

Hopewell Hi-Lites

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Trouble is Just a Snapchat Away

BY: TURNER WILSON

Lives can take 180 degree turns in the matter of seconds, and seconds is all it took for one Hopewell student. One snapchat has done this for junior Patrick Drudy, and it wasn't for the better. One video and a self-acknowledged mistake changed everything for him.

"I learned about the Snapchat update on the bus ride home one day," Drudy said. "I did it right then, and I never really thought about any consequences. I never do. I didn't mean any harm in the message; I was just having fun." Nineteen hours later, Drudy found himself in the vice principal's office.

"I was told someone had reported me because they felt they had to. The person who reported me showed the vice principal their social media. They never looked at mine," Drudy said.

Drudy was told of his initial punishment: three days of out of school suspension (OSS) and possible criminal charges for the severity of the content in the video.

He was to come back to the school later in the week for

an informal hearing. It was then Drudy was told of further discipline.

"I was given ten total days of OSS, 45 days of social suspension, and I am not allowed to bring my phone to school until December 1st. And that might be extended." While on OSS, Drudy couldn't do much. "I ate, got dressed, did some chores, and fished all day. I tried getting school work, but a lot of it I had to make up in school, or I got it too late. Ms. Barr did a good job of getting me work though," he said.

Drudy also had to drive out past Freedom in order to take a psychological evaluation.

"I passed easily," Drudy said. "They told me it would take an hour and a half, but it only took 30 minutes."

Drudy was happy to return to school, and says that he was welcomed by the school community.

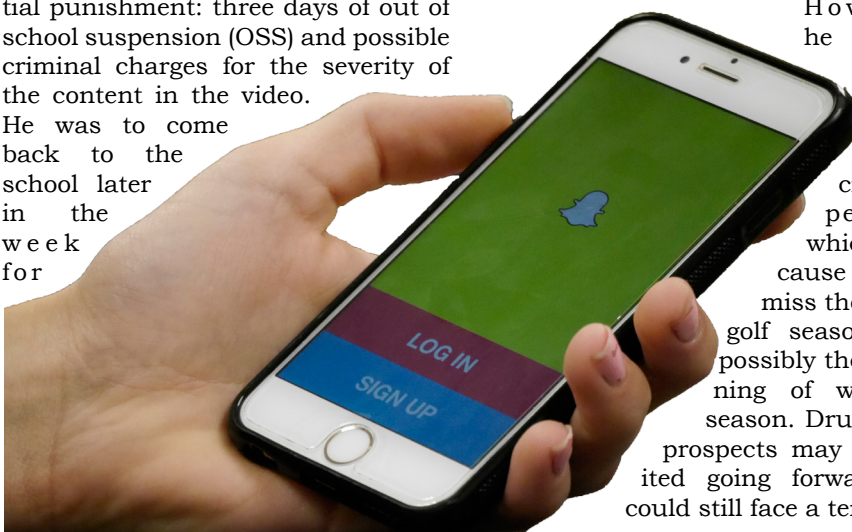
However, he is still serving his 45 days of social suspension, which will cause him to miss the rest of golf season, and possibly the beginning of wrestling season. Drudy's job prospects may be limited going forward. He could still face a terroristic

threat charge anytime in the next two years, which, if indicted, would result in him being expedited from the state.

Drudy's opinion on the situation is one of understanding, but not necessarily complete approval. "I understand what they did, and that they had to do it, but it was an overreaction. I don't think it should have been on the news for one, and I think they went too far with the punishment. In the end, it goes back to me making a bad decision."

Administration, led by Mr. Rowe, responded to the situation with intention of protecting the school personnel. "We had no context of this being a laughing matter when it was reported. The superintendent and the police were contacted immediately," Rowe said. At the end of it all, Rowe is disappointed that four students, including Drudy, lost instructional time, but said that he had to put the safety of the students and staff first. "We take the safety and well-being of our students and staff very seriously and we had no reason to determine that this wasn't a serious threat."

While Drudy's action is not one to be taken lightly, it teaches Hopewell a valuable lesson; all threats about school shootings will always be taken seriously, even if they are just meant to be a joke. Think about things before you do them and it will save you a lot of trouble in the end. Let us take this "Snapchat story" as an example.



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Sports

Path to Postseason

Girls' Cross Country Setting Records

BY: JENNIFER CRANMER

As the postseason approaches for many of Hopewell's fall sports, one that certainly can't be overlooked is the Girls' Cross Country team. This season they have posted the best record in Hopewell High School's history.

The girls are currently 8-3 with senior captains Lauren Trimber, Dejah Braggs, and Bri Losco leading the team. They have overcome many adversaries to get in this position. When at home, they run on the hardest course in Western Pennsylvania. They have had to face many difficult teams such as West Allegheny and Moon. Yet, the top four runners, Carinna Lapson,

Bri Losco, Lauren McCoy, and Rachel Ciccone, have still been able to emerge as some of the most elite runners in our area.

To make it to states the girls will individually have to place in the top 15 at WPIALS. WPIALS is held at Cooper's Lake with the top 8 runners from approximately 30 teams competing. Cooper's Lake is a notoriously difficult course because it starts the runners on a quarter of a mile uphill trek. There is no doubt however that the Hopewell girls have a huge shot at making it to states. Good luck to the girls as they continue their quest and congratulations on an already remarkable season!



Senior cross country runners Miranda Lapson, Lauren Trimber, Jennifer Greenleaf, Ava Jodikinos, and Dejah Braggs. Photo courtesy of Michele Trimber.

PIAA Ups Their Scale

Hopewell Basketball, Baseball, and Football Goes to 6A

BY: SANTINO CICCONE

On October 7th, the PIAA changed their number of classifications from four to six. There are many mixed emotions about this from people involved in high school sports. The schools around the state must submit their enrollment on October 15th but teams won't know what classifications they fall into until December. Six classifications bring Pennsylvania in line with other states, such as Florida and Illinois.

Previously, the largest teams were classified as AAAA teams. Due to the new classifications, the play-

ing field will be leveled out and the possibility of a team dominating a sections is going to be more difficult than past years. This topic has been thrown back and forth for years now and mainly pushed for football. One of the districts that was against this expansion was District 7, the WPIAL. After tallying the votes, the expansion won by a landslide, 26-4, meanwhile three of the four votes against it came from the WPIAL. The WPIAL is not satisfied with the change. The new classification will be released sometime in the early winter. The WPIAL then will then decide if they will remain a part of the PIAA.

The expansion brings many questions to the table. As for the WPIAL, championship football games may not be played at Heinz Field since it would have to be played on two separate days. Also, it would technically be unfair to the teams that play on the second day because the first day teams would get more rest before State playoffs. Also, the same problem might occur with the State Championships at Hersey Park. Currently, the four championships are split into two days. With six classifications, will there be two games per day for three days or three games per day for two days?



Happenings

Students of the Month

BY: MADDY HOPKINS



"I'd pick the ability to freeze time so I could have an infinite amount of time to sleep and think. Plus I'd have more time to marvel at the world around me or get work done that I can't find time for."
-Jennifer Greenleaf



"It would probably be to have super speed so I can make my two mile time in soccer."
-Taylor Parrish

Senior Jennifer Greenleaf is the upperclassman student of the month for September. She is involved in Varsity swimming, cross country, track, CFH, Marine Corps JROTC, Hopewell's encore program, Penn State Dual Enrollment, and the 2015-2016 Rube Goldberg machine team. She is also Mrs. Story's teacher's assistant for her periods 3 and 5 physics classes. Some of Jennifer's interests include hunting, skateboarding, and playing video games. In the future, she hopes to enlist as either a Marine Corps or Air Force

engineer. From there, she plans to work as a physics engineer specializing in quantum entanglement and even considers working with NASA. One of her proudest achievements is getting accepted into Pennsylvania's Governor's School for Engineering and Technology.

Sophomore Taylor Parrish is the underclassman student of the month for September. She is involved in student council, class club, and Latin club, and she participates on Hopewell's soccer, basketball, and track teams. Her favorite

subject is English, and her favorite teachers are Mr. Slapikas and Mrs. Kanitra. Outside of school, Taylor enjoys sports, watching movies, and hanging out with friends. Her future plans include going to medical school to become a pediatrician. She is most proud of lettering in track, becoming student of the month, and maintaining her high grades.

Work or School: A Common Conundrum

BY: TURNER WILSON

Let's face it, students are busy. Even outside of school hours, we must keep school in the back of our mind. Students have homework, clubs, sports, detention, SAT prep courses, college fairs, and of course, bingeing on Netflix. If there is one cause that can unite students, it is the longing for money. For most students, this means joining the workforce. But is that the best decision?

Junior Dalton Pifer works at the Cinemark in Monaca on Tuesday and Saturday nights. While Pifer acknowledges that it is sometimes hard to get up after a late shift, he says that it doesn't affect school that much. "I have to plan what I do around my shifts," Pifer says. "I manage to find time to do my school work."

On the other hand, Garret Roberts, a cashier at Party City, struggles to find time for academics. "I usually have no time to study or do homework before 11 PM. So I end up getting done by midnight, then finally getting to bed at 1 AM," Roberts says, "I have no time for anything other than work and school." Why does Garret work then? "The money," he said.

Senior Brian Kopycinski is another student who holds a job; he works at Fast Eddie's Food and Fuel in Clinton, PA, and had previously worked at The Fez. Brian be-

lieves that all students should hold a job, as long as they can handle it in addition to academics. Santino Ciccone, an employee at Scooch's Pizza, thinks all students should have a job, because it is good practice for the life ahead of us. Richard Brunton works seven days a week at Brunton Dairy and explains his academics simply, "If I don't get my homework done at school, it's not getting done at all."

Students have been making this decision for generations. Michael Collins, age 69 of Independence Township, began working at 12 years old in his hometown near San Diego. Collins held numerous jobs throughout high school, from painting the trim on stucco houses to being an usher at Chargers' games. "I hated school," Collins said, "My main classes were wood shop, metal shop, and automotive shop. The other classes I kind of blew off." However, Collins' most effective time was spent as an electrician's apprentice and welding at a shipyard, where he learned valuable skills he went on to use throughout his life. His job experience while attending high school proved to be useful when Collins joined the army and served in Vietnam. He then went on to have a very successful 37 year career as an airplane mechanic and has two sons.

One of the more popular

arguments against students having jobs is that you have your whole life to work, so why work when you don't have to? After all, they could just work in the summer, or wait to go into the workforce until after high school. School is, or at least should be, a student's most important job. If students spent as much time on schoolwork as they do at an after-school job, we could potentially earn thousands in scholarship money. Teenagers can participate in community service projects, athletics, and school clubs, which can also lead to scholarship opportunities. This money is guaranteed to go to a worthy cause, while the money earned through a job could potentially be squandered on useless things. In addition, although it can't be quantified, students are using time that could be spent being young, building relationships, and enjoying their lives while we are free from major responsibilities. High school only lasts 4 years, while the average American works 40-45 years.

Think about going into the workforce before you do it. Will you waste all of your earnings as soon as you receive them? Can you live on gift money through high school? Can you handle the stresses of a job with time-consuming schoolwork? How important is school to you? Whether you work or not, make sure it is the right decision for you, and spend your time wisely.

"It's the Great Production!!!"

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

The fall musical is "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown." Everybody knows the classic Peanuts, so why not go enjoy a night of fun? Get to know the cast members, their experiences, and go see this funny production the first weekend of November.

Senior Mike Pigoni is the lead character, Charlie Brown. "I love being Charlie Brown. He is such a funny character to play," Mike said. Mike's experience with musical has been enjoyable and fun. "I did stage crew sophomore year for the fall musical junior year and then joined spring musical last year," he said Mike has a busy schedule with all of the AP classes he takes as a senior. "I have a lot of homework in my classes, and then musical practice is every day. It's tough, but I can manage it."

Sally Brown, who is known as Charlie's sister, is played by sophomore Hannah Barkman. "I love the fact that I got picked to be Sally. Her character is exactly my personality," Hannah said. "I was kind of nervous for auditions, because they had callbacks for Sally and it was between three people." Hannah started musical earlier than most people would expect. "I've done three musicals before this one. I was ensemble for *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor*

Dream Coat in fifth grade, *Beauty and The Beast* in eighth, and I played an angel last year in *Anything Goes*."

Lucy van Pelt is played by freshman Alexa Burak. This is interesting because she got chosen for a lead in the musical as a freshman. "The directors usually have a habit of giving me a mean character, but I play them really well," Alexa states. Alexa was in the junior high musical *Annie Jr.* last year, and she played the role of Miss Hannigan. "In musical, the directors demand a lot from you, especially if you're a lead," Alexa said. "You have to memorize a bunch of lines within 2 weeks or so, and then you have practice almost every day. It's a rough time but at the same time practicing is fun too." The fall musical is Alexa's third musical that she has participated in.

"The best part about being in musical is you make so many new friends," Hannah said. "You don't only make like two or three friends. The whole

cast becomes your family." All three cast members said that musical helps a lot with confidence and talking to people. Alexa says that during musical season people get to know others really well. "At the end of it all, it makes me and others happy because we accomplish something huge with a great team of people." Alexa said. "The best part about musical is spending time with the people that are practically your family. You love and care about them like they are your brothers and sisters," Mike said. *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* is being performed on November 6 and 7 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday the 8th at 2:00 P.M.



Photo Courtesy of Sophia Stokes

Donkey Basketball

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNIFER CRANMER



Danny the Director

BY: SOPHIA STOKES

Putting on a great production or show can be difficult, especially if the process is done by kids. Children can accomplish great tasks, though, when they put their mind and best effort it. Senior Danny Watts has most of his senior project finished, which is surprising compared to other seniors. He worked as the Assistant Director of *Annie Jr.* the Musical. "So far, I have about 130 hours logged towards my senior project," Danny said.

Annie Jr. the Musical was performed by the Hopewell junior high students. As the Assistant Director, he helped the kids with practicing lines, singing, and he made up some choreography. "The kids in junior high definitely had to practice longer than the high school kids for their perfor-

mance," Danny said. "That's because they required a lot of patience, but most of them paid attention and they all put forth their best effort."

The most complicated task about this project according to Danny was keeping track of over 60 kids. "The eighth graders did their jobs because they're more close to the high school age, but some of the fifth and sixth graders would run around and not complete their tasks, but that's expected of kids," Danny said. "I'm happy now that some of the kids I worked with are now freshmen performing with me in the high school productions."

Starting his project in the beginning of 2015 was a smart idea, as it allowed him to finish it early. "I'm

glad I started my senior project early, because I got it done and over with to focus on my senior year. I chose this project because I love doing musical, so assisting with the junior high musical was a good option for me. My goal for this project was to turn the junior high kids into young performers." Danny's senior project has been a great accomplishment for himself and others.



Photo Courtesy of Sophia Stokes

Bad Boys, Bad Boys, Whatcha Gonna Do

BY: MADDY HOPKINS

With the recent fire drills, it is no wonder police officers have become a more common presence in Hopewell High School. But have you ever wondered what it takes to actually be a cop? *To seek justice, preserve peace, and improve the quality of life for all.*

These words, reminiscent of the famous "Serve and Protect," encompass all that the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) stand for. First created in 1905, the department has been committed to serving the public, a duty to which some hope to devote their lives. As many high school students draw nearer to their futures, many consider pursuing a career in law enforcement. For some, this means enrolling into the Pennsylvania State Police Department.

Requirements for becoming a state police officer vary by state. Depending on the state, this can include being at least 21 years of age, having no felony convictions, passing medical, vision, hearing, physical fitness, and written exams, completing a drug test, and having interviews, background checks, and a psychological evaluation conducted.

In Pennsylvania, prospective troopers must fit similar criteria and undergo a series of tests and training. Dean Aires, a state trooper for 25 years, explained the process he personally went through. This included completing a written test and medical exam. He also had to pass his oral boards, a spoken exam composed of officials asking him various questions about how he would react in certain situations, and physical testing which evaluated him in areas such as running, push-ups, and pull-ups.

For many departments, though, simply passing these tests are not enough. In addition, they look for individuals with a high school diploma and/or college degree (usually in criminal justice). Even if it's not a department requirement, though, obtaining a college degree may still be a good idea for students wishing to enter the force because having this can often give

an edge over others for being admitted into the programs. Inductees are also required to complete and pass training. Here, they learn defense tactics, driving tactics, and laws and regulations, among other things.

While the training and requirements for the job may be physically draining, though, the mental part of the job can be equally so. For Dean, a first responder who deals with crashes, domestic disputes, thefts, and burglaries, it is especially hard to "see dead children and people who died doing something stupid or taking their own life over something stupid. Another thing is some people get away with things because there is not enough evidence to get a conviction."

However, the job is not without its rewards. To Dean, one of the best parts of the job is being able to help people and "arrest people who really deserve it."

Like any job, being an enforcer of the law comes both with perks and downfalls. While it is not for everyone, some are well-equipped to serve among the ranks of brave men and women. In his parting words, Dean offers advice to young adults and students considering a career as a state trooper. "You are going to have a lot of good days and some bad ones," he said, "but you are going to have to handle them. Most of all you have to be smart about everything. Take the right steps going to 911 hang-up calls. You have no idea what you're getting yourself into. If back-up is coming, wait for them. You have to be able to think in stressful situations. Shoot or not to shoot? You have to be street smart. Sometimes you have to think like a bad guy to anticipate what they might do. You have to look and read people to see if they signs of nervous, not looking at you. They like to look around for a getaway. You have to learn that a lot of people will flat out lie to you and will have to figure out the truth."



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

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Then Vs Now

By: Lauren Trimber

There is no doubt that high school changes as years pass. While many students today worry about BYOD policies and snapchat scandals, students decades ago could never have imagined the technology that would eventually dominate schools. Fashion and social trends change often as classes enter and leave schools. Hopewell teachers spanning three generations talk about their lives during high school.

History teacher Mrs. Kanitra spent her high school career in the small town of Washington County. She had 75 students in her class and limited options of how to spend her time outside of school. "Today, students have so many activities to go to and classes to choose from," she said. "They're more time-consuming. I was in the band, on the basketball team, and involved in church groups, but we [students] didn't have cars, social media, or fast-food restaurants." Although her high school experience was far different from one found at Hopewell, the challenges she faced are still seen today. "I always had trouble getting up in the morning. My school started later than Hopewell, but any time is still too early. I also liked to talk in study hall and classes, so staying quiet was always difficult."

Along with its social shortcomings, Mrs. Kanitra's high school also lacked a dress code. "It was a time when girls didn't wear slacks. We knew how to dress, and we dressed appropriately, according to society's standards."

Mr. Slapikas, one of Hopewell's newest and youngest teachers, attended high school at Fox Chapel. "When I was in high school, you weren't allowed to use a cell phone, but I didn't even have

one until my senior year," he said. "But the hardest part was definitely getting up every morning. I hated the schedule of it. It's kind of weird that I'm back in that same schedule now after college."

While he wasn't in school, he spent some of his free time volunteering. "I wasn't really interested in getting a job, so I volunteered in ambulatory surgery and helped transport information and patients around St. Margaret's hospital. I also taught classes at my karate dojo, but I never saw it as a job. I've noticed that's a big difference between Hopewell and Fox Chapel. Almost everyone at Hopewell has a job, but a lot of people at Fox Chapel didn't." Along with volunteering, Mr. Slapikas played Ultimate Frisbee, read, and played video games. "I also did martial arts all throughout school," he added, "and I remember procrastinating on homework a lot."

Similar to Mrs. Kanitra, a dress code was not a problem when Mr. Slapikas went to high school. "We had a dress code, but I never thought about it. Nothing was very strict. Outfits were pretty similar to what they are today." Then, it was popular for students to try to access different websites during school hours. "It was really cool if someone could access YouTube via proxy on our school network. We didn't have phones with internet access, so we had to do it all on a computer. If someone got on, we'd watch *Saturday Night Live* clips. The idea of a YouTube video was huge then. When I was a senior, Justin Bieber released his first YouTube video. He looked like he was eight, even though he was a lot older, so he was very easy to make fun of." Along with YouTube, Mr. Slapikas

saw early versions of Facebook and League of Legends. "Facebook came out in 2007, and it was huge," he explained. "To join you had to be invited by someone already in it because it used to only be open to Harvard students since it started at that school."

Psych teacher Mr. Samek attended a small high school in Iowa. "The biggest difference between my high school and Hopewell is the technology. We had old film projectors and reel-to-reel film. We didn't have computers, and the idea of BYOD was beyond comprehension. We got in trouble in school for things like chewing gum or wandering the halls. The idea of something like a school shooting was unfathomable." Despite its small size, Mr. Samek enjoyed his high school experience. "I played a lot of Frisbee, Frisbee golf, and basketball. They were all pick-up games, and sometimes we could use a local colleges' gym after their practice. I spent some time dating, too. We didn't have a lot of homework," he added. "I also did a lot of farm work, like baling hay, and I worked at a local grocery store."

When he was in school, keeping up with music was extremely popular. "Cassette tapes came out, and they were a huge success, so we all knew what was new in music. The David Letterman show was also brand new, and REO Speedwagon was gaining popularity."

Like Mrs. Kanitra and Mr. Slapikas, Mr. Samek's high school had a dress code, but most students didn't find a problem with it. "Back then, girls didn't try to show everything. They dressed like girls, not women," he explained. "We always talked about wanting to get out of our school and town, but it was a good time. We were innocent, care-free, and didn't have to pay any bills. I would suggest that students enjoy life now."

Unconventional Education

BY: JULIA CRAWFORD

Most people raised in the public educational system have little to no knowledge regarding home school or cyber schooling. As a previous homeschooler I've heard people refer to homeschooling as a joke or an excuse to do nothing, many times. In reality many homeschoolers do not sit around all day. In fact I'd be willing to argue that most homeschoolers are presented with educational opportunities that those stuck in classes for eight hours a day don't have access to. If a homeschooler so chooses, he or she can do double the amount of school work assigned to them and then take a day off. I know quite a few homeschoolers who work through the summer and on weekends so they have the option of graduating early. That's not something most public schooled people can claim.

Many people expect homeschoolers to be super nerdy, anti-social, closet rats who never leave their homes. This rumor is also ex-

tremely false. While it's true that homeschoolers aren't around people as much as public school students, they have to work harder to pursue and seek out friendships. They aren't forced to spend time with kids their own age for 8 hours 5 days a week. This means they have more invested in the friends they have. Instead of being separated by age, homeschooled kids have more opportunity to interact with people of all ages, making them more comfortable around other age groups. Homeschoolers are not necessarily shy. Just because they are educated at home doesn't mean they are afraid of human contact. They are forced to have to come out of their shells if they truly want to pursue a friendship. It's wrong to push anyone into a stereotype. Being shy can be a facet of a personality, not the result of a schooling environment. If all homeschoolers are supposed to be afraid of people, what's the excuse for shy public schoolers? Really, there isn't anything wrong with being shy, people shouldn't

put homeschoolers in that box.

Along the same lines, homeschoolers aren't necessarily overly sheltered, "living under a rock" type kids.

"If being sheltered from sex, drugs and alcohol during middle school makes me sheltered, then yes, I was sheltered."- Jordan from the popular Youtube channel, Blimey Cow, says in one of his many videos about being homeschooled. They most likely have the same interests and hobbies as most public schoolers do. There are groups set up for sports, and most school districts allow homeschooled kids to join their varsity leagues. But seriously, how bad would life be if you didn't know who Nicki Minaj was? That sounds like heaven to me.

Homeschooled students are just like any other student, they are just educated in a different environment. Homeschoolers have different opportunities and different experiences, but they are still just students.

Grinds My Gears - Candy Conflict

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

As the spooky season draws near, you will not stop hearing about how great Halloween is as a holiday. People will debate whether the best part of Halloween is the costumes or the fun aesthetic and even say that the movies are what makes or breaks the festivities. However, Halloween has one major factor that you can't ignore: candy. Candy is the backbone of the entire holiday, serving as the sweet reward for wearing a cheap rubber band mask all night. Not all candy is as sweet as others, though. Each year there is more and more loser candy released, ruining Halloween for people with a sweet tooth. While there are some hidden gems that don't get enough attention (such as the sinfully unloved candy corn), some of the nastiest candy is released just in time for people to give out to Trick or Treaters.

The worst candies are the "specialty flavors" released with each season. From Pumpkin Spice M&Ms to Candy Apple Peeps, these new flavors never taste as good as the originals. Why can't we stick to the original flavor of chocolate and

marshmallow? The only thing that companies end up doing is creating nasty concoctions even the trash can wouldn't accept. While some flavors are a hit, such as the heavenly Cookies and Cream Hershey's, other unfortunate candies are left to spoil on the shelves. And this may be for the better, as the world isn't quite ready for Pumpkin Spice Reese's Cups.

One of the worst feelings on Halloween is returning from a long night of Trick or Treating to find a pile of nasty, old-people candy in your bag. While you can make an argument for nasty flavored chocolate, just try to defend getting a lint-covered mint as candy. Another elder classic is a penny instead of candy. While in the 1800s candy may have cost a penny, it's the 21st century. A "not so fun" size piece of candy costs an average of ten cents, so you would need to visit their house ten times to get a single piece. It's almost an invitation to get their house egged.

One candy that I feel is unjustly hated is the classic candy corn. The degree of hatred directed toward a single piece of candy corn

put in a Trick or Treater's bag is excessive. Around July, candy corn will have been marked down so much that stores are basically begging you to take it with a \$25 gift card. Nothing is wrong with candy corn. The social stigma associated with candy corn causes people to never try it. Why would you eat a Pixie Stick, colored sugar in a tube, or black licorice, the equivalent of eating a tire, but not a piece of candy corn? A "No Candy Left Behind" foundation should be started to raise awareness for the black sheep of the candy sphere. If I have to leave you with one message, let it be this: drop the pumpkin spice chocolate and give candy corn a chance this Halloween.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Feel the Bern

BY BRIAN KOPYCINSKI
-CONTRIBUTING WRITER

For the 2016 Presidential Election, three of the Republican nominees have no political background Trump, Carson, and Fiorina. On the other side of the political divide stands Democratic nominee, Bernie Sanders, who has decades of experience. While he may not have the loudest voice in the media, he is full of big ideas.

The Republicans have been owning the media lately. The bombastic billionaire Donald Trump has shown America how he truly feels on issues. He is rather opinionated, and many Americans support his rugged individualism and bravado. Author and retired neurosurgeon Dr. Benjamin Carson hopes his vast knowledge can provide insight on problems plaguing the United States. Carson was the first person to successfully separate twins conjoined at the head. Finally, the savvy businesswoman, Carly Fiorina, has held many executive positions throughout the business world, most notably as the chief financial officer of the Hewlett-Packard Company. To some, Fiorina offers a fresh face to the Republican Party as the only woman in the conservative field.

All of these candidates have one of-a-kind platforms to run the country. Bernie Sanders is another candidate who is passionate and seeks major change in America.

Bernard "Bernie" Sanders was born in Brooklyn in 1941. As of now, he is the oldest presidential candidate. With age comes experience, as Sanders has held a multitude of positions as a politician. These include the Mayor of Burlington, Vermont, a Vermont delegate to the United States House of Representatives, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and United States Senator from Vermont. Sanders also supports a plethora of liberal causes as part of his Presidential platform. These include the redistribution of wealth, increasing the minimum wage, racial justice, women's rights, LGBT equality, strengthening social security, and war and conflict resolutions.

Sanders is a firm believer in war being the last option. He also appears to be the only candidate with concerns of the environment. Sanders is also extremely against Wall Street and big businesses. He is a self-described Democratic Socialist. Socialism is an ideology that has almost been frowned upon throughout American history, mainly due to its similarities with Communism. This preconceived notion of socialism is the major reason Sanders is considered an outsider.

Bernie stands by his causes believing they can greatly improve the United States. He is very passionate in what he does; Sanders has been seen spitting and becoming red-faced during political rallies. Some Hopewell High School students are fortunate to be able to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election.

Those that are serious about

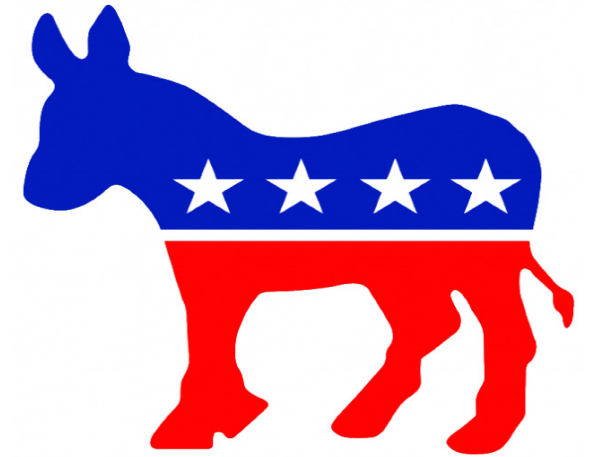


Photo courtesy of Google Images

political action but are unsure of what to stand for should seriously consider Senator Sanders. His platform consists of numerous Progressive values, but there is one major idea to take from what he preaches. This is for promoting the general welfare and caring about every American.



Bernie Sanders courtesy of Google Images



Mac Miller: Pittsburgher and Premier Promoter

BY: SANTINO CICCONE

Mac Miller hasn't released an album for two years. He released an album recently called *GO:OD A.M.* on September 18th. Prior to this, his last album was in 2013 called *Watching Movies with the Sound Off*. He leaked lead single "100 Grandkids" from *GO:OD A.M.* on August 7th, as well as the album title and release date.

Before the release of *GO:OD A.M.*, Mac Miller hosted what was called Homecoming Weekend in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, his hometown, in celebration of his new album. The events of this weekend started on September 16th, where he was at PNC Park to throw out the ceremonial first pitch and he had a giveaway. The next day, he had a three hour bowling session at Arsenal Lanes where he could meet his fans and bowl with them.

On the day of his album release, he hosted a private dinner and listening session. On the 19th, he had an invitational softball game and barbeque at Arsenal Park. The last day of his Homecoming Weekend, Mac went to Heinz Field to waive the Terrible Towel and later that night, he started his tour for *GO:OD A.M.* in Pittsburgh at Stage AE.

Aside his generosity and appreciation of his fans, the album has received good reviews. Metacritic rated *GO:OD A.M.* 75/100 as well as receiving 4/5 starts from AllMusic, Billboard, and HipHopDX.

Mac Miller shows himself proves himself as not only a great artist, but also a great promoter. Other artist should follow this example and make more connections with their fans.



Mac Miller at a Steeler's game with his fans! Courtesy of Google Images

Freddy's Haunts: The Curse of the Black Rose

BY: MILES COLLINS

Boo! Freddy's Haunts is a local business that runs from the last week of September to the last week of October. Freddy's Haunts has been in business for 23 years and is still going strong.

According to freddyshaunts.net, the house on McCune Road was the home of Fred McCune and was built on an Indian burial ground. In 1863, Fred's brother found a cave behind the property. Freddy and his brother took their three sons into the cave and never returned. In 1972, the Reinhold family moved into the same house, and two years later, the family's oldest son found the cave. The boy disappeared, and when his father went to investigate the cave, he found nothing.

At Freddy's Haunts, people of all ages are welcome. Customers gathered in groups enter a chamber where one unfortunate guest is given the black rose. With that rose, the guest will have to brave Freddy's Haunts by him or herself ahead of the group. Children younger than ten receive a discounted admission, and the trails offer free parking. Freddy's Haunts offers games that kids can play if they are not on the one-and-a-half-mile haunted trail or stuck inside their maze.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Orange and Black Friday – Halloween Business

BY: GARRET ROBERTS

As early as 8:30 in the morning, eager customers line up outside of the Monaca Party City seeking decorations, costumes, and assorted candies. Party City's manager Jennifer Brinkley opens the sliding doors, and a flood of people rush in to make their purchases. The store is easily destroyed by noon, with a flood of people filling their carts with Halloween fun. "Halloween is the equivalent of Black Friday for Party City," Brinkley explains, "We become the most popular place in town."

Starting in the middle of September, Halloween becomes a focus of the general population. From rumors of "The Great Skeleton War" to the copious amounts of candy, people feel the rush of excitement as Halloween creeps closer. However, the commercialization of Halloween is often under-sold. So much money is spent during this season, it's a wonder Halloween fanatics aren't spiraling into major debt. The season is actually a major industry, and for some stores it is two times more profitable than Black Friday.

"Halloween is our busiest season," says Brinkley, "Children and adults both love the holiday, so we cater to both audiences to please the masses." This quote is especially true for decorations. Brinkley states, "Whether you prefer cute or horrific, there will always be decorations for you in a Halloween section. From goofy to gross, Party City carries all the decorations you could need!"

While decorations are a major selling point for these stores, you can't ignore the main goal of Halloween: candy and

costumes. On a national scale, candy sales for the 2015 Halloween season are projected to be over 2.5 billion dollars. To put that in proportion, people buy enough candy in this season alone, that the candy sales total up to more than half of Donald Trump's net worth. Mini Hershey bars and candy corn can total up fast, as a "Halloween sized" bag of mini chocolates costs an average of \$15.99.

After last year's "Frozen Fever," all costume retailers now carry a surplus amount of Elsa and Anna costumes. Party City expects a much different storm approaching. "We closely examine media trends and popular movies every year," said Brinkley, "We then order large amounts of these costumes to meet popular demand." This year's costume trends for teens and adults are predicted to be *Marvel Super Heroes*, such as Iron Man and Captain

America, *Star Wars* characters, and Disney's newest movie *Descendants*. Younger children are expected to be more interested in *Paw Patrol*, princesses, and the Minions from *Despicable Me*.

Whether you are a business owner looking to make a ton of money, or just excited for the first major holiday of the school year, you can feel the Halloween spirit entering your consciousness. If you shop at Party City, Spirit, or even Walmart, you are a part of this Halloween frenzy that stores love. Remember as you buy your Captain America costume for \$60, Party City knew that you would want that costume while you were sitting at the pool this summer, with Halloween being the least of your worries.



Photo Courtesy of Garret Roberts

Easy DIY Costumes

BY: JULIA CRAWFORD

Who says that teens are too old for Halloween? While trick-or-treating may be out of the question for anyone over the age of 14, dressing up and scaring friends can still be a lot of fun. But what does a person do for a costume? Especially someone not gifted with much creativity. Have no fear. Here are some ideas for simple do-it-yourself costumes that are clever, easy, nerdy and just plain amusing.

Error 404 Costume not Found

Running late for the Halloween party. There isn't a costume for miles. To save face, just grab an old T-shirt and a Sharpie or fabric marker. Slip some cardboard in between the front and back of the shirt to prevent the ink from bleeding through. Write "Error 404", or any other random combination of numbers, across the top and "<Costume not found>" underneath. While a bit lazy, this

costume is surely to make even the most cranky Halloween-hater smile.

Life Hanging Out Lemons

Similar to the Error costume, the basis of this get-up is a shirt. Using the same process as above, write "Life" across the front. All that's left is to grab a bag of lemons.

Rose Tyler

True *Doctor Who* fans everywhere will appreciate this shout out to BBC's best companion. To accomplish this subtle costume just grab a brown leather jacket, a Union Jack Tee and some jeans. To really push the *Doctor Who* vibe, add some TARDIS socks and converse. Have Dalek earrings? A cybermen watch? Throw on any small references that you might have. Maybe have a friend dress up as the Doctor to really complete the look.

A Sims Character

This one is just easy. Print out a plum bob shape, affix it to a headband with an old wire hanger and then get dressed in whatever you want.

Pop Art Nondescript Comic-book Character

This costume requires a good bit of makeup and time. First, decide on what the costume's clothing will consist of. A good Marvel dress or something simple will usually suffice. Maybe a headband with a "WOW" or speech bubble would look nice. Because the focus is on the face it's a good idea to take some time and make sure it gets done well. After attempting to do this costume myself, I will note that taking the extra time is worth it. It's extremely easy but time consuming. It's a good idea to watch a How-To video online.

Caught in Hi-Lites

