

# THE PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School

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## Puttin' on the Hits Showcases Red Army's Talents *Individual and class acts bring excitement to highly anticipated performance*

By **BELLA ROBERTS**

*News Managing Editor*

POTH, or Puttin' on the Hits, is a yearly talent show that showcases the talent in the QO community. POTH is a great opportunity for students to perform, while offering a friendly competitive aspect. This year, QO students redefined talent as they performed. POTH gives students in every grade level the opportunity to perform and is composed of a "class act", a compilation of funny skits and songs from each grade and individual performances. While individuals must audition to perform, everyone is invited to perform with their class. "Everyone can easily get involved by either trying out on an individual basis or coming to class meetings where the class performances are organized," states junior Shadi Dvari. Dvari is the Junior Class Historian and contributed greatly to the organization of POTH. The show is all about "letting the students have the experience to showcase their talents



PHOTO BY HOLLY MCKNIGHT  
**PUTTING ON THE HITS:** (From left to right) Seniors David Ramsey, Sam Hurwitz, Micah Levey, Sam Feldman, and Griffin Miller strut in the senior class act.

and perform in front of the whole school," says freshman Sam Katzker. Katzker is the Freshman Class President, and explains that POTH is a team effort. "Lots of work went in to planning our act because it takes more than just one person to put something that special together and showcase that in front of the entire school," Katzker stated. "We spend several weeks getting everything down just to ensure we would have an awesome act." Everyone is encouraged to participate in the event. "Next year, people who are interested should definitely try out!" Dvari exclaims. To many, POTH is about more than just a talent show. "While Puttin' on the Hits is the annual school talent show, it's really more than that. It's a night when the QO community comes together and joins in watching talented youth perform," states Dvari. "Schools should have shows like this because it's important to have students be individuals and be able to perform. It can also help to get rid of stage fright and anything

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## Superintendent Starr Resigns

By **LAWRENCE SIMON**

*Editor-in-Chief*

The Montgomery County Public Schools community showed mixed levels of surprise at the resignation of County Superintendent Joshua Starr. The announcement came by way of a message from the Montgomery County Board of Education, which voted not to renew Starr's four-year contract on February 3. The decision means that Starr will vacate the office of superintendent effective February 16, and will be replaced by Larry Bowers, the Chief Operating Officer, as interim Superintendent, pending the approval of the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Lillian M. Lowery.

One such teacher who is interested in the selection process is government teacher Joshua Schuman. Schuman said that he first heard about Starr's resignation "during 6th period on the day it happened," through "an email from the Board of Education." Schuman reported that "I know that half of the Board of Education did not have confidence in the job [Starr] was doing," also adding that "Dr. Starr is resigning because it would be impossible for him to be an effective leader without confidence and support from the Board of Education." Schuman believes that "the

deciding factor in his resignation was that he'd done something to upset the Board of Education," and that "his fate was sealed from there." Schuman hopes with the change in MCPS' Superintendent that we'll see a change in "the 50% rule in our grading policy," as well as other changes in "grading, class enrollment, class size, teacher salary, teacher time, and standardized testing." Although Schuman doesn't feel that this resignation will affect MCPS for the remainder of the school year, he did add that "I'd like to see Jennifer Yang replace Dr. Starr" as the county's superintendent.

Senior and County SGA member Henry Peck added about the controversy, "The Board of Education hired Starr as superintendent to make tough decisions, and he has failed on multiple occasions to make tough decisions." Peck did mention that Starr made large contributions to discussions in Montgomery County on "the school start time issue and has support of Curriculum 2.0, the MCPS version of Common Core Standards." Looking forward to the county's next superintendent, Peck said, "I hope the new MCPS superintendent is more willing to publicly take a stance on tough issues with split perspectives." However, Peck is worried that, amidst the discussion for a new superintendent, that the Board of

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## SHOP Coffee House Rocks

By **ANDY GOLDSTEIN**

*News Associate Editor*

On February 5, the SHOP (Students Helping Other People) Club hosted its annual Coffee House, which allows students to showcase their musical talent to their peers. Beginning at 7 PM in the cafeteria, the event drew many members of the Quince Orchard community to observe the musical prowess of our students.

Many students signed up to perform at the event, including junior Jake Jones. Jones professed his love for the stage and stated, "I just really love performing, especially when you can interact with the audience. It feels a lot like what an athlete feels during a game. It's just a great thing to experience." Jones performed a cover song as well as an original song, which he had written a few nights before. "It doesn't really matter if they like it or

not to me, I'm just glad I got to play," stated Jones. This commitment to musicianship drew many other performers as well to sign up for Coffee House this year.

Many of the performers at the event have an extended background in music. Junior Jacob Elder is a longtime guitar player and member of the local band Throwing Wrenches. Elder stated, "Ever since we started playing together, I have been motivated to perform more." Although Elder has played on stages far bigger than the Quince Orchard cafeteria, he always enjoys himself at Coffee House. "It was very fun! I've enjoyed playing at Coffee House a lot," Elder said. He is one of many of the performers who have already made music a large part of their lives.

The SHOP Coffee House is hosted every year to raise money for a very important cause. Every 15 Minutes is a program in

which students are educated on the topic of drunk driving, and dedicate a day to silence to commemorate people who lose their lives in drunk driving accidents. The program got its name due to the harrowing statistic that every 15 minutes, someone dies due to drunk driving. Elder supports the cause, stating, "I decided to perform because I wanted to help raise money for the Every 15 Minutes program." Elder is not alone in this feeling, as many patrons of Coffee House came to support this cause as well as see the musical talent being showcased.

On such a cold night, Coffee House lived up to its name, providing hot chocolate and hot coffee to its patrons while they sat back and listened to the musical performances. Combining musicianship and charity, it is no surprise Coffee House drew a crowd to the audience.

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The Annual Polar Bear Plunge has Cougars sprint into the freezing bay yet again.

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Teenage drug abuse is a dangerous issue found in most high schools across the country.

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The Super Bowl comes to a shocking end with a controversial last minute error.

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# Students Take a Cold Plunge for a Good Cause

By **DYLAN KEARNEY**  
News Editor

Students submerged in the cold waters of the Chesapeake Bay on January 30 to fundraise for The Special Olympics, an organization that does training and year-round competitions with kids and adults who have intellectual disabilities.

People all around the community jump into the water for the cause, and some don't go in but still enjoy the atmosphere. Government teacher Karen Jones is the sponsor of the students participating. "It's a challenge," said Jones. "You just have to throw down the gauntlet and do it as a team." Each member who joins a group to plunge with has to raise fifty dollars before joining the cause. "I try to raise more money every year," Jones explained. "Our goal is fifty dollars per student, but most students try to reach higher than that." The team from Quince Orchard also usually bring students from Best Buddies, an organization at QO where students volunteer with people who have intellectual disabilities and do different activities each month. Students from Best Buddies come with the group and they plunge together, and Jones said this is really great because they can help raise money for a good cause and enjoy the plunge together.

The Polar Plunge hosts many students, and the group here at QO tries to get people to participate by spreading the

word through announcements at school and through social media, so many people can enjoy the event. "The atmosphere is great. It is super fun and everyone around you is cheering," Jones said. "It's great to push

yourself to something you're not used to, even if it is intimidating at first." The preparation involves getting in a tent together and getting ready to go in. She said this part was one of the most fun, because the team

is anticipating the event together. "It's better to go in after though, because otherwise you could get stuck in the front and stay in the cold!" Jones said. It's her third time plunging and she enjoys doing it very much.

Sophomore Patty Dirlam is also excited to plunge for the first time. "I joined because it is sure to be a good experience, and I'm also excited to see how much money I can raise for Special Olympics," Dirlam said. Never participating in it before, students wonder about what to expect. "I'm looking forward to a rather chilly bonding experience with Special Olympic supporters from all around," Dirlam said. Students say the Polar Plunge is a different fundraising idea that can be very successful. "Few other events involve plunging into subfreezing waters," Dirlam said. "It is also special because it unifies people like nothing else can." The Cool School Challenge is the school team's event to raise money for the Special Olympics. "It has an online donation page, so donating is quick and easy," Dirlam said. "It is a great fundraising idea because it attracts lots of attention and it donates to a great cause." The people participating in this event enjoy it very much, and are always welcoming people to come along to support a great cause within the community.

These courageous students are helping to raise money for a good cause, the Special Olympics, while also trying their own personal strength of will and resistance to the cold.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FACEBOOK

**CHILLING OUT TOGETHER:** Quince Orchard students huddle together for a group photo after successfully taking the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money and awareness.

## The Plume of Pennies for Patients

By **ANDREW POULSON**  
News Editor

Over the next two weeks, Quince Orchard will be hosting the Pennies for Patients charity program in order to raise money for cancer research and treatment.

The Pennies for Patients program was started in 1995 by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help raise money through schools for leukemia and lymphoma research and treatment. Leukemia and lymphoma are blood cancers that affect over 800,000 people each year. Over 10 million elementary, middle and high school students donate to the charity every year.

One of the people helping to set up this program here at Quince Orchard is sophomore SGA member Maya Jacobson. "Pennies for Patients is a great program," said Jacobson. "Leukemia is the most prevalent type of cancer, so donating can potentially help a lot of people." Jacobson said that "the Pennies for Patients charity is nationwide," and students from schools all over the country can gather up their spare change and bring them into school to place in collection boxes. "Even though each individual student may not donate that much individually, when so many kids across

the country bring in some, it really is a lot," added Jacobson.

Another person who has been helping to put together the Pennies for Patients program here is junior SGA member Alexis Onsi. Onsi said that "although there have been some bumps in the road while planning this year's Pennies for Patients, I think that the charity program will go great." Onsi also hinted that "although we are not sure yet, we are trying to get some sort of prize for the class that raises the most pennies." Onsi also asked others to "remember to bring in your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters between February 9th and 20th so that you can help a great cause."

Senior Nick Ransing has helped with Pennies for Patients before. "In elementary and middle school." "Giving to this charity is something that is important to me because so many people have this disease, leukemia, that it nice to be able to help them," Ransing says. He also commented on how easy it is to give to the Pennies for Patients charity: "All you have to do is go home and look around for spare change that you probably wouldn't spend anyways, and then bring it in to school." Ransing added, "Even though it might not have been that much, you can really do some good." Even though everyone only gives small amounts of money, expectations remain high.

## J. Starr Resigns

By **LAWRENCE SIMON**  
Editor-in-Chief

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Education will be left "unable to be effective in educational and budgetary reform." The official statement from the office of the President of the Montgomery County Board of Education Patricia B. O'Neill says, "The Board appreciates Dr. Starr's work over the past three-and-a-half years as superintendent." Later in the statement, O'Neill wrote that, "as our district grows and the needs of our students increase, there are areas that we must address if we are going to continue to be a high-performing system

that prepares all students for success in the 21st century." Speaking praise of the county's choice for an interim leader, O'Neill wrote, "We believe that Mr. Bowers is well-suited to lead the district in this time of transition," adding that, "as a 37-year veteran of MCPS, he understands our culture, our strengths, and our needs and will ensure that MCPS operate smoothly as we prepare for a new leader." The process for looking for a new MCPS Superintendent will continue over the next few months and hopefully be completed in time for the 2015-2016 school year.

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## POTH Brings Excitement

By **BELLA ROBERTS**  
News Managing Editor

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crowd was laughing and reacting positively," says Katzker. Similarly, Malouf adds that the audience reacting encouraged her. "It was so much fun to be surrounded by people who know and love you. It was exhilarating to feel the positive energy from the audience," Malouf stated. If not performing, members of the community are invited to make up the glowing audience that returns each year. "People should attend both because of all the hard work you classmate devote to put on a great show

for you and the rest of the school. Also, you can get a laugh out of the event and

up the audience to support their performers, but also get a glimpse into the artistic community.

*"It was so much fun to be surrounded by people who love you."*

-Chloe Malouf

it is a nice family outing" states Katzker. Parents, siblings, and friends make

"Everyone should attend POTH because it's a night where we get the opportunity to celebrate talented members of the QO community," says Dvari. Of course, the added element of competition always gets the whole school to participate "Although the seniors did win, we all know that juniors deserve first place!" exclaims Dvari. The seniors took how the class award while the first place individual award went to the Disney Princesses made up of juniors Becca Worley, Kishori Turner, Chloe Malouf and senior Joanna Wolfgram.



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# Academy Award Nominations: Who Will Win?

By **LAWRENCE SIMON**  
*Editor-In-Chief*

With the end of 2014 and the beginning of a new year, the awards show circuit has begun to heat up. Beginning with the Golden Globes on January 11, then the SAG Awards on January 25, and continued by the BAFTA's on February 8, the season will culminate in the Academy Awards on February 22. Despite the fact that this year's Oscars display a great deal of variety in the types of movies, there are many also disparaging the lack of racial diversity among this year's nominees. As far as diversity among the films nominated this year, sci-fi films like *Guardians of the Galaxy* have two nominations while comedic dramas like *Birdman* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* led the Oscars with nine nominations. As far as human diversity is concerned, freshman Luke Tittle said, "I don't think that the non-white filmmaker is under-represented," and that "I just feel that there weren't many movies out in this specific year by non-white filmmakers." However, most of the anger for this year has been centered on Ava Duvernay's critically lauded *Martin Luther King, Jr.* biopic *Selma*, which, despite being what one might call "Oscar bait," only garnered two nominations: one for Best Picture and one for Best Original Song. However, some critics claim that star David Oyelowo should have been nominated for Best Actor, that Duvernay should have been nominated for Best Director, and that the film's script should have been nominated for Best Original Screenplay. When asked how he would make the Oscars more diverse, Tittle added that "I don't think anything should be done

to make it more diverse because that could make it more racist," but that "the only way to diversify it would be to have more movies made by non-white filmmakers." Worth noting, however, is that, despite all 20 nominees in the acting categories being Caucasian, Alejandro González Iñárritu, the director of *Birdman*, was nominated for Best Director.



**PREPARING FOR BATTLE:** Neil Patrick Harris prepares to host the 87th Academy Awards in the Dolby Theatre on February 22, 2015

Notable among some of the snubs at this year's ceremony are more experimental and diverse movies like *Nightcrawler* and *The Lego Movie*. The former drew criticism for its violence and Jake Gyllenhaal's creepy performance as an LA news recorder, but did garner

a nomination for Best Original Screenplay. The latter created controversy for not being nominated for Best Animated Feature, despite being one of the most widely-acclaimed animated films of 2014. Luckily for those who made *The Lego Movie*, the film was still nominated for Best Original Song for its hit number "Everything Is Awesome."

Also notable among the nominees at this year's Academy Awards ceremony is the lack of big-budget films compared to recent years. The two most nominated films at this year's ceremony will be *Birdman*, or the Unexpected *Virtue of Ignorance* and *The Grand Buda-*

*pest Hotel*, both nominated for nine awards. The two films had budgets of \$18 million and \$30 million, respectively. The lowest-budget films nominated for Best Picture were *Whiplash* and *Boyhood*, which were made on smaller budgets of \$3.3 million and \$4 million, respectively. This is in contrast to the 86th Academy Awards, where the most nominated movies, *Gravity* and *American Hustle*, were made on budgets of \$100 million and \$40 million, respectively. However, the Best Visual Effects category includes such big-budget pictures as *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, which were both made on budgets of \$200 million. Also receiving numerous nominations at this year's ceremony were major biopics like *The Imitation Game* and *The Theory of Everything*. The former is about Alan Turing, a computer scientist and World War II codebreaker who was criminally charged for indecency for being a homosexual in 1940s Britain, and has been given eight nominations. The latter is about British physicist Stephen Hawking, and the juxtaposition of his burgeoning relationship with his first wife Jane Wilde Hawking with his advancing diagnosis of ALS. Other films that have garnered a number of nominations include *Boyhood* and *American Sniper* are both nominated for six awards, followed by *Whiplash*, *Foxcatcher*, *Interstellar*, and *The Theory of Everything* with five. Then the art biopic *Mr. Turner* with four, *Into the Woods* and *Unbroken* with three, and *Guardians of the Galaxy*, *Ida*, *Inherent Vice*, *Selma*, and *Wild*, all with two. This year's ceremony will be hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, and will be hosted at the Dolby Theatre.

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# The D.A.V.I.D. System to Getting Girls for the Holiday

By **DAVID RAMSEY**  
*Section Editor*

Guys, are you tired of not having a date for Valentine's Day? Is being the third wheel getting old? Well, I can change all of that with my foolproof, easy, five-step system known as the D.A.V.I.D. system. Even if you have no game, this will guarantee you will not be third-wheeling next Valentine's Day.

## **D-DEMONSTRATE YOUR VALUE:**

This is your first impression with the girl of choice, so you must give her a reason to be interested in you. If she thinks you have no value to her, she will not give you the time of day. Now, you can do this by lying about some story about how you saved your best friend's life or how you work at a local soup kitchen. That will work in the short run but if you want her to be bae, this route will not work. She will eventually find out you're lying and lose interest. Talk about your talents and what you can do for her.

## **A-ASK QUESTIONS:**

Girls love to talk about themselves, so all you have to do is just ask them questions about it and look interested in what they are saying. Even if they are talking about some show on Netflix that sucks or some drink from Starbucks that is just so good they "just can't", pretend that they are the most interesting person in the world and they will be happy.

## **V-VERIFY HER INTEREST:**

This is the moment of truth: are you in the friend zone or not? There are many ways to figure out if a girl is interested in being more than a friend. The Y theory is a surefire way to determine if she likes you: the more y's a girl types in a "hey," the more interested she is in you. Once she types four ys or more, you are in there fo sho. Another way is to just ask her best friend, but that could risk making it hot. Once you have verified that she is interested in you, it is time for the next step.

## **I-INITIATE PHYSICAL CONTACT:**

Once you are ready, it's time to make your move. Invite her to the movies or over to your house to watch one on Netflix. This is the perfect time to initiate contact. Put your arm around her and, if she accepts, its game on. Wait a couple minutes and go in for the kiss.

## **D- DIVE IN/DODGE THE BULLET:**

There are two options here. If you see your girl of choice as someone you can share a meaningful relationship with, then you dive in and keep seeing her. If you do not, then dodge that bullet, brotha. Avoid all contact. Warning: the girl may hate you after this.

## Valentine SHOUTOUTS

To: Julia Lane  
You are the apple of my eye. Be mine. <3  
-J.D. Neveleff

To: Mrs. Working  
Have a lovely Valentine's day  
-The SGA

To the absolute best SENIOR class EVER- Mrs. McNeal LOVES you!  
-The Southern Belle

Now we're two not so single eggs! And you're eggsactly what I need. <3  
-Beware! For I am the BOXGHOST!!

To: Colton Christensen  
Colton, I couldn't tell you this in person but I've always wanted you back  
-Laura

To: Troy Porter  
Please kiss me at beach week.  
-Alyssa Winderlich

To the love of my life, let's hang out(;  
-Micah Levey

To: Laura Luteran  
I want you back. Please be mine. Don't tell Erin.  
-Colton

To: Sam Hurwitz  
Please be my bf. You know we're in love  
-Gdarin100

Your eggquisite-ness makes my heart scrambled.  
-Egg

To: Gdarin100  
We are never ever getting together, word to Tswift. </3  
-Sammy Poo

Dear Hallie,  
Thanks for being my best buddy. You are a great friend.  
Love, Jeffree Cruz

Roses are red, violets are blue. Skittles are sweet and so are you.  
-Anonymous



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## Inequality for Cannabis

By **LILY MAKORI**  
Features Editor

Marijuana, pot, Mary Jane; whatever you want to call it, it's not anything new to people. However, it has gotten the reputation of being a casual drug that everyone and their mother seems to be smoking.

According to the Narcocon International Rehabilitation Center, the use of the euphoric drug dates back to ancient times, with the Chinese tagged as the first users in 2737 B.C., who quickly spread it to the rest of the world. The Spanish brought it to America in the early fourteenth century as a "major commercial crop alongside tobacco... grown as a source of fiber."

It wasn't until the 1920s that people started to catch the Mary Jane train and use it recreationally. It was considered exclusive to musicians and people in show business. Later, it was used for its medical benefits and prescribed for "labor pains, nausea, and rheumatism." However in the 1930s, the U.S. Federal Bureau of Narcotics (now the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs) saw marijuana was a gateway drug to other substances, and it was then that people started to reconsider whether it was really good for them. In the late sixties and seventies, college students and "hippies" were smoking it as a sign of rebellion and a middle finger to authority. The U.S. government decided to enact criminal charges for the possession and dealing of cannabis in the eighties, and it has been since a taboo topic.

My question is why the

government chose to ban marijuana but keep cigarettes? They don't seem to care about all the junk we're poisoning ourselves with at McDonald's and Burger King. I know that there has been research done that proves that marijuana is in fact bad for you. It affects all the organs in your body and has similar effects to smoking cigarettes, but somehow this seems to be a bigger concern that the cancers associated with smoking can do to you or the risks that come with the rising obesity rate. Inhaling nicotine has somehow become second nature, while smoking pot is a federal crime. Why ban one drug and not the other if it's just as bad? But that's just my opinion.

I asked fellow Quince Orchard senior Aryana Bright her opinion. She thinks the government won't legalize it, "because they're scared more people will want to use it, but that's the case with cigarettes; people still use it."

When asked about whether or not she thinks it's harmful, Bright commented, "I've never heard of anyone dying from using marijuana, but it's harmful when mixed with other stuff, but mostly I wouldn't say it is [dangerous]."

I know a lot of people will have their reservations about it, but I truly believe that if the government wants to ban marijuana, then they should take cigarettes and unhealthy foods to the grave as well. If they're going to let people kill themselves with one drug, then why not the other? Or better yet, ban everything that's bad for people if they're looking to keep everyone's best interests in mind, like a government is supposed to do.

## Drunk Driving Yields No Safety

By **SUZANNE ADJANI-ALDRIN**

Features Managing Editor

High-risk behavior is not a new territory for teens in America. For many, getting drunk at parties is quite common. However, driving while intoxicated is a fatal and illegal act that takes the lives of many each year.

Intoxicated driving is defined as "the act of operating or driving a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the degree that mental and motor skills are impaired." According to MADD, in America, on average, two in three people will be involved in a drunk driving accident in their lifetime. Drunk driving is even more fatal than drinking because it's something that doesn't just directly affect you, but also everyone on the road. Many times, victims that are involved in these accidents do not escape unscathed.

The fault does not necessarily lie in trying to get drunk, but instead making the decision to make life-altering choices that could affect

*"When one has too much to drink, one loses all sense of rationality."*  
-Penny Keune

you and many others. Due to law enforcement, the fatality rate of drunk driving has been cut by 50% since 1980. However, according to MADD, on average, a drunk driver will drive 80 times under the influence before their first arrest. This statistic is still a very alarming and life-threatening

reality. Despite numerous campaigns against driving under the influence, teenagers still choose to drink and drive. AP Psychology teacher Penny Keune states that this may be because "teenagers think they are invincible" and "when one has too much to drink, one loses all sense of rationality." Senior Amy Musser adds that it is "sometimes due to peer pressure and trying to appear to be cool." It is important to remember, however, that appearances are not worth losing a life over. Many have known people directly involved in terrible accidents revolving around drunk driving. Keune states, "I have had numerous students who had serious problems as a result of their choice to drink. I have had a number of students killed in alcohol-related accidents." Musser states that she too knew someone directly involved in a drunk driving accident.

This year, as Quince Orchard prepares for "Every 15 Minutes," a biennial anti-drunk driving campaign, we are reminded of how terrifyingly real this topic is and how it significantly impacts the lives of everyone around us. Teenagers are encouraged to help prevent these fatal accidents by making sure there is a designated driver at all times and keeping watch over their impaired friends.

It is vital that precautions are taken to ensure the general safety of the public. Accidents that revolve around drunk driving are 100% preventable. As the future generation, it is important that we are aware of the negative impact it has on our society and do whatever we can to make sure that no life is lost over something that is in our control. It could be your mother, father, sister or brother that is impacted by drunk driving. Our role is to help make sure that the possibilities of that ever happening are slim to none.

# TROUBLE TOPIC

## Heroin and Fentanyl-Related Deaths on the Rise in MD Overdose becomes public health crisis, community shocked over statistics

By **LILLY PRICE**  
Editor-in-Chief

This November, figures were released by Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene that heroin-related deaths have increased by 46% from January to June of 2014. Three hundred deaths were recorded in those six months.

Narcotics, such as heroin and fentanyl, kill an estimated 20 to 30 Marylanders a month. Fentanyl deaths are the most prominent in Baltimore, Anne Arundel, and Carroll counties, according to The Washington Post. From 2011 to 2013, there has been an 88% increase in fentanyl deaths, making overdoses "a public-health crisis," said the agency's secretary, Joshua Sharfstein. QO's School Resource Officer, Joseph Lowery, has experience working undercover on drug and gang cases. Lowery explained that these addictions typically begin with "kids who are comfortable being extremely inebriated [from high alcohol levels] that they get curious about other things."

Besides marijuana, the drug of choice for teens right now is pills, according to Lowery. Teens will

bring medication to parties and take it, not knowing what type of pill they just consumed. "These are called 'pharm parties' and in the past three years have occurred the most frequently in Damascus," said Lowery.

Oxycodone and fentanyl are popular prescribed narcotics that are often abused and brought to parties. "What happens is that this stuff is so highly addictive that, when people take it or use it recreationally, they have to start buying it off the street," said Lowery.

Some dealers have stopped selling marijuana and crack, typical street drugs, because they have sources where they can get "oxy," which is sold by the milligram. "Say you have an 80 milligram pill or 20 milligram pill, whatever the milligram is, that's what it costs [in dollars]," said Lowery.

Once someone gets addicted to oxy, that person tends to run out of money since it's so expensive. They then turn to heroin, which is cheaper than oxycodone. Heroin has a very similar high and people can make their money go further, "which is how people generally get hooked as a teenager," noted Lowery.

Heroin used to have a taboo of a drug only

hard criminals did. The pattern of users was adult minorities; this pattern has recently switched to white young adults. "I saw some teen heroin users while doing raids in Damascus," said Lowery. "These drugs are mostly found in Baltimore and DC, but kids will make the trip down there and bring these drugs back."

In Montgomery County from 2008 to 2011, there were an average of 40 to 50 heroin-related deaths per year. By contrast, however, there were 93 deaths in 2012 alone. Then, between March and August of 2013, the number of deaths was equal to all those previous years combined. "That's a little bit of an epidemic," said Lowery.

Heroin's danger comes from the inability to know the strength of what you're taking. "It could be 10% pure, it could be 90% pure. It could be cut with baby powder or it could be cut with Aspirin," said Lowery.

These addictions begin by taking oxycodone, then snorting heroin, then injecting heroin. Heroin is an incredibly debilitating drug that can ruin and even end lives. "It's such a gamble when you take heroin because you don't know what it is," said Lowery.





By **SAM HURWITZ**  
Viewpoints editor

February can be a traumatic and turbulent time for those finding themselves without a significant other or, to use a more colloquial term, “bae.” Some students may be tempted to turn to alternatives such as alcohol, marijuana, and now, apparently, heroin to fill the void left in their hearts. The reason why teens continually indulge in drugs and/or alcohol is not that intricate. When insurmountable levels of stress pile onto a student, a catharsis is needed. Simply put, illicit substances are an escape for teens battling internal issues. The first instinct for teens is to seek a solution to their sorrows, which often tends to be drugs. The vulnerability of a troubled teen is easily exploited by peer pressure, which leads to habitual drug and alcohol use.

Inevitably, peer pressure is the driving force behind first-time drug/alcohol experimentation. As students, we encounter the pressure to conform almost daily. The classic

“everyone is doing it” is what most typically describe as peer pressure. However, peer pressure isn’t always explicit and often goes unnoticed. When you’re the only person at a party not shooting up heroin, the pressure to conform increases exponentially, no matter the circumstances. These situations and scenarios are when teens must be most vigilant and conscious. Resistance to peer pressure takes an incredible amount of willpower and integrity. Maintaining dignity and weighing the decision you are about to make is imperative when saying no. Don’t say no because you’ve been told to, say no because you genuinely know what you’re about to do is wrong or uncharacteristic of yourself. Mustering up this brand of confidence is no easy feat, but counteracting peer pressure in this manner tends to stop abuse before it even starts.

Unfortunately, but perhaps not surprisingly, substance abuse among teens isn’t restricted to this trivial time of year. Drug use, unlike students, governments, or associations, cannot simply disappear with a wave of a wand.

The harsh reality is students will always devise a cunning way to obtain drugs/alcohol. Drugs aren’t invasive species that can simply be hunted, which is why I don’t foresee a solution that eliminates substance abuse at QO. However, I believe that recognizing the futility of attempting to eradicate all substance abuse is the first step towards a solution.

Regardless of what you believe, every adult did something deviant in his or her teenage years. Anyone who tells you otherwise is probably a liar or a square. Nothing better epitomizes the teenage years like rebellion and risk-taking. One impulsive decision won’t necessarily define you if you consider the risks and repercussions beforehand. Drinking once doesn’t make you an alcoholic, and never drinking doesn’t make you an outcast. That’s just a double standard and a peer pressure tactic. I am not insinuating that *The Prowler* or I condone drug and alcohol abuse; in fact, I highly advise you against it. If I could stress one thing to you, it would be to base your decisions on your own beliefs, oh, and don’t stumble (up the stairs).

## VIEWPOINT

# A Little Bit of Witz: *Make peace, not war, on drugs*

## Importance of Education About Teen Pregnancy

*Increased public awareness helps lower teen pregnancy rates*

By **PAIGE MIRKIN**  
Features Managing Editor

Teen pregnancy is prevalent in our society. It is glamorized in the media, with several reality shows on air that circulate around pregnant teenagers or teenage mothers. Becoming pregnant as a teen is an undesirable situation, although it is easily dealt with in a healthy and positive way.

Our society has become much more comfortable speaking about the topic of sex since our parents’ generation. Students are able to receive sex education in schools and teenagers are much more open about their sex lives with their parents. Due to this, the teenage pregnancy rate in our country has declined. In 2013, the pregnancy rate among teenagers between 15 and 19 was 26.6 births per 1,000. In fact, fewer babies were born to teenage parents in 2013 than in any other year since 1946. The rate has significantly dropped, compared to a whopping 117 births per 1,000 in 1991.

As health teacher Susan Soulé has taught us, the only 100% effective way to avoid pregnancy and STDs is abstinence. However, with the growing awareness of sex-ed in our country, waiting until marriage has become less common. “Kids should be able to make their own decision when it comes to [sex], as long as they’re being safe and choosing the right person,” said a QO community parent, who wished to remain anonymous.

Pregnancy can be prevented: students are taught about the different

contraceptives available to them in health class. According to Capital Woman’s Care OBGYN Rene Johnson, “girls should begin attending annual check-ups at the gynecologist around age 15 or 16.” With regularity at the doctor, teenage girls will easily obtain the knowledge and ability to take care of themselves and avoid pregnancy.

Girls are not the only ones involved with pregnancy. Boys should be correctly educated to avoid unwanted pregnancy as well. “I take my son for a check-up every year at the pediatrician,” another QO parent said. “The pediatrician speaks to him about sex, contraceptions, and educates him on the consequences of unsafe sex,” she said. The three rounds of the HPV vaccine, which may prevent certain types of human papilloma viruses, genital warts, and cancer, are now available to boys. It is equally as important for boys to be careful about sex as girls.

The birth control pill is 99.9% effective with correct usage. However, there is always the .1% chance of getting pregnant. A recent occurrence of teenage pregnancy has happened in our community. One pregnant QO student, who wishes to remain anonymous, encourages everyone to “take all precautions possible” when it comes to sex. “My parents were very supportive,” she said. “The first thing my mom did was hug me and tell me it was going to be okay.” Pregnant teens are faced with three main options: abortion, adoption, or deciding to raise the baby themselves. “The decision is different for anybody involved,” the student said. She

chose to raise her baby with her boyfriend. “My parents are building us an apartment in the basement of their home,” she said. “This way, my boyfriend and I will have the privacy of raising our child on our own, but they are only a flight of stairs away if we need any help.” Parental support is crucial during teen pregnancy. This way, teens

are not pressured or forced into making a decision they do not want to make.

Many options are available to young parents. The non-profit organization Planned Parenthood helps teens make decisions for their future. The closest branch is located in Montgomery Village and can be contacted at (301) 208-1300. Stay safe!

Heroin Helpline 877-616-6231

Alcohol Helpline 866-925-4030

National Suicide Prevention  
Lifeline 1 (800) 273-8255

Bullying Helpline 1-800-273-  
TALK (8255)

Information Hotline 411





# What Do We Want? Soap!

*Editors investigate hygiene concerns*

By **EVE POETZSCHKE**  
*Editor-in-Chief*



We've been hearing the same words since elementary school. Washing your hands with soap and water is the best way to prevent the spread of sickness.

However, in the midst of cold and flu season, students at QO are running into a problem. It's hard to wash your hands with soap and water if there's no soap. The first few times I noticed it, I wasn't too concerned. But this problem has been more frequent lately: both soap dispensers in the bathrooms are usually empty when I try to wash my hands.

Although this didn't seem too pressing at first, I noticed more and more girls complaining about the lack of soap. I took to carrying a personal bottle of hand sanitizer in case I ran into the problem. Even though not all dispensers are considered "empty," there are many that you have to violently press several times to get even the smallest dollop of soap.

My fellow investigative editor Lilly Price and I decided to research the matter. We tested all the girls' bathroom soap dispensers during first and eighth period this past week. What we found was slightly disturbing. An average of 45% of soap dispensers were empty over the course of the week. Out of the 15 dispensers, almost half are consistently empty. Many times, there were two empty soap dispensers in the same bathroom, leaving students unable to use soap to wash their hands.

This is where I call for a change. Not only is soap necessary to keep our students healthy, but the recent, school-wide stress on food allergies has made this issue even more pressing. In our most recent advisory, we watched an enlightening video on how to protect our students with food allergies. Students with severe allergies can go into anaphylactic shock just by touching the food they are allergic to. The video informed us that washing our hands before and after we eat can save a student from the danger of unknowingly coming into contact with their allergen. Implementing more soap in our bathrooms will help prevent any future contaminations.

Note: We did not test the bathrooms in the girls' locker room, because they were locked at the times we attempted to check them.

# Cougar Focus

By **JULIA LANE**  
*Double-truck Associate Editor*

QO's annual talent show, Puttin' on the Hits, along with every theater production, showcases a lot of on-stage talent. However, the behind the scenes talent, the stage crew, are the people who create every stage production at QO. Senior John Paul Fox was this year's POTH stage director. Fox has been stage director at POTH for the past two years and has gotten to know QO's stage well throughout his experience working in productions. After years of work on stage crew, he knows what it takes to produce a great live show.

Managing the chaos of changing scenes and microphones can be challenging,

especially with a live audience watching. There is pressure not just from the people watching, but from the actors on stage who rely on the support from their backstage crew. Fox reveals that the most difficult part of his job as POTH stage director is "keeping everyone quiet" backstage. This can be quite tough when dealing with large groups of anxious teenagers.

Even so, with this challenging job come many perks. Fox enjoys that "you get to boss everyone around." The stage director is in charge backstage and the performers listen to his or her commands. Fox believes more people should get involved in theater and the backstage crew: "It is the best thing you can do after

school," encouraged Fox.

QO's stage crew work hard before, during and after each production, but do not receive much recognition. Fox states that he wishes there was a greater appreciation for the backstage crew because they "do not get enough attention" from the public. Working behind the scenes is time consuming, and often a short debut on stage in the event of a technical difficulty is the only visual recognition they receive.

So next time you are wowed by one of QO's wonderful plays, musicals, or talent shows, don't forget to appreciate all the hard work that enabled the show to flow smoothly!

# Allergies Take a Toll

By **PAIGE MIRKIN**  
*Features Managing Editor*

Allergies have been a growing concern at Quince Orchard High School this school year. Emails have been sent out to teachers and advisory block was dedicated to the awareness of allergies in schools. Administration has banned eating in classrooms to avoid any allergic reactions. This all began when junior Raquel Golanski had an allergic reaction during lunch this fall.

Golanski has been allergic to peanuts for "as long as [she] can remember." Her allergies are very severe, which is why many of her reactions have landed her in the hospital. As a member of the Pom squad, it has caused her to miss many practices and competitions. "Being

allergic to peanuts has impacted my life because of all the cautions I have to take," Golanski said. "I carry an Epi-pen around with me at all times in case I have a reaction."

According to foodallergy.com, there are approximately three million people who report having allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Studies show the number of children living with peanut allergies have appeared to triple between 1997 and 2008.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for food allergies. Prevention for those with allergies include having medication present and knowing the procedure in case of a reaction. The severity of allergies ranges, but you do not want to be the cause of someone's hospital visit. Please be aware of your surroundings and what you eat in school.

# Senior Slump Slides In

*Nurse's room is overflowing with deadly cases of senioritis*

By **MICAH LEVEY**  
*Features Editor*

The time has come that a quarter of the school has reached the pinnacle as our 12th graders can officially call themselves "second semester seniors." What does that really mean though?

For senior and school SGA president Sam Feldman, being a second semester senior is nothing short of a relief. "The best thing is not having to try as hard because I am already accepted into several colleges," explained Feldman. Feldman is one of the luckier seniors who was able to breathe easy during the first quarter of this school year after receiving his first acceptance letter. Once that happened, "senior-itis fully kicked in," said Feldman. The harsh stress of having to choose between studying for a science summative or a math summative has now turned to the stress of choosing which outstanding institution to attend next year. "I haven't figured out what school I am attending because I am trying to see which school will give me the most scholarship money," added Feldman, who is clearly

aware of the expense of attending college.

Feldman is evidently relieved to see his hard work in high school pay off, as hopefully everyone does when they reach the latter half of their senior year. As a classmate of Feldman's, I too am able to bask in the bittersweet feeling of my high school tenure coming to a close.

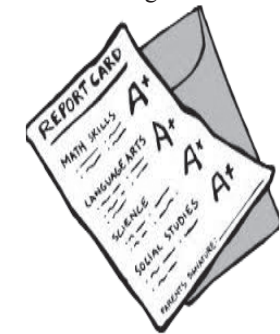


IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE

While it is true that I am putting forth less effort in keeping up my good grades, I am not putting any less effort into school as a whole. Throughout my first three and a half years at QO, the only thing that has ever mattered to me is my grades. This means staying up late nights to memorize countless vocabulary words and formulas for tomorrow's test. How much of this information do we actually retain?

Though I earned a 100% on one of my first vocabulary tests in Mrs. Shipp's class as a freshman, I am now unable to recite any of those 15 words, much less their definitions. I am not trying to take a shot at the English Department's choice in testing, but much rather high school education as a whole.

The purpose of school is to learn, not to earn good grades. High school students around the country are pressed by their elders and peers about their GPA, or number of AP classes, or SAT scores, rather than the knowledge that a pupil has absorbed in school.

That being said, I would now like to elaborate upon what I was hinting at earlier; I am still trying in school, but after being accepted into my dream school, I am now trying to learn, not to earn good grades. I will continue to make this my primary goal for however long I am attending some type of educational institution as a student. I encourage all underclassmen to do the same, because what is the point of a 4.0 if you don't know anything in the first place?



PHOTO COURTESY OF RAQUEL GOLANSKI  
**SMILES:** Junior Raquel Golanski stays positive in the hospital



**POISON CONTROL:** Be cautious of what and where you eat to ensure safety







# Super Bowl Ends in Dramatic Fashion, Leading to Scrutiny

By **DAVID FINGERET**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

In what may be one of the most memorable Super Bowls in recent memories, the game had it all: suspense, action, comedy, and drama. In the week leading up to the Super Bowl, all reporters wanted to talk about was Deflategate and the best Marshawn Lynch interviews. What could be better than people talking about how Brady deflates his balls and Lynch saying "I'm just here so I won't get fined"? Even Saturday Night Live had some fun with these two events. But that's a thing of the past: the more important events were still yet to come.

Coming into the game, people were ready for a close game with the Legion of Boom vs. Tom Brady, and Lynch vs. New England's front seven. At the beginning of the game, the Patriots offense and defense dominated against the Seahawks. One key play in the first half was when Seahawks cornerback Jeremy Lane intercepted a Brady pass at the five-yard line. However, Lane was injured at the end of the play and did not return. The next cornerback up was second-year player Tharold Simon. Once in, Brady picked on Simon and wound up throwing two touchdowns against the young cornerback. Brady got hot and not only tied Joe Montana's Super Bowl touchdown record, he broke it.

As Brady's stellar play continued, an unsung hero was born for the Seahawks: Chris Matthews. No, not the Chris Matthews on NBC, the rookie wide receiver for the Seahawks. In the beginning of the season, Matthews worked at Foot Locker until the Seahawks asked him to try out for the team. Matthews hadn't had any catches all year, but who's to say he wasn't the spark that lit the

team? Matthews's first catch was a 45-yard catch, setting up a Lynch three-yard touchdown, but his next play really set him apart. After Patriots Rob Gronkowski spiked the ball in the end zone after his touchdown, with 31 seconds left in the half the Seahawks had one of the most impressive drives in the Super Bowl. With 31 seconds, in four plays Russell Wilson got his Seahawks down to the 11-

who else but Matthews to end the half. The Seahawks had tied the Patriots going into halftime, 14-14.

Once the second half started, the Seahawks got red hot, scoring a field goal on their first possession. Then Bobby Wagner intercepted Brady. All the momentum was with the Seahawks as they began another drive. Wilson drove the ball down and then threw a touchdown to Doug Baldwin.

of the Pats corner Darrelle Revis for getting scored on. The third quarter ended shortly after and the Seahawks were winning 24-14.

The fourth quarter was one to remember as Tom Brady gathered the troops and scored two touchdowns, one to Danny Amendola and one to Julien Edelman. After these two scores, the Patriots were winning 28-24 with two minutes remaining. The

Seahawks into Patriot territory. Three plays later, magic happened. Wide receiver Jermaine Kearse pulled in a 33-yard pass that was just incredible. The pass was tipped into the air and, as the ball was about to hit the ground, Kearse caught it, setting the Seahawks up for a game-winning touchdown. Not only were people going crazy in the stadium, but Brady couldn't believe what had happened. There was a resemblance to the David Tyree catch that beat the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII. All was lost until the most controversial play ever be called during an NFL game.

On the one and-a-half-yard line with 25 seconds left, everyone thought the game was over. All that was needed was a handoff to Beastmode and the Seahawks would have won their second Super Bowl. But then, the call was made: a pick route was called and Wilson was picked off at the half-yard line. People could not believe the play call. Even Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith commented on the play via Twitter, "That was the worst play call I've seen in the history of football." After the game, Coach Pete Carroll blamed the interception on himself. All the Patriots had to do now was to run one play and end the game.

After the kneel down, all hell broke loose, with Bruce Irvin throwing punches to every person with a white jersey. The brawl began, and what could have been a better ending to a great Super Bowl? Irvin was ejected and will most likely be fined for his actions. In a game where one of the only things to be remembered will be the terrible call. In a game that was almost as interesting as the Revolutionary War, the Patriots beat the 'Hawks, proving Patriots win in all wars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CBSSPORTS.COM

**DEFINING MOMENT:** *Safety Malcom Butler's game-sealing interception to win Pats' fourth Super Bowl* yard line with six seconds left. Everyone believed the Seahawks would kick a field goal to go into the half down just 14-10. However, the defending champs had other ideas. With six seconds left, Wilson threw a touchdown pass to For his touchdown celebration, Baldwin decided he would fake going to the bathroom on the ball, for which he was flagged 15 yards. But the real controversy was Richard Sherman, all-pro cornerback for Seattle, making fun

drive started off with a great throw to Lynch. There was then a brief commercial break, with everyone on the edge of their seats, the best of Super Bowl XLIX yet to come.

The first play was a throw to Lynch for 31 yards, moving

## Boys BBall Looks to Play Cinderella in a Magical Playoff Run

BY **JARED GOLDSTEIN**  
*Sports Editor*

Reenergize a fan base. Instill life in a deflated community. Excite a whole school. None of these things are easy, yet the boys varsity basketball team has accomplished all three feats with their 11-4 start.

Following a last minute, difficult to swallow, and all-around disappointing postseason loss to Northwest in the 4A West Football Regional Championship for a second straight season, the Red Army -- students and community members included -- were left stunned and silent. The eerie silence was almost unbearable. As fans filed out of the Cougar Dome, many for the very last time, some wondered what they were supposed to

root for now. The boys basketball team has made a huge case to be the team that draws big crowds, and in turn, energy and noise.

Preseason projections had the Cougars finishing the season somewhere between a middle-of-the-road team and a true contender. While this team certainly isn't the best team in the county or state, they've shown that they should not be taken lightly come playoff time. The team complements each other with their ability to score. The Cougars have a great combination of inside post play and outside shooting. The ability to score from all around the floor is very important to a team's success. This is reflected in the team's scoring average of 59.6 points per game (ppg).

Four players on the team average double digit points per game, another

important factor for a team looking to make a deep run through the playoffs. For instance, if senior forward Sam Ling happens to struggle in the post -- which, admittedly, doesn't happen all that often -- the Cougars may look to kick the ball out to sophomore point guard and floor general Matt Kelly, who leads the team with 32 three-pointers made on the season. Other scoring options include senior shooting guard and forward Eli Maynard (10.0 ppg) and the team's leader in points per game, sophomore forward John Fierstein, who averages 11.9 ppg. To put it simply, even if an opposing team is able to neutralize one player, the Cougars have several other options to put points on the board. What makes it even easier is that the team is very unselfish, always finding the hot hand.

Having a plethora of

scorers like this makes it difficult for opposing defenses to stop the Cougars. "We have guys that can score from anywhere on the floor," Eli Maynard said. "It's very difficult to slow all of us down at once." Indeed it is. And it is even harder to keep a raucous student section from making noise.

Opposing teams will say that they enter Quince Orchard's gym to play the game, not to worry about the Red Army and their screaming soldiers. However, it is undeniable that the strident crowd has an effect on the game, and the psyche of opponents and coaches. The members of the Red Army are known for screaming their heads off at football games, but in an enclosed environment like the gym, the noise they make is trapped and has nowhere to go. The sound waves ricochet of

the walls and ceilings and ring throughout the gym. A full student section would make it nearly impossible for the opposing team to communicate with each other on the floor.

"When [the Red Army is] really loud while we're on defense, [it] makes it harder for our opponents to run their offense and it pumps us up," senior Christian Walters said. In order to come into Quince Orchard's gym and leave with a win, teams must be very prepared and have a thorough game plan. Comparable to crazy college student sections such as the Cameron crazies at Duke University, the Orange Crush at the University of Illinois, or the Izzone at Michigan State University, Quince Orchard's Red Army wreaks havoc on opposing player's ear drums and coach's game plans. As the team plays

through their final games of the schedule in the upcoming weeks, the team will need the Red Army to be even louder than ever.

The Cougars have the potential to get hot at the right time, as evidenced by their 7-0 start. However, they've struggled against the county's top competition. If they are to make the playoff run (and they are capable of making a run), they'll need a loud student section behind them, a strong game plan, and hot shooters. Should Quince Orchard conjure up the perfect storm at the right time, look for the Cougars to pull off an upset come playoff time. The team expects all of the Red Army to show up and support during their playoff run.





# A Letter to the Editor: Where's Quincy?

There was a time in distant past when our cherished mascot was everywhere to be seen at QO sporting events, always supporting the team through the good and not so good times, and always bringing a smile to the youngest of fans that might not have been able to understand what was going on the field or the court.

Alas, now Quincy we hardly know you. Have we lost our school spirit? Is it not cool any longer to represent your school? Is there not one student in the QO student body who will stand for tradition and, for once or twice a week, sometimes show the rest of the county how it should be done?

Think of it. What would Notre Dame be without its Leprechaun? How would Alabama survive without Big Al? Can you imagine Maryland without its Terrapin? Be it Tiger or Gopher, Spartan, Volunteer, or Rebel, across the nation students line up and audition to be these storied mascots. They would fight to represent their school, yet where is Quincy? We have a legacy of superior sports teams envied by all, yet where is Quincy?

I am informed that the SGA can turn this problem around and turn that frown upside down. Well, Mr. President, get 'er done! You have a beautiful costume but no one with the spirit to fill the paws. Put down your iPhone, stop tweeting, or texting, or whatever you do when you should be supporting your school. Did the SGA run for office just for the title or to really support QO?

I offer a challenge to the SGA to a 'spirit duel.' For the 2015 football season, if you will guarantee a student to actively be Quincy, and do it right and document it, at every home game, I in turn (if I can get into the suit) will call one of the home games as Quincy from the press box. What do you say, Mr. President?

Sincerely,  
Lee Faris

By **DAVID FINGERET**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

I'd first like to take a moment and thank Mr. Faris for raising concern about our missing beloved mascot, Quincy. For years, Quincy has supported QO teams, but this year, sadly, no one decided to take the place of Quincy. Now, Mr. Faris is absolutely correct when he stated, "Can you imagine Maryland without its Terrapin?" Donald, the Oregon mascot, does pushups every time the Ducks score. If not for mascots, who would do pushups for the Oregon Ducks every time there was a score? It's sad to think that, without Quincy, a bit of our school spirit has been lost.

Quincy was such a big part of our spirit because he could get anyone of any age excited for Cougar football. Who could forget the Quincy who used to make all the little kids smile as they got to meet the greatest mascot in the state? At Quince Orchard, we not only pride ourselves on our success in the classroom, but also on our excellence on the courts and fields. The only thing missing is one great student taking on the role of Quincy. President John F. Kennedy made many great quotes in his time in office. One fits perfectly (with a small change): "Ask not what your school can do for you, but what you can do for your school." There must be one student at Quince Orchard that is willing to serve their school in one of the most important ways possible.

We always see in movies how the best athlete gets the girl, but just maybe the mascot gets some fame and glory. In the television show *Blue Mountain State*, the mascot, Sammy Cacciatore, did very well. He was somewhat popular and he hung out with some popular football players. The life of a mascot is a tough one, without much credit, but this service is very important to the school. Also, who isn't fulfilled by putting smiles on everyone's face? Everyone loves Quincy, and being Quincy would have the bonus of making you popular, besides bringing extra spirit to the school.

Sometimes the mascot isn't appreciated like he should be. There are disrespectful people everywhere who don't care about mascots, yet the mascot is so important to

bring back. Quincy is a symbol of our school and another way to get people excited for the game at hand. But maybe you're still not convinced Mr. Faris is willing to take the Quincy suit and wear it while announcing a home football game. The only thing missing is for one student to step up, take responsibility, and become our favorite Cougar.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE

**FIND QUINCY:** *Quince Orchard's famous mascot has been in a year-long game of hide and seek.*

## Wrestling Dominates on Mat Girls BBall Prove Ball is Life

By **SAM KIRSCH**

*Sports Associate Editor*

The varsity wrestling team has been strong all season, showing that hard work does in fact pay off. Now with an impressive 11-2 record, the team looks to keep their momentum heading into the county and state tournaments.

After finishing 8-6 last season with six one-match swings, the Cougars have had what many could call a surprising season. Coach Rob Wolf said, "Although not many around the county expected us to be this strong, we knew that we had the potential to be one of the stronger teams."

However, this season is not a fluke. The team that lost eight seniors has gained many new underclassmen. Co-captain and junior Zeph Titus stated, "[Sophomore] Mason Avissar came in as our 126 with not too much experience wrestling, but he has been able to win matches." Freshmen Gaines McKnight and Alejandro Lopez have also helped revamp the lineup. Gaines has already won over 20 matches and Lopez has been strong in his new varsity role.

In addition to the many new athletes, the team has improved their training approach in order to last the whole match with their opponents. Titus stated, "Just going in the room every day, sweating and working hard and doing the moves that you would do in the match, makes it come easy to us."

Another key member to the team is junior Jack Hanson, who has earned the nickname "Jack the Giant Slayer" after continually beating larger opponents in the heavyweight matches, "We're working hard at practice and the practices have gotten harder," said Hanson. "I feel like we are in better shape now than we've

been since I've been here."

The hard work, dedication, and athletic ability have been evident as the team has had many dominant matches, including an 80-0 win at Kennedy and a 70-11 win against Seneca Valley. The team's only losses have come in a close loss to Magruder and in a blowout to Damascus, the defending state champions and a team that many think will repeat.

Even with tough competition, the team has high hopes for season's final tournaments. "I expect to have at least two finalists at the county tournament and hopefully advance eight or nine into the regional," said Wolf. "We'd like to think that we are the second-best team in Montgomery County." The other front runners for the other three spots to be a 3A/4A West Region dual tournament qualifier are Northwest, Magruder, Whitman and Walter Johnson. The county tournament runs from February 20-21 and the regional meet is from February 27-28. The team expects to send many athletes to the state tournament, which is going to be held at Cole Field House at the University of Maryland on March 6-7.

One such athlete is senior co-captain Kyle Bollinger. Bollinger came in sixth at states last year and, as Wolf said, "has been very helpful in helping his teammates improve their technique. He takes time during practice to work with individuals and groups to provide tips on various set-ups and take downs as well as top and bottom mat positions." Bollinger is just one of the seven team members that are expected to have won over 20 matches by the end of the season.

Looking into next season, the Red Army should be on the lookout, as the team will have many returning starters and an abundance of talent on the mats.

By **BRENNALOFGREN**

*Sports Editor*

As the girls basketball team steadily progress in their season, the captains begin to look ahead to playoffs and determine what their team is capable of.

Currently 8-4, the girls' winning record has brought a lot of confidence to the team, especially to the returners who are



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAURICIO SANMARTIN  
**HARD IN THE PAINT:** *Junior Gina Wingate goes up strong for the layup against Seneca Valley.*

Note: Corrections to last issue's Girls Basketball article can be found online under "Orgs and Clubs."

coming off of a 3-20 season last year. Junior co-captain Lainey Seiniger said, "Our goal is to have the best record and get as far into playoffs as we can, but mainly to really rebuild and strengthen the basketball program." She adds, "That's going really well." New head coach Chris Campbell is supported by his three assistant coaches Ellen Marshall, Charles Krafthofer, and

Eric Thorndike, who together have all created an intense and supportive practice environment to help the girls focus on both individual skill and team-oriented playing.

Junior co-captain Gina Wingate said, "Our practices are fast-paced and always energized. Leading up to the games, we focus on our opponent and how they play so we can better our game." The team consists of mostly juniors and sophomores, which shows a lot of younger talent that will continue to grow, a force to be reckoned with in the playoffs as well as the upcoming seasons. Both captains agree that the priority goal for playoffs is to keep improving and get as far as possible.







The girls have become very close, and their chemistry is clearly shown out on the court. Seiniger said, "We do a lot of team-building activities like scavenger hunts, brunches, dinners, and going to college games to get closer and build a stronger bond, which will definitely help us in our games."

The team plays against Sherwood High School at home on February 17, so the Red Army is expected to be there cheering them on.





# Here's what some Quince Orchard athletes think...

<i>The Prowler asked...</i>							
	Hannah Morin	Elijah Maynard	Regina Wingate	Robert Steinwandel	Adam Levey	Bianca Parisotto	Dara Sypes
Who is your Valentine this year?	Khristoff from Frozen	Karina's mom	Lainey Seiniger	Alice Cook	Whoever gets me the biggest Chipotle gift card	Stathes baby	Brian
What is Drake doing on Valentines day?	Going to my house	Dropping a single that makes the mood go down	Hanging with his step-bro Josh	Rapping... I guess	:)	Writing songs about Stefan	Being on his worst behavior
Summarize the Super Bowl in one word.	Football!	GoDaddy.com	Nachos?	Chili	Coachescalling-badplays	Wait, is Stefan a football player?	Super Bowl
If you could change one thing about 2014, it would be...	Ebola	Homecoming...	Not buying Netflix sooner	Nothing. I was happy with it.	More snow days	I didnt go to HC with Stefan	To be as cool as Halle
One thing you want to happen this year is...	Get Money	To yeah with my yeah on the yeahhh!!!	The denim-on-denim comeback	Qo winning states in football	Nothing	Go on a date with Stefan Stathes	For Raquel to not have an allergic reaction everyday
Do you wish Paige Mirkin was your Valentine	No, because she's not my A1Day1	Nah #teamlili	But what about Lainey	No, Alice is my girlfriend and I dont know who that is.	No, just me	No, I only want Stefan	My heart belongs to Halle.
When the snow falls, I like to...	Eat Olaf	Shmoney dance	Watch people roast MCPS officials	Sled	Curl up with a ball and watch Breaking Bad	Text Stefan	Go outside
What do you do when school gets cancelled?	Sleep	Choreographing Chris Brown's next dance routine	Sleep until the next day	Swim Practice	Binge on Netflix	Shovel snow with Stefan Stathes	Practice. Poms is life.

## Swim and Dive Looks to Make a Splash Into Regionals

By **MATT LOWINGER**  
*Sports Section Editor*

The swim and dive team practices very early in the morning to show the other high schools that the Cougars are not a force to be reckoned with. The rest of the county fear the Cougars for their teamwork and great coaching.

Senior Nathan Kessler has been part of Quince Orchard swim and dive program since his freshman year. Over the years, Kessler has proven himself to be a leader in and out of the pool: "I have swum at every meet like divisionals, regionals, Metros, and states...I know what it's like to be a captain and what it takes to win various meets." As a captain, Kessler is responsible for supporting teammates by being "loud and spirited." He likes to encourage his teammates because it makes his acquaintances "feel good." He claims the team's biggest competition is Poolesville and Bethesda-Chevy Chase due to their "high-caliber swimmers." Most of the swim meets are only two hours long, so Kessler encourages the Red Army to "come with some friends and...cheer while

[the athletes] swim. It can make a big difference in the results."

Senior Lillie Spivey has also been dedicated to the Quince Orchard Swim and Dive for four years. Furthermore, she "I enjoy being part of a team and having fun with great teammates."

-senior Lillie Spivey



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY MCKAY  
**SWIM BOYS SWAG:** Boys team huddles up during their senior meet, which ended in a W

has had a passion for the sport since she was a young girl: "I enjoy being part of a team and having fun with great teammates." She says the team is a "great group of people," and credits her teammates and coaches to her success by pushing her to the limits. Spivey loves her teammates because they "have fun and support each other at meets." She said, "We like to win, but having fun and showing team spirit is important to us." She has a passion for swimming, but also wants the swimmers to have fun in the process: "The expectations that [Spivey] has for the team is for

the swimmers to always enjoy swimming." Spivey looks forward to continue her success with the team throughout the rest of the season.

Freshman Hannah Grossberg has been all in for the Quince Orchard swim and dive team since day one. Grossberg, a very strong student, has to juggle her time between swim and school work: "Some nights are late nights, working on homework and some days start early. But, it's something I enjoy, so I do what I need to do." In addition to being a strong student, she also trains hard to make her a success in

the pool. Grossberg says, "Enthusiasm makes me a good swimmer." She is a modest athlete by saying, "I'm not the greatest in the pool"; however, her teammates praise her work ethic and great leadership skills that will rise up in the near future. Grossberg tries to encourage her team to wake up to attend the early morning practices. She iterates that "everyone... has a role and that they are all family." Coaches and

teammates cannot wait for Grossberg to lead the team in years to come.

Congratulations to the swimmers from Quince Orchard participating in the Washington Metropolitan Swimming and Diving Championships, and good luck to some of the team will be heading to the Maryland State Championships and would love to see the whole Red Army present.

**SIGN-  
ING  
DAY!**

**CONGRATS TO  
ALL OUR SENIOR  
ATHLETES WHO  
DECIDED TO  
CARRY THEIR  
SPORTS CAREER  
TO THE COLLE-  
GIATE LEVEL.**

**THEY  
SIGNED ON  
2/4/15**





# ATHLETES TO WATCH

## Poms



**Danielle Cohn**

Senior Danielle Cohn has proven herself over the past couple of years. The coaches are very proud of her progress and her great teamwork. The other poms athletes love Cohn's attitude toward the sport.

## Cheerleading



**Carly Porter**

Sophomore Carly Porter loves the sport of cheerleading. Her peers pride her on never giving up. Porter stays after practice and works on the skills needed to make her a threat against other teams in tournaments.

## GO COUGARS



## Co-Ed Swim and Dive



**Alex Myers**

Junior Alex Myers has been an outstanding competitor all throughout the season. He is a reliable swimmer and a great leader. The coaches can always count on him to lead practices and help develop young swimmers.

## Wrestling



**Kyle Bollinger**

Senior Kyle Bollinger has recorded a stellar record of 24 wins and 2 losses. During the Holiday Dual Tournament, he received the Outstanding Wrestler award due to winning all eight of his matches.

## Boys Indoor Track



**Jose Cruz**

Senior Jose Cruz stepped into a leadership role this year. His knowledge of track and field is shown by beating out opponents and helping out younger athletes. His hard work really pays off.

## Girls Indoor Track



**Ashley Seymour**

Sophomore Ashley Seymour has been a strong asset to the team since day one. Her great leadership skills shine when she leads the practices. She is a threat for the short sprints, not to be reckoned with.

## Girls Basketball



**Jordan Odom**

Freshman guard Jordan Odom has proven her skills to the QO community. She is currently averaging 15.5 points per game, along with averaging nearly two rebounds per game. She's a key player.

## Boys Basketball



**Johnny Fierstein**

Sophomore Johnny Fierstein has great potential as a future college athlete. He averages 14.7 points and six rebounds per game. In addition, he went off against Clarksburg, scoring 22 points.

## Track Continues Into Stride Toward States

By **GREG BURNHAM**  
*Sports Managing Editor*

Winter sports are usually known for their indoor facilities, to stand as a barrier against the harsh conditions of the season; however, indoor track will always be that one exception.

The track athletes have been out braving the conditions ever since the beginning of the season back in November. Now, as we roll into February, the team is now preparing for its final meet at the State Championships later in February. All the training and sacrifice out in the cold has paid off for the team this year as the boys came in second at the Montgomery County championships, along with having a couple individual event winners.

One of those individual county champs, senior Noah Vernick, was very excited with the result. The captain and shot putter said, "Ending the season last year, I had a feeling that I could be number one in the next season. Having help from one of the most technically sound coaches in the state and alumnus Marcus Brown has really helped me reach my goal of number one." Vernick's aspirations have certainly been reached this season due to the off-season workouts and practice. He also attributes his success to training with such good teammates such as sophomore Mike Joseph, and seniors Brian Wolford and Harrison Rafter who push each other to get better day in and day out.

On the running side of things, the sprint team has been led by a group of veteran senior runners that are proving their experience with top finishes. Some of these runners include seniors

Bright Ofosu and Dorian Jones. Jones has also had strong showings in the triple jump events.

When it comes to the distance runners, the blend of veteran leadership and younger talent has proved to be a recipe for success. Some of this non-senior talent includes top runner junior Liam Walsh, along with sophomore Eli Holmstead. Walsh was a top runner in the county coming out of the fall cross country season and has high aspirations to duplicate his success this winter. Holmstead, on the other hand, a soccer player in the fall, found himself coming into the season wanting something to prove and to show his worth in the 4x800 event. "We run circles like it's nobody's business," said Holmstead jokingly. Reflecting back on the season, he said, "I am very happy with the progress we have made as a team this year. I think we have more depth than last year and it is paying off." We wish both the girls and boys track teams luck at states and carry that momentum into the spring.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ATHLETIC.NET  
**DEAFENING SHOT:** Freshmen cover their ears after hearing the starter gun.

## WINTER SPORTS RECORDS

**Varsity Boys Basketball: 11-4**

**Varsity Girls Basketball: 8-6**

**Varsity Wrestling: 11-2**

**JV Boys Basketball: 10-3**

**JV Girls Basketball: 8-6**

**Boys Swim and Dive: 4-3**

**Girls Swim and Dive: 2-4**

**Varsity Bocce: 5-0**

RECORDS AS OF FEB. 5

**Congratulations to all of the teams in the winter season!**