

THE MILLIONS' ROAR

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2017



SOUTH LYON HIGH SCHOOL - 1000 N LAFAYETTE ST

VOLUME LXVII • ISSUE 3

SHOULD METAL AND POP MUSIC REMAIN ESTRANGED GENRES?
PG. 4

MILLIONS OF WOMEN MAKE HISTORY ACROSS THE WORLD
PG. 8

SPRING SPORTS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER
PG. 10

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Photos on cover by Yana van Vlerken and courtesy of metalrock.com and laxteams.com

“Look at the camera, smile, and give me a quote!”: Life as a yearbook staff member

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

Life as a yearbook staff member is not always easy. Being in yearbook class myself, I have a pretty accurate understanding of what that life is like. The SLHS 2016-2017 yearbook staff has put their blood, sweat and tears into taking photos, interviewing students and writing captions and stories every single day to make this the best book possible. You can recognize us by our signature accessories: a chromebook in our hands and a camera around our necks—two essentials which we take everywhere we go, always ready to get that quote or take that highly needed photo. Maybe you are wondering, though, what really goes on in B142?

At the start of the hour, Yearbook adviser Mrs. Melissa Bewersdorf tells her staff about what is new and what has to be done, ending every talk with a learning goal for the day. Ultimately, in yearbook class, the only real goal is to ‘get your crap done!’ Future yearbookers, though, do not be afraid, she and the editors mean well, and it motivates us for sure.

When asked what her main role is, it was no wonder that senior Miranda Birt answered, “My role is to get stuff done!” We can tell by her response that the learning goal works very efficiently.

When I mentioned tears, I was not kidding. In general, the class is about 80 percent ‘I am about to scream’ tears and 20 percent ‘heck yes, I finally got my stuff done’ tears. The causes that lead to those tears are usually from non-cooperating students. “Freshmen boys are definitely the least cooperating,” senior Krista Milks said. Another main cause of despair would be the moody software we use to create the book: Yearbook Avenue. “Yearbook Avenue is the worst. Certain days it is in a good mood, but some days the program sporadically hates you,” senior and Editor-In-Chief Kaitlyn Plohetski said.

You are probably wondering, however, are there any positive things about yearbook? The class is certainly a love-hate relationship, but indeed, there are mostly awesome things about the course. It is not just putting pages together. Yearbook teaches students a variety of communication skills. Take the following into consideration: we constantly need to get information and photos from other people and places. Yearbook students need to get out there and talk to the entire student body.

For example, interrupting teachers by walking into classrooms and walking up to lunch tables is a daily task for us. It might be scary and uncomfortable in the beginning,

but you get used to it very quickly and gain more confidence every time you step out of your comfort zone. “I am pretty shy I guess, so it helped me to get out of my shell and talk to strangers, which you have to do, because you just really need information from them,” Birt said.

Not only will yearbook students gain confidence, but we also learn interesting facts about everyone in school. “It helped me to get to know more people. Talking to so many students showed me different sides of them I would never have gotten to know otherwise, which is a very positive thing,” Milks said.



Photo by Yana van Vlerken

Senior Krista Milks enjoys designing layouts, writing stories, and getting to know people around the school.

So, after all, there are a lot of wonderful things about yearbook. There is even a pizza party tradition. Staffers have a pizza party when hitting big deadlines for submitting pages. Yes, pizza in school. We all get to celebrate and look back on what we created.

In the end, being a part of the staff feels like a family; together we are creating a book that will capture a student’s high school year forever.

Fellow yearbookers agree, “Yearbook is pretty amazing as well. We all talk about the struggles, but deep down in our hearts we know we would not want to be without it,” Plohetski said. Bewersdorf jumped in and added, “That’s what I joke with you guys! You would all take this class again if possible next year. I know you would.”

Yes, we would.

What would you change if you were in the principal’s shoes?

Lizzy Farnsworth '17, Sports Editor

As a student, there are many school policies that seem vapid or aggravating, but do the principals truly know what students want changed? It is likely the principals hear on a relatively consistent basis complaints coming from students who want rules changed. If a student could be put in the principal’s shoes for a day, what would be the first school policy that they would change?

Freshman Jenna Stanfield explained, “I would add a Lion hour like how East has a Cougar hour because I could use the extra time to get some work done and to just chill out.” Many students have requested that the administration add a ‘Cougar’ type hour, yet it still has not been added. Stanfield also said, “I wish that it would become a normal thing with our school soon.” The Cougar Hour, or their advisory hour, is an hour once a week at South Lyon East High School that gives the time for students to finish homework, get extra help, or take a small break in which to gather one’s thoughts. If SLHS got a Lion hour, it would not only benefit the students, but the teachers would have extra time to catch up on grading or make their lecture plans.

The topic of open campus lunch has been very recurrent one lately, and it has been brought to the administration’s attention that students would tremendously enjoy the policy being changed. Sophomore Dani England said, “If I were

principal, the first thing I would do is make lunch open campus.” England also began to describe that she is becoming weary of eating in a hurry because the lunches are crammed for time. Junior Kam Kim agreed and said, “Open campus lunch is the first thing I would change because I think kids would like to go out and get a break from school.”

Throughout the day, students are hungry at different hours and the commons are only open for lunches, so students are left with no options but the unappetizing chips in the vending machines which barely fill students’ stomachs. When senior Connor Remer was asked what he would change if he were put in the principal’s shoes, he described, “I would make a snack bar that is open during passing time that would sell muffins or chicken and filling snacks.” This would not only provide students with nutritious food, but it would make the school a little more money to spend on new items, such as new desks or new books.

These few changes that students would make could greatly affect how students perceive school while improving the environment and culture of the school by lightening up the moods of both teachers and students alike.



Photo by Tori Pearson

Even though junior Lexi Resnick and Assistant Principal Mr. Mitch Rosenkrans might not agree on all of the school policies, they are still buds.

Tales of Berseria: Devour all Demons weaves a tale of love, adventure and death

Marcus Miller '17, Entertainment Editor

On Jan. 24, Bandai Namco published *Tales of Berseria* and released it on PS4 and PC on steam. The *Tales* series is an interesting one. Since it is lesser known than the popular Final Fantasy franchise in North America, with the difference being there are more likable characters. Berseria is a JRPG (Japanese Role-Playing Game) and the 16th entry of the franchise. It is also not afraid to be a bit darker than the other *Tales* games or have a sole female protagonist.

Even though *Berseria* is the 16th game, it is a prequel to the previous game *Tales of Zestiria*. The main protagonist of the game is Velvet Crowe, and at the beginning of the prologue, she has already lost a loved one. From a kind and caring 16 year old to a woman who became a demon, Crowe is hell bent on revenge. Though having a dark back story, there are still some light hearted moments for the character.

Other than Velvet, the characters are really entertaining. The other five characters players can have in their six-person party are: the war demon, Rokuro; the witch, Magilou; the pirate, Eizen, who is nicknamed the Reaper; the spirit without a heart, Laphicet; and the exorcist, Eleanor. Most of their goals are different, yet they relate to an organization called 'The Abbey' while managing this uneasy alliance.

The characters that stood out the most were Velvet, Eizen, and most of all, Magilou. Magilou is the best for a variety of reasons: she is absolutely hilarious and is the exact opposite of Velvet as she is not brooding, and instead is messing with everyone, and thus is usually the source of the game's funniest moments.

There are several interesting things with this specific game. A standard for *Tales* games for instance are post-battle scenes, skits (in game cutscenes can either be related to the plot or not, but help develop the character), and artes (special moves select characters use). Yes, even though the battle system has two things that the normal battle system game has such as the Soul Gauge and the Break Soul mechanics, these allow players to do more than they usually are capable. The Soul Gauge allows gamers to use artes and earn souls by afflicting status ailment on enemies like burning, slow, stun, or dodging at the right time, and players can also lose souls by the same way. Break Soul is a special arte each character can use if there are at least three souls. Some Break Souls can be used offensively like

Velvet, Eizen, or Eleanor, or defensively like Rokuro or Magilou.

One of the best aspects of Berseria is that the battle system changed because 3D *Tales* has players going towards their target in a 2D motion, and they have to hold the L2 button if they want to move around. Berseria allows gamers to move without holding the L2 button, it's amazing for those familiar with the type of game. For combat, players can change the set artes they are given at the start or they have earned by leveling up.

Some things fans might dislike about Berseria are; even though they are few and far between, that before the game was released, a cutscene was what drove Velvet to revenge in the first place was decidedly replaced because of the context and would have given the game an M rating for mature. Just one cutscene would have given the game an M rating! Reading through the synopsis shows the Japanese version of what happened. A second is just a bit nitpicky, but whenever anyone in the game says 'demon', the subtitles say "Daemon". I'm not sure if it's a translation error or it was on purpose, but it is obnoxious all the same. The third complaint is the lack of fast travel in the game. Having played *Tales of Xillia*, *Tales of Xillia Two*, and *Tales of Zestiria*, all had the ability for fast travel.

After the entire emotional roller coaster of a game, most players will walk away feeling that the story is great and strongly kept at a moral gray area, with the lines of good and evil often blurred. I will not soon forget, no matter how much I try, *Tales of Berseria*.

Rating: 9.5/10



Photo courtesy of wikimedia user ProtoDrake

Metal and pop have been separated far too long

Alec Mair '17, Freelance Writer

I like to believe that there are two different philosophies in making music, two different mindsets for its creation, or "schools of thought", as I like to refer to them. I call these schools the New Sound and the Sharpened Sound. The New sound is exactly what it sounds like: making music so that something fresh and exciting is introduced to the public. This is pop music: your trends and movements, or the stuff that tends to get on the radio—if it is generally accepted. Its antithesis is the Sharpened sound. This is when an artist, or a group of artists, or an entire genre of music, does not seek to set trends, but instead focuses on one sound, one style, and refines, or sharpens, whatever kind of music it was they started with. This is primarily the thought process in the Metal genre, with bands, over the course of decades, building upon their original work.

Which of these is the better school? Which of these produce better music? Neither. They are equals, two sides of the same coin. But if you have any experience with the culture surrounding these two schools, especially with pop and metal specifically, you would think there was some sort of battle for dominance. Metalheads have disdain for what is on the radio, or whatever is popular at the time, actively pushing away all those not already in their circles. Pop fans disregard or purposefully brush aside any metal artists, not including them in the discussion of the state of music as a whole. Both of these groups, with their vendettas and preconceptions about one another, are damaging the medium they embody, the medium they claim to live for. It sets a dangerous, and frankly immature, precedent.

I am not going to discuss the history of music; that is not necessary. But I will say this schism formed naturally, that there was not a huge fight or a dramatic break that created the rivalry we have today. Ideologies differ, genres developed, and the wall between peoples grew as each decade passed. Pop moved at a brisk pace, leaving behind Rock, Punk, Industrial, Grunge—the genres that would influence the Metal scene. With the already present sentiments of political injustice, frustration, and societal outcasting inherent to the music being made by these groups, their abandonment, or rather, the public's evolution past them, instilled a resentment towards what would be known as The Radio. Those who would come after these bands, those who took this anger to heart, would take it one step

further, with the Metal scene's unwelcome air, hostility towards newcomers, and abrasive and challenging style. And it's been locked up ever since.

No one is at fault here. I'm not making anyone out to be villainous, or heroic, for that matter, I'm just stating fact. Obviously, not everyone in either of these camps feels as strongly as others might, but the fact remains that there is little osmosis between them. No communication, no exchange. And that's where I become worried.

I love Pop. I love Metal. Many find the irony there hilarious, but after the laughs, I am left troubled by my position. The musical schools of thought are separate entities, islands in philosophy. When has that ever been good? When has the divorce of ideas in the growth of one medium ever truly benefitted the culture?

If we look at it on only a sonic level, the marriage of Metal and Pop has brought us failures and successes, as any fusion would, but interesting failures and exciting successes. Very recently, Beyoncé and Jack White collaborated for "*Don't Hurt Yourself*", a track whose aggressive guitar and percussion only aided Beyoncé's rapping and singing, a somewhat mild example of the possibilities, but a hopeful one. Conversely, bands such as Deafheaven and Alcest have taken Shoegaze, a form of Pop-Rock that has seen a resurgence in the 2010s, and combined it with Black Metal, mixing the fury and terror with beauty and sadness, and expressing emotion that I have not heard in other music.

But even beyond what we can just hear, the mindsets of the New Sound and the Sharpened Sound can do so much good if traded and explored and redefined. Why only have a Death Metal band, when you can have a band with as much variety in its output as, say, Madonna? Why shouldn't a popstar hone their craft, rather than switching from style to style as time passes? Why not have both?

For those of you interested in making music, of which I know there are many, I want you to think about this. I'm not saying go put on corpse paint immediately, or love Taylor Swift unconditionally, but ask yourself, why are there boundaries? Why must there be a divide? Isn't music supposed to bring us together?

5 LIONS' ROAR

New year brings exciting selection of games

Jared Perttunen '17, Managing Editor

Many look back on 2016 as being a particularly depressing year to have lived through, but for gamers, 2016 saw the introduction of several incredible titles. Games like Blizzard's *Overwatch* and EA's *Battlefield 1* spurred interest in multiplayer first person shooters, and each net incredible profits. Meanwhile singleplayer series like CD Projekt Red's *The Witcher* and FromSoftware's *Dark Souls* saw new, exciting, and invigorating expansions and titles. 2016 proved to be yet another year of growth for the gaming industry, and as a

The Walking Dead (TWD)

Genre: Cooperative shooter

Developer: Overkill

Publisher: Starbreeze Studios, 505 Games

Release Date: Mid-Late 2017

Games licensed under big name movie or TV titles often disappoint and anger fans who may have been excited to play the game. They simply have a bad rap as being underdeveloped, cheap and shallow games used to cash in on a popular film or series. With that said, Overkill's *The Walking Dead* has gathered the interest from many a gamer. The developer has a long history of producing financially successful co-op titles, such as *Payday 2*, and their games have been well-received due to their attention to detail and compelling gameplay. Original creator of *TWD*, Robert Kirkman, is also personally involved in the creation of the game. Kirkman even said, "This is the Walking Dead co-op action game fans have been waiting for." With this kind of cooperation between game developer and comic book writer, many see the game as a promising title and hope for more in the future.

Injustice 2

Genre: Fighting game

Developer: NetherRealm Studios

Publisher: WB Games

Release Date: May 16

Injustice 2 is the sequel to 2013's *Injustice*, the critically acclaimed fighting game that features many beloved DC superheroes going toe to toe. This new addition to NetherRealm's franchise promises new gameplay features and innovation. As Ed Boon, Creative Director for NetherRealm studios described in an interview at E3, "At the same time, we don't want to just make a sequel of just more characters, more backgrounds. We want to add something substantial to it." This is where the new armor system comes in. According to the game's advertisement, *Injustice 2* will feature a new system where players can earn new armor sets for their heroes. This armor not only gives heroes a different look, but also gives them stat boosts to make them more powerful. NetherRealm also claims that *Injustice 2* will include the largest roster, or selection of heroes, from any DC fighting game to date. A bold claim that many gamers hope will hold true.



Photo courtesy of WB Games

Super Mario Odyssey & The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild

Genre: Platformer, action-adventure & RPG

Developer: Nintendo

Publisher: Nintendo

Release Date: Mario confirmed 2017; Zelda March 3

In mid-January, multinational video game company, Nintendo, announced their brand new video game console. The Nintendo switch is a highly anticipated console expected to generate high revenue and attention for a company that has been falling short of expectations. Part of selling the console is including exclusive Nintendo content that will not be found anywhere else. Two of the most anticipated games are *Super Mario Odyssey* and *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*. Both games are part of decades old franchises and very much continue the beloved legacy that many gamers hold dear to their heart. *Super Mario Odyssey* is expected to take a page from its popular predecessor Super Mario 64 and include a very similar corridor open world to explore. *The Legend of Zelda* appears to be a new open world Zelda game with never before seen gameplay features and smarter AI opponents. Of the 44 confirmed Nintendo Switch titles, these two remain the most anticipated.

Red Dead Redemption 2

Genre: Action-adventure

Developer: Rockstar Games

Publisher: Rockstar Games

Release Date: Late 2017

Simply teasing the idea of a third *Red Dead* game was enough to send gaming journalists on a frenzy. They chased every hint, every rumor, and every leak until Rockstar finally gave them what they wanted in the form of a reveal trailer. This new release is the direct sequel to 2010's *Red Dead Redemption*. The setting will likely be the same as its predecessors, the American Old West circa 1910s. Unfortunately, not much is known at this point, only that the game is set to release late 2017. That said, one tid bit of information has excited many people: Rockstar confirmed that this game would also include *Red Dead Online*, following the example of Rockstar's other multi-million dollar success *Grand Theft Auto Online*. Having an online mode will easily make this game one of the most anticipated games of the year, especially knowing that fans will have to wait until late 2017 to get their hands on it.

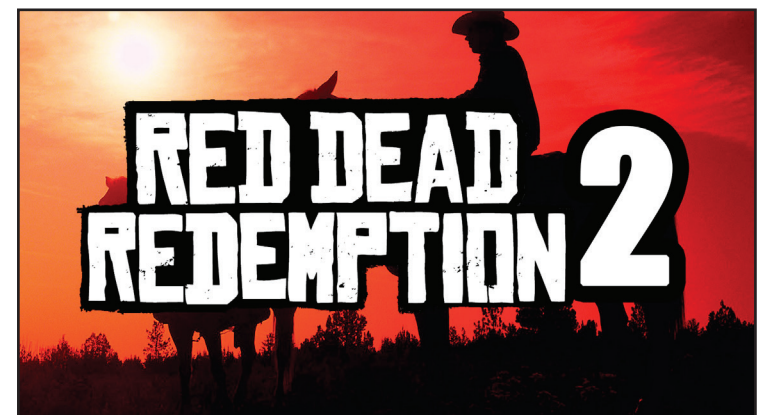


Photo courtesy of Playstation Universe

STUDENT BODY CHANGING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH NEW, INNOVATING LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Tori Pearson '17, Photo Editor

Have you ever wanted to do something good for the community, or even just within the walls of our school? Well, where there is a will, there is most definitely a way.

Mike Smith is the founder of two non-profits, Skate For Change, an organization that empowers young skateboarders to help the homeless in their communities, and THE BAY, one of the few non-profit skateparks in the country. Smith came to SLHS to speak to students about being who they are and about being kind to others, among other things. From that, the staff and students caught wind of the group called The Harbor, created by Jostens, of which he is also a part. The Harbor, is a free, educational video resource for any school, that provides students with a real perspective from real people that will help them achieve greater success in the outside world. Smith has also influenced hundreds of thousands of youths in schools nationwide by talking about how to pursue our dreams. When Smith came last year to talk to the school, he inspired many students and staff members to get involved and work to improve the culture of our school. That day, the day when we would work to start implementing his vision, finally came.

One day during the announcements, they showed a preview of The Harbor and what the program is working to accomplish. At the end of the video, it said that our school is creating a group called the Renaissance Program in order to help make our school a more exciting, accepting, and positive place to learn and be, and also to recognize students who do not necessarily get recognized for their talents or character.

After a few meetings and various conversations, the group decided to change the name to South Lyon Change, Community, Connection (SLC3). Mr. James Brennan, Assistant Principal, is in charge of this program at our school. Brennan said, "We want to recognize the outstanding things that all our students do, not just necessarily focus on our society or the athletic teams; it's about getting kids involved who are normally not." SLC3 has meetings every other Wednesday where they discuss how we can get a variety of students and teachers recognized more and increase student involvement in the school.

In February, there was a Vans contest which allowed the students to create their own shoe. All the students picked out what their favorite shoe is and if someone is selected to nationals, they have the opportunity to win 50 thousand dollars. The students who did not make it to nationals will be able to enter into a drawing to win gift cards; SLC3 ultimately is working to create opportunities for students to get involved.

There is a total of 36 students and teachers involved in SLC3. Freshman Emily Romero is one of the members, and she stated, "I got so inspired when they showed the video on the announcements and how we can create a new high school. I wanted to join the Renaissance to be more involved in the school, because that's where you're going to be the next four years." Romero plans on being in this program all throughout high school.

If you are a person that is wanting to help make this school environment a better place to grow personally and academically, then SLC3 is the perfect place to be.



Photo by Tori Pearson

The Renaissance Club helped to organize the Vans Shoe Competition with the art department to get students involved and supporting one another's artistry. The contestants' creations were shown outside of the library, and students voted on their favorites. The four school winners were announced on Monday, Feb. 27.

STUDENTS FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NEW TEACHERS

Abigail Tobis '20, Feature Editor and Emily Aiken '20, Feature Editor

Freshmen are not the only new people that have entered The Jungle this year. There is also a large group of new teachers that have come into our school as well, making our learning environment more suitable and enjoyable. We decided to ask these 'newbies' a few questions in order to get to know them better.

Favorite Movie: *The Notebook*

If you could have one wish: To have a plane

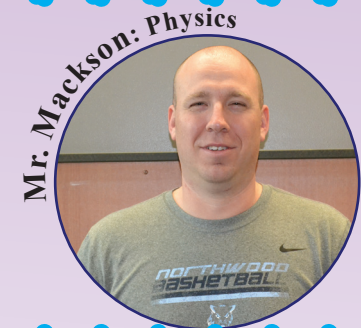
Favorite Clothing Store: Banana Republic

Favorite Sports Team: University Of Michigan

Favorite Food: The famous Polish dish, Perogies

Favorite Grade: Third Grade

Weirdest rumor you've heard about yourself: That she lived at school



Favorite Movie: *Tommy Boy*

If you could have one wish: To have good health

Favorite Clothing Store: Nike Outlet

Favorite Sports Team: Michigan State

Favorite Food: Lasagna

Favorite Grade: Sixth Grade

Weirdest rumor you've heard about yourself: Teachers do not do anything after school



Favorite Movie: *American Beauty*

If you could have one wish: To not be cold

Favorite Clothing Store: Traveling Chic Boutique

Favorite Sports Team: Carolina Panthers

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Favorite Grade: Freshman year of college

Weirdest rumor you've heard about yourself: Has a tattoo on her back



Favorite Movie: *The Patriot*

If you could have one wish: To live somewhere warm

Favorite Clothing Store: Nike

Favorite Sports Team: Michigan State

Favorite Food: Pizza

Favorite Grade: Twelfth Grade

Weirdest rumor you've heard about yourself: That he has tattoos



Favorite Movie: *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*

If you could have one wish: To have all the money to travel

Favorite Clothing Store: Forever 21

Favorite Sports Team: Red Wings and the Lions

Favorite Food: Raspberries

Favorite Grade: Twelfth Grade

Weirdest rumor you've heard about yourself: She is quiet



From perogies to lasagna and a tension-filled rivalry between Michigan and Michigan State, these teachers bring a lot to the table—not only in their educational abilities, but also in their varied interests and tastes.

GETTING AHEAD AT A COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Rebecca Menard '17, Student Life Editor

Once you begin high school, you start to think about your future quite a bit more. You start to wonder what you may want to pursue as a career when you are older and where you might want to go to college to start working towards landing that career. Some people figure it out earlier than others and know exactly what they want to major in and exactly what school they want to go to. Then there are those people who do not know exactly what they want to do or could be lost and confused while deciding which school to go to. There is no problem with either of those instances, but those who do not have it all figured out do not need to necessarily stress. Attending a community college to start off can be a really good option for both people who know do not what they want to do and even those who do.

You do not have to go to a big name university to get a good education, especially for the first year or two. Over the past 15-20 years, the academic standards for community colleges have risen significantly. The curriculum is just as good, if not better, than four year universities, according to educationcorner.com. Almost all professors at a community college are highly certified and have their masters or doctoral degree in their subject areas. South Lyon alumni Jacob Duncan is currently attending Washtenaw Community College (WCC). "I didn't know exactly what I wanted to do so I am starting off at a community college and hope to find out what I want to do; the teachers and classes are great so far," he said.

Along with the great faculty at community colleges, the qualities of the classes are exceptional. The class sizes are a lot smaller than universities according to niche.edu; on average, there are about 20 students to a class, compared to 150 for some classes at a larger university. The small class size lets students undergo a more engaging and interactive experience. There is more time for questions and more personal attention can be provided.

A majority of people who choose community college end up transferring to a bigger name university after they have finished their first two years, get their prerequisites out of the way and have earned their associate's degree. Senior Callie Harper plans on attending WCC for the first two years. Harper said, "I think it's a good idea to start off at a community college; I will be saving a lot of money and hopefully I will be able to transfer to Michigan State University in the future."

The credits that are earned at a community college can later be transferred towards the university you choose. This is due to the fact that beginning courses at community college are very similar to those at a university since they are all of the general education requirement classes and prerequisites. You just have to be sure to plan ahead and check with the school you are going to be attending and see if the credits you are taking are transferable. For additional help, there are academic advisers available at all colleges to talk to.

As years go by, the cost for tuition continues to increase. Many students are not able to afford school without a loan. According to ticas.org; a nonprofit program dedicated to making education more affordable, 69 percent of graduated students that attended a four year university have student loan debt in 2015. Some may still need a student loan for community college, but this way, at least it will be a lot easier to pay it back. Community college is so much cheaper than a university because there are not the added costs of room and board, extracurricular activities and it is not as big of a campus. According to CollegeBoard.com the average tuition cost for an in-district community college is \$3,440 for a whole year. The average tuition cost to attend Michigan State University as an undergraduate student is about \$14,880; this is without room and board and all other expenses like books and supplies; when you add that up, it would cost about \$28,160 according to finaid.msu.edu. American politician, Barbara Mikulski said, "Community colleges are one of America's great social inventions, a gateway to the future for first time students looking for an affordable college education, and for mid-career students looking to get ahead in the workplace." By going to community college you will be saving tons of money that could be used in the future to go to a university and further your degree.

So many teenagers think that they need to go away to college for the first year. They want the freedom of being on their own and being able to do whatever they want. This is a very exciting time for some of those students just graduating high school, but it is not necessary right away. You will still have that experience even if you go to a community college. It may be a year or two later, but ultimately, it will not make significance difference in your life if you choose to stay at home. You can go visit your friends at college on the weekends and see them over break. Most of the popular colleges that students from SLHS attend are about an hour or two away. You do not have to feel like you are missing out on anything by going to a community college.

When you look at the big picture, starting off at a community college is a really beneficial idea, and it can save you a lot of money. You may not be getting out of your house just yet, but that does not matter. Eventually you will be where you need to be and everything will work out if hard work is being put in. The college of your dreams is getting closer and you can start doing what you love sooner or later.

Photos by Tori Pearson

8 LIONS' ROAR

Women create the biggest protest in U.S. history

Yana van Vlerken '17, Layout Director/Design Manager

Women are marching all around the world. People in waves of pink holding expressional signs (and at times a bit aggressive) have been taking over the streets of the world and are featured all over the media. An idea that started off so small, unexpectedly evolved into numbers much larger than originally anticipated.

The march found its roots on social media. Rebecca Shook, a woman in her late sixties who expressed her frustrations about the election on Facebook, started the whole movement. Shook brainstormed a plan for a women's



march happening in Washington D.C. the day after Trump's inauguration. Assisted by her friends, she created an event page. Within 24 hours, 10,000 people had pledged to participate in the march along with her. Who could have forecasted five million people marching worldwide for their rights in response to the presidency of Donald Trump?

The Women's March on Jan. 21 has been called the biggest protest in American history. Three million people marched all over America, and this does not even include the people who attended the march in D.C. The number count of the official Women's March on Washington D.C. has caused a lot of commotion, as it appears the internet is

not revealing the actual count.

Given this information, sources assume the reason of this is the noted contrast in crowd density between the inauguration of President Trump and the march the following day. There are images indicating this difference. The only legitimate count that is out on the internet is the metro ridership count. The Washington Metro said its ridership for the day was at 597,000 by 4 p.m.. Taking that into mind, the number of women actually participating can only be bigger.

On the other hand, numbers are just numbers. There is far more to this march than only the recorded quantity of those people participating. It is time to wonder why so many people unified to wear pink cat ear hats and carrying signs.

Not only did women walk, but husbands and children accompanied them in their march, as well as independent men too. People not only walked for women's rights, the marchers walked for human rights. Issues and policies that stood out were immigration, LGBTQ rights, racial equality, natural environment, abortion rights, workers' rights, health care and freedom of religion.

The march worked to spread the word about what is going on in this world and what many find problematic about certain growing ideologies. However, despite its many purposes, not everyone is so swayed with the effectiveness of the march. Junior Chloe McCarthy said, "While I strongly oppose Donald Trump and his misogynistic rhetoric, I am not sure the women's march was the most effective approach to legitimate change; the issues protested were unfocused and too broad." There were indeed a lot of issues protested in the march, a fact which supports McCarthy's opinion.

In D.C., a lot of speakers took the stage from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Activists such as Scarlett Johansson, Gloria Steinem and America Ferrera expressed their opinions regarding the importance of protecting the rights of the people and to endeavor for equality. Steinem said in her speech, "We are linked, we are not ranked, and this is a day that will change us forever because we are together, each of us individually

and collectively will never be the same again."

Supposedly people were going to walk down Independence Ave. to the Ellipse, which is a park located in front of the White House. However, the plan had to be abandoned because of the unexpected crowd density that turned out. There were so many people that Independence Ave. was filled solid from 3 Ave. where the stage was, all the way up to 14 Ave. and the Ellipse. Even the side streets were filled with people huddled together trying to get a glimpse of the stage; this made it necessary to put a new plan into action.



The march started moving down Constitutional Ave. and Pennsylvania Ave. with people shouting, 'Love Trumps hate!' and 'This is what democracy looks like!' and passing buildings such as the Newseum, the National Archives Building, and the Trump Hotel. No incidents, nor violence, were reported during the march; it was merely peaceful.

By the end of the day, the crowds slowly made their way down to the metro stations or parking garages. The massive amounts of signs were left behind in front of the Trump hotel and in front of the metro stations. Surrounding museums picked up some of the signs for display, making it clear once again that the Women's March on Washington made it into the history books.

Photos by Yana van Vlerken





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FRESHMEN SHOULD FIND FRESH APPROACHES TO GETTING INVOLVED

Zayne George '17, Business and Ad Manager

When you walk through the school doors on the first day of freshman year, the doors for new opportunities open too. The question is, will you take those opportunities? As a freshman, it is important to take many risks and try as many new things as possible. High school is a place to find yourself, and perhaps also invest in a new interest or hobby. That is why trying out new clubs and sports is vital to having a great high school career.

They say high school is the best time of our lives, but it really is all about what you make it. It is necessary for freshmen to try out as many new clubs and sports as they can for a variety of reasons. "Playing sports and participating in clubs keeps you busy, and out of trouble," senior Abby Powell said. "It's also a great way to keep your grades up because some sports don't let you play if your grades aren't looking too hot," she added. Besides the incentive to play to stay busy and keep one's grades up, there is also a possibility for new friendships, new interests, and new life experiences. Getting involved also assists with time management skills. SLHS has a variety of after school activities for students in which to participate. Freshmen are needed to maintain and set records—especially in sports.

Even if as a freshman, one is wary of trying out for a team, new blood is always needed as sports teams dwindle every year with seniors leaving, so it is important to have young kids to carry on those legacies. "Every year, we lose a class of seniors, and we need to replace them with underclassmen," senior Josh Travis said.

Team bonding and school spirit is an important part of high school. Without it, high school would be not be complete, and playing new sports creates friendships that will last a lifetime. "Sports definitely gives people that chance to get involved in activities and get new friends. When you are a freshman, you don't really have a lot of friends like that," senior Chasity Brooks said. "In the long run, the people on your team are basically your set of friends for high school; they become your family. It's just really fun to join new things." Brooks agrees that coming into freshman year can be scary and challenging, but joining sports and clubs helps you immediately get acclimated and develop fast friendships. Participating in sports as a freshman helps set the tone for the rest of your high school career while keeping you busy and entertained. "I mean [sic] what else are you doing with your life? Play some sports. If you're not good at sports, join a club," senior Braxton Blackwell said.

Playing new sports is a really good way of exercising and keeping healthy without feeling like it is exercise, and it also looks good on college applications. So, freshmen, get involved, get playing, and make some memories while you are here.



Photo by Michael Martinez

Senior Chasity Brooks agrees with the importance of getting involved in sports and clubs as a freshman and sticking with it throughout one's four years.

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10 LIONS' ROAR

Spring sports bloom to a start

Dawson Moll '17, Entertainment Editor

What to expect for the upcoming season: This spring we look forward to watching our Lions hit the ground running. "We are pumped to have a great season full of excellence and excitement," senior Josh Travis said. The team's first meet is at home against Salem HS on April 11 at 4:30 p.m.

Key returning athletes: Josh Travis, Braxton Blackwell, Jake Roush, Josh Chezick and Trevor Weiss

Josh
TravisLiberty
Romanik**Women's Track and Field**

What to expect for the upcoming season: "We have a lot of girls coming back who are ready to push themselves to achieve their goals," senior Liberty Romanik said. The girls are looking forward to a competitive season full of success. The team's first meet is at home against Salem HS on April 11 at 4:30 p.m..

Key returning athletes: Libery Romanik, Zayne George, Emily Hudgens, Danielle Booth and Chloe Mckenzie

What to expect for the upcoming season: The men's lacrosse team is looking to do some big things this year. "Our goal is to make a deep run in the playoffs and possibly win a conference championship along the way," senior captain Ethan Covert said. The lax team will have their first game March 23 at home (South Lyon East High School) against Farmington.

Key returning athletes: Ethan Covert, Carlo Zoratti, Joey Mielke, Drew Hantz and Colin Dewitt

Ethan
CovertCJ
Perry**Women's Lacrosse**

What to expect for the upcoming season: The women's lacrosse team lost a lot of senior talent last year, so keep an eye out for some new big names on the team. "We have been having workouts all through the offseason. We hope that they will pay off, and we plan on coming out strong early in the season," senior captain CJ Perry said. The team's first game will be against Bloomfield Hills Lahser HS on March 27 at 6:30 p.m..

Key returning athletes: CJ Perry, Maddy Allerton, Hailey Lanam, Lauren Rygiel, Julia Ting and Jocelyn Ting

What to expect for the upcoming season: The women's soccer team has a lot of new talent coming up this season. "We have a lot of freshmen coming out for the team, and we are excited to see what they bring to the table," senior Julia Toye said. The girls' first game will be at home against Holly HS on March 22 at 6:00 p.m..

Key returning athletes: Julia Toye, Delaney McDermott, Meghan Pfile, Sarah Ash, and Kiana Buchanczenko

Julia
ToyeEthan
Whitcomb**Baseball**

What to expect for the upcoming season: The baseball team is looking to have a great overall season. "We are pumped to head into the season, and we are looking forward to having a fun time in the dugout," senior Ethan Whitcomb said. The boys will have their first game at home against Canton HS on April 10 at 4:30 p.m..

Key returning athletes: Ethan Whitcomb, Mike Maher, Kent Katsuda, and Jake Demeter

Softball

What to expect for the upcoming season: The softball team has a strong freshman class coming in to build onto the lineup. "We have a young team this year and we are looking forward to hitting a ton of dingers," senior Natalie Perrone said. The girls' first game will be at home against Canton HS on April 10 at 4:30 p.m..

Key returning athletes: Natalie Perrone, Janie Mitchell and Emma Sawicki

Natalie
PerroneNick
Allerton**Men's Golf**

What to expect for the upcoming season: The men's golf team thinks they are going to do great things this season. "We have a lot of senior talent coming back, and it should be a fun season," senior Nick Allerton said. The boys will have their first match against Franklin High School April 13 at Whispering Willows Golf Course at 8:30 a.m..

Key returning athletes: Nick Allerton Zach VanBoven, and Evan Monteith

The short term aftermath disaster of one month of Trump's presidency

Michael Martinez '17, Photo Editor

After Donald Trump was elected president this past January, incredibly strong reactions came about from all ethnic and racial groups in the United States. Some responses were immensely negative and others outstandingly positive.

Throughout the South Lyon community, there are many racial issues that have sparked due to Trump's election. Most do not see the obvious negative effect that he is having on the world because it is not brought up in conversation among peers in order to avoid issues within a friendship, a classroom, or at a dinner table. These may or may not, depending on how they are handled, result in an argument, or one or more involved being told off, dismissed, etc.

As of now, most debates about him discussed between teenagers at South Lyon ends in a Trump supporter showing his or her stubbornness, and, despite perhaps being educated, his or her lack of ability to have a thoughtful and open-minded conversation; some even have responded with racial slurs directed at the opposing person(s) who does not agree.

Although teenagers arguing over Trump may not seem like a big issue, since most would not have been old enough to vote or be knowledgeable enough to argue regarding their own particular political prowess (or lack thereof), the

negative commentary that goes on between students often goes unseen in school because of the fact that there are very few minorities within the South Lyon School District. But, that does not mean that awful things are not happening to minority groups locally, and all across the country.

Ignoring the fact that Trump during his rallies never attempted to prevent his supporters from their hatred manifesting itself physically, and he often claims to be some minorities' 'biggest supporter', his own brand of intolerance and racism has become more of a regular characteristic in some of his followers.

Another example of the racist impact on the nation is his recent decision to appoint Jeff Sessions, a man who was formerly turned down from a federal judgeship position for "making many racist remarks" as a legal advisor. Adding a man with a history of making degrading comments to his cabinet, only helps to paint Trump's inner circle as inherently racist.

Already trying for a travel ban against Muslims, Trump is claiming that he is not discriminating, just pursuing this legal end solely for the safety of our nation. His executive order bans citizens of seven Muslim countries including: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, from entering the U.S. for 90 days. This order also bans refugees

from entering for 120 days and indefinitely halts refugees from Syria. One way the ban is justified is by claiming it only affects 15 percent of Muslims which insensitively infers that only a couple hundred thousand people are affected, so that would make it 'okay'. Making the public aware of the issues and the Islamophobia Trump is causing directly and indirectly is a must, especially due to the fact that we live in such close proximity to Dearborn, which has the biggest Muslim population in Michigan.

Chelsea Bailey, a writer for NBC News said, "The University of Michigan issued a campus safety alert Sunday after a Muslim student told police a white male demanded she remove her hijab or he would 'set her on fire with a lighter'." Locally and nationally, these bigoted and racist ideological concepts are manifesting itself in the actions and words of those who support our new president.

The brief aftermath of Trump's presidency has already statistically caused a rise in hate crimes and is turning young adults into stubborn, blind followers.

These followers seem to be intolerant and insensitive, because they are not in the position that many in the country are and cannot see past what is right in front of them.

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What does it mean for America to truly be great?

McKenzi Roe '17, Editor-in-Chief

Twenty years from now, when most of us South Lyon High School graduates are married with kids and pursuing our lifelong dreams and aspirations, we will look back on the year 2017 and be reminded of the life-changing event that occurred on Jan. 20 - the day that Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States. For many people, that was one of the greatest days of their lives, and for some, it was their worst nightmare becoming a everyday reality.

As a current high school senior, while I watch my siblings, close friends and peers form their own political views and lean towards different liberal and conservative ideas, I find myself struggling to form my own opinions on where I stand politically. Perhaps it is because I am still only 17 years old, or maybe it is due to the fact that I do not keep up with politics nearly as much as I should. Rather than deciding whether I support the idea of Trump as president, I realize I find myself instead asking - what does it truly mean to "Make America Great Again"?

Can we change the fact that Donald Trump is the new leader of our country? No, we cannot. But does that mean we have to accept and conform to all the ideas that he will

soon be implementing? Absolutely not.

While it is extremely important to learn more about politics and construct opinions on important issues like abortion, gay rights, immigration, etc., it is extremely necessary that we understand and accept the fact that not everyone is going to believe the same things we do. Rather than hate on your neighbor for supporting gay marriage, or disrespect a friend because they believe that it is in our country's best interest to build a wall to block immigrants from illegally entering our country, respect their opinions like you would want someone to respect yours.

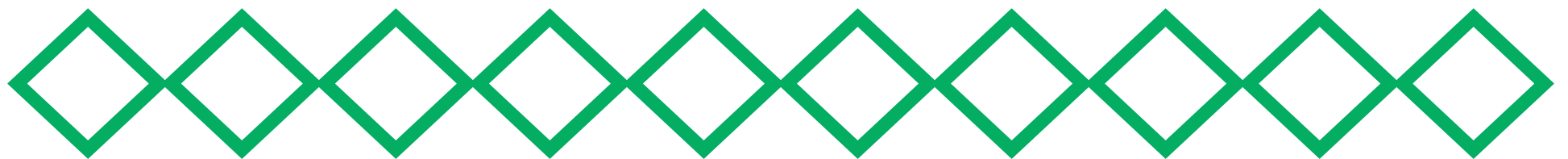
Trump may be president, and while he claims he will "Make America Great Again", it is up to the people in a democratic state, not the president, to turn that concept into reality. So, what does it mean to be great? Does it mean that we must all look alike and have white skin? Is a country defined as great by preventing same sex genders from being able to marry? The answers to this question will vary greatly depending on the people you ask.

In my opinion, greatness does not stem from all of these ideas; instead, greatness is measured by the kindness and empathy derived from the thoughts and actions of the people

of this country. To be great, we must first learn to be kind to one another. Respect, compassion and empathy. These are all key ingredients to forming a country that exceeds the expectations of what 'greatness' truly entails.

Whether rejoicing or mourning over the leadership to which Trump has now been elected, at the end of the day, it is important to remember that while his presidency will affect a variety of issues in our country, we must never let it affect the true greatness within our hearts. You are entitled to your own beliefs, and yes, you are entitled to speak out about those beliefs (as it firmly states in the Constitution), but greatness for the United States of America will not happen unless we remember to respect one another. What good comes from harassing and tormenting others just because you disagree?

So, do I support Donald Trump as our 45th President? My answer still remains undecided; however, if there is one thing I believe, it is this: Donald Trump will not make this country great again. It is up to us, right here among the walls of the Jungle, to make America a great place to live. How will we go about this? Well, first, we will start by being kind.



Students should worry less about appearance and more about character

Jake Stowers '17, Opinion

With the beginning of a new year, many people wish to alter their bad habits into good ones. They drop the nasty addiction of chewing their nails or attempt to exercise more; others quit smoking in exchange for a better diet. The main idea is to improve oneself as a person, but most people simply aim to improve themselves physically, rather than trying to become a better person inside and out. According to Juliet Eysenck, a writer for The Telegraph, exercising more and losing weight are the most popular New Year's resolutions, followed by eating healthier, which is also along the same lines of improving one's physical wellness.

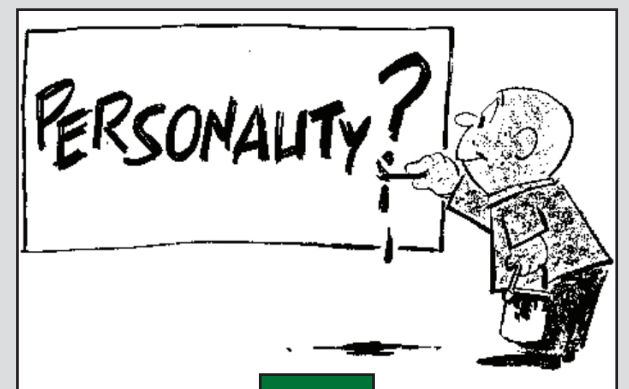
Although these are by no means underwhelming goals at all, it is worth noting that the amount of people with the goal of making themselves a better person from the inside instead of the outside, does not even compare. People tend to worry more about how they look rather than how judgemental they are of others' looks, or how they treat the people with whom they interact. If everyone put as much time into being a more accepting person as they do spending time trying to look like a supermodel, there would be nowhere near as much of a pressure to look beautiful and try to fit the norm.

Senior Jenna Rautenberg agrees that everyone wants to be attractive, but she does not attempt to live up to that expectation. She said, "I do think that some people have expectations for themselves to dress a certain way to either impress other people or to try to stand out of the crowd, but personally I don't push myself to go over the

top." Hoodies and sweatpants are some of her favorite things to wear because of how comfortable they are, even though some people would look at that as not being acceptable attire for school. "Always worrying more about what other people think of you rather than what you think of yourself means you will never allow yourself to be comfortable in your own skin," Rautenberg added.

The same thing applies for makeup. If you like putting in the extra time in the morning to look a bit better, that is your prerogative. If you personally could care less, there is no shame in that either. Rautenberg said, "My new friend used to say I looked like a jerk just because she assumed that I would be mean because of the way I looked." She added, "People tend to judge people like how they judge a book by its cover, and if they are unhappy with how you look chances are they will not make an attempt to get to know you." People tend to focus too much on their initial assumption about someone rather than trying to get to know them.

Those who tend to make snap judgments about others also tend to lose sight of what is really important when it comes to looking at someone as a person overall. A person's character speaks volumes more than just their appearance. South Lyon High School students are relatively mature when it comes to knowing how important it is to appreciate yourself, but sometimes teenagers forget that not everyone is so confident. Often times it is not the appearance on the outside that matters, but the character that lies within.



VS.



Photo courtesy of South Pleasantburg Nursery

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia user Tiffany Bailey