

# THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

## A season to remember: QO basketball reaches states



## SGA pairs new spring dance with International Night

By DYLAN KEARNEY  
Associate Editor

This year, the SGA has decided to pair International Night with an International dance for the first time. International Night is an event where students and staff share the many different cultures of the more than 60 countries represented in the student body here at QO.

At International Night, there are many different groups planning to perform, including a Kicks Karate performance by Daniel Beckford and a fashion show by ESOL students and ESOL teacher Karen Capone, where students show off the traditional clothing of their countries.

The sponsor of International Night this year is math teacher William Wu, but he says that the program is mostly run by the students. "We

want to emphasize the importance of diversity and so we can appreciate different cultures," says Wu. "It also give the students the chance to be exposed to different cultures."

Wuu also mentions that International Night has been a tradition at QO, and many other MCPS schools host one as well. For the dance, they are planning to have international music, but Wu also explains that there will also be jazz music, representing American culture.

The student leader of International Night is senior Sungook Yang. "There are going to be many different music and performances, including K-POP; jazz; QO's Latin Dance team, JUNTOS; and QO's step team, The Freedom Steppers." There will also be other student performances, including a dance performance with Wu and his students.

"We really want people to come to the event," added Yang. "It's a great way for people to learn about different cultures."

There will also be many foods to try, including Korean and Indian snacks. A Chinese game called Jianzi, where a player tries to keep a shuttlecock in the air by using their bodies and not their hands, will also be featured. Those participating in Jianzi will have the chance to win prizes.

This year, following International Night, is an International Night themed dance. Students who were involved in International Night will attend the dance in the clothing of their country of origin, and other students coming to the dance are encouraged to come in clothing from their own backgrounds.

"We want everyone to take the theme

seriously and look back to their roots," said SGA president Patty Dirlam. "We wanted to create an environment where we admire everyone's differences, to show our own identities and reflect that in QO's identity."

Tickets for the dance are being sold for \$5, but tickets for \$2 will be sold at the door for students who also attend International Night. The SGA aims for students to attend International Night, learn about the different cultures, try all of the great foods offered, and then enjoy the dance afterwards.

All of the proceeds from the dance will be going to 826DC, a non-profit organization in Washington, DC that, according to their website, "supports students ages 6-18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to help teachers inspire their students to write."

## QO drama department's *Footloose*: lace up your dancing shoes

By ANNA GOOREVICH  
Editor-in-Chief

This spring, the Quince Orchard drama department will bring to the stage *Footloose*: the contemporary, upbeat, and worldwide hit of a musical.

Based off the 1984 movie and the 1998 Broadway musical, *Footloose* tells the story of a teenage boy named Ren McCormack from Chicago who moves to a small town that has outlawed dancing and rock music. With the help of the reverend's daughter, Ren works to expand the horizons of the town while helping them heal from a tragedy.

The drama department is no stranger to producing

world-famous musicals, as in recent years they've shown *The Sound of Music* and *Beauty and the Beast*. However, it appears that the drama department is especially excited this year for *Footloose*. Junior Eli Schwartz plays Ren, the male protagonist in the show. "I feel like in the past couple years we haven't had a contemporary musical with a lot of dance," says Schwartz. "It hasn't been as exciting. This year we wanted to add more diversity in the show and more of the contemporary sense that other people want, so we went with *Footloose*."

"I'm most excited [for *Footloose*] because the songs are pretty iconic" said

drama and English teacher Nicholas Saadipour. "They're timeless, fun, and exciting. I'm glad the students have an opportunity to share an uplifting experience with the audience."

"There's a lot that goes into picking a musical," added Saadipour. "The past few years we've done a lot of classical music things that weren't very heavy on dance. Something that I've been wanting to work on since I got here is improving our ability to be stronger dancers."

Since *Footloose* involves many aspects of dance, music, set design, and more, QO students have been working for months on making sure the show comes together seamlessly.

Junior Madhur Vinaik, one of the student directors of the show, commented on the large scale of the production. "The cast has been working really hard. The crew this year has been so efficient. We have to build and paint the set, and the makeup crew, hair crew, costume crew, lighting crew, and more all have to come together."

The cast and crew has worked tirelessly for this production, with practices and rehearsals almost every day since January. "This is the most talent that I've ever seen out of any cast," added Schwartz. "We've worked really hard. Every day of the week we're here working hard until God knows what hour."

Senior Zoe Lee plays Vi Moore, the mother of Ariel, who is the female protagonist. "I'm really excited for the ensemble this year," said Lee. "They're really energetic and the dancing is amazing."

Although *Footloose* incorporates lively dance and music, it also portrays a valuable message. "*Footloose* is a show that involves a lot of different issues that are still prevalent in today's society," said Vinaik. "It talks about domestic abuse and how society needs to work together to incorporate different types of cultures and people."

"I wouldn't pick something to be the musical if I didn't have a reason

for it," said Saadipour. "*Footloose* is about a community where their leader has implemented this state where people are afraid. *Footloose* sends this message of being proud of who you are and willing to stand up for what you believe is right, which is a key message that I think high school students need to know."

"Musicals help people think," said Lee. "They bring a message into the community that needs to be said, but it does it in a more subtle and enjoyable way."

*Footloose* will be performed in the QO auditorium on March 24 at 7 PM, March 25 at 2 PM and 7 PM, March 31 at 7 PM, and April 1 at 2 PM and 7 PM.

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THE INDEPENDENT

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Is Thai rolled ice cream really worth all the hype? The Prowler tests out this new food trend.

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HYPEQUIVA

### Sports

Cougar basketball comes to an end in historic fashion at the state championship.

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@TownCourier

# Local teen caught selling drugs

## Churchill student selling Xanax and Effexor

By **BRANDON FREEDMAN**  
*Managing Editor*

On January 19, a Winston Churchill High School senior named Connor Harrington was arrested for the distribution of a controlled dangerous substance on school grounds. Harrington is a 19 year old senior who lives in Potomac and was selling prescription drugs.

On the day of the arrest, two students were seen by a security guard in the same stall of a bathroom. Harrington and a 17-year-old junior at Winston Churchill High School were arrested. After being questioned and searched, it was found that Xanax and Effexor, both prescription drugs meant to treat anxiety and panic disorders, were sold. Both Xanax and Effexor have side effects of drowsiness and having strange dreams.

Harrington lives with his mom while his dad, Dr. Charles Harrington, has an orthodontist practice near QOHS.

The 17-year-old buyer, who is not being identified, later allowed his backpack to be fully searched by security and confessed to the school and police after being caught. Harrington abandoned the buyer and school altogether shortly after the incident.

Harrington has a track record of being caught with drugs: in 2015 he was arrested for possession of marijuana.

Harrington had his preliminary hearing scheduled on March 3, but as of the week of March 13 there are no reports on the results. According to the Montgomery County District Court, Harrington could

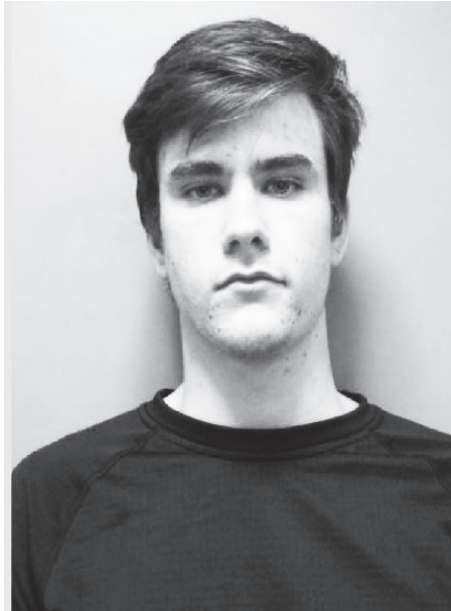


PHOTO COURTESY OF WJLA.COM

face up to 34 years in prison and up to \$75,000 in fines. It is likely that he could receive a combination of both jail and a fine. In addition he is to be tried as an adult.

Several students and teachers have voiced their opinions on the situation and what his punishment should be.

However, many others believe there are bigger and worse problems that should be focused on rather than a teenager illegally selling drugs.

Dr. Harrington was reached for a comment but did not reply by deadline.

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# PROWLER NEWS FLASHES

*Bao Bao's departure leaves many saddened, but new animals bring spirits up*



PHOTO COURTESY OFINSIDER.SI.EDU

By **BRANDON FREEDMAN**  
*Managing Editor*

Out with the old and in with the new. The past few months, even years, have been very busy for zoos across the country. With all the departures and arrivals they have attracted more attention than ever before. Last year the Cincinnati Zoo lost Harambe. More locally, Bao Bao the panda got shipped out of the National Zoo in DC and off to China last month. Although she will be missed by many, she left in style; Bao Bao was supplied with a personal airplane that had a picture of her on it and a personal police escort. In addition, she had a staff consisting of a panda keeper, and a veterinarian. Despite the sadness brought on by Bao Bao's departure, all is well with her. She's adapted to her new home and living life to the fullest (although she won't eat the panda bread).



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN.COM

*NASA announces a new solar system potentially capable of supporting human life*

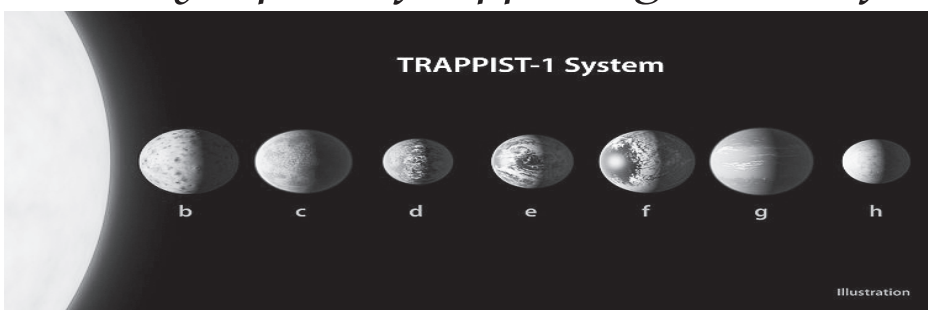


PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA.ORG

By **DYLAN KEARNEY**  
*Associate Editor*

NASA has recently made a discovery that makes strides in the possibility of living on a planet other than Earth. The planets were found on February 22 and is the first known system of seven planets orbiting around a single star, called the TRAPPIST-1, which is cool enough that liquid water could survive on planets orbiting to it. The planets are Earth-sized, and the three that are located in the habitable zone are the most likely to be able to inhabit life and to have liquid water. The planets are about 235 trillion miles away and the individual planets are close enough to each other that one could see clouds or outlines of the other planets nearby. The planets are also tidally locked to the star, which means that each side of the planet would have never-ending day or night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TELEGRAPH.CO.UK



# New construction furthers U-turn problems

By SOPHIE LANE  
Associate Editor

As many of the drivers at QO know, the mission to get to school before having to wait in a 20 minute line is challenging enough—with-out having to change your route due to road alterations.

New construction has made it even harder for students to get to school on time without damaging their cars or possibly getting into an accident. The intersection of Darnestown Road (Route 28) and Riffle Ford Road was recently widened by removing the median and other concrete paths. The widening of the road enabled the addition of another center lane for drivers headed further down Darnestown Road and a right-turn-only lane onto Riffle Ford.

Consequently, the left-turn-only lane was pushed

further to the left, which decreased the space available for cars to make the U-turn. Cars now take much longer to make the sharp turn without scraping or bumping into the curb.

The U-turn was stressful enough with students behind you also trying to turn, cars trying to make a right on red, and cars with the green light driving 40 mph or more approaching your car. Although you can wait for the green arrow to turn left, the road construction makes it much harder in general to turn your car at the necessary angle, so only a couple cars are able to make it through the light before the oncoming traffic starts to approach.

Therefore, more students are reportedly late to school because they might end up waiting in the U-turn line for much longer than before. Unfortunately, some students have decided they don't want to wait to get

the green arrow again, so they will turn left on red, which is completely against the law, in addition to risking getting hit by cars turning right onto Darnestown Road or by cars turning left from Riffle Ford.

Although the U-turn changes are already overwhelming and stressful for some students, that's only part of the craziness that occurs on the roads before and after school.

Before the light at Riffle Ford and Darnestown, there's another U-turn that is just as frustrating and scary. Some students find it easier to turn right into a neighborhood than drive across oncoming traffic in the middle of the road and wait for a break in traffic.

That strategy may be easier for some, but these students are not only (in most circumstances) blocking other drivers trying to drive further down Darnestown Road, but they are

also cutting off all the drivers waiting to make a U-turn blocking their view of oncoming traffic. Although they might have the right of way, the students turning into the neighborhood and then cutting everyone off may not be considering how they are impacting others.

Furthermore, at the intersection of Quince Orchard Road and Darnestown, there are many tired and annoyed parents trying to make the left turn and are willing to go even once the arrow has turned red, because they can't stand the thought of waiting for the whole intersection to go before they get a chance turn. This may not impact the U-turn drivers, but it impacts the whole environment because everyone gets more fed up with drivers not following the rules of the road.

One newly licensed driver, junior Micaela Brick, speaks

from experience when she describes how nerve-wracking her drives to and from school are: "I hate driving and the U-turn is just so stressful with such a short amount of time to go at the light," said Brick, "and at the other U-turn there's a lot of pressure to go, even when there's not that big of a gap, because of the line of people waiting behind you."

"The intersections get really hectic and are overall just really stressful," she added.

When Brick was asked what would improve her drive to school she states: "It would be so much easier if people coming from Lakelands/Kentlands or other neighborhoods down Darnestown Road had a way to get to the parking lot without having to make a U-turn," added Brick. "I wish we could turn at the first left after the intersection (Quince Orchard and Darnestown

Road) right into the lot."

"Otherwise, I go in the parent drop off because I'm scared to do the U-turn. It takes 10 minutes to wait for all the parents to drop off their kids and I usually end up being late. It's just such a bad system."

Brick isn't the only student driver who's nervous driving to school. Senior Jamie Fink has experienced "frightening, heart wrenching, palm sweating, flight or fight" situations where inexperienced drivers aren't aware of their surroundings. In a near accident, she was going straight into school on Darnestown Road when a car came from the opposing median, merging into her lane, when she immediately stopped short. [Editor's Note: Fink is a member of the Prowler staff.]

Due to recent construction, the drive to school has become more challenging than ever, so stay safe, Cougars!

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## VIEWPOINT

# On the street: Dulles airport after travel ban

By **AYESHA SHAHZAD**  
*Journalism Student*

On Sunday, February 19, Dulles International Airport is as good as empty. About 30 people are gathered around one particular gate, awaiting the arrival of the 12:20 PM flight from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. There are many hijabi women, and people are holding flowers in one hand and a coffee in the other. My father and I join them, anticipating my grandmother's homecoming after her two months abroad, split evenly between Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Only a few weeks earlier, President Trump had implemented an entry ban, or "Muslim ban" as many people call it, which inhibited Muslims from Iraq, Iran, Syria, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, and Somalia from entering the U.S. Muslims coming from these countries were detained in airports across the U.S. As a result, protests broke out at major international airports like JFK, LAX, and Dulles.

Although my family is not from any of the mentioned countries, nor do I have relatives residing in said countries, my family was very disturbed by the news. Thus, we

were a bit anxious about my grandmother's arrival and coming to the airport altogether.

There is a girl sitting not too far away, who looks young and amiable. I approach her after hearing her speak Urdu, my native language. Her name is Bisma, and she is 15 years old. She is at the airport to pick up her mother, who was in Jeddah visiting her sister. Bisma's family lives in Westminster, Maryland, although they are originally from Pakistan. She explains how while her family is Pakistani, they have a lot of family in Saudi Arabia.

Close by is Munir Al-Harbi, a Saudi woman with a thick Arabic accent. She lives in Greenbelt, Maryland, near Bowie and Hyattsville, and travels "to Saudi every year," preferably through Saudi Airlines. Al-Harbi is at the airport to pick her sister up, who she has not seen in a substantial amount of time.

Lastly, I spoke to Mumtaz Khan, a Pakistani-American Montgomery Village resident. Khan travelled by herself. She emerged from the gate looking tired and disheveled, yet still gladly answered a couple of questions. She had just completed umrah, a pilgrimage made by Muslims in

Mecca, and was excited to be back home. She describes her trip as "hectic," and adds that she goes "to Mecca and Jeddah every year." Her preferred airlines are Emirates and Etihad. "I never travel with American airlines," she said.

After all of the controversy surrounding Trump's travel ban, there was some apprehension in coming to the airport and speaking with people who were reasonably affected by the recent legislation (which has now been revoked).

Nonetheless, all of these women seemed unphased and were happy to speak on their experiences.

Later, I spoke to Quince Orchard sophomore Nikki Ahmadi. Ahmadi is Persian-American and has a lot of family in Iran.

"For the past ten years or so, we've been working on getting all 21 of my cousins and my aunts and uncles, green cards.

This put that on hold and frustrated us, considering all of the work we have done," she said. "The day the ban was enacted, they [my family] were all at the Iranian airport on their way to the U.S., and the Iranian officials sent them home, saying 'All flights from here to the U.S. are cancelled.'"

*"For the past ten years or so, we've been working on getting [my family] green cards. The day the ban was enacted, they [my family] were all at the Iranian airport on their way to the U.S., and the Iranian officials sent them home, saying 'All flights from here to the U.S. are cancelled.'"*

-Nikki Ahmadi

## Republicans set path to repeal Obamacare, lay out replacement

By **ALEX HAMER**  
*News Editor*

America is more than a month into Donald Trump's presidency, and the freshly inaugurated president is well under way in implementing his agenda. On March 7, the House GOP introduced a new bill that provides a budget blueprint that will make it easier to repeal the Affordable Care Act, more commonly known as Obamacare, and replace it with a new health care bill.

The new health-care bill, the American Health Care Act, which Speaker Paul Ryan said would fix the deficiencies with Obamacare. "It is our job to have a system where people can get universal access to affordable coverage if they choose to do so or not. That's what we're going to be accomplishing," Ryan said.

Obamacare was one of former President Barack Obama's most significant bills during his eight-year tenure. The goal of Obamacare was to give Americans access to affordable, quality health insurance, and to reduce the growth in US healthcare spending,

according to the official Obamacare website.

Many Republicans however, argued that the Obamacare did not achieve these goals and only worsened health care problems.

At a 2016 Presidential debate in St Louis, Trump made his stance on Obamacare clear. "Obamacare, by the way, was a fraud," Trump said. "The whole thing was a fraud, and it doesn't work."

Representative Frank Pallone Jr. (D-New Jersey) is firmly against repealing Obamacare. "The little guy is the one who is going to suffer from - the working guy who is benefiting from the subsidies and from the Medicaid expansion," Pallone said.

According to Politico, one of the main losers under the GOP's new healthcare bill would be Planned Parenthood, a nonprofit that provides reproductive health services. A provision under the bill would defund the program for one year.

However, one the biggest beneficiaries under the bill would be high-net worth individuals. The bill would save the top .1% of earners about \$195,000

annually, according to the Tax Policy Center.

Speaker Paul Ryan and President Trump are two of the biggest supporters of the bill and highlighted that this was a step, they believe, in the right direction. "This is a critical first step to-

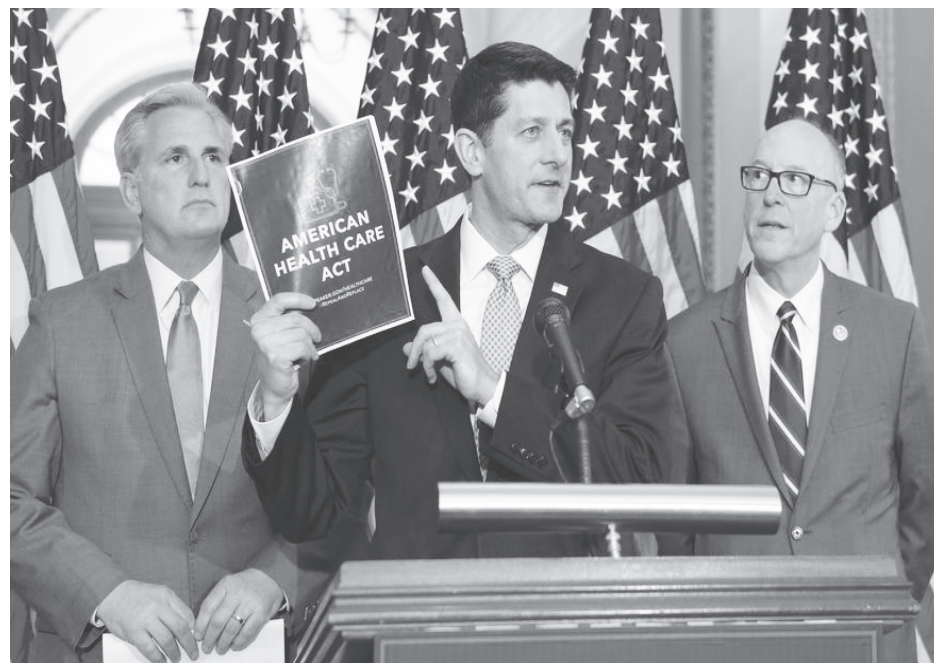


PHOTO COURTESY OF CNS NEWS  
**HEALTHCARE SHAKEUP:** Republican Speaker Paul Ryan along with the GOP unveiled the American Health Care Act. The American Health Care Act, if passed will replace Obamacare, which Republicans are currently attempting to repeal.

ward delivering relief to Americans who are struggling under this law," Ryan said.

Trump echoed these sentiments. "I'm proud to support the replacement plan released by the House of Represen-

tatives and encouraged by members of both parties," Trump said.

However, the proposed bill is not universally praised, as evidenced by the close vote of 227 to 198 in favor of the bill, along with the comments of Democrats after the

to owe a huge apology to the American people for the damage we cause."

The timing of the proposed repeal and replacement of Obamacare comes at a time where Trump has been heavily targeting his predecessor, as Presi-

*"This is a critical first step toward delivering relief to Americans who are struggling under this law."*

-Paul Ryan

cess. This is Nixon/Watergate. Bad (or sick) guy!"

Although Trump has not presented any evidence at the present time, White House press secretary Sean Spicer defended Trump's accusation.

"I think the appropriate thing to do is ask the House and Senate to look into it," Spicer said at a March 7 press conference.

As Trump settles into his second full month as President of the United States, he has wasted no time in transitioning the country away from President Obama's vision as continues to make his impact felt on the American people.

dent Trump has also recently accused Obama of wire tapping the White House.

Trump tweeted: "How low has President Obama gone to tap my phones during the very sacred election pro-

bill passed.

"If we go down this path, we won't have to repeal and replace," Representative John Yarmuth (D-Kentucky) said. "What we'll have is repeal and repent because we're going



# Documentary unveils dark side of a strange sport

By JACOB CORNBLATT  
Associate Editor



About a year ago, a documentary started gaining attention when its premiere at festivals all over the country were attended by private investigators, goons with hidden cameras, and a once-jailed computer hacker/sexual deviant. It ended with police involvement and multiple people being forced to leave the theater, fear struck into the hearts of those who saw the film.

The weirdest part, however, is that it all comes down to the sport of endurance tickling.

For a year, *Tickled* has been in distribution limbo—studios were scared to release the movie in theaters or at home; they worried that theaters showing the movie would be attacked and that their studios would become involved in the already insane story. Finally, HBO—famous for risk taking—picked it up and premiered it, followed by a 20-minute short which summed up the last year.

But what does this have to do with tickling? Well, I'm not going to tell you. I will say that the short starts with famed New Zealand journalist David Farrier stumbling upon a company called Jane O'Brien Media, who creates endurance tickling vid-

eos. Farrier reaches out to them for comment, but receives a strange message in return: Jane O'Brien Media will not communicate with him, for he's gay.

Farrier begins investigating O'Brien and the world of tickling, only to uncover one of the strangest stories imaginable.

I'll be the first to admit that the documentary itself is nothing great. David Farrier is a broadcast journalist, not a documentarian. In his usual line of work, stories are presented quickly—he has a few minutes to give a basic sum-up of one select event/person. In documentaries, a filmmaker has two or so hours to present many pieces of information that all relate back to one central thing.

Farrier tries to extend what would usually be a piece of 10-minute journalism into a 92-minute documentary. I'm not saying that it can't be done, but doing something like this takes an experienced documentarian. *Tickled* is rich with idiosyncratic subjects and bizarre details, yet Farrier presents everything as if it were on 20/20.

The world of endurance tickling (and what comes with it) is extraordinarily intriguing to the filmmaker and his co-director Dylan Reeve, and I wish he let that show visually. The documentary is so standardly shot—with a purposeless cinematic look and

extremely traditional framing—that I would find myself almost ignoring the images; I would stare at the screen, but I listened more heavily than I watched.

Many claim that documentaries have one goal: inform the audience. I couldn't disagree more. Documentaries should use cinematography, music, editing, sound, etc. the same as any narrative film should. What makes docs like *The Act of Killing*, *F for Fake*, and *Man with a Movie Camera* renowned is how they allowed art to find a place within the journalism of documentary filmmaking.

That being said, watch *Tickled*. The film is content-driven, and luckily, the content will blow you away.

As I watched the film, my heart was pounding. I've never experienced this in a documentary before. The subjects tell their stories in such raw, vivid detail, and the story becomes so convoluted, resulting in a strangely visceral experience: despite the straightforward storytelling, I felt *Tickled*.

After you view the documentary, you'll probably want more. The story is not unresolved, but the real-life implications of it are. That's why HBO threw together *The Tickle King*, a 20-minute catch-up documentary. It's terribly made for so, so, so many reasons, but it will grant you more answers into the *Tickled* saga. Watch it solely for the update.

## Char: The voice of QO

By BRITTANY MILLS  
Editor-in-Chief

The Prowler(P): When did you begin the school announcements? Why did you begin?

Char Freedberg (C): I began doing the announcements in my elementary school. In 5th grade, I did the announcements and I loved doing them. I continued in my middle school and high school. Ever since 2nd grade, I have always loved to perform. When I did the announcements, I felt like I was performing and it felt like a show.

P: When did you begin broadcasting on Cougar TV? Why did you begin?

C: I joined Cougar TV in 9th grade as part of the crew. I auditioned at the end of the semester to be an anchor, but I wasn't chosen as one. When I auditioned for sports reporter at the end of 2nd semester, I was picked as a sports reporter. I joined because I was in my middle school TV club and loved doing that. The reason I got started in the first place was because I heard about the TV studio in my middle school and wanted to join.

P: When you began the announcements and Cougar TV where you nervous?

C: The first time I did the announcements, I was very nervous. I didn't know what would happen if I messed up or something worse happened. When I read them, however, I just went with what felt right. The same sort of situation happened for being a sports reporter. You get nervous at first, but then you realize that it's not the end of the world if you make a minor mistake, like mispronouncing a word. If you make a mistake that's worse than that, you just shrug it off and go on with the show.

P: How do you prepare for Cougar TV shows?

C: When I'm in crew, there's usually a rehearsal a day before the show. Then, we arrive at 7:00 to do another run-through of the episode and wait until the bell rings. When I'm a sports reporter, there's a bit more work involved. Unlike the anchors, sports reporters need to write their own scripts and get the scores from all these games. They also have to go to a game and tape it to make a highlight reel of the best parts of the game. I usually write my script during lunch on Wednesday and get as many scores as I can from that day. From there, I add in the scores of the games that come later.

P: What prompted you to start the announcements with an elongated "Gooooood Morning?"

C: In my first year of doing the announcements, there was one student who always started with

"Gooooooood morning, Cougars" a la Robin Williams in "Good Morning, Vietnam". One morning, I decided to try it. The elongated one heard this year was actually prompted by Jacob Cornblatt. He was making a new intro video for Cougar TV (it didn't air yet) and he told me to make it long. Apparently, that "Gooooooood morning, Cougars" was 8 seconds long!

P: Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Where do you see yourself graduating from? What is your dream job?

C: In 5 years, I would want to work in a TV studio, preferably as a news anchor. That would be the more ideal job for me, but another interesting job for me would be being a voice actor. It's essentially like doing the announcements, but you do so in video games and cartoons. I got this idea after I realized how good I was at doing impressions and imitations, which is one of the main features of being a voice actor.

P: How do you prepare for the announcements?

C: There's no specific way that I prepare for the announcements, like actors do before a show, but announcements need to get approved before I start saying them on the P.A. system. In order to get them approved, I have to either go to Mrs. Working or one of the vice principals and see if they approve of the announcement. After they sign it, which signifies that they do approve it, I can say the announcement for the allotted time given.

P: Who is your inspiration and why?

C: That depends. In terms of personal life, my mom is my inspiration because she taught me to stay positive in the worst of times. Celebrity-wise, I've always admired Emma Watson because she has brains and talent.

P: What do you think it takes to become a good announcer?

C: If you want to be a good announcer, you need to have a presence and energy that can be heard, even when the school can't see you. If anyone wants to do the announcements next year or this year, let me know. I won't be around at QO for much longer!

P: What advice would you like to give the younger students of QO?

C: If you have a dream, go for it, no matter how impossible it seems. If you want to do something, never give up until you've reached that goal. I had to talk to the people in the main office constantly to ask if I could do the announcements (Ms. Tyson can attest to that) until I finally got to do them at QO.

## Kentlands market: a community fixture

By ALEXA ELLIOTT  
Journalism Student

A light breeze drifts through the farmer's market, bringing aromas of fresh flowers, savory empanadas, and lemon cupcakes. The sun is shining and most are dressed in t-shirts or light jackets. People stroll past unique stalls while chatting with vendors and neighbors.

Usually in February, the weather is less pleasant. However, even on Saturdays with temperatures below freezing, farmers, artisans, bakers, and other vendors can still be found at the Kentlands Farmers Market at the Main Street Pavilion in the Kentlands selling chocolate chip cupcakes, savory crab cakes, vibrant flowers, fresh vegetables, hand-crafted jewelry, and much more.

Last year, the market switched from a seasonal to a year round schedule. It is open each Saturday from 9am to 2pm. While it's not as busy during the winter, this year round market is "still an outlet to sell" said M & M Plant's owner Mark McGaughan. McGaughan has been selling flowers at the market for eight years and plans to continue throughout his retirement. This farmers market gives vendors like McGaughan the opportunity to sell

their products and wares to the public.

Jennifer Brown, owner of the Cupcakes Lounge in Rockville said that "it's a great opportunity to get your name and product out there." Brown, who went to L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, sells cupcakes, breads, granola, and other treats at the market. While she sells at other markets, Brown loves that the Kentlands Farmers Market is family-oriented. "You get to see kids growing up in strollers," she said.

Regular customers and vendors have developed a close bond at the farmers market. Vendors often ask customers how their children are doing and greet each other by name. People smile and chat about their past and upcoming weeks. Kentlands resident Nancy Lee, who goes frequently to the market, said that "she likes to support local farmers in the area." All farmers and vendors at the market are local. This appeals to many patrons. The bond between customers and vendors has enhanced community relationships. "It makes us more of a community that is the forefront of ideas," said Lee. "We are going back to the basics and getting food from the farmer."

The Kentlands Farmers Market has become a staple in the community. "It's a fun slice of life," McGaughan said.



WAYMARKETING.COM

Dunkin'

Dunkin' D

# Can you roll with it?

By BRITTANY MILLS  
Editor-in-Chief

Most can attest to seeing the fad that has flooded our Snapchats and Instagrams: Thai rolled ice cream. This tasty trend surfaced in Rockville last October at Class 520. Customers are mesmerized by the process of making the dessert. A milk-based substance is poured onto a cold metal sheet and, once the liquid solidifies, the workers then scrape the treat into four rolls. Customers choose from a variety of flavors such as cookies and cream, s'mores, and even key

lime pie. Class 520 then offers plentiful toppings, ranging from fruits to cookie dough, to add onto the edible masterpiece. But is this trend worth tasting?

Many agree that the experience of watching your dessert being made is what makes Class 520 unique. The MoCo Show (@TheMoCoShow) tweeted their opinion of the ice cream: "Something different, ice cream tastes pretty good (not amazing), and the process is more fun than regular ice cream."

Although the process is mesmerizing to some, the wait for the dessert may be a downside to the

treat. "It was really good," sophomore Nicki Thomas recalled, "but they were really slow because the process takes a long time." In addition to a longer wait time, the prices are higher than junior Alyson Hirsch anticipated; each ice cream bowl is around six dollars including toppings. Besides the cost, Hirsch was also disappointed with the taste: "The ice cream itself didn't have a lot of flavor."

Overall, customers of 520 seem to be impressed by the distinctive ice cream-making process, but some are let down by the cost, wait and taste that Class 520 offers.

# THE COUGAR

## The Sandwich Debate

By HANNAH PEARLSTEIN  
Managing Editor

In our current political climate, many controversial issues have been raised and brought to the attention of the public, but none have caused such commotion and uproar as this one: is a hot dog a sandwich? Friendships have ended, engagements called off, and families torn apart all over the correct classification of a wiener.

There are no moderates when it comes to the hot dog-sandwich debate: people are religiously committed to their opinions and are willing to defend them to their deaths. In case you are unfamiliar with what this source of strife is, here is a quick definition. Dictionary.com

defines a hot dog as "a frankfurter, especially one served hot in a long, soft roll and topped with various condiments." Interestingly, the website describes a sandwich as "two or more slices of bread or the like with a layer of meat, fish, cheese, etc., between each pair." These ambiguous definitions leave much room for interpretation, confusion, and frustration.

The students of QO are arguably the only hope for our future generation, so their opinions are highly revered and appreciated in the same respect as Harvard college professors.

On the side of a hot dog is not a sandwich we have junior Tobi Baisburd,

senior Ulric Ayivi-Fandalor, and sophomore Max Hyman. Baisburd was strictly pro-no sandwich and told those who believed otherwise to "get educated on your sandwich preferences, please."

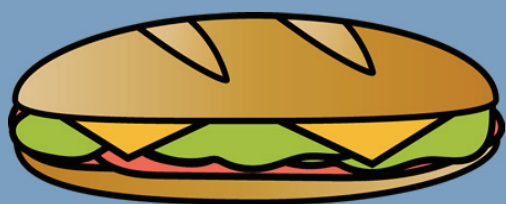
Hyman agreed with this point, stating, "If you go to a deli or a restaurant, [a hot dog] is not under sandwiches: it's under the grill."

Ayivi-Fandalor delivered possibly the most convincing piece of evidence to support his side: "No, it's a hot dog. It's a wiener in a bun."

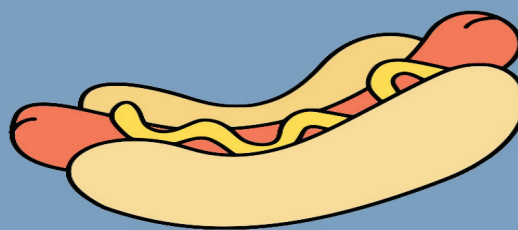
This is all heavily convincing evidence to make the argument against a hot dog being a sandwich, but freshman Kate Farone

refused to be swayed. Farone introduced a bit of philosophy into the argument. "I am a legend, goats are legends, therefore, I am a goat. Hot Dogs are legends, sandwiches are legends, therefore, a hot dog is a sandwich," she said. Again we have reached a crossroads in the perpetual hot dog-sandwich argument.

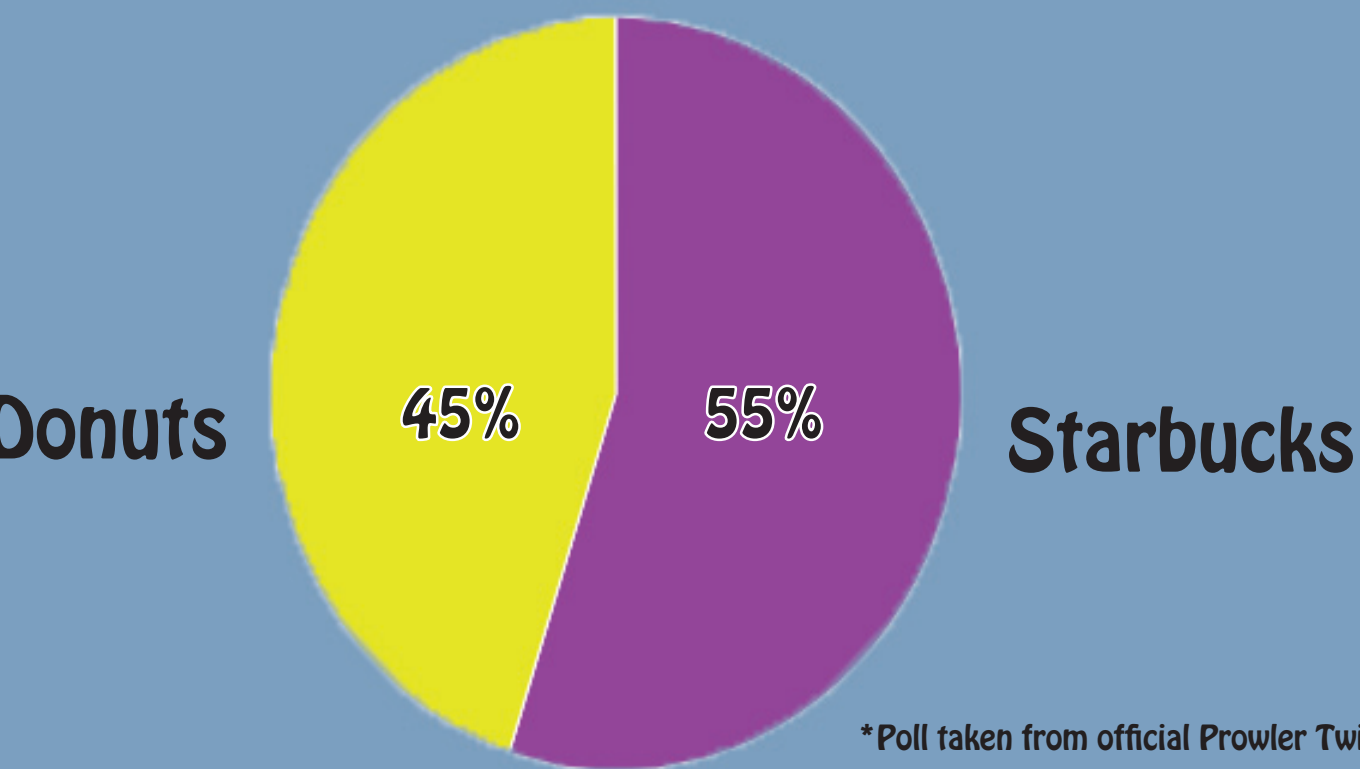
Whether or not a hot dog is a sandwich or not, there is at least very convincing evidence for both sides. Only you can make this life-altering decision and choose one side or the other. Good luck, and try to not to ruin too many relationships along the way.



VS.



# kin' Donuts or Starbucks?



\*Poll taken from official Prowler Twitter (@90hs\_prowler)

# R COOKBOOK

## Local Prowler Favorites

By TORI BERRY  
Managing Editor



**Vasili's Kitchen:** A recently relocated Mediterranean eatery with a Mediterranean design for a unique eating experience in the Kentlands.



**Siriwan Thai:** A little Chinese restaurant in The Shops at Potomac Valley. Convenient location for an after-school meal.



**Coastal Flats:** An aesthetically pleasing, beach themed, sit-down restaurant in Downtown Crown.



**Cava:** A healthy, fast-casual, Mediterranean restaurant in the Kentlands.



# An open letter to snow

By **BEN PALMER**  
Managing Editor

DISCLAIMER: This letter was written before 03/13/17.



To whom it may concern,

I didn't want to do this, but I think we both saw it coming. It's not you, it's me. Well, it actually is you, I just said that to make you feel better. To take the frills off, you simply are never around anymore. You keep making excuses, saying that you're busy with your job opportunities in Maine. Job opportunities. Uh huh. Every time we talk, you're just...cold to me. You look icy whenever I try to make conversation. Our interactions never have depth; you usually just dust on the subject before disappearing. I'm left with a whole lot of heat and a whole lot of disappointment.

Maybe some of this was my fault. Perhaps I took you for granted. I never did truly appreciate your extended stay on my birthday week last year. I complained about the sheer amount of work it took to sift away your heaps of problems. Not once did I express my gratitude whenever you helped me get through some rough patches of school, even when you had rough patches yourself.

But even so, did my actions really merit this? All I've seen from you is you flitting in and out, spurring me to joy only to crush me with a squall of disappointment. If you stay for even just a bit, perhaps we can work things out. I know your father doesn't seem to approve that, but Mr. Pacific Jet Stream and I can talk it out later. But I don't want things to snowball out of control, so it's all up to you now. Either we fall for each other again, or we stay cold to each other. Make your choice, Snow.

Love,  
Ben

## AP Studio Art: fostering creativity

By **DANIELLE PASEKOFF**  
Associate Editor

When most people think of art, they envision the basics: paint, markers, and maybe some colored pencils. However, the AP art students at QO are anything but conventional. From drawing to photography, these students work tirelessly to perfect their crafts and hone their skills through creative expression.

After years of hard work, the rewards of completing scholar programs by graduation pose an incentive to many art students. In order for students to take AP Studio Art, they must take three art classes as prerequisites. Additionally, if they wish to complete the Signature Program Certificate in Advanced Art, a student is also required to take AP Art History.

Senior Juli Bernstein is currently enrolled in AP Studio Art 2-D and AP Art History, aiming to earn the program completer at graduation with a concentration in photography. Of the art classes she has taken at QO, AP Art History has been her favorite because she "get[s] to learn about how history has influenced art," from learning about prehistoric art movements to more modern periods.

Students in AP Studio Art create a 12-piece portfolio surrounding a certain "concentration," or theme. Their unique concentration for the school year is submitted to the College Board in May for scoring and review. In Bernstein's case, she is focusing on nightmares. A photo entitled "Breathe-less" is her favorite piece, a digitally made film photo focusing on a subject covered in plastic wrap. With the incorporation of the plastic wrap, "you are not able to tell who it is, and it creates a somewhat creepy effect," she says.

While many students pursue the arts program

completer, some decide to take their own path regarding art courses. Lily Thompson, a senior taking AP Studio Art 3-D, took Ceramics during her sophomore and junior years. After taking Ceramics 2 as a last-minute decision, she now takes the typically double-period AP Studio Art 3-D in a single period. Concentrating on skulls, Thompson is able to use the many resources available to her in order to create whatever she chooses. Some of her favorite pieces incorporate scrap metals, embroidery, and other materials that stray away from her ceramic expertise. There are many avenues a student can take before ultimately enrolling in AP Studio Art. Senior Kate Penn took Foundations of Art, as well as Studio 1 and Studio 2, before enrolling in AP Studio Art. Penn decided she wanted to complete an art scholar program by graduation. Students have the flexibility to take as many art classes as they would like, all with their own requirements and curricula.

Although these AP art students all have distinct concentrations and separate artistic paths, they agreed that the greatest benefit in taking advanced art courses at QO is the freedom. Penn's favorite aspect of taking AP Studio is the fact that she was given "complete creative freedom about a topic [she] wanted to express" in her art. Thompson expressed her satisfaction in that she can create anything from her own hands, and call it art. "It's comforting... [to] be an artist in my own right," she said. Regardless of what art class they decide to take, it is important to take it seriously and only contribute your best work. "The art teachers in the school genuinely care about their students, who care about what they are doing," Bernstein says.

As with any AP course, art demands much of students' time and effort. Even though students are allowed creative license and more freedom, "it's still a lot" of work, according to Penn. With May

quickly approaching, AP art students are given a new project every week, which adds to the impending stress of meeting the portfolio deadline. Thompson says that AP Studio Art 3-D is her toughest class in terms of homework and obligations, but the class is "so rewarding and the work is so fun."

The art courses at QO are so vast that there is a class offered for virtually any student's interests. "Try to find an art (or music) class that you are genuinely interested in," Bernstein advised. If a student is unsure about whether or not they can fit an art class in their schedule, Thompson assured that "pursuing art and pursuing traditional education aren't mutually exclusive."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULI BERNSTEIN  
Pictured above is a project senior Juli Bernstein completed in her AP Studio Art 2-D class.

## Latest sounds of 2017

By **WILL HUSTED**  
Editor-in-chief  
Total Entertainment Forever  
- Father John Misty

In its fourth single from an upcoming album, Father John Misty elicits a sound his fans have been craving. While the quirky lyrics (including references to virtual reality relations with Taylor Swift) still remain, frontman John Tillman harkens back to a 70's-style jam session—reminiscent of Van Morrison—in "Total Entertainment Forever." Father John Misty boasts six brass musicians in this song, which gives it the extra kick and catchiness his songs often lack. However, that does not suggest that the lyrics are absent of the extreme thought and power that have characterized much of the music put out by Tillman. Painting a picture of a future where everyone is "entertained," Tillman ponders the question if technology is separating or bringing us closer together. Father John Misty's third album is set to be released on April 7.

Feel It Still - Portugal. The Man

It should not be a surprise that PTM

(Portugal. The Man) went with a radical new sound for their first new music in four years. It should be a surprise, though, that the song seems to be begging to be commercialized, something that the band has never been known for. The song is asking to be put in an ad for Target, which is very unlike PTM's usual original sounds and lyrics. "Feel It Still" goes heavy on hip-shaking bass grooves and drum beats and leaves behind the more typical rock instrumentation of the past. The lyrics also leave much to be desired, as the song simply describes a boozing night out instead of the more dynamic lyrics heard on past albums, including 2013's *Evil Friends*. PTM's upcoming US tour includes a date at The 9:30 Club in DC on April 1.

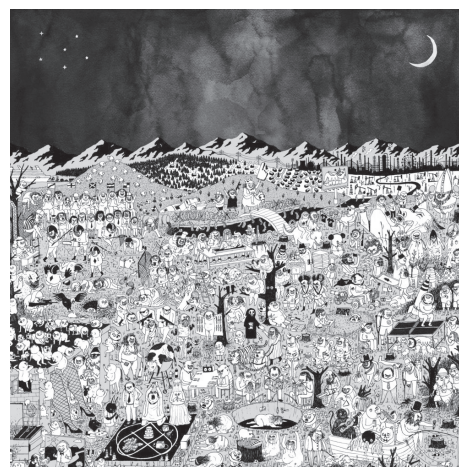
Green Light - Lorde

The much anticipated return of Lorde is here: With her release of two new songs, the four-year gap is over. Lorde has described her past year as "colossal" in a recent Facebook post. In growing up, it seems as though Lorde has experienced heartbreak and maturation, as expressed in her first single "Green Light." Performed on SNL last

week, the song gives us a taste as to what style the 20-year-old popstar has in store. With a driving piano that pushes the song along, Lorde tells a story of abandonment and a desire for more. She seemingly waits for something to force her to leave a place and person she knows is wrong for her, stating she "can't let go" and wishes she could "get [her] things and just let go." While not strikingly moving in any way, the song does give us the classic Lorde of 2013 that introduced us to her, a distinctive blend of pop and alternative sounds blending together to make some of the catchiest music of yesterday and today.



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# Baseball is back, baby; seeks state championship



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

By **MATTHEW GORDON**  
*Managing Editor*

With winter sports coming to an end, spring sports have arrived, highlighted by last year's state championship runner up, the varsity baseball team. Highlighted by Griffin Mann (Note: Griffin Mann is a member of the Prowler) & Sean Cole, the star-studded squad looks to finish what was started. A state championship is what they have in mind.

Last year, the squad went all the way to the state championship, which took place at the University of Maryland. It

**STRIKE THREE:** Former pitcher senior Jack Ropelewski tosses a wicked, fast pitch in last year's exciting state championship run.

wasn't what they wanted out of it, as it was an extremely close game which resulted in a loss. With the loss of many seniors in the starting lineup, many players on the team are going to have to step up, one of them being junior Garrett Beloff.

"My goal is nothing short of winning it all," said Beloff. "I plan to achieve it by working hard and doing the little things." He plays the second base position, as he will try to fight for his starting spot on a loaded roster. Last year, the team had an overall record of 19-6, and faced Bel Air High School in the

state championship. Although it resulted in a tough outing, the ride they took Quince Orchard on was unimaginable for the fans and for the players themselves. They'll look to repeat history this year, as they face teams that are most definitely beatable. This year, they have more pride, more talent, and more motivation to get the ring they've been chasing ever since they were underclassmen.

This year's baseball team has a schedule consisting of teams like Sherwood, Northwest, Gaithersburg, and many more good matchups. Coach Jason

Gasaway is of course the powerhouse and motor of the team, and their success is mainly in his hands. He enters his 11th season as a coach, and would like to add another championship to his résumé. He won his first and only state championship in 2005, and he'll look to repeat history as an experienced coach. The outfield is highlighted by Tarique McLeary, and the infield is highlighted by Ethan Frank, Griffin Mann, and Garrett Beloff. Kyle Rineheimer, Nick Mallus, and once again Mann and Frank lead the pack in pitching. Yes, it's a young squad, but the team has been through

offseason workouts ever since last summer, and played fall baseball together to gain the maximum chemistry possible.

Seeing last year's seniors walk out gave the seniors now more motivation to do what they came short of doing last time, which is winning it all for the fans of QO. They've never been this close with each other, and their close relationships are poised to help them contend for the state title. Come out and support the baseball team as their run at a championship begins March 21st at Sherwood High School!

## Behind the scenes: underclassmen Cougars Q&A

By **DAVID SHAPERO & DAVID STRICKMAN**

*Sports Editor & Managing Editor*

Ever thought about the young athletes? We interviewed six underclassmen athletes on what it's like to play varsity sports. The athletes are freshman Lindsey Brick (Soccer), sophomore Jenna Mensh (Lacrosse), sophomore Bryan Gurcan (Baseball), sophomore Brooke Wiberley (Tennis), and sophomore Johnny Hodges (Lacrosse).

**Q: What is your work ethic during practice?**

**LB:** I always work hard in practice because I am the youngest one and know I have to prove myself.

**JM:** I go to practice always trying to be the best I can be and make the most out of every drill.

**BG:** During practice, I try to treat it like game situations. That is where I am taking every rep, as I would in a game to trigger that muscle memory, so I know what to do.

**BW:** Every day at practice I choose one skill I'm going to work on for that day so I can improve my game in a new way.

**JH:** We have a varying work

ethic at our practice. We focus hard for some drills then play lackadaisical for others.

**Q: Were you surprised when you made varsity?**

**LB:** I was really excited for the opportunity to play on varsity: it was definitely my goal.

**JM:** It's really hard being a sophomore, but at least I'm not a freshman.

**BG:** Not really: with the large senior class leaving, I knew there was a spot for me to work for over the off-season.

**BW:** I wasn't that surprised when I made varsity tennis, but I was surprised freshmen year when I was a starting player.

**JH:** I was joyous.

**Q: How long have you been playing this sport?**

**LB:** Ten years. [I] started with a soccer tots program through the city of Gaithersburg and continued on from there.

**JM:** Eight years.

**BG:** I started playing T-ball when I was four years old. From there on, every season I would just go out and get better.

**BW:** I have been playing tennis for about four years now.

**JH:** I have been playing lacrosse since elementary school.

**Q: What is it like to**

**be an underclassman on a varsity sports team?**

**LB:** Well, I definitely have to factor an additional time and arm workout for filling the ice and water for the team, but it's great to have older role models that can help to guide my play.

**JM:** At least I'm not a freshman.

**BG:** [It's] really cool because you really get to represent your school well. In my case, I have three years ahead of me to play for my school.

**BW:** It is really fun ... because you get to be friends with people from all grades and you get to look up to the older players.

**JH:** It is kind of surreal to be an underclassman on varsity, but that feeling does not last long since we all want to achieve the same goals.

**Q: Do you feel intimidated by your older teammates?**

**LB:** I mean, who isn't intimidated by older classmates? But in the field we all have the same goal and it's to win and play our best as a team.

**JM:** No, they're all nice.

**BG:** Playing with a bunch of the kids on the team before QO and knowing all of them because of my brother being on the team makes them not intimidating

at all. We all know each other's strengths and weaknesses, which makes us a better team. So no, they don't intimidate me.

**BW:** I don't feel intimidated by the older players because we are all close friends on tennis and everyone can give everyone advice so we can all improve our game.

**JH:** I only feel intimidated by [senior] Will Copenhaver [Editor's note: this is a joke.]





# March Madness: NCAA Tournament bracket is revealed

By HUNTER  
BOOTHE  
& GRIFFIN MANN  
*Managing Editor and  
Sports Editor*

After months of anticipation, the NCAA men's basketball tournament bracket has finally been revealed. The top four seeds are Villanova (East), Kansas (Midwest), North Carolina (South), and Gonzaga (West). As the top overall seed, the Villanova Wildcats will look to defend last

season's title. They'll have to work to get out of the region, however, due to the presence of the Duke Blue Devils as the East's two seed. Despite hitting numerous rough patches during the season, Duke finished strong, winning the ACC tournament. Many analysts including ESPN's Jay Bilas found them worthy of a one seed. Also in the East, the three seed Baylor Bears and four seed Florida Gators loom. Baylor enjoyed a short stint at #1 in the AP top 25 before finishing the year at #9. Florida finished in

second place in the SEC and split the season series with Kentucky. The Kansas Jayhawks earned the top seed in the Midwest region after winning their 13th consecutive Big 12 regular season title. The Jayhawks face a potential elite eight matchup with the two seed Louisville Cardinals, a battle-tested group from the ACC. As the three, four, and five seeds respectively, the Oregon Ducks, Purdue Boilermakers, and Iowa State Cyclones all have a chance to shake up this region. Each were

very successful in their conference, the Ducks tying for first in the Pac-12, the Boilermakers winning the Big Ten outright, and the Cyclones tying for second in the Big-12. The North Carolina Tar Heels are the one seed in the South after winning the grueling ACC by two whole games. At the bottom of the region, the two seed Kentucky Wildcats threaten, the SEC's winner by two games. The uber-talented UCLA Bruins bring their fast-paced style to the region, coming in as the

three seed. The 30-4 Wichita State Shockers could create chaos in this region, after being seeded tenth. The Shockers will have to match up with an experienced Dayton Flyers team coached by Archie Miller in the first round. The Gonzaga Bulldogs are the West region's one seed after finishing 32-1, only falling to BYU at home. The two seed Arizona Wildcats are a smart pick to survive the region, as the Wildcats made a strong statement with their PAC-12 tournament win. The three seed Florida State

Seminoles dazzle with their athleticism and size but are susceptible to lulls in play. The Seminoles will face fourteen seed Florida Gulf Coast, the darlings of the 2013 tournament with their sweet sixteen run. The six seed Maryland Terrapins were the second to last team to be revealed, and they'll square off with the eleven seed Xavier Musketeers. The Terrapins hope to snap out of a late-season slump and play according to their 11-3 record away from home rather than their 4-6 record in their last ten games.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KANSAS CITY STAR

*Kansas forward Josh Jackson looks to cement his status as a top five NBA draft pick and win an NCAA title with the Jayhawks*

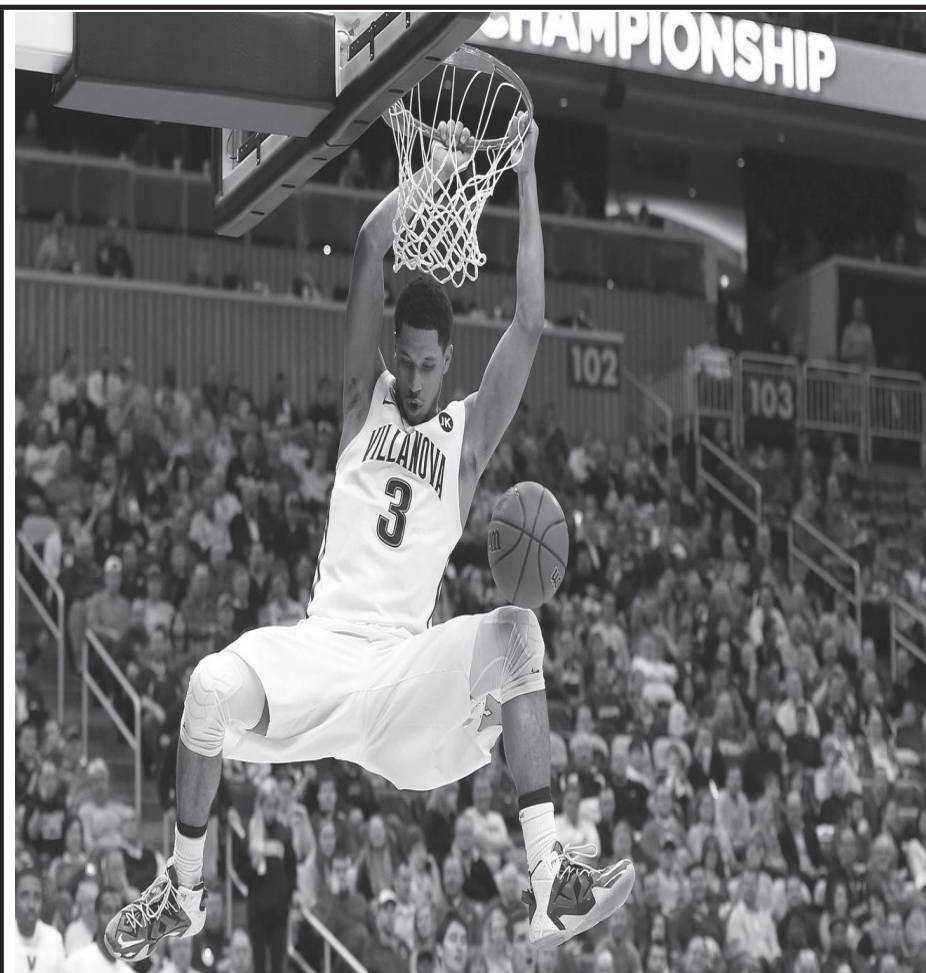


PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS RANTS

*Villanova forward Josh Hart has a chance to repeat as a NCAA champion with the Wildcats in his senior season*

## Coed & boys volleyball set up for big time success

By DAVID SUGGS  
*Editor-in-Chief*

The coed and boys volleyball look to continue their rapid development as they attempt to fight at the top of their respective divisions this season.

For the coed team, this season represents a real opportunity for the team to advance through the county play-

interesting, as many of the boys who play on the team have little to no experience playing volleyball. It adds an intriguing dynamic to the team, as many of the boys have to rely on the girls' experience to learn how to play correctly. "We [the boys on the team] have to learn on the spot," said senior John White.

Another key com-

ponent of the coed volleyball team is the relaxed nature of the team. "Coed is more relaxed [compared to girls volleyball] and not as serious," said

Van Valkenburgh. Many of the players on the team play different sports, so this element of coed volleyball is refreshing. White, a football player, highlighted this belief. "You don't have to be a weight room regular to be good at volleyball."

Don't get it twisted, though: volleyball is not a sport for the faint of heart. These athletes hope to bring together their competitive spirit from various sports in order to achieve the ultimate goal for the team: making it to the county championship. Montgomery County is the only county in the area that allows for coed volleyball, so the furthest the team can go is counties. Van Valkenburgh expressed the importance of making it to counties. "We all have the goal of making it back to the county championship and

winning [it] this year," she said. Hopefully, the combination of skilled, experienced players and new, talented debutants will carry the team towards a county title. Meanwhile, the

Kyle Jameson (first- and second-team all-county players, respectively), coach Cynthia Hollies will look to reinvigorate the squad, led by senior captain Sungmin Joo. Joo, an honorable mention on last

Joo admits that it will be difficult to recover from the loss of six seniors. "Last year, our boys team graduated six seniors, so we must all step up and fill the roles that the last year seniors left us," he said. However, the Cougars' captain hopes that the experience they gained from such a tremendous season last year will translate to another successful year.

Last year's season ended in disappointment for the boys team, as despite an 11-2 record, they were unable to get past regional power Wootton. Joo credits this loss as motivating him and his teammates for next season: "Everyone improved in their skill level [as a result of the defeat]," he said. Only time will tell if the team can rebound from a difficult ending in order to get to the state championship.

***"Last year, our boys team graduated six seniors, so we must all step up and fill the roles that the last year seniors left us."***

**-Sungmin Joo**

boys volleyball team is coming off of a resurgent season last year. Even despite the loss of important seniors from last year's squad, including Andrew Yuan and

year's all-county team, looks to follow the example that previous seniors like Yuan and Jameson set for him, as the team has won back-to-back divisional championships.

offs. Senior leaders Jesse Van Valkenburgh, Jessica Valenti, and Brooke Savell look to lead the squad to a title. Coed volleyball is especially

ponent of the coed volleyball team is the relaxed nature of the team. "Coed is more relaxed [compared to girls volleyball] and not as serious," said



## Boys and girls lacrosse teams look forward to challenging for states

*Both teams will look to senior leadership to lead them in the right direction this season*

By **JAMIE FINK**

Associate Editor

The boys and girls lacrosse seasons begin to approach quickly as the players finish up their last few pre-season workouts.

The boys team is now transitioning from the traditional classroom talks to cradling the ball and returning back to the Cougar Dome. The boys have been training since the fall as coach David Gonzalez has put together a fitness and lifting routine for the players. The boys have been in the weight room three times a week along with a day on the track.

"We have been doing a lot of team building exercises," said Gonzalez. In the offseason, the team has been reading a book called *The Hard Hat* about being a better teammate.

The team consists mostly of upperclassmen, which means there is a lot of leadership being developed throughout the team. Senior captain Drew Levine plans "to help some of the younger guys feel more comfortable." Having returners

means each player is one year older, faster, and stronger. Gonzalez has big expectations, as these boys have played with the best of the best and continually compete at a high level. Senior captain Joe McGowan also agrees with Gonzalez and thinks the team "needs to focus on honing in on our fundamentals and executing to our ability."

Last season, the boys team had a record of 9-8 and plan to improve the record by making it far in the playoffs. The boys have three main goals this season: win the division, the region (which has not been done in school history), and ultimately a state championship. "I believe we have guys that can do a very good job at getting us close to the goal, if not reach the goal," said Gonzalez.

The team lost to Urbana in the third round of playoffs last year and hopes to get back to that point this year. "Our goal is to win a regional championship and take it one day at a time," said senior Joe Beville.

The chemistry is unknown at this point in the season, but based on past years these boys have been playing

together for a while and depends on how willing the guys are to compete.

The girls team has also been putting in a lot of hard work this offseason by playing in a winter league, training at Conquer Fitness, an outside gym, twice

**"I believe we have guys that can do a very good job at getting us close to the goal, if not reach the goal."**

-David Gonzalez

a week, and also having a captain's practice twice a week. Senior Morgan Avissar explained her excitement as she begins her final season, saying she wants to "have a really good fun competitive season."

The seniors always plan fun bonding activities for the entire team. Junior Mallory Rosenfeld plays defensive midfielder and plays a huge part in making

sure goals are not scored on her team. "I really look up to [senior] Carly Porter because she is an incredible defender and coaches me throughout the game," said Rosenfeld.

Porter has been on varsity all four years and has big aspirations to go far in playoffs this season. She explained that the team is going to take the season one game at a time and focus on getting better throughout the season. "Our team needs to focus on our communication skills," she said. "Being able to talk to each other in the middle of the game is so important and will help us be successful throughout the season." In addition, sophomore Jordyn Mensh believes that as a team everyone needs to work on shooting on goal and attacking as a team.

The first game for both teams will be on March 21 against Urbana. Both teams hope to start the season off on the right foot and strive for a solid win this time.

**Make sure to come out and support QO Lacrosse against Urbana on March 21!**

## Boys tennis, track & field gear up for upcoming seasons

By **LOGAN FEINGOLD**

Associate Editor

After rising up from Division II last year to Division I this year, boys tennis is looking to continue to play at a high level this year.

Despite losing key singles players such as Joe Cooke and Andrew Textoris, the young and deep team has all the tools to continue the success of last year's squad. This year's team features many underclassmen eager to prove themselves.

Senior Spencer Tabit "hope[s] to pass on to [the underclassmen] the mental aspects [and] the ability to keep playing even when the game isn't going your way. These skills are crucial in tennis as players always have to stay focused and maintain their composure to stay competitive in their games." He also hopes that a lot of the young team members "[have fun] and improve."

Senior Alex Kirsch, another tennis player who has been on the team since freshman year, cites one important lesson he has learned from experience: "[try your best] to be good because you never know the level of your opponent until you

**"[Try your best] to be good because you never know the level of your opponent until you play them."**

-Spencer Tabit

play them."

Although tennis is a very strenuous sport, maximizing effort at all times is a winning strategy. Arguably the team's biggest strength this year is its depth, as

the team is stocked with solid doubles players who know how to play with each other. As the year goes on, these players should get even more familiar with each other and consequently perform better. The official tennis season starts on March 21, as the team faces Walter Johnson, and then faces Churchill on March 25. Both of these teams are strong squads, and should give the Cougars all they can handle. With a young team that has plenty of room to improve, the sky's the limit for the Cougars this year.

Meanwhile, track heads outside for a whole new season. Quince Orchard performed very well at the 2017 State Championship meet for indoor track on February 20 and 21. On the girls side, freshman Kyra Lyles set a school record at 41.66 seconds in the 300 meter dash, senior Maya Jacobson finished third in the 3200 meter dash, and junior Isabelle Sajonia and senior Madison Wellinghoff

also contributed great performances to the team. On the boys' side, junior Chris Thoms finished third in the state 4A division for the 3200 meter, and seniors Matthew Owens, Adam Levey, and Eli Holmstead put up solid performances in other events.

The team is hoping to repeat those performances in the spring, focusing on having fun while preparing to do well. Sophomore Margaret Lilyestrom enjoys "team dinner at Noodles & Company" before a meet to prepare to run her best. Senior Sajjan Mistry, who has been on the team his entire time at Quince Orchard, likes to run in the 200 meter, since he primarily focuses on long distance sprinting, allowing his coaches to use him "when we need a quick change in momentum along with a few points."

With all these talented runners and good chemistry to boot, look for outdoor track to have a fantastic season.

## Boys basketball's historic season comes to an end at Xfinity Center

By **DAVID SUGGS**

& **JAMIE FINK**

Editor-in-Chief & Associate Editor

The boys basketball team captivated the minds of a school, community, and region, as they defied all odds to reach the 4A state championship game. QO hadn't made it to the final four since 2000, let alone the state championship game.

Following an unbelievable season, the Cougars (20-2) were rewarded with a #1 seed in their region and a first-round bye. The regular season was highlighted by victories against rival Northwest and perennial 4A contenders Gaithersburg and Clarksburg.

The Cougars, coming off a lengthy break following their first-round bye, easily swept aside Einstein, Kennedy, and Richard Montgomery, defeating them with scores of 69-58, 52-37, and 56-41, respectively.

However, it was always going to be a challenge when the Cougars found out who they were playing against at the Xfinity Center in College Park: the #1 overall seed in the tournament, Wise.

As the Cougars were serenaded by senior Camille Booth's beautiful rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" prior to the March 9 game, the atmosphere in the arena was electric. This kicked the game off into high gear and created brutal excitement as the Red Army came out

in full force that evening.

The Pumas got off to a fast start, quickly taking a 10-4 lead. However, as the Cougars began to set into the game, QO roared back, stealing the lead and going into halftime with a 30-19 advantage.

In the third quarter, Wise upped their pressure, with Wise senior Darron Barnes reinvigorating the Pumas. At the end of the quarter, senior guard Yamon Robinson hit an off-balance three-pointer to cut Quince Orchard's lead to three.

The back and forth affair continued deep into the fourth quarter, as an early Barnes three-pointer tied the game for the first time since the middle of the first quarter. Barnes then drove down the lane following a miss by senior John Fierstein, scoring and securing Wise's first lead since the first quarter. While it looked as if the game was on the precipice of getting out of control, Barnes followed his shot with a resounding block. However, senior captain Colin Crews' charge reestablished the momentum for the Cougars.

With 1:12 left in the fourth quarter, Crews hit a deep three-pointer from the corner to put the Cougars up by two. In the final moments of the game, senior Jake Feidelman was given two foul shots.

"I was just thinking about the thousands of free throws I've made before and wanted to step up to the occasion to help my team go to states," said Feidelman. He calmly sank the two free throws, extending the Cougars' lead to 55-52.

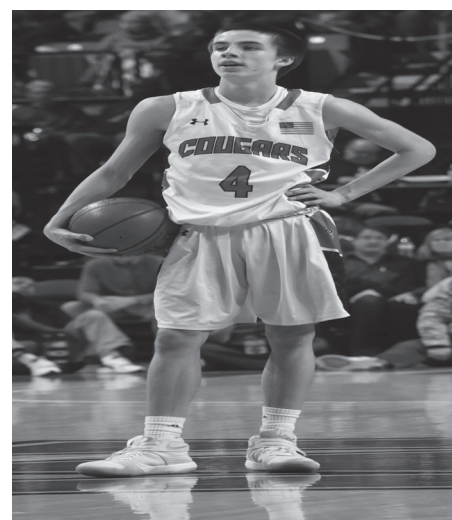


PHOTO COURTESY OF MAC KENNEDY

**BREATHE IN, BREATHE OUT:** Senior Matthew Kelly lines up for a free throw attempt in the state semifinals.

Barnes missed an off-balance three as the buzzer sounded, giving the Cougars a stunning victory.

Only two days later was the moment all the boys had spent countless hours in the weight room and in the gym preparing for: states. The Cougars ran out of the tunnel with relentless energy and desire to put their team on top. With the Perry Hall Gators starting players at 6'9" and 6'8", and the Cougars' tallest player, Fierstein, at 6'4", the pressure was on.

In the first quarter, the Cougars got off to a fast start with senior Matthew Kelly

**"I was just thinking about the thousands of free throws I've made before and wanted to step up to the occasion to help my team go to states."**

-Jake Feidelman

hitting two back-to-back three-pointers. The Red Army screamed and raved over the amazing opening. The quarter ended with a score of 8-6.

The half ended with the Gators leading 24-17. However, the Cougars came out with pride as they made a major comeback in the third quarter. With a controversial call made by the officials, the Gators were given two free throws, which tied the game, putting it into overtime. However, the Gators had too much for the Cougars, defeating QO by three, 59-56.

The boys all wanted to dedicate their season to the coach who started with them at a very early age, Dave Griffin, who is currently fighting cancer in the hospital.

While this season ended in heartbreak, the fight of this team will not soon be forgotten. Congratulations to the Cougars on their sensational season.



# QO cheer makes history with an outstanding finish

By DAVID SUGGS  
Editor-in-Chief

For the cheerleading team, their triumph in the Division 1 Cheerleading Competition was the result of years of hard work and dedication, especially for the senior members of the team.

In many ways, the successes of the cheerleading team can be traced back to the summer before this season.

The coaches of the cheerleading team, science teacher Jennifer Yeck and Laura Durkin, sent the team to a cheerleading camp before the season. The camp, Pine Forest, was an integral factor in the development of the team's chemistry.

"[At Pine Forest] we got the mindset of practicing as a team. By the time our season started, 'we were motivated from camp

and had already gotten to figure out how to work best with each other," said senior captain Erin Roche.

As the team has to work together on their intricate performances, teamwork is essential, both for the safety and the cheerleaders and in order to earn good scores in their competitions. Roche cited the most important lesson she learned on the cheer squad as "[working] well with other people" and "[doing] what's best for other people and not just yourself."

One thing that helped the team reach their highest level at the cheerleading competitions was the undying support of the Red Army and the rest of the extended Cougar family. Senior Carley Welch described the atmosphere surrounding the team at the competition as a "mixture

of excitement and nervousness."

Their flawless team chemistry, selflessness, and work ethic allowed the team to capture the Montgomery County Division I Cheerleading Competition. Welch described the competition as much more intense than events like basketball games and football games due to the team "being judged on how well [they] perform...compared to when cheering at sporting events, [which] is all about the team you are supporting."

Despite this major difference, the team still managed to perform their best at the competition. The Red Army surely will continue to give the squad the same level of support they did this year next year, and the squad will potentially compete for another county championship next year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TOWN COURIER

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

### BASEBALL

**Kevin Gurcan '17**



Senior Kevin Gurcan is a fourth-year player that has worked very hard to become one of the team's best pitchers. His lefty arm is a huge threat to the opposing team.

### BOYS LACROSSE

**Joe Beville '17**



Senior Captain Joe Beville drives to the goal and scores his way to victory. He leads on and off the field and also hopes to lead them to a state title.

### SOFTBALL

**Nicole Beisner '17**



Senior Nicole Beisner has been working hard for the past four years in hope it leads to a state championship run.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

**Lindsay Kohan '17**

Senior Lindsay Kohan is a spirited competitor that works hard for every rep and always finds a way to push her teammates. She is a leader on and off the field.



### BOYS TENNIS

**Alec Rappaport '18**



Junior Alec Rappaport is the team's number one for the year. He plays a huge role in perfecting his teammates' skills, as well as competing with the opponent's best players.

### CO ED VOLLEYBALL

**Courtney Rinehimer '18**



Junior Courtney Rinehimer is a skilled volleyball player that leads the team with her strong communication and skilled coordination. She should be fun to watch.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	<b>Kevin Gurcan</b>	<b>Lindsey Kohan</b>	<b>Joe Beville</b>	<b>Alec Rappaport</b>	<b>Nicole Beisner</b>	<b>Courtney Rinehimer</b>
What would be the hardest thing to give up?	<b>Seeing Shane Boyd every day</b>	<b>Thai Taniam</b>	<b>Crocs</b>	<b>My Life</b>	<b>Ice Cream</b>	<b>My Phone</b>
Who is the most famous person you ever met?	<b>Jim Carey</b>	<b>Chester Bennington</b>	<b>Curious George</b>	<b>Alex Ovechkin</b>	<b>Jimmy Fallon</b>	<b>Kathlyn Kavadias</b>
What is the strangest thing you've ever eaten?	<b>Frog Legs</b>	<b>Bacon-flavored chocolate</b>	<b>Bubblegum</b>	<b>I ate Eel</b>	<b>French fries dipped in mayo</b>	<b>Duck</b>
What bad habit do you have?	<b>Doing Homework</b>	<b>Waking up at 2pm</b>	<b>C H A W W W W</b>	<b>Procrastination</b>	<b>Making fun of Sydney Rourke</b>	<b>Staying up late</b>
If you could have a superpower what would it be?	<b>Invisibility</b>	<b>To Fly</b>	<b>To Fly</b>	<b>Able to become invisible</b>	<b>Time Travel</b>	<b>To be like Niko Brown</b>
What song would you sing if you were on American Idol?	<b>Pretty Fly for a White Guy - Americana</b>	<b>Apartment by Young The Giant</b>	<b>Dancing in the moonlight by King Harvest</b>	<b>Good Vibrations by Market Mark</b>	<b>The Climb by Miley Cyrus</b>	<b>Planez</b>