

PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School • 15800 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Controversial Alt-right substitute fired in MoCo

By FLYNN SNYDER
Managing Editor

Last month, Gregory Conte, a former substitute teacher at Quince Orchard, was fired from his position at the Academy of the Holy Cross in Maryland after it was discovered that he had strong ties to a white nationalist group and the demonstrations in Charlottesville, VA in August of 2017.

Conte worked at Holy Cross as a coach and substitute. He was removed after students connected him to the white nationalist movement known as the "alt-right" through a series of social media posts.

The Alternative Right, aka alt-right, is classified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as "a set of far-right ideologies, groups and individuals whose core belief is that 'white identity' is under attack by multicultural forces using 'political correctness' and 'social justice' to undermine white people and 'their civilization.'" Conte told the *Washington Post* that he has worked with Richard Spencer, leader of the alt-right movement in the past.

The National Policy Institute, an organization led by Spencer and "dedicated to the heritage, identity, and future of people of European descent in the United States," lists Conte as the Director of Operations. The institute also claims that Conte has been essential in the planning of their events and the protection of its staff,



PHOTO COURTESY OF TWITTER

including Spencer.

Conte, who used the name Gregory Ritter on social media, tags Spencer in a variety of his postings and posts multiple links to the National Policy Institute website. Conte also associated himself with the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville, VA. Those protests gained widespread coverage in the summer of 2017 after an outbreak of violence occurred and one demonstrator was killed after being struck by a car.

MCPS froze Conte's substitute status on

November 1, according to the *Washington Post*. The MCPS nondiscrimination statement prohibits discrimination based on race, gender, ethnicity, and other traits. In a statement from MCPS spokesman Derek Turner, the school system said that Conte's background had become a distraction.

"It's not having these views. It's how he expresses those views and how it affects our students," said Turner to the *Washington Post*.

Many students from QO, who have sat in on Conte's classes, are also reacting to

this discovery. While many students are surprised by the findings, most noted that Conte did not directly refer to any alt-right material while in the classroom.

"I was really mad and scared in a way," said senior Tobi Baisburd. "It's so disgusting to think about an anti-Semit[e] at our Starbucks."

"QO is such a diverse school that anyone who holds those types of views should not be allowed to teach here, regardless of whether or not he was spreading anything," said senior Brent Jamsa.

Conte is a former student of Quince Orchard and was a former editor-in-chief of *The Prowler*.

In the days following his dismissal from the Academy of the Holy Cross, Conte spoke to several local news outlets and reacted to the story.

"Diversity leads to social problems, it leads to conflict, it leads to war," Conte said to WJLA ABC7. "You should've stood up for me. I've expressed a slightly out of normal position political opinion. You're going to throw me by the wayside."

Conte also told FOX5DC that the private school fired him to prevent backlash. He says that he never had any prior problems with the school and that his views did not impact the school's daily operations.

According to the *Washington Post*, Conte is not sure if he was ever fired from MCPS, but does not intend on teaching within the school system in the near future.

Olympics Drama: the Koreas' tension intensifies

By CINDY LIU
Managing Editor

Today marks the beginning of the 2018 Winter Olympics. However, this year's Games are not just important for sports enthusiasts, as everyone is on the edge of their seats due to the political climate. Although the host city is going to be Pyeongchang, South Korea, its northern neighbor, surprisingly, has revealed that they will participating, thus ending a two-year silence between the two Koreas.

While the possibility for reconcile seems hopeful, there's an abundance of difficulties following this change: first and foremost, safety. Pyeongchang is only 60 miles away from the Demilitarized Zone dividing North Korea and South Korea. With North Korea's constant threats of launching nukes, back in February, US officials even suggested withdrawing from the Games due to security concerns before insisting that American athletes would compete. South Korea has already been conducting anti-terror drills, ranging from a hostage situation, a vehicle ramming a stadium,

and a bomb attached to a drone, according to Reuters. Besides the security concerns, there's also bubbling drama between the Koreas. As in the 1991 Winter Olympics, it was decided that the two Koreas will have a joint team and compete under one flag and one name,

"Korea." Although this could better the relations between the North and South, many South Koreans are not happy about the news. Unlike the 1991 Olympics, the "International Olympics Committee's decision to allow the North to participate hasn't been met with the universal ac-

claim one might expect," reported *The Atlantic*, describing South Korea's reaction as "chilly." Tension is high in South Korea's political climate right now—resulting in North Korea canceling a pre-Olympic joint cultural event, "blaming [it on the] 'insulting' South Korean news media coverage of its participation in the Winter Olympics." A recent *Atlantic* poll reveals "44.1 percent in favor [of the joint teams] versus 42.6 percent against." However, whether they like it or not, the South is stuck with the North as the present situation stands, with the joint Korean women's hockey team having had their first practice on January 28.

Other than the conflicts in Korea, Russia came into the headlines again regarding the Olympics. It is well known by now that Russia is banned from the 2018 Olympics due to their doping scandal. Having said that, the IOC has allowed Russian athletes to compete under a 'neutral flag,' having already approved 169 athletes to "compete as 'Olympic Athletes from Russia,'" according to *Deutsche Welle*. Many are criticizing the IOC as a result, believing that Russia got off too easy.



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News

See who took a Grammy home this year and other highlights

Page 3

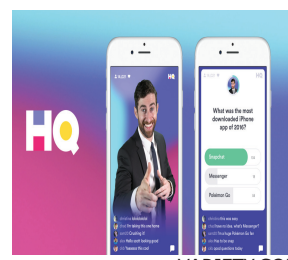


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Features

Find out more about the new and exciting game that has everybody talking

Page 5

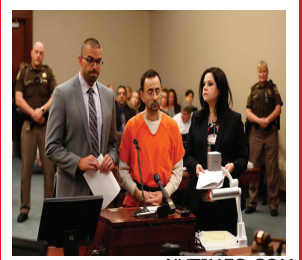


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Sports

Updates on Larry Nassar's trial and the USAG scandal

Page 9



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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to qohsprowler@gmail.com, mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or dropped off directly to Ms. Cooley-Klein's mailbox in Room 231 (English Office). Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students take Journalism A & B to qualify for the Advanced Publications class.



Are harassment victims ushering in a new era?

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Managing Editor

Roman Polanski, Woody Allen, Harvey Weinstein, Aziz Ansari, Kevin Spacey. These are only a fraction of the names of men in Hollywood that have been accused of sexual harassment/abuse in the past few years. In the past year alone, hundreds of women have spoken out against these men and other notable celebrities. These allegations gave way to the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, which spotlight the stories of sexual abuse victims and survivors.

However, many people have been arguing that if we blacklist all such men, then there will be no male figureheads left in Hollywood. Senior Jeremy Robinson finds that the treatment of those accused

should be assessed "on a case by case basis." Given that every survivor's story is different than the next, it does not seem fair to categorize them as one. "[How the perpetrators are treated] really depends on the circumstance... it is hard to make a blanket statement," says junior Ryan Gniadek.

The culpable are not just men, either. Actress and writer Lena Dunham received a great deal of backlash in 2014 after publishing her autobiography *Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's Learned*. In the book, Dunham describes her relationship with her sister when she was young, and recalls a specific experience that led some readers to believe that she was a sexual predator. Dunham was dubbed a molester by many. 2017 was a turning point for

the movement against sexual harassment in that so many survivors gained the courage to come forward with their stories. However, this is not the first time such a movement has come about in U.S. history. In 1991 U.S. attorney Anita Hill began a similar uproar, but

the accused were politicians, largely Congressmen, not Hollywood celebrities. Anita Hill testified against conservative Supreme Court justice Clarence Thomas, her former employer. Hill accused Thomas of making advances on her, even after she made it clear that she was not interested. Hill was the voice for women in politics at the time, and her coming forward gave way to many other survivors telling their stories.

There are those who are skeptical of such stories, though. Some supporters of those accused, whether they be actors or congressmen, believe the accusers to be lying. However, it seems that majority of the public stand behind the victims. "I think that they were all telling the truth... I do not think this is something that one should make up," says senior Olivia Coto.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COSMOPOLITAN

THE BEGINNING OF AN ERA:
Anita Hill testifies against Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991.

Rho Kappa's annual coffee house is a hit

By **FLYNN SNYDER**
Managing Editor

The smell of coffee and the strumming of acoustic guitars filled the cafeteria late last month as Rho Kappa, QO's social studies honor society, put on the annual Coffee House event. All of the proceeds will benefit the Doctors Without Borders Charity.

Rows of tables and chairs arranged in a semi-circle formation faced the stage that was illuminated by blue and purple lighting. Students from all classes awaited eagerly outside to see the talent line

up scheduled for the night.

"[Coffee House] went really well. Everyone really enjoyed all the acts," said Edith Martinez, Rho Kappa's Vice President of Service. "It's good for kids to be able to showcase their talent."

Everyone from fellow students to supporting parents came out to cheer on the performers and raise money for a good cause. Many enjoyed a bake sale and music from all different genres including rock and pop. Even a quartet from the QO theater department closed out the show.

Junior Jackson Freed, a member of one of the acts

said that it is important for the school to host events that showcase student talent.

"It's nice to have everyone come together," said Freed.

Not only does Coffee House invite students to perform for the entire QO community, the event also provides a chance to raise money for charitable organizations.

"[The show] supports organizations and this year's is Doctors Without Borders," said Rho Kappa President, Maddie Jamsa. "Rho Kappa is all about giving back to the community ... and [Coffee House] has a pretty significant impact." Doctors Without Bor-

ders is an organization that delivers medical aid around the globe to people affected by conflicts and disasters.

By the end of the show, Rho Kappa was able to raise close to 500 dollars. Jamsa hopes that the Coffee House tradition will continue for many more years to come.

"Rho Kappa is all about giving back to the community."

- Maddie Jamsa

NEWS FLASHES

Historic flooding of Seine river takes place

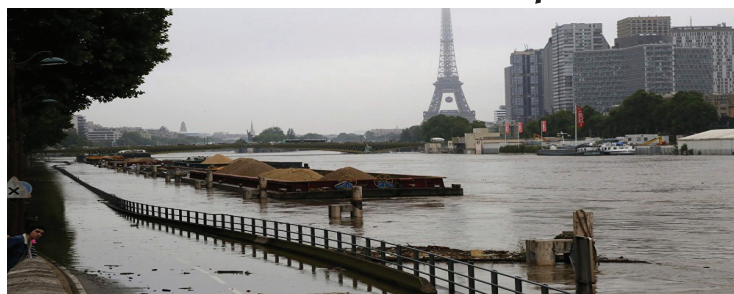


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPUTNIKNEWS.COM

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Managing Editor

The Seine river in Paris, France overflowed and flooded the area on Sunday, January 28. The illustrious river rose to nearly 19 feet as a result of rainstorms. Yet Parisians were undaunted, and there was no talk of evacuating the area. Pedestrians found several creatures floating around Notre Dame; a silure, which resembles a catfish and thrives in the Seine, was among one of the more grotesque beings. Rats inhabiting the area around the Louvre were also flushed out by the flood. Many were worried about the valued artworks of the Louvre and the Musee d'Orsay being threatened by the flood. Pulitzer Prize winner Laurie Garrett was among this group; the acclaimed journalist reported that luckily "35,000 works [were] relocated over a period of 24 hours" at the Louvre, via @laurie_garrett on Twitter.

Shutdown raises questions about current administration



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBC NEWS

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**
Managing Editor

The first federal government shutdown since 2013 lasted only three days and came to an end on January 22. The bipartisan deal reached in Congress affirmed that the government would stay open until February 8, when the deal was reevaluated (as of publication, the decision of this reevaluation is undetermined). The shutdown occurred because Congress's previously passed funding law expired before a new one could be passed. The shutdown has many speculating as to whether or not the current administration is effective. This is not the first time this has happened; the federal government has shut down approximately 18 times before in United States history. The 2013 shutdown, which lasted over two weeks, had much more severe consequences; nearly 800,000 federal employees were jobless and without an income.



VIEWPOINT

GRAMMYS return to New York with emotional set

By JENNA SHATZMAN
Managing Editor

The GRAMMY Awards celebrated its 60th Anniversary on January 28, and did so by returning to Madison Square Garden in New York City for the first time since 2003. The GRAMMYS' return to its previous stage gave way to a night filled with powerful vocals, inspirational performances, and lots of politics. But, considering how award shows have been going recently, was it naive of me to expect anything less?

Kendrick Lamar opened the show with one of the most dynamic performances of the night, combining rap, rock and comedy. As someone who is not a fan of rap, I can still admit that Lamar never fails to put on a monumental performance. Although

surrounded by about 30 dancers throughout the majority of his performance, Lamar was not lost and his talent was not overshadowed.

The rest of the memorable moments of the night weren't defined by elaborate performances but rather the stripped back, soul-wrenching moments. The first was when an army of female singers—Cyndi Lauper, Camila Cabello, Andra Day, Julia Michaels, and Bebe Rexha—supported Kesha on stage for her anthem "Praying," an appropriate way for the biggest night in music to respond to the recent sexual harassment allegations in Hollywood. The second was when Logic, Khalid, and Alessia Cara teamed up to perform their suicide awareness song "1-800-273-8255." Their performance once again led to a

jump in calls to the hotline.

Instead of her usual acrobatic performances, P!nk's performance matched the tone of the night, singing her ballad "Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken" in a baggy white t-shirt and jeans—a decision that was needed to differentiate this performance from her others. Her powerhouse vocals shined through and showed that she is one of the true vocalists of our time.

Now to the awards part of the award show—Bruno Mars was distinctly the winner of the night, taking home three of the night's biggest awards: Album of the Year, Record of the Year, and Song of the Year. The well-deserving, and a favorite of mine, Alessia Cara won Best New Artist, the perfect way to top off her milestone of a year. One of the biggest sur-

prises of the night was that record-breaking song "Despacito" walked away without winning any awards, as did Jay-Z, Childish Gambino, Khalid, and SZA, despite having numerous nominations. Overall, the night

was not a defining one in GRAMMYS history, but it was one worth watching and one that showcased the powerful vocalists that currently make up the foundation of the music industry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA TIMES

MAKING A STATEMENT: Superstar Kesha was joined by other powerful women in music to stand up against sexual assault.

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Matt Post made his way to Quince Orchard

By JENNA SHATZMAN
Managing Editor

SMOB (Student Member on Board) Matt Post has been visiting schools throughout his term and finally made his way to our home turf at the general assembly meeting on Friday, January 19. Post came to outline his role as SMOB, discuss his opinion on current events in the county, and prepare us for upcoming changes in the county—some exciting, some controversial.

A primary topic of Post's visit was the county's \$2.95 billion operating budget, a subject that even he admitted "seems like a dull topic, a budget a list of numbers and bullet points." He added, "However, our county's budget is a reflection of our school system's values and priorities."

Post explained that Mont-

gomery County is placing an emphasis in the budget on ensuring that students are not only college ready, but career ready. In doing so, the county will be inputting numerous programs to ensure that kids will "walk across the graduation stage" either already having obtained an associate's degree in the career that they wish to pursue, or prepared to take on a major that obtains to that career. Within the next year, Montgomery County will extend the Career Pathways Program, provide one free ACT or SAT test for students, and relieve students of having to pay for tests to get into magnet schools. The county will be implementing career pathways in areas such as aviation and aerospace, medicine, STEM, law enforcement, fire fighting, and agriculture.

The other part of the budget,



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COMMUNITY MEDIA

made up of about \$1.7 billion, as Post explained, is the Capital Improvements Plan. This sector of the budget is used for new infrastructure and building. Recently, Montgomery County has experienced enormous growth and has expanded by 22,000 students in the past 10 years. In the last year, the county has grown by 3,000 students which, as Post revealed, is the capacity

of one overcrowded high school.

Although \$1.7 billion seems like an unfathomable amount of money, it is not enough to keep with the growing demands of the county's student population, which would require building one new school every year. However, proposals for new elementary, middle school, and high schools are underway. Woodward High School in Rock-

ville will be reopening after being closed in 1987. There will also be a new high school built in Crown by the mid 2020s—a deadline set in order for the county to retain that land.

Post seemed excited and hopeful for the future of our county and the programs that will be implemented to prepare students for life outside of school.

"Our county's budget is a reflection of our school system's values and priorities."

- Matt Post

Stock market hits all-time high as 2018 begins

By BRANDON FRIEDMAN
Editor-in-Chief

After a record-breaking 2017, the start of 2018 has only set more records when it comes to stocks and the U.S. stock market. From the rise of Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies to the fall in value of the US dollar, many have been left wondering where the US is headed financially.

Since Trump has taken office, the main market indicators—the DOW, NASDAQ, and S&P 500—have all shattered records of earnings in previous years. The DOW recently surpassed 26,000 for the first time in history and is continuing to surge towards 27,000. In the beginning of 2017, the DOW was at an all-time high of nearly 18,000 but surpassed that number within the year.

Many people cite Trump as being the main factor in the booming economy. Trump has made it clear that a big goal of his is to deregulate the American economy, allowing large corporations to bring in more revenue and more money to the American economy.

Although the market is surging

upwards by the day, senior Devin Straight who interns at Striquer Funds claims that signs such as "the yield curve inverting" and the potential bad reaction to "banks unwind[ing] their massive balance sheets" point to a potential recession in the economy. The yield curve indicates how mature bonds are in relationship to short/long term values and whether or not bonds are worth a lot of money while the release of balance sheets leaves banks with less money in reserves for loans and other investments.

Even with the possibility of a recession on the horizon, it's also possible that the market could continue to grow every day.

According to Investopedia.com, the widespread "confidence in products and businesses in the U.S. have helped maintain the potency of the U.S. market."

When big companies such as Amazon, Microsoft, and Apple are able to increase their stock values by nearly 50%, it's no wonder the stock market is breaking records day after day.

In Trump's State Of the Union address, he mentioned how "the stock

market has smashed one record after another, gaining \$8 trillion in value" and how this is "great news for Americans' 401k, retirement, pension, and college savings accounts."

Something no one can quite figure out is why the market is doing so well if the value of the USD is the lowest it's been in nearly a decade. American businessman and CEO of Bloomberg L.P. Michael Bloomberg claims that he "cannot for the life of me understand why the market keeps going up."

Senior Alec Rappaport who is an avid stock trader said that "a weak dollar theoretically should mean weak trades, but that's just not been the case recently" as the market continues to surge upward.

One interesting aspect of the weakening dollar has been the rise of cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin and Ethereum. Many claim the uprising of cryptocurrencies and a decentralized currency to be the reason for the decline in value of the USD. In 2017 alone, hundreds of new cryptocurrencies were added in addition to the thousand or so already existing in 2016.

What really scares people away

from the dollar though, is the "monetary crises in unstable governments like those of Greece, Venezuela, and Spain" according to *The Medium* journalist Maria Bustillos.

The potential of an inflation crisis drives people away from the paper dollar, which in turn weakens its value.

As the economy continues to grow, one thing is for sure: no one knows what the future holds for the stock market and which direction it will trend.

Even with the possibility of a recession on the horizon, it's also possible that the market could continue to grow every day.

The Prowler

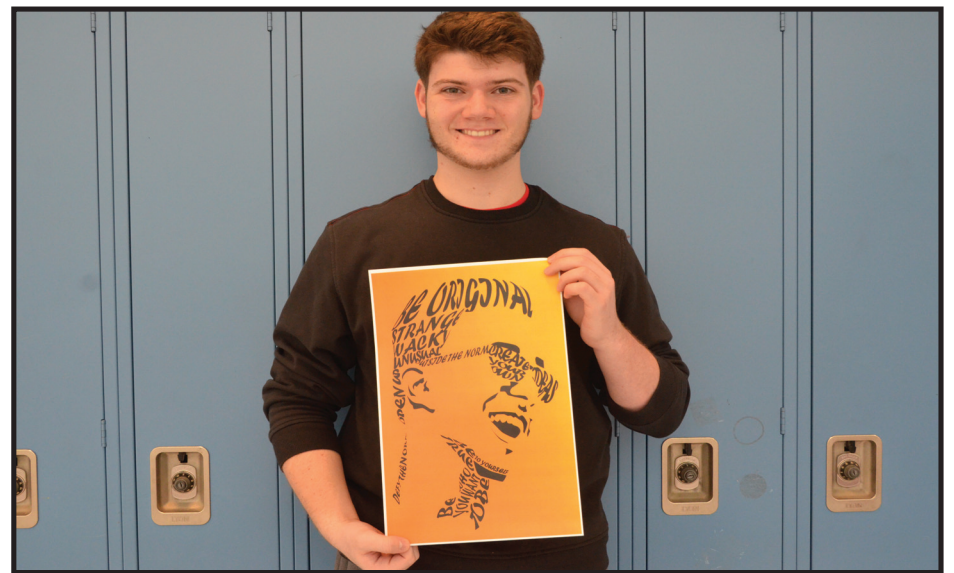


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Any questions? Email megan_m_cooley-klein@mcpsmd.org for further information.





PHOTOS BY TORI BERRY

OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD: Congratulations to these QO talents for their achievements in the PTSA Reflections Competition! These winners are Maggie Regan with "1-800-799-7233" (top left), Megan Wormald with "Escape" (top right), Yardley Borten with originally composed music "Reaching Out" (bottom left), and Jeffrey Brown with "Keiyon's Smile" (bottom right).

Take the true trivia challenge

By **NICKI THOMAS**
Managing Editor

Trivia HQ, the live game show that you can play through your phone, is now taking the world by storm. HQ dropped in the app store in August 2017 and came with a small following, but now games can reach up to over one million people.

On weekdays, two games are played at 3 PM and 9 PM, and on the weekends you can play the single game at 9pm. Most games include 12 questions, going from easy to more difficult, with a grand prize of \$2,000 that is split between all those who make it to the end; however, there have been several games that defy the usual standards. Individuals have earned anywhere from just over a dollar to around \$6,000.

Several games have had an increase in prize money followed by an increase in players and questions; these games can lead large payouts for the players who make

it to the end.

Senior Jenna Gold began playing HQ when her friends informed her of the game. Currently, she has made it all the way to question 7. "I really enjoy the game, [and the host] Scott Rogowsky is my favorite, even though he talks too much," she said. "With so many people playing, I think that they should give away more money and add more questions."

Junior Lindsey Thoms also began playing due to her friends and has made it to question 8. "My favorite part of the game is that it keeps me thinking," said Thoms.

Although winning is rare, Saint John's High School junior Quinn O'Keefe was a lucky winner and ended up with nearly \$100, and he is very proud of his accomplishment.

Trivia HQ and its most prevalent host, Scott Rogowsky, have taken over more than one million people's minds for 30 minutes a day, and they don't plan on stopping anytime soon: cash prizes are said to possibly go up to \$1,000,000 according to Variety.com.

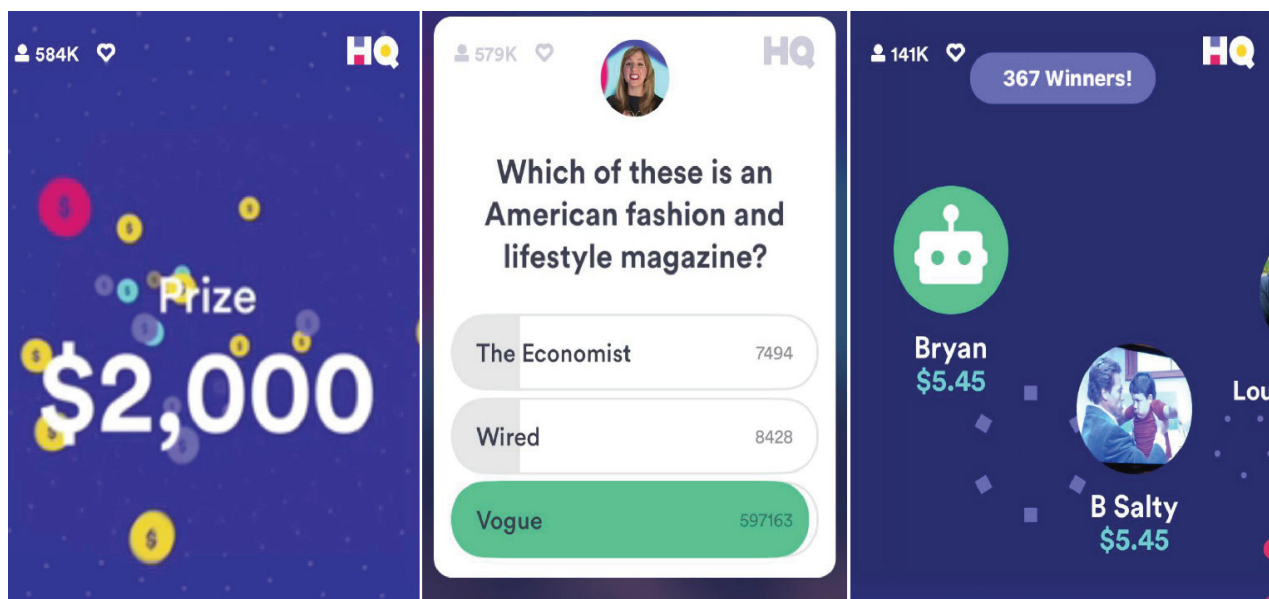


PHOTO COURTESY OF NARCITY.COM

EYES ON THE PRIZE: Those who participate in the worldwide phenomenon can win cash prizes up to \$2,000.



Ms. Summer Paglianete: "I once got broken up with because I forgot my boyfriend's birthday. (After dating three years!) Ooops lol."

Mr. Martin Nelson: "Cheaters never phosphorus!"

Mr. Michael Schweizer: "I bought my prom date a fake rose and didn't even realize it; let's just say she was mad."

Mr. Matt Marsden: "Be true to yourself."

Mr. Joshua Schuman: "One time, I let out a big, juicy fart in order to get a sense of my date's type of humor."

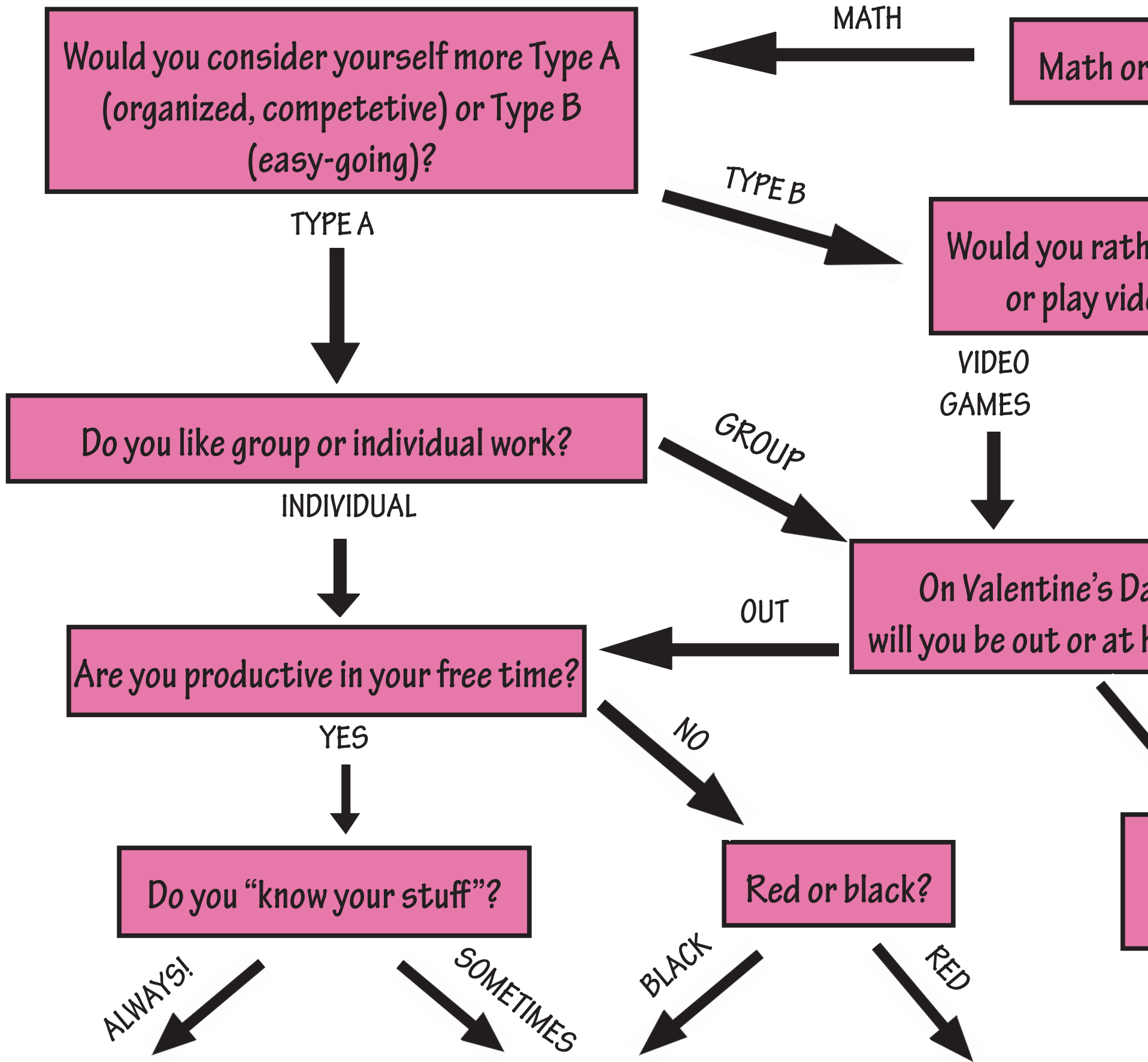
Ms. Jennifer Yang: "My date ate all the food off my plate when I went to the bathroom."

Quotes collected by Claire Sullivan, Managing Editor

Find Your Perfect

Take this short quiz to determine wh

By MADISON MILLS A
Double Truck Managi



You got Mr. Jernigan!

You are a successful, hardworking person. You will stop at nothing to be the best and have a top-notch work ethic. You are always there to share your knowledge with others.

You got Mr. Davis!

Despite the obstacles life throws at you, you are always an open-minded individual. You are a very well-rounded, intelligent person and people can come to you for just about anything.

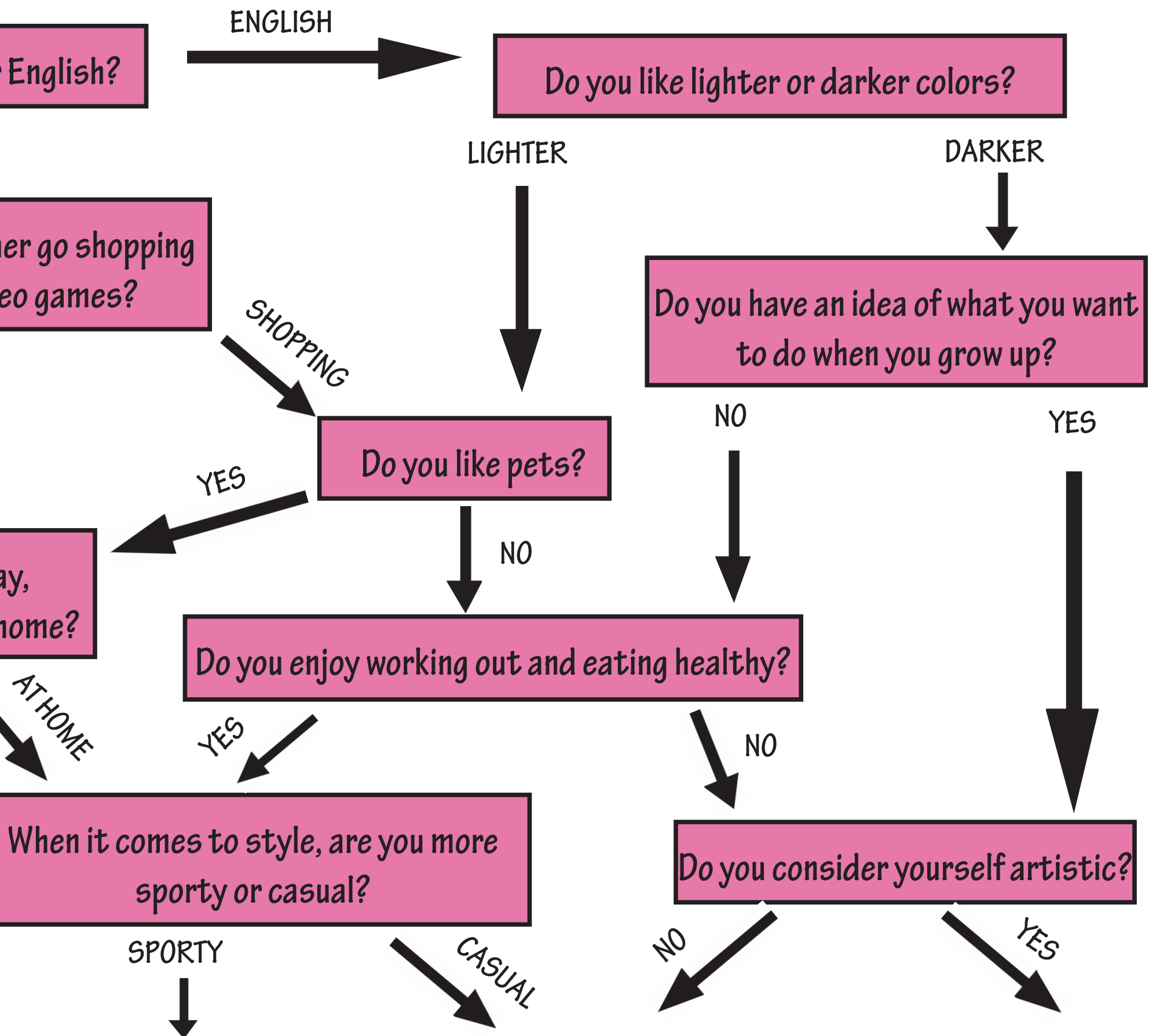
You got Mr. Boettcher!

People come to you to brighten their day! Not only are you funny, but you are a very kind-hearted person and care about the well being of others.

Teacher Match!

Which teacher you are most similar to.

AND KAITLYN PRICE
ing Editors



You got Ms. Blanchard!
Independent, strong, athletic... these are just a few of your main qualities. You are also a very smart individual and have a soft spot for dogs.

You got Mrs. Haase!
Adventure is calling! You are very funny, passionate and can never say no to a fun time. Your adventurous nature makes you exciting to be around.

You got Ms. Cardona!
You are one of a kind! You are friendly, creative and love to interact with others. Uniqueness is your best quality, so don't be afraid to embrace it!



HORROR-scopes

♈ Aquarius (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19): If you try your best and you don't succeed, it's because your best isn't good enough.

♉ Pisces (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20): That post on Twitter you didn't retweet? It will actually give you bad luck.

♊ Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 20): If you hear whispering behind your back, it's about you.

♋ Taurus (Apr. 21 - May 21): Run. Barricade your doors. Don't speak to anyone. The zombies are coming for what little brains you have.

♌ Gemini (May 22 - Jun. 21): Don't even bother buying a lottery ticket; you'll end up broke, no matter what.

♍ Cancer (Jun. 22 - Jul. 22): Don't get out of bed: there's nothing good waiting for you.

♎ Leo (Jul. 23 - Aug. 22): You'll miss 100% of the shots you do and don't take, sooo...

♏ Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sep. 23): Your favorite show on Netflix is gonna be taken down before you finish it.

♐ Libra (Sep. 24 - Oct. 23): If you have no friends in your new classes, it's because you don't really have any friends.

♑ Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): You're gonna see some snakes -- both figuratively and literally.

♒ Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21): That math test you just took? You failed.

♓ Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20): In the race that is life, you're coming in last place.

VIEWPOINT

Views by Alexa

Smaller clubs could suffer from 30 for 30 school fundraiser.

By **ALEXA ELLIOTT**
Managing Editor

The 30 for 30 fundraiser, for QO's 30th anniversary, will require all clubs to donate 10% of their fundraising to pay for a new Bermuda field conversion for the outer fields. This project costs \$73,000 and will reinstall irrigation and put in durable Bermuda grass for the field hockey, baseball, softball, and practice fields. While Booster and Athletics have agreed to cover \$43,000, events such as Mr. and Ms. QO and 10% of all fundraisers will cover the remaining \$30,000.

While this is an important fundraiser that will benefit many students, clubs that have less financial support should not be forced to donate money to this fundraiser.

Due to restricted finances, many clubs pay for their meetings and events themselves. For example, social studies teacher Kevin Lasko recently paid over \$300 out of his own pocket when two of his Model UN members dropped out of a conference. Model UN and many other clubs receive no funding from the school. While it is understandable to give more money to athletics, Drama Club,

and other clubs that have a wider membership and bring in more money for the school, smaller clubs with meager funds should be given exceptions regarding donating to this fundraiser.

For example, yearbook gains revenue from their \$90 yearbooks, but the Literary Magazine and the

We need to have an open dialogue between club officers and administration.

Prowler receive no profit from their publications, which are distributed throughout QO for free. If Literary Magazine has to give 10% of their fundraising money, it could be difficult for them to even publish the magazine.

Additionally, organizations such as the UNICEF Club and the Horticulture Club that have smaller membership often have less resources as well. These clubs,

though smaller in size, are still an important part of QO and provide a place where students with similar passions or talents can gather and work together. Donating 10% of money earned from fundraising can hurt clubs like these.

So I implore you, have you researched alternative forms of fundraising? Could we create more fundraisers specific to 30 for 30 in order to ease pressure off the clubs?

I want to have a more open conversation about QO clubs and the amount of money and support we receive from administration. We need to have an open dialogue between club officers and administration, so students can stay informed and offer feedback. I believe that there are other alternatives to the 10% donation rule. Perhaps clubs can be excused, only donate 5%, or donate 10% for a couple fundraisers instead of every fundraiser clubs run.

These fields will help student athletes, P.E. students, and Marching Band. So let's fundraise. Let's attend Mr. and Ms. QO. If you want to have a Chick-fil-a or Chipotle night, I'll go to it. But please, allow an open discussion and exceptions to the 10% donation rule.

Club corner: insight into Model United Nations

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Staff Writer

Thousands of students across the country and world participate in Model UN, an extracurricular activity that puts students' researching, debating, and critical thinking skills to the test.

"Model UN stands for Model United Nations, which is a club which takes on the diplomatic personalities of other countries they are assigned and argue for that country and issues that affect that country," said junior Lulia Fitiwi, a vice president of QO's chapter.

Students roleplay delegates and simulate UN committees at conferences that happen around every two months. At these conferences, students express their country's beliefs in committees in order to pass favorable resolution.

"Conferences are always the best part, and getting the experience makes it all the better for all the work we put into it," said junior Natilla Acosta, one of the other vice presidents.

In addition, students attempt to solve real-world issues with the perspectives of their assigned countries. Team members have to study up on their facts and history in order to put their best foot forward. It's important to study the countries' policies, views, and topics—and to plan ahead. "We go over procedures for the next couple weeks, study for our conferences, and [learn] how to write our position papers," responded Acosta.

Model UN strengthens

skills in writing, speaking, and learning, which not only helps students succeed now, but also prepares them for the future. Working with people within your group and from other schools builds teamwork and leadership abilities. Students have to compromise and work towards a common goal, meaning they have to listen and communicate.

Furthermore, the overall practice of speaking to peers and an audience helps improve students' public speaking, which is needed in the classroom and may also help students succeed in the working world. "I joined because I realized it would be a great opportunity to improve my skills. Being a part of the club, I learned about the United Nations, which helped in some classes," said junior Kevin Bae, secretary.

Model UN members work together to prepare and compromise in order to accomplish and meet their goals. Being a part of the team creates strong relationships and allows you to meet new people. "I've made great friendships being a part of Model UN," said senior Maxine Asenso, president.

"Students can come in any time, join any time in the year," Asenso added. At Model UN meetings, which are held every Friday at lunch in room 330, the team goes over their future plans, which includes upcoming conferences, strategies to use in committees, discussion and clarification on events.

For conferences, every delegate has to write a position paper, which is an essay detailing your assigned country's policies

on topics being discussed in your committee. Position papers take time and effort due to the research involved. "Making position papers is the most interesting part because you get the opportunity to learn about different countries and their history," said Bae.

Overall, Model UN is a group of dedicated students who put their minds together in order to simulate UN committees to solve real-world issues. Learning history, as well as practicing researching skills and effective communication, benefits the students towards achieving their goal. "Being a part of Model UN has made me a more involved citizen," said Fitiwi. "It helps you see the world from a different perspective."



COURTESY OF LULIA FITIWI

DEBATE: Members of Model UN debate at a conference.



COURTESY OF LULIA FITIWI

TEAMWORK: A group of Quince Orchard members jump in for a picture after a conference with sponsor Kevin Lasko.



Larry Nassar sentenced to prison for up to 170 years

The former Michigan State doctor had many counts of sexual abuse



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBS SPORTS

By **MATTHEW GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

Larry Nassar was an USA Gymnastics national team doctor and an osteopathic physician at Michigan State University. He committed a crime of sexual abuse to over 250 girls over an ongoing period of time. This sparked a lot of hatred towards him, as it should, and he received up to 125 years of jail time. His acts were cruel and disgusting,

and most people can agree with that as well. Because of the scandal, many employees of Michigan State University were on the hot seat. You may ask, why? It wasn't them, right? According to USA Today, the athletic director, Mark Hollis, resigned in the wake of the scandal. This could've meant that he knew about the whole situation, and decided not to share his word with anyone. Michigan State basketball

coach Tom Izzo and football coach Mark Dantonio were also on the hot seat as well, as many speculated that these two big time coaches knew about the ongoing scandal. Both were retained, as of now, as both denied knowing any part of what happened. The scandal, of course, resulted in hearings, which violence erupted in.

In the most recent hearing in Michigan, a father of some of the victims

spoke. He asked the judge for "a minute in a locked room" with Nassar, and as expected, the judge did not grant his request. This triggered the father to charge at Nassar, resulting him being taken down by the police in handcuffs. As he was being escorted, he yelled out "What if this happened to you guys?" The father was not punished for his actions during the hearing, and received praise from people around the world.

Late push for playoffs has Cougars rolling

GIRLS BASKETBALL

By **GABI EYRICH**
Managing Editor

The Girls Varsity Basketball team is pushing through a challenging season of daily intense practices, nail-biting games, and hours of reviewing filmed videos. Throughout the season, the team has had its ups and downs; however, the team has persevered through each game with their hard work, determination, and teamwork. With a current record (as of February 5th) of 5 wins and 8 losses, the girls are looking forward to improving their individual skills, as well as working towards being a more cohesive, dependant team.

Junior Izzy Nicolau says, "In practice, we focus on learning lots of plays and running them constantly," and adds, "We do this so we can execute the plays well when it comes to game time." And when it comes to game time, there's no messing around. To prepare, the team spends hours upon hours studying their filmed games. They do this to reflect on their mistakes and point out their strengths and weaknesses. This strategy has overall trained the players to visually realize what they need to improve and what needs to happen in the next game. Although they focus a lot on how to improve, they have noticed improvements that have already been made throughout the season.

"We've been starting to play more as a team, and we are starting to mesh and come together," says Nicolau. Senior Yekta Kamali says, "This season has been tough at times, but we are developing as a team and becoming better." Kamali's motivation is to "work hard to get better," which she has shown on and off the court. Junior Lindsey Michaels says, "Our team plays best when we work together

to play help-side defense, make the extra pass, and execute our plays the correct way." The girls recently had a successful game against the competitive Gaithersburg High School, which was an exciting

win for them. "I think that the biggest highlight of the season is beating Gaithersburg a few weeks ago," says Nicolau. "However, there [are] many more highlights to come." The team will look to

achieve success through the playoffs, as they have all of the weapons they need to do so, so come support the very successful lady Cougars in their playoff run!



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE SMITH

DRIVE AND KICK!: Senior Maggie Regan drives the court and looks to attack.

QO

GIRLS BASKETBALL RECORD
 AS OF 2/05/18

01/26/18
QO vs EINSTEIN WIN: 54-21
01/29/18
QO vs NORTHWEST WIN: 51-38
01/31/18
QO vs WOOTTON LOSS: 50-55
2/02/18
QO vs SENECA VALLEY WIN: 42-26
02/09/18
QO vs SPRINGBROOK @SPRINGBROOK: GAME STARTS AT 7:15
02/14/18
QO vs KENNEDY @HOME: GAME STARTS AT 5:30
02/16/18
QO vs WATKINS MILL @HOME: GAME STARTS AT 5:30



NHLers to be barred from Olympic Games this year

For the first time in five consecutive years, NHLers will not compete internationally

OLYMPICS

By JENNA KASE
Managing Editor

With the Olympic Winter Games approaching quickly, hockey fans of all countries will not be seeing many familiar faces in PyeongChang on February 9. This will be the first time in five consecutive years the fans will not see some of their favorite players lace up their skates and represent their country at the international level.

Hockey fans will not get to see their favorite players at the highest stage in hockey.

Last April, league commissioner of the NHL Gary Bettman announced that there would be no Olympic break in the 2017-2018 NHL schedule as there had been in previous years. Bettman's decision to skip the Olympics this year came from a series of disputes between the NHL and IOC (International Olympic Committee) on the costs to send the athletes to the Olympics and who would cover them. In previous years, the IOC would cover



PHOTO COURTESY OF NHL.COM

CONTROVERSY: Star players, such as Pittsburgh Penguin Sidney Crosby, will not be allowed to play in Korea.

the travel, insurance, and accommodations of NHL players. However, they refused to do so in 2018, causing Bettman to omit the Olympic break from the schedule and refer to the matter as "officially closed."

Another key reason for NHL players missing out on the 2018 Olympics is the injuries sustained by players participating in

the Olympic Games. Many teams have been concerned about the well-being of the players after many season-ending injuries that have been endured at the Olympics. At the 2014 Sochi Olympic Games, for example, New York Islanders center John Tavares, Detroit Red Wings center Henrik Zetterberg, Florida Panthers center Aleksander Barkov, and

former Panthers forward Tomas Kopecky all received season-ending injuries at the Olympic Games.

Despite the support of some hockey clubs in the decision, many players were disappointed and went to Twitter to voice their opinions. New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist tweeted that missing the

Olympics is "disappointing for the players that can't be part of the most special adventure in sports." Washington Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin wrote in his statement that he is "very disappointed that [the] IOC, IIHF and NHL put me and all NHL players in this position when some of the best players in world do not have chance to play in the Olympic Games."

In the upcoming Olympic Games, hockey fans will not get to see their favorite players participate at the highest stage in hockey. USA fans will not get to see Washington Capitals forward T.J. Oshie take on a 6-round shootout, proceed to score on 4 of the 6 attempts, and then lead his team to a win. Canada fans won't get to see Sidney Crosby lead the Canadian team to another gold medal.

The story of US hockey's "miracle on ice" will be a prominent theme in this Olympics, since most teams will be made up of college hockey players. The 1980 USA Men's hockey team was a team made up of amateur hockey players who went on to beat the powerhouse Soviet Union to win the gold medal. Although there will be many new faces on the ice for every country, hockey fans should be excited because it gives them a glimpse of the future.

United States Olympic team shoots for gold in Korea

After a less than stellar showing in 2014, the Americans are back and better than ever

OLYMPICS

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Staff Writer

As the students of Quince Orchard High School try to make the most of what has been a brutally cold winter, some of the finest athletes of the country have been preparing all year to showcase their talents at the equally wintery 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

After a somewhat disappointing showing in the previous games, coming in 2nd in the overall medal count to the Russians, the Americans are looking to bounce back this upcoming Olympics.

If all goes well, expect the teams of the US to represent well on the podium as well as in the final medal count.

With all-time great competitors returning, such as Lindsey Vonn and Shaun White, these legends will look to bring home the gold in each of their respective sports, Alpine Skiing and Snowboarding. The task of obtaining a gold medal will be easier, considering that both have met these high expecta-

tions before, with Vonn winning a gold medal in the 2010 games and White winning two at the 2006 and 2010 games.

One development in the United States Winter Olympic scene that differs from years past, however, is that of NHLers being barred from competing in the games. This year, the

NHL announced that its season would not accommodate the players who would otherwise compete in the games, saying that the usual break given during Olympic time would be no more.

This year will also commemorate the 20th anniversary of Women's Ice Hockey being in-

troduced to the games. Since that introduction, the women's team has medaled in every Olympics since then, winning 1 gold (1998), 3 silvers (2002, 2010, 2014), and 1 bronze (2006). This year, with a mix of collegiate stars and seasoned veterans, the team hopes to medal again this year to keep their success streak alive.

One sport that the US team is looking to this year to provide some medals is in the Long Track Speed Skating competitions. The same strong sprinting core, which carried the US through the Sochi games, will return this year for the Pyeongchang games. Since Sochi, this team has made huge strides in the long distance events, due in part to the return of several high level athletes such as Heather Bergsma and Shani Davis.

Overall, a combination of young and up and coming stars with the likes of multiple veterans, and even a few living legends, will seem to bode well for the Americans. If all goes well, expect the teams of the US to represent well on the podium as well as in the final medal count.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADRIAN DENNIS

LIVING LEGEND: Shaun White looks to add to his already stellar resume at the games.



Philadelphia Eagles soar to victory in Super Bowl LII

By **MATTHEW GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

The 2017-2018 NFL season has come to an end, and the number one seeded Philadelphia Eagles took home the Vince Lombardi trophy. In a game with a final score of 41-33, Philadelphia had all the feels after the victory.

Nick Foles, the quarterback of the Eagles, was crowned Super Bowl MVP, and it's pretty evident. Foles threw for 373 yards and 2 passing touchdowns, also receiving a touchdown thrown from tight end Trey Burton, which was from a rare designed trick play. Running backs LeGarrette Blount and Jay Ajayi combined for 147 rushing yards and a touchdown, as well as receivers Nelson Agholor and Alshon Jeffery combining for 157 receiving yards and a touchdown. Corey Clement, a rookie backup running back, had a surprise day. He had 4 catches for 100 yards, including a remarkable touchdown catch for 22 yards. All of the big numbers helped the Eagles win their first Super Bowl, with only a bright future to come, considering this was their backup running back playing. The team's normal starting quarterback Carson Wentz went down with an ACL injury before the playoffs, and many were considering Wentz for the MVP award at that time.

The Patriots still played a phenomenal game, but controversy sparked as their star corner Malcolm Butler was dressed but held out of the game due to an unknown reason. The Pats were led by NFL 2017-2018 MVP Tom Brady, as he had quite a performance. He threw for 505 yards, and threw 3 touchdowns as well. His receivers, Danny Amendola and

Chris Hogan, combined for 280 receiving yards and a touchdown. Superstar tight end Rob Gronkowski had 9 catches for 116 yards and 2 touchdowns, with the majority of the yardage in the second half.

The game came down to the wire, with the Eagles leading 41-33 with about a minute to go. Tom Brady had no timeouts, but he's done this many times before: all of his Super Bowl wins have resulted in

game-winning drives, and it was nearly set up for Brady to take home his 6th ring. However, Brandon Graham, a defensive end for the Eagles, stripped the ball from Tom Brady's hand, and the Eagles recovered it. The Eagles won after the Patriots got the ball back with minimal time and chucked up a Hail Mary, which the Patriots did not catch. The Eagles won their first championship ever, and it was in

remarkable fashion. Carson Wentz stood aside, and congratulated his teammates one by one, hoping that he will get to experience winning the super bowl from the playing perspective overall, as he will try to recover from his injury. Super bowl 52 will be one to remember, as the backup got the job done against one of the greatest quarterbacks and teams of all time.



FLY EAGLES FLY: The team celebrates after their long-awaited victory.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BLEEDINGGREENNATION.COM

Boys Basketball looks to heat up before playoffs

By **JANTZEN FOCHT**
Staff Writer

After a relatively slow start to the season thus far, the Boys Basketball team is looking to heat up and record some Ws before the regular season ends on February 19.

With a record of 8-8 as of February 1, the Cougars have really started to string together some wins recently, and they are looking better overall as the season starts to wind down.

Senior Jack Faraone says that one way they can improve as a team heading into the playoffs is by "improving our execution of our sets on offense and limiting our turnovers." He added, "If we can do that, I feel like we will be tough to beat come playoff time."

The team really excels on the defensive side of the ball. Their reliable lockdown defense is usually what keeps them in these often tough, back-and-forth games. And therefore, by defending the other teams well, they make up for their, at times, lackluster offense.

However, this occasional shooting slump is starting to show signs of improvement at the culmination of the season. The Cougars, who are averaging 58.4 points a game over the course of the season, have started to pick up their offensive production within their last 4 games, averaging a total of 67.25 points since then, an increase of 8.85 points from their season average.

This is in part due to their focus on limiting turnovers and making better basketball decisions. Unforced errors have cost them all year, but recently they have been doing a little better in this area. It's a shame they didn't get it figured out earlier, but it's better now than later considering the playoffs are almost upon us.

Evidence of a potential playoff push can be seen in the boys' play as of late, with the team winning 3 of their last 4 games. Admittedly, while two came at the hands of the underperforming Wootton, at least they can still serve as some form of game experience heading into the tournament.

Where the team's season can either be made or broken is in these next few games. In the next two weeks, the team will face off against Seneca Valley and Springbrook, both of whom have already garnered double digit wins. If the Cougars can muster up a win against either of them, plus another two against Kennedy and Watkins Mill, expect them to have a real shot at making the playoffs.

As for the upcoming Springbrook game, senior Mike Fierstein said that one way they can ensure a win is by "taking care of the ball and playing as a team." One other key to success he says, is that they need to stop Senior Matt LeBlanc, a Division 1-caliber player playing out of Springbrook. "If we can do these things, we are a pretty hard team to beat," said Fierstein.

Overall, in order to try and follow up their magic playoff run this year, Coach Foringer and his talented players have to keep care of the ball, play as a team, and utilize the ferocious defense that they are often known for. Doing all of these things would then consequently give them a pretty good shot at making the tourney, and then a good chance at recapturing that aforementioned magic. Come watch your Cougars ball out in games to come, including against Springbrook High School, Kennedy High School, and Watkins Mill High school. They have been playing very well consistently, and look to keep their momentum going forward!



HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES: Senior Daniel Dorsey jumps high against Wootton High School.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAKOTA CRAIG



Swim and Dive team wraps up successful season

SWIM & DIVE

By GABI EYRICH
Managing Editor

The swim and dive team has been splashing through their winter season with speed, endurance, and execution. Reflecting on the season, many of the team members valued the sense of belonging and equality they felt with the coaches as well as their teammates.

"I feel like our whole team is equal and everyone contributes into our meets," says junior Bryan Gurcan. "Everyone has a special skill that makes our team better."

With several different events at a swim or dive meet, there seems to be a perfect position for every person on the team, which is why there is such a diverse group of students.

Junior Hannah Harnois says, "In practice, we focus a lot on improving our pacing during races," as well as "fixing small things that can make a big difference at

our meets."

Waking up at the crack of dawn every Friday morning before school may seem impossible to most, but for this team it is their weekly morning practice. Although it is hard to roll out of bed, morning practices has some perks as well.

Gurcan says, "Although waking up at 4:30 in the morning is not my favorite, it is all worth it because of the bagels and chocolate milk we get afterwards." He adds, "In the end, it is a great way to start off the morning."

"During meets, even though the turnout is high, Coach Staci is always there for my teammates and me."

-Bryan Gurcan

When team is so large, some may think that it is hard to connect with one another. However, the swim and dive team seem to come together to push, motivate, and inspire one another in and out of the pool.

"My favorite part about being on the team is all the fun and friendship it has to offer," says Harnois. "I am able to swim with some of my best friends, and befriend people that I don't see any other time during the school year."

In addition, all of the coaches have a

large impact on the team's improvement and positivity.

Gurcan says, "During meets, even though the turnout is high, Coach Staci is always there for my teammates and me."

Harnois says, "The swimmers all agree that Coach Todd is super chill and funny," which adds a strong, positive attitude to the team.

Overall, the Swim and Dive team are looking forward to end their successful season, and have formed a strong, close team.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WONGHAN

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

BOYS BASKETBALL

Niko Brown '18



Senior Niko Brown boxes out rival players on the daily. Every time he shoots, he's basically guaranteed to score. Brown's many points this season are something that you won't want to miss.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lindsay Michaels '19



Junior captain Lindsay Michaels is a total beast on the court. She fakes out her opponents, never fails to miss a free throw, and leads the team to success this season.

WRESTLING

Alejandro Lopez '18



No one can top senior Alejandro Lopez on the mat. A master of every move there is to know, Lopez continues to pin the competition left and right.

SWIM AND DIVE

Hannah Harnois '19



Junior Hannah Harnois is often compared to Katie Ledecky. Her spot on tumble turns help her swim past the competition like it's nobody's business.

INDOOR TRACK

Noah Buchsbaum '19



Is that Usain Bolt? No, it's junior Noah Buchsbaum. Continuing to sprint past the opposition, Buchsbaum is about to be as triumphant as the famous sprinter.

MARCHING BAND

Kristen Gottlieb '18



Senior Kristen Gottlieb's tremendous marching skill is just one of her amazing abilities. She hits every note flawlessly, making every song she plays sound perfect.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	Niko Brown	Lindsay Michaels	Alejandro Lopez	Hannah Harnois	Noah Buchsbaum	Kristen Gottlieb
What is your favorite Valentine's Day candy?	N/A	Chocolate truffles.	I don't really know, but I don't like chocolate.	Fun Dip.	Reese's.	Mini KitKats.
Would you rather receive flowers or chocolate?	Definitely chocolate.	Chocolate.	Flowers.	Chocolate.	Chocolate.	Chocolate.
Who would you send a candy conversation heart to?	Ms. Duke	Kaitlyn and Madison.	My girlfriend.	My boyfriend.	My mom.	My boy Freddie Mercury, RIP.
What would you say on the candy heart?	N/A	Be mine.	I love you.	Happy Valentine's Day.	I wouldn't write anything; I would just give her chocolate.	Join band.
Who is your celebrity valentine?	Beyonce.	Zac Efron.	Jennifer Aniston.	Dave Franco.	Zendaya.	My boy Freddie Mercury, RIP.
What is the most popular Valentine's Day gift?	Flowers.	A teddy bear.	Flowers.	A teddy bear.	Heart-shaped chocolate.	A giant teddy bear.