

THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

Trump wins election, will become 45th president

By **BRANDON FREEDMAN**
Managing Editor

The votes are in and the people have spoken. In a stunning result, Republican candidate Donald Trump, 70, who is a multi-billionaire businessman and reality-TV star, and has never served in government, defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton, 69—the secretary of state under President Barack Obama’s first term—to become the 45th President of the United States. Americans had to wait until the early hours of November 9 to find out the results of the electoral college, which gave Trump 289 votes (and Clinton 218) of the necessary 270 to win.

At around 3 A.M., Donald Trump took the stage in a packed ballroom at the New York Hilton Hotel in midtown Manhattan. He said, “It is time for us to come together as one united people. Working together, we will begin the urgent task of rebuilding our nation and renewing the American dream.”

Voter turnout was exceptionally high for this election, which may have helped Trump win key swing states such as Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. These states have a large number of electoral college votes, which in turn helped Trump reach the necessary 270 votes.

Around half an hour before 3:00 A.M., Hillary Clinton called Donald Trump to concede the election. Trump told his supporters, “Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time. We owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country.”

Trump’s victory came as a huge surprise to many experts and pollsters who had predicted a Clinton victory. Heading into election night, Clinton had a 12-point lead in the CNN pre-election poll. Despite losing the electoral college, Clinton appears to have won the popular vote, firing up conversations about how antiquated the electoral college system is, since the gap was less than 200,000 people between the two. American documentary filmmaker and author Michael Moore stated in a Facebook post, “Hillary Clinton won the popular vote! The majority of our fellow Americans preferred Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump. Period. The only reason he’s president is because of an arcane, insane 18th-century idea called the Electoral College. Until we change that, we’ll continue to have presidents we didn’t elect and didn’t want.”

Donald Trump is currently the chairman and president of The Trump Organization, a position he has said he will vacate prior to becoming the president. During his career, Trump has built office towers, hotels, casinos,



PHOTO COURTESY OF US WEEKLY

CLOSE RACE COMPLETED: *Trump addresses a crowd in Atkinson, New Hampshire during November 4 rally. Appearances throughout the country such as this ultimately helped him win the election against Hillary Clinton.*

golf courses, and other facilities worldwide.

Donald Trump and his Vice President Mike Pence, the current Governor of Indiana, will be sworn in and take office on inauguration day, January 20, 2017. They will have to confront many difficult challenges as they take over from the Democratic presidency of Barack Obama. Pence and Trump will have to work to bring the country together after a bitter and sometimes nasty campaign that upset millions of Americans.

Some of the issues that Trump and Pence will have to encounter are the unemployment rates that has left millions of Americans out of work. The new president must also address international issues including the war on terror and the refugee crisis.

Although millions of people are unhappy with the results, which dozens of protests show, Trump has vowed to unify the nation once more and put the bickering behind him.

SGA praised for Homecoming

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

Homecoming—it’s the age-old tradition that has occupied the majority of students’ falls every year. Busied by proposals, Spirit Week, football, endless planning, and the actual dance, Homecoming provides an exciting time for students and staff alike. This year, the SGA put full steam ahead on Homecoming plans, implementing many brand-new initiatives to make sure the events are not underestimated by students.

Throughout the years, attendance at spirit events and the dance have been lacking and many events have been overlooked by students. “Last year, we had a small turnout, which made the dance dull and unexciting,” said SGA President Patty Dirlam.

SGA sponsor Penny Keune agreed, stating that “there weren’t as

many people involved last year, so we wanted to make sure people were active in the events.” Last year the SGA sold only 75 tickets, an extremely low attendance rate.

This lack of involvement from students has been a recent pattern in many QO events, a problem SGA is trying to fix. “Our overarching goal of the year is to engage the student body and raise school spirit,” said Dirlam. “Participation is essential to having an excited student body.”

In order to achieve this, the SGA began many new initiatives to energize the student body for Homecoming. Firstly, the SGA aimed to increase publicity. “We got big flyers for the dance and for the dress-up days” said Keune. “We even made flyers and invitations in Spanish for ESOL and Spanish-speaking students. We really just wanted people to be aware about the events and include

a lot more students.”

Students noticed the high focus on publicity which helped to increase student awareness about the events. “The SGA really promoted Homecoming better this year” said junior Ruby Nguyen. “They talked a lot about [Homecoming] on Cougar TV and on the announcements. Word really got out this year compared to last year.”

Secondly, the SGA planned a spirit day for the afternoon of the PSAT day that included events such as door decorating, spirit chain making, and powderpuff football, all of which were generally received positively by students. Senior Paige Matthews said that “a day dedicated to all things Homecoming really got the school excited for the week and dance. It really brought the student body together.”

Other changes for Homecoming also made the dance more appealing for

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Quarterly assessments reflection

By **SOPHIE LANE**
Associate Editor

This year, MCPS has begun the transition from semester exams to quarterly assessments, a decision made by the MCPS Board of Education last year. The classes that previously required their students to take semester finals now require students to take Required Quarterly Assessments, also known as RQAs. After taking the first wave of RQAs, teachers and students reflect on their experiences.

Freshman Caitlin Crews never had the pleasure of taking semester exams in high school, but did take them in middle school. When comparing her experiences, she states, “They are kind of the same, but they are a little more stressful because they are every quarter.” Crews has taken both an English RQA and a Biology RQA. One difference Crews noticed between RQAs and semester exams is that semester exams had county-wide review packets, while RQAs don’t have study guides to help her prepare for the tests. “For Biology, because [my teacher] didn’t give us a study guide, I wrote down notes on a separate sheet of paper

and then I had someone quiz me on the notes,” adds Crews. “Then for English, I just reviewed some of my notes.”

While some students argue that grades are inflated now and RQAs are not nearly as challenging as semester exams, Crews disagrees. After taking them she says, “They might have hurt [my grades] a little bit because they are worth 10 percent, whereas the semester [exams] weren’t part of your [quarter] grade.” Senior Sine Wari’s opinion on the transition from exams to RQAs differs from Crews’s. “The RQAs are much easier and less stressful, although we have a short time to prepare for them,” says Wari, who took three years’ worth of exams in middle school, then another three in high school. Wari was more satisfied with her performance than Crews. “My teachers haven’t graded them yet, but I’m pretty sure my grades will improve because I think the RQAs inflate your grades.”

Wari mentions inflated grades, which brings up a concern that many parents, teachers, and students share. MCPS refuted the claim “Does the new grading system inflate grades?” by addressing it on their website. MCPS says it takes pride

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New UNICEF club at QO aims to make a positive difference in both the community and the world.

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Moonlight is an original movie that is sure to make an impact on those who see it.

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Girls varsity field hockey finishes the season 11-3 after losing in regional semi-finals.

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LIFETOUCH



Homecoming initiatives

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students. "We spent an absurd amount of money on the DJ set up to make the dance bumpin' and moved the dance to the cafeteria so we could turn the lights off," said Dirlam.

Matthews agreed, stating "the lights and DJ were spectacular and the chocolate fountain was a nice touch."

One of the biggest changes to encourage Homecoming attendance was an "SGA Gives Back" program that donated money to clubs whose members bought tickets. When buying tickets, students could choose to donate money to a club of their choice, and in turn, the SGA gave \$100 to a club who had 10 members buy tickets, and an extra \$10 for every member after that. "We wanted to incentivize clubs to attend Homecoming" says Dirlam. "We advertised that we'd support clubs that support us, in hopes of creating a network of support between all our student organizations."

Keune adds, "One of the purposes of SGA is to donate money to clubs and organizations. So [the SGA] decided that we would divide up the money based on people supporting school activities. It just seemed like a really neat way to directly pay

people back for participation."

Overall, this year's Homecoming was an extreme success. Compared to last year's ticket sales of about 75, over 640 tickets were sold this year and about 700 people attended the dance. More people attend the dance than tickets sold because members of SGA and the homecoming court received tickets for free. "We sold over eight times as many tickets as last year," says Dirlam. "That brought a lot more bodies to the dance and helped make the dance floor a better time."

Furthermore, student response to Homecoming has been very positive. Matthews affirms this by saying, "I think Homecoming this year was one of the best ever had at QO."

Nguyen agreed, stating "Homecoming was a really fun experience and it was definitely worth going to. In my opinion, it was better than last year's."

Although the SGA achieved many of their goals for Homecoming, they still aim to improve for the future. Keune states that in past years, "students were really spirited when the school opened, and it was a smaller school, so almost everyone used to attend Homecoming. There was a lot of school spirit back then. And now, we have our moments; we're getting back on track."

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Students and staff comment on quarterly assessments

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in their students' rigorous course loads, and, in addition, it should be noted that difficulty of exams is different for everyone, and maybe different throughout subjects and levels within.

Wari is neutral about the switch. "I'm a senior, so it doesn't have that much of an impact on me, but I personally don't like them because they're not preparing us for college where you can't escape exams." MCPS argues, however, that students

will take many standardized tests throughout their educational career.

"It's made a big change in my teaching because the physics RQAs are aligned to a curriculum they haven't written yet, so I'm having to figure out new ways to teach and to change what I've done traditionally in the past," says Physics teacher Cynthia Hollies.

Hollies is passionate about the county-wide switch to RQAs. "I understand that the county needs to do this to make sure teachers are on track,

but I wish they...trusted us to teach the curriculum they have asked us to teach without them applying an outside test."

After experiencing how the new system played out after quarter one finished, Hollies states: "I've lost a lot of planning time trying to figure all of this out, and I feel like I've rushed my students through some of their work this quarter."

Along with loss of instruction due to the need to go off of the lesson plans, Hollies believes "grades will be much higher," and she is "a

little concerned students will do less work because they know they can get away with it, that it's not going to change their semester grades."

Students' and faculty's opinions on RQAs vary throughout the county. However, MCPS made the decision based off of concerns that the county had for the students' instructional time and amount of standardized tests that students are required to take, so many people believe this system is more beneficial for students' learning.

PROWLER NEWS FLASHES

By BRANDON FREEDMAN
Managing Editor

Iraqi and Kurdish troops, who are supported by the US military, are closing in on controlling Mosul, the Iraqi capital of ISIS. While currently ISIS controls the urban parts of Mosul, the surrounding areas have been taken over by the Iraqi army, removing ISIS's protective barrier of the city. The recent developments suggest that the Kurdish troops have even gone as far as taking control of nineteen villages on the fronts of Mosul and are advancing further into Mosul. The Pentagon claims that the retaking of Mosul is happening ahead of schedule, which is good news for Iraqi and other US allied troops. So far, the United Nations reports that about 35,000 people have been displaced, with 20,000 of those being sheltered in humanitarian camps. The UN is working with other humanitarian allies to prepare for more refugees needing protection. As of November 9, the liberation operation is continuing to make steady progress while minimizing casualties. As of November 11, a senior ISIS commander, Mahmoud Shukri al Nuaimi was killed in an Iraqi-led mission to push forward on overtaking Mosul. Reports have also surfaced of ISIS using chemical weapons in defending Mosul.



PHOTO COURTESY OF REUTERS

By ANNA GOOREVICH
Editor-in-Chief

In late October, Harvard University's student newspaper, *The Harvard Crimson*, uncovered evidence of the Harvard men's soccer team's 2012 "Scouting Report," a document that, in lewd and explicit language, identified incoming freshmen of the 2012 women's soccer team. The document shows the men evaluating the women on their physical appearance by giving them a numerical score out of 10 and also making inappropriate assumptions of the women's sexual behavior in extreme detail. *The Crimson* reported on November 3 that Harvard has cancelled the rest of the men's season for 2016 after evidence suggested that these "Scouting Reports" have continued to be published as a yearly tradition, including in 2016.

Women from the 2012 team have responded in an op-ed entitled "Stronger Together," where they denounce these actions: "We are frustrated that this is a reality that all women have faced...We know that the only way we can truly move past this culture is for the very men who perpetrate it to stop it in its tracks." These allegations come at a time where national spotlight shines on the use of objectified and highly inappropriate language towards women, especially after the reveal of the 2005 video of presidential-elect Donald Trump bragging about sexually assaulting women.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVARD CRIMSON



Students create unique film projects in new class

By **ALEX HAMER**
News Editor

While QO has a large and diverse set of electives, more niche classes seem to appear every year. Case in point: QO's latest elective, TV Production, which is being offered for the first time this year. Although students can participate in a similar club (Cougar TV) or take a similar class (Literature as Film), TV Production has many aspects that make it entirely unique.

TV Production is offered for first period only and taught by English teacher

Kunal Arora. When the opportunity to create and teach the class arose, Arora had no hesitation. "I have wanted to teach it since I began teaching since I love writing and film," said Arora.

The class is also very timely for Arora to teach as it coincides with his work outside the classroom. "Since I'm studying screenwriting for my master's degree, I can also bring in lessons that I've been learning at night and on the weekends," Arora said.

Students in the class learn about film techniques and put them into practice by

making videos. Once produced, some of these videos can be found on a variety of platforms, such as on Cougar TV, Youtube, and even on Twitter @QuinceOrchardTV.

So far, the class has been a great outlet for students with interests in filmmaking and media to help them express those creative desires. "Last year I took Literature as Film and really enjoyed it," senior Bogac Gecgil said. "Now I'm taking TV Production and it's has just been a continuation of my interest and enjoyment from last year."

Arora echoed Gecgil's sentiments about

how Literature as Film can be a useful building block for students who want to take TV Production. "In Literature as Film, students watch and analyze movies and TV shows," Arora said.

As a one semester class, Literature as Film gives students an idea of good filmmaking that transitions to making their own original creations.

Students in the class have already finished and released some of their unique projects. Senior Miguel Peji's video of the recent Powder-Puff game and senior Matt Huang's video on what the day after

Halloween feels like exemplify the hands-on nature of the class.

While the class is still in the infant stages of its first year, students have a firm idea of what they hope to get out of the class. "Students who take this class have a keen interest in filmmaking and are perhaps interested in studying it in college. This a class for students who want to make effective media content," Arora said.

Although Literature as Film is a helpful precursor, no prerequisite is required. Any students contemplating electives to take for next year should

consider TV Production, a class that allows for much creativity and freedom.

As senior Cory Amoroso said, "It's the class I've always wanted."

To find more work from TV Production students, follow @QuinceOrchardTV on Twitter and find their videos on their Youtube channel, Quince Orchard TV.

Check out TV Production's unique projects on their Youtube channel, Quince Orchard TV, or their Twitter, @QuinceOrchardTV

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New UNICEF club spreads charitable message

By DYLAN KEARNEY
Associate Editor

Fortunately for Quince Orchard, a group of charitable students have formed a new way for the QO community to get involved in helping others around the world. This new club, UNICEF, is now at QO and has exciting plans for the year.

The group has many dedicated senior members including co-presidents Anaheed Mobaraki and Phillipe Castillo, vice president Yonatan Babore, treasurer Yixin Xiao, secretary Nathan Yuen, and officer Kajal Vora. The club was started by Babore and Castillo, who were interested in UNICEF because of the work the organization does to help children suffering from malnutrition in other countries.

According to the UNICEF website, the group "...work[s] for a world in which every child has a fair chance in life." UNICEF has been helping children for almost 70 years and it is active in 190 countries, giving children equal access to services and a chance at a better future. They also spread awareness of the state of the children in the world and how their place of birth should not hinder them from having opportunities. UNICEF helps in many humanitarian situations, as for example they have been bringing water and life-saving supplies and building showers and toilets for Mosul because of the Mosul operation, which is expected to displace 200,000



PHOTO BY ANAHEED MOBARAKI

UNICEF CLUB MAKES A STAND: The UNICEF club participated in the Homecoming parade by making a float, aiming to spread the message of their new club to the community.

people and millions still in the city.

The group's goals are to spread awareness of people in need around the world and how students can help.

"We wanted to choose UNICEF because there are many helpful local groups here at QO like the Red Cross, but Unicef helps people in other non-domestic situations," said Babore. "[With the UNICEF club] there is a direct connection for people to help [in situations] like the Syria crisis

and Hurricane Matthew. These are things everyone knows about and can now help donate to through UNICEF."

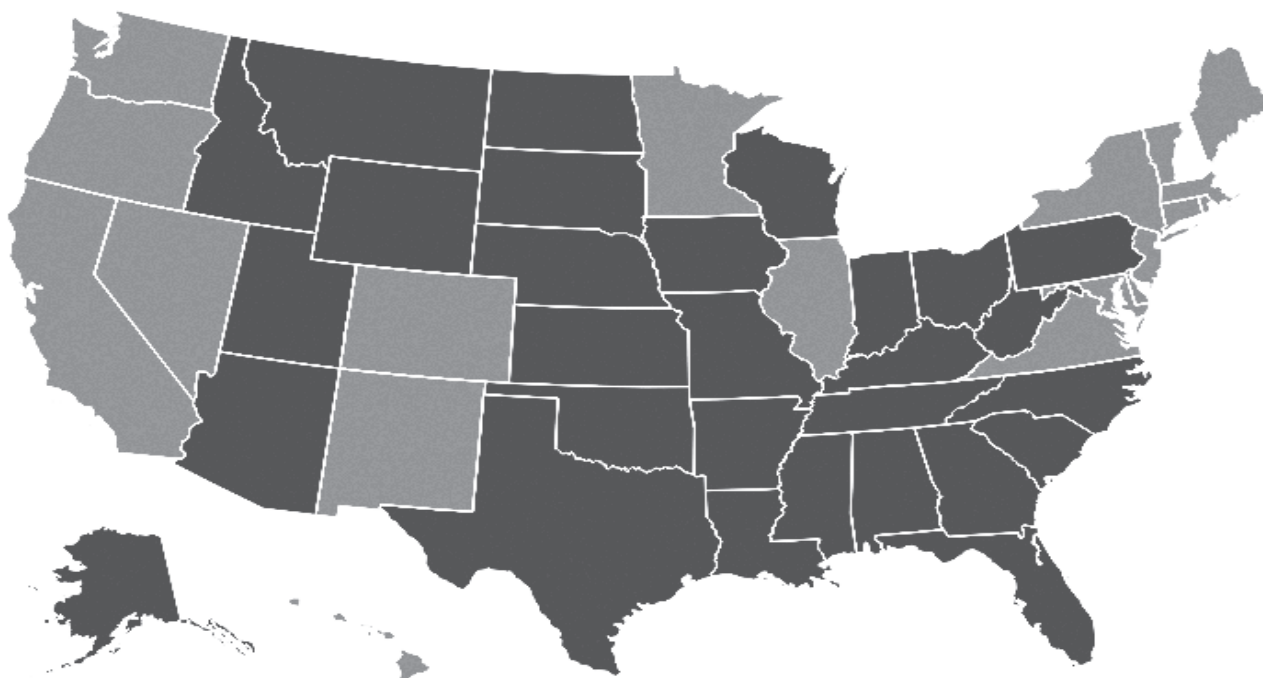
The group has raised money for the organization most recently by, making a float for the homecoming parade that people could donate to. The group also won a money prize for their float. They have a separate box for donations at the Koman Tutoring Center in Gaithersburg. "Our main goal is to advocate the organization

and help people become aware of how easy it is to help," added Babore.

The UNICEF club is also having a fundraiser night at Chipotle on November 21. Additionally, there are many other ways to donate to UNICEF through the larger organization, like an activity on their website where one can do math problems: for every problem answered correctly, UNICEF will donate 25 cents.

The club aims to increase awareness and assistance towards world crises. "We live in Montgomery County, in one of the richest counties and richest states in the country," said Mobaraki. "We have one of the best chances in making a difference. If we could just be able to change one person's viewpoint on how easy it is to help, than we have reached our goal."

During the meetings, they are brainstorming ways to spread awareness; for example, the club has hung posters around school. They meet every Monday in room 227 with AP World teacher Lisa Farrow, their sponsor, to brainstorm new ideas. Farrow thinks it is great how, during their meetings, the students spread a lot of awareness by presenting and speaking to the members, having discussions about things UNICEF is doing, and what is going on in the world. "I became the sponsor because they are such a great group of kids and they have really shown that with everything they do," Farrow said. The group is excited for future plans and to spread awareness to the QO community.



GRAPHIC BY NBC NEWS

2016 ELECTION RESULTS: This map represents which states voted Republican, and which voted Democratic. States in darker shades went to Trump and states in lighter shades went to Clinton. Michigan and New Hampshire are omitted from this map as their votes have not been finalized at time of publication. Regardless, Trump wins the electoral college votes with a current count of 290, while Clinton has 228.

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Vandalism at QOHS

By SOPHIE LANE
Associate Editor

On October 13, an act of vandalism occurred on QO's stadium field: it was marked with a Nazi swastika symbol and images of male genitalia "with a caustic substance," according to principal Carole Working. This event is still under investigation, as the police have not caught the vandalizer(s). The police do, however, have some evidence; the surveillance camera

shows a mid-size, dark four-door sedan with one headlight stronger than the other on video, opening the car door then driving away a few minutes later. Police suspect that the people or person in the car is the vandalizer, but cannot be certain. In a letter sent to Quince Orchard students and parents, Principal Carole Working reassured the QO community: "I am sending you this letter to be sure all of us are fully informed and working

together." Some believe this hate-based act is due to the rivalries that the sports teams in Montgomery County have created. Although this may seem like a trivial high school prank, the police are involved due to severity of the images left and the vandalism on school property, which they are treating as vandalism and a hate crime. Anyone with information about the vandalism or the vehicle is being asked to call 240-773-6084.

VIEWPOINT

The election reflection

By WILL HUSTED
Editor-in-Chief



You wake up the morning after Election Day. Groggy and confused, you begin to wonder what you and this country just experienced—then the memories and reflection start to flow.

You think back to a simpler time. The spring of 2015. Obama is still running the show and, despite backlash in Congress, helps to encourage the Iran nuclear deal. This was big news at the time and was not undercut by the announcement on April 12 that Hillary Clinton would be running for president in 2016. The nation was not surprised and, even from the start, saw Clinton as an expected choice for the presidency.

Two months passed and several other candidates announced their candidacy, but on June 16, a self-assured, assertive 70-year-old man glided down an elevator to the delight of his loyal group of supporters. It was then that we would get a taste of the year to come as Trump famously made the remark regarding Mexican immigrants, stating, “They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” This comment was met with harsh backlash from the media; however, the remarks gave Trump the publicity and opportunity to get his message out and reach the supporters he would soon have.

From the start, Trump was seen as the counterculture candidate. He was an “outsider” that would not have the political ties that have bogged down Washington in the past. This, combined with a “speak your mind” attitude and

lack of political correctness, has appealed to voters frustrated with the lack of progress being made by Congress.

Next came the debates. The Democratic debates and the campaigning prior and during them brought about a little-known yet experienced face to the race: Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Providing a promise to ensure income equality and presenting his voting record as evidence for his policies, Sanders energized the Democratic youth vote. Running on a platform of government for the people as opposed to special interests, Sanders resonated with the young voters and allowed them to feel their progressive ideas were being represented in the race.

During the Democratic debates, Sanders criticized Clinton as being “right up there with Wall Street. She is both the government and the corporations.” Clinton would argue back asserting that Sanders’ policies were not possible in today’s political and economic climate. As the Democratic debates continued, they remained largely civil as Sanders and Clinton went back and forth in an attempt to win the primary.

August signaled a shift in the election. The first Republican Debate allowed Americans and specifically undecided Republicans to see the Trump paradigm in action. The Republican debates were often ridiculed for not being policy-oriented and only providing a platform for candidates to go after each other. Throughout the debates, Trump asserted himself as a man that will do whatever it takes to get the nation from point A to point B, unworried about the consequences on the way there. This was evident

in his rise in support as he continually made personal attacks on Republicans such as Jeb Bush and Ted Cruz.

As the primary debates winded down, it was time for the people to voice their opinions.

The Republican Primary was characterized by Trump going on the offensive to ensure victory over his only competition, Ted Cruz. Trump continued to gain ground as people saw him for the first time as a serious candidate that would be representing the Republican Party in the general election.

The Democratic primary was much more contented. Sanders gave Hillary a real threat as he gained 12 million popular votes compared to Clinton’s 15.8 million. If Clinton were to have any chance at winning the general election, she needed to be more resolute and exact in her campaign as well as gain the votes from Sanders’ voters.

The party conventions came and went, with the RNC’s marked by Trump’s push to become less radical and start appealing to the masses. The DNC was a time for Democratic leaders to come together and, despite the dividing primaries, unite to create a strong push for Clinton to win the White House.

Lastly, the presidential debates became must-watch TV for Americans. 84 million people watched the first debate. Most voters saw Trump as abrasive compared to Clinton’s reserved, almost reticent emotions on the debate stage. Many Republicans criticized Trump for not being presidential enough and not sticking to policy, instead interrupting Clinton many times and providing confusing and contradictory remarks. Clinton often appeared calculated and unphased by Trump’s claims.

The election year has uncovered deep divides in our political culture.

For a candidate to be able to run

on the basis of being an “outsider” indicates a complete lack of faith in our own governance. The people are frustrated and do not want more of the same. While this is a logical conclusion, the most scarring effect of this election has not been the support of a radical candidate, but that people are willing to compromise the values that have held this nation together for a candidate that promises to bring it back to a time when our economy was built around the wealthy getting richer, minorities and immigrants being disparaged, a lack of understanding of proper foreign diplomacy, and an increase in the tension between police and citizens.

Our country was quick to listen to sound bites and be reminded of a time when we felt safe. The fear-mongering worked like it always has. It is up to us to separate fact from reality and not listen to a candidate that makes claims without proper and logical reasoning. The reality is that our ever-progressing world requires candidates that can formulate complex solutions that satisfy as many people as possible.

This election has also revealed that as a nation we are hesitant to listen. Hesitant to listen to other arguments that may clash with long held beliefs, hesitant to listen to foreign leaders supporting one candidate over another, and hesitant to listen to the cries of the underprivileged who think their voice does not matter.

The results have been determined and some would say the turmoil of this election is over. I would argue that the ideology Trump ran on that sought to bring back the “good ol’ days” has left this nation scarred and battered. It is up to us to condemn the lack of empathy and understanding now present in our political and social culture with a calculated aim at positive change for all.

Swimming in red

The breakdown of different Red Army fans

By TORI BERRY
Managing Editor

Here For The Game

Some students actually attend the game because of, well, The Game. They’re more into the football than the social aspect of the event. Their “tell” is the way they tend to keep their eyes fixed on the field and/or scoreboard and the lack of mouth movement. After a game, they are able to carry on an actual conversation about the score, the best plays, the players, etc.

Socializers

The Socializers are the polar opposite of those that are Here For The Game. These usually come in large packs, barely focus their attention on the actual game, and spend most of their time either talking or taking selfies. One way to test if a person you know is a Socializer is to ask them what the score was for the last game; this method, however, is not always accurate—especially if they have Twitter.

The Loud Ones

While all the members of the Red Army have some spirit, as required, there’s a group of students who take it

to the extreme. They usually go all out with their clothing (or lack thereof) although some of them simply wear a QO shirt with some stripes on their face. But even if they aren’t easy to spot at first glance, worry not: their distinct cheering cannot be missed. In fact, cheering is an understatement; they can be found screaming at the top of their lungs, often incoherently but with a ton of fiery passion.

Wannabes

To be a wannabe there is but one requirement: be younger than an upperclassman. The younger you are, the more of a wannabe you are. Middle schoolers, no matter how many games they attend or how much merchandise they purchase, will always be considered to be on the lowest rung of the Red Army ladder. Freshmen are seen as only slightly higher up, but they still get pushed around and yelled at and herded into their own little area far away from the upperclassmen. Sophomores are close, way more respected than the previous two groups, but they just can’t seem to get those front rows on the bleachers.

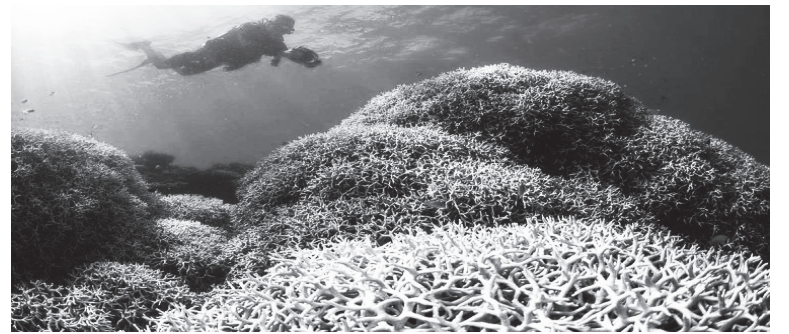
Twitter thinks reef is dead

By BRITTANY MILLS
Editor-in-Chief

The Great Barrier Reef is one of the seven wonders of the natural world, visible from space, 25 million years old, larger than the Great Wall of China, and, according to Twitter, also dead?

Recently, Twitter accounts across the world have falsely proclaimed the world’s largest reef system to be dead. Outside Magazine (@outsidemagazine) even went as far as to make an obituary for the reef and announced, “The Great Barrier Reef passed away in 2016 after a long illness. It was 25 million years old. #RIP”. The reef is certainly in trouble, but despite Twitter rumors the reef is in fact not dead.

It isn’t difficult to believe the rumors of Twitter, especially with convincing pictures of a seemingly dead reef throughout your Twitter timeline. These pictures



CATLIN SEAVIEW, GETTY IMAGES

Ninety-three percent of the Great Barrier Reef is bleached.

capture saddening images of a reef rid of its iconic vibrancy. The coral loses its color during coral bleaching. Coral contains algae that lives inside the coral and provides its vibrant colors, but this algae is expelled during high sea temperatures and extreme weather. Once the coral is rid of the algae, it loses color—and its main source of food—and is more susceptible to disease. 93% of the reef has been bleached, but this isn’t a new problem. According to Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences journal the coral has lost half its coral cover over the last 27 years.

However, coral bleaching isn’t the reefs only problem. The reef is continuously threatened by pollution from industries, overfishing, and careless tourism.

The Great Barrier Reef’s health is detrimental to Southeast Asia. The reef makes

up over 900 island, supports over 70,000 jobs, is a barrier for incoming storms and is composed of 2,900 individual reef systems that are homes to millions of species.

Luckily, you do not have to be a scientist to help save the Great Barrier Reef. In order to promote a healthier reef systems across the world small changes can be made by everyone. First, it is important that our population uses less water. We can also dispose of our trash at the beach. The less water we use and less litter we leave, the less pollutants we drag into the ocean via runoff. In addition, practicing safe tourism is crucial. When swimming, boating, or diving it is important not to touch any corals and avoid applying sunscreen because the oils are damaging to reef systems.

So put down Twitter and save our reefs!

A Different Battle of the Sexes

By HANNAH PEARLSTEIN
Managing Editor

**Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the students.*

Sex. Although it's only a three-letter word, the ideas and opinions behind it carry so much weight. In high school, you are trapped for four years in a building swarming with horny teenagers looking for a way to "do it," "get it on," "do the dirty," "swipe their v-card," and any other euphemisms you can possibly think of, all aimed towards one simple thing: having sex. The stark difference in opinions between males and females serve to make sex much more complicated than it needs to be.

"Sally," a senior girl, said, "Girls view sex

as more of an intimate thing, but guys have sex just to have sex." For girls, according to Sally, sex seems to have to mean something; a type of intimate connection between two people, but for boys, this is not always the case.

Max, a senior boy, has a very different opinion on the matter. "Boys want to have sex," he stated.

These contrasting views translate to larger universal ideas about sex that differ between boys and girls. Max's opinion leans more towards the idea that boys separate the physical act of sex from any sort of emotion, while Sally's elucidates how girls tend to mix them together much more.

Sally's view on sex represents a common feeling among many teen-

agers: sex is expected. When you start hooking up with someone, it is only a matter of time before the clothes start coming off and someone makes a move, but for girls this can have much worse consequences.

In Sally's opinion, "girls are used a lot."

Max supported this idea. "Usually [after having sex] a girl is called a whore, and a guy gets to go high five his friends."

The immense contrast between the treatment of males versus females serves to further explain why Sally and Max, and girls and boys all over the world, have such different views on sex.

The one thing both Sally and Max did agree on was to use protection in order to protect yourself from STDs and future children.

By ALEXIS KIM
Design/Layout Manager

Rape is an ugly word. It's unpleasant to discuss; it makes people shift in their seats and look away uncomfortably. Unease is understandable—sexual assault of any kind is a particularly vicious crime to think about when one considers the immense potential of deep physical and emotional trauma, life-changing consequences such as pregnancy and STDs/STIs, suffocating social stigmas associated with rape, and the largely absent or inadequate legal punishments for the disproportionate number of reported perpetrators.

However, our unwillingness to deliberate and de-stigmatize sexual assault only feeds the statistic that an estimated 66% percent of all sexual assault cases



LGBTQ Q & A: Interview with a Bisexual Student

Interview by BRITTANY MILLS
Editor-in-Chief

- 1. Do you believe that the Quince Orchard community is accepting of the LGBTQ community? Why or why not?** Yes. I think that Quince Orchard has created an environment where LGBTQ students can feel accepted and safe. We have classrooms that are safe zones and many teachers who clearly stand up for LGBTQ students. These teachers also give a place for students to feel free to talk without being judged.
- 2. Do you think that the Quince Orchard health curriculum educates students about LGBTQ people and relationships? If not, what could they do to improve this?** I do not feel that the Quince Orchard health curriculum educates students about LGBTQ people and their relationships. Clearly, there are different things to be said about different types of relationships; however, I don't think that there should be a separate lesson about LGBTQ relationships. No matter the genders of the relationship, there are many things that need to be taken into consideration in order to be safe. Safe sex should cover all diverse relations without singling out LGBTQ relations from straight ones. In doing so, hopefully this will create a sense of acceptance that all kinds of relationships should be viewed as okay and will be accepted.
- 3. Has there been anyone significant in the LGBTQ community that has inspired you? Honestly, Ellen [DeGeneres] has inspired me. She is an amazing woman who brings light to the eyes of people all over the world every day. She is admired by so many people and gives people a way to relax and laugh during the day. Ellen is a great example of how we are all the same and how the LGBTQ community is a wonderful group of loving people. She is not [widely] discriminated against because she is lesbian, nor do people judge her for that.**
- 4. What is a misconception about the LGBTQ community that you would like to address?** I want to address the fact that there are many assumptions about the LGBTQ community. People hold an expectation that all LGBTQ people dress a certain way or act "gay." This is 100% false. We act and dress just as everyone else. There is also an assumption that if you are attracted to the same sex, than you must find all of your friends attractive. People tend to think that if you spend a lot of time with one specific person, you must like them...right? Wrong. Just like straight people, we have close friends. And just like straight people, even if they are of the gender of our liking, we do not necessarily like them as more than a friend.

Essay: Rape is an ugly word

go unreported in the U.S and that only 6 out of 1,000 rapists will ever be incarcerated, according to the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN).

While details of what sexual assault can look like are too graphic to describe here, what happens after is no more agreeable. Rape victims were found to be "6.2 times more likely to develop PTSD", "13.4 times more likely to have two or more major alcohol problems," and "26 times more likely to have two or more major serious drug abuse problems" than those who had never been victims of crime, according to the National Violence Against Women Prevention Research Center. The same study found that approximately one-third of rape victims have seriously

contemplated suicide and "rape victims were 13 times more likely than non-crime victims to have attempted suicide."

It's safe to assume that sexual violence is not a crime to be treated lightly. Its consequences are too heavy to ignore, too cruel to trivialize. It may be for these reasons that it becomes much easier to think of rape as a violent crime carried out by a masked stranger who follows you into a dark alleyway, or a tragic act that happens to a few, unlucky women. The ugly truth is that only 16% of attackers were complete strangers to the victim, making it an 80% chance that your "alleyway stranger" will actually be someone you already know.

Someone is sexually assaulted every two minutes in the United States, according to RAINN, and that includes men and youth over the age of 12. So by the time you've finished reading this article, 1-2 individ-

uals in the US will have experienced attempted or completed sexual violence. That's a scary statistic to think about, and even more so when you consider that this likelihood increases on a college campus. A study by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center found that 1 out of 5 female college students aged 18-22 are sexually assaulted in college. Men aren't exempt either—1 out of 16 men are sexually assaulted while in college.

Take a look around your classroom. If there are approximately 30 students (and you assume half of them are boys and the other half are girls), that means 3 girls and 1 boy would experience some form of sexual violence in their college careers. As a senior who's currently applying to colleges, it's hard to think about how I might meet someone who has been violated in such a way and how that someone could easily be a close friend of mine—or myself.

These statistics may sound too high to be fathomable, or

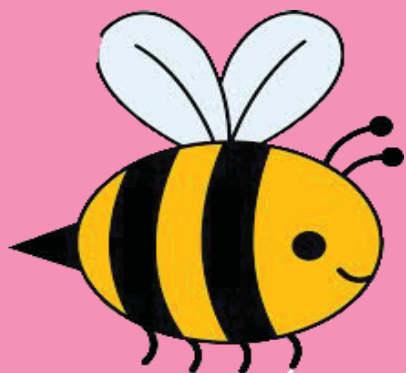
seem irrelevant to our young high school selves, but when you deny that such a damaging culture even exists, the high prevalence of rape and sexual abuse in our society makes sense. This is rape culture: the casual use and trivialization of both the word and the act of rape. It is college fraternities hanging sexually objectifying posters aimed at incoming freshmen on Move-In Day. It is telling men they can't be raped because they always want sex. It is how the song "Blurred Lines" illustrated a blatant disregard for consent in its lyrics, yet peaked at number one in 25 nations. It is thinking that people who are too drunk to stand can consent. It is asking rape victims if they were wearing provocative clothing, if they were acting promiscuously, if they are sexually active, if they "asked for it," if they were drinking, if they drank too much, if they were alone, if they called for help, if they fought back, if they consented and just didn't remember, or even if they secretly liked it. It is accusing victims of lying, of exaggerating. It is how a victim normalizes what happened to them, because their rapist is "a good guy" and good guys don't rape.

Maybe that's the reason over half of sexual assaults go

unreported: because nobody wants to label themselves or someone they know as a rapist. We blame the victim for their behavior or harshly doubt the validity of their claims, instead of condemning sexist and predatory attitudes because we know it's easier to treat sexual violence as if it doesn't happen. Rape culture and its cultivation can start with us, but it can end with us too.

Let's consider the widely criticized Brock Turner case that occurred earlier this year. Turner was accused and convicted of three separate felony counts, yet received a ridiculously lenient 6-month jail sentence and was released in September after only 3 months. This is a too common reality for the small percentage of rapists who are actually convicted of their crimes. Colleges continue to fail victims, choosing to protect their reputation, and the reputations of perpetrators, over the safety of their students. Society makes the crime a big misunderstanding, blames alcohol and drinking culture, dissects the victim's behavior to absolutely make sure it happened, and normalizes it as an inevitable occurrence in college life. But as Turner's victim stated in a letter addressed to the court, "This is not a story of another drunk college hookup with poor decision making. Assault is not an accident... The seriousness of rape has to be communicated clearly, we should not create a culture that suggests we learn that rape is wrong through trial and error."

Talk About Sex



If you or someone you know has or thinks they have experienced sexual assault or violence, please contact the 24/7 National Sexual Assault Hotline at **1-800-656-4673**. You are not alone.

Technology allows for rise in sexting

By WILL HUSTED
Editor-in-Chief

Sending sexually explicit pictures of oneself to others, or "sexting," has been on the rise - especially among teens - in recent years. According to The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 24% of high-school age teens (ages 14 to 17) and 33% of college-age students (ages 18 to 24) have participated in sexting in one way or another.

There are many reasons someone may decide to share these pictures. Proponents say that sexting can encourage people to feel confident about their bodies. Sending the picture can often indicate comfort with oneself. The senders are comfortable enough to let people see themselves in such a revealing fashion. In

addition, for couples who have complete trust in one another, sexting can help to bridge sexual divides they may feel, especially if they are away from each other. This is a risky behavior, however: once a picture is sent, there can be no guarantee that it will ever be erased. In addition, the sender cannot be certain that the picture will only be seen by the intended viewer.

One medium that has enabled sexting to become more widespread is Snapchat. One of the main features of Snapchat is that pictures disappear within 10 seconds. Teens can often feel more relaxed about sending a picture they believe will be erased in that time period. The person could easily screenshot the picture and then that picture is around forever.

Legislative bodies have recognized the rise in teen sexting and have enacted

legislation to curb the activity. States including Maryland have enacted laws to deter the possession of nude photos of minors. In Maryland, it is a crime to possess or distribute explicit content of those under 16 years old. Additionally, exceptions to the law previously described do not exempt two minors who send each other sexually explicit images of each other.

Due to the rise in technology in the beginning of the century, the ability to sext has only recently become possible. Understanding the new nature of this act is key when examining its impact on today's youth. Because of its modern conception, the topic is often overlooked by parents and educators. While sexting has its positives and negatives, it is vital that we educate our youth about the risks associated with pressing send.



Sleep deprivation blues : Ponder this, Cougars

By DANIELLE PASEKOFF
Associate Editor

We've all had those days where, solely because of homework, we know it'll be a long night. From assigned readings, to two quizzes, and one test all scheduled for the next day, I honestly think teachers plan their assignments just so all of my assessments will be on the same day. As I've grown over the years, I have learned some tricks to keep myself awake through sleepless study nights, but I still haven't improved much in terms of getting a healthy amount of sleep.

From my experience, I can guarantee that there aren't enough hours in the day for me to complete every task given to me. Six and a half hours of school, three hours of extracurriculars, plus another four hours of homework (on a good day), leave minimal time for any family or leisurely activities. Wait, there's something called a "social life?" It's virtually impossible to balance that with schoolwork and a healthy sleep schedule, so let's just say that spending free time with friends is a rarity nowadays. By the time my daily homework is complete, it's usually past 10 PM. According to the National Sleep Foundation, "teens need about 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night to function best." Though that number sounds manageable to some, most QO students would argue that the number is much higher than the actual amount of sleep they get each night.

As upperclassmen, our jobs as students are increasingly stressful with the impeding pressure of AP classes, standardized tests, and college applications. With these new obligations added to the mix, sleep deprivation grows rapidly. Don't be surprised if you think you're seeing zombies walking through the halls, wearing baggy sweatpants and clutching huge vats of coffee—it's most likely a senior who went to bed in the wee hours of the morning (if at all).

If a high schooler's workload isn't taxing enough, sleep deprivation can cause memory problems, cold and flu, weight gain, and even stress-related death, according to Healthline. Basically, the choice students must make is between staying healthy and sleeping, or sacrificing their well-being for academic success.

Okay, so maybe this is a bit of an exaggeration in some people's eyes. But, to many of my peers, inexistence of sleep is the norm. If someone complains to me about getting to bed "late" at 11:30, they'll probably be sorry they said anything. At this point, getting to bed at midnight is considered early for me. You can often times hear me chanting "Sleep is for the weak!" in an attempt to assure myself a lack of sleep won't cause me future distress. So, long story short, a full night's sleep is a luxury I seldom have the pleasure of experiencing.

And, before you ask, the bags under my eyes are designer.

By BEN PALMER
Managing Editor

Each Friday morning, several students file into the TV studio behind the media center. There, they engage in a tribal dance and a sacrifice of a live cougar over a bonfire to conjure up images that you see on your Promethean Boards. These otherworldly images are known as "Cougar TV" to the school, and now you know the truth about how it operates.

However, press censorship has dictated that I give a different explanation for the children, so here it goes. Cougar TV is an almost entirely student-operated club, and not only do students work the broadcast equipment, but they also produce most of the content on the show as well. The previous year, four experienced crew members were elected to form the Crew Council, which mainly coordinates the videos to be filmed and makes sure the anchors and sports reporters show up for duty. This year's Crew Council consists of me, juniors Devin Streight and Allison Hobson, and sophomore Cooper Hoffman. "The week before my show, I reach out to people and share my goals with them, and set my deadlines for certain videos," said Hoffman.

On Thursday, the club meets in the TV studio after school, where everyone is assigned jobs. These jobs range from camera work to directing, and the longer one stays in the club, the greater range of tools they learn to use. Junior crew member and anchor Eli Schwartz commented, "The reason that I enjoy working for crew is because I get to understand the show from all aspects, and it's an intriguing and engaging learning experience." Perhaps the most important piece of equipment is a two-monitor computer known affectionately as the "Toaster," which the entire show runs through. The person running it must, with the click of the mouse and the press of the space bar, transition between outputs as well as queue and play videos. Not only that, but they must fade in and out the calendar, credits, and other

background graphics. Obviously, it may seem like a daunting task to be relied on for all that, but the satisfaction that comes from mastering it is very rewarding. However, each and every job plays an integral role in the show, and an absence would be likely to jeopardize it.

"I like the fact that I was one of the parts that brings the show together, because every job fits like a puzzle piece and the show wouldn't run smoothly without someone manning each one," said sophomore crew member Meimei Lu.

Of course, the show does not entirely depend on the behind-the-scenes crew, as everyone knows. Leading the charge each week are the anchors and the sports reporters, here to deliver the news that the show revolves around. Unlike crew, however, you must audition to be in front of the camera, with seven or eight anchors and four sports reporters selected every year based on their auditions.

How do you get in? Well, there's no exact science, but there are techniques that can help. Dress to impress. Be lively on camera and have a presence. "It enlivens the show when those behind the infamous purple desk are animated and have a voice that is uniquely their own," said senior anchor Alex Chase. Read the script you get and thoroughly memorize it; it's no cake walk and there are elephantine words whose pronunciations you would be wise to look up. And, most importantly, actually show up. You'd be surprised at how many people sign up and fail to show up for auditions, so your chances are greatly increased just by arriving to auditions. And, should you fail to make the cut one semester, don't give up! The next audition is a completely blank slate for everyone, and it's very possible to make improvements that help you go over the edge. Auditions will be held on the first week of January after winter break; I hope to see you there.

No experience is needed to work on crew; so if you want to learn how to work television equipment, stop by on Thursday after school! Well, that wraps up my article, Cougars, and as we leave, ponder this: as the great JoeySideFire once said, are you ready for Cougar TV to get heavy? Have a safe and wonderful rest of your day.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BELIEFNET

Moonlight review



By JACOB CORNBLATT
Associate Editor

Moonlight has claimed the throne for critic's darling of the year—after every festival screening it had over the past few months, critics raved, eventually earning the movie a 99/100 on Metacritic. Finally, escaping the online reviews, I attended the local premiere of the film, and though it's a superb picture, I can't help but admit I wish there was more there.

Spanning the first decades of a young black man's life, Moonlight tells the age-old tale of discovering and accepting who you are, but director Barry Jenkins presents the story in such a contemporary manner that calling anything about it "age-old" seems criminal. Over three chapters (childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood), the protagonist, Chiron, struggles with his homosexuality and drug-riddled mother in a subtle story of human interaction.

On a technical level, Barry Jenkins' second film achieves perfection. The color—easily the most vital aspect in Moonlight's form of storytelling—amazed me more and more with each shot; formed around the film's source material, an unproduced

play titled In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue, cinematographer James Laxton and production designer Hannah Beachler scatter blues and greens all throughout every frame, contrasting the darker reds and yellows that appear as Chiron faces adversity.

There's more to the film than just color, though. Laxton's cinematography—naturalistic yet complex—brings the simple, conversation-based nature of Jenkins' script into a new territory: observation. Like our quiet protagonist, Laxton's photography takes a laissez-faire approach for the most part. Similar to many great characters, however, Chiron develops as he continues along his journey, so Laxton does the same—by the final scene, we aren't just watching what happens: we are confronting it.

The camerawork, as I mentioned, can be very complex, so I was consistently bewildered by how seamless everything felt. Editors Joi McMillon and Nat Sanders built the dazed atmosphere of Moonlight the same way Laxton did, but far more subtly. In order to place the viewer in Chiron's state of mind, key pieces of visual information were hidden by edits until absolutely necessary. An early example of this is Chiron's mother, who very obviously has strange business going on in her house, though we don't know what it is yet. Instead of finding out her job through expository dialogue, the

editors show us one thing for a split second: a bedroom lit by a red lightbulb. Although we don't get pure confirmation of his mother's profession until about halfway through the film, this sly edit grants the audience all the information we need in a subtle fashion, similar to how the at-the-time young Chiron views his world.

The one problem I had with Moonlight is that there simply isn't enough of it to make too large an impact on me. If the runtime had been extended by 30 minutes, and Jenkins added in a few more scenes at the end of each chapter, the film may have delivered the kick it so desperately tries to land. There are many unfathomably visceral scenes, but what's in between them is what needed to be extended. Everything in the movie works, but I just wish there was more.

Some aspects I want to briefly mention are the incredible acting, unbelievably perfect dialogue, and extraordinary sound design. The score works really well with the tone, and when used, the soundtrack delivers, too.

Moonlight should be required viewing for all 18-year-olds, as its themes are ones anyone can relate to and probably benefit from. If nothing else, Barry Jenkins' movie will give you a viewing experience like very few others.



Football faces past as they journey towards states

By **MATTHEW GORDON**
Managing Editor

The Quince Orchard Football team has been a joy to watch this year, only losing once to talented Damascus football team. They've beaten Northwest, Clarksburg, and Wootton. The team is led by captains Doc Bonner, Larry Hinson, Joe Hodges, and Noah Pagley. Coached by John Kel-

ley, they're striving for a state championship. They have many weapons on a talented roster that can take them there.

The Cougars 53 man roster consists of mainly upperclassmen, with some sophomores and hardly any freshmen. Quince Orchard has always been known for their incredible football teams, and this year's squad continues that trend, some notable score lines

from the games were obliterating victories including 48-6 over Walter Johnson, 45-7 over Gaithersburg, 63-7 over Bethesda-Chevy Chase, and many more demolishing wins.

In the rivalry game against Northwest High School, it was a close one as usual. 24-21 was the score of the game, thanks to a wild comeback from Northwest. Quarterback Doc Bonner threw for 189 yards and 2

touchdowns, while also gaining 53 yards on 15 carries with a rushing touchdown. Running back Marvin Beander totaled 97 yards on the ground with a 71 yard catch for a touchdown, and receiver Fofie Bazzie had 70 yards and a touchdown as well. The defense persevered and helped the Cougars win the game. The Red Army roared with tons of spirit and trust in their team, and the cougars

took down their biggest rivals once again. The offensive line at Quince Orchard has been excelling from day one.

Junior offensive lineman Michael Fierstein, only has words of encouragement for the offensive unit as well as the defensive unit. "We go into practice everyday with fire and energy and focusing on our number one goal: State champs." Fierstein said.

Fierstein is a powerhouse offensive tackle whose goal is to obtain his first ring. The coaching staff also highlights the team once again, as head coach John Kelley is now entering his third season as a head coach for the Cougars, and he hasn't missed the playoffs once. QO football is poised to be serious contenders this year.

First up on the playoff schedule was Montgomery Blair. The Cougars defeated the Blazers 35-7. The team blocked a punt on Blair's first drive and returned it for a touchdown, gaining a lead they would not relinquish the entire night.

They now play Richard Montgomery on Friday at the Cougar Dome, beginning approximately around 7 pm. The Red Army needs to come out and support their team, as it's the last ride for many of the players entering their senior years, playing on varsity football ever since they were freshmen. Their number one goal is to get to states, as they have the players, the coaches, and the heart to do so. Come out and support one of the most spirited teams in the county on their road to states!



PHOTO COURTESY OF CEZARY GURBADA

SWAT TEAM: Cougars defensive lineman Bryan Ramos attempts to swat a pass in the cougars' game versus BCC on October 21.

Cubs finally end 108 year drought, win Fall Classic

By **DAVID STRICKMAN**
Managing Editor

For the first time since 1908, the Chicago Cubs are World Series champions. On November 4, the Cubs celebrated on Chicago's streets in front of 5 million cheering fans.

There have been a lot of reasons why the Cubs haven't won a World Series for this long. One curse the fans believed in was the "Curse of the Billy Goat." In 1945, a man named Billy Sianis was turned away from the Cubs-Tigers World Series game when he tried to bring a goat into the stadium. The story goes that Sianis was so mad that he set a curse on the Cubs.

The second most famous curse in Cubs history was the black cat. The 1969 Cubs went into September with a first place record of 84-52, and the Mets were in second place with a record of 77-55. In one of their last regular season games, a black cat rushed the field during the game. By September 11, the Mets had pulled ahead in the standings, crushing the Cubs' shot of reaching



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN CASSELLA

WORLD CHAMPS: The Chicago Cubs swarm the mound after their 8-7 victory over the Cleveland Indians in Game 7.

the World Series.

Another curse in Cubs history was an incident involving an innocent fan. In 2003, in game 6 of the National League Divisional Series, the Cubs led the Marlins 3-0 in the game and led the series 3-2. In the eighth inning, Marlins second baseman Luis Castillo hit a short fly ball into the left field corner of the stands. The left fielder of the Cubs,

Moises Alou, headed towards the wall, preparing to leap and catch the ball that was heading towards the first row of the bleachers. As Alou tried to snag the ball, Steve Bartman, a Cubs fan, deflected the ball away from Alou's glove. Alou was unable to catch the ball who was gesturing towards the fan who prevented him from catching the ball. From that point, the inning got

out of hand: the Marlins recorded eight runs in the eighth inning to help them win Game 6, and eventually defeated the Cubs in game 7 on their way to their second World Series.

After the Game 7 win against the Cleveland Indians this year, many fans believe that all these curses have been broken. The Cubs finished the regular season with a record of 103-58 and led the MLB in

Earned Run Average (ERA) with their top pitchers Jon Lester, Jake Arrieta, and Kyle Hendricks leading the pitching rotation. They beat the Giants in the National League Divisional Series and defeated the LA Dodgers in the National League Championship Series to reach the World Series. Despite the Indians holding a commanding 3-1 lead in the series, the Cubs still believed

in their team. The Cubs won the next two games to reach a Game 7 in the series. With Ben Zobrist hitting a tiebreaking RBI double in the 10th inning and Dexter Fowler, Javier Baez, and David Ross hitting home runs, the Cubs declared victory with an 8-7 win over the Indians. The future looks bright for the Cubs as they look to repeat as World Series champions next year.



The Washington Capitals fans are ready to rock the red

By JAMIE FINK
Associate Editor

The Caps made history last year by having the best regular season record in the league and, because of this, earned the right to bring home the shiny silver President's Trophy. While they were able to achieve so much in regular season, they failed to make it to the finals, losing to the Pittsburgh Penguins. In the past few seasons, Caps fans have experienced let downs and heartbreak as the postseason results have not been as successful as the regular season. This trend has happened in recent seasons and the Cap fans just want change. Looking into the future, the lineup this season includes some promising new talent.

According to an article written in the Washington Post by Isabelle Khurshudyan, Capitals Coach Barry Trotz has decided to switch up the lineup by including forwards Andre Burakovsky and Evgeny Kuznetsov in an offensive attack already featuring right wing TJ Oshie and left wing Alex Ovechkin. Trotz believes that this lineup "can balance them out a little bit, just moving them around."

Rookie Zachary Sanford is playing his first season as a professional and will receive minutes on the third line. It will be interesting to see how he develops this year and if he can translate his solid play into NHL level.

One of the most tenacious players on the team is the 22-year-old phenomenon Tom Wilson. Trotz hopes Wilson stays out of the penalty box so that he can contribute offensively with Ovechkin and Oshie. The dynamic duo has led the team in scoring and providing offense when the Caps need it most. Last December the Capitals were down 3-0 at home and came back to win the game 5-3 thanks to the amazing assistance of Oshie and Ovechkin,

each scoring two goals and assisting twice.

"It will be exciting to see if they continue to create the dominant force of an offense that we had last year," said sophomore Caps fan Trey Seminar. Unfortunately, this is the final year of Oshie's contract, so the Capitals need

know it's game day when the streets of DC are storming in red, chants are being roared, and ticket scalpers are jamming out to music. As metro riders exit Gallery Place, the red surfaces from all directions and the streets are covered with Washington Capitals fans. The "rock the red" aura comes alive as

The reputation of DC fans goes a long way. Some Caps fans are proud of their reputation and believe that "we have so much energy, but unlike Pittsburgh fans, we're not mean and we're not here to start fights in the parking lot," said Abraham.

This season is very long, with 82 reg-



PHOTO CREDIT WASHINGTON CAPITALS

LET'S GO CAPS!: *The Capital fans are very energized as the puck is dropped for the game in the Verizon Center.*

to take advantage of the team they have and excel.

Right-winger Wilson is "very strategic when it comes to checking and if he doesn't like how someone is treating one of his teammates, well, he's not afraid of being sent to the box," said senior Izzy Abraham, another avid fan of the team.

Being a sports fan in the nation's capital comes with big responsibilities. You

Slapshot, the Washington Capitals mascot, skates circles around the ice and lights shine as the players enter the ice. From the moment the puck drops, the liveliness in the arena creates an electric shock from the first row on the ice all the way up to the nosebleed seats. Abraham explains that the vibrant energy of the team carries on throughout each and every game into playoffs in April.

ular season games that started in October and end in April, but "everyone is so loyal and supportive of the team, even during losses," said senior Harrison Kraus.

The cheering continues into the streets even after the game. "When everyone is sitting in their cars waiting to exit the parking garage, people will sound the Caps cheers on their car horns," said Abraham.

Girls and boys soccer finish out the season in full stride

By LOGAN FEINGOLD
Associate Editor

The girls and boys soccer teams both just finalized fantastic seasons, due to hot finishes and great chemistry that allowed the teams to work well as a whole.

The girls team entered the playoffs after posting an 8-4 record in the regular season. After starting the season 1-2, the team cruised to a 7-2 finish, including dominating wins over Seneca Valley (7-0) and Magruder (6-0). Another great win for the team was their 2-0 win over BCC to finish the season, their first victory against BCC in 20 years. The team's 8-4 record allowed them to get a bye for the first round of the playoffs.

One reason coach Peg Keiller cited for the team's fantastic season was its depth. Keiller noted how the team's depth allowed her to "make several subs without a drop in the level of play in the field, allowing all the players on the team to rest more. Since soccer is a game in which stamina is so important, having rested players gave the Cougars a huge advantage in the regular season. When it comes to tactics, the team uses a 4-3-3 formation as it fits their personnel. Keiller cited the "strength of

[the team's] midfielders" as a reason why the formation worked so well for the Cougars during the regular season.

After losing in the playoffs last year with less than a minute to go, midfielder Beth Ellinport learned how "the game isn't over until the whistle is blown." The team showed their grit by contesting Wootton in a tough second round matchup

"We learned to play with each other better, playing to each players' strengths, and we learned how to battle for close games."

- Coach Peg Keiller

at the Cougar Dome, unfortunately losing that match 2-1 on a controversial penalty kick with under ten minutes of play. Despite this loss, the team will likely remember the lessons learned from this successful season, and look to continue



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAC KENNEDY

GO TEAM!: *Boys soccer gives each other a pep talk before their game against Wootton in the 2nd round of playoffs.*

their success into the future.

Boys soccer had a great year as well, finishing the season 10-2. After being upset in the first round of the 2015 playoffs, the team wanted to make sure that didn't happen again. Striker Eli Holmstead spoke of the team using their shocking first-round upset versus Kennedy last year "as motivation when we're training or playing other games, just to know we can't underestimate anyone." As of October 26, entering the playoffs, the Cougars were ranked 9th in the Washington Post All-Metro

Soccer rankings, behind fellow Montgomery County teams such as Walter Johnson, Watkins Mill, and Whitman, although the team beat Whitman in the regular season and didn't face Walter Johnson or Watkins Mill.

One strength the Cougars will have against these teams is their fantastic team chemistry. Holmstead observed how strong the team's chemistry was: "A lot of the guys, we've been playing together on the high school team for four years. We've been playing together outside of school as long as I

can remember," he said. The team's familiarity and experience playing with each other was extremely helpful this year in carrying the team to a 10-2 record. The team opened their playoff bracket by defeating Wootton 3-0, as the squad piled shots on goal and played stout defense versus the Patriots to secure the win. In the team's second round matchup, the team fell to Northwest 2-1. Hopefully, the team can use this season as motivation again next year in order to advance even further in the playoffs.



Seniors' leadership fuels Quince Orchard teams

Field hockey, volleyball, and tennis teams surge towards season's end

By HUNTER BOOTHE
Managing Editor

Fall sports are wrapping up, and we'd be remiss not to recap the seasons of three of Quince Orchard's finest athletic programs.

Coming off an impressive 9-5 season last year, the QO field hockey team returned key players for their 2016 run. Seven juniors from last year's squad returned as seniors to establish a strong base for Head Coach Alicia Vincenty's team. Senior captains Skylar Saffer, Ashley Plante, and Lindsay Kohan headlined the returning upperclassmen. With a deep roster of talented players, expectations were high for the Cougars this year. The team exceeded those lofty expectations, finishing as division champions with an 11-3 record. Highlights within the regular season included wins against BCC and Northwest, a key game in the division title race.

Even with key seniors leaving the program, the future remains bright. When discussing the underclassmen, senior midfielder Morgan Avissar declared, "We want them to continue to build this program that came from nothing with losing records [to today's success]."

Avissar described the seniors' commitment to the program with this reflection on her career: "I'm extremely grateful for my four-year experience on the team and couldn't have asked for better teammates or a better coach. It was such a special experience and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

It may prove difficult to surpass the current seniors' state semifinal appearance from two years ago, but the returning players will have great knowledge and experience at their disposal after learning from this dedicated set of seniors.

Girls tennis, coached by Chris Baker, continues to build a competitive program. Although the team didn't advance to the playoffs, they showed

marked improvement over the course of the year. Captains Serena Tong, Daniela Gil, and Laura Wagner worked with a diverse group of underclassmen and upperclassmen to create a supportive atmosphere.

"We were really good at cheering each other on when we weren't playing a match," remarked sophomore Brianna McKieran.

The positivity started at the top with Baker, who would motivate players in chats between games. The program's positive culture bodes well for its future

we were all returning players, so we knew how to play with each other and could communicate really well on the court," said Van Valkenburgh.

Besides their chemistry, another strength of the squad was its offense. Having played together for years, the Cougars' offensive attack was seamless at times and proved dangerous to opponents.

Not unlike the field hockey seniors, QO volleyball's senior class brought much improvement to the team, creating a strong emotional link between player and program.



GOAL!: The Cougars celebrate a goal against the Gaithersburg Trojans.

success, making girls tennis a team to watch for next year.

Girls volleyball continued its streak of winning seasons with a 9-6 final record. Season highlights included a win against Poolesville, whom the varsity team hadn't beaten in eight years, and a Magruder Invitational Tournament championship, the first in Quince Orchard volleyball history. Led by senior captains Jesse Van Valkenburgh, Desiree Dietz, and Jessica Valenti, the team displayed solid chemistry from the get go.

"With the exception of one freshman,

"This has been an extremely special team for me to play on, as we all were family and loved spending time with each other," said Van Valkenburgh. "I loved every minute of this season and hope the girls continue to bring the intensity next year, because I look forward to seeing the team dominate."

Although they each enjoyed varying degrees of success this season, all three teams demonstrated a level of positivity, commitment, and sportsmanship that the entire Quince Orchard community should be proud of.

XC's season ends, hockey's begins

By DAVID SUGGS
Editor-in-Chief

As the season dwindles down for the cross country team, the team's runners look forward to challenging Montgomery County's best en route to the state championship.

Despite the strenuous physical nature of the sport itself, runners have attempted to keep themselves mentally relaxed throughout the season. Junior Isabelle Sajonia explained this in detail: "My favorite tradition is playing Taylor Swift at meets because almost everyone [on the team] sings along." Some may find team chemistry especially surprising "in such an individualistic sport, but it highlights the importance of having a solid team foundation to being successful," said Sajonia.

The team this year is littered with seniors, and their experience is of the utmost importance to coaches Seann Pelkey and Stephen Majkrzak. Seniors are expected to lead underclassmen in practice routines and regularly encourage teammates while running down Darnestown Road. Additionally, seniors are expected to put up the best times in meets. This fact is not lost on them "[As a senior] I look at the times from the previous years," said senior Yonatan Babore.

This cross-country season culminates with state championships, an event where the best runners across the state of Maryland compete for gold and glory. To qualify for states, runners have to finish in the top 25% of their competition in the regional meet. For the team itself, their season ended in disappointment, as both the boys and girls teams finished just outside of the qualification places, both

"[As a senior] I look at the times from the previous years"

-Yonatan Babore

Nationals and O's disappoint; lose early in playoffs

By DAVID SHAPERO
Sports Writer

Another year of baseball in the DMV is in the books: another year of playoffs for the Baltimore Orioles and the Washington Nationals with an early exit. The Nationals have made the playoffs three times in the past five years and have never made it out of the NLDS (National League Division Series).

What is wrong with Nationals and Orioles come playoff time? Was it poor choices by the managers Buck Showalter (Orioles) and Dusty Baker (Nationals)? Are both teams cursed? Well, here is my take on why both teams failed in the playoffs (again) this year.

First, the Orioles played the Toronto Blue Jays in the American League Wild Card game. The Orioles have one of the best closers maybe the best closer in all of baseball, Zach Britton. However he never threw one pitch the whole game. Instead, the Orioles turned to Ubaldo Jimenez, who had a really down year. Jimenez subsequently gave up a walkoff home run to Blue Jays slugger Edwin Encarnacion. Throughout the season, Baltimore prided themselves on having a strong, reliable bullpen. Down the stretch of the season, their bullpen bent but didn't break. Buck Showalter made some great moves going to right handed pitcher Chris Givens who struck out five of the seven batters he faced. Then Showalter went to Darren O'Day to get a double play to end the inning. The one move that baffled my

mind was he never used Zach Britton. I don't understand how you don't use this past year's best pitcher to get you out of an inning or go multiple innings. This is the one spot where Buck Showalter faltered. Yes, the Orioles did not have a hit after the 6th inning, but you have



SWING AND A MISS: Nats' CF Michael Taylor strikes out against the Dodgers.

to make moves to keep the game going. Buck needed to use Britton, that's what cost the Orioles the wild card game.

The Nationals also had an interesting year. It seems like every time they are in the playoffs, the light switch turns off. In this case, both the players and the coaching staff are at fault. Dusty Baker didn't always seem to make the right choices in games, but every manager has those moments. I will give Dusty credit, he did manage the bullpen well... until game 5. Throughout the series, the Nationals bullpen was remarkable. They got meaningful outs when they needed them the most. Mark Melancon never

gave up a lead, one that in years past may have been blown. In game 5, however, the bullpen game changed. Max Scherzer was dealing. The Nats gave him a one run lead early and he never looked back. In the seventh inning, Dodgers center fielder Joc Pederson hit a homerun off Scherzer.

Then the train fell off the track as Dusty decided to go to the bullpen, which had been great all series. However, in game five, the bullpen imploded. The Nats used seven pitchers to get through the seventh inning. After the seventh, the Nats found themselves down 4-1, they got a big lift from Chris Heisey, who hit a two-run home run to cut the lead to 4-3. A question for Dusty Baker, why take out Zimmerman, Espinosa and Lobaton and replace them with Difo, Severino, and Taylor? Who would you rather have to win you a game? C'mon Dusty, veterans over rookies. Those moves cost the Nats the NLDS.

placing eighth. (To qualify, the teams needed to finish in the top seven.) Babore emphasized the disappointment he felt, saying, "I feel like this was a season of lost potential because we put so much training into the summer leading up to [this season]."

However, senior Maya Jacobson and juniors Isabelle Sajonia and Chris Thoms were able to qualify for states in their individual events. It is certain that they will have the support of the Quince Orchard community in their race for states.

While the cross country season is essentially over, the newly-formed Quince Orchard hockey team has begun play, beginning their season with a resounding 4-1 thumping over DC All-Stars. According to senior Daniel McGeever, the sheer amount of hockey players who go to Quince Orchard led to the creation of the team. While high school hockey has some significant differences from club hockey (McGeever remarked "high school hockey is a lot slower than club hockey and the skill level of the players are not as good"), the importance of representing the Quince Orchard community on the ice is extremely impactful to the players. Led by senior captain Jackson Harnois, the team has been impressive in their first few games this season, and it is imperative that the team continues to improve throughout the season in order to be prepared for the postseason. Ultimately, the hockey team is attempting to start a precedent for future generations of Cougar hockey players, so let's support our ice hockey players to a successful debut season.



College basketball ready for another year in the spotlight

By Griffin Mann
Sports Editor

4.7 seconds. Villanova, time to go the length of the court with Arcidicono. Three seconds on midcourt. Jenkins. Gives it to Jenkins! For the championship...Yes! Villanova! Phenomenal! The National Champions with Kris Jenkins hitting the winner at the buzzer!

Last year, Villanova's stunning victory over North Carolina capped off one of the most entertaining seasons in college basketball history. While it will be difficult for this upcoming season to match the intensity of last season's frantic ending, exciting new recruits

and returning stars will certainly make this season of college basketball memorable.

The preseason AP rankings emphasized the high expectations of some of college basketball's most historic programs. The #1 ranked team, Duke, returns four of their key contributors from last seasons' team, including the preseason Player of the Year, junior Grayson Allen. They couple this advantage with the addition of some of the most talented freshmen in the nation, with top-ranked recruits Harry Giles, Frank Jackson, Marques Bolden and Jayson Tatum looking to infuse athleticism into an already stacked lineup.

The Kentucky Wildcats enter this year with high expectations as well, coming in ranked at #2 in the nation. Kentucky was very excited to hear that freshman standout Isaiah Briscoe announced

ranked as the number one class in the country, led by highly touted recruits Bam Adebayo, De'Aaron Fox, and Malik Monk. Briscoe and the Wildcats will rely on their outstanding rebounding ability, perim-

eter defense, and ability to create offensive plays to make run at another national championship. Local fan favorite, the Maryland Terrapins, barely slid into the AP poll, entering the season ranked at #25. Maryland hopes for a successful season this year after a disappointing finish to last season. The Terrapins will bring in three great recruits this year, who are expected to get solid playing time. Forward Justin Jackson, guard/forward Kevin Huerter, and guard Anthony Cowan are expected to be key contributors this season. The Terrapins also return one starter in their point guard, with star player Melo Trimble. The Terrapins will need their successful recruiting class to help guide them to success. With Trimble leading the lines and the freshmen stepping up, the Terrapins lineup is looking promising.

This season will be defined by the contributions of freshmen throughout the country, as there are a plethora of them entering the college ranks. In addition to the freshmen I mentioned earlier, Miles Bridgens (MSU), Josh Jackson (Kansas), Markelle Fultz (Washington), and Lonzo Ball (UCLA) headline a deep freshman class that is one of the most exciting, athletically-gifted classes in recent memory. Ultimately, the team that best infuses their young freshmen into their established systems will be the team cutting down the nets in April.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FANSIDE

his return for his sophomore season. The Wildcats were able to bring in another great recruiting class thanks to Coach John Calipari and his staff. The freshmen come in

eter defense, and ability to create offensive plays to make run at another national championship.

Local fan favorite, the Maryland Terrapins, barely slid into the AP

ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

FOOTBALL

Joe Hodges '17



Senior captain Joe Hodges gets dirty while blocking for his teammates. He is a motivational leader on and off the field.

GIRLS SOCCER

Mallory Rosenfeld '18



Junior Mallory Rosenfeld speeds past opponents on her way to the goal. She encourages her teammates to be more aggressive on the field.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Jesse Van Valkenburgh '17



Jesse Van Valkenburgh is a senior captain and four-year member of the varsity volleyball team. She is a defensive anchor, leading the team to victory.

BOYS SOCCER

Scott Drazan '17

Senior goalkeeper Scott Drazan shut out multiple teams as he helped the Cougars win the division title this year while leading from the back.



CROSS COUNTRY

Matthew Owens '17

Lightning fast senior Matthew Owens fires up his teammates during practice and on the hills. He is one of the fastest on the team and contributes greatly.



POMS

Shannon Marsh '18

Junior Shannon Marsh dedicates her time to helping her teammates while dancing her way to fame.



The Prowler asked these athletes the following questions...

	Joe Hodges	Scott Drazan	Mallory Rosenfeld	Matthew Owens	Jesse Van Valkenburgh	Shannon Marsh
What are you thankful for?	ELECTION RESULTS	FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND KEVINFC	HALLOWEEN CANDY	COLLEGE APPS BEING DONE	ZIPLOCK BAGS AND 2-IN-1 SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER	MY DOG
What is your favorite Thanksgiving meal?	TURKEY	TURKEY	MASHED POTATOES, STUFFING, AND CRANBERRY SAUCE	WARM, LIGHTLY BUTTERED BREAD ROLLS	GLUTEN-FREE MATZAH	PIE
What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?	TURKEY BOWL	GOING OUT TO CALIFORNIA OR NY TO SEE FAMILY	BREAKING WISHBONE FROM THE TURKEY WITH MY SISTER	RUNNING A 5K	FAMILY MARIO KART AND FIELD GOAL KICKING CONTEST	PIE
What are you going to buy on Black Friday?	AUTHENTIC DONALD TRUMP MASK	BOOSTED BOARD	FUZZY SOCKS AND SWEATPANTS	A T-SHIRT FROM NY	NOT GOING, NOT TRYNA GET TRAMPLED	PROBABLY CLOTHES
If you could have Thanksgiving dinner with one person in history, who would it be?	DONALD TRUMP	KEVIN HART IS A FUNNY GUY, I'M GOING WITH HIM	KANYE WEST	ABBY POTTER	ABDUL SALAH OR GANDHI	BLAKE LIVELY AND SCOTT EASTWOOD
What's your favorite Thanksgiving parade float?	DONALD TRUMP'S FACE	SNOOPY/CHARLIE BROWN	SNOOPY	SPIDER-MAN	PILLSBURY DOUGH BOY	SANTA