

Making herstory

People from across the world join to support the Women's March on Washington.

By Shannon Daehnke & Megan Forsythe, Staff Writers

On the day after the Inauguration, people gathered to take part in the Women's March on Washington to advocate for the rights of women, people of color, immigrants and the LGBTQ+ community. The original March on Washington took place on the intersection of Independence Avenue and Third Street in Washington D.C.. The original march, along with its sister marches, is being dubbed the world's largest single day

demonstration in all of U.S. history. The idea for the Women's March started as a Facebook post by Hawaii resident Teresa Shook. Her call for a march was soon echoed by others across the United States including by the organizers of the official Women's March on Washington, Tamika Mallory, Linda Sarsour and Bob Bland. According to University of Connecticut professor Jeremy Pressman and a University of Denver professor Erica Chenoweth,

about 4.5 million people gathered at the 915 sister marches held across the world in solidarity with the original march in Washington in D.C.. The Women's March on Washington hosted marches throughout California in cities like Santa Ana, San Francisco and Los Angeles. An estimated 750,000 people gathered in Pershing Square, Los Angeles at 9 a.m. and marched for the cause until the event ended at around 4 p.m.. "The turnout of this march

showed me that we are not going to give up," said senior Caroline Cai. "We still have hope for the future and there's a lot of people that are willing to fight. Not everyone is going to concede to the current policies, government or Trump's policies." The organization encouraged more than just women to participate. People of all backgrounds and genders were welcome to join together in diversity. The march aimed to the

emphasize that despite everyone's differences, they were all there for a common purpose: to support civil rights. "It was really fulfilling to see all of these people with these same values and shared understanding of the promotion of women's rights," said senior Gabby Romero. "[There was] just so much love and positive energy going on at the same time."

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photo by Shannon Daehnke

North American Invitational

MUN to travel to Washington D.C. for an international conference.

By Hannah Prince, Staff Writer

The Model United Nations program at SMCHS will travel to Washington D.C. from February 12-20 for a conference at Georgetown University. The students will compete to solve current world issues as they represent their country's international affairs. NAIMUN's mission statement explains: "We believe that every student who comes to NAIMUN should walk away more proficient in the critical twenty-first century skills of public speaking, leadership and writing." Staffers strive to

include each delegate--voicing his or her opinion--in order to contribute and further their learning. Garret Williams, MUN Secretary-General, is an alumnus of SMCHS class of 2014. William's job includes taking charge of the essential aspects of the conference: creating the committees, picking the staffers, managing the website, recruiting schools to attend and setting the overall vision for each committee. "My passion for MUN stems from two things," Williams said.

"First, the intensified program pushes me to do well. And secondly, the tradition of leadership and continuing to have new experiences. Mr. Rimmell taught me that if you attend a conference, work hard and do well, more opportunities will be presented in your future, like traveling across the world." At this conference, SMCHS will represent Germany. Sophomores Ashkaan Mahjoob, Casandra Roque and Macy Lustig begin the process by deeply researching their topic and writing a position paper

for their committee. In this paper, they are required to state their assigned country's position and view on the topic. "I will be participating in the IOC committee in this conference," Lustig said. "We will be choosing the location for the 2028 Summer Olympic games as well as planning the Olympics in the city that we choose." Besides the endless hours in debates and discussion, the students are expected to visit the White House, the Smithsonian Museum,

Ford's Theatre, Jefferson Memorial and more. The extracurricular activities and tourism provide the students with down time to explore and learn outside the classroom environment. The chaperones include MUN director John Rimmell, history teacher Lindsey Charity and counselor Wende Borowski. Though students can participate in local events, the chance to travel gives them an opportunity to combine academic studies with first hand experiences.

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Unprecedented march

photo by Shannon Daehnke

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This march showed that such minorities will not be overlooked and that millions of people are willing to stand up for themselves and the disadvantaged.

~ junior Gabriel Reyes

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While most marchers expected a diverse crowd, the amount of young attendees present at the march came as a welcome surprise to the participants. Preschoolers, Girl Scout troops and teenagers alike were seen carrying signs alongside the rest of the adults.

"I witnessed two kids that were slightly younger than me with this absolute passion for activism and for making the world a better place which made me feel really good," Romero said. "It gave me hope because activism is important for the youth. It makes me really happy to see that this belief that all people should be treated equally is being instilled in all generations not just the older ones."

One reason the march drew such a diverse and massive crowd was because it was explicitly pro-women instead of anti-Trump. The intention was to create a positive atmosphere that was accepting and non-violent.

"While most of the people at the protest don't support [Trump's] presidency, that doesn't define the

nature of the march itself," Romero said. "It was really uplifting women and people of color and members of the LGBTQ community. I feel like that contributed to an incredible peaceful and powerful march that made a statement that isn't based on just condemning a person but really just uplifting those who are oppressed."

At three times the size of Trump's inauguration, the Women's March on Washington vastly outnumbered the inauguration with 470,000 participants in D.C. alone, according to crowd scientists Marcel Altenburg and Keith Still from Manchester Metropolitan University in Britain.

"The fact that more people showed up to the marches than the actual Inauguration shows that the pattern of our history is two steps forward, one step back and that love will always win," Cai said. "[And] honestly we did win."

A majority of marchers were motivated by the controversial presidential election to support not only women's rights but the

right of minorities well

"The marchers had various agendas and beliefs of their own, but a common end-goal. We cannot let the progress in rights and equality made in previous years go down the drain," said junior Gabriel Reyes. "Various minorities—women, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, ethnic minorities—were represented at the march to promote diversity and inclusion in the United States. If anything, this march showed that such minorities will not be overlooked and that millions of people are willing to stand up for themselves and the disadvantaged."

The activists united in diversity to make the Women's March a historical event that garnered an overwhelming amount of support.

"I was this tiny speck in this massive movement," Romero said. "It may not seem like a lot but being part of it and making that difference makes me feel like I'm doing something right and I'm on the right side of history. It's something that I will always be proud of."

It's snow wonder

The snowpack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains helps the drought in California.

Bridgette Singer, Staff Writer

California has recently experienced rainstorms that have aided the snowpack. Due to the heavy amounts of snow, statewide water availability increased by one third.

Automated snow sensors in the Sierra Nevada Mountains have recorded that between Jan. 3 and Jan. 13 of this year, the amount of fallen snow doubled. According to the National Weather Service website, the increase from 70% to 163% in snowfall will help California dodge its sixth year of drought.

"You've seen jumps in snowpack and precipitation amounts," said state climatologist Michael Andersen of the LA Times. "You look at the charts, you see the line just pretty much go straight up."

"When Mammoth melts, hopefully that water will go into our aquifers and then end up in the drinking water reserves that we have available" said SMCHS biology teacher Andrea Marcantonio. "This is the hope that will definitely impact the water we have available."

More rain fell in October than it had in three decades. Towards the ending of 2016, the wet season started strong.

Now, California's reservoirs have

14% more water than their historical averages. The reservoirs carry water all throughout California, so this increase is paramount. It's paramount because this increase of water in the reservoirs is a huge help in the efforts of getting out of the drought.

"We have almost met our year rainfall limit. Northern California has declared that they are completely out of the drought. This means that around 40% of the state is out of the drought," said Marcantonio. "I would say that the rainfall that we have had has not completely got us 'out of the water', but this is definitely a good movement towards the future of helping us get out of the drought."

The above-average snow packs in the Sierra Nevada Mountains not only make the mountains a winter wonderland, but inevitably -- once melted -- recharge the supply of groundwater. However, this does not mean the drought is over yet.

Groundwater is the supply of water in underground aquifers that serves as a savings account of sorts during dry years. This supply is still low and is continuously getting lower due to over-pumping.

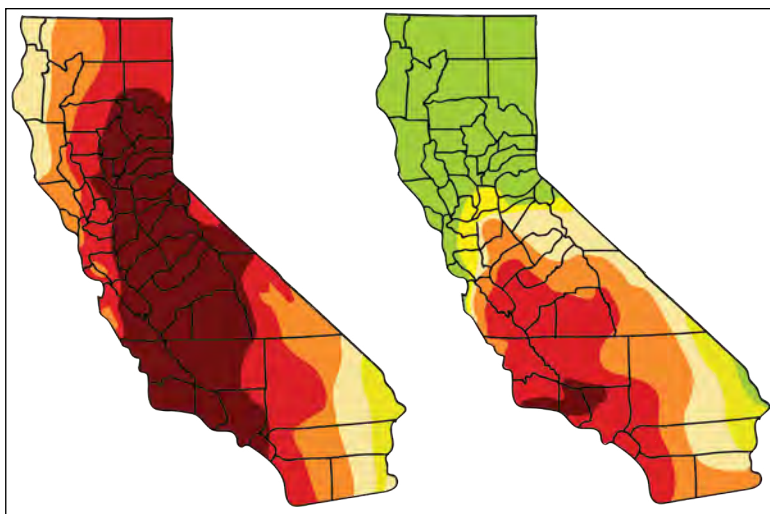


Illustration by Claire Robidoux

California replenished - These maps show the difference in the drought conditions between January 2016 to January 2017.

Over-pumping is referred to as the extraction of groundwater in excess of supply to a basin or aquifer, resulting in depletion of water resources.

California is still in a moderate drought, and the warm weather that has been happening is continuously melting the snow in the mountains. This leads to runoff into storm drains rather than the steady, groundwater tables.

"Those were all steps in the right

direction, but there's a lot more that needs to be done," said chief scientist and president emeritus of the Pacific Institute Peter Gleick. "There just is not enough water yet for everyone, even in a wet year. A couple wet years and the pressure disappears for a while."

It is too early to determine the state's fate in the years to come, but as of now, California is inching closer to the finish line of being out of the six year drought.

Parading history

By Jillian Baldwin,
Staff Writer

The first full month of Donald Trump's presidency is underway. It's the beginning of one of the most controversial and debated presidencies in our nation's history. But February is more than fresh start for Washington D.C., it is also Black History Month. As the United States looks toward the upcoming four years, it also looks back at the years that have been shaped African American culture.

Black History Month was originally a week in February called Negro History Week. Aligning with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglas, African American historian Carter G. Woodson established the week remembrance during late February. Then, during the Civil Rights Movement, the week evolved into an entire month known today.

In 1976, President Gerald R. Ford had officially recognized the event and every president since then has deemed February Black History Month.

The month is given a different theme every year to reflect a certain issue or triumph that the African American community has experienced in recent events. This year, the theme is The Crisis in Black Education. The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) which helped found the movement in the early 1900s, chose this theme as tribute to the struggle of de-segregating schools during the Civil Rights movement, but also to highlight the current issue that African American students face in their drive to learn. The ASALH is not the only organization involved in promoting Black History Month and its theme of education. All across California, Black History month is taking shape in the form of festivals and fairs.

San Bernardino hosted the Black History 'Super Expo' meant to highlight the accomplishments of the African American culture through local vendors, artists, performers, activists, and speakers. It took place on Saturday Feb. 4 in Court Street Square, San Bernardino.

Orange County hosted another event Feb. 4 in Downtown Anaheim. The Orange County Heritage Council hosted the event which consisted of a parade followed by a cultural fair.

The California Jazz Conservatory in Berkeley is hosting musical performance by both Bay Area and other jazz legends as part of their Black History Month Concert Series. On Feb. 4 Frankye Kelly paid tribute to some of the greatest black jazz musicians from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. The rest of the month celebrate with performances and tributes to jazz musicians such Amina Scott on Feb. 11, Ed Reed on Feb. 18 and the Steve McQuarry Special Edition Band on Feb. 25.

Though Black History Month is only once a year, it is one of the nation's pillars of accepting diversity, as it has molded the U.S. into one of the most unique communities of artists, scientists, speakers, politicians, teachers, students, doctors, chefs, and innovators.



CLOSE UP and personal

Seniors from the Interdisciplinary program attend the 58th Presidential Inauguration.

By Briana Ryan, Staff Writer

After sharing classes together for four years, sixteen seniors headed to Washington D.C. on Jan. 15. Since their freshman year, students in the Interdisciplinary (ID) program, have anticipated this trip to witness the inauguration of the 45th President of the United States, an experience unique to only this program on campus.

After spending the first half of the 2016-2017 academic year studying the innerworkings of the American government, the group of students were prepared to delve deeper into the organized chaos known as politics in Washington D.C..

Over their time in D.C., students were instructed by Close Up program leaders. This organization has been educating students in Washington D.C. since 1971 and focuses on students interacting with each other through social and political debate. The foundation of instruction is not to teach students about democracy and policy, but to empower and provide them with the abilities to participate in the activities themselves.

"Because there were kids from all over the country in our program, our debates were very diverse in opinion," said senior Haley Miller. "We were forced to be open-minded and support our views in new ways which was an eye-opening experience."

Aside from debating, students spent the week visiting historic



courtesy photo

#MAGA - SMCHS students pose in front of the Capitol Building days before the presidential ceremony.

spots around D.C. and attending seminars and workshops with groups of students from different states.

"After spending so much time with the kids in my workshop, we realized that we had a lot in common despite our backgrounds," said senior Caitlin Hardenburgh. "I met friends that I will definitely stay in contact with and I am grateful for the shared experience that bonded us."

Among the many historically significant sites that the students visited, both Arlington National

Cemetery and the Lincoln Memorial stood out to students. Another notable experience that students traveling with Close Up had included a visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. This is an opportunity that few have been allowed to experience since its recent opening late last year.

"At Arlington we were able to witness the changing of the guards ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which was fascinating," said senior Victoria Russell. "The grounds were so peaceful and

the honor that they treat the soldiers with was stunning."

Following the visits to all of the monuments and museums, the students also were able to attend the fifty-eighth Presidential Inauguration.

"Inauguration day in Washington D.C. has to be the craziest scene that I have been a part of," said senior Sara Dejbakhsh. "There was extra security screening and we had to wake up at 3 a.m. to get a decent spot."

Despite the craziness, witnessing President Trump's swearing-in

ceremony was a highlight of the trip. According to students, they were glad to make it back to their rooms after a four mile walk back to their hotel in Arlington, Virginia. Later that evening, the Close Up participants enjoyed their very own Inaugural Ball with over 2,400 other students, mimicking the main event on Pennsylvania Avenue, in celebration of the day's historic event.

Along with being at the 58th Presidential Inauguration, students witnessed another undoubtedly historic day in American history. Taking place the day after President Trump was sworn into office, the Women's March on Washington was reportedly the largest protest in American history, with an estimated 470,000 people in the Washington D.C. area, and SMCHS students had a front row seat.

"Though the Women's March on Washington was very hectic to navigate as a large group, it is something that will definitely be in history books someday," said senior Wendy Castillo. "When people are learning about these events I'll be able to say that I witnessed the city during such a significant moment in history."

Although the action packed week that students spent in D.C. did not allow a lot of time for sleep, it did yield some irreplaceable lessons.

Lessons included confidence in one's political efficacy along with the opportunity to collaborate with hundreds of students in an open and safe forum.

Refugees cry for help

The Syrian Civil War has created a large humanitarian crisis.

By Ian Gutierrez and Hannah Prince, Staff Writers

The civil war in Syria has become more than a "war"; it has become a humanitarian crisis. The population is conflicted by the Assad regime and Syrian rebels fighting for control, power and influence.

According to the United Nations, between 2012 and 2016, more than 400,000 Syrians have died in the war and 5 million have fled with another 6.6 million internally displaced. The war is being fought between forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and those opposed to his rule.

The second largest city in Syria, Aleppo, has also been taken over by the Assad military and the city has been abandoned by its residents. The mass destruction from bombs, airstrikes and excessive looting leave civilians in the middle of conflict. Omran, a young boy from Aleppo, has been named the face of the Syrian Civil War as images

of him have spread across the internet -- his body covered in ashes and face bloodied and bruised.

This is a war where neither side has much regard for civilian casualties. Different factions fight each other with little clarity over who are the heroes, rebels or terrorists.

The war started over an attempt to overthrow the long standing Assad regime involving failed economic and political reforms. Years later, protests against the government which, after government fired on protesters in 2011, became a full-fledged armed rebellion.

"The refugees make it a pivotal moment in history as far as being a modern nation concerns," AP World History teacher Bryn DuBois said. "In the wider world view, it will be interesting to see how it affects the relationship between other countries involved like the U.S. or Russia or Iran or Saudi Arabia. Because so many people are focused on it, I can only imagine it will have an effect on the way people act."

The Syrian military has been criticized over accusations of using chemical weapons, banned since World War II, on militias and civilians. According to TIME, as recently as Sept. 6, 2016, the government army dropped bombs filled with chlorine gas on the city of Aleppo. Within minutes, those affected by the gas were treated for injuries, the youngest victim being five years old. Two deaths were reported because of this attack.

Tensions between the United States and Russia have increased as a result of the two countries supporting different sides in the war.

"Because [Putin's] goals are very different than the United States, he has aligned himself into an adversarial position," DuBois said. "I don't think this is something new or recent. In many ways, it is a continuation of the relationship we have had in the past."

Assad's government is being supported by Vladimir Putin and the Russian government, while, the rebels are supported by the United

States government.

"[Bashar Assad] is a dictator, and he has abused his people horrifically," DuBois said. "You can see that in the shift of the Obama administration at first desired to pressure him to step down. But then, [we] see him as the lesser of two evils in comparison to ISIS. It is a really complex situation because it's not just about the internal struggle for authority between Bashar Assad and the Syrian people, it's now broadened Russian support because Russia is trying to expand their own influence throughout the

"The refugees make it a pivotal moment in history as far as being a modern nation is concerned.

- AP World History teacher Bryn Dubois

Middle East and elsewhere."

Immigrants who flee from Syria face difficulties finding a place to stay. Those who flee to Europe face a perilous journey. Some drown while they attempt to cross the Mediterranean sea and others freeze to death in the cold winter.

With millions being displaced around the world, the hope for a safe haven is the goal of many refugees trying to escape the war. Inhabitants are abandoning Syria as the conflict continues to arise, and foreign governments are increasingly becoming involved.

Safe studying

Global terrorism increases, but I still want to experience life overseas.

By Riley Davies, Staff Writer

Studying abroad: on one end of the spectrum, you get to experience a new life, gain valuable knowledge of the world and be introduced to opportunities and friendships you would never experience in your own country. However, with the good comes the bad. Being in a foreign country, the risk of danger is heightened as you leave behind a whole life at home.

Living and studying in another country forces you to either learn the language or improve your knowledge of it. There's no better way to learn a language than hearing it from the native tongue speakers. No matter how good you are at speaking it, language barriers are an issue. When you live in another country, you live like a local. You are no longer a tourist and you no longer have translated guides to make your life that much easier.

One of my personal goals is to become bilingual and living in a foreign country would improve my chances of achieving that goal. I am someone who, unfortunately, does not have a talent for learning languages, which will quickly cause a lot of frustration. While abroad, I do not know how I will handle my studies, which make me hesitant to study in a different country.

I know I would miss the comforts of home and constantly

stress about everything that I am leaving behind. I have hopes however, that if I do go study abroad, I would forget about everything at home in a

matter of weeks.

These are all the obvious effects of traveling abroad. However, there are much deeper fears that go along with traveling across the pond.

Safety is always a fear when

you are away from home. Safety ranges from having a fever to being at risk of terrorist attack.

Unfortunately, incidents of terrorism have in-

creased in certain countries.

Terrorism is unpredictable. Terrorism could potentially have an increased risk in a foreign country but, it is a risk everywhere now. European countries such as France and Belgium are considered high risk for terror attacks.

ISIS fighters are also now, more than ever, blending into society making terrorist attacks much easier to carry out. It is valid to have worries about your safety in a foreign country. However, it should not limit your desire to live in another country.

Studying abroad programs cannot completely prevent this risk or even predict an attack but these programs are well thought out and have made their best attempt at limiting the risks. The programs have taken everything into account and they are well aware of everything that could happen; so, they do know how to keep you safe and away from harm.

The world is changing, at times for the better and sometimes for the worse. It may not be perfect overseas but in the big picture it is all part of the experience. Being open to emerging yourself in a foreign country will give you experiences that will last a lifetime and an abundance of memories shared with new friends from different places of the world and experience. This is something I would never want to miss.



photos by Riley Davies

Created in certain countries. CNN reports that in 2015 there was a 650 percent increase from the previous year in terrorist attacks in developed and first world countries.

However, terrorism has seen a

144 character governing

President Trump's Twitter is a real means of communication for supporters.

By Ian Gutierrez,
Staff Writer

Twitter: a place where comedy, politics and confrontation coincide. Politicians, celebrities, and public figures use Twitter to directly communicate with their followers. Most notably during his campaign, President Trump used Twitter more effectively than any other candidate did.

From criticizing his opponents to arguing over bad reviews of his restaurant, Trump actively uses the social platform to express himself. However, now that he is President of the United States, the question must be asked: should he control his own Twitter?

President Obama used Twitter throughout his presidency, but it was used for political purposes rather than personal matters. A complete contrast to Obama's Twitter account, Trump's Twitter is known for his sudden angered outbursts.

After the comedy show Saturday Night Live aired skits where Alec Baldwin portrayed Trump in a satirical way, Trump tweeted up a firestorm calling the show a failure, unfunny and unwatchable.

Other recent outbursts include Vice President Mike Pence's attendance to the play "Hamilton". The actors spoke directly to Pence asking him to ensure he upholds America's core values of diversity and acceptance. Trump tweeted saying how the cast had harassed and was very rude to the VP, despite Pence saying he did not find it offensive at all. Most recently, after U.S. Representative and Civil Rights Activist John Lewis said he would boycott the president's inauguration, Trump fired back with a tweet saying that Lewis's district is falling apart and is in horrible shape.

Trump's transition from citizen to president has had little impact on his freedom to tweet anything he wants. As a man who is now the most influential person in the world, he is still communicating without the filter or deliberation that his position needs.

If he is to keep his Twitter, he needs to change his approach. Instead of praising controversial figures like Vladimir Putin or confronting people who have stood up to him, he needs to spend a little more time thinking about what he is about to say and the repercussions his words may have.

However, Trump's non-conformist way of being a politician has been part of his appeal and is a reason people voted for him. The uncensored, authentic nature of Trump's tweets have actually helped his support.

During his Inaugural Ball speech, Trump asked the audience if he should or should not continue to use Twitter. He then claimed that Twitter was a way of bypassing dishonest media.

Trump has set himself apart from other leaders of our government by straying away from the traditional disposition of a politician. By allowing himself to seem more connected to his supporters, his activeness on social media has caused a sense of authentic communication between leader and people that has not been present in history.

Attacking comedy shows for poking fun at him and criticizing news organizations might not be the best way for a president to act.

However, allowing Trump to keep his Twitter might be the only way for him to express his opinions and to keep his followers involved and supportive of his presidency.



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Illustration by Ivanna Rea

The "mentally ill" response and solution to every mass shooting might just be a cover-up.

By Allison de la Bastida,
Opinion Editor

The panel nods in agreement as he's referred to as a loner, and within a few minutes into the discussion, anchors have already boxed him into a stereotypical backstory--the outsider from society with a troubled past. The camera zooms out and the red labels at the bottom of the screen alerts viewers to the tragedy that has occurred by a mentally ill man.

With the several mass gun shootings that occurred in 2016, the 5 o'clock media drew watchers as the details of these events unfolded, both parties grieving with the revelations. Sadly, in the midst of research, a lack of information among those figures on TV made what is now a trademark move in the response of who did it.

The U.S. media are quick to diagnose the shooter as mentally ill without an actual degree to verify the claim. This reoccurring statement has not only been repeated with the same character descriptive adjectives over and over again, but it has caused the stereotypes of mental health issues to rise amongst fear of people that deal with them.

Why are we always so quick to blame mental health, yet not quick enough to take preventative measures?

Leading to the debatable questions: could a psychiatric diagnosis prevent such acts?

In the case of the Fort Lauderdale shooting, multiple sources have confirmed that Esteban Santiago openly confessed to the police about experiencing terroristic thoughts. Although Santiago was referred to psychiatric treatment, it didn't help prevent the devastation that occurred.

The FBI had this information and an open claim of threat yet were not able to prevent the act that followed. A similar situation to the Orlando nightclub shooting, in which suspect Omar Marteen had been under FBI inspection after making multiple death threats. The FBI did not take action--again.

This pattern has caused many to ask: why didn't the FBI do anything about it?

This same thought was ex-

pressed by Orlando shooting victim, Jeff Rodriguez, who is still pro-gun even after the incident. The right to bear arms is up to the individuals in society to choose to exercise. It's redirecting that conversation to focus more on what Rodriguez and others have started to advocate: providing gun laws that endorse a background check before giving permission to own a weapon.

"People with mental illness are getting guns and committing these mass shootings," said speaker of the House Paul Ryan following the 2016 San Bernardino shooting.

Yet according to a public health study, less than 5 percent of gun homicides between 2001 and 2010 were committed by people with diagnoses of mental illness.

Furthermore, people who have been involuntarily committed

because of mental illness are prohibited from buying guns. Therefore decreasing their chance as being responsible of the mass shooting acts.

The problem is that while the Senate backed up mental health legislations, it failed to contribute bills to require universal background checks and bar people on the terrorism watch list from buying guns, outright rejecting these bills.

The mentally ill are not the reason for the terrorist acts or mass shootings that are occurring. This reinforces the thought that mentally ill people are violent, a stereotype that needs to be broken.

So you tell me, is naming someone mentally ill the easy way out of a serious problem?

As reported by Salon, "seeking medical help for depression or

anxiety is apparently stronger evidence of violent tendencies than going out and purchasing a weapon."

Simply, it's becoming a cover-up to an issue that will not go away. No change will be made, no lives will be saved and no Americans will be safe until we are able to find solid and long-term solutions designed to prevent mass shootings.

However, its crucial to note that it's not about pointing blame at institutions but rather how these institutions can unite to create a real solution, not a trademark response.

According to non-profit organization Gun Violence Archive, there were 385 mass shootings in 2016. That's more shootings than there are days in one year. So what's 2017 going to do about it?

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A house divided

From blood to bloodshed, my sister and I compete for the upper hand.

By Taylor Gather,
Staff Writer

I never thought that my little sister would be my greatest rival.

Like every other five-year-old, I began to play AYSO for the Wacky Watermelons; orange slices and vibrant ribbon bows were my life. Since I'm the eldest of three girls in my family, my younger sisters soon followed suit and began playing soccer when they turned five years old. I'm only two years older than the middle child, Jordyn, and was eager and excited to show her the ropes around the fast-paced sport. Being a big sister is all I'd ever known, so I was more than willing to assume a mentor position to help guide her to achieve her full potential.

The more we trained and the better she got, I began to question if I was doing the right thing. I mean, what if my seven-year-old self had trained her too well, and she would become the new prodigy of the family? But after about 20 minutes of contemplating what I should do, I concluded that I would always be the best since I'm older and therefore better.

Then there was club soccer. Ever since I was introduced to the world of club, when I was eight years old, by a scouting coach, I officially became hooked on the competitive side of the sport. I went to numerous fitness trainers, coaches and even worked out on my own so I could work my way up to the best club team that there was. After six years of nonstop hard work and all of my time given to improving my play, I had finally joined a team that competed at the highest level: Elite Clubs National League, or ECNL.

The harder I worked and the more I accomplished, the more Jordyn aspired to be like her big



photo by Allison Sprague

Best frenemies - Senior Taylor Gather's chance to defeat her sister in a game against JSerra ended in a tie.

sister. When I joined a club team she did too. Together we began to develop our own individual styles of play, as well as an unspoken sibling rivalry of who was the best.

I was then presented with a challenge every 14-year-old faces: high school. Not only did I have to adjust to my new class schedule and meet potential lifelong friends, but I also had tried to

make one of the high school soccer teams. I was lucky enough to play for the junior varsity team my freshman year, but then was moved up to varsity my sophomore year. Everyone expected Jordyn to follow in my footsteps and attend SMCHS, but her ultimate decision is one that still shocks friends and family to this day.

We've both played soccer our

whole lives, and although we train together and have competed on the same teams, I never imagined that we would play against each other. With her on the rival JSerra varsity soccer team, I knew that all of our training and hard work together would be put to the test - against each other. So instead of competing with one of my best friends, I'm competing against a frenemy.

Home life isn't as peaceful as it used to be, either. It's hard living with the enemy, especially since I have to watch what I say about my team around her. It's an unwritten law that we don't discuss our teams with each other.

Competitiveness has always been a significant part of our soccer lives, but was never directed so much toward each other until now. As a forward, I knew what was to come when I played her, especially since she's a defender. The only good thing about playing my sister is that I know her style of play, but I guess she could say the same thing about me.

The time had finally come. On Jan. 21, my sister and I competed in a game that would finally settle the score and determine who is the best of the best.

While each team battled for victory, I battled for superiority. With both teams containing a win on their belt, this was the final opportunity of the season to prove that I would and always will be better. Through the blood, sweat, and cheers, the final whistle had blown, signifying that the game would end in a tie.

Although I'll never know who the superior sister is (It's actually me), I will always support Jordyn as long as she's out of the JSerra uniform, and look forward to racing her on the track in the spring.

Cali can't drive

By Lauren Kesic,
Staff Writer

Rainy days used to be my favorite -- I could bundle up in warm clothes, sit by the fire and sip on a hot cup of coffee. Unfortunately, I now fear rainy days.

I've had my driver's license for two years and I'm proud to say I've never been one to panic behind the wheel. But that's changed within the past month considering all of the rain California has received.

My dad always told me to be extra cautious while driving in the rain but I never paid attention to his advice until the belated El Niño arrived. Within the past month, I've driven through severe weather conditions which have caused me to not only lose my love for rainy days, but to fear for my safety.

Once the consecutive rainy days began, so did the anxiety I felt while driving. I felt safer driving slower because I knew if I had to slow down for a red light that I wouldn't have to slam on my brakes, reducing my risk of hydroplaning. But as the speedsters zoomed past my little white car, I could only hope and pray that the rain wouldn't negatively effect their inability to be more cautious.

Rain might not slow down those speedsters, but it will bring traffic to a halt. Driving to and from school used to be a breeze, but the more it rained the more accidents occurred. It saddens me to think that the root cause of the totaled cars, the cars who ran off the road and the cars who hydroplaned into other cars was the rain.

After the conditions I've had to drive through I'm starting to think I won't drive on a street where I can't see five feet away from me due to heavy rain. My drives in the rain to and from school made me a panicked driver. The heavy rain reduced visibility and frightened me to the point where my knuckles would turn white from gripping the wheel so hard. I feared for what I couldn't see in front or to the side of me because I knew at any point I could run into a car without realizing it until point of impact.

Californians really don't know how to drive in the rain, and that makes me feel uneasy. We're not used to wet conditions and that's pretty obvious once we have to drive through them.

The heavier the rain, the less safe it is to drive -- not just because of the ones who pay no attention to change in condition, which requires a slight change in driving habits, but because of the things I myself have to pay more attention to.

Driving in sunny California is a breeze -- I can drive the speed limit, be at ease with the other drivers, drive through minimal traffic, worry less about weather-related accidents and actually see in front of me. But one little rain drop and all that easiness goes away. Now when it rains I don't want to drive myself because I'm afraid for my safety and the safety of others. Rain is a beautiful thing for our drought, but it's a disastrous thing for our drivers.

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The oldies are out

Music apps lose popularity due to the newly released music app competitors.

By Rachel Tetreault, Staff Writer

The App Store is a battle field among rising music apps. Each music app appeals to a different audience, but sooner or later the new apps will drive the old apps out.

The SMCHS Eagle Eye website poll showed 60 different students that voted on their preference for the five different music apps: Spotify, Apple Music, SoundCloud, Pandora or Tidal.

With an astonishing 62%, or 37 votes students preferred Spotify out of the five music apps. Following Spotify, the polls showed that Apple Music was in second place for most preferred music app, with 23%, or 14 votes. SoundCloud and Pandora come in a third place tie with 7%, or 4 votes. Lastly, with a low percentile of 2% or 1 vote, Tidal received the lowest music app preference.

According to Shobhit Seth, a writer for Investopedia, Spotify is at the top of the music chain.

In 2008, Spotify was launched, peaking when it became available in 60 different countries. Years later, Spotify has 100 million active users. Spotify's users use the app because they can listen to many different famous artists, as well as create and follow playlists.

From playlists consisting of workout music, feel-good music, and to "just hanging out" music, Spotify creates playlists for different events and moods. This feature allows users to explore different genres of music.

Art teacher Christine Adolph, believes

that Spotify is the most beneficial of the music apps.

"[Spotify] is the best and easiest app for me to navigate around," Adolph said. "I love that I can make and follow playlists that I enjoy listening to."

However, some listeners, such as the "Swifties," or the Taylor Swift fans, do not like Spotify because her music is no longer available. According to a writer for the Business Insider, Pamela Engel, Swift decided in 2014 to sign out of her contract and took all her songs with her.

With more famous artists who aren't on Spotify joining Apple Music, it follows Spotify in the ratings. In 100 countries worldwide, Apple Music was launched in June 2015 and it continues to expand in popularity.

Priced at \$9.99 per person or \$14.99 a month for a family of up to 6 members, Apple Music allows users to download any song of a user's choosing for free. Data is an issue for most teens, but with Apple Music, users are allowed to enjoy music worry free and internet free. However, the price is more expensive than most music apps.

"My music gets downloaded straight to my phone so I don't have to use data, which is convenient because I can listen to [music] whenever and where ever I want without using the internet," said junior Brendan Myers.

Another popular app is SoundCloud. Most users do not pay for this app, but on March 29, 2016, SoundCloud released a

“ I think the main reason that SoundCloud is not as popular is because Apple Music and Spotify get music from the bigger artist before SoundCloud does.”

~senior Neil Schuler

premium version known as SoundCloud Go. By purchasing SoundCloud Go, users can experience music without advertisements.

One of the unique features of SoundCloud is that it allows independent artists to upload their music, resulting in user ability to find unique, lesser known music.

"SoundCloud is the best because of all the remixes," said senior Neil Schuler. "Most apps have more mainstream music, so it's nice to get music that no one else listens to."

However, with only 75 million active users, SoundCloud might come to an end of their 10 year run because of the decrease of popularity.

"I think the main reason that SoundCloud is not as popular is because Apple Music and Spotify get music from the bigger artist before SoundCloud does," Schuler said.

According to Matthew Ingram, writer for Market Intelligence, SoundCloud's co-founder Alexander Ljung, admitted that SoundCloud is losing money due to the competition and unsuccessful run of

their new SoundCloud Go app. SoundCloud is running out of funds and losing popularity.

As rumors arise from SoundCloud's dilemma, other major music app companies look into buying out SoundCloud to expand.

"Spotify was said to be discussing a potential [ownership of] SoundCloud last year, but Bloomberg [Businessweek website] said the deal fell apart after the two companies couldn't agree on a price," Ingram said. "Now Google is said to be looking at a potential purchase of [SoundCloud], to help beef up its Google Play subscription service."

Older music apps, such as Pandora Radio and iTunes, are losing money and becoming less popular because of the other major music app competitors.

Pandora Radio was released in January 2000 and was highly popular around the time with 80 million users. But like all other apps, people started to outgrow Pandora as soon as the bigger competitors joined the market.

Junior Nick Parrino once had Pandora, but as the app got older, Pandora didn't offer as much new music as he would have liked.

"I used to have Pandora and it worked fine when I had it," Parrino said. "But once I discovered Spotify, I stopped using Pandora because [Spotify] had a better variety of music that I wanted to listen to and I could create any playlist I wanted." Another not as popular music app is

Tidal. Released in 2014, Tidal has not been successful in the App Store statistics.

Fortunately, singer Shawn Carter, known as "Jay Z" came to Tidal's rescue, by purchasing Tidal in 2015, changing the app's strategy for making money.

"The reason behind the 1,000 percent increase in Tidal's value is the platform's clever strategy of exclusive music releases [created by Jay-Z]," Quartz Media said. "Two very popular artists, Kanye West and Rhianna, tests Tidal's new method by exclusively publishing their albums. According to Quartz Media, "The life of Pablo", written by West, and "Anti", written by Rhianna, gave Tidal more popularity as well."

Junior Olivia Hernandez thinks that after Jay-Z's purchase of Tidal and his new strategy of only exclusive music, the app has improved.

"I love that I can be the first one out of all my friends to hear a song that everyone is dying to hear," said Hernandez.

On the other hand, Tidal currently ranges from \$9.99 to \$19.99 a month, depending on user preference of high-fidelity sound.

With all the different types of music providing apps, each person has his or her personal preference on what to listen to. Whether someone listens to mainstream music or an unknown artist, each app will cater to each individual user's musical preference whether the app is old or new.

Eagle Eye website poll:

62% of students use **Spotify** music.

23% of students use **Apple** music.

7% of students use **Soundcloud**.

7% of students use **Pandora** music.

2% of students use **Tidal** music.

Survey says - A recent poll on the Eagle Eye website indicates that Spotify is the most popular music app among SMCHS students.



"I use Apple Music most of the time because I don't want to use up all my data."
-junior Devyn Prater



"I like Spotify out of everything else because it has all the famous artists I like to listen to."
-junior Nick Parrino



"I'm one of the few people who knows how to navigate Soundcloud, so I always show my friends new remixes."
-senior Neil Schuler

photos by Rachel Tetreault

Throwbact

Some people like watching T.V. but junior Justin Evans prefers being on it.

By Chloe Le,
Web Editor-in-Chief

Every kid remembers their most fond childhood memories -- like the first time they went to Disneyland, their first sleepover or when they landed a role on the hit television series "Heroes" at the age of five.

Justin Evans' moment came when he was five-years-old and his family took their Christmas card pictures. The photographer mentioned to his mom, Lori Evans, that Justin was very photogenic and that she should talk to an agent.

"I remember making an appointment with the agency and they told me they would talk to Justin in a room by themselves and get back to us in a week," Lori said. "But immediately after talking to Justin they said they wanted to represent him which shocked me."

After that moment, Justin's childhood was more than just little league games and play dates. The next four years consisted of weekends in Burbank and Pasadena to shoot for "Heroes", a science fiction television drama series.

"My favorite part of the whole experience by far was hanging out with Hayden Panettiere," Justin said. "She even helped me with my math homework."



Lights, camera, batter up - From hitting shots on the field to headshots, junior Justin Evans is able to balance his acting career along with his extra curricular activities

Although he started to act at a very young age, his surroundings in a more mature environment helped him become more social and create conversations with adults.

"Acting has definitely helped me socially," Justin said. "I had to learn improv and I feel like that heightened my way of thinking and my communication skills. It made it easier for me to talk to adults because I was in the adult world."

Lori struggled to allow her young son to commit to such a time-consuming activity; after all, she would be the one driving him to the many photoshoots and auditions.

"Initially, I didn't want him to do this at all," Lori said. "I think I let him act because I never got into the stage mom stuff and into the competitions. There are auditions where the moms are like 'my kid did this, my kid did that' but I just stayed grounded throughout the

whole thing."

Balancing sports, school, acting and even modeling, Lori had to take on responsibilities that a normal mom would never experience.

"I'm not going to lie, it was extremely difficult," Lori said. "I remember one time Justin had a little league championship game. He was modeling for H&M and we were running late to the game so he was freaking out, changing in the car and I was driving on the shoulder."

der. It was crazy but we made it and won the game."

Knowing he would be on T.V. at such a young age didn't affect Justin or his perspective on life. He remained humble throughout his childhood and even now doesn't view himself any differently.

"A lot of the kids at my school knew I was on "Heroes" but I was never the one to bring it up," Justin said. "I was never like 'Oh yeah I'm an actor, did you know that?' Because to me, it wasn't a big deal and it still isn't."

Along with acting, Justin modeled for Disney catalogs, Pokémon, Jakks Pacific, Lacoste, Toyota and Polo up until he decided to dedicate his time to baseball and school.

"I would say modeling and acting didn't really affect my childhood," Justin said. "I don't regret it because it's not like I missed out on that much of my childhood. It would be different if I was doing it at this age because I wouldn't be able to play baseball or hang out with friends like a normal teenager."

Although his days behind the camera are long gone, Justin still receives paychecks in the mail whenever the show is aired or streamed. It's a just a small reminder of his unique childhood of when he starred on T.V.

Novelwriting 101

English teachers give the inside scoop on writing and publishing.

By Chloe Le, Web Editor-in-Chief & Ivanna Rea, Managing Editor

English teachers James Silberstein and Bruce Fleming know the behind the scenes of novel writing.

Silberstein has been teaching at SMCHS since 2007. But outside the walls of his classroom, he has written four novels and has numerous short stories published in prestigious literary magazines such as Narrative Magazine and The Lascoux Review.

"I've always considered myself a creative person," Silberstein said. "Inspiration is like being carried by angels. But actually finishing a novel is closer to digging ditches or finishing a marathon."

Normally, it takes Silberstein about a year to complete the rough draft. His current project, however, is 10 years in process.

"I realized novelists have more control than any other performing artist," Silberstein said. "As a novelist, your words become a person's thoughts, and if the reader is willing to meet you halfway, you can take that person anywhere as long as you can find the right words."

According to Silberstein, aspiring writers need to get used to rejection because it is a reminder of how far they've come.

"If you want to write, or follow any creative path, I think one needs to develop a sense of process and mastery that transcends what

Every author has a little part of themselves in their work.

~ English teacher
Bruce Fleming

other people think," Silberstein said. "I think real mastery involves tearing up the dance floor without worrying if anyone digs your moves or not."

Since the '80s, Fleming, known as B.R. Fleming to his readers, has written over five full-length screenplays and two novels; "Summertime Blues" and "The Secret People" as well as one in the making. His two self-published novels stemmed from his screenplays.

"I basically turned my screenplays into novels because it's a lot easier nowadays to self publish," Fleming said. "I figured I can publish my novels and then if anyone wanted to make a movie or buy the screenplay I'd already have the

screenplay."

Because he's self-published, Fleming relies on media exposure by creating pages, such as his Twitter presence @BFScreenwriter.

Fleming's writing process begins with the creation of a playlist of songs that pertain to that specific novel as well as making an outline of major plot points with the overall idea of the novel set out. Once he's completed his playlists and outlines, he mentally prepares by getting in touch with his characters.

"Every author has a little part of themselves in their work," Fleming said. "Until I get to the point where I feel connected with the characters, I can't write. Once I feel that connection with the characters, the only thing in my head is the book, all day long even when I'm teaching. It's what's in the back of my mind all the time is what the characters are doing."

While writers can eventually face setbacks such as writers block, the best remedy to overcoming such obstacles, according to Fleming, is to do the one thing that he or she was meant to do.

"You can't learn to be a writer without actually writing," Fleming said. "No matter how crummy your writing is, you have to sit down and write."

Batons up

Senior Noelle Zielinski takes her artistic talents to the professional world.

By Sarah Turner, News Editor

As a freshman, Noelle Zielinski sat in the audience of a Drum Corp International show. Amazed at what she saw, she decided right there that one day that would be her. Four years later, Zielinski is in the process of accomplishing just that.

As captain of the school's color guard team for two years, Zielinski knows where her passion lies. She followed her dream outside the walls of SMCHS and auditioned for Drum Corps International in December in San Jose, CA.

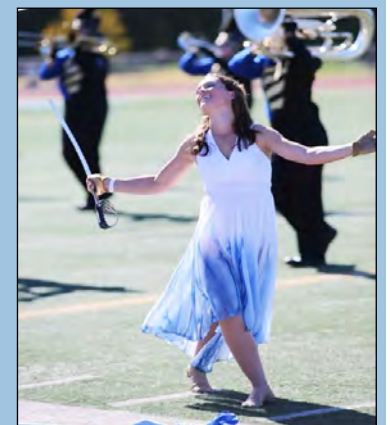
"The way it works is you either get contracted, callback, or come back next time," Zielinski said. "I was lucky enough to get a contract for my first audition."

Now that she is contracted, she is officially a member of the team Pacific Crest Drum Core, which is a part of DCI.

"DCI is kind of like the NFL of Color Guard and Marching Band, so it's professional marching band," Zielinski said. "We travel all around the US over the summer. So I'm going in June to camp for two weeks and then I'm going to be going on tour and travelling all around the country."

Zielinski leaves to tour the country in June and returns home on Aug 13. Tuition for the team is 3000 dollars. Zielinski has a GoFundMe to raise money for the tour.

"It's pay to play, so you have to



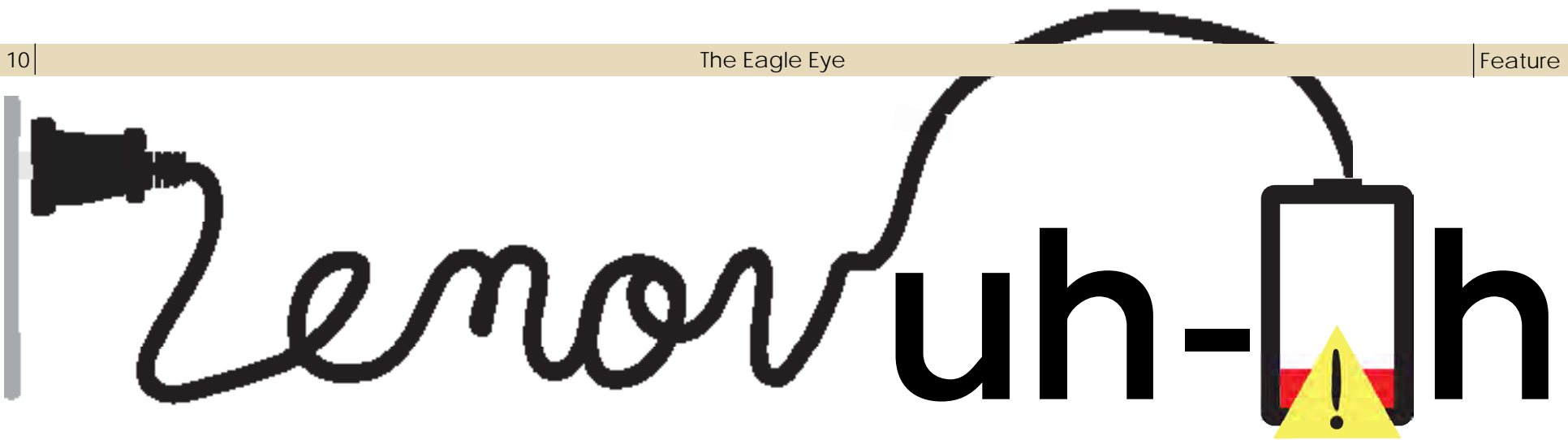
pay for yourself," Zielinski said. "I've been working a part time job forever. If you want to donate just like 10 bucks to my GoFundMe that could buy me a soda on tour."

Being involved in DCI will be an extremely physical and difficult experience for Zielinski. However her excitement for the experience remains just as high.

"When I got contracted they told me I was going to be burning 6000 calories a day," Zielinski said. "This is an athletic activity. My coach came back from DCI ripped, and I'm terrified but I'm so excited."

Zielinski is also looking forward to the overall experience of being on tour.

"I'm most excited to travel and do what I love to do," Zielinski said. "Because at football games, although I love it, no one really watches us. So I'm excited to go where people are going to pay to watch me."



School lent computers face extensive changes.

By Claire Robidoux, Feature Editor

New computers are coming to campus, and these (probably) won't catch on fire.

As SMCHS prepared for a mass technological change in the summer of 2014, they saw only a glimpse of their school's future potential. Three years later, the Lenovo Yoga has become a vital part of holding textbooks, finishing homework, gathering research and day to day learning. Now, as the tablet grows older, SMCHS looks back for inspiration to move forward.

"I still remember the very first shipment of computers that came in," said Scott Bricker, Director of Educational Technology. "The tech center was emp-

ty and there were no windows. It was just a door and a big hole with eight hundred computers. At first it was like, 'What have we gotten our selves into?' Now you look at it three years later, and I know its not perfect, but it's working really, really well."

The "not perfect" part is the first ever school computer's battery. The Lenovo Yoga's full charge time is meant to last eight hours, yet too many computers die after only three hours or less. ETV's "Ask Garrett" featured Bricker in response to a student question regarding this issue.

"Like the cell phone battery dies, every rechargeable battery has a lifespan," Bricker said. "You can only charge it so many times before it just loses ability to keep being charged."

If any computer batteries are in need of replacement, the IT center will replace them on the spot. Other issues with the Yoga include frozen screens, wireless issues and even spontaneous combustion.

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I remember walking from the front of the school to the library with smoke trailing out of my tablet.

~ senior Brooke Leet

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While smoking tablets are an uncommon occurrence, senior Brooke Leet was a first hand witness. Leet had gone to IT a number of times, and after a few visits IT sent her computer back to a third part vendor for repairs. The vendor left a loose screw in the computer causing a short. Leet began to smell gasoline.

"I remember walking from the front of the school to the library with smoke trailing out of my tab-

let and kids looking at me like, 'What did she do?'" Leet said.

IT told Leet that while she had gone to get a pass from her teacher, they saw a small flame after removing the bottom board of the computer.

Principal Raymond Dunne, as well as IT, responded quickly to the issue at hand by changing repair vendors and providing Leet with a new computer

The computer warranty states that for a new tablet to be given, a student's computer must be brought to IT with the same problem three times. Because of the policy, it took Leet two loner tablets and a ruined backpack to receive a new computer.

"The first tablet I got was just one of those lemon computers that was never going to work from the beginning," Leet said. "I feel like other kids might have that issue as well."

SMCHS has been taking action to look for new computers. Lenovo, Intel, the company that manufac-

tures the chips for the tablets, and Golden Star Technology, the school vendor, met with the school on Jan. 17 to discuss the next step for technology on campus.

"We were reminiscing on where the program's coming from," Bricker said. "I'm planning two and three years out. It's a never ending process, and you always want to keep improving."

The process consists of four staff members going to the Consumer Electronics Show in Vegas, a convention held to exhibit the latest in technology.

In February, Lenovo, Toshiba, Dell, HP and other computer companies will send demo devices to the school for the students to test.

After that, the new computer will be decided and ordered in the spring.

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Bearing Down - Senior Richard Wagner will swap his SMCHS blue and gold jersey for a new red, white, and black one when he moves from the Eagles' field to the Big Red Bears' field.

Trinity to Ivy

Senior Richard Wagner's hard work on and off the field paid off in his commitment to Cornell University.

By Devin Walsh, Staff Writer

Acceptance to an Ivy League school is a dream that often seems unattainable, but senior and SMCHS varsity football quarterback Richard Wagner made the impossible possible. After years of hard work, dedication and persevering through many trials and tribulations, Wagner announced his commitment to Cornell University on Dec. 10, 2016.

Wagner's journey to his commitment to Cornell differs to the typical athletic recruitment. Instead of waiting for offers, Wagner reached out to coaches himself.

"Junior year is always a pretty big year for high school football players to get recruited, and I didn't play junior year," Wagner said. "All I could really do is just contact coaches saying 'Hey! I backed up this really good quarterback. Here's who I am, here are my grades and here are my highlights from the little that I've played.' [Cornell was] the first school that really looked at me and really believed in me as a player."

While Wagner did receive offers from other schools, he found the recruitment process to be more stressful than most athletes due to not being able to play for the majority of his junior year.

"I'm very relieved that the process is over," Wagner said. "[The process] was extremely successful seeing as I was behind a very good quarterback. I worked the hardest I could in the off season between my junior and senior year. I am proud of how I played considering a lot of different things, new coach, new offense, young players."

Although SMCHS is a part of the Trinity League, which is arguably one of the toughest and most competitive leagues in the nation, Wagner did not let the challenge get in the way of success.

"You have to put in a lot of extra work to be good in Trinity league," Wagner said. "It's always the work you're doing when nobody's watching. That's what counts."

Even with all the work Wagner put in on the field, he knew he had

to put in even more work outside of athletics to get an offer from an Ivy League school like Cornell. He pushes himself academically by taking AP and IB courses, but the hard work doesn't stop there. He played the violin from fifth to ninth grade and the stand up bass from ninth to twelfth grade and has been a part of several SMCHS performances. Wagner also volunteers for boy scouts and even reached the Eagle Scout level his freshman year.

"I believe that the notoriety of Santa Margarita combined with playing an instrument, being an eagle scout, and trying to be the most well rounded I could really helped in being recruited and committing to Cornell," Wagner said.

Wagner has also played basketball and volleyball during his middle school years, when he started playing both tackle and flag football. However, focusing in on football in high school has led Wagner to notice how much it has changed him both on and off the field.

"Football has made me become a very outgoing person," Wagner said. "I've really grown through these four years which is amazing. This group of guys that I've been with for these four years is really something special. I think we really saw that our senior year."

Wagner has grown not only as a player but as a person after several years of playing football and being on the SMCHS football team.

"The last four years at SM really showed me how to become a leader," Wagner said. "The first couple years I played tackle football I was just learning the game. I didn't really develop myself. In high school, what I really learned, especially as the quarterback position, is that you really get to know how to become a leader. You, in these four years, get to grow as a team and grow teamwork skills as well as leadership skills and just life in general."

Wagner will take everything he has learned at SMCHS and the memories he has made with all of his teammates to Cornell. He even visited the campus over the

//

It's always the work you're doing when nobody's watching. That's what counts.

~ senior Richard Wagner

//

summer for a football camp, and in mid-December on his eighteenth birthday for his official visit.

"It can be a little cold there, but it was a great experience," Wagner said. "The campus is amazing. I love the area. I just really felt like that was the place."

Wagner's experience as an

SMCHS student and athlete has provided him with wisdom that he hopes to pass down to underclassmen that are also looking to play college sports.

"If you're really committed to the sport you play, just work as hard as you can on and off the fields," Wagner said. "Do extra work when you

can. You don't always know whose going to be in front of you. You don't always know if you stay healthy or not. To underclassmen I would say just be the most well rounded person you can, with grades, hobbies, outside activities, and of course the sport you play. And, if you do that, you should be pretty successful."

As his high school career comes to an end, Wagner is excited to see what he will bring to the Bears' field next year.

"I am really proud of what the team did this year and what we accomplished," Wagner said. "I'm proud of how I played this season and what I was able to contribute to this team. I'm looking forward to college and what it offers and just my future athletically and academically."

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Maximum effort

Senior Sean Carroll endures four years of a mentally straining sport.

By Cristina Zapata, Print Editor-in-Chief and Dani Segovia, Sports Editor

Wrestling is a combat sport. Players have six minutes to defeat the other opponent within the boundaries of the mat. To win the match, the player must pin his opponent on his back with his shoulders on the mat for two seconds. Each year, head coach Scott Sedlick faces a challenge trying to recruit new members to the difficult sport.

With only one remaining senior, the current team started with many inexperienced newcomers. However, over the course of the season, they have trained to polish their technique.

"We have a really young team that needs a lot of improvement because some haven't even wrestled before," Sedlick said. "They came out to the team this year though, and I respect the guys that are new. They've learned a lot. My upper classmen have come a long way too."

Wrestling bends the mentality of the player. The requirements to try out for the sport are difficult, which is one of the reasons SMCHS has a low roster for the sport.

"It's one-on-one contact where you basically go out there and beat each other up for six minutes," Sedlick said. "If you're not ready for that, you're not going to come out



Fight for it- Senior Sean Carroll takes charge as he holds Servite competitor in a half nelson position.

for wrestling."

All beginning wrestlers begin with many losses, bruises and frustrating matches.

"It's a process and it takes a while sometimes for somebody to turn

the corner," Sedlick said. "Its like a light bulb comes on and all of a sudden they know how to wrestle. You have to be patient, work with them and keep that hope that they are going to figure it out."

Senior Sean Carroll was one

of those freshmen who struggled during his first season, facing many setbacks as a new wrestler. His multiple wins this season, a captain position and being named Trinity League Champion at the 152 pound weight class proved his hard

work throughout the past three years finally paid off.

"When [Carroll] came in as a freshman he knew very little about wrestling," Sedlick said. "He got beat up a lot and wrestled other guys that had wrestled a lot. To come right out and be good is pretty much impossible. You need a few years under your belt to figure out the sport and learn how to manage the time of the clock."

Carroll's hard work comes from his ability to overlook the struggle and only see the reward within the sport.

"I felt it was something that hard work would be translated into success," Carol said. "You would be able to see it a lot more than just a natural born talent. It's an individual struggle. You can't blame anyone but yourself."

As his final season comes to a close, Carroll reflects on the lessons wrestling taught him.

"Time slows down when you're [wrestling]," Carroll said. "There's so much adrenaline that six minutes can feel like an hour. The underlying reason why I wrestle is because when I do it, time slows down so much, and time is something that is so precious. Even if I'm hating those six minutes, they feel so productive."

Power player

Senior Delaney Mazelin models sportsmanship as a four-year varsity veteran.

By Taylor Gather,
Staff Writer

From freshman to starting captain, senior Delaney Mazelin swam her way to success.

Although Mazelin has played water polo for eight years, the sport wasn't love at first swim.

"When I first started playing I absolutely hated it," Mazelin said. "After about a month I fell in love with it. I found a way to click with people and made more friends. It has also been a good outlet for me emotionally."

As the youngest player on the team her freshman year, Mazelin has dedicated all of her time and energy the past four years to the sport she loves in order to become the player she is today.

"I don't have much free time," Mazelin said. "It's hard to hang out with my friends outside of polo. It also takes away from family time because I always have practice or games."

Mazelin has been inseparable from the water, devoting her middle and high school life to improving her play and technique.

"I do practice in pre-season like most sports do, but I also do a lot of mental stuff to help me get ready

for games by visualizing my goals," Mazelin said. "Water polo is a really big mental game; you have to be able to push past when you're tired and things like that."

Although being the only freshman on varsity entailed cleaning up the balls and caps every practice, the chores and tribulations prepared Mazelin for her role as captain.

"I feel like the mom of the team," Mazelin said. "I keep everyone in check and protect them from everything. Being the only freshman definitely inspired me to take on this mentor and nurturer role."

Mazelin inspires the two current freshmen on the team, ensuring that they work hard to achieve success.

"I tell them all the time not to give up and to push through," Mazelin said. "I know that they have another three years but it's definitely worth it to keep working hard."

Following in former upperclassmen footsteps, Mazelin aims to be one of the senior role models that they were to her when she was a freshman.

"The previous seniors were some of the greatest mentors that I could've had," Mazelin said. "They were so determined, hardworking and loyal to each other. They made

me want to be the same."

Playing on varsity has shaped the player she is today, proving she's both a leader in and out of the water.

"Being on varsity all four years has given me a lot of experience in both leadership and following other players," Mazelin said. "I'm definitely better physically and mentally. I'm a lot faster, too, which is nice because you always like seeing that improvement."

Although Mazelin has improved her game tremendously, she has gained much more than physical strength and quicker speed.

"Through water polo I've developed a sense of hard work and trustworthiness," Mazelin said. "Being able to trust your team as well as trusting yourself is something that doesn't come easy, and I'm glad that water polo allows me to be able to trust in not only myself but my teammates."

Even though she's traveling to the East Coast for college water polo, SMCHS will always be the pool where she developed lifelong friendships, leadership skills and values that she will carry for the rest of her life.

"I'm going to miss my team the most," Mazelin said. "I'm so close with this group of girls and it's going to be hard to leave them."

//
"I'm glad that water polo allows me to be able to trust in not only myself but my teammates."
//

~senior Delaney Mazelin



Pass pool ease- Senior Delaney Mazelin prepares to pass the ball.

Trail to Yale

Seniors Lauren Drysch and Erin Gerardo take their friendship and passion for track and field to Yale University's class of 2021.

By Margaret Driscoll,
Staff Writer

Everybody has a best friend, but not everyone has gone to school with her since second grade or unintentionally matched her best friend's outfit. Definitely not all best friends attend Yale University together for track and field and make their dreams come true together.

Seniors Lauren Drysch and Erin Gerardo began their friendship long ago when they met in second grade, became best friends in sixth grade at St. Mary's Middle School, and continue to be best friends today.

"Believe it or not, we bonded over gymnastics in middle school," Gerardo said. "Track wasn't even a question then."

Drysch and Gerardo didn't begin their athletic careers in track, but they're thankful they ended up there.

"The track coach at my elementary school asked my parents if I would join track in second grade because he noticed the size of my calves," Drysch said.

Regardless of how they got into track, both girls love doing it together. They have been in track together for so long, know each other's personalities perfectly and are always there for the other. Their personalities perfectly balance each other.

"Erin's hilarious," Drysch said. "She is definitely the calm in the storm and can always make me

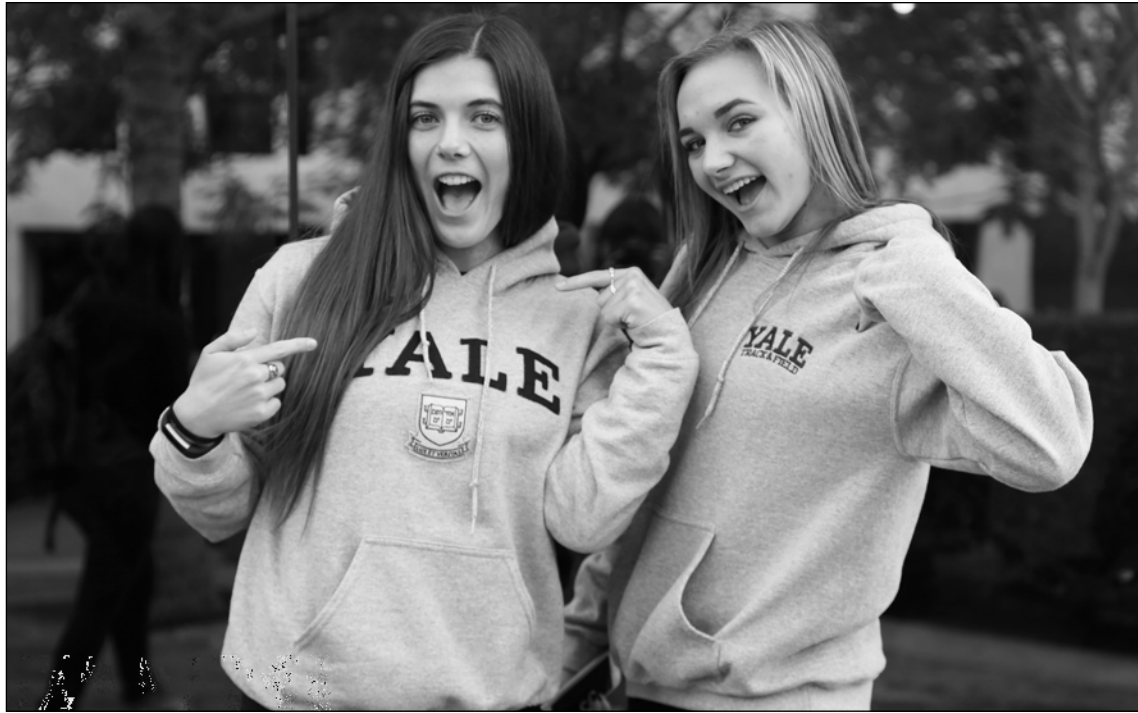


photo by Amanda Zou

Bulldog buddies - Seniors Erin Gerardo and Lauren Drysch are all geared up for the next four years.

laugh."

Whether it be track or school, both girls support each other and have always encouraged the other to do her best. Each inspires the other to be the best version of herself.

"Lauren is very honest and thoughtful," Gerardo said. "She will always think something through before she does it and I really value that."

Drysch and Gerardo also claim they can be a little psychic after seven years of friendship.

"To this day, we will come to school in free dress on Fridays and I will see what Erin's wearing and

it is the same outfit I was about to wear," Drysch said.

The feeling is mutual and both girls love that they always have someone to talk to. When there are other people in the room, they have the ability to read each other's mind.

"We honestly don't even have to say anything," Gerardo said. "I can look at Lauren and know exactly what she's thinking and totally agree with it."

Their friendship comes naturally because they have the same interests, group of friends, and of course, they love track. The girls click and couldn't be happier to be

going to Yale together next year.

"I went on three official visits for track and Yale was the only school that allowed me to do what I wanted," Drysch said. "I get to be a student first and an athlete second which makes me really excited."

While Lauren sprints on the track team and Erin poll vaults, they have both been a part of tremendous success of their team. Both girls say their greatest accomplishment, after months of hard work, is winning CIF their sophomore and junior years.

"It's very rewarding because we work hard all year from September until May and we don't really see

results until the end of the year," Gerardo said. "We have a lot of pride in our team and ourselves."

Going to Yale was always the girls' dream, but not necessarily together. After first visiting Yale in 7th grade, Drysch and Gerardo never imagined being on the track team in high school and definitely didn't think they would run for track at Yale in their future together.

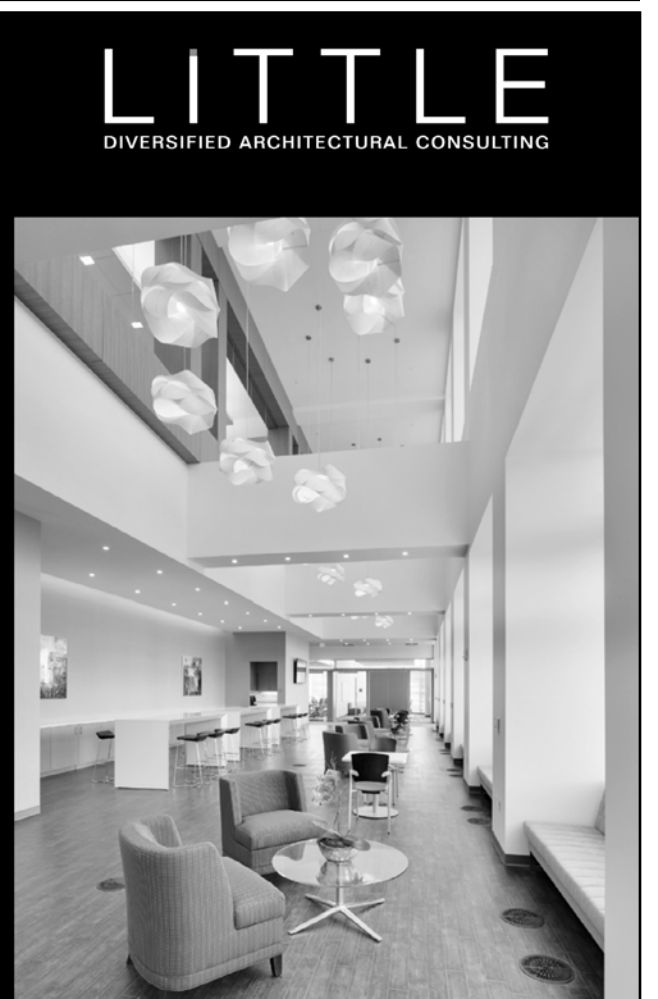
"There was a time when I wanted to go to Yale for gymnastics and be a creative writer so obviously things really changed but they definitely worked for the best," Gerardo said.

Drysch and Gerardo took their official Yale visits on the same weekend but at the time, Gerardo loved Notre Dame and Drysch loved Duke. Soon after Gerardo fell in love with Notre Dame, Drysch even started to fall in love with Duke.

Although they both had interest in other schools, they soon decided Yale was the best fit for both of them because of the environment and the ability to be on the track team.

"I heard back from Yale the day after my IB orals," Gerardo said. "I came out of my oral and Lauren texted me that the admission decisions had come out and I was really nervous. I definitely cried too."

Next year, Drysch and Gerardo will run across the country to attend Yale University together for their track team, making the friendship that began in 2nd grade continue all the way to college and beyond.



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Remembering the Holocaust

Middle and high school students use their artistic talent to vividly portray the history of the Holocaust.

By Hannah Prince, Staff Writer

History is the study of past events - the Holocaust is an event of the past, but a remembrance that lives through its survivors.

Today, the most horrific genocide known to mankind is brought to light in many ways. At Chapman University, middle and high school students bring the memories to life through art and writing. Chapman hosts an annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest that invites survivors, rescuers and students to interact in an engrossing experience.

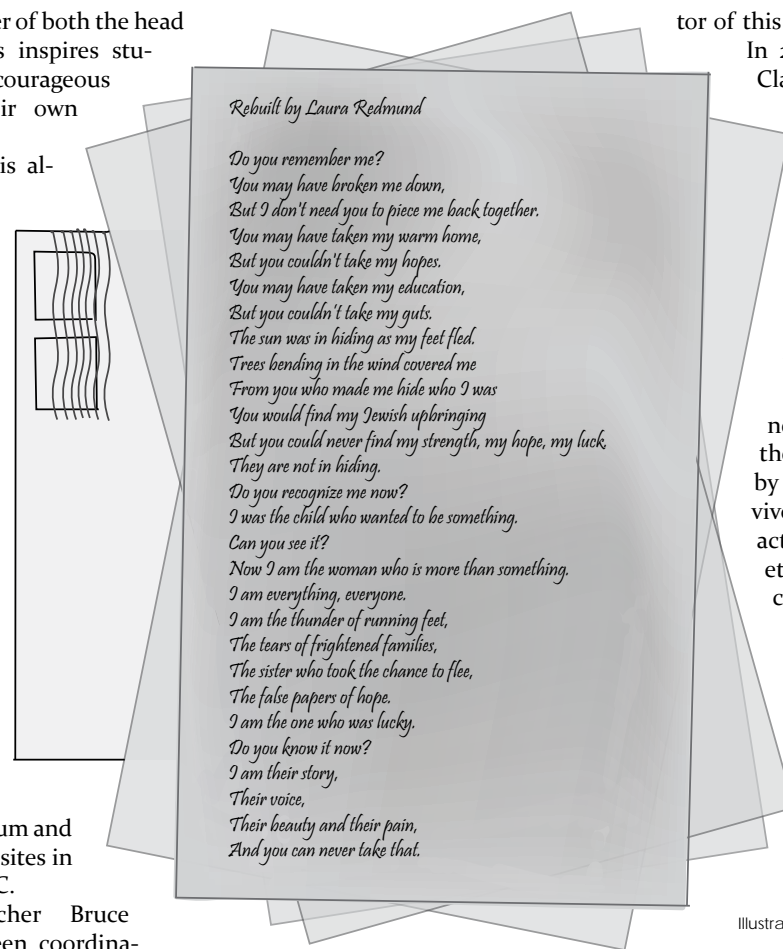
This year, the 17th Annual Holocaust Art and Writing Contest is themed "Making Meaning from Memory." The students' portrayal of a specific survivor or rescuer's testimony is the inspiration behind his or her artwork - in prose, art or film. This awareness of such a brutal topic invites a younger generation to act and learn from history.

The main purpose of this contest is to educate young people in their classroom and to demonstrate the lessons of the Holocaust survivors. According to the Holocaust and Writing Contest, the survivors' experiences and testimonies of living in persecution transforms educa-

tion into a matter of both the head and heart. This inspires students to make courageous choices in their own lives.

Each school is allowed a total of three entries. The student representatives are qualified to win the first prize of \$500 and second prize of \$250 in each category. Along with the money, the first place entry winner is invited to attend an all-expense-paid study trip to tour the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and other memorial sites in Washington, D.C.

English teacher Bruce Fleming has been coordina-



tor of this event since 2007.

In 2009, his student Clara Mora became very engaged with a survivor, and it displayed in her poetry; she won first place. Both Fleming and Mora were able to travel to Washington D.C.

"Making a connection through the work, especially by bringing the survivor's own words or actions into the poetry for example, is critical," Fleming said.

In prior years, several SMCHS students have won first or been a finalist, including: 2008, First Place, High School Po-

etry Division, Clara Mora; 2009, First Place, High School Poetry Division, Laura Redmond; 2011, Finalist, High School Art Division, Madison Weil; and 2013, Finalist, High School Poetry Division, May Li.

Fleming has multiple reasons behind joining the program, including some personal.

"I volunteered to be coordinator because I have an interest in writing contests and humanitarian affairs," Fleming said. "And, of course, because my family is Jewish. I am not Jewish by birth but my wife and children are Jewish, and her relatives [lived] in Poland and Russia during World War II."

This year, submissions are yet to be determined on who will appear on behalf of SMCHS. The deadline was on Feb. 3. The Awards Ceremony will be held on March 10, 2017.

"The decision [on artwork] is accorded upon which participant fits the criteria the best," Fleming said.

By being reminded of this harsh reality, the connections between survivors and students bring a light to the darkness of the Holocaust.



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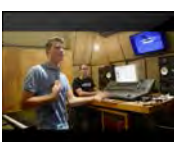
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Fiddler's new faces

"Fiddler on the Roof" features seniors in their first ever musical.

By Dessi Gomez, Arts & Entertainment Editor

One more time. One last hurrah. The final show. As veteran Talon Theater seniors gear up to leave it all on the stage for the final performance of their high school career, they look back on their four memorable years in SMCHS's theater program. But, while reminiscing about past fall plays and spring musicals, the Class of 2017 will spice things up in its last spring musical, "Fiddler on the Roof." Talon Theater welcomes to the cast of Fiddler five seniors who have never before performed in an SMCHS musical:

Isaac Montes, Grayson Burke, Grant Pratt, Mary Muzzy and Louise Griffin.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people, getting to

know more of my classmates and learning about how productions are done," Montes said. "I've always seen shows, and I admire the actors but I've never seen it be produced, so I'm excited to learn how that's done."

Montes just finished his final season of high school football, and he chose to fill his free time by participating in the musical. He draws inspiration from his sister and SMCHS alumna Melissa Montes, who took part in Talon Theater throughout her four years of high school.

"I feel like I should have done it sooner just to get the experience, but it's also fun knowing that I'm gonna get to experience it," Montes said. "That's the best I can do at this point."

Montes will play a Russian character in Fiddler. "I've never done an audition of any sort other than choir, and I've never acted before or anything like that, so it was nerve-racking standing there and acting," Montes said.

Everyone who auditioned was required to sing and dance for evaluation. The

comforting and welcoming first impression of the cast and crew made a big impact on Muzzy. She is now inspired-

to make long-lasting friendships.

"I'm looking forward to the atmosphere because everyone in theater is so close and I think it would be fun to join in and get to know everyone really well and have a second family," Muzzy said.

Although new to Talon Theater and the 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. rehearsals on Saturdays, Montes is not new to the workload and commitment that the musical requires due to his past commitment to football as well as his exposure to theater through his sister. Burke and Pratt share Montes' undaunted feelings toward the musical as they also participated in football for the first time this year. This is Pratt's first musical and Burke's second, as Burke participated in a musical his freshman year at a different high school.

"I've never been a part of a play and I

thought it would be fun to be a part of it, so why not, you know?" Pratt said "It's my last chance to do it."

Pratt will play one of the Papas as well as a Jew. Burke will play a Russian as well as a son. Both Pratt and Burke eagerly look forward to the rehearsals and performances.

"The process of it is going to be a grind but it's going to be fun," Burke said. "And if you aren't loving the process, you're not going to love the end result as much."

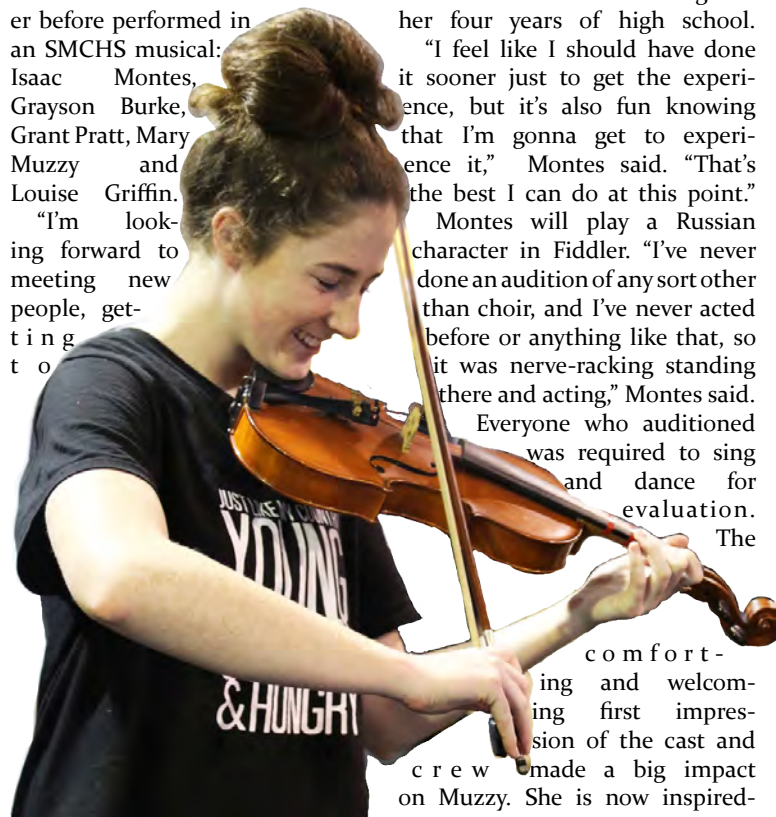
Griffin will play the main dancing role of the fiddler. Griffin's twin sister Claire convinced her to participate in Fiddler, along with the encouragement of last year's choreographer.

"I look forward to being with everyone and

getting to perform because I love performing," Griffin said. "The community's great."

All of these seniors share a common goal in wanting to be more comfortable with themselves both on and off the stage by the end of the rehearsal process.

"I really just want to be more confident," Muzzy said. "I'm fine on stage but in real life I want to be able to talk in front of others more than I do now. I want to keep my head up all the time which I think the musical will help with."



Newbies - Seniors Louise Griffin (far left), Grant Pratt (left), Grayson Burke (right) and Isaac Montes (far right) join the spring musical before they graduate.

photos by Amanda Zou

Plucking and playing away

Olivia Young's musical passion drives her to play bass guitar in school mass.

By Rachel Tetreault, Staff Writer

As students pour into the school gym wearing their mass uniforms and taking their seats on the bleachers, the lights turn low and everyone turns his or her attention to the front of the gym. As the band gets ready to perform, junior Olivia Young plays along for her first year, with the pluck of the bass guitar.

Beginning of her junior year, Young was approached, by the previous bass player, Matilda Vertiz, and asked if she could take over the job.

At first, Young was nervous, but she eventually got used to playing in front her peers and ended up discovering the joy it brings her.

"Playing bass or any instrument is really relaxing and it feels really natural," Young said. "When I play in mass or in front of people for any reason, it's really exciting and I get a rush of adrenaline."

Young has been playing the guitar for two years and just this year, has self-taught herself to play the bass guitar.

"Transitioning to bass [guitar] wasn't that hard especially because I already knew how to

read music," Young said. "Once you know the basic idea of how a guitar works and where the notes are, it's pretty simple."

Young began her musical journey when she was four years old, and has grown up with music as a big part of her life.

"I realized that I was passionate about music a really long time ago," Young said. "I've been interested in music as long as I can remember."

Currently, Young plays four instruments: piano, guitar, bass guitar and the ukulele, from the influence of her dad, a musician himself.

"[My dad] has been my biggest inspiration since I was little. He always encourages me to do what I want and to do it well," Young said. "My dad was a drummer, so I grew up around a lot of musicians and got to see how they created all this amazing music and I really wanted to be part of it."

With the early influence of music, Young plans to become a professional musician herself.

"I want to become a musician because listening to music is very inspiring and exciting for



Mass musician - Junior Olivia Young helps lead worship at mass with her bright red bass guitar.

photo by Amanda Zou

me," Young said. "If I were able to inspire some other people by doing something I love then I think that's pretty amazing."

Young believes music allows her to be more resilient during the

tough times in her life. Moreover, Young believes that music is healing and soothing to anyone that loves music as much as she does.

"[Music] is one of those things that you know is always there,"

Young said. "There is always some song or genre that fits really well into whatever I am feeling. It helps me get through life, as cheesy as that sounds, and it accentuates the good and makes the bad more bearable."

Application to audition

Students pursuing theatre and vocal performance in college pour themselves into the rigorous application process.

By Dessi Gomez, Arts and Entertainment Editor

For most seniors, the college application process can be too much to handle. However a select few have chosen to go above and beyond the typical application process in order to audition for musical theater or vocal performance majors. This type of college application requires much more than simply filling out information and completing a few essay prompts.

Senior Matilda Vertiz hopes to pursue musical theater in college. Vertiz has applied to several schools for theater, including San Francisco State University, New York University, Columbia College of Chicago, Chapman University and Marymount Manhattan.

"The audition itself and going in there and meeting everybody who could be your potential teacher or director for a show or choir director is very nerve-racking because that's your first impression," Vertiz said. "If you don't make a good one, and if you end up going to that school it could be awkward."

Most art schools require an audition and musical theater requires two contrasting songs like a ballad and an up-tempo song and then two contrasting monologues like a comedy and a tragedy. For vocal performance auditions, schools usually want two or three songs in two to three different languages.

"The audition process at SM is a lot like what they expect you to do in college," Vertiz said. "Mrs. Barth is great at being super professional and super organized."

With Talon Theater's help in preparing the students, Vertiz landed a spot at her number one school, Columbia College of Chicago. She hopes to take advantage of the wide variety of classes that Columbia College offers such as stage combat, comedic writing, screenwriting, tap and jazz.

"It would be a dream to be on Broadway of course but if that doesn't happen I'll probably end

up as a voice teacher or a theater teacher," Vertiz said.

Senior Noah Hill is considering a major in vocal performance. Like Vertiz, he put a lot of work into his application process to music schools and conservatories. A conservatory is a school specifically geared toward music majors.

"I don't necessarily want to go to a conservatory because I still want to have my options open if I choose a different path or choose a different major," Hill said. "I'm trying to go to a university or a college with a program with conservatory."

Hill submitted to different

schools, a portfolio of video recordings of himself singing different songs. He also submitted a resume along with contacting and communicating with the directors of vocal programs at those schools.

"The most nerve-racking part is making sure that I perform well because at the end of the day even if you have an impressive resume for musical performance, if you mess up your audition, it doesn't matter what your record says," Hill said. "Keeping calm is difficult because it's daunting to have an audition that can determine your future in terms of your career."

Hill's list of schools for vocal performance include the Peabody School of Music at Johns Hopkins University, the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University, and schools containing joint programs with the New England Conservatory like Tufts University.

"Meeting Mr. Calvo my freshman year and working with him on my vocal development, continuing the travels like when I went to Ireland with the choir and performances through different festivals has given me so much preparation where there are members of faculty from colleges," Hill said.

Hill's admission results regarding application to schools, not for vocal performance, include two deferrals from the University of Michigan and Brown University.

"If I do look into something with vocal performance, I think I would do it just to continue what I've been doing for so many years," said Hill. "But to actually go into the realm of performance, it's almost all luck and unless you go to one of the extreme top conservatories you're not necessarily guaranteed a spot in an opera or on Broadway. That's why I still want to go to a university that has other great programs."

With all the hard work put into the application and audition process, these seniors have much to look forward to. The reward of acceptance to a prestigious arts program makes all the extra requirements worth it.



Performing prowess - Vertiz and Hill appreciate the rewards for their hard work during the application process. photo by Amanda Zou

First lady first refusal



Illustration by Amanda Moussiaux

Among many things, Trump women also specialize in fashion.

By Amanda Moussiaux, Staff Writer & Amanda Zou, Photo Editor

Every first lady is a role model in some aspect of American life. Former first lady Michelle Obama was known for making kids active, advocating public services and women's rights as well as her fashion.

This election puts first lady Melania Trump in the spotlight as the newest role model. President Donald Trump's family members, also become leading examples, especially the president's famous daughter Ivanka. These women are the newest fashion icons both inside and outside of the White House.

The fashion industry has always had a close relationship with the political field. With Trump's suc-

cessful election, he and his family has possibly become more connected to the fashion industry than any other presidential family.

Melania promotes her own fashion lines while wearing high fashion clothing. Ivanka, modelling in magazines and for fashion labels since she was just 16 started her own fashion brand in 2007.

The fashion industry has a strong connection to Melania and Ivanka. Because Melania was a model, she supports many young designers like Jason Wu and Prabal Gurung. In addition, according to The Los Angeles Times, Ivanka Trump's brand has become a sizable, stable and a popular brand in recent years. Her line includes apparel, accessories, home, fragrance and sunglasses. Ivanka and her team claim the brand is a celebration of working women in all

aspects of their lives.

However, these two fashion icons have been under attack by the fashion industry since shortly after the election.

The international top tier designer company, Dolce & Gabbana, received threats and verbal abuse after agreeing to dress the first lady for the inauguration events.

Not only are stores boycotting the first lady, but some designer labels are refusing service to the first lady because they do not support the president. However, others who are willing to dress her are jumping at the opportunity to get publicity and attention to their lines.

Friendships in the fashion industry are starting to fade. The Vogue contributing editor, André Leon Talley has declined to dress Melania, but claims he will stand by her, just not support her

husband.

Ivanka Trump has already been accused of using her father's politics to advance her company because her brand revenue increased in the first six months of 2016 by \$11.8 million compared to the same period in 2015.

However, she explained at Fortune's Most Powerful Women conference that her brand was launched long before the presidential cycle.

"I've always tried to maintain complete separation between [the brand] and the campaign," Ivanka said during the conference.

Throughout the campaign, Ivanka worked on promoting her father within the political field, while still promoting her business aside from his politics.

Several fashion stores, like Nordstrom, were unhappy with the

election result, and have chosen to boycott her brand by declining to sell Ivanka's products.

The Trump women have not shown much reaction to the boycotts. Instead, they have been focused on the administration and where their clothing and businesses are being accepted and thriving.

With the long history of dressing the first lady, and the unique blend of industry and politics, this is possibly the first time a controversy this huge has emerged. However, besides the issues within the White House and the fashion industry, the Trump women's brands still flourish outside of the White House.

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Eagle Eye Staff.