



## acquitted

### Impeachment trial ends with Trump acquitted

◆ abby adams-smith

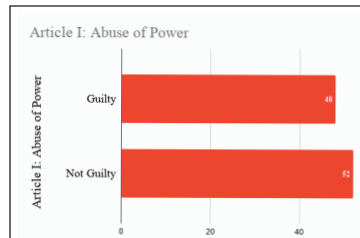
On Wednesday, February 5th, the Senate voted to acquit President Donald Trump of both abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The senators voted almost entirely along party lines; only one senator, former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney, voted to convict Trump on one of the two

convict in the Republican-controlled Senate, where not even a majority vote to convict appeared feasible. Support for impeachment had been present in Democratic circles since Trump's inauguration in 2017, and a prior attempt to bring articles of impeachment after the release of the Mueller report failed. However, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi announced

can party just prior to the vote. In the Senate, Chief Justice John Roberts presided while Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (KY) worked to make the trial as short as possible. The House impeachment managers, led by Representative Adam Schiff, argued that the president attempted to exploit Ukraine's dependence on United States military aid for his own political benefit. Celebrity lawyer Alan Dershowitz, as a part of Trump's defense team, made the explosive argument that if a president feels that a certain end, including their own reelection, is in the national interest, then working to achieve that goal cannot constitute an abuse of power.

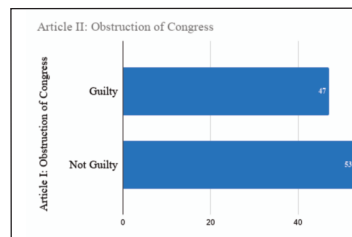
A brief twist in the proceedings came when a leaked excerpt of an upcoming book from former National Security Adviser John Bolton seemed to confirm the Democratic argument that Trump withheld aid for political reasons. This renewed the fight over witnesses. However, several potential swing votes, including Lamar Alexander and Lisa Murkowski, ultimately fell along party lines. Only Romney and Susan Collins (MN) voted to hear witnesses, and Collins would vote to acquit Trump on both charges. Romney's vote made him the only senator to ever vote to convict an impeached member of their own party. The impeachment process was marked by political theatrics, especially among Republicans. During the initial House witness hearings, a group of Republican representatives stormed the closed-door meetings, demanding access. During the Senate trial, meanwhile, Senator Rand Paul attempted to reveal the name of the whistleblower who initially reported the July call, only for Chief Justice Roberts to block the question. Finally, during Trump's State of the Union speech the day before the impeachment vote, Speaker

Pelosi made a point of tearing her copy of the speech in half while still standing at the podium. Trump has taken the opportunity to claim victory, using that and the poorly-run Iowa caucus two days prior to mock his Democratic rivals. At a prayer breakfast the day after the impeachment, he touted a copy of the Washington Post with 'Trump acquitted' as the headline, and he took the speaking opportunity to deride Romney and the Democrats who worked towards his impeachment. In the following days, he started firing witnesses from the House impeachment hearings, including European Union ambassador Gordon Sondland and national security adviser and army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman.



charges. The vote follows arduous trials in the House and Senate with essentially foregone conclusions. Articles of impeachment only require a majority vote to pass in the House of Representatives, which Democrats could accomplish even with expected defections from its moderate wing. However, a two-thirds vote is required to

her support for impeachment after a July 25th call in which he appeared to withhold military aid from Ukraine unless their government opened an investigation into one of his presidential rivals, former Vice President Joe Biden. Only two Democratic representatives broke party lines in the vote, and a third, Representative Jeff Van Drew, switched to the Republi-



## what's inside



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# U.S.-Iranian tensions: How did we get here?



Protestor sets fire in street to protest Iranian missile strike.

◆ associated press

◆ ruthie kesri

Before 1979, the United States and Iran were more or less friends; in the 1800s and 1900s, American missionaries helped build schools and public institutions in Iran. But now, less than 100 years later, tensions between the two countries have reached an all-time high. How did we get here?

1953: U.S. and British intelligence agencies orchestrated a coup to oust Iran's democratically-elected Prime Minister, Mohammad Mossadeq. Mossadeq had led Iranian lawmakers to vote in favor of taking over the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, expelling the company's British owners, with the goal of turning oil profits into investments in the Iranian people. The U.S. under President Dwight Eisenhower feared disruption in the global oil supply and worried about Iran falling prey to Soviet influence, while the British under Prime Minister Winston Churchill feared the loss of cheap Iranian oil. Operation Ajax, a joint CIA-British operation, convinced the shah of Iran, the country's monarch, to dismiss Mossadeq and drive him from office by force.

Mossadeq was replaced by a more Western-friendly prime minister, hand-picked by the CIA.

1979: Iranian Revolution. The U.S.-backed Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, is forced to leave the country on 16 January following months of demonstrations and strikes against his rule by secular and religious opponents. Two weeks later, Islamic religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini returns from exile. Following a referendum, the Islamic Republic of Iran is proclaimed on April 1st.

1979-81: U.S. Embassy hostage crisis. The U.S. embassy in Tehran is seized by protesters in November 1979 and American hostages are held inside for 444 days. The final 52 hostages are freed in January 1981, the day of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's inauguration. Another six Americans who had escaped the embassy are smuggled out of Iran by a team posing as filmmakers, in events dramatized in the 2012 Oscar-winning film *Argo*.

1985-86: Iran-Contra scandal. The U.S. secretly ships weapons to Iran, allegedly in exchange for Tehran's help in freeing U.S. hostages held by Hezbollah militants in

Lebanon. The profits are illegally channelled to rebels in Nicaragua, creating a political crisis for Reagan.

1988: Iranian passenger plane shot down. The American warship U.S.S. Vincennes shot down an Iran Air flight in the Gulf on 3 July, killing all 290 people on board. The U.S. says the Airbus A300 was mistaken for a fighter jet. Most of the victims are Iranian pilgrims on their way to Mecca.

2002: "Axis of evil." In his State of the Union address, President George Bush denounces Iran as part of an "axis of evil" with Iraq and North Korea. The speech causes outrage in Iran.

2000s: Nuclear fears and sanctions. In 2002, an Iranian opposition group revealed that Iran is developing nuclear facilities including a uranium enrichment plant. The U.S. accuses Iran of a clandestine nuclear weapons program, which Iran denies. A decade of diplomatic activity and intermittent Iranian engagement with the United Nations' nuclear watchdog follows. Several rounds of sanctions are imposed by the UN, the U.S. and the EU against ultra-conservative president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government. This causes Iran's currency to

lose two-thirds of its value in two years.

2013-2016: Closer ties, and a nuclear deal. In September 2013, a month after current Iranian president Hassan Rouhani takes office, he and U.S. President Barack Obama speak by phone - the first such top-level conversation in 30 years. Rouhani, a self-declared moderate, pledged to improve relations with Western countries, restore the Iranian economy, and encourage personal freedom.

2019: Tension in the Gulf. In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump abandons the nuclear deal before reinstating economic sanctions against Iran and threatening to do the same to countries and firms that continue buying its oil. Iran's economy falls into a deep recession. Relations between the U.S. and Iran worsen in May 2019, when the U.S. tightens the sanctions targeting Iran's oil exports. In response, Iran begins a counter-pressure campaign.

2019 (May and June): Gulf of Oman attacks. Explosions hit six oil tankers in the Gulf of Oman. The United States, backed by the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia, blamed Iran for the attacks. Iran denied the accusation, and the U.S. deploys 1,000 additional troops to Iran in response.

2019 (June 20): Iranian forces shoot down an American military drone over the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. says it was over international waters, while Iranian officials say the drone was in violation of Iran's territory.

2019 (July): Iran begins the process of rolling back imposed nuclear arms limits under the 2015 Nuclear Deal.

2019 (December 31): Attack on the United States embassy

in Baghdad. This assault was carried out by supporters of an Iran-backed Iraqi Shia militia. This attack was in response to U.S. air strikes in Iran and Syria—which were a response to an attack on an airbase that resulted in the death of one American. The U.S. blames Iran for orchestrating the attack on the embassy, of which then Iran denies. The U.S. responds by sending hundreds of additional troops to Iran to reinforce security at the embassy.

2020 (January 3): Qasem Soleimani assassination. Iran's top military commander and classified terrorist to the U.S., General Qasem Soleimani, is killed by an American drone strike in Iraq. Iran vows "severe revenge" for his death and pulls back from the 2015 nuclear accord. The U.S. Department of Defense states that Soleimani approved the attack on the U.S. embassy in Baghdad and was planning further attacks on American diplomats, and this strike was carried out to prevent them.

2020 (January 5): Iran announces that it will no longer respect nuclear restrictions imposed by the 2015 Nuclear Arms Deal. In particular, Iran will "no longer observe limitations on its capacity for enrichment, the level of enrichment, the stock of enriched material, or research and development."

2020 (January 8): Iranian attack on U.S. forces in Iraq. Iran responded by launching ballistic missiles that hit two American bases in Iraq. As Iran entered a heightened state of alert, preparing for a possible U.S. retaliation, it accidentally shot down a commercial Ukrainian airliner departing Tehran for Kyiv, killing all 176 people aboard.

## Recycling in BG

◆ haley hamilton

◆ camden haga

Southern Recycling, the company that handles Bowling Green's recycling system, has announced that their curbside pickup program will come to an end in March of 2020. Residents can take their recycling to a drop location until July 21st, but after that, Bowling Green's recycling program will be suspended indefinitely.

Bowling Green started curbside recycling in 1995. Once a week, Southern Recycling employees go around and pick up the objects in the recycling bins that citizens of Bowling Green leave at the curb. Citizens are charged \$2.65 each month to have their aluminium, paper, plastic, and glass picked up.

As told by the Bowling Green Daily News, this change

is occurring because China stopped accepting American plastic and other recyclables in April of 2018. As of current, China accepts nearly 40% of all American paper, plastic and other recyclables, the policy has harmed several recycling companies, including Southern Recycling. The company stated that they have been losing around \$29,000 per month within the past couple of years.

Amy Cash, a teacher at Bowling Green High School, said, "I am very sad about the fact that they will not continue the program, but because of the loss of money, I understand why they are making this decision."

The temporary dropoff location will be located at 63 N. Graham St. This location was chosen so that it will be accessible from North Industrial Park off Plum Springs Loop.

"I will definitely still take my recycling to the designated



The well known red southern recycling bin that will disappear in march.

◆ haley hamilton

locations," said Cash. "I will most likely take my aluminium and paper to recycle and then try to reduce my single use plastic."

Plastic is difficult to recycle because there is so much of it that will not break down; therefore, it will eventually just end up in a landfill. According to ourworldindata.org, only

9% of the plastic we have used from 1950 to 2015 was recycled. A plastic bottle can take over 450 years to break down. This is why many people like Cash choose to reduce their plastic use rather than recycle large amounts of it. Southern Recycling only accepts certain plastics like plastic film, Polypropylene, Nylon, Abs,

and Pet.

Despite the fall of curbside recycling, Bowling Green hopes to find a way to be economic and eco-friendly. The city is looking at new options and companies to take over curbside recycling when Southern Recycling departs.

# The Democratic Race presses on

A guide to unpacking the major candidates and their progress

## ◆ abby adams-smith

### Joe Biden:

Former US senator from Delaware and vice president under Barack Obama. Biden has positioned himself as the best candidate to beat President Donald Trump in the general election and to work across the aisle with Republicans.

### Michael Bloomberg:

Businessman and former mayor of New York. The former Republican is using a unique campaign strategy, skipping early caucuses like Iowa and entirely self-funding his campaign.

### Pete Buttigieg:

Mayor of South Bend, Indiana. The 37-year-old is running on a message of 'generational change' while putting forth a relatively moderate platform that has mostly won him support among older, wealthier, white Democrats.

### Amy Klobuchar:

US senator from Minnesota. Klobuchar is running as the only candidate who has won office in a Midwestern swing state in the hopes of capturing the votes of that region in this race and in the general election.

### Bernie Sanders:

US senator from Vermont. A self-described 'democratic socialist,' Sanders has built a large base of grassroots supporters, partially based on momentum from his 2016 presidential bid.

### Elizabeth Warren:

US senator from Massachusetts. While running on similarly progressive policies, Warren has made an effort to distinguish herself from Sanders, focusing more on ending corporate and government corruption than on total systemic overhaul.

### Tom Steyer:

Billionaire philanthropist and founder of a hedge fund firm. He funded multiple liberal organizations, including Need to Impeach, before reappropriating some of those resources for his presidential campaign.

### Andrew Yang:

Entrepreneur and founder of nonprofit Venture for America. Yang has made the 'Freedom Dividend,' a \$1000-per-month payment to every American adult, his signature issue, and his supporters, the self-styled 'Yang Gang,' are particularly active online.



◆ Yale360

An Australian firefighter stands in front of one of the hundreds of fires raging throughout Australia

## Flames roar in Australia

### ◆ camden haga

### ◆ emma hines

While it is winter here in the United States, Australia is experiencing a hot and dry summer that has caused major wildfires across the country. The rapid wind speeds that have gotten up to 40 miles per hour are causing the fires to spread quickly.

While Australia has had wildfires in the past, the ones that have been occurring since September have made this Australia's worst fire season on record. The fires have destroyed around 24 million acres of land, killed 29 people and at least 1.25 billion animals, and demolished 2500

homes. According to Vox, the bushfires have released around 400 megatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This means, according to the BBC, that more thermal energy is being put into the air, raising air temperature.

The United States government is doing what it can to help. American firefighters flew to Australia to offer their help to the country. On January 24th, however, three out of the 175 firefighters died when their water tank plane crashed. To commemorate the men who have passed away in the fires, CNN reported, rescued koala bears at an Australian zoo were named after the firefighters.

Many people around the world, including celebrities

like Kylie Jenner and Keith Urban, have donated millions of dollars to support the people, places, and animals affected by the fires.

Ashton Woodard, a junior at Bowling Green High School, said, "People should definitely continue donating. However, they should also visit places like Australia or somewhere in their community, if they can, and help on a more personal level."

As of February 1st, the fires have headed towards the capital of Australia, Canberra. Authorities are now alerting the public of ember attacks and have declared their first state of emergency since 2003.

## ◆ ruthie kesri

### Who Has Most Effectively Fundraised?

Despite his small average donation size, Bernie Sanders's grassroots fundraising has allowed him to consistently outraise most of his competitors. The most recent fundraising cycle was no exception, with Sanders reporting the most cash on hand.

### Who Has The Strongest Polling Numbers?

The RealClearPolitics and FiveThirtyEight polling averages both show Bernie Sanders converging on Joe Biden's once-competitive polling lead to within a fraction of a percentage point. Warren is in a distant third, with Bloomberg and Buttigieg both on the rise. However, in the crowded field, no candidate has been able to rally much more than a quarter of voters for the entire race, and the caucuses have provided little clarity.

### Who Has The Most Visibility?

In 2019, Joe Biden dominated cable news coverage, getting well over double the number of mentions of Sanders or Warren. All other candidates, including Buttigieg and Bloomberg, lingered far behind those three, hurting from late entrances or low name recognition. In 2020, however, Sanders and Buttigieg have gotten a boost from their frontrunner status in the Iowa caucuses.

### What Do Early State Results Predict?

After revelations of disastrous mismanagement, technical glitches, and inconsistencies between results, the Iowa Democratic Party announced caucus results on Sunday. While Sanders led in both popular vote counts, Buttigieg beat him by .1% in state delegate equivalents and is projected to receive one or two more delegates. Warren placed third, while Biden had a disappointing fourth-place finish for a national frontrunner. No candidate since 1972, Democratic or Republican, has been able to win the national primary after finishing fourth or worse in Iowa.



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Woodrum  
Staff Reporters

Maggie Pollard, Mary  
Margaret Bryant, Romy  
Cramer, Gwen Hatcher,  
Addison Kolzow

Photographers

Philip Russell  
Advisor

1801 Rockingham Lane  
Bowling Green, KY  
42104  
270-746-2300

# point counterpoint

## Foreign language in high school

### Foreign language benefits students

#### ◆ hemi bell

Graduation requirements are meant to help expose high school students to new things and help guide them towards a field that interests them. Foreign language requirements are no exception to this goal, but it can be difficult to understand how this instruction can be beneficial to a high school student. However, foreign language classes offer many benefits that may not be immediately obvious.

Language experience can expose teenagers to new career pathways that interest them and can help develop skills that they need for certain careers. Employers in international law, education, diplomacy, the military, and air travel all look to employ workers with foreign language experience. The ability to communicate with people in other languages can give you a major advantage in these fields, as you'll often be interacting with people from all over the world and a clear understanding is vital.

Even for students who know they aren't interested in any of these fields, language classes still provide an opportunity to explore another culture and interact with their peers in a new way. Language classes require a certain level of attention to the culture and customs of the regions where the language is spoken. This can expand students' perspectives, exposing them to new practices, beliefs, and traditions that can nurture an understanding of people and places beyond what they see every day, which is becoming more and more important in the ever-expanding cultural melting pot that is America.

Language classes can even help to develop social skills. Learning the basics of a language often includes learning to discuss the basic things about your life, including family, hobbies and interests. This gives students an oppor-

tunity to have simple conversations with people they likely wouldn't interact with otherwise and learn basic information about a variety of people through rudimentary language practice. For this reason, language classes are able to become some of the most intimate courses as everyone slowly has to get to know each other as a part of the curriculum.

On a more scholarly level, language classes can still be beneficial. Research suggests that practicing a foreign language improves cognitive abilities,

making it easier to plan and switch attention. Regardless of how true or applicable this claim is for all language learners, consistent language practice in high school does give students an advantage when applying for college and scholarships. Many scholarships are even offered specifically for people studying foreign languages, providing grants, and even opportunities to study abroad.

The problem with foreign language in high school is not necessarily that the instruction is forced, but instead that there are a lack of options for students. It's hard to believe that in a school with as much diversity and culture as Bowling Green High School that there are only two options for foreign language classes. Giving students more options would likely expand on these benefits and reduce the number of students upset with the requirements as it will become easier for them to find a language that appeals to their interests.



### Foreign language should not be required

#### ◆ clay wallace

Imagine being approached on the street by another person who starts speaking to you in a language other than English. You ask the person if he or she knows English, but the person does not seem to understand. For the average American, this would probably be the only situation in which knowing a foreign language would be useful, but the chances of being in a similar situation are pretty low for the average person.

High school students planning on attending college are required to take two years of foreign language, but is this really in the best interests of students? For most people living in America, knowing a language besides English is not applicable in daily life, and even then, two years is not enough time to become fluent in a language. So, why require college-bound students to take two years of a class that they will probably not use when they could be using that time to prepare themselves for their future careers?

America is a diverse nation with people of all ethnic backgrounds, where at least 350 languages are spoken. However, the large majority of people who speak those languages also speak English. America has no official language, but almost everyone living in America either knows English or is learning it. The prospect of learning Spanish, for example, so one can communicate with the Hispanic population that does not speak English is a

logical endeavor for aspiring teachers, social workers, or other helping professions. However, the majority of people will not come across foreign language speakers in their day-to-day lives, if ever.

"I think students should be able to decide [if they want to take foreign language classes] because it's not usable for some careers," said Bella Elder, a junior at Bowling Green High School. This is a sentiment shared by many students I have talked to; most people do not feel that they will ever use what they are learning.

Even if knowing a foreign language would be applicable for the majority of students, two years is not enough time to fully learn a language and become fluent in it. According to Steve Kaufmann, a professional linguist who teaches other people to speak new languages, Spanish and German both take around 480 hours to reach "basic fluidity," meaning it would take at least three years of foreign language classes to become fluent. If the purpose of requiring students to take foreign language is to make them fluent in another language, only requiring two years fails that purpose.

Learning a foreign language is not going to benefit most students, so why should those students not be able to use the time spent in foreign language classes and instead use it to take classes that will prepare them for their future? I don't think learning a foreign language is a waste of time. It's great that we have the opportunity to learn Spanish or German, and I am currently enjoying Spanish 1. However, students should be able to choose if they want to take a foreign language and not be forced into it.

## A spirited take on spirit weeks

#### ◆ saint carmichael

It seems like every time a quarter ends, or a week before a big football game, or even for no reason at all, the school feels the need to have a spirit week. Now, these spirit weeks can contain any number of activities or themes, such as wearing a sports-related jersey, America-themed clothing, or even, in the more extravagant cases, costume and pajama days. Some days, when the school decides to throw convention out the window and take risks, administration may even allow students to wear hats to school.

These spirit weeks are a defining part of our school's culture and have been used for years to celebrate all manner of events. However, it seems as if this time-honored tradition is slowly losing its luster, becoming less and less appealing to newer classes.

Now, I love spirit weeks as much as the next guy, but one complaint many people have is the staggering frequency at which they take place. To say that these spirit weeks are liberally scheduled would be an understatement.

Whenever anything of any importance happens at our school, it seems like instead of coming up with an interesting new idea to celebrate, the

school just slaps together a spirit week and expects us to all love it. There's no encouragement to actually show up for games or to actually celebrate the school's sports teams in any meaningful way, just to show up to school wearing certain colors.

The activities or "themes" of spirit weeks are also mind-numbingly boring and do nothing to inspire or excite students. Mostly, students are simply asked to wear a certain color, Purples-related clothing, or some sort of sports jersey.

Not only are these things that many people would wear to school anyways on a normal day, but they provide no room for creativity or enterprise. There are very limited ways in which you can adhere to a "jersey day" theme and very few options for any sort of unique self-expression or invention.

The most disappointing part of any spirit week is the master class of missed potential that comes along with it. The restrictive, boring themes need to be replaced with less tight constraints. Instead of simply calling a day "Purple and Gold Day" and watching everyone show up in their wrinkled purple T-shirts, try to spark some creativity. Hold a contest for the most innovative outfit, then have a panel of teachers judge it during lunch.

If you want to have a "blackout" themed day, then encourage students to dress up in intimidating and more punk-rock style clothing, like the infamous Raiders fans in their fabled "Black Hole" stadium. There are many more ways than just these to really make these days something special and exciting for all, and it hurts to see them so lazily handled.

The frequency of these spirit weeks also needs to be decreased, as at the moment, they occur way too often to be anything special. If the school wants people to be truly excited about these events, make them a rarity. Instead of

having them before every break and major athletic event, save them for the most special occasions.

If one of the sports teams makes it far in the state tournament or if our school raises a certain amount of money for a charity fundraiser, then have one. If there's an upcoming break or if it's finals week, then maybe don't have one. It's all about finding the right balance for our school and making sure that they're rare enough to be special in the eyes of students.



An example of a spirit week lineup leading up to Bowling Green High School's 2019 Homecoming.

# The rules, regulations and impact of meme culture and dark humor

## ◆ drew lawless

Whether it's the most trivial of events or something serious and horrific, the internet community has no limits on what can be turned into a joke. Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and other platforms for memes are flooded with those who scavenge the bits and pieces of an event to turn into whatever form of humor they please.

Sometimes, our lives are filled with enough seriousness and professionalism as is, and seeing a joke or two on a controversial topic, as awful as it may sound, can be a relief from the constant tension. It can be quite difficult to assess all of the different memes and jokes that fill our phones and social media feeds when everyone has their own personal limits to what is and isn't funny, and the idea of pleasing everyone is or all of society's morals and values is simply not possible.

However, with the recent attacks on an Iranian general and the topic of a third world war swirling around in the air, it seems as if meme culture is under fire. Instead of choosing a side or setting specific guidelines for what is and isn't right to say or believe, we must reach an understanding of our own personal be-

liefs and our environment and how they impact our tolerance for (dark) humor.

A lot of the backlash that various meme or joke formats receive are obviously for crossing the fine line that separates what should or shouldn't be protected from mainstream humor.

However, pleasing everyone isn't possible in any sort of particular subject (even outside of memes), so just saying that a joke needs to be scorned because some people thought it devalued the seriousness of an issue isn't a great or "compromising" method.

Memes and jokes of similar nature that are being posted for the internet to see are meant to make a few people riled up, for every piece of comedy is at the expense of someone or something.

Sam Kurtz, a junior at Bowling Green High School, said, "It's honestly all about perspective and the fact that people have gone through different struggles

and might not find certain jokes as funny as others might." He went on to mention how certain memes he has seen haven't been received well because of how soon they are posted after an event occurs.

The main problem with deciding what is and isn't deserving of a laugh is figuring out when a

subject and doesn't have the overarching goal of making a majority of the viewers find some humor out of it, it crosses the line.

Posting a meme with the obvious intent of infuriating or disrespecting a large portion of those who see the content is not acceptable, and the quality of those people's days have probably gone

down because of it.

Even though it can be hard and sometimes downright impossible to know the types of people who will see or hear the joke, it's always an option to take a safer route and tone down the joke or just not say it at all.

Memes have always been good

at being able to teeter on the line of simple and dark humor and thus make the different audiences they appeal to diverse in comparison.

Reaching a common ground on what lines are worth stepping over can be difficult, and it quite honestly seems like there will always be a sense of disgust when someone tries to bring up a meme

or joke in a discussion because of the way they seem to devalue everything they touch.

Despite their lack of respect for most subject matter, memes remove the heavy feeling of despair or stress from serious subjects and provide a way to have a more lighthearted and enjoyable discussion about said topic.

Even if there were to be a conjoined effort to try and express this desire to separate what can and cannot be made fun of, it's simply impossible to tone down the extreme ad carefree nature of this culture. It gets to a point where everyone has to recognize that as bad as it seems, there will be people out there who will find a way to add a bit of humor to a subject.

It's the nature of the internet and the idea of dark humor as a whole that being cautious and understanding of various perspectives can keep there from being a feud between groups. Taking it all with a grain of salt can do wonders for everyone involved.

There are some standards, though, to what can be said or posted. An "enjoyable discussion" isn't as important as understanding the weight of an issue or topic and what it means for those involved.



# All white cotillion highlights class disparities

## ◆ christian butterfield

The Cotillion Ball was flooded in white: white dresses, white gloves, and an entirely white cast of participating ladies.

Since its inception, the Cotillion Ball has entrenched itself within our local community and its school districts. Every year, distinguished young women from across the city gather at Sloan Convention Center to celebrate the joys and dignities of proper behavior.

To clarify for the uninitiated, the Cotillion Ball is part dance, part self-selecting group of dignified ladies, with alumni seniors curating a class of current juniors to attend a debutante-style Ball as

well as other activities. This year included the likes of etiquette training, Boys and Girls Club volunteerism, and even a father-daughter tea. Its aim is simple and for many, deeply meaningful: provide a symbolic space for young ladies to grow into mature women.

The reputation of this institution is tarnished, however, when it's revealed that out of the entirety of Bowling Green High School's junior class, a class of students from one of the state's most ethnically diverse schools, the vast majority of the Ball's attendees are Caucasian.

Among every school in the city, only one person of color was represented. This strikes a rather jarring chord amongst our student body. Bowling Green is a diverse school, with the varying lifestyles and backgrounds of a more urbanized area mixing together in a way that simply doesn't exist else-

where locally.

Yet, no matter how diverse we are, racial disparity continues to rear its ugly head throughout our classrooms. No matter how many backgrounds can be found walking through the hallway, many facets of BGHS - AP Classes, Spirit Committees and even Cotillion Balls - remain homogenous. Why?

It's obvious that nobody wants any classroom inequality, and nobody is actively maintaining it in a malicious way, yet it continues to bubble under the surface of our school's culture. There are a myriad of factors and potential answers, but the most pressing of all of them is an issue not rooted in race, but in class and income.

Look back to the Cotillion Ball,

ladies for the next year, Railey adds, "the ability to pay becomes a major factor." This creates a process of self-selection that focuses inward, with girls from the same, prominently wealthy and white communities nominating each other.

Railey punctuated our conversation by adding that she "wouldn't encourage her daughter to join Cotillion, it's a lot of money for very little in return" and amongst the hassle of 900 dollar entrance fees, the hesitation is justified.

This is not to unfairly target the Cotillion Ball as an outlier in our school-wide culture, because inequality amongst our student body is widespread and largely

unintentional. Class disparity is a force that interacts with almost every aspect of education, with ripple effects interrupting the academic success, extracurricular engagement, and social interactions of our students.

The Cotillion Ball is a vital part of our school's ecosystem; it props young women up. The next important step is to allow those young women being propped up to come from a more representative and equitable cross-section of our school.

One of the joys of being a Purple is to go to a school where diversity is abundantly present. Ditch the all-white theming, and create a school-culture that not only includes but celebrates every student that walks through these halls.

For the ladies who participate, the fancy dinners and opulent gowns don't simply represent a newfound maturity, they represent a hefty price tag.

Railey Stonex, 2020 Cotillion Ball participant, estimated that between buying her white gown, food costs, and a seemingly countless number of other incidentals, she paid about 900 dollars to participate. Railey was lucky enough to comfortably afford the event, but for many students, that number is astronomically out of reach. When seniors go through the process of selecting dignified



◆ leighanne littlefield  
The ladies of Cotillion from Bowling Green High School prepare to enter the ballroom for the main dance.

# Politics in media: Where the line between opinion and news continually blurs

## ◆ ethan rutter

News journalism today has one overall purpose: to inform readers of what is going on within our world, regardless of personal opinion. While sometimes difficult, that is not impossible to achieve.

Opinions fall into an entirely different realm of journalism that is specifically designed to allow for the expression of personal beliefs, and have no place in news journalism. Unfortunately, the lines between the two sections are becoming increasingly blurred as opinions, specifically political, are often included in news journalism.

Vox, The Daily Mail, Buzzfeed, The Daily Wire, Breitbart - these politically-biased outlets routinely blur the line between opinions and news. These outlets are known to lean to the left or the right, and some exist for that purpose, but leading up to and following the 2016 election, major cable and print news outlets began to do the same. In the weeks and months after the election, the headlines of popular networks such as CNN, MSNBC, ABC, and Fox News were filled with talk of scandals, obstruction, and all-around disgust.

Each network's own political views were beginning to show in news reports almost every day. When each network has millions of Americans trusting them for the truth, this was and still is dangerous territory. By combining opinions with news, these networks were now almost telling their audience what to believe instead of presenting information in order for people to develop

their own beliefs.

Some of the media outlets that are known to often lean one way or the other on the political spectrum aren't necessarily trusted as a news source, so they aren't much of a problem. However, when major news outlets largely lean one way or the other, a problem is created. These outlets reach out to their respective audiences to deliver the truth to the American people, but when the truth is distorted due to politics, a whole nation can become divided.

The general nature of politics creates disagreements on its own, but with the help of the media, social division cuts deep into the heart of our nation. Repeated headlines and articles that lean to the left or the right can and do push readers to one end of the political spectrum or the other. In turn, the division that already exists due to politics only widens. The media has a large hand in controlling political discourse when opinions and news become mixed.

Anyone who works in journalism needs to think of the ramifications of their reporting. Even as a small student-run newspaper striving to provide news to our readers, we at the Purple Gem can have an effect on our audience if our opinions show through when reporting facts. Whether big or small, every media outlet can have an effect on the personal beliefs of its readers.

# Huddleston perfects his craft his way

## ◆ carson myers

Varsity basketball players generally follow a similar path. They play on AAU teams in the spring and summer, high school teams in the fall and winter, and aim to make it a collegiate team after their senior season. Jacobi Huddleston, however, is blazing his own trail.

Huddleston, a 6'7" junior center, does not plan to play AAU after the high school season ends. Thus, he plans to make this season one to remember. He is a key for the Purples as they move towards the postseason and aim for district, regional, and state championships.

"I feel like with good teamwork, communication, and practice we can be better than the team that won the state championship several years ago," Huddleston said.

While this season has had its highlights, including a massive win to start the season against Holmes, Jacobi knows he has room to grow.

He said, "I feel like one of my weaknesses that I have struggled with for the past 3 years is free throws. The opportunity comes along so much and I don't take advantage of it as much as I should."

Jacobi recognizes that AAU could potentially help further his career. However, he is set on his plan. He said, "Although AAU would help my exposure in my future basketball career, I feel like taking advantage of not playing and focusing on getting better in the off-season can help just as much as playing AAU and spending a lot of money".

Whether working out on his own during the off-season or preparing for a big game, Huddleston says mindset is key. Before games, he isolates himself to prepare for the task ahead. In the off-season, he plans to train himself hard to prepare for the long road ahead. Time will tell what kind of future Jacobi has at the next level, but whatever happens, he has resolved to get there his own way.



◆maggie pollard  
Junior Jacobi Huddleston heads for the basket in a game versus Warren Central on January 31st. Bowling Green lost 61-55.



◆maggie pollard  
The Purples Boys Basketball team huddles during a timeout in a game versus the Warren Central Dragons

## Upcoming Boys Basketball games

2/14 Warren East @ Home

2/18 Hopkinsville @ Home

2/21 @ Ballard

# Pay to play: The price of injury

◆painted barn media



Pictured above, junior Jade Adwell plays in a Lacrosse match against Hendersonville.

## ◆ mary margaret bryant

One of the biggest problems that can occur while playing sports is injury. It may be as trivial as a cut or a muscle strain, but injuries such as concussions and broken bones are especially common in more physical sports, like football, rugby, and boxing. According to At Your Own Risk, 90% of student athletes have reported some sort of sports-related or induced injury. With these staggering statistics, one can't help but pose the question: why are athletes willing to play, all while knowing the probability of damage/injury? Some of the most danger-

ous sports in America in regards to the possibility of injury are football, basketball, lacrosse, and boxing. Nonetheless, every sport runs the risk of severe physical damage. Athletes will join and play a sport for years, knowing the risks of getting hurt but playing regardless. The parents of young children will often declare that they will never let their kids play highly physical sports because they know the probability of their children getting seriously hurt.

Senior John Wulff sustained a significant ACL and meniscus tear, along with a strained MCL, in his junior lacrosse season. This injury impacted Wulff's plans of college play, and erased the rest of his jun-

ior season completely. Although he has made a significant recovery, playing will never feel the same for him again. Wulff said that while playing through high school, he has grown to "love playing and love the sport" that he helped start at Bowling Green High School. To him, the feeling of playing with a team you have such a tight bond with outweighs the risk of injury. He may never be back to his full caliber of playing, but he can still play a sport he has dedicated so much of his time to with a team he has grown so close with, and that's what truly matters to him.

Aside from the physical toll that sports take on athletes, they can also weigh on ath-

letes' mental health. Pregame nerves and stressing over performing your absolute best inevitably impact one's ability to play at your full extent. Conner Twyman, a senior at BGHS, is in his seventh year diving for the school. Twyman faces obstacles with the physical and the mental aspects of diving. Preparing for a new dive or the stress of perfecting a dive is often what leads to smacking the water. Wanting to impress his dive coach, Twyman will often overthink his every flip and tuck.

"As stressful as it is, it's still my thing," said Twyman.

The extreme physical exertion during sports is often justified by the players in the ways they are repaid by the

According to At Your Own Risk

# 90%

of student athletes have reported sports-related injuries

sport. In exchange for physical activity, they receive unforgettable memories and the surge of feelings and emotions that come with winning and losing. Any athlete, current or retired, will testify that the rush of playing in a game can completely erase any fear or trepidation that comes with the possibility of injury. Injuries are discouraging, no matter how extreme, but they typically improve over time with the right care and physical therapy. The memories and experiences you share with friends and teammates, however, last a lifetime and are more valuable than injuries are scary.

## Spring Sports Preview

◆ carson myers

◆ mary margaret bryant

◆ tucker strode

Walk around Bowling Green High School after school, and you'll find a hive of activity. Winter sports like basketball and swim are winding down, but spring sports like track and baseball are swinging into gear. Here's what we can expect from the Purples this spring:

### Baseball:

As the Spring season of 2020 begins, BG baseball starts up in full swing.

Last year the team had a solid 30-11 record losing to south 6-5 in the region championship, but this year, they hope to improve and change that outcome.

The loss of Joe Howard and Jackson Haga who were dominant pitchers last year for the Purples' looks to be a hard set back, but confidence in this team and it's abilities remain high moving into the new season.

Senior left fielder, Evan Spader said, "Those are some big pieces we will miss (Haga and Howard) which are two big roles to fill...but we are pretty young so we will re-load", insisting that Charlie Key and Geoffrey Ross will be their two best pitchers to keep an eye out for on the mound, along with some younger players such as Junior Brady Key and Sophomore Isiah Head".

Along with a new roster to look forward too, there's a new face to Bowling Green baseball's coaching staff.

Bowling Green assistant football coach, Byron Lowe, who previously coached baseball and football with the Greenwood Gators across town, having a solid career with their program, is coming to help with Purples' baseball. Coach Lowe said he is hoping to bring more energy and intensity to what many consider a slow sport, with the aim to bring more "juice" and knowledge to the game and help Coach Isenburg or the players in anyway he can as a new coach.

This 2020 team, with a strong weight lifting program, backed with determined athletes with little league all star history is bound for a fantastic season and a running for state.

Finally, most of the players we all know playing on the East Little League All-Stars, repping the blue and orange Great Lakes jerseys are back together under purple and gold to play again together with their first game on March 16, away against the Owensboro Devils.

### Softball:

The girls' varsity softball team opens up on March 16 at 5:30 against the Barren County Lady Trojans.

Several returning seniors will try to lead the Lady Purples to another successful season and end their high school careers on a high note.

Every team has certain key players, so we wanted to hear the thoughts on what the key players for the lady purples feel for the oncoming season.

"We have been together for a really long time and that chemistry will really help with the addition of the really good sophomore pitchers that we will have this year. I really want to work on catching drills and blocking in order to really help my team succeed this season. Finally, with the hard work and communication, I feel like we will for sure be better than last season," said-Madison McCloughan senior catcher.

"I think that being together since middle school will certainly help us improve this year. I do plan on getting better skills wise, but most importantly, I want to prove to my team that I can be a good leader in every aspect of the game. In the end, I think that our team will for sure be better than last year because of the unique chemistry that we have," said senior shortstop Gia Martin.

### Tennis:

The BGHS tennis teams will be taking huge steps towards success this season.

Right now, however, it's all about baby steps.

Last season the team won region and had 2 teams compete at state, raising the expectations for this season, especially since the team didn't lose any players.

The 2019 season's team was very young, making this season's returning roster more experienced and ready to take on difficult matches.

Senior Ronit Patel shares his eagerness for the incoming season; "We're taking all the necessary strides to win big this year." Patel assures that the focus has been entirely in practice, perfecting game play and strategies being the most important goal.

"If we can get in the right headspace in preparation for important matches, I can see this season being one of our best yet," said Patel.

### Lacrosse:

The girls and boys Purples lacrosse team just finished off a great season in 2019. Starting off the new season, the boys start off the year playing South Warren at home. Although the top scorer for the team, Jon Lowry, has left that team, the remaining 4 of the 5 top scorers will return for the 2020 season. The lacrosse team hopes to lead to a more successful season than their previous season that resulted in a 6-4 record and 3-1 in district play. We asked junior, Tucker Strode what he can expect for the 2020 season. "I think that we will have a very successful season due to several starters that are returning. Also, for the 2020 season I think that our IQ and ball movement can lead to our success because of the strong foundation that we have built in the pre-season."

For the other portion of the BGHS lacrosse teams, the girls team had a very successful season last year. The girls went 10-2 and made it to the final four in the state finals. The Lady Purples will be led by captains Mary Margret Bryant and Jade Adwell. I feel like we will do a lot better than last year. Also, other than having great team work, I think that having a good student section and support from the school could help us this year." The Lady Purples have raised the expectations for the upcoming season.

### Track:

The Purples track team kicked off their season at the start of the second semester with the Wildcat Classic in Lexington, Ky.

With several new positional coaches, the team is expecting much success.

According to senior Elvin Fofanah, the loss of last year's seniors won't be much of a setback as the team has proven to grow with each practice.

As a school, Fofanah says to expect "winning lots of races and hopefully bringing back a region title."

The team gained multiple new players to replace the seniors from last year, and each new member has shown vast potential.

This season holds much promise to be immensely successful.

The team is hoping to not only to win region, but also to take several team members to state as well.

## Just the Facts: All-Star Edition

◆ cole rubin



The match between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers was expected to be an offensive dogfight, but ended up being much tamer than expected. For the first quarter of the game, neither defense seemed to let up, and only the 49ers could get a field goal off on the Chiefs. By halftime, the score was tied at 10-10. At the start of the second half, however, quarterback Patrick Mahomes didn't seem like himself and a few mistakes dug the Chiefs into a hole. This would lead to the 49ers jumping ahead 20-10 for a majority of the third quarter. It wasn't until Mahomes completed a massive pass to wide receiver Tyreek Hill that the tide began to turn in the Chiefs' favor. The Kansas City defense managed to fend off one of the best offenses in the league in order to complete the third and final comeback of their postseason. A Damian Williams touchdown would seal the win, and the Chiefs would go on to win the game 31-20. Patrick Mahomes was named Super Bowl MVP.



February 16 is the 2020 NBA All-Star game in Chicago, and there are plenty of familiar faces participating in this fan-friendly event. LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers is a 16-time all-star and is captaining Team LeBron. He is playing alongside teammate Anthony Davis and being coached by Lakers coach Frank Vogel. Other veterans playing for Team LeBron include James Harden and Russell Westbrook from the Houston Rockets, Chris Paul of the Oklahoma City Thunder, and Kawhi Leonard of the LA Clippers. Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Milwaukee Bucks captains Team Giannis. Team Giannis has a lot more first-time all-stars in their lineup, such as Pascal Siakam, Trae Young, and Brandon Ingram. The NBA All-Star should be entertaining with all of the league's biggest talents in one game.



The 2020 NHL All-Star game in St. Louis overall was a success, but the league tried to incorporate technology into the skills competition in places where it didn't belong. In the accuracy shooting event, players were supposed to hit animated targets on a screen, but there were a couple instances where the player would hit the target but the screen wouldn't pick it up. The screen got cracked and they had to have a delay to repair it. They did add two new events: the 3 v 3 Canadian and American Women's All-Stars game and Shooting Stars. The women's game was very entertaining as Team USA and Team Canada have met in the Gold Medal Game in the Winter Olympics the last five years. The Shooting Stars was a cool idea but shooting pucks thirty feet above the ice into nets was not an easy task for the players. As much as technology tries to integrate itself into sports, some aspects of the game can never change.

◆ maggie pollard



Junior, Thomas Burke, breezes past South Warren defender. The team is looking forward to another successful season.

# Juicy Seafood:

## The case was easy to crack

- ◆ gwen hatcher
- ◆ hemi bell
- ◆ cole rubin

Located on 801 Campbell Lane, Juicy Seafood puts a new twist on seafood dining. When people think of landlocked seafood restaurants, they think of formal restaurants with low lighting, a quiet atmosphere, and an expensive menu. Defying the stereotypical seafood restaurant, Juicy Seafood has a formal look, but a fun atmosphere, with Sharpies provided to customers to write on the walls and tables. As soon as you enter, you'll find families laughing and having fun all over the restaurant. Customers are provided with bibs and gloves for tackling their food.

**Gwen:** We all ordered a meal to share as a table. It came with garlic buttered shrimp, hushpuppies, crawfish, snow crab, corn, and potatoes. There was a plentiful amount of garlic buttered shrimp. They were large, savory, and not disappointing. I'm not a big fan of hushpuppies, but these hushpuppies really hit different. They were soft and full of doughy flavor, causing me to leave hardly any left over for my peers. Overall, Juicy Seafood was a great time with nice waiters and savory, plentiful food. It was extremely impressive.

**Hemi:** My favorite part of our meal was the crawfish. Al-

though it took us an embarrassing amount of time to figure out how to get to the edible part of the crawfish, once we did get to it, it was packed full of some of the best flavor of anything included in our combo. It did not have quite the spice present on the shrimp, but there was a decent amount of peppery cajun spice present and an explosion of the garlic butter in every juicy bite that we finally managed to break out of the shell. While there wasn't a lot of meat per crawfish and there definitely weren't enough to count as a whole meal, it was a good compliment to the flavors of the rest of the combo, providing a more simple flavor between the more intense flavors of the rest of the dish.

**Cole:** I found the snow crab to be the best part of the combo. Tossed in the garlic butter, the snow crab meat was taken to another level of flavors. The six long crab legs and two claws were cooked to perfection and once I cracked them open, the delicious, chewy meat was exposed. I also tried the corn cobs that were also tossed in the bag, I thought they were soggy from the garlic butter. The next time I come to Juicy Seafood I think I'll switch out the corn for another side such as their broccoli. I could see the seafood being tough to crack open for a high school student who has never learned how but it isn't difficult to learn. I was satisfied with my first visit to Juicy Seafood.



◆ romy cramer



◆ romy cramer

### Rating



(Top): Gwen cracks into snow crab legs tossed in garlic butter.  
(Bottom): Juicy Seafood is located on 801 Campbell Lane.

## "You": fiction or frightening reality?



- ◆ ian tweedy
- ◆ erin mcallister

"Hello. Who are you? All your accounts are public, you want them to see you, to listen to you, to know you. And I thank you." This chilling monologue marks the beginning of season 1 of *You*, and is how Joe Goldberg initially begins to fall for his newest girlfriend. Subsequently, she would be his next victim.

The Netflix show has gotten incredible reviews, and the release of the second season has

only magnified the obsession. With Joe doing almost anything to become a part of his victims (Guinevere Beck in season 1, Love Quinn in 2) lives, the show is obviously extreme, but presents harrowing realistic ideas.

Joe's characterization is confusing and conflicted. The character plays on viewers' sense of morality and empathy. Joe does a lot of bad things, but are they for a good reason? Does that make viewers unloyal? The show masterfully paints a gray area in the audience's values—as Joe pushes the

limits of viewers' willingness to forgive. The show is almost wholly in Joe's perspective, making viewers more comfortable with his way of thinking, preventing viewers from seeing what the other characters, including his victims, are feeling. Viewers can only base opinions on what Joe knows about each character. Society's idea of a stalker is someone who is not smooth, cunning or attractive, but Joe embodies the opposite, inviting viewers to appreciate and even adopt his point of view.

Joe's victims online pres-

ences, specifically their Instagram and Facebook accounts, allow Joe to navigate the relationship so smoothly. He has the opportunity to get to know her before even talking to her in public. He creates an image of who she is based off of her online persona, and when she actually live up to said persona, it shatters Joe's idealistic view of her, spiraling him, eventually, into mania.

The implications behind this series are tangible. Obsessively stalking through social media is errily plausible and probably happening all over

teenage culture. It is so easy to find enough information on social media to create a persona of who someone is. Before meeting them in person, you can know enough information to develop an inaccurate sense of who they are. You can find their friends, their exes, their family and all of this information can lead to a never ending biography, albeit probably inaccurate, of someone's life. The lines between future friend and stalker, though, have never been more blurry. Are you merely trying to find new friends with common interests, or are you creepily stalking someone's past and present experiences?

You challenges traditional ideals of social media. The writers understand that social media is a piece of our everyday lives, and they let this idea flourish while also warning of the dangers of oversharing. The problem with social media is that just because you are being conscientious of what you information you are sharing online, you can't control all the content you are tagged in, what others post, and what people do with this fragmented information.



## Stick and pokes display teens individuality

◆ **maggie pollard**

In the upstairs bathroom floor of her friend's house, senior Emma Claire Kidwell began her tattooing career. After watching a couple youtube videos and preparing sterile materials, she did her first of around 35 stick and poke tattoos.

"I do calligraphy, so I had ink. My friend was like 'grab your ink, we're gonna do stick and pokes,'" said Emma Claire. "I've been doing them ever since."

Emma Claire plans to major in Fine Arts at Georgetown College and obtain a tattoo and piercing certification in college. From simple sketches to intricate handwriting, Emma Claire makes skin her canvas and brings her artistic vision and others' stories to life.

Stick and pokes are a form of tattoos made with a single needle and ink, different from a tattoo gun that usually has seven to eleven needles and punctures several layers of skin. Stick and pokes can be traced back to Ancient Egypt, and now, they are usually done at home.

"It takes so long, and it's very tedious. It's individual dots, and you have to go over

it a lot," said Emma Claire.

Stick and pokes have allowed Emma Claire to challenge herself artistically and create intimate relationships with the people she tattoos.

Emma Claire did a piece for junior Matti Davis of her Grandpa's handwriting that says "Love, Grandpa," which is from his last letter to Matti before his passing.

"I loved Matti's reaction, and even her Mom cried. She was so moved by it. I love that stuff; it's so sentimental to them, and they trusted (me) to do that for them. It's really moving," said Emma Claire.

Emma Claire has three stick and pokes she tattooed herself. The first one she did on herself was an eye on her sternum that didn't really have meaning at the time, but now, it represents her start as a stick and poke artist. She has an equal sign on her middle finger for "general equality in society" and her LGBTQ+ friends. On her wrist, she has "me oiste" translating to "did you hear me?" in Spanish. It's a phrase her mom has said her whole life and one of the first phrases she learned in Spanish.

Senior Rachel Redden heard about stick and pokes from Emma Claire and thought the designs were "really cool and

personal." Rachel has a lightning bolt on her finger, a flame on her ankle, a dinosaur on her other ankle and a portrait of her dad and her on her arm taken from a photo from her childhood.

"Every poke is meaningful," said Rachel.

Stick and pokes have become a trend among teens since they only last one to five years. Plus, they usually aren't as painful as traditional tattoos and are inexpensive. They also become an artistic outlet for teens, a way to tell stories, and express themselves in a unique way, and they can even be a trail run for tattoos people plan to get in the future.

"It's a good way to dip your toes in the water and make sure you're positive that's a tattoo you want to get," said Emma Claire.

Teenage years are about trying different things and pushing the boundaries of what is expected of you. Stick and pokes allow teenagers to do something angsty; maybe you want to piss off your parents or remember those moments when you look at your skin or you think they just look cool. Stick and pokes are a symbol of teenage freedom and individuality.



◆ **maggie pollard**



◆ **maggie pollard**

(Top): Emma Claire Kidwell has "me oiste", a phrase her mom used growing up, tattooed on her forearm  
(Bottom): Matti Davis has "Love, Grandpa" tattooed on her arm in his handwriting.

**anti-valentine's  
playlist**

◆ **maggie pollard**

A playlist for the strong independent queens, who are also a lil lonely.

**Good as Hell - Lizzo**

**Feeling Myself - Nicki Minaj,  
Beyonce**

**I Wish I Missed My Ex -  
Mahalia**

**Beef FloMix - Flo Milli**

**Leave Me Alone - Flipp Dinero**

**Young and Beautiful - Lana Del  
Rey**

**Heartless - Kanye West**

**Boys Ain't S\*\*\* - SAYGRACE**

**Tainted Love - Soft Cell**

**How to Be a Heartbreaker -  
MARINA**

**While We're Young - Jhené  
Aiko**

**Love Stinks - The J. Geils Band**

**Marvins Room - Drake**

**I Know It's Over - The Smiths**

**Bad Religion - Frank Ocean**

**Shot Down - Khalid**

## Little Women reimagines classic novel

◆ **railey stonex**

Little Women, directed by the uber-talented Greta Gerwig, was by far the movie of 2019. With a star-studded cast - Saoirse Ronan, Florence Pugh, Emma Watson, Laura Dern, Meryl Streep, Louis Garrell, and Timothée Chalamet - this movie had the opportunity to rely on the fame these people already possess to be successful, but it resisted the impulse. Gerwig took the already timeless story by Louisa May Alcott that girls have read and loved since it was first published in 1868 and adapted it to its fullest potential on-screen.

Unlike previous adaptations of the film, Gerwig's adaptation presents the storyline from the end of the story and goes back and forth between the past and the present. Some might find this hard to follow, but Gerwig gives us a symbolic tool to use to help the viewer keep track of where they are in the story. The film has a sepia filter during the past to show the glow and hope of youth while the present has a greyish-blue hue.

Jo March, the character that represents Louisa May Alcott herself, has inspired generations of



young girls to push societal norms and to find beauty in the mundane. Girls have always related to our main character, Jo, who inspired us all to be independent and showed us that women are worth so much more than being someone's wife, but Gerwig's version also gives the other March sisters their spotlight as well. Viewers watch Florence Pugh play Amy March, a character we previously disliked for being a bit spoiled and vain, blossom into a picture of soft elegance and independence when her transformative time in Paris studying art takes up more screen time than previous adaptations ventured to show. Meg March, played by Emma Watson, shows us you can still have a life and don't have to be put up

on a shelf and left there if you decide to get married and have children. The selfless, charitable little girl, Beth, played by Eliza Scanlan, displays a sense of strength and bravery even the best of us envy.

The way the film stayed so close to the book is amazing, and its portrayal of loss is excruciatingly true. This female-dominated film was nominated for six Oscars and only won one...for costume design. This win was very much deserved, but felt a little like a joke from the Academy. It's quite ironic that, much like Jo March and Louisa May Alcott herself, Greta Gerwig has been constantly held back by people in her career just because she's a woman, underscoring this story's relevance today.

# Hip-Hop's rise: The genre's unfamiliar content yet relatable ideas

◆ john guthrie

Since the early 1970s, the United States has seen hip-hop music transform from an underground sub-genre into one of the world's most popular categories of music. Artists who were once only known in urban enclaves are now recognized throughout all social and regional groups of America and, in some cases, the world.

In 2019, The New York Times reported that Hip-Hop and R&B was the most popular genre of the year, accounting for more than 30% of total on demand streams. How did a genre go from being the voice of the inner city, New York specifically, to America's signature music?

Hip-hop frequently tells the story of struggle and poverty in a way that no other genre of music has been able or willing to. Artists like Kendrick Lamar have captivated the world and garnered billions of streams through telling personal stories of struggle. The genre has never been afraid to tell unfiltered stories of what life is

like selling illegal substances in order to survive or living inside the public housing projects of America.

The brutally honest storytelling in albums such as Kendrick Lamar's "Good Kid, M.A.A.D City" and Kanye West's "The College Dropout" are why so many Americans, regardless of social status, have become such fans of this style of music. Some Americans see hip-hop as a genre that tells their story. Others see hip-hop as an adventure into a life that isn't theirs. Hip-Hop finds a large, welcoming audience, whether or not they are able to relate to the majority of the content.

Thomas Tinius, a junior at Bowling Green High School, said, "People like to live a fantasy life and do something different. I don't relate to hip-hop at all, but I still feel it through the lyrics." Many people who cannot

relate to the actual story that hip-hop tells still find familiarity in hip-hop's themes of struggle, loss and the pursuit of success. Music festivals such as Coachella and Bonnaroo exemplify this idea. Rappers are often headliners at

festivals that cost hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

What is a scary reality for one is often times a escape for another. This is why hip-hop has grown into America's number one most streamed genre of music. All types of

people are finding substance in the music, which is why the category has and will continue to grow. The rise in hip-hop has proven itself to no longer be a trend; hip-hop is here to stay for a very long time.



◆ maggie pollard

*Hip-Hop has grown from being the voice of the inner city to America's signature music.*

# Rohan recounts his winter break adventure in India

◆ rohan singh

On December 19, 2019, I was told that my family would be spending my entire winter break in India to visit my ill grandmother. Although I had visited India previously, I had not been back to the motherland in several years. So, I reluctantly packed my bags and headed to the airport. Just before boarding the plane, I turned around and took one last look at American civilization and headed into the unknown...

As my 18-hour flight landed at the Mumbai airport, I was greeted with what appeared to be a massive knock-off Juul advertisement and the pungent fragrance of body odor. After making it through the hordes of crowds and miles of immigration lines, I had finally been reunited with my grandfather. As I greeted him, my fears of this trip becoming a disastrous adventure subsided. However, this moment of tranquility would only last but a few seconds. My first quest of this adventure was about to begin.

The first problem that presented itself was the lack of transportation. My grandfather's Toyota Camry (the car of choice for Indians around the globe) lacked the proper amount of storage space to fit our 4 massive suitcases. So we did what any group of tourists would do: we hired a tuk-tuk. For those of you who don't know, the tuk-tuk (also known as Auto Rickshaw) is an extremely unsafe three-wheeled taxi with a hysterical

design. The tuk-tuk is a well-known symbol of Indian excellence. After finally hailing a tuk-tuk, we placed our bags in our lap and started the 0.25-mile journey. Why would we need a taxi for 0.25-mile you ask? Traffic. The short trip that would take all but 30 seconds in Bowling Green takes approximately 20-30 minutes thanks to dangerous traffic conditions. The ride itself was relatively uneventful except for the part when I almost fell out of the vehicle thanks to the racecar-driver-like braking reflexes of our driver, Muhammed.

After spending one night in Mumbai with my mom's side of my family, we took another flight to Delhi to visit my father's family home. This is where I was truly able to see what Indian life was like. Upon our plane's arrival, I was awestruck. Thanks to the slash and burn agricultural practices of Northern Indian villages and the abundance of 2-stroke diesel tuk-tuk engines in the city, Delhi features one of the highest pollution levels in the world. This became immediately apparent as we waited for our taxi, as my lungs and eyes started to burn from the dust. After waiting approximately an hour in the surprisingly cold 40°F weather, our vehicle (which I refer to as the swagmobile) had arrived. Not to flex or anything, but our 2003 Toyota Innova (knock off Toyota Highlander) featured Mercedes-AMG wheels, a little bobblehead man playing the sitar, and a plethora of scratches and dents that en-



*On Rohan's trip, he visited the Qutub Minar, a minaret in Delhi, India. The Qutub Minar was finished in 1368 A.D.*

compassed all body panels. As soon as I arrived at the house that was located directly in the center of the city, I asked to take a much-needed shower. To my horror, however, I was told that there was no shower. Instead, I had a bucket. Yes, you heard that correctly. I had to bathe with a mop bucket and freezing cold/unsanitary water for a week and a half. Although that may not seem like the end of the world, you must understand that Delhi is an extremely dirty and dusty place. The moment that you step outside, you will be blasted with a faceful of dust. This brings me onto my next adventure: the raccoon-like

animal. On the second or third night spent in Delhi, I had an exciting encounter with what I believe to be a radioactive/cocaine-induced raccoon. As I walked outside to access the A/C control panel, this little raccoon-thing began to charge at me with all of its might. Out of reflex, I grabbed a broom and began to joust with the little animal. It all ended very quickly, with the raccoon thing ending up somewhere in a nearby bush and I the victor. Despite this encounter with the animal, I am confused as to what the little thing was, as raccoons are extremely rare to see in India and are only native to North and Central America.

Although I'm making it sound like this trip was a complete disaster, it wasn't. I was able to make friends with a little lizard that I named Rajesh. He would appear every night above my bed in Delhi. There were several moments where I was able to experience incredible historical sites. I got to bathe with a bucket! I got to experience what another country was like as a young adult. But most of all, this trip truly taught me how lucky I am to be an American. The opportunities that I have been given here are like no other, and I am truly grateful for them. This trip was definitely one to remember.

# BGHS takes on the 2020 Winter Formal in the arena



There was a photo booth area set up in the corner of the arena for the students to take pictures with their friends.



Students filled the arena in formal attire and masks at the Winter Formal.

## ◆ bug matthews

The basketball arena was decorated with fairy lights and a chandelier; the music ranged from country to rap. Sparkling dresses and coordinating ties seemed to be the style for the attending couples. On Saturday, January 25th, the BGHS Cheerleading Team hosted the 2020 Winter Formal.

Traditionally, the event has been held at Indian Hills Country Club, however due to the recent fire, the country club was unable to host this year. This sudden loss of venue created a puzzling question for the event planners: could the Winter Formal be hosted by the school?

Previous dances at the school have not been nearly as successful

as the dances at Indian Hills, so much so, that last year a wild-west themed spring dance, projected to take place in the commons, ended up cancelled due to the lack of ticket sales.

Luckily, the Winter Formal did not face the same fate. It's masquerade theme created a pretty atmosphere and decorations, with the option of masks for anyone who chose to wear one. There was no shortage of ticket sales at this formal, with the event receiving a strong showing of dance goers.

One exciting aspect of the Formal was the potential for freshman to attend their first high school dance. Ava Bloomfield, BGHS freshman, said, "Bowling Green Junior High has a few dances, but none of them were as big of a deal as a high school

dance."

Many other people also attended a formal dance for the first time. Foreign exchange student, Lara, does not have dances at her school in Germany. They focus much more on getting a good education than providing students with social events. Lara said, "I enjoyed being with all the people." School is full of assignments and tests, so getting to see everyone outside of learning is a nice opportunity for all students.

The Winter Formal provided a great opportunity for friends to connect on the dancefloor. It represented new beginnings, both for students experiencing their first Formal, and for a BGHS finding its footing with putting on in-school dances, and created a night to remember.

## Students reflect on their new freedom with driving

# Life 360

The controversial app that lets parents see their child's location at all times

## ◆ maddie woodrum

When asked what the most controversial topic in America is, one's mind might wander to the typical hot-button debates between teenagers such as the legalization of marijuana, LeBron James versus Michael Jordan, or Blaze Pizza vs. Azzip. However, as of late, a digital app is stirring up more controversy between high school students and parents than all of the previous topics combined.

Life360 has grown massively since developer Chris Hull released it in 2008 with over 25 million downloads, but not necessarily in popularity. The networking app allows users to create circles in which their friends and family are able to share their location and other information like how fast they are driving. The app's main purpose is to provide a tool to track the location of the people in your given circles. It presents itself as a seemingly harmless concept, but are families using this app for safety or stalking?

Teenagers are faced with new obstacles in the digital age with apps like Life360, which prevent them from having the chance to take risks and make memories the way preceding generations were able to. They are constantly tracked and evaluated on every move they make. While it may

seem reasonable to track a new driver, the lines become blurred in terms of privacy when the app follows students to college and well into their adulthood. Additionally, some couples lose all trust when they require their partner to share their location at all times. Is it still solely for safety, or does it become a power trip for parents and significant others alike?

Here at Bowling Green High School, many students are required to use the app by their parents. Junior Makenna Twyman is one of many.

"I don't have any issues with it," said Makenna. I like knowing my parents can find my location and know that I am safe. I don't go anywhere I'm not supposed to be, so it's not an issue."

However, many students don't have the same feelings about the app.

A testimony from a teenager on LetGrow.org said, "I promise you Life360 has ruined my relationship with my parents. It has honestly made me more reckless by leaving my phone places so I am not constantly tracked. I understand that people want to know where their kids are, but honestly just use find my iPhone in states of emergency. If you want to have trust with your kid and really want to know what's going on, build a relationship so they actually feel comfortable talking to you about stuff."

Some students don't have the app, but they still feel uncomfortable about its motives. Sophomore Matrix Halcomb says, "I don't have Life360, but it seems dumb. I don't think you should constantly be tracked and not have any privacy. I made sure my parents understood that having an open conversation is more important than a tracking app."

At times, the rapid advancement of technology can be exciting. Postmates makes it possible to get a cheesecake without even leaving your home. Twitter lets the world stay connected through 280 characters or less. Life360 allows for quick access on where a person is at a given time. However, there are potential problems with each of these apps. Postmates allows for immense laziness, Twitter is a public space for online fights, and when used incorrectly, Life360 can initiate stalking behaviors. It's possible to have too much of a good thing. As the latest fads, such as Life360, are truly helpful. The app prides itself on the motto "feel free, together," but for many it's the first step towards "feeling trapped, separated without trust." If we go through life blindly accepting technology, we might not realize the detrimental effects they have on society until it's too late.

## ◆ addison kolszow

Driving quickly becomes an integral part of a high school student's life. At sixteen years old, students are eligible to get their permit, and six months later, if they pass the driving test, they can earn their intermediate. Students can get their full license once they turn seventeen and take a driving course.

"I was extremely nervous to take both my permit test and driver's test, but the man who judged me for my driving test was amazing. Once I passed the test, I felt so excited and like I earned a newfound freedom," said Hannah Burt, a senior at Bowling Green High School.

Everyone's first experience driving is slightly different. Some chose to take things more cautiously, while others chose to jump right in.

Fiona, a junior at BGHS, said, "My first time driving with my permit, I barely pressed on the gas pedal. I just went around the neighborhood. But when I got my intermediate, I attempted to go to Five Below with my brother, but it didn't work because I tried to turn left onto Scottsville Road."

My first time driving, I drove from the courthouse in Scottsville to my grandparents' house, which is about a 15-minute drive. A few hours later, I ended up driving all the way to Bowling Green, a forty minute drive. For the most part, it went okay, but there was one moment where a semi-truck tried to merge into the same lane as me, causing us to almost crash into each other.

With an intermediate, students often gain an immense amount of freedom. They begin to drive their friends around and carpool to practice.

Lillian Groves, a junior at BGHS, said, "It's so much fun rid-

ing in a carpool group and getting to be the driver of one because you get to expand your friendships with the people in the car, and it's a supportive environment too. For soccer season, we all got in this routine and had a dedicated playlist for our carpool. It was like a second team within my team."

Driving for the first time without a guardian in the car is a huge change. Young drivers have to depend on themselves to notice everything, and their parents aren't in the car reminding them of rules and tips.

"I was scared and excited all at the same time. No one really tells you how quiet it is the first time you drive alone. I was trying so hard and looking at my surroundings, but eventually, I relaxed and turned my music up all the way," said Hannah.

However, this freedom comes with added responsibilities. Students are now responsible to arrive at school on time and manage their time to complete homework and attend extracurricular activities.

"You have a lot of responsibility. At times, I feel like a taxi because I transport people all the time. Plus you have to take care of your car and make sure that it's safe, which takes a lot of work," said Hannah.

Just like everything else, driving takes practice, and high school students have lots of opportunities and reasons to fit that practice in with school and practices.

Hannah said, "Driving is just like anything else, you have to practice before you can be good at it, and when driving, the tiniest mistake could seriously hurt somebody. It is so easy to grab your phone while driving, but it is also extremely dangerous. Just be responsible."

# Remembering KOBE



August 23, 1978-January 26, 2020

◆ philip russell

"Kobe Bryant is dead. Helicopter crash."

An unfamiliar numbness rushed over me as I stared wide-eyed at the text. I took to Twitter.

Conflicting reports flooded my timeline. Four of Kobe's daughters died. No, four people died, including Kobe. No, nine people died, including Kobe. No, no, nine people died, including Kobe and one daughter. Kobe and Gigi.

The night before, I watched two clips of Kobe and Gigi. Recently in Brooklyn, cameras caught Kobe and Gigi bantering back and forth about the game, relishing in a shared passion. At a December game in LA, LeBron James went over to Kobe's courtside seats to pay respect. Before returning to the game, LeBron stooped over to greet Gigi, the next generation of basketball talent.

I couldn't get those images out of my mind.

The next 24 hours were a blur of podcasts and articles. Even at work, my mind was fixated on Kobe, Gigi and the tragedy that took seven other lives. As I read pieces about this LA legend, I was taken back to a conversation with my mom:

It must have been around Christmas of 2003, and basketball was ubiquitous in my life. The driveway. The Boys and Girls Club. The YMCA. Recess. UK games. Bulls games. And Kobe.

With my favorite team struggling in the post-Jordan era, Kobe mesmerized me. I, naturally, wanted his jersey and put it on my Christmas list. I don't have memories of the exact conversation, but it went something like this:

"Honey," my mom said, "I know you like Kobe Bryant, but there's a possibility that he did something very bad. You need to pick a different

player."

I defined Kobe by the dunks, the jumpers, the fade-aways, but there was more to understand.

In the summer of 2003, Kobe Bryant was charged with sexual assault. Eventually settling the case outside of court, Kobe's reputation forever changed.

I couldn't divorce the conversation with my mom from more recent reports on Kobe's post-basketball life.

Kobe transitioned from the fiercest of competitors to the loyalest of mentors, frequently reaching out to young and struggling players in the NBA. He transitioned from the most aggressive of trash talkers to the most affectionate father, even going on to Jimmy Kimmel's show to explain how Gigi would carry on his athletic legacy. He transitioned from the most devoted athlete to a prolific writer, producing shorts and

podcasts and stories for young kids.

The Mamba, that fierce basketball legend, was now an Oscar-winning, doting father.

None of these admirable attributes rectified the situation from 2003. No amount of goodness can consign that kind of darkness to oblivion. However, these admirable traits say something about legacy.

Whether close to graduation, retirement, or death, people have a propensity to wrestle with legacy. We want to be remembered favorably, and in times of honesty, there are moments and habits and flaws in our lives that we would like overlooked. That, to me, is understandable yet undesirable in actuality.

What is it that makes our goodness admirable? Is it not our capacity for evil? What is it that makes our growth commendable? Is it not our failures?

That wrestling of good and evil, light and dark, and success and failure makes life meaningful. We are not automatic bastions of goodness; we are flawed bastions of complication.

Those flaws, that complication, does not erase the bad, but it doesn't negate or minimize the good either. It means, like Kobe's life exemplifies, that there is room for growth.

That is how I want to remember Kobe. I want to take the totality, as clearly as I can see, into account and be inspired by growth and progress. And maybe, just maybe, that's how we all can find our own personal redemption. Not in our feigned perfect, but in perpetual growth.



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