

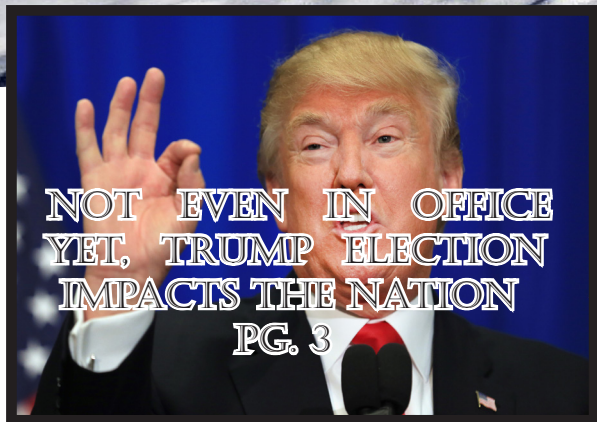


# THE LIONS' ROAR

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016



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NOT EVEN IN OFFICE  
YET, TRUMP ELECTION  
IMPACTS THE NATION  
PG. 3



ELECTRIFYING REVIEW OF  
SL'S ELECTRA  
PG. 15



FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP  
WITH WINTER SPORTS  
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PG. 4-5



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**Five things to remember as a high school senior**

McKenzi Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

In only six short months, the lives of all SLHS seniors will be changed forever. It is a day that I have been patiently awaiting for four years now. With the new year quickly approaching, it is utterly amazing to think that this will be our last few months together. So, as an important reminder to the students that I have grown up with in this tiny town we call home, here are five things to keep in mind as the idea of donning that navy blue cap and gown grows closer.

**5. Don't Give Up** - I know this is our last year, and while most of you know what college you are going to already, or what job you have waiting for you after you get that diploma, not trying may seem like the easiest option since you apparently have everything 'figured out'. Well, I promise just giving up is never the option. Finish your fourth year strong. You have come so far, and the hard work put into getting those A's and B's will be totally worth it when we leave this building for the final time.

**4. Find a Balance** - While it is extremely important to not give up and continue to push 'til the end, remember to not completely drown yourself in homework and extracurriculars. At the end of the day, the most important thing to remember is that, no matter what, you are always giving your best possible effort, whether that is on a homework assignment or during a basketball game. Find a healthy balance with all the school work and out-of-school sports and activities. If you learn this sooner rather than later, it will save your heart, mind and body a great deal of stress and allow for a whole lot of fun and excitement.

**3. Get Involved** - Who said it was too late to join a club? Perhaps you are a student who was not very involved the first three years of high school. Well, here is your final chance! This is our last year together; find activities that interest you and go for it. Whether you are joining key club because it truly makes you happy, or just because you need something to throw on your college apps, just do it! You will be completely surprised by the lifelong benefits of getting involved. So, join that club and try out for that sport. The only person stopping you, is you.

**2. Make Memories** - Always keep in mind that high school can be remembered as "the best four years of one's life", but only if you make it the best. This is the year to make some of the most unforgettable memories. Appreciate everything and everyone that has gotten you to this point, and cherish those who have made your high school career the most memorable. Make a bucket list and finish it by graduation day. The fate of your senior year is left entirely in your hands.

**1. Let Them Hear Your ROAR** - We have all waited for this moment. This is our year to be the top dogs of the school. Do not miss out on all the excitement that a South Lyon senior year has to offer. Go to all the football games, home and away. Most of you have grown up watching those players out on the field, so go out and support them. Go to all the dances whether you have a date or not. Be the change you want to see in South Lyon, and make a difference. Mentor a freshman or sit with a lonely student at lunch. We have been raised as Lions, and while we may be leaving the Jungle, it is never too late to hear our roar.

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# As Iraqi forces close in on Mosul, citizens fear for future

Jared Perttunen '17, Managing Editor

Nearly 50,000 coalition forces are advancing on Mosul, the Islamic State's (IS) largest occupied city, and have begun to put the pressure on IS militants, senior Iraqi official said in an official press statement on Nov. 10. The city, located in Northern Iraq, has been the focal point of a nearly 100,000 fighter strong military operation in the region.

The operation contains fighters from the Iraqi defense force, police, Kurdish Peshmerga, and Shia militias with the ultimate goal of liberating the city of Mosul from IS control. The city has been under IS control since mid 2014, when militants swarmed the city, putting defense forces on an embarrassing retreat.

Treatment under the Islamic State has been harsh for many of the 1.5 million civilians trapped in the city, with torture and extortion becoming commonplace activity among IS governance. One would think that with the return of Iraqi troops, many citizens would be ecstatic and look forward to the return of the more peaceful and tolerant days before the IS conquered their city; however, the coming battle gives little reprieve for the citizens.

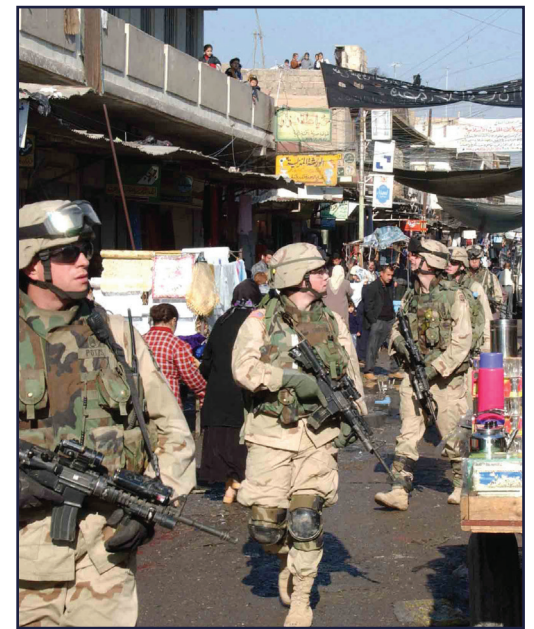
The battle simply means more violence for a city that for the last two years has been characterized by brutal rule and internal violence. Even the Iraqi security forces offer little

comfort as officials have confirmed an active investigation into the torture of Mosul citizens by Iraqi forces. This growing anxiety amongst citizens has started to crack at Mosul's social structure.

As time goes on, it becomes more and more apparent that a significant portion of the Mosul culture has been lost, possibly forever. A city once praised for its tolerance and diversity has given in to fear as neighbor fights neighbor.

New York Times writer Tim Arango wrote about many citizens hardships in his Nov. 10 article, "In Once-Tolerant Mosul, a Social Unraveling That Feels Permanent." "A man cannot describe in words what he misses," exiled citizen Omar Ahmed said. Part of this division stems from the 2003 American invasion. "Until 2003, the Mosul community was living in peaceful coexistence, but after that, things changed," former Moslawi Jafar Khaleel, who left Mosul in 2014 after the Islamic State onslaught, said. Ever since, it has been commonplace for Sunnis to not trust Shiites and Shabaks to refuse cooperation with Christians.

Many fear that putting the city back together socially is a near impossible task after all the damage that has been done. But some are hopeful, even if it takes generations, that there is still the possibility of there being, once more, a united Mosul.



Paratroopers from the 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, patrol the Al Sudeek district of Mosul, Iraq in January 2005.

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia user Sanandros, with contribution from Specialist Adam Sanders, United States Army

# The aftermath of the new President-elect: Trump's immediate effects

Jake Stowers '17, Opinion Editor

On Nov. 8, Donald J. Trump was elected President of The United States of America. This event has only just occurred, but it has already caused a large effect on the nation.

Before Trump had even been considered to be the Republican candidate, people had their doubts. Controversy arose regarding the President-elect's lack of previous military participation or political experience.

Trump has been known to have a reputation for favoring big business, to which the majority of both sides of the political spectrum may have some opposition. Emily Stewart, writer for news source TheStreet, said, "Trump has made plenty of enemies along the way." Despite the controversy surrounding his campaign and subsequent election, there is valid evidence, however, that not all were swayed by the antagonistic feelings of part of the population towards Trump's potential presidency.

As soon as the election took a turn in Trump's favor, the stock market dropped drastically by 900 points while votes were rolling in, but then shot back up immediately afterwards on Wednesday with Dow growing by 257 points. This was the first day in history that such a large hit in the stock market occurred, yet the day ended with positive results.

As well as impacting the stock market, there have been a number of political protests throughout the United States in regards to Trump being named President-elect. The Women's March on Washington has been planned for Trump's inauguration date, set for noon on Jan. 17, 2017.

Trump has many other plans for the future of America as well. Some of his biggest initial platform goals would be to build a wall between the southern border of the United States and the northern border of Mexico. Another was to repeal the Affordable Care Act, better known as 'ObamaCare'. Although these are considered divisive ideas and also large



Trump speaks in Aston, PA on Sept. 15 regarding a proposed childcare initiative.

Photo courtesy of Flickr user Michael Vador

undertakings, many do not believe they will be followed through with.

Social Studies teacher Mr. Ray DiVitto had a very moderate opinion on this topic. DiVitto did not have a strong like or dislike towards Trump. He just hopes that whatever the next president decides to do, it will help the future generations positively rather than focusing on helping the republicans only. DiVitto also said that he was worried about the fact that the House of Representatives and the Senate both have a Republican majority. "They have the ability to turn this nation into something completely different if that's what they wanted to do," DiVitto said. He also added, "The fact that they also have the ability to take away 30 years of investment in [my] pension makes me concerned as well."

Senior Andy Mattison agrees with DeVitto's statements. He said, "[I thought] this nation [was] too smart to elect someone who would be given the power to cause such dire effects." On the topic of the potential removal of the Affordable Care Act, Mattison noted, "Even if this were to overall cause more positive effects than negative, I don't think the government would allow something like this to be passed."

Most recently, Trump has begun to assemble his cabinet members and settle in, and he met with current President Barack Obama on Nov. 10 in the Oval Office.

Because of the fact that Trump has only been elected President very recently, there have only been a minimal amount of large scale effects. It is too early on to be able to predict if Trump will truly make America great again or if he will only do what is in the best interest of the Republican party.

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# Fall into the love of the game: sports wrap-up

Dawson Moll '17, News Editor

## Football:

After a rough start of going 0-2, the varsity football team managed to fight their way into the playoffs to give the first seeded Walled Lake Western a run for their money in the first round. "We started off the season slow, but when we finally figured out how to get things going on both sides of the ball, we wrecked," senior Brandon Buchler said. The team ended with an overall record of 5-5. The seniors are giving well wishes to the team as underclassmen look forward to stepping things up next season.



Brandon Buchler



Olivia Hewitt

## Cheerleading:

With the leadership from the new cheerleading coach, the girls had a great season cheering on the boys of fall. "It was awesome seeing all the girls put aside their differences to come together as a family," senior, Olivia Hewitt said. The girls are extremely excited for upcoming winter competitive season.



Brendon Goins

## Cross Country:

Both the boys' and girls' cross country teams did well this year. Some key runners for the boys were Josh Chezick, Brendon Goins, Greg Jowett, Connor Hudgens and Keiskue Motai. While the entire girls' team qualified for regionals, South Lyon runners, unfortunately, did not make it to States.



Jack Dalzochio

## Tennis:

This year, the team was based around a core group of seniors who had been involved with the program for most of all of their four years. The team took second place in their conference which was a huge improvement from previous seasons. Key players and conference winners were senior Zach Duff at 3 singles and seniors Justin Goodenow and Eric Montrief at 1 doubles. Unfortunately, at regionals, the team missed state cuts by just 4 points with regional champions



Justin Goodenow

## Soccer:

The boys' soccer team this year had one of the best seasons in school history. This year they went undefeated through their first five games for the first time ever. Some key players for the team were seniors Michael Martinez, Jack Dalzochio and Alex Sicklesteel. The boys ended the season with a 9-8-3 record overall.



Lauren Savanyu

## Pom:

The varsity pom team had many great and memorable performances. Senior Lauren Savanyu explained that her favorite performance was the "Crazy Train" routine. She said, "I love it because it's a fun routine that brings out a lot of energy and pumps up the crowd." Although the football season is over, the team is looking forward to its competitive season this winter.



Starr Bryan

## Volleyball:

The volleyball team had yet another very exciting year. They competed well all throughout the season and they were a competitive team on the court. Some of the big players on the team were Liberty Romanik, Brooke Mrocka, Megan Mrocka, and Callie Harper. They ended the season with an extremely close and very tough loss in the fourth set of the district finals to Novi. They finished with a record of 10-11-3.



Liberty Romanik

## Swim and Dive:

The girls' swim and dive team did exceptionally well this season and were able to send 10 girls to the state meet. The girls who attended the meet from SLHS were sophomore swimmers Emily Kurt and Avery Covert, and senior divers Starr Bryan and Caitlin Canadi. Bryan explained how the pressure of being a captain fueled her and made her feel like she really mattered.

The team ended with an 11-2 record.

# SPORTS PREVIEW: LIONS HEAD INDOORS FOR THE WINTER

Dylan Thieleman '17, News Editor



Photos courtesy of Allegan High School

**Boys' Hockey:** The boys are very excited for this year's season, and they think they will do very well. Last year, the boys had a decent season ending with a record of 8-6. Their goal is to make it to states and skate as hard as they can to get there. "We will push past the limit that we need to and push all the way until the end," senior Grant Gardiner said. With that big cat pride coming together on the ice, the boys are sure to slap shot their way to victory. The team is currently 1-1-0 in the beginning of their 2016-2017 season, with high scorers being seniors Matt England, Garrett Weyh, and captain Nick Allerton. The next game is at 7 p.m. on Dec. 7 at home against Canton.

**Boys' Basketball:** The boys believe this will be one of their best seasons yet, despite them finishing on the court with an 11-7 winning record last year. They have a lot of seniors on the team that have been playing together for many years, and they think that they have enough experience to be successful. The boys' goal is to make it to states and win the district champs to end their year off with a bang. Senior Alex Meister said, "We can do whatever we put are mind to." The whole team has agreed to give it their all and leave everything out on the court because this is the last chance they have to enjoy it. The fans expect big things out of our seniors and returning players, Spencer Deline and Nick Flynn. The boys will take on Lakeland away at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 9.

**Girls' Basketball:** The girls' team is much smaller this year, but their determination is larger than ever. Last year the girls had a rough season, ending with a 3-18 record. "Even though we had a tough season last year, that doesn't mean it will be like that this year," senior Abby Powell said. The girls took a lot of losses last year, so they are very excited to try their best and hopefully earn some good wins this season. They have been setting goals since the end of last season, and they are putting in the hard work to reach these goals. The next girls' basketball game is home against Walled Lake Western at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8.

**Competitive Cheer:** The girls thought they did really well last year, but at districts they thought they received some unfair scoring. In the previous season, the girls won first out of their division, receiving a high, combined score of 723. Senior Olivia Hewitt said, "We did really well, and I thought we performed great, but then we got scored." They think this season is going to be amazing because there is a new coach, and they believe he will push them to their fullest potential so that they can stunt and fly past their opponents. Good luck on the mats, girls. The first competitive cheer competition is Jan. 18 against Northville.

**Bowling:** The bowling team cannot wait until their season gets rolling at Pinz, so they started practicing early. Last year, the boys and girls did not have a record but they got second in their division. All members of the bowling team are meeting at Pinz to get some extra practice before their season starts. They think they will do very well, and they believe most of the team should move on to states because of how long they have been bowling. The varsity bowling team will take on Wayne Memorial at Whitmore Lanes at 11:30 a.m.

**Boys' Swimming:** All the boys are anxiously awaiting the start of their season. The boys' swim team does not have a group record, but many individuals made it to states. Many of the team members are seniors, which only adds to the strength of this team. We should be seeing some good results from the swim team this season. When the boys dive into the lanes this year, they will be gliding towards better scores and overall team success.

**Wrestling:** Recently, the SL boys wrestling team was moved from Division I to Division II, and that sets the team up with a greater chance of winning districts, because they will not have to face Catholic Central in the first round. Some key members that will be able to pin down their opponents are senior captains Dawson Moll and Brendan Goins. The first meet is at Walled Lake Central on Dec. 7 at 5:30 p.m..

## UNIFIED HOCKEY PREPARES TO START SEASON STRONG

Kiana Buchanczenko '18, Sports Editor

Vince Lombardi once said, "Winning means you're willing to go longer, work harder, and give more than anyone else." As the fall sports come to an end, the winter season for the hockey boys is just beginning.

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, the school was introduced to the individuals that will represent the 2016/2017 Unified Varsity Hockey team. With a lot of changes made this year, the curiosity of how the boys will perform this season is at an all-time high. "It will be a lot better than previous seasons because we have a lot of returning seniors, and the overall vibe for the coach is better," senior Nick Allerton said. Allerton was nominated captain by his teammates and describes the feeling as "a complete honor and reward."



Senior captain Nick Allerton (middle) hopes to lead his team to victory on the ice this season alongside fellow seniors Brett Alvey and Grant Gardiner.

The boys have been training since October, in hopes of garnering a spot on the varsity roster. Twenty players were given the green light to be a part of this year's team. "The overall preparation for this team was a lot of work, but it is more than worth it," senior Brett Alvey explained. The intense work and determination that the team has put in is definitely recognizable.

The team opened with a scrimmage last Friday against Royal Oak and showed the town that they are ready for the upcoming season. Winning the game 7-4, the boys on the team showcased their talents while also proving that they will not go down without a fight. Since the scrimmage, the team has started the season 1-1-0.

Football is not the only sport offered at this school, so if you truly want to get your blood pumping and your adrenaline racing, Kensington Valley Ice House is the place to be.

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CONTINUING THE DREAM:  
TO RELISH THE FINAL MOMENTS OR CONTINUE  
AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

Kiana Buchanczenko '18, Sports Editor

As a child, it is extremely uncommon to have your future set in stone for you. However, as you begin to grow up, the path for most people begins to shrink as you decide what you want to do, or who you want to be.

A majority of children commonly will go down the path of sports as a child, without having intentions of playing professionally or playing in college. As one continues to pursue that sport, the passion for that sport will either grow tremendously or subtly go away.

Typically, athletes begin to decide if this passion is something of importance once they hit their freshmen year of high school. For quite a few, the answer is that they want to continue playing throughout college. Why wouldn't you? Senior diver Starr Bryan will be diving at Grand Valley State University in the fall, and she could not be happier. She said, "I never imagined how much I loved diving until I thought it was going to be over. I don't know what I would do without it."

There are others who feel the same way. "I've been training for a scholarship most of my life. I couldn't imagine my life without soccer, if I don't continue it, all my hard work would be for nothing," junior Rachael Sweigard said. For those who have been training most of their lives, it can get frustrating if things do not go as planned.

"For me, not playing hockey in college isn't a huge deal. If I get



Senior Garrett Weyh will use his final hockey season to experience his last time on the ice, and his last time skating with his teammates.

a scholarship that's awesome, but if I don't, I'll still appreciate the time I had playing," senior Matt England said. Sometimes, this is how a majority of athletes feel. Although most want to play in college, for others, the time they have spent playing is good enough. The best one can do is have the will, want, and desire to continue their careers. Without that ambition, most will not see their sport past their high school career.

People always ask what we want to be when we grow up. It is not silly to say you want to become a professional athlete, because it is possible. Just like how it is possible to become a professional writer, singer or artist. Everyone must start somewhere. Whether it is realizing your passion at the age of seven, or not realizing your passion until your junior year of high school, anything is possible if you try hard enough. Earning a spot on a collegiate sports team may seem like a slim possibility, but once you are a part of one, it can be easily seen as a dream worth striving for. Remember though, if you truly love a sport, but do not want to play it at a high college level, there are intramurals or adult recreation leagues that will allow you to stick with that sport while not having it take up an excessive amount of your time in college.

Photo by Michael Martinez

## THE MSU FOOTBALL TEAM: THEIR UNDENIABLE DOWNFALL

Michael Martinez '17, Photo Editor

Since their first season in 1896, Michigan State University has almost always been a Big Ten team when it comes to American football. Of course they have had their bad years, but overall they have almost always bounced back. So the question that comes to mind this past year is, why was Michigan State so bad? With a 1-8 Big Ten record this past season, what happened to them?

Loyal fans, current students and alumni of Michigan State have some input on these problems. Senior and lifelong MSU fan Christopher Job said, "First of all, the coaches were not making the right adjustments defensively. The defensive back Darien Hicks was terrible, and offensively, Tyler O'Connor should not have been in the game."

Many have blamed the coaches, but I believe that the reality of the situation is that there was not enough talent on the team; therefore, the team simply could not win. They were missing core players and fantastic seniors that made certain aspects of their game unstoppable. After making this statement, Job went on and said, "They have the same running back as they did last year, but he played awful this year. They lost an offensive lineman, Jack Allen, and their run game was terrible." But is it possible that the removal of players could change the team this dramatically?

Future MSU attendant and senior varsity quarterback, Carlo Zoratti, said it was very possible, but it was also the things outside of the game that matter too. "Their student section was weak this year, and that plays a huge role on adrenaline and how the boys play, not to mention they had no leadership on the team and so many young players," Zoratti said. With a new team, and almost no true leadership, a rebuilding year can become a destroying year due largely in part to teams getting into bad habits. People were mad because Michigan State's football team struggled so badly in the 2016 season, but when you have a quarterback that is so inconsistent, it makes the other players look bad and then they become mad, and the whole team goes downhill.

Why was MSU so bad this year? Well, with a young team, an inconsistent quarterback, no leadership, a bad running game due to an awful offensive line, bad defensive backs, and awful coaching, it is not very difficult to tell. Many State fans this year were broken hearted and were wishing for miracles that would not come true. The only thing to do now is hope for some adjustments next year, along with some experience lessons, and pray for the best.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons user Goodbar73

Michigan State, after a final season loss in the Big Ten against Penn State 45-12, finally hung up their helmets, ending the season with a 3-9 record overall.

## Howell Fire Academy offers students real life opportunity and experience

Austin Vliet '17, Student Life Editor

Family, brotherhood, and trust; all of these describe what the fire service entails, and brings you one step closer to being able to walk into burning buildings and save a life. In order to do be this, however, you need to go through very rigorous training. That training begins next year at the Howell Schools Fire Academy.

Currently, the academy hosts 13 juniors and seniors from various schools: five from Howell, four from Hartland, two from South Lyon and one from from Whitmore Lake, consists of four females and nine males. The academy consists of school for two hours, five days a week, during first and second hour, with an hour to get back to South Lyon.

After completing the academy, you will graduate with 30 college credits, as well as being a certified firefighter. With this training, you will be well on your way to a career that has excitement at every second of the day.

Noah Miller, a junior at Howell High School, was asked why he took the academy as a class, Miller responded, "I have always wanted to be a firefighter, and this class will allow me to get a leg up on everyone while I'm still in high school."



Photo courtesy of Lieutenant Tom Kiurski

Elise Moor, another junior from Howell, was asked what her favorite part of academy is so far. Moor said, "Our Saturday practices are always fun, and it brings us closer together as a class and teaches us to work as a team."

The instructor for the class, Lieutenant Tom Kiurski, has taught the academy for four years now and said, "I love seeing the faces of the cadets when they learn something new, like when they take their first breath off of an air unit through their mask."

The fire academy is a great time. It helps you get ahead in your path to saving lives and becoming a firefighter.

If you have any questions regarding what the academy consists of, please contact Lieutenant Kiurski at [tkiurski@brightonareafire.com](mailto:tkiurski@brightonareafire.com).

## Students speak out after Nov. 8's shocking election

Jared Perttunen '17, Managing Editor

Emotions were raw in the days following the 2016 election on Nov. 8 as Republican candidate Donald Trump secured an astounding victory over his rival, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

No one saw his victory possible except for perhaps Trump himself. Nearly every polling station and news agency had projected Hillary Clinton winning, some by landslide margins. Protests throughout the West Coast emulate the fear and anger that many Americans felt following the shocking results.

That said, after speaking with several SLHS students, it would appear that many do not share that anger, in fact many would describe themselves as unconcerned. For example, senior Jacqueline Conrad said she was indifferent to the results of the election. This is in contrast to how she feels about the future of the United States. When asked how she felt about the future of the country, Conrad said, "I'm extremely scared."

Conrad represents the mixed feelings of fear and indifference that many of the students I spoke with felt. Many did feel indifferent in terms of the election, but

had concerns about the future of the country. "Could be okay; could be nuts," senior Riley Vaughn said when asked about his thoughts about the future of America. Vaughn went on to explain that he was not too concerned with the state of the country, but he was eager to "grab some popcorn and watch the sparks fly."

There certainly were some students who felt sadness after the results came in. Senior Michael O'Connor's candidate did not win the election, and he said he felt disappointed in the aftermath. However, when asked about the future, O'Connor remained optimistic. "I'm a little nervous, but I'm open to the idea that he (Donald Trump) could be a good president," he said.

Overall, students at South Lyon seem uncertain about the future of our country. Perhaps that is a common feeling among a lot of high school students, but the results of this election appear to have exacerbated a lot of those fears. It's important to remember that with or without Donald Trump as president our country will endure. We always do. We are Americans after all.

## Seniors drown in stress, even in fourth and final year

Emily Harris '17, Circulation Manager

Many students go through their high school career and think, Wow. I wonder when my hair is going to start to fall out, because of all the stress that piles up on us. Some people would agree that seniors have it the worst because they have been through all of the stress that comes with high school, and now they are going off to college to endure even more stress. High school really changes you after you have been here for almost four long years.

Senior Samantha Bagwell said, "I think the teachers forget that we have other classes and then we end up with hours of homework." She also said that high school has changed her, in both good and bad ways. Bagwell expands on her last statement. She said, "The stress makes me really tired and I always just want to go home and sleep, but at the same time, I feel like it has made me more mature." Bagwell also said it has given her responsibilities or just something to do because without the stress and work, she would just be sitting at home watching TV or going on her phone. It's really stressful, but at the same time the work is needed.

Senior Chasity Brooks also discusses how some teachers do not understand that we have other classes and the work often piles up. She said, "Sometimes I find myself up at midnight, or even later trying to finish my homework." Brooks feels she is often sleep deprived, but she says that school has changed her in good ways, that often outweigh the bad ones. For example, she has made new friends, has become a better and more mature person, and she has been able to study topics that she wants to learn more about in college.

Seniors have a lot of weight on their shoulders. They have to apply to colleges, soon let go of friends they have had throughout the entirety of their high school career, and on top of thinking about that, they still need to graduate high school and that, in and of itself, can create a lot of stress.

But overall, seniors are grateful to have gone to a school like South Lyon High School, and for most, think it has changed them for the better.

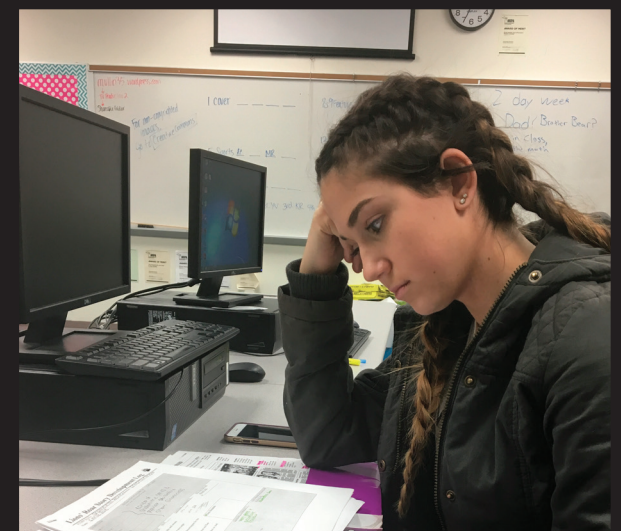


Photo by McKenzie Roe

With a pile of papers, and limited motivation, senior Olivia O'Connell stresses over all the work due for Mr. Davis's AP Microeconomics class.

## Students share their worst holiday stories

Zayne George '17, Business and Ad Manager

Everyone has had their fair share of embarrassing Holiday stories. Some are so embarrassing that some people don't even want anyone knowing it ever even happened! But in light of the holidays, they finally decided to spill, and share their stories.

"I got a white elephant gift one Christmas. It was a statue of naked people standing hand in hand—it was kinda of like a mine statue. They were standing there with a bucket in the middle, and it was so awkward and embarrassing!" This senior asked to remain anonymous, but this was a pretty embarrassing story!



Senior Josh Filban also had a story he wanted to share. "So, I once went to a Halloween party, and this party was supposed to be a costume party but it wasn't, and I showed up in a full out costume - I was the only one wearing a costume and it was really embarrassing!"



"One year at Thanksgiving, I was walking through the kitchen with my plate of food and tripped! The glass plate broke and food spilled everywhere, and I was so mortified!" Senior Rachel Debricat said.

All those stories were really embarrassing, but at least it was the holidays—which is the most wonderful time of the year!

Change it up,  
 be **bold**:  
 this is YOUR life,  
 so live it

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

You get up at the same time every day, you go to the same classes with the same people and the same teachers. You go home and go to work or practice, every day, stuck in the same, old routine. A routine drains energy. It causes neither positivity nor excitement. You know what happens every week, and you always know what to expect. It is your ordinary life; however, it is never too late to make a change.

The way you live your life is a personal choice. Of course there are certain influences, but you do not have to let them dictate your entire life. Home situation, family, friends, school, and the law are all pretty important. At the same time, all of these outside factors do not have to influence your mindset. No doubt bad things happen, you cannot control them, but what you can control is your view on life and your behavior and thoughts regarding certain situations.

Life really can be remarkable and intriguing; you just have to change it up sometimes. A way to do this is by setting goals. I know it is easier said than done, but if you know what you are working towards, you will feel far more motivated. Therefore, it is really important to have an image in your head of what you want, even if the goal is simply to be happy. Think about what will make you happy, and consider how you are going to achieve that.

"My dream in life is to just be happy with myself and my living situation, and I want to travel a lot too," junior Erin McMann said. When asked how she plans on fulfilling this dream, McMann said, "I want to get a good education and keep my options open." A clear image keeps you on track. Find out what makes you happy in life and where you feel the most delighted.

In addition, a future dream can be motivational. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to be a marine biologist and move to the Florida Keys. That image motivates me and makes me want to work harder," sophomore Carly Smith said.

A future idea to hold onto can be too abstract for some people. Maybe you would rather focus on the here and the now; however, having an idea of what you want to achieve in life will motivate you daily. If a routine is draining your energy, you must consider changing things up. Yes, you are capable of doing that. There are a million things you can do to remodel your everyday life. For example, try a different sport, hobby, start a blog, record your life, help someone every day, go work somewhere or change your job, start your own business, write a book, fix your diet, or you can even go live in a different country. These ideas may seem extremely unrealistic to some, but life has a tendency to be both unpredictable and surprising.

One year ago I had no idea I would be living in a different country for an entire year. It is still crazy to me, but it has changed my life for the better. Creating change in your life begins by doing one thing: being bold. Everyone has it in them. I did not believe I was capable of making that change, but the thing is, you don't have to believe it, you just have to do it.

## Find the best Christmas gifts, on a high or low budget

Alexandria Lane '17, Copy Editor

Christmas is approaching fast. Rather than waiting and trying to search for gift ideas at the last minute, here are some tips and suggestions to find the right gift for anybody.

**To: Dad**  
**High:** Tie Bar Large Style Box <http://shop.nordstrom.com/> \$99.00  
**Low:** Custom designed mug <http://www.personalizationmall.com/> \$15.99

**To: Mom**  
**High:** Custom motherhood necklace [www.uncommongoods.com](http://www.uncommongoods.com) Starting at \$125.00  
**Low:** A variety of scented candles [www.yankeecandle.com](http://www.yankeecandle.com) \$27.99 Starting at \$125.00

**To: Friend**  
**Friends:** Gift cards fit any budget and are customizable for everyone's interests

**To: Girlfriend**  
**High:** Diamond pendant necklace At Macy's in store or online \$260.00  
**Low:** 16" red and white teddy bear [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) \$19.99

**To: Boyfriend**  
**High:** Jordans Super Fly 5 Footlocker in store or online \$139.99  
**Low:** Customized dog tag necklace [www.thingsremembered.com](http://www.thingsremembered.com) \$22.00

## Get involved: high school will never be the same

Dawson Moll '17, News Editor

High school can be some of the most confusing, challenging and complicated four years one can experience. Being involved in different clubs or activities can change a person's life for the better. The social interaction between peers on a positive level is very important. Various activities and extracurriculars have the ability to teach many real-life lessons that can be utilized for the rest of one's adult life.

Senior Travis Marcus is a member of the varsity football team and had some personal input on the matter.

"You learn how to work with others and be on a team. Football has made me a better person," Marcus said. He added, "You have to work hard to get where you are, and football has taught me that."

Marcus explained how football has helped shape him into the man he is today through hard work and setting goals. He exclaims how he would not trade his experiences with his teammates for anything in the world. His experience proves just how much a few years on a team can really impact your life.

Sophomore Madison Durkee is on the varsity cheerleading team and discusses the positive effects being involved has had on her life.

Durkee went on and said, "I can easily say that cheer has made me stronger physically and mentally. I couldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for cheer." She spoke about how cheer has taught her to overcome many adversities in her life and has made her a better overall person because she learned how important it was to work as a team.

While both of these students were involved in athletics, there are many other activities besides just sports to get involved in.

Senior McCay Caldwell is a four-year member of the SLHS Men's Chorus and also partakes in many other extra curricular choirs.

"Choir has given me a lot of friends and experiences that I will never forget," Caldwell said. He described how even though choir is not one of the more "popular" groups in the school, it is still a vital part of our atmosphere at SLHS and is just as important as any sport.

All of these different programs and groups in the school make up who we are and our school's identity.

The opportunities to get involved in high school are endless, and it would be a shame to not take advantage of them.



Photo by Michael Martinez

Sophomore Madison Durkee, as a member of the varsity cheerleading team, feels that her involvement outside of academics at SLHS makes her a more well-rounded student and person.



## 10 LIONS' ROAR

## The best of the 90s

Kaitlyn Neely '17, Social Media/Website Director

In honor of our 2017 Senior Class (the last class that lived in the 90s), we are going to take a look at all the obsessions, trends and entertainment that prove the "90s were all that," first as it was stated in the program 'Splat' that aired on Nickelodeon during the 90s.

The 90s were anything but calm, reserved and quiet. Class of 2017 seniors have nothing but good things to say about their birth decade and all of the iconic materials that helped to create their childhood. Here is what our seniors had to say about their

## Best Cartoons:

**Alex Goudie:** Rocket Power

**Alex Kilpatrick:** Grim Adventures of Billy and Mandy



## Accessories or trends that stood out:

**Angelo Depollo:** tie-dye

**Lauren Boulter:** chokers

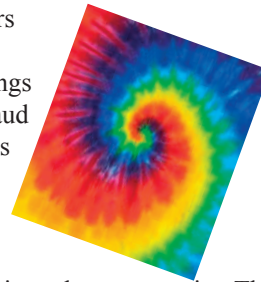
**Ben Douglas:** Spitfire

**Hannah Elliott:** mood rings

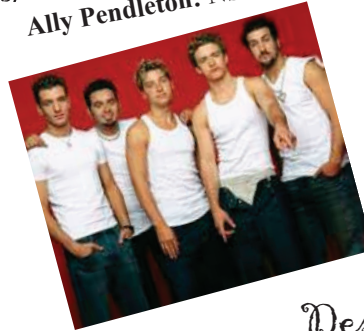
**Hunter Silkowski:** Girbaud

**Lexi Sewell:** frosted tips

**David Swazala:** neon



Music:  
Ally Pendleton: NSYNC



Most missed item:  
Orange Nickelodeon VHS tapes



Describing the era in a word or phrase:

**Nick Masters:** Back when denim jackets were cool

**Carley Shelton:** Original

**Grant Curry:** RIP  
Tupac

**Austin McGuire:** "Lit"



Looking back, every senior interviewed agreed that they would go back to the decade if given the opportunity. The 90s meant we lived a carefree childhood. Our tendency for love towards nonsensical hobbies, in harmony with our fascination for potentially dangerous toys, fuels our nostalgia. Our reminiscence gives us simple, warm-hearted memories of happiness. Long live the 90s vibes.

## Not all religions find true representation in school, especially around the winter holidays

Jake Stowers '17, Opinion Editor

Although not easily noticeable, South Lyon High School contains various different kinds of cultures and religions. Since the holiday season is right around the corner, it is good to acknowledge all the different ways people spend their winter break.

Senior Nicholas Loewer spends his winter break with his family, setting up Christmas decorations and getting presents for his loved ones. "Christmas time is always one of my favorite times of the year. Being together with my family makes me feel so loved," Loewer said. He also enjoys playing hockey with his friends when he gets the chance.

Since Christmas is the most celebrated holiday in this area, the holidays that go misrepresented are often overlooked or dismissed.

Senior Justin Liss celebrates Hanukkah with his family during winter break. He explains how each day of Hanukkah he receives one gift, and his family lights a candle on the menorah. "I know it's not very traditional of me, but I've actually never had a dreidle," Liss said. He also feels that there is not much of a difference between his winter break compared to everyone else's, even though his religion does not align with the most prominent religious majority, not

just in South Lyon, but across the United States. This also means that Christmas dominates the media as well.

Regarding whether or not Liss thinks the holiday he celebrates is equally represented in school, Liss said, "I don't think any specific religious holiday is treated as if they were superior, but I believe it wouldn't even matter because in high school kids learn to form their own bias rather than being force fed beliefs."

Most would likely agree that most underrepresented religions, perhaps, feel as though their holidays or religious celebrations are not given as much consideration as those that are Christian or Catholic, especially in a school with such a dominant majority.

In school, a student's goal is to learn and get good grades, and whether their school attempts to show that they treat each religion equally will likely not affect how well they are able to learn. It might, however, hinder their ability to feel as though their school culture is extremely welcoming and open.

It would be nice if there were a greater understanding of the cultural and religious differences of those in one's school community.

## Importance needs to be placed on high school jobs, as much as their academics

Austin Vliet '17, Student Life Editor

The life of a high school student can be very hectic. Student wake up at six a.m., go to school for eight hours, perhaps go to work for five hours, try to hang out with friends or significant others, but since they have three hours worth of homework they may decide to go home and work on it, go to bed at 11pm, and then the cycle repeats.

The most time teenagers spend during the day are at school and work. Students usually go to work immediately after school so they can work as much as they can before having to go home. As an important part of teenagers' lives, their jobs mean a lot.

How much money we make during high school can determine many divergent factors. It can control whether you can fill up your gas tank this week, or if you will have to ask a friend for a ride; if you can go to the movies with your friends, or you have to stay home; or if you are going to be able to afford your phone bill, or if you are going to be without a phone this month.

Chris Hill, a senior who works with his dad at H and H Contracting, said, "It's kind of hard, but it gets the job done." Hill said that he is satisfied with how much money he makes, but if he could, he would rather work more than be taking "dumb electives that don't help me in life."

Senior Jared Paugh works at Future Pro Goalie School during the winter as well as Willow Greenhouse and Landscaping during the summer. Paugh said, "I love my jobs!" Although he loves his jobs, he is unsatisfied with how much he makes at his landscaping job more instead of going to school and would love if he could switch out his electives for more time to be able to work.

Students work to support themselves and afford all the things they want to do. Whether students like what they do depends on many factors, but one thing is for sure, money can be a student's lifeline and that life line will run out eventually with how much time we spend in school.

## Ready for the holidays?

### Students discuss their holiday plans and traditions

Rebecca Menard '17, Student Life Section Editor



With Thanksgiving break just behind us and Christmas right around the corner, there is a lot of holiday cheer and excitement in the air, along with the smell of amazing food. Do you ever wonder how your fellow classmates spend their holidays, and with whom? If they have any annual traditions? Does anyone go out of town to be with relatives? Here is a look at a couple of students' holiday plans.

Senior Callie Harper's whole family gathered at her house for Thanksgiving. Harper and her mom prepared turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes and corn all day, and her family members brought the green bean casserole, sweet potatoes and bread. Dessert was definitely not forgotten; Harper and her mother baked two homemade pumpkin pies and cookies, and her aunt brought a scrumptious apple pie. "My family eats a lot of food," Harper said. Then, for Christmas Eve, her family comes back to her house again and eats a massive dinner and enjoys Christmas cookies and pecan pies after their main meal. "I love Pecan pie; it is my

favorite of all time. I can't wait to eat it," she said. After dessert, everyone in her family opens up gifts one by one for their annual family gift exchange. What a blast!

Senior Callie Manasco walked in the Thanksgiving Day Parade with the Allstar Mid-American pom team in Detroit this year on the morning of Thanksgiving. "The parade was a lot of fun; it was cool to see all of the people that came out to watch, and I got to see all of the cool floats and performances," Manasco said. Later that night, she had dinner with her family and she was excited to see her older sister and brother who came home from college. After that, she went Black Friday shopping like she does every year. "It's crazy on Black Friday, but the deals are definitely worth it," Manasco said. For Christmas, all her family plans on coming over to her house to have dinner, and all the cousins are going to do a gift exchange. Manasco is excited to see all of her cousins and eat Christmas cookies.

Sophomore Sean Cassel's Thanksgiving was similar

to Harper's, in that his family came over to his house for dinner. Just a couple days after that, however, his family gets right into the Christmas spirit. They set up their tree in their house and decorate it together, donning it with lights and a bunch of ornaments. For Christmas Eve, he is going to his uncle's house. "We go there every year for a yearly tradition," Cassel said. His whole family gets together and eats a ton of food and treats, and all of the kids get presents from his uncle. He mentioned that Christmas was his favorite holiday, and he is really looking forward to being with his whole family.

It looks like everyone is really anxious for the upcoming holiday season to spend more time with their families, as well as look forward to a huge feast with a scrumptious dessert. Whether you are staying home, going out of town, having a huge party, or even just a small party, I'm sure everyone's holiday will be extremely memorable.

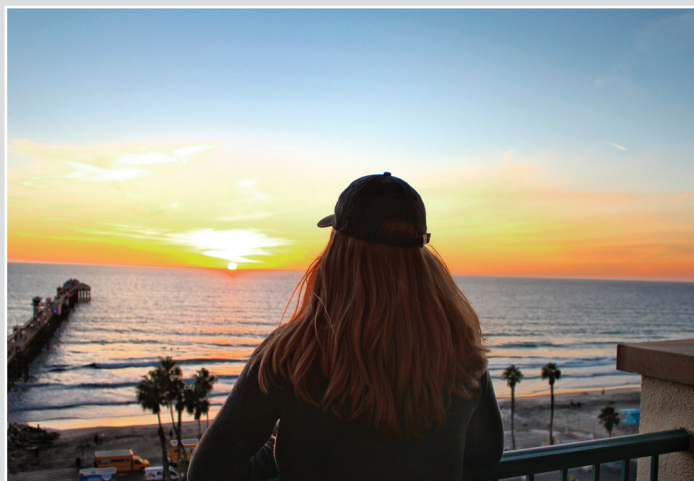
## Change through exchange

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

This year I made a decision that would change my life forever. It all started in December 2015 when my dad told me, out of nowhere, that I had the ability to live in America for a year if I wanted. That overwhelmed me. Thousands of thoughts raced through my head. How could the life I've been living for 16 years in The Netherlands suddenly change into a complete new adventure in America? Along with my excitement, however, I also had many doubts. Leaving my normal everyday life with my friends and family behind to go live with people I had never met before, in a country which I had never even visited, speaking a second language, for a year. Yeah, take a second to let all that sink in. You can imagine how terrified I was.

Despite all of that, I took a leap of faith and travelled to America. I prepared for this journey for about seven months, which may seem like a long time, however, the months quickly flew by. Who knew how much needed to be done before living in a different country? Especially in America, a country that requires a lot of paperwork because of its very high security standards. You cannot get in that easily. After filling out all kinds of paperwork, which takes about a month to read and five months to complete, and getting all of the necessary immunizations and background checks, I was finally allowed to enter America. I could start thinking about packing, it is something different than packing for a two-week holiday. You pack for a year, and yet, you cannot bring everything you own with you. The hardest part that follows is leaving your friends and family behind.

In my opinion the airport part is the most intense. There are too many emotions all at once. Danish exchange student Dagmar Thorbek said, "It wasn't until the plane actually left the ground that I realized what amazing adventure was right in front of me. I couldn't speak nor breathe, but it was the best feeling I've ever had. I knew that I had never made a better decision in my life." I can relate to this a lot. You're sad, excited, happy, nervous and scared, all at the same time, but all those feelings disappear once the plane takes off. I felt adventurous. I was about to start a whole new life.



Senior and Dutch exchange student, Yana van Vlerken, gazes at an afternoon sunset in California.

Photo courtesy of Jackie Bogert

An exchange year is something special. Beforehand, you cannot have any expectations about it. However, there is one thing you can expect: you will learn and experience so much that you will truly grow as a person. Changes that result in growth. "I feel like I've grown up a bit, I guess, because I've been having to handle a lot of stuff on my own. Important stuff like traveling and money," Swedish exchange student Lina Norberg said. I agree with her. You cannot ask your parents everything anymore when they are on the other side of the world with a huge time difference. You will end up in all kinds of different situations and learn how to deal with them by yourself.

Life as an exchange student is renewing. Everything is different. For instance something as simple as grocery shopping that may seem boring to most, but to me, it is very exciting. It is one huge mansion filled up with food—mostly artificial—that I have never seen before. I continue to see and learn new things everywhere I go; it is incredible because every day is different. I never know what to expect, and when I do expect something to happen, it never turns out the way I thought it would. Life surprises me here in the U.S., and I

love it; it takes away the routine.

There are a lot of things an exchange year will help you with for your future. First of all, it looks good on your resume, but in my opinion that is the least important aspect. Being fluent in another language will make you stand out for future job opportunities, but there are other benefits from this amazing adventure. Being able to speak another language gives you the ability to communicate and bond with more people, and that is truly invaluable. Your personality will most likely change, too, but in a good way. The way you act when you are around your best friends and family is how you will start to act around everyone you meet. An exchange year gets you excited and gives you a positive mindset about life. An exchange year is for you. It is a learning process about yourself and the world.

## Does SLHS have heat?

Lizzy Farnsworth '17, Sports Editor



Photo courtesy of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer

With winter approaching around the corner, the school has become quite cold. Questions are being raised, and students are wondering if South Lyon High School has heat vents that work. Many students are coming to school in big, bulky winter coats and leaving them on all throughout the day. Usually, people take their coats off when they arrive; however, since it is often colder inside than it is outside, they remain on. Upon walking through the halls, students can be heard exclaiming, Wow I'm freezing, or the most prominent one, Do we even have heat?

It is known that some classes are warmer than others, specifically the art classrooms because of the hot kilns. Although these classes are warm, others are so freezing that it is hard to focus. Not being able to show off a cute outfit due to the concerns of freezing all day is miserable. Even for sports, girls dread dressing up because their bodies will quiver all day. Junior Lexi Resnick said, "I wish I could come to school in a cute outfit, but all day I'm freezing." Many mornings when people decide what to wear, both the outdoor and indoor weather plays an important role.

Although people who are usually warm may disagree, much of the school thinks it is freezing. "I don't know about you, but usually I'm pretty warm," senior Matt England

said. Chemistry/Biology teacher Mr. Brian Elliott also added, "I like it cold because you can always put more clothes on." A majority of the students talk about the fact that it is so cold, and the main location complaints are heard from the commons. Maybe it is due to the fact that there are so many windows, but if the school insulated the windows and cranked up the heat abit, everyone would be abit more comfortable. Overall, heat will greatly benefit our school and provide children with a more comforting environment in which to learn.

If the heat does get turned up for the winter, then students will feel better about staying at school all day. It is much easier to focus when one is not freezing. If there are some classrooms that are too warm then it can easily be cooled down with fans. Most of the school is cold, making it hard to focus and stay engaged. More heat will allow students to focus instead of worrying about how cold they are. Having to wear a coat all day is uncomfortable, but it is a necessary thing granted how cold it is. Hopefully, the administration will take notice of this pressing issue and move to solve it by checking the school temperature.



## Dress code needs updating with the times

Riley Smith '17, Social Media Manager/Website Director

Have you ever felt like you could not wear the clothes that made you feel comfortable and confident to school because you would be sent home or to the office to make a call to mom or dad to bring you a replacement outfit? Well, you are not the only one.

There have been continuous instances where students have turned red with embarrassment or sighed in deep frustration as they hear a hall monitor yell to them in the crowded hallway and motion for them to come over towards them. Most have also likely witnessed a very upset student pulled off to the side of the hallway with a staff member pointing at some article of clothing.

Now, I know that some of SLHS' dress code is very logical, reasonable, and even necessary; however, when was the last time it was updated? Some of these stipulations, regulations, and restrictions are outdated and less than imperative to a conducive learning environment.

"I feel like I can't even fully express myself while I'm here," junior Autumn Fox said. If we live in America where we are given the freedom to wear what we please as long as it isn't disruptive or somehow harmful to the general public under American law, how does it make sense that the school can then further restrict our right to

wear what we please? Most would agree with me when I say it just does not.

It seems at this point, that the stringent dress code is just working to disrupt and distract students more from their school work than just letting students wear what they want. Now, this is not saying students should be able to run around in bathing suits or anything outrageous, but the idea that one's shoulders cannot be in anyway exposed as it is a 'distraction to the learning environment' is simply ridiculous. If the students at this school can absolutely in no way get any work done productively with the 'distraction' of an exposed shoulder in the classroom, then South Lyon High School has much bigger problems than its dress code.

"Half the clothes I own are off limits for school," senior Nicole Naszradi said, and there are sure to be many other students who would agree; it is absurd the number of students who are seen getting dress coded in the halls every week. At some point school policy makers need to take a step back and realize that it is time to review these outdated rules and make some adjustments. The dress code is just not up to modern code.



Photo courtesy of Wikipedia user Knowroads

This is a common example of strict school dress code attire with uniforms.



Photo courtesy of Myrollarcoaster.com

These students serve as an example of students expressing themselves through their clothing.

# First impressions aren't everything: people aren't always how they seem

Emily Harris '17, Circulation Manager

First impressions, or snap decisions, are not hard to make. It is easy to look at someone and think to yourself, 'Wow, they look sketchy, so I should stay away from them'; however, in reality, that person could end up being one of your best friends—if you give them a chance. It is wrong for us to make snap decisions simply based on how someone dresses or acts in public; there is always more to the story and to an individual than meets the eye. Although most people are quick to pass judgments on others, on a relatively frequent basis, one should not always go with his or her immediate gut response. It can deprive people of potential relationships or friendships.

Senior Victoria Petito said, "I think sometimes people look at someone and decide to stay away from them, which is really not okay for us to do." She added, "I feel like we should give everyone a chance, but our minds make these quick decisions for us and we don't even notice."

Petito is right as making snap decisions can ruin a lot of chances for the person that makes the decisions and the people that are being judged. You will never know if you have a connection with someone if you keep ignoring them or judging without even speaking to them.

Petito also said that she wishes she did not unconsciously make decisions, but at the same time, there is sometimes a need to let your gut decide who is good and who is bad. Sometimes we all make snap judgements, and it is hard to control that in the kind of world we live in today. A lot of people think that if they are not saying anything to the person they are judging, it is not hurting them, when in reality, that person may need someone to talk to and will never get the chance to do so if no one will give them a chance based on how much money they have or how pretty someone is. This world is unkind at times, and you can not ignore another human being solely because they do not meet your perceived standards.

On the other hand, senior Jenna Herrington thinks that we should make snap decisions for the most part because there are some bad people on this earth, and everyone always have to be alert. Herrington said, "I try not to judge people, but at the same time I always watch my surroundings, and if someone or something doesn't look right, I won't involve myself because you never know if they could be a bad person."

There are many who still believe that making snap decisions is not right for the most part, and you should give people a chance even if they do not wear the nicest clothes or have an iPhone because none of that truly matters in the grand scheme of things. You should not judge people based on materialistic things. People deserve greater chances, even if it is just smiling and waving at a person in public or at school. No person should have to live a miserable life just because no one wants to be their friend over such trivial items. Overall, everyone deserves a chance and you could really make someone's day, or even their life, by saying hi to them, because you might end up becoming very good friends if you stop making decisions and judgments too hastily.

**Author Malcolm Gladwell's *Blink* discusses the idea of thin-slicing. Apparently, it takes most people three seconds to decide...**

- if you're trustworthy
- if you're smart
- if you're a religious
- if you're a leader
- if you're adventurous
- if you have money
- if you're dominant
- if you're gay or straight



# Donald Trump: messing up America

Micheal Martinez '17, Photo Editor

Knowing your loved ones are getting an education. Seeing your children grow up with greater opportunities than yours. Saying goodbye to your family as they go off into their day, knowing that you will see them later; this is the American dream, and that is what living in the United States of America should be about.

I was fortunate enough to be the only member in a family of five to be born and raised in the United States. Coming from a Hispanic family, my parents made sure to always remind me of how lucky I am to be a citizen. Although my parents had the good fortune of coming to the U.S. legally, many loved ones did not. My true belief is that this country is the land of equal opportunity for all, but this idealism has been challenged by the soon to be president of 2016, and my reaction is to take a stand and help educate anyone supporting his views on this subject because he is already starting to indirectly change the America that I have come to love and believe in.

Donald J. Trump, with his xenophobic and racist words and assumptions about Mexicans, has depicted a plan to deport thousands upon thousands of undocumented immigrants. He generalizes and claims that Mexicans are the reason this country has drugs and rapists. Targeting one group of hard working minorities that just want an equal opportunity at happiness is completely unfair to these groups.

When Trump lashes out at immigrants, he is not talking about a far removed group of people; he is talking about our loved ones. He is talking about people's friends, neighbors, and co-workers. His words are not only inaccurate, they are dangerous, furthering the division among our great nation and in my opinion enabling an 'us vs. them' view point.

There are rapists, drug dealers, and murderers of all colors and ethnicities, which simply means targeting only one or two minority groups, trying to kick them all out and discriminating against them, will not solve any drug, rape, or murder problem. Trump's biggest remark is inaccurately stating that Hispanics and Latinos are stealing jobs. My people work as hard as they can to give their families better lives. As in every other country, unemployment is a problem but not because anyone is 'stealing' jobs. It is simply a matter of searching for different ones or working harder to get the position to no longer be unemployed, not just blaming other people for working harder than you and having a job.

It is not hard to find videos of people participating in hate speech, telling people who look just like me to go back to their countries 'or' stop stealing American jobs! These actions are un-American. This is not how a country built on immigration should behave, and I believe that Trump is opening the doors for hatred and racism and letting people think that it is okay. With him letting all these racist people do whatever they want he is not supporting the diversity of this nation and he is only repressing the progress we have made since racial discrimination has started. Donald J. Trump is slowly messing up America.



Photos courtesy of Wikipedia admin Michael Vadon (close left) and Quote.com (top)



## CLOSED CAMPUS LUNCH POLICY RESONATES AS UNFAIR WITH STUDENT BODY

Kenz Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

Many years ago, when our parents were 17-year-olds in high school, a majority of them had the option to go home or go out to eat during their lunch break, and then return to the school for the remainder of their day.

Fast forward to 2016, almost 2017, and many schools across the state of Michigan still give students the ability to go home during lunch. Unfortunately, South Lyon High School is not one of these schools.

In the duration of his 16 years as a teacher and assistant principal at SLHS, Mr. Brennan has yet to witness an open campus lunch policy within our district. He said, "It's just not feasible. With the thirty minute time slot allotted for students to eat, there's just not many options for them to go within walking distance of the building." Along with a limited selection of restaurants, he says that there is also a recurring worry of tardies.

While Brennan provides valid points regarding the impracticalities of a longer lunch, there are various solutions that could be suggested for each issue. First of all, while there may not be many restaurant options within walking distance of the school, there are numerous places for students to grab a bite to eat at just a few minutes down Pontiac Trail. In order for this to be realistic, however, a longer lunch period must be implemented for SLHS

students. In addition, while it is evident that there would be an increase in fear among administration for students' tardies, creating an open campus lunch policy would only provide an essential life lesson on the topic of responsibility and time management. If students are abusing this privilege and not making it back to class on time, it is then their responsibility to accept the consequences of their actions which the administration would have to deal with individually.

A closer look at a school that successfully demonstrates an open campus lunch policy, proves just how beneficial a necessary change like this could be for Oakland County.

Zoe Blake, a senior at Berkley High School, discusses how she personally believes that this policy does not affect the learning environment in a negative way. In fact, she finds it very beneficial to have the ability to go home after being at school for four hours and have an hour to unwind and relax, especially for those students who endure more intense courses. Blake said, "If we didn't have an open lunch, I think I would go insane." With 50 minutes allotted for lunch (12:03-12:53), Blake and her friends typically spend their breaks cooking for each other, going out to eat, taking short naps, or doing some homework, and with that being said, they are still able to make it back to school on

time.

Assistant principal of BHS, Mr. Ron Kane, discusses how beneficial the open campus lunch system has been for Berkley students. According to Kane, the reasons for this policy revolve around the school's cafeteria not having the capacity for all 1300 students. In this small community, students can easily walk to restaurants or their homes, allowing for a more relaxed and fun lunch break, one that truly serves as a break.

Kane added, "I have worked in two other districts, and it would not work there because of the time restraints on lunches and the location."

Unfortunately, this lunch policy may not be too reasonable for South Lyon at the moment, considering the entire school day schedule would have to be reformatted as Brennan indicated. With a rapidly growing population and an increase in city development, however, it is definitely a topic that should not be completely disregarded. Who knows, maybe one day down the road our commons area won't be able to hold the capacity of our student body, and kids will finally get the opportunity to have an open lunch. Let's just hope that day comes sooner rather than later.



Photo by McKenzie Roe

## SCHOOLS NEED A LATER START TIME

Abigail Tobis '20, Feature Editor

Five days a week, high school students must wake up early so that they can get ready for school. These kids are so tired that they are barely aware of what is going on around them. Beginning school time should be later to prevent these types of issues affecting the classroom and academics.

High school students wake up at an asinine hour for school, and they are unable to process information that is given to them in the early hours of the morning.

Special Education teacher Mrs. Susan Woodley, said she feels that students in her first hours work less efficiently than students in her later hours. This is due to the fact that students' brains are more alert later in the day as opposed to the morning, and therefore unable to successfully retain necessary information.

In addition to students not being alert, if students have a lot of homework, then they are more likely to stay up late and only get five to six hours of sleep, when the recommended amount of sleep is seven hours. Students are not getting a healthy amount of sleep that is necessary to function on a day-to-day basis.

Woodley explains how a large portion of her class comes late to first hour many times, due to the fact that they are not getting enough sleep, and that their tardies interrupt the other students' learning time.

In regards to students waking up late and not being able to make it to school on time, some of that is out of their control. Freshman Ashley Turner said, "If I wake up late, I do not have anybody to drive me to school." Many students have this similar problem. If students sleep in because they are exhausted, then some do not have any other form of transportation to get to school, and they wind up missing a whole day of valuable learning. This situation happens to students more often than not, and it could occur less if there was a

later start time.

According to Anne Wheaton Ph.D, lead author and epidemiologist in CDC's Division of Population Health from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Getting sleep is important for students' health, safety and academic performance." This indicates that students waking up later is not just a complaint made by students, it is actually a scientific issue affecting the body and mind.

Woodley stated, "I feel elementary schools should start earlier than high school because elementary schoolers end up waking up early anyways and high schoolers need to sleep in." Teenagers need more sleep because their brains are not fully functional so early in the morning. According to senior editor at *Scientific American*, Mark Fischetti, biological research shows that circadian rhythms shift during the teen years, pushing teens to stay up later and thus, sleep in later. The phase shift, driven by melatonin in the brain, begins around the age of 13, gets stronger by ages 15 and 16 and peaks at ages 17, 18 and 19.

Issues that can arise from high school starting later, however, would be that if a student had a part-time job, then their hours would have to begin at a later time, and for some jobs that may not be doable. For sports, the later start time would cause later games and practices. Despite all of this, however, it would still be more beneficial to students' health to have a later start time because they will get more sleep and will be able to perform better. "It has been in the works for a while now, but they can't find a way to make it work," assistant principal, Mr. James Brennen said.

Students could benefit drastically with a later start time. With this time shift, students would be more focused, resulting in better grades and higher attendance rates.



Photo by Victoria Pearson

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, middle and high schools should delay the start of class to 8:30 a.m. or later, so that school schedules align to the biological sleep rhythms of adolescents.

## ***Electra* remains relevant, pleases crowd**

Alec Mair '17, Entertainment Editor

I have to be honest—I had doubts about *Electra*. Greek theater is a bizarre medium by modern standards, focusing on symbolism and exaggerated moral lessons rather than actually entertaining the crowd. It requires a certain level of crazy to suggest a high school theater company to perform something like that (you want to sell tickets, don't you?), but against all odds, that craziness paid off. *Electra* was a fantastic performance, and served as evidence to show that this form of drama and its themes and stories are still enjoyable for a modern audience.

I don't want to go too much into the story, as a lot of what I could say could be considered spoilers (although, it's been several thousand years, so catch up), but I will say that it revolved around a girl and her desire for revenge. Senior Erika Auner plays the titular Electra and portrays her blind anguish very well, especially when paired with some of the other characters. I particularly enjoyed the dynamic between Auner's Electra and senior Abby Macchiarolo's Chrysothemis, Electra's sister. You only see true anger when it is paired with fear, and they expressed these emotions fantastically during their performances.

The most outstanding aspect of *Electra*, and one of the more difficult aspects to understand about Greek tragedy, is the Chorus. I must congratulate them all on their brilliant stage presence and performance, they made the show truly unique. When they first appear, coming from behind the crowd and walking between the seats to the stage, it was legitimately startling, and their dialogue and delivery during Electra's anguished arguments and pleas to the gods added a disturbing element to most of the show.

Junior Dana Reynolds, a fan of the school plays, gave her thoughts on the show. "It was short, but it was good," Reynolds said. She praised the use of only one set during the show, and the elevated language used throughout. "Those lines are pretty hella."

she said.

*Electra* was an emotionally powerful and vengeful piece, and our theater program did it justice, with a refreshing maturity and professionalism. I, however, did not offer the same. During the penultimate scene, where Aegisthus, played by senior Mason Brouwer, was being led into the house of Atreus to be killed by Orestes (Nick Masters), my phone went off. I had forgotten to turn off an alarm I had set for myself to remind me to brush my teeth at night, and the theme of the film *Halloween* [1978] played very loudly, for the entire theater to hear. I am ashamed. I hope our theater company can find it in their hearts to forgive me, for I legitimately did not wish to ruin their performance. It was so good. You guys did a really bang-up job. Brouwer already killed me after the show. Please grant me mercy.



From the top down:  
Actors Erika Auner, Jack Barshaw, Nick Masters, Nick White, Abby Macchiarolo, Sydney Timmer, Kaylee Voight, Sara Kadoura perform in *Electra*.

## **SLHS theater cast and crew reflect on past, current production: success found on stage from *Servant of Two Masters* to *Electra***

Tori Pearson '17, Photo Editor

While some find their niche in sports and clubs, most students find something that they enjoy doing throughout high school. Some of those find their place performing in the school plays or assisting with stage crew. From freshmen year to senior year, the school plays have continued to grow and inspired many people to join theatre. South Lyon High School has performed many different shows such as: *The Addams Family*, *Pirates of Penzance*, *Night Watch* and many more.

Senior Abby Macchiarolo has been performing in the plays since her freshman year. When asked about her experiences over the years, Macchiarolo said, "We've gotten more serious, but at the same time we're able to be fun." She has been a part of all the plays from the beginning of her first production of *Servant of Two Masters* to the current play, *Electra*. The cast and crew work extremely hard on these productions, but they do not get to show students what they can truly do if they do not come to see the show.

Senior Danielle Hanselman has been part of the crew all four years of high school. Throughout all the performances, Hanselman has seen a lot of people bonding and coming together as a family and making theatre jokes. He said that is what happens when the cast and crew work with people everyday and create a bond. Since it is high school, a lot of students don't know some of the plays they perform. "I think we should do more well known shows, so more people will come out to see them," Hanselman said. Hanselman is very amazed and shocked that there will only be one more show left this year.

The next upcoming show is a musical in the spring which is called *Nice Work if You Can Get It*. The cast and crew hope you will love all their performances and will want to come back for another chance to see them on stage.

## 16 LIONS' ROAR

*Shameless* rides into the hearts of its viewers

Kenz Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

With six seasons under their belt, and a seventh season in the works, Showtime's racy dramedy *Shameless* is doing exceptionally well. This Americanized remake of the popular British TV series is set in Illinois and depicts the dysfunctional family of Frank Gallagher, played by Oscar-nominated actor William H. Macy. While this single father of six children spends his days completely obliterated by alcohol, his kids learn to take care of themselves by doing whatever it takes to keep food on the table and a roof over their head. Living in an impoverished Chicago suburb, this loud, crazy family must steal milk from dairy trucks and coupons from neighbors' newspapers. Genius son Lip, played by Jeremy Allen White, takes the PSAT tests for other students to earn money in order to help pay the bills.

A large part of the show's rapid success is due largely in part to the phenomenal cast put together by executive producer John Wells. The Gallagher family goes as follows: eldest daughter, and caretaker, Fiona Gallagher is portrayed excellently by Emmy Rossum, Lip (White); Ian, an adolescent struggling with his sexuality is depicted by Cameron Monaghan; young Debbie played by Emma Kenney, nine-year-old Carl who is played by Ethan Cutkosky; and baby Liam, played by Blake Johnson. The strong bond between the Gallagher clan- although chaotic most of the time- can be seen clearly when they huddle

together around the TV to watch the Discovery Channel or rally together to pay the electric bill. The love and compassion depicted every week between these siblings stirs up that warm feeling in your heart that makes you want to call your older brother and remind him you love him.

Senior Jessica Ellis, avid fan of the compelling Showtime series, states, "I was introduced to the show by my boyfriend and some of my friends, so I started watching

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***The love and compassion depicted every week between these siblings stirs up that warm feeling in your heart that makes you want to call your older brother and remind him you love him.***

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it, and within two months I finished all six seasons. I can't wait until the seventh one comes on Netflix!"

Having a strong, relatable script is one accomplishment, but finding a group of actors that truly know how to bring that script to life and work together to do so is the foundation of any successful television series.

Along with a phenomenal, close-knit cast, an important part of this series, which only adds to the success of this show, is the setting in which the story takes place. Paul Abbott, creator and writer of the British original, agreed with executive producer Wells that it would be utterly cliché for the story to take place in the South. So, a plan was devised that called for the Gallagher clan to be placed in an ethnically mixed working-class neighborhood in Chicago, and these producers couldn't have been more right. The setting makes the story more relatable, and as Wells said, "We have a comedic tradition of making fun of people in these worlds that live in the South or in some trailer park. The reality is that these people aren't 'the other' - they're the people who live four blocks down from you and two blocks over."

As *Shameless* reminds us every week, you can not choose your family, but you still love them anyways. And while they may drive you crazy, you could not possibly live without them. The Gallagher's exemplify a true American family forced to keep it together rather than drown under their horrendous living conditions. The plot is both refreshing and relatable, and despite some illegal activity, open sexuality, and adult narcissism, the kids manage to be all right. Be sure to catch a ride on this wave, it is sure to stay afloat for a long while.

Lady Gaga stumbles into country pop with *Joanne*

Alec Mair '17, Entertainment Editor

Lady Gaga has evolved since her first record, ditching most of her shock value and club appeal for sarcasm and tongue-in-cheek commentary. At least, that was on her last record, *Artpop*, the one I enjoyed most out of her discography. Three years ago, *Mama Monster* had a sense of humor, penning incendiary hits like "Do What U Want" and "Applause" with equal parts catchy beats and clever, subtly complex lyrics. It made *Artpop* a refreshing experience. *Joanne*, however, has none of these qualities.

I had heard only little about *Joanne* before going into it, and that was on purpose. I do not like listening to singles before an album drops, just so I can go into the record fresh. I regret that now, because I rather wish I was forewarned of this album's horror. Okay, maybe that is a bit melodramatic. It is not horrifying. I guess it is just tepid, or lukewarm. I do not understand what made Lady Gaga want an album of weak country-pop half ballads. This is a complete departure from her previous work, and as a fan, it feels out of place in her discography.

On the notes I wrote while listening to this record, the word "cheesy" appears five times. Many of these tracks feel like some bizarre tribute to classic country, but with Gaga's nasally delivery and overall lack of talent when it comes to writing about serious topics, they come off at best, half-hearted, and at worst, downright copyright infringement. "Come to Mama", "Sinner's Prayer", and "Angel Down" all feel like remasters of 70s country songs best left on vinyl. In a review for NPR, contributor Ann Powers says, "[*Joanne* is] country if you color it Spaghetti Western red

and decorate it with Shania Twain spangles." I could not describe this record any better.

There are elements of pop and modern sensibilities here, however. "A-Yo", "Perfect Illusion", and the frankly tacky "Dancin' in Circles" feature synths, catchy hooks, and (sometimes) enough entertainment value to credit their existence. In the end, they cannot compare to previous Gaga tracks, and they do not feel like they are worth being included in the Gaga pedigree.

I mentioned that this LP gets serious, and I need to address what I mean by that. Songs like "Come to Mama" and "Angel Down" have very obvious meanings, but their execution is muddled. "Come to Mama" is especially insulting in how it simplifies the issue of political divide, and it does not feel like a song about people coming together. It feels more like an outsider with no knowledge of what is actually occurring in a situation trying to play it safe so they can seem progressive, but not too progressive as to lose record sales. For an open activist, Lady Gaga comes off like an idiot on this song, and it was incredibly disappointing.

All in all, *Joanne* was a misfire. I cannot understand why Gaga thought this record was a good idea. This LP does not play off of any of her talents, and does not feel like her style, but rather something she heard as a child and decided to copy without any sort of irony or class. I am still a fan of her, and I am still going to cross my fingers for a better record down the road, but I'm going to forget the speed bump in her career that is *Joanne*.



RUNTIME: 39 MINUTES (11 TRACKS)  
BEST CUTS: "PERFECT ILLUSION", "JOHN WAYNE"  
WORST CUTS: "COME TO MAMA", "ANGEL DOWN"

FINAL VERDICT: 5/10  
"INADEQUATE!"