I do not disclaim religious belief, as the actions of God or the gods can be ascribed to human actions. The Aztecs and the Spaniards both followed rational gods who reacted to human behavior, so even the action of the divine could be foreseen. The fact is that the Aztecs were destroyed for no other reason than that they were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

So then, what good is an article that chronicles nothing more than the pointless destruction of a culture? Not that much. Though we can’t bring back Aztec civilization any more than we can bring back the dinosaurs, there is something to be learned from all this. As the

Aztecs quickly found out, a problem being outside of the context you are used to is impossible to prepare for and to mitigate. That is, of course, while it still remains an outside-context problem. If you are vigilant of your surroundings and conscious of that which may happen, you can bring a problem into a context you can consider and rationally resolve. If the Aztecs had poisoned the Spaniards on their way to Tenochtitlan, Mexico might look quite different today.

That lump on the underside of your arm, the guy looking around anxiously, the nice salesman who just wants a word with you about a new service: all problems that can easily catch you unaware. Be careful, kiddos—you don’t want to follow the way of the Aztecs.

The Debate: Panera vs. Chipotle

By MILA RUSHKIN
Correspondent

The life-long question: Which is better, Panera or Chipotle? They are both popular fast food restaurants, but they serve completely different menus. Panera is known for its American Cuisine with a little bit of a twist. It sells amazing breads, soups, pastas, and salads. Panera has a huge variety of food, from Asian inspired salads to French onion soup. Anybody who comes to Panera will be sure to find something they like. On the opposite ends of things, there is Chipotle. Chipotle sells Mexican inspired food like burritos, tacos, chips, and their famous burrito bowl. Unlike Panera, it is more of a “build your own” type of restaurant. People who love Mexican food or a good burrito will be sure to love Chipotle. These two restaurants may serve completely different cuisines, but none the less they are competition. Which one will come out on top?

I decided that the only way to find out was to go to the people! I made a survey and posted it on Facebook. I asked four questions solely based on my big question: Which one is better?

The first question on the survey asked which restaurant do you think is healthier? 80% of people thought that Panera is healthier, but only 20% thought that Chipotle was. According to Health.com Chipotle and Panera are both on the list for the most healthy fast food chains. People can easily find nutritious options at both restaurants. They both have a variety of salads, and most things on the menu come with a fruit or vegetable. I think that they are equally healthy, but most people still consider Panera to be healthier.

The second question that I asked was, which restaurant do you think is more expensive? 80% of people said that Panera is, and only 20% of people said Chipotle is. Most full meals in Panera cost around \$5-\$10, and in Chipotle it’s \$6-\$7. Overall, Chipotle has a cheaper average menu, but its menu has less variety compared to Panera. Panera also has bakery items, which Chipotle does not have. Chipotle’s menu is more based on the type of protein you choose to have. It is hard to compare these two restaurant’s prices because they sell different portions.

Now, for the big question, which

one is your favorite? The winner is Panera, which has 60% of the vote, whereas Chipotle only has 40%. The vote is much closer than I expected. I thought Panera would win by much more because of their wide menu variety. Panera has many options to choose from, and people usually can find something they like easily. Chipotle’s menu has more of a Mexican flare, which people either love or hate. The menu is not as diverse, and only contains one specific cuisine. The winner in this sense really depends on which cuisine you prefer, not on restaurant quality at all.

Next, I asked two more questions on what people like to order at their preferred restaurant, and how often do they go? For the people who voted for Panera, the most popular items are mac and cheese, caesar salad, and grilled cheese. People mostly go to Panera Bread once every three months. For Chipotle, most people order a burrito or a burrito bowl. According to my survey, most people go once a month.

Panera is the champion for this restaurant face off. Which restaurant do you think is better, Panera or Chipotle?

Forum

Featured Photographer: Luka Ilic

By LUKA ILIC
Spectrum Staff

“A photo is an image. Nothing more, nothing less.”

It’s unfortunate that this is what pops into people’s minds when they think, “photography”. I, on the other hand, would argue a photo is a mix of a million, cell-sized pixels that come together to represent the glory of a moment in time.

“Photography? It’s obviously just a way to get famous on Instagram, duh.”

To me, photography is more than just a way to become popular on social media: it embraces a moment in time, captures a certain environment, and most importantly, encompasses the quirky photographer himself.

It really all started on my twelfth birthday when my dad allowed me to finally use his professional camera. Holding the camera gently like a newborn baby, I discovered more about the machine that lay in front of me. ISO, exposure, aperture: topics that made me feel like I was learning calculus, not photography. I fiddled with these tools until I

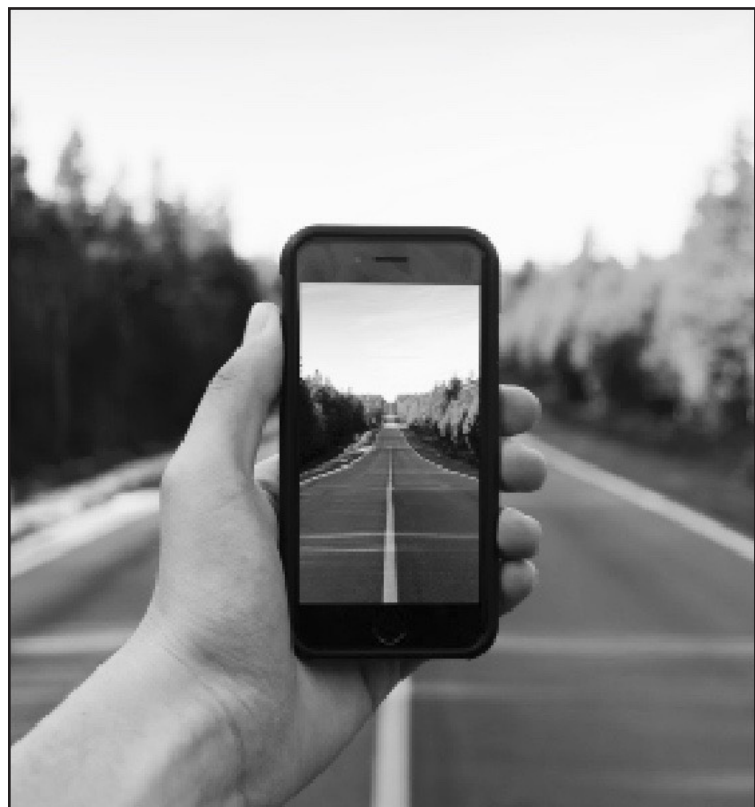
finally mastered them, and that’s when I started getting serious with photography.

Despite having my neck sag from all the weight it bore, I took my camera everywhere. I would stay for hours at one spot, shooting photos until my fingers and eyes were sore. As the land of creativity opened up to me, I became less inclined to shoot generic photography. All too often, however, a thousand “clicks” would yield no more than three photographs worth something.

Rather than giving in to my growing frustration, I turned to Photoshop to give my “unattractive” shots a face-lift. Refine, retouch, up the exposure, tone down the clarity, make a mistake, restart, refine, retouch, up the saturation, finish. The photo, once a disappointment, became a work of art, a true masterpiece. I could easily have thrown my camera across the room and called it quits. Instead, I decided I couldn’t control how the image would react on the lens, but I could control how I reacted to it. This is a lesson I have tried to apply throughout my life.



This is a photo of the world-famous New York Skyline at night. I took this picture in Brooklyn, a more calm New York City district. The moment this picture was taken was oddly tranquil because who would expect to find peace in New York? Ironically, I found that here, amidst the trees and annoying squirrels around me.



This photo marks the start of a new, more spontaneous me. Two days earlier, I was in my room doing Physics homework (gross) when my brother came in and said, “Let’s go to New Brunswick this weekend!” Of course, I was skeptical and thought that he was a complete lunatic, but I eventually agreed to go. Not only did I discover a new place in the world, but I learned to loosen up a bit and to be more spontaneous, because sometimes going somewhere unplanned gives rise to a more exciting adventure.

Featured Artist: Phoebe Wessel

By FIONA MILEY
Spectrum Staff

How would you describe your style?

I am definitely a messy artist. Nothing ever looks perfect but I like it that way.

What is your main source of inspiration? Is there a common theme that emerges among your pieces or a favorite subject or medium?

Ok this is basic, but I am definitely inspired by life. My art usually reflects things going on in, or around, my life and the emotions that go along with it. A common theme in my art is nature and the human body. I like to try and display the natural beauty in life.

What are your strengths and weaknesses as an artist?

I use a unique perspective most of the time. I also usually don’t take very long when making a piece. However, I could probably use some more patience.

What are your goals for your art? (interpret this however you want)

I like to create things I enjoy looking at and hope others will too.

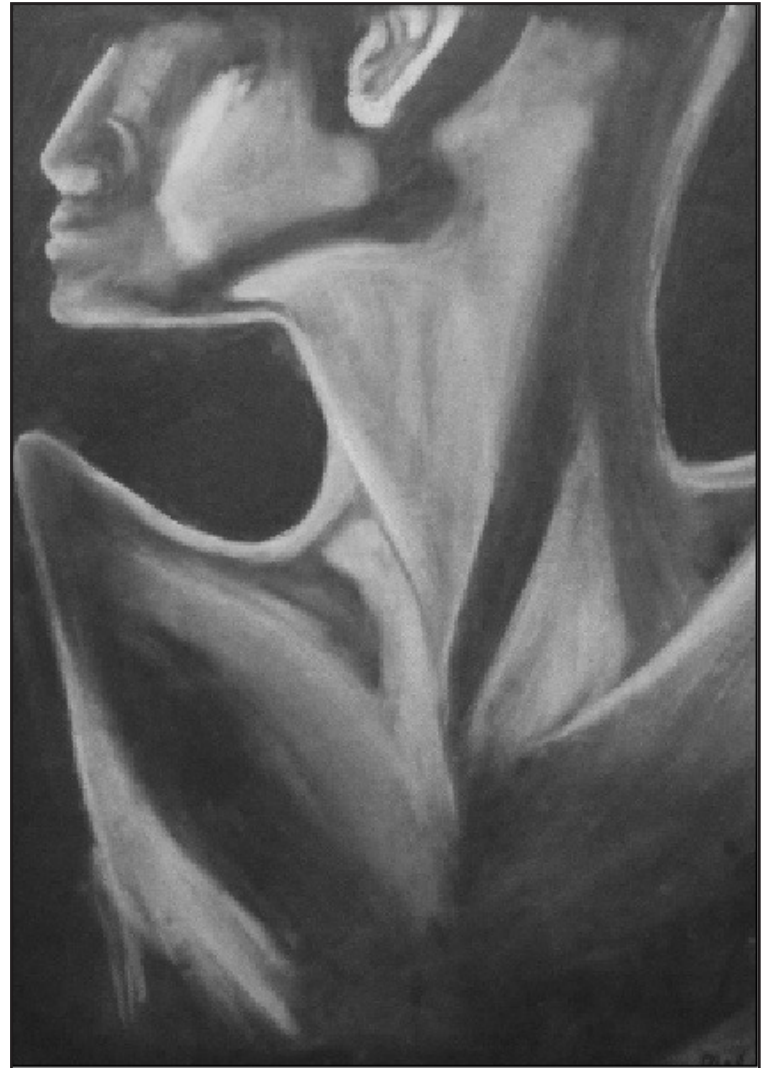
Why do you believe art is important?

It’s a good way for people to express themselves without words. Sometimes emotions can be hard to put into words but easier to express through images.

Any advice for beginner artists?

Don’t worry too much about how your art looks at the begin-

ning. Just keep creating and you will be happy with your art. Also, don’t be afraid to try all mediums until you find your favorite.



“[Art is]...a good way for people to express themselves without words.”
Fiona Miley/ Correspondent

Horoscopes for February

By FIONA MILEY
Spectrum Staff

Capricorn: When Venus and Mars align on the third full moon of the month, you will have a chance encounter with a stranger that will change your life forever. Keep your heart and mind open. Go with the flow.

Aquarius: Treat yourself to that salad dressing you’ve been eyeing for months. You’ve earned it. So what if it’s a little out of your price range? Also, stay away from escalators.

Pisces: We get it, you’re a delightful fairy, but this time you need to tone it down.

Aries: You will be courted by a special gentleman this month. He may not be Robert Redford, but he’s kind of heart. He’ll leave a

burlap sack of beets on your doorstep. Do with them what you will. Happy courting!

Taurus: Avoid bullfights and any bullfight-related paraphernalia. Keep on top of the personal hygiene.

Gemini: Maybe you should start drinking lemonade instead of iced tea, okay? Keep your eyes on the ball, but watch your back. You have two faces, remember?

Cancer: Your taxidermy collection was cool at first, but it’s getting out of hand. Also, stay away from hot surfaces this month.

Leo: Don’t be ashamed to let your vulnerability show. Eat dirt for breakfast. Get six or seven roommates. Scream at an inanimate object. Wear baby socks. Ponder the futility of human existence. Discover an island.

Virgo: Try parting your hair on the other side. Start a stick collection. Don’t listen to the haters. Wear a bandana for underwear. It’ll be our little secret.

Libra: Your lactose intolerance is going to catch up with you. Eat a five-gallon bucket of ice cream while you still can.

Scorpio: We know what you did. Turn yourself in. And try a new food this month!

Sagittarius: Try bursting out into spoken-word poetry in the middle of class. Your classmates will thank you.



A horoscope circle with Zodiac signs.
ONLINE SOURCE

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Off the Spectrum

Love Nest: February

By FIONA MILEY
Spectrum Staff

There's this guy who likes me and keeps asking me out and it's gotten kinda creepy. How do I make him stop?

Make yourself as undesirable as possible. Think of it as performance art: whenever you're chewing gum, instead of throwing it away in your local trash bin, simply tuck it behind your ear. If he asks about it, just start crying. Wear your cell phone on a case clipped to your belt. Next time you're eating a popsicle, take a bite out of it. Cover yourself in fake blood before seeing him, and if he asks about it, just grin and tell him the blood moon is coming. Wear crocs everywhere, even to bed.

Do most of your answers include murder to death, or is it just a coincidence?

That's it, you're dead. Please turn your location on.

I've been getting to know this guy for a little while and I think it's becoming official. Is it time to introduce him to my parents?

Don't think of your parents as a pair of supportive figures in your life, but rather as competition. If your "guy" meets them, isn't that just two more people that could steal him away? Food for thought.

Hello, I think my boyfriend is a workaholic. How do I stage an intervention? I love him very much, and don't want this to go badly like my last one. Thank you!

Some men just need an ultimatum- make him choose! Show up

at his workplace wearing only tar and feathers. Once you reach his office, slam your head through the door and march over to him. With a sweeping motion, clear off his desk. Then, sob the entire opening paragraph of *A Tale of Two Cities* to show him what he could be missing. If he still chooses his work over you, clearly he's scared of independent women.

How does one get over a broken heart?

Travel to a spot exactly 71 miles due west of Area 51. Wait until midnight. Once there, capture a scorpion and domesticate it. He's your brother now. Dig a shallow depression in the dirt, and gently place your folded clothes in it. From there, scream at the moon for 12 minutes in whatever language you took in high school. Lastly, shed a tear as you rip off the head of your new brother with your teeth. He didn't love you anyway. If this doesn't work, I don't know what will.

I have to choose between two amazing guys, how do I do it???

A set of complex experiments and competitions is the most direct way of coming to a decisive conclusion. Set a human-sized mouse trap with a giant piece of cheese in it. Whichever man falls for it first is clearly more goal-oriented. Alternatively, you could build a maze for them with no food or water. Whichever one makes it out first is clearly the worst choice because he is good at leaving. You're welcome.

College Satire: Not So Bad

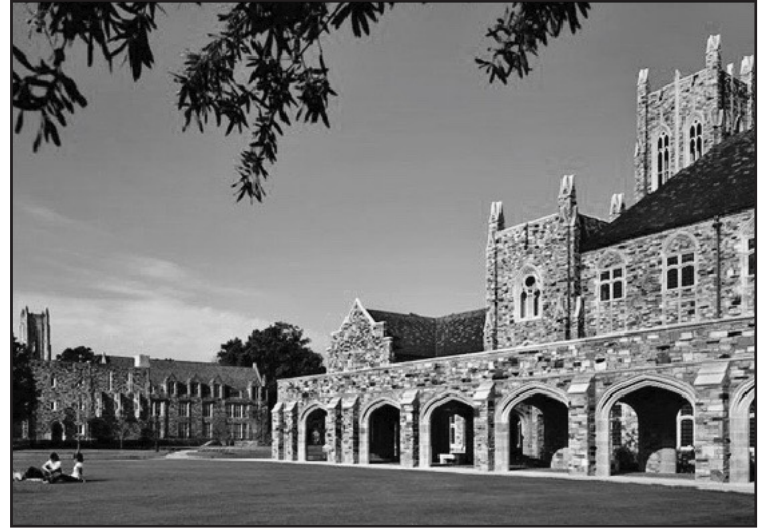
By COLIN LANG
Spectrum Staff

It was January 15th, 11:24 PM. Only one school lacked a neat little green check mark next to its name in my Common App: Willherst College. Willherst was perhaps the most selective liberal arts college in the country, so needless to say, it was a reach. But, I don't know, there was just something about it that made me believe it could be the one for me.

I started filling out the "Questions" section of the Willherst application. It was pretty standard stuff: intended major, family members, etc. Then, I came to the supplemental essay. My heart sank. I had forgotten there was a supplemental essay! It was already 11:31 PM! How could I write a Willherst essay in under 29 minutes?!

The prompt read: *Here at Willherst, we like to pretend to be quirky and fun, which in your mind somehow justifies asking you to pay us \$70,000 a year in exchange for a piece of paper that may very well have absolutely no connection to what you end up doing with your life. We're so cool, we even have a nickname for our students--herstniks! Isn't that cool? Anyways, our question to you is, describe a time when you pretended to be quirky and fun in order to get something you wanted. Did you get it? If so, was it worth it?*

I read the prompt a second time, and a third. *Crap*, I thought. *I don't know if I've ever done that. Maybe I'll just make something up.* But then, I remembered one time in seventh

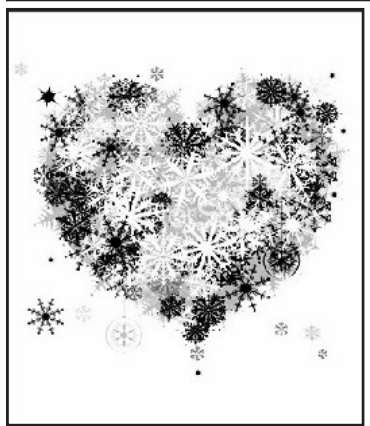


A typical college campus.
ONLINE SOURCE

grade when I had made a concerted effort to seem quirky and fun so this guy would ask me to go with him to the seventh grade social. I had told him there was a green lawn in front of my house where my friends and I played quidditch, and that my kitchen was open 24/7 and was always stocked with cookies. Of course, it wasn't true--the "quidditch" we played did not involve flying at all (lame), and we only had cookies some of the time. It didn't matter though--he went with someone else.

I shook myself back into focus--I had gotten lost in thought. It was 11:42 PM. *I need to do this thing.* I furiously began typing, only looking up about once every six seconds to see if I had made any typos. I had to think about what I learned from

not getting what I wanted--the Willherst admissions board would surely want to know that. But I wasn't really sure what I learned, other than the fact the the seventh grade social wasn't really the kind of event you went to with a date. I was just about to write that I learned it's better to tell people you play frisbee on your green lawn because not everyone knows what quidditch is when I heard the big clock chime downstairs. *12:00 AM! How can that be!? I'm too late!* I slumped back in my chair, dejected. But then, I remembered that Willherst was a reach anyways, and that all my other apps were done, and that all the other schools I had applied to had much lower tuitions. *Maybe, I thought as I signed out of the Common App, maybe it's not so bad after all.*



Cuffing Season [kuhf-ing see-zuh n] noun

1. A natural phenomenon in the colder seasons in which everyone appears more attractive to those who suddenly feel the desire to be "cuffed" down to a "serious" relationship. Offset by cold weather and subsequent inactivity that causes normally proudly single people to seek warmth through the affection of another. Precedes the "breakup" season that marks the start of Spring and returning rationality.

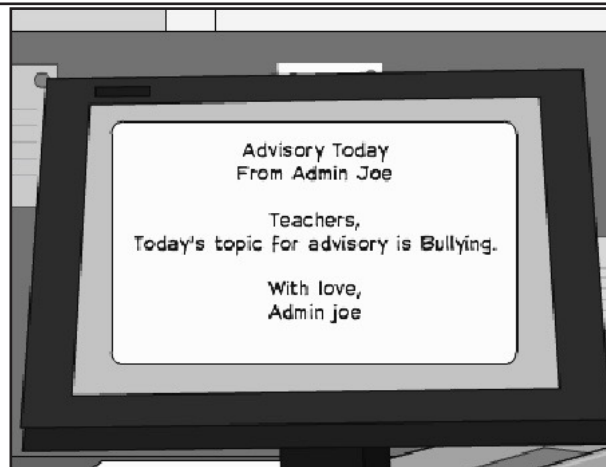
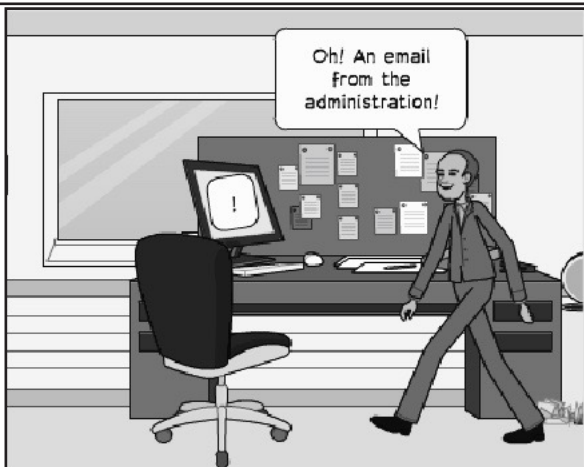
Example:

Megan: *It's official - cuffing season has begun.*

Pooji: *How do you know?*

Megan: *Someone asked out Geo. That wouldn't be possible without subzero temperatures and heightened desperation.*

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A Series of Unfortunate Advisories
The Squibbler Crew / Spectrum Staff

Off the Spectrum

Stages of Friendship

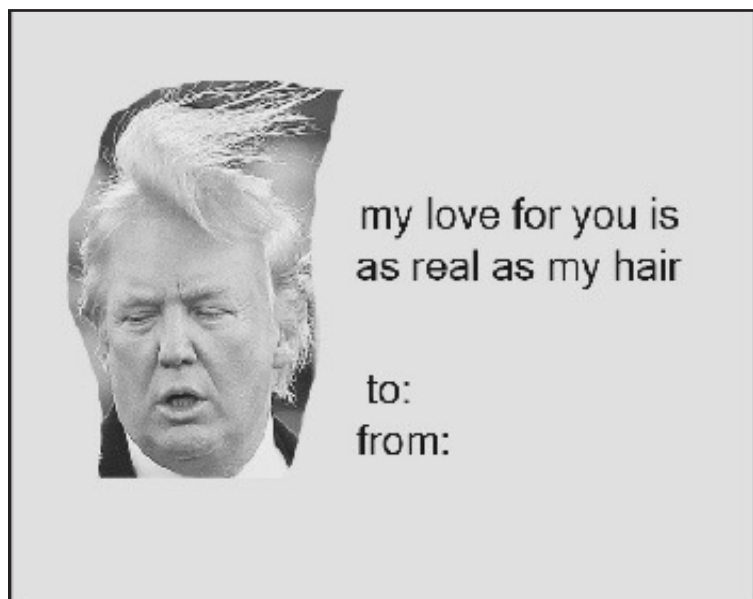
By KATHERINE CHEN
Spectrum Staff

- 1. Acquaintances**
You smile at them in the halls. They ignore you. Awkward.
- 2. Classroom partners**
Your friends suck and have ditched you on the big project for each other. Your eyes drift towards someone else and you nod in agreement. The pact has formed.
- 3. Starbucks**
The "let's get some coffee" attitude. Your parents are late picking you up (again) and you're just bored.

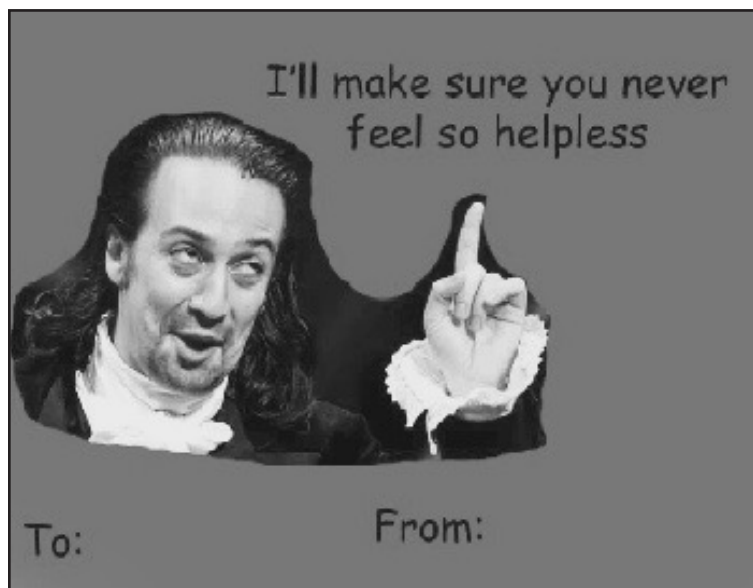
- 4. Inside jokes**
Weird, unexplainable jokes start popping up. Said joke can be transformed into an emoji which is then put next to their contact names.
- 5. Best friends**
You spend more time at their house than you do at your own. Your parents are their parents and vice versa. Basically siblings, but without the part of being related.
- 6. Actual soulmates**
Your souls are literally bound together, probably by that wad of gum you threatened to stick up their nose if they don't cooperate.

Dumb Valentine's Day Cards

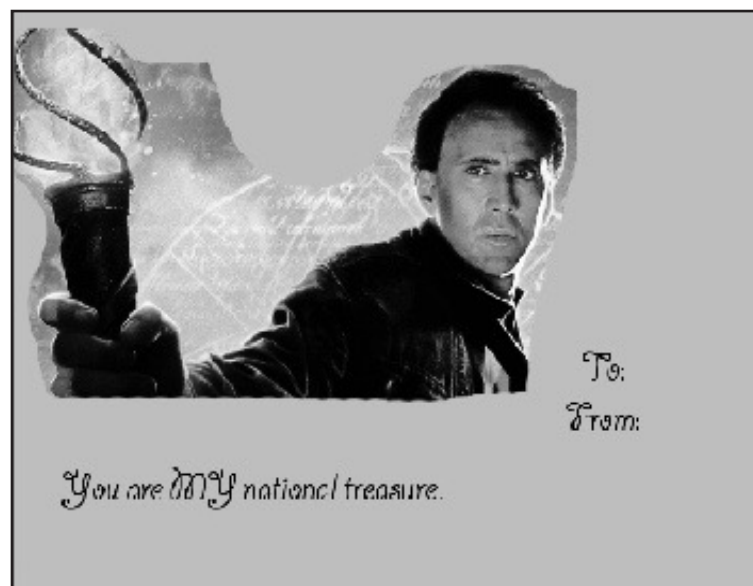
By SAM WHITTLE
Chief Staff



@POTUS
Sam Whittle / Spectrum Staff



@Hamilton
Sam Whittle / Spectrum Staff



@NickCage
Sam Whittle / Spectrum Staff

Are You the Alpha or the Beta in Your Relationship?

By DAVEN LAGU
Spectrum Staff

What would you do?

- 1. You realize you forgot to call your date to tell them you'd be late as you leave your house.**
 - a. Call on the way there to say you're sorry.
 - b. Apologize when you get there.
- 2. You don't get to decide where you go for your next date.**
 - a. Hold in your complaint and maybe bring it up later.
 - b. Don't care and just try to have fun.
- 3. You're having trouble asking your crush out.**
 - a. Try to talk to them alone and ask them if they want to go on a date.
 - b. Go up to them whenever

they aren't busy and ask them if they want to go on a date.

- 4. You say something offensive to the person you like when they are right in front of you.**
 - a. Don't talk about it and try and move on.
 - b. Apologize and laugh it off.

- 5. Your grand romantic gesture ends up looking creepy.**
 - a. Scale it back and acknowledge that you were too extreme.
 - b. Steer into it, pretend it was planned, and play it off as a joke.

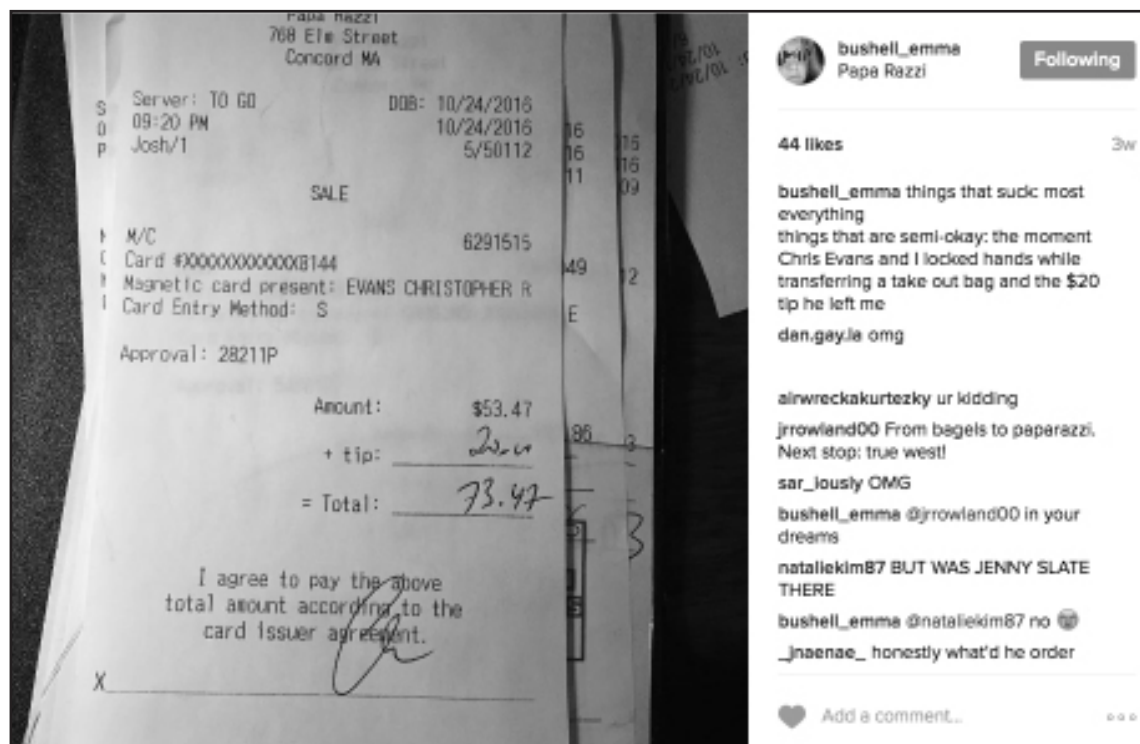
- 6. Your crush introduces you as 'a friend' to their parents.**
 - a. Silently be a little upset and think about what your next move will be.
 - b. Try to figure out if your crush really feels that way.

- 7. The person you're in a relationship in says they can't hang out with you for the third time in a row.**
 - a. Ask them what the problem is, and tell them when you're free.
 - b. Tell them it's fine, and set up a time for you to meet next.

- 8. Your boyfriend/girlfriend doesn't share your main hobby/interest.**
 - a. Understand that you lead separate lives and leave it alone.
 - b. Try to get them interested in your hobbies/interests.

If you selected A 4 or more times: Beta.
If you selected A & B the same number of times: Neutral relationship between equals.
If you selected B 4 or more times: Alpha.

Chris Evans Spotting



What could be better than getting tipped by the man himself?
ONLINE SOURCE



Honestly everyone's reaction.
ONLINE SOURCE

Off the Spectrum

Fact Checking Trump

By MICHAEL XU
Spectrum Staff

Frustrated at Donald's annoying habits and his overall diminishing campaign, his fact checkers sought revenge for how they've been treated.

"What's going on? Are the facts right?" said Trump.

"No, everything you just said was just made up, but you can pretend it's real if you act convincingly enough."

"I thought that was the plan all along, what do I do?"

Trump's fact checkers felt betrayed from being verbally punished by the voice of their boss, so they continued to follow through with their devious plan to sabotage him at the last Presidential debate.

"Mr. Trump, sir, just stay calm, and talk about the wall. The people love the wall, it's their only pride left in this country." At this point, the fact checkers didn't feel a sense of guilt despite being part of his

own campaign that Trump actually fell for their plan because of his repulsive nature and talked on and on about his plan for the wall to block out the immigrants. "Thank you America, and in return for your gratitude, I will return your thanks with this wall to block out the Mexicans and the immigrants."

Their plan succeeded and the people were brainwashed for weeks, and no one realized that something was up. He thought, "something's wrong, I thought I had more plans than just the wall, I was going to create more jobs, ban abortion, I was going to make the American life happier and more successful, why can't I remember?" Confused, he paced, "what would the people think of me, as their leader who can't even remember his own policies?" Chuckling behind a curtain, Trump's disloyal fact checkers were deviously enjoying his meltdown while grinning at the sight of his misery.

Bad Friends: Jane and Ava

By JASMINE MANGAT
Spectrum Staff

Jane hesitated as she held out her hand to push open the front door of her new school, not sure what to expect from her freshmen year. Suddenly, she was pushed aside by another student, Ava. Ava turned around and smirked at Jane, holding the door open for her. Everyone loved Ava. She was smart, talented, and a perfect friend. Jane on the other hand was shy, and tended to blend into her surroundings. They began to talk on the way to their first class, bonding over their favorite tv shows and love for cats.

Every day, the two best friends ate lunch and discussed the latest gossip, except the times Ava's other friends were there.

"So what did you guys think of the..."

Jane suddenly stopped as she saw Ava scanning Jane with her eyes.

Jane was befuddled. She wasn't sure what she did to deserve Ava's constant eye rolling whenever she tried to talk to her with her friends around. Jane's best friend would never neglect her, because as Jane understands, Ava is a perfect friend who didn't mean any harm. Therefore Jane couldn't resist taking Ava back when she invited Jane to hang out.

After school, Ava, her friends, and Jane all walked to the new ice cream place in town. When they reached the shop, Ava asked if Jane could pay for her ice cream since she left her wallet at school. A few of Ava's friends didn't have cash on them either. Jane ended up using emergency money to pay for all of them; but she didn't have enough money to pay for her own. Luckily, her friend Ava in all of her perfection allowed Jane a small scoop of her peanut butter caramel ice cream. Jane was allergic to peanut butter.

Behind Green Eyes : Minorities

By SIENA BROLIN
Correspondent

Throughout history, discrimination has been a serious problem for many minority groups. One group, which gets very little recognition, is green-eyed people. I have brown eyes, but I'm friends with a green-eyed person, so I get it. I have learned about the discrimination she faces through her experiences. She wakes up every day knowing she could hear derogatory terms like "greenie" or "snake eyes". At job interviews, the interviewer looks in her eyes, judging her based on her eye color. When she doesn't get the job, she knows it's due to her green eyes. She sees herself as less beautiful than she really is, because that's how the media portrays her.

The reason for this discrimination is simple: Green-eyed people are in the minority. Much of our daily lives revolves around eye color, and only 1-2% of America's population has green eyes. Because of this, people with other eye colors run the world without even knowing it - especially blue-eyed people. Blue-eyed people are favored by the

media: popular love songs are often about blue-eyed people, models are frequently blue-eyed, and twenty-six of our thirty-nine presidents had blue eyes. How many had green eyes? Exactly zero.

However, two had hazel eyes, bringing a new topic to light. Hazel-eyed people, with half-green and half-brown eyes, find themselves facing their own discrimination, feeling as though they don't fit in with either community. However, hazel-eyed people are connected with both communities. They observe holidays like Martin Luther King Day that commemorate brown-eyed people. These holidays are often commercialized and celebrated by people of all eye colors, but people with brown or hazel eyes remember their true meaning - the great feats accomplished by brown-eyed people.

The green-eyed community is bound together by the discrimination they face. Because hazel-eyed people face different discrimination, they feel excluded from this community as well, but are truly part of both communities.

So, how can we combat this

discrimination? If you are green-eyed, there are many ways to stay strong and provide support for other green-eyed people. Keep in touch with your culture by contacting family with green eyes. Learn about your history. The history of greenies (which I can say because of my green-eyed friend) is rich and interesting, despite being overlooked by many non-green-eyed people. Take advantage of social media in order to reach a wider audience. Post about your green-eyed pride. Most people who are ignorant of this topic really have no idea what a big role eye color plays in our society. And remember - celebrate your green eyes!

If you do not have green eyes, you can still help. First and foremost, accept green-eyed people. However, don't treat them like they're fragile or need help. Although their lives are not as easy as yours, they are not inherently any weaker than you. It can be hard to understand the struggle of green-eyed people, but it's important to hear their experiences, and love them for who they are, eye color and all.

Short Movie Summaries

By DAVEN LAGU
Spectrum Staff



PSYCHO: He may care about his mother, but can he find someone to care for him?



A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET: He's the man of your dreams! But what happens when he shows up at your front door?



SAW: He's great at finding victims and finding new ways to murder people, but can he find his one true love?



THE RING: The story of how a video can change the life of a curious young woman.



TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE: 5 friends go to visit a funeral home. 1 of them finds a man she never dreamed of.



PARANORMAL ACTIVITY: A romance documentary that literally kills



THE EXORCIST: They're trying to get rid of him, but he'll go through hell and and back to stay

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