

# THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

## RHS student's alleged rape raises security questions

By DYLAN KEARNEY  
Associate Editor

About two months ago, a 14-year-old female student from Rockville High School (RHS) was allegedly raped by two other male students. The incident occurred in the middle of the school day, in between classes where the female was forced into the bathroom by the two boys. This event has led to many members of the community questioning the safety procedures of MCPS schools. The incident also gained nationwide attention because of concerns surrounding the students who committed the crime; the two male students, ages 17 and 18, are both undocumented immigrants and were enrolled in RHS as freshmen.

Photos of protesters outside RHS and others around the country have used the event to exemplify how many feel there is an immigration problem in this country, saying that an event like this wouldn't have happened if the boys were not enrolled at Rockville. However, QO Spanish teacher Elizabeth Rodgers shares that an event like this is exactly what she always feared: that people are taking one case and applying it to an entire group of people.

"As teachers we try to teach students to not fear an entire group of people and not to be afraid of an immigration status," Rodgers said. "When Brock Turner was charged for rape at Stanford University, people didn't start telling others to fear white males in this country."

Sophomore Ryan Gniadek had some concerns about the decisions that MCPS made after the event and wrote an open letter to Superintendent Jack

Smith concerning the issues. Student Member of the Board (SMOB) Eric Guerri responded to the letter, explaining some of the misunderstandings. One response was to an allegation that Smith ignored the issues of the tragedy. Guerri explains that Smith has addressed the issues in a FAQ about MCPS policies and also in the video of the MCPS press conference on March 21. Smith also mentions that MCPS is working with law enforcement to "identify those who are making threats toward our students and schools" in response to racist and xenophobic emails.

On the issue of the age of the two male students, MCPS students are enrolled based on their academic credits, not by their age. Guerri also mentions that students who are 17 or 18 years old are often involved in school activities with younger students and that this is "not only true for MCPS but for nearly every public or private high school across the country."

Gniadek and others still express concerns about how late MCPS responded. While the incident occurred on March 16, Smith's email message to MCPS community was sent one week later on March 23. In an event like this, said Gniadek, "MCPS should notify students and parents immediately." Guerri also stated in the letter that MCPS and the Board of Education has no intention of changing security camera policies in schools and Guerri called it a "logistical and financial challenge."

Gniadek believes that monitoring all security cameras is a "necessary step for MCPS to be in control of what is happening." On parent backlash, Gniadek believes that the concerns expressed by the general community are valid. He understands by law MCPS is allowed to



PHOTO COURTESY OF BETHESDA MAGAZINE

**A COMMUNITY UNITES:** Rockville High School reacts to the allegations of sexual assault, the national spotlight, and protestors through symbols of support.

admit the accused students, but he says, "what concerns me (and many parents) if there is no way to screen people like this when they are registering for schools."

The case has become more complicated, with the two alleged perpetrators claiming their innocence. Allegedly, in the weeks before the incident, the 17 year old student and the female student were planning on having sex at school, with the female student consenting through text. According to an article by the New York Daily News writer David Boroff, Maryland law says that someone who is 14 cannot give consent to have sexual relations with someone who is 4 years older than them. One of suspects is only 3 years and 8 months older than her. Though these facts have been proven true, according to Boroff, "police say

they stand by their finding that the girl was sexually assaulted" in that incident.

"The events were horrible. They were not consensual," said Captain James Humphries of the Montgomery Police Department's Special Victims Investigation unit, according to The Washington Post.

Because of the tragic repercussions of an event like this, MCPS and Superintendent Jack Smith have made new rules to keep students safer in MCPS schools. Many teachers have enforced a five minute rule where if a student leaves with the hall pass for more than five minutes, security will be called. This is to ensure that students are always accounted for. When asked, QO security also shared that on a regular basis students should never be gone in the hallway for a long period of time in the hallways.

## 2017-18 MCPS calendar to have large impact on staff, students

By ANNA GOOREVICH  
Editor-in-Chief

Last February, the MCPS Board of Education released the details of the 2017-2018 school calendar, which starts on September 5, 2017 and ends on June 12, 2018. The new calendar complies with Governor Hogan's executive order, demanding that schools begin after Labor Day and end by June 15, with hopes that a longer summer will boost the local economy through increased tourism.

The details of the new calendar includes a 182-day school year, two days shorter than normal, eight professional planning days for teachers before the start of the school year (August 23 to September 1), and

a contingency plan that will use the first two days of spring break as make-up days in case of snow.

Junior Brent Jamsa is in support of the new calendar, especially the longer summer, as it provides greater employment opportunities. "For minimum wage workers like me," said Brent, "[a longer summer] allows me to work more hours and earn more money. I believe Montgomery County students will be able to benefit from that."

Social studies teacher Karen Jones adds that giving students more time with family through a longer summer is also a positive change of the new calendar.

However, despite the proposed economic gains

from the new calendar, there are many unintended consequences of the new calendar, causing controversy for MCPS staff. Typically, there are professional days built into the school calendar between marking periods as a way for teachers to grade and plan. With the new calendar, these professional days are replaced by early release days, leaving little time for teacher grading. In a letter to Governor Hogan from the Board of Education, MCPS argues that the new calendar "severely limits the amount of time available for professional development and teacher planning time."

"[Teachers] need time to be better prepared and to be more effective for their students," said science

teacher Patrick Truman. "The transitions between marking periods and semesters may be particularly challenging because there isn't a lot of time to finish grading and do what we need to be prepared. I think the shift is going to be that teachers are going to have to use their own personal time to make up for the time that's lost."

Jones believes that a loss of instructional time within the school year may be a challenge, especially for AP classes, as the AP tests will still be held in early May, which decreases preparation time for students.

Jones is also concerned that the style of teaching will change as there is limited time. "I'm worried that this may be a backtrack towards

teacher-directed content, versus the trend where we're going with student discourse, interactive learning, and student centered lessons," added Jones. "You can't have that without having enough time."

Other unintended consequences are that many families depend on school for childcare and for free or reduced-price meals. Pushing school back a week and a half means that many families will have to pay more for daycare and meals for their children when it is usually supplied by schools during this time. "There's a lot of things that aren't directly addressed, but that are also impacted," said Truman. "It's not just the teachers."

Additionally the new schedule will also have an impact on fall sports. Junior and member of the girls soccer team Beth Ellinport states that "the fall sports are still starting at the same time (around August 12), so for fall athletes, our summer will still end when it normally ends. The new calendar won't make a difference for many student-athletes in lengthening the summer."

While the overall consequences of the new calendar may not be fully evaluated until next year, it is evident that the shortened school year will affect both teachers and students. "Time is the most precious resource that we have," said Truman, "so I think it's going to be a difficult balancing act."

### News

Former NFL star tight-end Aaron Hernandez committed suicide.

Page 2



CBS BOSTON

### Features

The Fate of the Furious gets surprisingly favorable a review from our film critic.

Page 8



ALPHA CODERS

### Sports

Both lacrosse teams are aiming for a successful playoff season.

Page 9



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# Former NFL player dies

By **ALEX HAMER**  
News Editor

On April 19, former NFL tight end and convicted murderer Aaron Hernandez committed suicide by hanging in his jail cell in Shirley, Massachusetts. According to the Massachusetts Department of Correction, Hernandez was discovered hanged in his cell by correctional officers at the Baranowski Correctional Center at approximately 3:05 a.m. and taken to a hospital in Leominster, where he was pronounced dead at 4:07 a.m. Hernandez was serving a life sentence for the murder of Odin Lloyd and was also indicted for the double homicide of Daniel de Abreu and Safiro Furtado, but on April 14 was acquitted for the latter crime.

Hernandez's life is perhaps the most unique for any athlete in the history of the NFL and perhaps all of sports, but for all the wrong reasons. Once seen as a rising superstar for the New England Patriots, nobody in the media nor the general public could have predicted the shocking news that dropped in June 2013, when Hernandez was arrested for the murder of Lloyd. In 2012, Hernandez had signed a five-year contract extension worth \$40 million, the second largest extension ever given to an NFL tight end, second to his teammate Rob Gronkowski, with whom he had formed a dominant duo. From the outside looking in, things could not be much better in Hernandez's life prior to his arrest. However, Hernandez had troubles dating back to his childhood.

Hernandez's father, Dennis, died from complications from hernia surgery when Hernandez was 16. According to Hernandez's mother, the death greatly affected him and led him to associate with the wrong group of people who proved to ultimately be negative influences in his life.

While attending the University

of Florida, Hernandez was involved in a violent altercation at a campus bar and was also connected to a shooting in Gainesville. Despite these negative off-field issues, Hernandez was selected in the fourth round of the 2010 NFL Draft by the New England Patriots. Even when Hernandez was drafted, the warning signs of what was to come were evident. "Florida coach Urban Meyer's advice to [Bill] Belichick

**"Aaron Hernandez was brought down by the life he couldn't outrun."**

**-Peter King**

(New England Patriots head coach) in 2010 went like this: You have to stay on top of him, because of the people who have been around him," said Albert Breer of the Monday Morning Quarterback (MMQB).

It is easy to argue these warning signs should have made it obvious Hernandez's life was out of control. However, this evidently was not the case, otherwise the Patriots would not have given Hernandez his contract extension six weeks after the double homicide of Abreu and Furtado. Hernandez's ability to live his double life and keep both entirely separate until his arrest in 2013 was part of the reason his life collapsed so suddenly and unexpectedly. In February 2013, Hernandez told Belichick he would spend the next few months rehabilitating an injury in California rather than Massachusetts in order to spend time building chemistry with Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who was already spending

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the offseason in Los Angeles. It was a perfectly logical story, and that is what made it an ideal cover-up for Hernandez's actual reason for going to California: to avoid the heat back home in Connecticut after the murder of Lloyd, according to Hernandez's lawyer Ronald Sullivan. One of Hernandez's former coaches summed up his life in one line. "He's the most talented liar I've ever been around," the anonymous coach said to Breer.

Hernandez's family held a private funeral on April 24 in his hometown in Bristol, Connecticut.

His brain will be donated to scientists at the University of Boston for any signs of repeated trauma suffered during his time playing football, according to ESPN.

The life of Aaron Hernandez will be remembered in many ways: for taking the lives of others, but also for wasting his tremendous talent for football, instead choosing to live a double life that brought grief to his fiancée, daughter, and Lloyd's family.

As Peter King of the MMQB said, "Aaron Hernandez was brought down by the life he couldn't outrun."

# PROWLER NEWS FLASHES

By **ANNA GOOREVICH**  
Editor-in-Chief

Fields Road Elementary School (FRES) was in the national spotlight this month after their rendition of Jimmy Fallon's "Egg Roulette" was featured on NBC's The Tonight Show on April 21. The Egg Roulette consists of two participants, in this case FRES principal Erica Williams and assistant principal Kristi Ricca, taking turns smashing eggs on their heads, some of which are hard-boiled while others are raw. The principals at FRES agreed to the activity after students at the school raised over \$13,000 for their Read-A-Thon. Undoubtedly impressed by their brave feat, Fallon, with help from Reddi-wip, donated an additional \$13,000 to the school, bringing their grand total to over \$26,000. Williams expressed her gratitude to The Tonight Show and Reddi-wip through her Twitter page, remarking that "[FRES is] so eggcited!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY MEDIA



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA WILLIAMS

By **SOPHIE LANE**  
Associate Editor

On Saturday, April 22, in honor of Earth Day, the March for Science took place in Washington, DC. This was a protest partly prompted by President Trump's threats of budget cuts to agencies funding scientists' work. At the protest, you could find "teach-in tents," a rally, and public celebration of science and the achievements of scientists. In addition to the large teach-in tents where scientists, educators, and leaders discussed their achievements, goals, and strategies, there were main stage speakers such as scientist Bill Nye. With over 600 marches occurring worldwide, Earth Day was considered a success, bringing awareness to budget cut threats, and celebrating how science supports democracy, the economy, and our daily lives.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AARON BERGER





# After APs, absence of final exams leaves gap

By BRANDON FREEDMAN  
Managing Editor

In one week, AP tests will be coming to a close. Although there is still a bit more than a month left of school, the remaining days will play out differently than past years due to the absence of final exams.

AP tests happen every year during the first two weeks of May. After they are over, preparation usually takes place for non-AP final exams – but not this year. Dropping final exams has its pros and cons to teaching lessons and school attendance.

AP Spanish teachers Elizabeth Rodgers and Jennifer McEldowney both had similar opinions on the lack of final exams. Now that there

is not a week designated for exams at the end of the semester, there is less of an incentive for students to take AP tests. If an AP student did not sign up or take the AP test for their class, teachers used to be able to administer their own exam at the end of the fourth quarter in their designated exam testing period. Now that the two hour blocks do not exist, there is no way to ensure that every student gets administered an exam of some sort which may cause issues for some teachers.

According to other teachers, such as AP Environmental Science teacher Deborah Haase, this should not be a problem, as “in the past every student has signed up to take their

AP test.” This means that there is no worrying about administering students’ additional exams in just a regular class time block because attendance was perfect.

Although not having final exams does not benefit AP teachers, as they are done teaching new material by late June, students are taking advantage of not having final exams. For many students taking AP classes, there is a sigh of relief that there is no need to worry about both regular and AP exams, even if they are a month apart. Junior Abby Cohn said that “I don’t feel as stressed about having to worry about both AP and normal exams.” In addition, she said that there is more time to focus studying on

specific topics rather than all subjects at once, as is needed in studying for final exams.

Some students argue that there is no difference because some students still have to take RQAs, but junior Matthew Zlotnicki claimed that “studying for RQAs takes less effort, because it only tests you on stuff from the past quarter and you don’t have to get notes from earlier on in the year.”

For students taking four to five AP classes, after they are done testing, there is no motivation for them to attend school, especially during the last week, as they do not have to worry about more exams at the end of the year. On the other hand, some teachers value the extra

full week of school and being able to fit in full units, but some students claim that they will probably not attend those last few days of school.

*“I don’t feel as stressed about having to worry about both AP and normal exams.”*

-Abby Cohn

For students in the midst of taking AP tests this week and next, rest up and good luck!

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<b>MAY 2017</b>						
	<b>1</b> AP Exams: Chemistry, Env. Science, Psychology	<b>2</b> AP Exams: Comp Sci A, Spanish, Art History, Physics 1	<b>3</b> AP Exams: English Literature, Physics 2	<b>4</b> AP Exams: NSL, Chinese	<b>5</b> AP Exams: US History, Comp. Sci. Principles	<b>6</b> SAT Exams
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> AP Exams: Biology, Music, Physics C	<b>9</b> AP Exams: Calculus AB/BC, French	<b>10</b> AP Exams: English Language, Macroeconomics	<b>11</b> AP Exams: Comp. Gov, World History, Statistics	<b>12</b> AP Exams: Hum. Geo., Microeconomics, European History	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Every 15 Minutes	<b>17</b> Every 15 Minutes	<b>18</b> PARCC Testing Period 8 Senior Exam	<b>19</b> PARCC Testing Prom!	<b>20</b> 12:30 A.M. After Prom
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> HSA testing Periods 6 & 7 Senior Exams	<b>23</b> HSA testing Periods 3 & 4 Senior Exams	<b>24</b> Periods 1 & 2 Senior Exams Spring Sports Celebration	<b>25</b> Senior Awards	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> NO SCHOOL	<b>30</b> Graduation Rehearsal	<b>31</b> Graduation! No School for Underclassmen			
<b>JUNE 2017</b>						
				<b>1</b> National Go Barefoot Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> SAT Exams
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> National Chocolate Ice Cream Day	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ACT Exams
<b>11</b> National Corn on the Cob Day	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> National Lobster Day	<b>16</b> LAST DAY OF SCHOOL	<b>17</b>

## The future of climate change

### VIEWPOINT

By EMILY ORR

Journalism Student

Scientists predict that our oceans will be devoid of fish by 2048. If true, it would be an incredible mass extinction in the body of water that feeds over one billion people. Under the Trump Administration, the EPA has been changing in way that could be detrimental to the health of the world and the world population.

President Trump nominated Scott Pruitt, the attorney general of the oil and gas-intensive state of Oklahoma, to head the Environmental Protection Agency. This change in the EPA has already started a number of repeals and changes to the effective laws passed under Obama's presidency. In the

few months Trump's presidency, there has been a drastic funding reduction for NOAA, the main federal agency responsible for managing the U.S.'s oceans and coasts, the EPA website was ordered to remove its climate change page, and plans put in place to scale back the Clean Power Plan for power plants. In addition to these ridiculous changes, members of Congress have written up a bill to terminate the EPA.

Without the rules and regulations the government has over pollutants and offshore drilling, the U.S. could have dramatic changes in the future. Our coastlines will be underwater soon, the air will be difficult to breathe in more places than major cities, and the increase of offshore

drilling could lead to the death of North American fish. U.S. citizens may be looking at no clean water and sparse seafood in the near future.

President Trump has made it clear that he wants to fight many of the environmental laws put into place after announcing a new executive order this March, ordering his cabinet to reconsider emission regulations and regulations pertaining to coal and gas. According to the Rhodium Group, a company that uses data analysis to examine global trends, if Trump weakens the policies and regulations put in place by the Obama administration, the U.S. will be "unlikely to meet its Paris treaty pledge of cutting greenhouse gas emissions 26 percent below 2005 levels by 2025."

We have a leader of the EPA who is against renewable energy and for burning fossil fuels and a president who wants to weaken environmental policies already put in place. If we don't fight these changes to laws that have helped keep our Earth from dying at an alarming rate, we may be past the point of fixing our environment. Contact your congressional representative and take a stand in defending our planet!



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEHILL.COM  
**CLIMATE CHANGE:** President Trump believes it is possible to expand economically and still save the environment. Recent budget cuts to EPA and NOAA will make it a challenge.

## School classes and creativity

### VIEWPOINT

By FLYNN SNYDER

Journalism Student

It's a common scene in most high schools across the country: students struggling to stay awake in a subject they have little interest in. Many students attempt to take the most challenging courses available in order to improve their academic record, but that decision may come at the expense of actual student interest in the subject. This tradeoff can be fixed, however, if required courses, such as math and English requirements, in high schools are eliminated.

As students begin deciding their courses for the next school year, many are dreading the idea of being required to take those one or two classes that can bring endless amounts of homework and constant studying. There is, however, a new push to eliminate required courses in high schools and increase the amount of elective opportunities for students.

Typical required courses such as general English, math, or science can cause students to become overwhelmed and students may end up failing as a result. As a student myself, I can vouch for the idea that if a student views a course as challenging and work intensive, then they are more likely to become disengaged within the class and put in less effort as a result. This notion is no excuse for students not challenging themselves and broadening their academic horizons, but students should instead spend time on projects, classes, and assignments that they are passionate about.

Additionally, required courses that demand a heavy workload can cause students to miss out on the lighter and fun aspects of high school because they are too busy doing all of their homework. If students take classes they are interested in, they are more likely to be

more active and participate in the class. "Electives help with creativity" said senior Bret Williams. "I'm more likely to participate in classes that I choose because it sparks my interest."

Despite this recent push, many argue that required courses are an important aspect to a student's course list. According to *U.S. News*, required courses improve academic weaknesses, provide classes that mimic college courses, and can provide unusual opportunities otherwise not offered to students.

When asked the benefits of required courses, junior Amanda Murayama said, "You get to experience subjects that you don't necessarily like, but you may end up liking them."

*"Electives help with creativity... I'm more likely to participate in classes that I choose because it sparks my interest."*

-Bret Williams

It should be noted that all required high school courses cannot be eliminated overall. However, more options for students should be available. School systems should provide students with more opportunities and options for classes. As a result, students are more likely to be engaged in class and put effort into assignments that they are passionate about and gain skills that may be of use to them in college and later on in life.





# The final countdown: seniors say goodbye

By HANNAH PEARLSTEIN  
Managing Editor

The beginning of the end. It is a cliché phrase, but it was one I heard often as I sat on the warm pavement on the first Sunday before senior year began, chatting with friends about how our summers had been, and what we looked forward to for the coming year.

The next day was the senior breakfast and parade through the school. A sea of red shirts filled the hallway as the marching band played us in for what would be our last year of real childhood and dependence. Soon enough, the Red Army was back in action, and every Friday night was spent cheering under the bright white

lights of a football stadium. Then came Homecoming, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, and finally New Year's.

New Year's was probably the first time I *really* began to think about college. I knew where I was officially going by then, and May 31, 2017 did not seem light years away anymore. I remember in elementary school when I first realized everyone in my class has "1-7" at the beginning of their ID numbers because we would graduate in 2017. It all seemed so far away, but as I stood with friends counting down until the clock struck 12 on New Year's Eve, 2017 was here.

Now with graduation only a few short weeks away, college seems much more real than it ever was

before. All of my friends will be traveling all over the country come August, and everyone is getting ready to really experience freedom for the first time. It is a bittersweet feeling. I am excited to embark on a new journey of independence and to have the chance to experience so many new things, but it's sad to think that all the people who have shaped me into the person I am today will be moving on with their own lives when I go to college. It's sad and happy all at the same time, but I think I'm finally ready to put on the black cap and gown and walk down the aisle at D.A.R. Constitution Hall towards what college and the rest of my life has waiting for me.

# Viewpoint: Let's lower the drinking age to 18

By NICOLE THOMAS  
Journalism Student

The United States has one of the highest national drinking ages in the world. The drinking age was changed to 21 during the 1980's while Ronald Reagan was in office, and Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign voiced her opinion on the dangers of chemical and substance abuse. Though the legal drinking age for the U.S. is 21, personally I believe that eighteen-year-olds are capable of consuming alcohol.

According to Wil Fulton, a *Huffington Post* journalist and author of "Is

it Time to Lower the Drinking Age to 18?" "In America, eighteen-year-olds can vote, operate a motor vehicle, pay taxes, marry, become a legal guardian, own a gun, fight and die in a foreign country, and even become governor of the great state of Rhode Island." If young adults can handle these responsibilities, why are they not given the right to purchase and consume alcohol?

Research documented in "Minimum Drinking Age: Should the minimum drinking age in the United States remain 21?" has shown that "The 21-and-over drinking age prompts younger Americans, most of whom are perfectly capable of drinking responsibly, to do

their drinking in private and in short amounts of time, creating potentially dangerous conditions." With the drinking age prohibiting nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population from consuming alcohol, those who are under the legal age have proven to gain access to alcohol. In many cases, binge drinking occurs leading to dangerous circumstances.

Though consuming alcohol can be physically damaging to growing brains, teaching young adults to drink responsibly at a younger age may be beneficial.

Petitions and protests can push the government into considering the request to lower the drinking age.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HAMPTON SCRIPT

# Fake news: what it is and how to spot it online

by TORI BERRY  
Managing Editor

Though its content is false, the threat of fake news is very real. Fake news has been around since the start of yellow journalism in the late 1890s. But it has become increasingly prominent, especially in these past few months. One person sitting at home, in their sweatpants, with their eyes glued to a screen all day, has the ability to convince thousands of people that former president Barack Obama was not born in this country - and all they need to do is post a story on the internet. Stories like these are too often spread incautiously through naive social networking, and this is what gives so much power to the person behind the fake news. To help you differentiate between what is real and what is not - and inevitably prevent this sort of careless sharing - we've come up with a few guidelines.

### #1: Corroboration

The first and most important step to fact-check-

ing a story you find is searching for other articles that have the same content. An individual person can write anything they want, but if multiple sources are telling the same story, then the chances are higher that the information is true. Of course, not all sources are accurate; that's what number two is for.

### #2: Credibility

Upon finding new sources, you need to dig a little deeper. Not all sources are actually credible, and sometimes they copy off each other. To check the credibility of an online article, look at the author(s), site design, and writing style. Credible sources list the authors of their articles more often than not whereas unreliable ones tend not to do this, or they use a screen name. Site design is relatively subjective, but it is more common for credible sources to have a neater, lighter design, while others are unorganized and use questionable colors. Journalists spend years perfecting their writing, so they will have less spelling and grammatical errors - articles

with an abundance of these may not be credible.

### #3: Clickbait

Overdramatic ads have become such a common style of online advertising that most people are immune to it, except when it shows up in the form of a headline. Clickbait is a manipulative tool used by online news sources, and while this doesn't necessarily always indicate that the story is false, it may be hyperbolized or deliberately misleading to increase readership. Phrases such as "you won't believe," "shocking," and "click here to read/see more" may be a sign that a story is just clickbait.

### #4: Caution

People spreading fake stories without checking on them first are part of the reason that fake news thrives so much. Remember to stay cautious and to check any story before sharing it.

While some websites have made efforts to prevent the distribution of fake news, it's still important for the rest of us to be on the lookout ourselves.

## Checkpoint Top Pentagon watchdog launches investigation into money that Michael Flynn received from foreign groups

By Dan Lamothe and Ed O'Keefe



National Security Advisor Michael Flynn is seen before a press conference with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Trump at the White House on Feb. 23. (Chris Berna/Reuters)

The Pentagon's top watchdog has launched an investigation into money that former national security adviser and retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn received from foreign groups, a new wrinkle in the downfall of President Trump's ousted national security adviser.

The Pentagon office will try to determine whether Flynn "failed to obtain required approval prior to receiving" the payments, according to an April 11 letter from Defense Department Inspector General Glenn A. Fine to Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), the chairman of the House Oversight Committee. In the past, the Pentagon has advised retiring officers that because they can be recalled to military service, they may be subject to the Constitution's rarely-enforced emoluments clause, which prohibits top officials from receiving payments or



### Most Read

- 1 North Korea puts its new video showing the missile test in cyberspace and on its outgoing
- 2 Top Pentagon watchdog warns that Flynn received foreign money
- 3 Russian navy intelligence ship's role after collision with the USS Cole
- 4 The U.S. needs to improve its cyber defense in eastern Europe
- 5 Israeli man has been sentenced to death after robbing the pope

## THE TRUTH SEEKER

Browse: Home / Mossad, Bush planned, executed 9/11'

### Mossad, Bush planned, executed 9/11'

By [www\\_admin](#) on January 12, 2014

Gordon Duff — Press TV Dec 25, 2014

**Recent revelations published on the Press TV website, the New York Post and Veterans Today have changed history.**

The story was simple, two American congressional representatives were allowed to read the Congressional 9/11 Investigation Report, this time including the areas President Bush had ordered removed. Both congressmen clearly state that the redacted pages of the report place full responsibility for the planning and execution of 9/11 on one or more foreign intelligence agencies, not "terrorists."

What is also clear is that President Bush's personal role in covering this up protected the real perpetrators of 9/11 and pushed the US into, not just two insane wars but draconian moves against America's government.

### The NSA and the Bush 9/11 coup

Nine eleven was a coup against the constitution. Additional reports released this week make clear some of the reasons Bush lied to the American people, to congress, our military and our allies, "Obama's Director for National Intelligence, James Clapper, has declassified new documents that reveal how the NSA was first given the green light to start collecting bulk communication data in the hunt for Al-Qaeda terrorists after 9/11. President Barack Obama's administration has for the first time publicly confirmed 'the

**Essential Reading**

**Affidavit of Richard Tomlinson**  
By [www\\_admin](#) on February 24, 2008

"I firmly believe that there exist documents held by the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) that would yield important new evidence into the cause and circumstances leading to the death of the Princess of Wales."

Category: **Essential Reading, Princess Diana, What Really Happened?**

**The Exeunt Gospel of Peace I**  
By [www\\_admin](#) on April 26, 2007

Based on texts found in the Vatican library and the Royal Library of the Hapsburgs and dated to the first century AD, the following is considered by some to be the real words of Christ.

Category: **Essential Reading, The Unexplained, esoteric and hidden knowledge**

**Soros/CIA Plan to Destabilize Europe**  
By [Wayne Hudson](#) on September 20, 2015

The same forces that orchestrated the various "colour revolutions" and the "Arab Spring" are behind Europe's migrant crisis.

Wayne Hudson explains

**CREDIBILITY:** Use these two examples from *Washington Post* and *The Truth Seeker* to compare the elements indicating online articles' credibility (see #2).

# BEACH WEEK: FRIENDS, FUN, AND SUN

BY HANNAH PEARLSTEIN  
MANAGING EDITOR

The seniors are nearing graduation, and after that long-awaited day at DAR is over, many QO seniors are choosing to trade in their caps and gowns for bikinis and boardshorts. It's time for beach week, or sweek (short for senior week), to begin.

Beach week is a longstanding senior tradition at QO in which seniors rent a house with their friends and drive to the Maryland or Delaware shores for a week filled with laying out in the sun, spending time with friends, and making memories to take with them as they move on to the next chapter in their lives.

Senior best friends Scott Drazan and Alex Martinez plan on renting a house in Ocean City, Maryland for the week, for what Drazan hopes will be "a good time catching rays with some good friends." Martinez said the number one thing he will be bringing to the beach with him is "lotion -- gotta stay

protected." Both Drazan and Martinez are excited to spend the week having a lot of fun after graduation.

Some seniors have elected to go elsewhere for beach week for a more relaxing time. Senior Camille Booth said she is going to Delaware and hopes beach week will be "a fun time with everyone; I plan to relax on the beach with all of my friends."

Senior John Fierstein will also be in Ocean City for beach week. He says he sees beach week as "the last big hurrah with all my bros." He says he will definitely be bringing "lots of sunscreen" and, although he doesn't know much about beach week, he says he isn't nervous and is ready for a good time.

The seniors still have a month before packing their cars for the drive towards freedom and sun, but it looks like those who plan on going are excited to get down and get some sand on their cheeks.

## TEACHER QUESTIONNAIRE

BY BRITTANY MILLS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

	What are you looking forward to most over the summer?	Explain your average summer day	What would you see a student do over the summer?
Mr. Jernigan	I don't have favorite things.	Get up, go to work, work, go home, do chores, watch Judge Judy, eat dinner with my family, repeat.	Look the other way
Ms. Umali	Taking over the world.	Same thing I try to do every day, Pinky.	Point, yell "the other way"
Mr. Wu	Travels and exercises.	I will be traveling or preparing for the next trip.	Hug and chat
Ms. Haase	Not getting up at 5:30 in the morning.	Chauffeur kids to and from camp, say I'm going to do something constructive while the kids are gone, but sit and drink coffee instead.	Depends who
Mr. Foringer	Vacation in August.	Teaching kids at summer basketball camp.	I usually do 10 seconds trying to remember their names about how they
Ms. Short	Ms. Short	Traveling to Paris!	Go for a run, work for Dis-cation, take pictures to swim and try new dinner.





# TIPS TO GET A SUMMER JOB

BY BRITTANY MILLS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

## 1. Make a resume

A resume listing your past experience is important to hand to possible employers. Make sure to include any past leadership or skill sets. Having a strong reference will also boost your application. This resume is helpful for when applying to future jobs and even when filling out college applications.

## 2. Follow your interests

You will have a much more enjoyable work experience if you are working in a field that you are passionate in. This way, you won't dread going to work and your enthusiasm will shine through in any interviews or applications.

## 3. Think local

Save gas money and work somewhere nearby! You can also work towards your summer bod by walking or biking to work.

## 4. Be honest

Don't lie about your skills or experience in your applications. Also, be honest about your availability over the summer. You don't want to be stuck at home, while you could be at the beach because you didn't ask to take off.

## 5. Be professional

Being mature and polite goes without saying, but being aware of the little mannerisms can be important. Make sure to be 15 minutes early to interviews. Remove "like" and "um" from your vocabulary when speaking to a superior, and turn off your phone to make sure you are engaged.

## 6. Ask around

Talk to older siblings and older Cougars who have had job experience to see where they recommend applying and which places pay well.

# THE PERFECT BEACH BODY

BY ALEXIS KIM  
DESIGN/LAYOUT MANAGER

# QUESTIONNAIRE

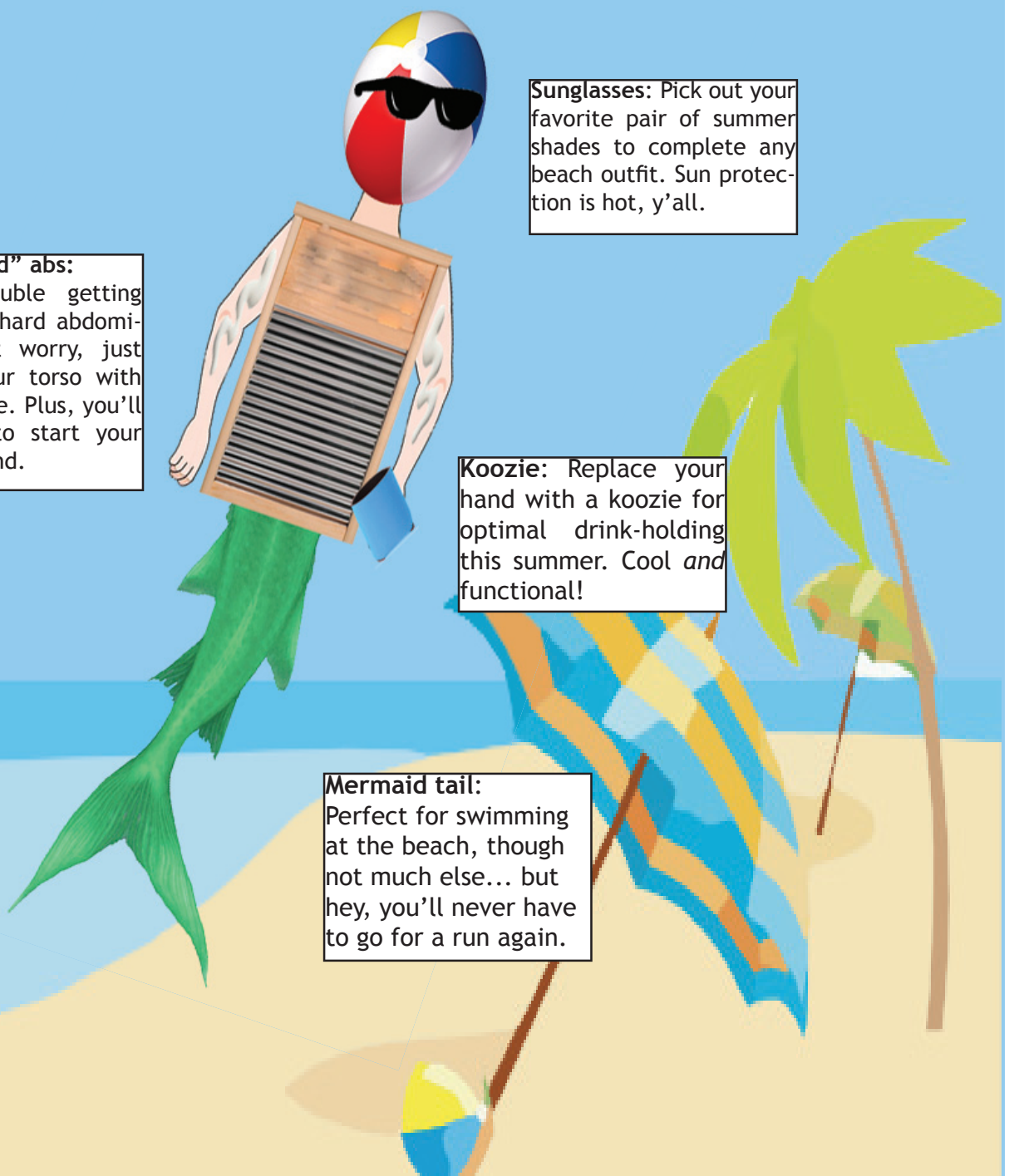
What do you do if you don't want to go over the beach?	Do you prefer beach, pool, or neither?
Neither way	Neither. The sun is bad for your skin and the beach is too sandy.
"Fire!" and run away.	I prefer my laboratory.
Pool.	Definitely pool. I like swimming laps.
Beach is :)	Beach!!!! Sand, ocean breeze, scuba diving, and dolphins.
Every summer, first couple going to remember, then chat their summer.	Waves some days with boogie boards. And calmer waters some days are more refreshing.
Do some discovery Edu-my daughter practice, recipes for	Both, but if you force me to choose, I would have to go with the beach.

**"Washboard" abs:**  
Having trouble getting those rock hard abdominals? Don't worry, just replace your torso with one of these. Plus, you'll be ready to start your own jug band.

**Sunglasses:** Pick out your favorite pair of summer shades to complete any beach outfit. Sun protection is hot, y'all.

**Koozie:** Replace your hand with a koozie for optimal drink-holding this summer. Cool and functional!

**Mermaid tail:**  
Perfect for swimming at the beach, though not much else... but hey, you'll never have to go for a run again.







# Ranking QO's best and worst water fountains

By **BEN PALMER**  
*Managing Editor*

As the school year comes to an end and graduation approaches, now is the time for seniors like me to say their goodbyes and leave advice for the underclassmen to help them succeed. Thus, in my lofty position on this newspaper, I will impart the greatest secrets known to mankind: the best and worst water fountains to drink from. Please note that this is only my opinion, making it the objective truth that you must follow.

### The Bottom Five

**5. Right Fountain by the Media Center.** While not lacking in temperature, this fountain's water flow is extremely choppy, making my drink rather unsatisfying and even a bit sickening.

**4. Fountains by Third-Floor Orange Hallway.** The water quality is still decent, but whoever decided to build these in the middle of a four-way intersection made a grave mistake. There's little room to navigate to and from them, and distant location in some cases makes the worst kinds of fountains. At least there aren't fountains in the Cougar Wing intersections...yet.

**3. Left Fountain, Second-Floor Cougar Wing.** Despite having an important height advantage on its brother, this fountain is one of a few that spouts completely lukewarm water. Being in a busy area doesn't help its case, either.

**2. Middle Fountain, First Floor Green Hallway.** Its water is even warmer and grosser than #3's, and it's even taller compared to its brethren, which are both too short for comfort. Not to mention that it's one of those inferior push-button types that shouldn't exist.

**1. Right Fountain, First Floor Green Hallway.** I never go in this hallway, and the water fountain situation here isn't tempting me to start. This fountain is representative of the average student, especially a senior: completely lacking in drive and unwilling to do its job. You'll have to essentially press your lips onto the spout and receive those germs we all feared in elementary school. If by some unfortunate circumstance you end up on this hallway and you're in danger of collapsing from dehydration, the left fountain is the one to go to.

# Health and fitness tips to end the school year

By **ALEXIS KIM**  
*Design and Layout Manager*

Following this year's unimpressive winter, endless magazines and blogs have started their annual advice on how to lose weight, eat healthier, and start exercising to prepare for the oncoming summer season and that elusive "bikini body." Sure, it's easy to just tell people what to do, but either the people who write these articles have never actually followed their own advice or they belong to a special breed of superhumans with alien health guru powers... or I'm just lazy and have the will power of a limp noodle in comparison. Here are some honest thoughts I have on a few commonly heard health tips:

**"Drink lots of water!" "Add fruit or other natural flavorings if you don't like the taste of plain water!"**

If I had a nickel for every time I've read or been told this, I could probably afford one of those fancy cucumber-mint drinks from Whole Foods. While I'm sure my withering, dehydrated body could benefit

### The Top Five

**5. Middle Fountain, Auditorium Hallway.** This water fountain is kept in total seclusion, but unlike the bathrooms next to it, is still open for business. Its seclusion makes it perfect for drinking when you want to avoid a crowd, and especially when you want to fill up a water bottle without causing an extremely long line. The only downside is that its water tastes rather metallic.

**4. Fountain in Third-Floor Cougar Wing.** While subject to crowds, this fountain is a nice getaway in the corner with decently cold water. Any kind of line for it will immediately cause it to lose its appeal, but for now this fountain is relatively unpopular.

**3. Left Fountain by the Cafeteria.** While it can be a bit of a hotspot, this fountain doesn't spout water, it spouts the tears of angels. I sometimes go here even if my class is on the other side of the school. However, I usually don't go in the morning because the fumes from the cafeteria disrupt my taste buds.

**2. Any Fountain by the gym.** Like Fountain #5, this fountain's seclusion, coupled with its decent quality drinking water, makes it a desirable pit stop. **Honorable Mention:** Right Fountain, Third-Floor Blue Hallway. This is an independent and self-sufficient water fountain who made a choice to go against the mold and not serve water to ungrateful students. I can respect that.

**1. Middle Fountain by the Media Center.** This one has all the benefits that #3 lacks. It's right next to the Media Center, so you could say that the water is abundant with knowledge. Overall, it's a great complete package that will leave your throat with a sensation approximate to the one felt in most drink commercials. Quench your thirsts well, underclassmen.

from such a luxury, unless it's some sacred Holy Water infused with the sweat of the goddess of love and beauty Aphrodite herself, sourced from a secret, gem-encrusted cave that receives the light of a hidden second moon every third Friday of the month, and enriched with magical skin-clearing properties, I'm okay with my free, lukewarm fountain water.

**"Try going on a brisk jog in the morning to wake you up and -invigorate- your day!"**

If there's anything worse than the hellish torture of cardio, it would be ripping myself away from the sanctuary of my bed at an ungodly hour to perform said cardio; I'm convinced Hell is actually just a huge track field in unfavorable weather conditions. It's hard to believe at one point I played sports and exercised willingly, but apparently months of sedentary Netflix-binging, all-nighters to finish weeks worth of procrastinated school work, and a diet composed mainly of Arizona and Taki's really takes a toll to both your athletic motivation and ability. To all those who commit to 6 AM runs for the sake of health and/or recreation, I have

the utmost respect for you. Please teach me your ways.

**"Cut out processed foods, especially instant food and sugary drinks like soda!"**

This one is painful to read, because I have an appalling diet. I do love the taste of healthy foods like fruits and vegetables, but I also love my gas station taquitos and ramen noodles with an unholy serving of Coke. I really love unhealthy food-- I even wrote a haiku to express my undying affections:

Sugar, carbs, junk food:  
I know you're no good for me,  
But you taste so good.

Saying no to freshly baked garlic bread, a hot plate of buffalo wings, or a thick cookies 'n cream milkshake is almost as impossible as getting perfect attendance senior year or not petting cute dogs that greet you on a sidewalk. **"I swear I'm gonna start eating healthy this week."** Quit playing yourself Alexis, your mouth is starting to water just typing this out.



**WORST:** Green hallway, far right fountain. Roasting the worst of the worst.



**First:** The Media Center provides resources and clean water fountains.

# The Fate of the Furious: The next Citizen Kane?



By **JACOB CORNBLATT**  
*Associate Editor*

Film is one of the most prolific, personal, and intense art forms to have ever existed. The artists in front of and behind a camera can capture the most human of stories through nothing but a flickering series of images. A great filmmaker can manipulate a camera to propose ideas on human nature, adversity, resilience, and more.

Once a year, a film comes out that pushes the limits of what cinema can do, from Vertov's *Man with a Movie Camera* to Welles' *Citizen Kane*. Luckily, 2017's example came early.

*The Fate of the Furious* is the story of Dominic Toretto, a man whose very definition of family changes as the love of his life begins discussing children. Through fast cars and brilliant one-liners, director F. Gary Gray uncovers the epitome of the human experience (and the irony that comes with it).

It's extremely rare that I can't find a single fault in a film, but I'm really struggling to critique *Fate* at all. It's expertly written—not a single scene feels extraneous—and perfectly acted. The action never feels redundant or over-the-top, and the jokes land every single time.

Out of everything in the film, I will say my favorite aspect is the chemistry between Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel. Apparently, their inability to get along resulted in them having to film their scenes separately, but I really couldn't tell! The writing is strong enough and the acting is stupendous enough to keep *Fate* feeling like a coherent film.

I've seen nearly 1,000 movies in my life, and never have I felt the way I did after this one. Honestly, if I have any problem with the film, it's that it had to end! Luckily for me, though, the movie made \$900,000,000 in two weeks. They will never stop making these! Never!!!





# Softball gets out to hot start and readies for playoffs

By **DAVID SUGGS**  
Editor in Chief

For the softball team, this season has developed sensationally, as they have begun the season 7-1. With the senior presence on the team, the softball team seems to be well on their way to reaching their goal of making the state championship.

It is easily apparent how important this season is for the team's senior leaders, such as Morgan Kuiper, Hannah Ropelewski, and Meghan Mychaljiw, who have all dedicated all four years of their high school careers to the softball team.

Ropelewski, an outfielder, highlighted the experienced nature of the team, saying "The team is mostly seniors, so we don't really have those one or two players that try to take control. We work as a team and play as a team."

Fellow senior Katie Lee added onto this belief, saying "We have a lot of seniors this year, but I think each [senior] has taken on a different role as a leader."

This season has been highlighted by blowout victories against the likes of Seneca Valley, Springbrook, and B-CC. However, the most impressive victory for the Cougars had to be their defeat of division rivals, Northwest, with the Cougars winning, 10-9.

This Northwest victory was especially impressive considering Northwest had previously beaten Sherwood, the only blem-

ish on the Cougars' sensational record this season. Ropelewski emphasized the importance of the Cougars' victory over Northwest, stating "Beating Northwest right after they beat Sherwood [was the highlight of the season.]"

Coach Colleen Adams has done a fantastic job integrating new players into

the already established system, as numerous underclassmen have become major contributors to the team. Ropelewski portrayed the importance of coach Adams' training program in helping players prepare for the season, saying "Winter workouts really helped us get ready both physically and mentally."

These workouts played an integral role in developing the young players.

One specific standout has been freshman Aniko Alexander, as Mychaljiw highlighted her improvement throughout the season, saying "[Aniko] doesn't play like a freshman. She's playing third for us which a huge responsibility and doing

amazing."

Ropelewski agreed with this assessment, saying "[Aniko] came in as a freshman and is not only amazing but fits in so well with the rest of us it's felt like she's been on the team for years."

Ultimately, this season will be defined by the softball team's ability to perform during the post-

season. The team strives to make it to continue their rapid development on their way to playoffs, with Ropelewski highlighting the team's goal to "go further in the playoffs," than last year.

Let's cheer on our Cougars as they attempt to advance throughout the state playoff.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

**HEY BATTER, HEY BATTER, SWING!:** Cougars' senior Nicole Beisner prepares to hit the ball before an at bat

# Lacrosse continues to demolish the competition

By **MATTHEW GORDON**  
Managing Editor

With state championship appearances from the football, baseball, and basketball teams in the past year, there's another major sport that needs to live up to that expectation. Those are the lacrosse teams, and they're fully capable of doing so.

Last year, the boys team was very talent filled. This year, it's more of the same, but with a younger squad. Led by senior captains Drew Levine, Joe Beville and Joe McGowan, the team is looking to make it to states. Coach David Gonzalez is the chief of the star-studded team, and his smart tactics will look to guide him to the promised land.

Last year, the team made a very strong run in the postseason as a third seed, making it to the third round to face #1 seed Urbana. The boys had big wins over Watkins Mill and Clarksburg, winning by 26 goals combined in those two games. However, they fell short to Urbana, losing 13-8. It was the end of an era for those past seniors, and a beginning of an era for the upcoming juniors. Overall, the team finished 8-8, which was



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

**AIR COUGAR:** Girls lacrosse fights in the air versus a tough opponent to retrieve the lacrosse ball.

mediocre. But, that's the past.

The boys have started this season overall with a record of 5-1 as of April 27, three wins away from tying last year's win total while there's still seven games left. They picked up huge wins, including a revenge victory over Urbana, wins over Northwest and Clarksburg, and

wins over Whitman and Walter Johnson. Performing as a team boosting chemistry is essential, which is guiding this team to many big and important wins.

The upcoming schedule for the Cougars include big games, especially ones against Wootton and Sherwood. The team has all the weapons it needs to make it

far, and it all leans on leadership from the returning seniors, who have been dedicated to the program since they stepped in the hallways of Quince Orchard. "It's a simple game," junior Sam Boderman assures, "put the ball in the net. The hard part is working together with your teammates, and we've seemed to got that down so far." Boderman is on his first year of varsity lacrosse, looking to have impacts both on and off the field. Another junior looking to benefit the team is Bennett Cohn. "My brothers and I want that ring; that's our one and only goal." Cohn said. Overall, the boys team is off to a very strong start, and will look to build on that success throughout the entire season in order to get them a state championship ring.

The girls team is looking just as strong. Last year, they finished 4-9, so it wasn't exactly the season they had hoped for. This year, they've completely turned it around, starting off 4-3 as of April 27, which is the same win amount as last year. The captains of the team are seniors Skylar Saffer and Carly Porter, and junior Mallory Rosenfeld.

The coach of the team is Jen Moore, who has shaped this team

into a poised state championship contender. Junior Zoe Stathes has been on varsity every single year, developing and improving in each of those years. "It's not about ourselves," Stathes said, "we play as a team. We strive as a team and we go down as a team. We're all in this together." The determination and dedication of all of the players all adds up together. The team has everything you can ask for, and once the pieces are put together, these girls can get hard to beat. They have big games left against big schools like Poolesville and Walter Johnson. Those are definitely winnable games for the team. Of course, the goal for the girl's this year is to make it some place they haven't been before.

The state championship. It would be amazing for both the team and for the students, as another Quince Orchard team has a shot of making it there for another state championship appearance! The boys and girls will be working hard in practice daily, doing their best to achieve that specific goal. Come out and support both the boys and girls lacrosse teams in what should be a wild finish for sports in Quince Orchard this year!



## We asked some Cougar athletes about their favorite moments this year. Here are their responses.

**Girls Volleyball** - “This year we won the Magruder tournament, which Quince Orchard had never won before.”

- Jesse Van Valkenburgh, '17

**Boys Lacrosse** - “We lost to Whitman last year but this year we beat them twice.”

- Kirk Nisson, '17

**Golf** - “The highlight of this year for me was the last match of the year. Our team played really well. It was really nice to end my golf career on a high note.”

- Jordan Swick '17

**Cross Country** - “Beating Chris Thoms several times.”

- Ethan Mara, '18

**Boys Soccer** - “Winning our second round playoff game against Wootton at home.”

- Eli Holmstead, '17

**Poms** - “[Best moment] would definitely be winning the county championship because that hadn't happened in 13 years for QO Poms.”

- Kelly Brott, '17

**Bocce** - “Going to states for the fourth year in a row and finishing third in our division.”

- Turner Thackston, '17

**Girls Soccer** - “Definitely beating BCC for the first time in 18 years.”

- Katie Ericson, '17

**Boys Volleyball** - “Coming back to beat Poolesville was the highlight of our season.”

- Scott Fan-Loh, '18







**We asked some Cougar athletes about the importance of senior leadership on their teams.**

**Indoor Track and Field** - “I think having a re- all strong sense of leadership really helped out for the younger kids.”

- Jamie Grossberg, ‘19

**Wrestling** - “We had a lot of younger kids who were experiencing a new sport and having the two senior captains alongside the other captains was just something that the younger kids could look up to.”

- Alejandro Lopez, ‘18

**Cheerleading** - “Being a senior on cheer means that people look up to you, so you have to lead by example.”

- Carley Welch, ‘17

**Coed Volleyball** - “Due to us having ten seniors on the team, everyone in their own respect was a leader.”

- Alex Mao, ‘17

**Baseball** - “As seniors, we had to step up because we lost a lot of seniors last year.”

- Kyle Rinehimer, ‘17

**Outdoor Track** - “Without our seniors, we would be a lot worse.”

- Noah Buschbaum, ‘19

**Photos courtesy of:  
Giovanni Pizzino  
Tony Kosiyachinda  
George Smith &  
Ryan Murray**

**of Lifetouch Images**





# The Nationals are back and better than ever

By **JANTZEN FOCHT**  
*Journalism Student*

After seeing the Nationals once again fail to meet their high expectations by losing to the Dodgers in the 2016 NLDS, many Nats fans are beginning to feel pessimistic about the local team. After Clayton Kershaw of the Dodgers came out to pitch in a rare save situation, and got the save, it was dead silent at Nats Park. This seems to happen all the time to the Nats. They always come so close, but yet are never able to pull out the win in the end.

It happened in 2012 when after winning 98 games, they blew an early six run lead in Game 5 of the NLDS. It then happened again in 2014 after losing 3 games to 1 to the eventual World Series Champs, the

San Francisco Giants. And who wouldn't be mad by this, always being a World Series contender but always coming up short? Well Nats fans, you're in luck, as this year could be different.

After acquiring new players such as the underrated Adam Eaton, the Nationals look to have one of the most well rounded lineups in all of baseball. Eaton, who was acquired via trade from the White Sox, may look like a shortsighted investment considering the amount of young talent they gave up for him, but may actually end up being a very wise investment for the NL East favorites.

Through the lens of advanced statistics, Eaton was a top 20 player in the Majors last year when looking at Wins Above Replacement. He ranks at number 15 in front of play-

ers such as teammate and winner of the Cy Young Award, Max Scherzer, and even aforementioned star pitcher and former MVP, Clayton Kershaw. However one question that the Nationals often face is the overall health of the team. Over the course of the last 5 years, players such as Ryan Zimmerman, Bryce Harper, and Stephen Strasburg have all had serious injuries that severely limited the potential of the team. But overall, if the Nats stay healthy, I expect this to be the year where all the stars align.

With a lineup that contains many former Silver Sluggers and a top level rotation to shut other teams out, I believe Nats fans should be a little more optimistic about the team's very high chances this season to take home the trophy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON TIMES

## ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

### BASEBALL

**Garrett Beloff '18**



Junior Garrett Beloff is playing his first year of varsity baseball, but he's acclimated to the fast-paced game already and is making an impact in every game.

### BOYS LACROSSE

**Bennett Cohn '18**



Junior Bennett Cohn is a lockdown, elite and all-star defender. It's hard to get by him as he's as defensive as a brick wall, and lays opponents out daily.

### SOFTBALL

**Sydney Rourke '18**



Junior Sydney Rourke is the teams' motivator and leader. Her dedication to the team is unmatched, as she's been playing all three years, and her skills are as well.

### GIRLS LACROSSE

**Zoe Stathes '18**

Junior Zoe Stathes is entering her third year of varsity lacrosse. Her superb play-making abilities and skills are essential to the team's success.



### OUTDOOR TRACK

**Chris Thoms '18**



Junior Chris Thoms is a speed demon that leaves all of his opponents in the dust. He continues to be on top of the leaderboard in nearly all of his races and leads his teammates while doing so.

### ALLIED SOFTBALL

**Beth Ellinport '18**



Junior Beth Ellinport is one of the teams power hitters and skilled fielders as well. She's needed in crunch time situations as her skills propel the team to the top.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	<b>Garrett Beloff</b>	<b>Bennett Cohn</b>	<b>Sydney Rourke</b>	<b>Zoe Stathes</b>	<b>Chris Thoms</b>	<b>Beth Ellinport</b>
If you were living on a private island, who would you choose to live with?	<b>Nobody</b>	<b>The goddess of love</b>	<b>Probably Nicole or Sarah</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Trump</b>	<b>Billy, my dog</b>
What animal best represents your personality?	<b>Honey Badger</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>Monkey</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Dog</b>	<b>A sea turtle -- specifically Fin from Finding Nemo</b>
What's your favorite food to eat?	<b>5 Guys burger and fries</b>	<b>Sushi</b>	<b>Tacos</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Frog legs</b>	<b>Carmen's</b>
Who is your favorite Prowler staff member?	<b>Ginger</b>	<b>Ms. CK</b>	<b>Definitely Ginger</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Ginger</b>	<b>Finkster</b>
What would be the best thing to fill up a piñata with?	<b>Fake news</b>	<b>Sushi</b>	<b>Money</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Running shoes: they are expensive</b>	<b>Money</b>
Who would you jump off a cliff for? (metaphorically)	<b>Nobody</b>	<b>My mom</b>	<b>Toto and Evelyn</b>	<b>Jack Faraone</b>	<b>Rand Paul</b>	<b>Ransom Denhard</b>