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@Morgan Leaders

By JACK SOVICH '19

The Morgan Leader Council serves as the highest level of student leadership here at Western Reserve Academy. The group consists of a set of competent seniors who, at the end of each year, choose a new set of strong leaders in the junior class to continue the tradition. Each year, the Morgan Leaders meet regularly as a group, participate in group and individual leadership building activities and undertake a group project to benefit the WRA community. This year, the Morgan Leaders are doing so through their social media campaign. When asked her perspective on WRA students' phone use, Gracie Morgan '16 replied, "Reserve students log on to social media platforms like it's their job. The Morgan Leaders want to connect with all students in a fun and accessible way. Our posts encourage community values and we hope to build camaraderie between students."

The Morgan Leaders have already worked to spread the word about their social media platforms during their Morning Meeting presentation before Thanksgiving Break. So far, they have set up Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and Twitter all dedicated to helping connect the WRA community. Students have their phones out constantly, checking texts and social media almost 24/7, so, through their multiple social media platforms, the Morgan Leaders hope to make that into a positive phenomena. When asked, Ajay Dakappagari '16 explained the reasons why the technology platforms were started. He said that they were created, "as a means for the student body to be updated on the latests happenings of campus life. This media will be used to post photos of the Morgan Leaders at events as well as notes about anything occurring on campus." This includes sporting events, weekend activities, performing arts concerts, mixers, exciting things going on around Hudson and important alerts.

The various accounts will be run by all the Morgan Leaders, who will post about any upcoming events they hear about around WRA. Morgan states, "[we] really wanted to incorporate the positivity Morgan Leaders bring to WRA through things that students care about."

From the welcoming committee for the new students at the beginning of the year to their senior year commencement, they are busy all year round helping out the Western Reserve Academy community. Follow @MorganLeaders on any of their social media platforms including Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter or email them at morganleaders@wra.net.

Students Tour China over Thanksgiving Break



KATIE WEINZIERL

Caitlin Fogg '16, Katie Weinzierl '17 and Chelsea Zockoll '16 pose for a photo during their trip to China.

By MICHAEL ZELEZNIK '16

A group of ten Western Reserve Academy students chose to leave behind the turkey and stuffing and spend their Thanksgiving break sightseeing in China. The troupe departed campus on November 19 and returned on December 1.

The whirlwind, week-and-a-half long trip consisted of visits to the Great Wall, the Terracotta Warriors and Tiananmen Square, among others. "I loved the Great Wall because it just never ended! It stretched over all the rugged mountains and uneven terrain," remarked Kate Winson '17. "It was really icy

while we were up there and everyone was ice-skating down the Great Wall of China! It was amazing!" Brigie Kelley '18 concurred. "It was indescribable. The mountains were just gorgeous."

Another main attraction of the transcontinental voyage was the army of over 8,000 terracotta soldiers in Xi'an. During their visit, the WRA students were able to meet Yang Zhifa, the man responsible for the discovery of these incredible artifacts. Caitlin Fogg '16 received two copies of the book detailing the exhibit, which Zhifa, himself, signed.

These two copies were then presented to Headmaster Christopher Burner '80, and the other to Mandarin Chinese teacher, Judy Chen.

The frigid weather provided a certainly memorable moment, if not a bizarre one, during an overnight bullet train ride across the country. The voyage, originally expected to last ten hours, instead lasted twenty-one due to delays from heavy snowfall throughout the area. The crew did not seem to mind, however, as they were given a chance to bond as a unit. "We barely got through that one," explained Kelley, "but we survived by just playing cards."

Choir Serenades WRA at Annual Vespers Concert

By CALEIGH TILEY '17

On Sunday, December 7, Vespers - "A Child, Peace, and Possibility," was performed in the Chapel from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The name Vespers comes from Middle English, with the meanings: "evening star" in Latin, or "evening service" in Old French. Choir teacher, Midge Karam '79 led the performance accompanied with strings, piano, the congas and the Winter Afternoon Musicians. The show featured many traditional Christmas songs such as: "The First Noel," "O Holy Night," "Come All Ye Faithful" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," as well as incorporating the music of other languages and cultures such as: an African-American Spiritual Song "Keep Your Lamps," a German version of "Silent Night," and a Latin piece: "Rytmus." Zanna Leciejewski '17, stated that her favorite song to perform is "Keep Your Lamps," because it "always fills the Chapel with such a beautiful sound. I get chills every time I sing it." The beautiful and lively music put the whole audience in the holiday spirit. Sidney Preston '17 kicked-off the show with a lovely rendition of "I Wonder As I Wander." This was followed by a piece by Bach, played by



ALAN DOE

The candles lit up the Chapel periodically throughout the performance.

alumna Ann Yu '14 at violin and Jin Yu at piano. Ann Yu impressed the crowd with her skill in three songs throughout the program.

For several of the songs all the chapel lights were turned off and the atmosphere from the lighted candles was one of peace and tranquility. The audience was encouraged to sing along with many of the songs to allow "the concert to not be as much of a performance as a sing-along" remarked Leciejewski. The audience willingly contributed their own voices to the beautiful singing.

The exciting concert was immediately followed with an all-school,

delicious sit-down Holiday dinner in Ellsworth Hall, where all attendees of the concert were invited to go and enjoy good food and possibly even meet Santa. Leciejewski commented, "I always love the atmosphere of Vespers; it puts me into the holiday spirit." The meal, which consisted of popular Thanksgiving foods such as: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and pumpkin pie, was a favorite for everyone as students and their families greatly enjoyed the meal. This feeling of family and togetherness makes the holiday season more special, and it is important to have these events because, according to Leciejewski,

Surely, the friendships formed from travelling to another country aided in keeping everyone level-headed during an eleven hour delay.

In addition to touring the world's most populated country and all the amazing structures and creations, the travellers were also exposed to the true culinary side of China. Said Winson of her experience, "I always thought American Chinese food was pretty good, but [the most unique items, including pig noses and chicken feet] were sold right there on the street."

Not to be forgotten in the hectic bustle from landmark to landmark was the Thanksgiving dinner. For this occasion, everyone ate their meal not at a dining room table, but a local karaoke bar. Everyone got involved, singing pop classics from "Firework" to "Wrecking Ball."

Of course, spending Thanksgiving away from home was not an easy sacrifice for everyone to make, but as Kelley pointed out, "It was kinda hard, but I knew I would always have other Thanksgivings, and I knew my family would rather have me in China for a once in a lifetime opportunity!"

Those who made the voyage gave a presentation in a December Morning Meeting and talked about their travels with universal praise. WRA will offer numerous other travel opportunities, including a trip to New York City over the Mid-Winter break in February.

"the school really comes together and supports the students performing. It is always so nice to see classmates come out and listen to something you have prepared so long and hard for." All contributors to the program spent hours working hard on their pieces to ensure that it would be a successful concert while also being enjoyable for the audience. There was even a lot of out-of-class work to be done, as Leciejewski elaborated, "Choir practiced for about two months, and regularly met outside of class to review pieces." Their hard work certainly paid off and the audience was not disappointed. The end of the show was met by enthusiastic applause along with the reluctant departure out of the chapel by many parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and fellow WRA students.

After the dinner, Santa Claus made a guest appearance on the south side of Ellsworth, bringing a sack full of toys along with him. There, little children, WRA students, and even faculty members stood near "jolly, old St. Nick", posing for photographs.

Vespers has been a long-standing tradition here at WRA as it is a time for the community to come together and revel in the Christmas spirit.

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The *Reserve Record* is the student-run, monthly newspaper of Western Reserve Academy and the voice of and for the student body. It aims to educate its staff, writers and photographers on journalistic style, format, ethics and excellence, while entertaining and informing the student body and providing its readership a forum for community expression and discussion. The editors and staff have worked on every facet of this publication.

The opinions expressed in the *Reserve Record* do not necessarily represent those of the administration, trustees or student body. The editors assume full responsibility for the contents of the publication and invite community responses.

November Issue Corrections

Andres Loret de la Mola was incorrectly quoted in the article about the Day of the Dead on Page 2.

Crossword Puzzle Clues Down 32, Down 33, Down 34, and Down 66 were missing.

Grammy Winning Choir Teaches Class



ALAN DOE

Chanticleer member Kory Reid describes different singing techniques.

By AERI HONG '18

Members of Chanticleer, the GRAMMY® award-winning all-male choir, visited Western Reserve Academy on November 6 to lead a master class for The Academy Choir. Kory Reid, Darita Mara Seth and Marques Jerrell Ruff, the visiting members of Chanticleer, provided instruction on vocal performance for members of the choir as they guided students through each step in the singing process. Chanticleer trained the choir on everything from proper posture and breathing techniques to explaining what and how to sing “on voice”.

As the visiting Chanticleer members arrived at Hayden Hall, many students in The Academy Choir expressed feelings of nervousness and intimidation. One such student, Millie Elliott '16, described everyone in the choir as “nervous to perform in front of such qualified and world renowned singers.” Elliott, however, felt comforted by the fact that visiting Chanticleer

members “cared about making us a better choir.”

The students sang through the two prepared pieces, “Rytmus” by Ivan Hrusovsky and “Alleluia” by Randall Thompson, for the Chanticleer members who then critiqued the performance and gave instructions to improve the finished product. They tackled general issues such as presentation and posture as well as specifics like vowel formation. As the Chanticleer members presented new ideas, the Choir would try the suggested techniques, altering how they approached different aspects of the songs.

After performing the two pieces that had been worked on during the Chanticleer master class, choir member Zanna Leciejewski '17 believed the extra help from experienced singers made the performances, Veteran's Day performance and the Fall Dance Performance “more special” because of the “amazing teachers.” Elliott believed that the instruction from the pro-

fessionals will benefit the choir “not just specifically for the performance of these pieces, but as singers in general.”

“Working with members of Chanticleer was a treat,” said Thomas Rice '17. “I think the entire choir grew that day. I think if everyone in the choir took what we learned at the masterclass to heart, we will be able to achieve amazing things this year.”

In addition to providing instruction on technique from world-renowned singers, the Chanticleer members also shed light on the life of a professional singer and gave personal advice to the students during a Q&A session following the master class. Many students in the choir appreciated the following response to a question: “If you do what you're passionate about, it never gets boring, and the outcome is totally worth it.” Other students particularly took to heart this statement made during the Q&A session: “You don't have to be the best in the world but be the best for the world.”

After listening to the Q&A session, Carmella Bangkok '17 learned that a satisfying career or even a happy life is achieved by doing something that you are passionate about.

Thanks to Chanticleer, WRA students learned not just about how to be completely engaged in their music and how to be attentive singers but also gained insight on following their interests throughout life whether it be singing or a different passion.

WRA Students Enjoy Black Friday Sales

By CHUNGHWA SUH '16

According to the National Retail Federation, over 247 million American shoppers set records as they spent a total of 59.1 billion dollars this Black Friday. But how did it all begin? Black Friday started all the way back in the 1960s as an official kickoff to the holiday shopping season. Retailers coined the term “Black Friday” as a slang term for when retailers finally begin to turn a profit for the year. Profits, when being recorded by accountants, are typically marked in black ink, as opposed to operating at a loss, which is typically marked in red ink. Today, with the internet and mass marketing campaigns, Black Friday has become the busiest shopping day of the year for U.S. stores

and malls.

While some Western Reserve Academy students were relaxing over break, Tim Lund '16 was experiencing “a rush I have rarely felt before.” After hours of fighting hordes of people in the name of friendship, family and fashion, Lund felt “ready to give up” and return to the “respite of my warm home.” However, after drawing inspiration from “Ajay Dakappagari's [16] excited, freshly-eighteen-year-old face,” Lund “used that energy to get me through another hour of mosh-pit-shopping.”

Others took a more relaxed approach than Lund's. Wren Zandee '16 does her Black Friday shopping online. “It's just easier to click away,” Zandee remarked. “And most sites do crazy markdowns that

last pretty long.”

Cecily White '16 had a different outlook on the holiday altogether. White boycotted Black Friday to participate in Recreational Equipment, Inc.'s campaign “OptOutside.” The outdoor gear retailer launched this initiative to close its doors on Black Friday to spend the day outdoors and encourage others to do so as well. White recounted, “I went on a hike with my sister...I don't think we bought anything that day, except for food. Probably.”

Whether they were avoiding being trampled by the crowds, hastily searching for deals online or just enjoying another day of break with their family, WRA students seemed to enjoy the second holiday during their Thanksgiving break as it was full of adventure and chaos.

Vegas, Baby! Stagecraft Class Visits the Strip

By ANGELA JABALLAS '18

A group of Western Reserve Academy students travelled to Las Vegas, Nevada over Thanksgiving break attempting to experience live theater. Stagecraft class students: Taryn Washburn '16, Sandra Spurlock '17, Nicholas Hulsey '17, Kelsey McCracken '16 and Erin Redlawsk '17 were accompanied by Technical Theatre Director and Fine & Performing Arts faculty member, Mike Peveich and English faculty member, Sasha Maseelall '96 to numerous programs from November 21 through November 24.

The five students that ventured to Las Vegas are heavily involved in the WRA theater program. Many of them have worked backstage and are fascinated with the details of lighting and backstage mechanics. The students on the Las Vegas trip, such as Hulsey, participated “to experience and learn about theater on a professional level.” This trip gave the students the opportunity to further deepen their appreciation for the unique art form of theater.

Those on the trip watched a variety of performances, receiving unique experiences wherever they went, from meeting illusionist, David Copperfield, to sitting front row in an aqua theater to going backstage at the KÀ performance, a Cirque du Soleil production using acrobatics, perpendicular acrobatics, puppetry, capoeira and martial

arts. They even attended Le Rêve, an underwater performance showcasing swimming, dance and acrobatics. The Le Rêve production, a common favorite among the WRA students including Washburn, was described as “overwhelming.”

In addition to the theatrical productions, the students rode the High Roller, the tallest Ferris wheel in the world, at 550 feet. They also visited the Aria Casino, ate breakfast in “Paris”, had a TalkBack behind-the-scenes discussion with a Master Carpenter and toured the Las Vegas Strip. After leaving Las Vegas, the group traveled to the Hoover Dam where they were given a tour of the power plant. In between shows they also ate at In-N-Out Burger enough times to make anyone jealous.

This trip provided the students the opportunity learn about the art of technical theater. They learned about underwater stages, sensory stages that move and rotate in reaction to the footsteps of actors and unwinding stages that can flip vertically with actors still standing on them. Students saw scale theaters and witnessed productions much larger than found at WRA. Through this trip, they were able to expand their knowledge beyond what could be learned on the small stage at Knight Fine Arts Center. The students returned and are eager to use these new experiences to work on and improve the next WRA production.

Fall Dance Performance

By KAYLE GOMEZ '18

The Western Reserve Academy Dance students showcased their talents during the fall dance performance. Taking place on November 13 and 14 in the Knights Fine Arts Center, Bare Bones consisted of a simpler tone as it is stripped away the over-the-top theatrics frequently used in these type of performances.

The purpose of this lighter setting was to elaborate on the skill and quality of the performers and focus on the pure talent of the dancers. Fine & Performing Arts Department faculty member, Emily Barth, worked to create dances to give the entire show a relaxed and stripped-back kind of feeling by using mostly singer-songwriter songs.

Backstage, however, was quite the opposite. The halls and dressing rooms were filled with anxious dancers running last-minute rehearsals. While the veteran dancers were already used to the pre-show jitters, those performing for the first time were excited for the brand new and exciting experience. Mia

Herring-Sampong '16 particularly enjoyed “being able to step out of my element” and “being a part of something greater than myself.”

Barth worked to incorporate new techniques to complement the show's theme and strived to make each dance different in its own way. According to Barth, “Every year is a new and different experience” and this was evident with this performance.

Two special dances were added to the performance adding variety to the show. One dance was a romantic ballad performed by two couples to James Bay's “Move Together.” The other special dance was performed to Ivan Hrusovsky's “Rytmus” sung by The Academy Choir.

In addition to Barth's choreography, WRA alum, Ali Lebay '13, returned to help add to the show by choreographing two original pieces, including the romantic ballad as well as a modern dance.

Ending with a fun hip-hop number that introduced a new genre to the mix, Bare Bones impressed all who came and provided a wonderful night filled with dance.



ALAN DOE

Students dance to Blue Foundation's “Eyes on Fire” in *Bare Bones*.

Studying and Embracing Diversity

By **KIANTI RUFFIN '17**

Every year, Western Reserve Academy takes a few select students to the Student Diversity Leadership Conference. This year's SDLC was held in Tampa Bay, Florida. Led by History teacher, Dr. Lisabeth Robinson, and Spanish teacher, Nick Cheadle, six students accompanied them: Francisco Blanco '18, Jade Duval '18, Makena Hayes '17, Jiji Kang '17, Charlie Kolodziej '18 and Salma Nava '16.

This conference teaches students about becoming effective leaders in their schools and communities as well as ways to respect and accept diversity. Some of the focal points discussed include race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, sexuality and ability. Students are then encouraged to return to their communities and try to improve them using the knowledge and skills that they have obtained.

The students are randomly assigned to large groups which consist of about thirty students from private or boarding schools around the country. These groups of students meet everyday of the trip to discuss different aspects of diversity. The students connect and learn from and about each other.

Towards the end of the conference, the students are put into different groups, this time according to their racial affinity. Some categories are white, black, multiracial, Indian, Asian, Latino, Pacific



COURTESY OF CHARLIE KOLODZIEJ

WRA students travelled to Florida to become more aware of diversity

Islander, etc. In these new groups, they discuss the problems that they face day to day and how to fix them. Students also share personal stories about the difficulties they have had as a result of being identified with a specific race.

Many inspirational speakers help empower and encourage the students as a whole. This conference allowed students to open up and personally connect with the students around them. Doing so helps them find people they can relate to and comfort. Not only that, they

can build friendships that can last a lifetime.

The seniors of WRA also have a seminar led by the students who attended the conference, in which they learn about the different aspects of diversity so they are ready to leave WRA and take on the real world. As expressed by former attendees of SDLC, the conference is a truly life-changing experience. Students come back with open and accepting minds, ready to help enlighten those around them and make the world a better place.

Presents for Less Fortunate Children



MAX BORRMANN

Candy canes were sold in order to raise money to buy toys. Donations of toys were also taken by REACH.

By **HANLEY JEFFERIS '19**

The season of giving is upon us! One way to get into the holiday spirit is through helping others and the Toys for Tots Drive gives you the opportunity to do so. This year, the fundraiser was held during the first week of the month. December 1 was the annual cookie reception and the candy cane sales were held from December 2 to 4. The toy collection started on December 1 and continued through the rest of the week (Tuesday through Friday).

Founded in 1947 by Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks, in Los Angeles, California, Toys for Tots has expanded across the nation. This non-profit organization collects donations of new toys and distributes them to children in the nearby area where the donations are collected. The toys collected by

Western Reserve Academy's Toys for Tots Drive will be given to children in the Greater Akron area.

R.E.A.C.H., the outreach club here at WRA, runs all aspects of the drive. Since 2005, R.E.A.C.H. has collected over 3,500 toys. However, the donations aren't the only way it obtains the toys. The club also runs Toys for Tots cookie receptions and candy cane sales. Two candy canes were sold for a dollar, and the class that bought the most candy canes won a dress-down day; the juniors were in the lead by a mile with over a thousand purchased candy canes. The club usually collects approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 in proceeds, which is used to purchase more toys.

Erik Gross '17, who helps run the drive through R.E.A.C.H., explained the importance of do-

nating: "To really understand why people should participate and why we do this every year is by putting yourself into the shoes of the child who will open a toy come Christmas morning. Imagine how happy it makes that child to receive that toy and how happy they will be to play with it throughout the year."

WRA offers many service projects, but the Toys for Tots Drive might be one of the easiest ways to get involved in helping out. Every donation helps and makes a huge difference as donating allows you to give back to the community. Around 400 students attend Western Reserve Academy. If every student donates one toy or buys one candy cane, over 100 local families can be provided with toys. You could even pass children on the street carrying toys that you helped provide.

The WRA Tuition: Where Does it All Go?

By **ALEC WILSON '16**

The cost for tuition at Western Reserve Academy is undoubtedly large and seems as if it is only going up every year. But where does all of that money go and where exactly does it come from? "It is important to understand," remarked Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Arnold, "that the net tuition only covers 59% of the operating costs of the school." The other money that goes towards keeping WRA at its finest comes from the investment of gifts to the school's endowment (26.5%), annual donations (10%) and other miscellaneous income (4.5% e.g: The Bookstore, etc). In other words, WRA parents only pay for 59% of the Western Reserve Academy experience and the other 41% is gratefully given.

Of the paid tuition, the bulk of it goes to teacher's salaries (29.6%). Though it is nearly a third of the tuition, WRA teachers deserve every cent because they are truly something to be proud of. WRA has an astonishing six teachers with PhDs. That is an incredible feat for a school of 400 students.

The next largest sum of the tuition is devoted to maintenance of the campus buildings and grounds (22.2%); it is not cheap to keep this historic marvel that we are fortunate enough to call home, pristine and beautiful year-round.

Meals at Reserve are the crème de la crème of all high schools as they are constantly diverse and always

enjoyable. The WRA community is incredibly fortunate to have the Flik Staff. You would think that because the dining hall staff provides the denizens of WRA with three meals a day in addition to a salad bar, pasta bar and a fruit bar, that they would have a huge chunk of money set aside for them.

But actually it is just the opposite. Only 5.7% of student tuition goes towards food. That means that each one of our meals is valued at just above five dollars. Now you might be saying "Wait Alec. How is that possible? We get all of these additional benefits like coffee, juice, cereal, waffles and the Action Station for five dollars?" In a nutshell, yes. Another contributing factor to meals is the complementary 41% of tuition that students don't have to pay.

The remainder of tuition is dedicated to Administration expenses (18.9%), Academic programs (7.7%), General Operations (4.8%), Technology (3.5%), Athletics (3%), The Library (1.6%), The Health Center (1.5%) and the Campus Store (1.5%).

We are all very blessed to even have the privilege to be a part of this school. WRA has given all of us something unique that cannot be measured in dollars. It gives students the ability to pursue whatever their hearts desire after graduation. It is equally important to know exactly what the tuition goes towards as it is to know the infinite amount of possibilities that WRA brings us.

Feasting on Swenson's with a Side of Stories

By **ANDREW SONG '19**

Seeing the hundreds of posters hung around campus, one might expect to see announcements on them. Nope, each contained just a drawing of a person with a thought bubble. It would be hard to make sense of any of it unless you were a storyteller or you went to the Green Key on November 19 to hear the seniors in Mr. Sturgis' English class share their stories of loss, misfortune and memorable experiences that changed who they are and what they think.

The evening started off with a crowd of people lined up at the door of the Green Key. The crowd was alive with the anticipation of presentations, a comedy act with Mike Zeleznik '16, free drinks and Swenson's. Drinks had WRA themed names, like the "APUSH Antidote" and the "Brick Row." When the presentations were delivered, there was a feeling of respect for the reader as nearby listeners in-

stantly hushed the somewhat noisy individuals.

The stories shared ranged from the loss of a family member to being stung by a bee to staying the night in a local Denny's. Readers expertly conveyed emotions that helped the audience comprehend the situations.

Spenser Valentine '19 remarked, "The essays at the event were well written and performed excellently. The atmosphere made the entire night and everything that happened especially cool." John Smidlein '19 agreed, adding, "The essays people read were amazing and it was obvious how much work was put into coordinating it."

After the essays were all given, the Swenson's workers began taking orders. Due to high demand, many people had to wait longer for the service, but as Smidlein put it, it seemed to be well worth it: "Of course, the Swenson's was amazing."

The night didn't stop there. There was also a comedic performance by Zeleznik, which cracked up the audience. He combined humorous remarks the general audience would find funny with jokes that only a specific group of people would enjoy. His impressions of teachers were perfect. "Magic Mike Zeleznik rocked the house," Joey Randazzo commented. "I thought the event was great. It was a really cool idea to have the Swenson's guys out to bring food." If you weren't there that night, you definitely missed out.



NATALIE DAVIES

Stand-up comedy by Zeleznik

Daring Students Compete in Shakespeare Contest

By COLE HOWARD '17

As the days count down, many Western Reserve Academy thespians prepare their best Shakespearean soliloquies for the annual Shakespeare Monologue Competition. Each performer will choose a monologue from one of Shakespeare's plays and then uniquely interpret and perform the chosen passage in front of the school community and several judges.

Each theatrical artist faces a multitude of challenges as they prepare for the contest. First and foremost, they will need to memorize the chosen words to a point of flawless recitation. Next, all of these brave students will analyze the writing and make decisions about how it will be realized on stage. Each actor/actress must thoroughly consider each action as they will be judged on each movement and gesture. Every student must find every connotation, inference or figurative meaning to ensure the work is performed with clarity.

If there is any confusion about how the process of this contest works, this is the story: all participants will contend for the honor to be awarded best performance among their fellow competitors which will grant them the opportunity to participate in a competition

against all of the other interscholastic winners in the region. Next, the victors of the regional contests will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City in order to compete at the national level. The very best seven to ten performers will then be chosen to compete for a chance to participate in a drama program in England.

Despite the possibility of a prestigious award to put on a college resumé, many people wonder why it is worth it to undertake such an onerous task. Some students simply want to carry on a centuries-old tradition of acting out Shakespeare's various plays for the entertainment of others. When asked why he performs annually in the Shakespeare competition, Danny Mylott '17 candidly responded: "I just love performing, and love Shakespeare."

Although there are many accolades up for grabs, Donalee Ong, drama teacher and organizer of this particular event, advises against students having these prizes as their sole ambition. "The opportunity to perform some of the most beautiful poetry ever written" is what should fill the students with enough passion to perform, says Ong. The student that performs in this event does not worry about how much time it takes from their studies. So give your peers a pat on the back!



ALAN DOE

Elliot Ong '17, winner of last year's National Shakespeare Competition

Reserve Students Display Art in Moos Gallery

By LIBBY RUSS '18

Recently, The Moos Gallery in the Knight Fine Arts Center has been filled with student's artwork for the 2015 Art Club Show. Western Reserve Academy students created all of the art. They put a lot of time into these pieces to prepare for this show. Featured artists include Casey Semple '18, Harlequin Fisher '19 and Sandra Spurlock '17.

Fisher described how her pieces in the gallery were inspired by silence. As this may be a hard concept to grasp, she explained "the empty shell of a silence can speak louder than any explosion of color you could imagine." Each individual piece has its own interpretation of silence.

Fisher described her first piece as "loud and empty and can be interpreted as a voice trying to speak

out. The silence is demonstrated through the painted out mouth," she clarified. Fisher's second piece "is an example of the quiet moments that we seem to miss," she remarked. It shows that a moment of silence could represent many different things, even the power of saying "I love you."

Spurlock has many different inspirations. Instead of having a set idea in her head, she mostly created as she went along. Spurlock felt inspired to paint as early as pre-season, but she did not have a canvas available. To solve this problem, she used her resources and painted a landscape on a piece of cardboard.

Spurlock also created two multimedia journals that were inspired by a workshop she took over this past summer at Pasadena School of Design. She is most proud of the smaller journal "because it focuses

a lot more on emotion and concept rather than plain skill," she added.

"I always have an image of the item I would like to produce, but it usually ends up with something totally different. The clay has a mind of its own," Semple remarked when asked about his inspiration. Semple is constantly in the studio learning about new ways to work with the clay. He explained that "trying something new that turns out well is always very rewarding."

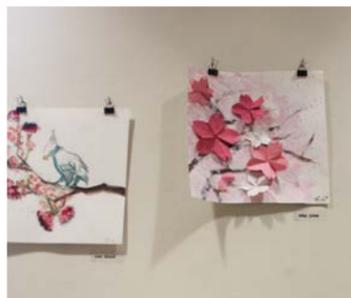
Western Reserve Academy has had positive influences on many of the student's work. Spurlock trusts that "the open-ended studio environment has had a very freeing and positive impact on" her art.

Semple was first introduced to his art at WRA. "I walked into the 3-D art room and a few friends tried to teach me how to throw pottery on a wheel," he said. For Semple, it took

time, observation and practice, but he finally got the hang of it. That is when his passion for pottery began.

The artists put various amounts of time into each piece. Harlequin Fisher took six hours to create her first piece and slightly less time on her second piece, but she thinks her second piece seems more polished. Sandra Spurlock took about five hours on her landscape piece and the worked on her two journals for weeks. Casey Semple usually puts on twenty to thirty minutes on each of his clay pieces.

Each artist was dedicated to make the professional finished pieces that are in the gallery now. You would be extremely impressed if you took just five minutes of your time to look at their artwork. Be sure to check out all of the pieces your peers have produced. before they are removed on December 17!



MAX BORRMAN

From paintings to pottery, a wide variety of art is in the Moos Gallery

Exam Week | By Logan Snell '18



MAX BORRMAN

Taryn Washburn's own face pottery is among the art in the Gallery

Holiday Pops Concert

By ANDREW SONG '19

"Everyone has holiday traditions." This phrase is what went through orchestra and band conductor, Will Talaba's, mind while he was planning for the Holiday Pops concert months in advance. His goal was to showcase the talents of his students as well as create an environment that would amaze the audience. "That is when I came up with the 'Holiday Traditions' idea," Talaba explained.

The "Holiday Traditions" idea came to him because he wanted to share something that will "capture the entire campus and touch the hearts of everyone." He later presented his idea to Mr. Peveich, and the two were on board to stun the audience with their cooperated work.

Talaba's innovations for the concert include electric string instruments and special effects to the concert as well as images of his students celebrating the holidays, to further build a story for the audience. "Peveich and I wanted to create an environment that people will be immersed in," Talaba remarked.

After the planning for the visuals and ornaments for the concert was complete, the only remaining task was preparing the music that would be showcased. In this concert, not only do the Band and Orchestra share their individual works for the concert, but there are also songs where the two groups play in unison.

The concert showcases music selected from the Mannheim Steamroller and The Trans-Siberian Orchestra as the centerpiece of the concert's program. However, not only will the concert highlight works of music, vignettes conceptualized and drawn by Neva Onysko '16 and Taryn Washburn '16 will be on display. The storyline is narrated by Yuki Yamasaki '16. The added vignettes and narration will allow the audience to be further captivated while also "enhancing the musical adventure our audience will embark on," as Talaba puts it.

"Everyone has a holiday tradition. Each year we all look forward to gathering with our family and friends to celebrate the season in our own special way," Talaba expressed. "The Academy String Orchestra and Reserve Symphonic Band members have been working tirelessly over the past month or so to prepare for this event," Talaba emphasized.

Being a part of the orchestra myself, I understand the amount of work needed to produce such a concert. "We work hard every day in class going through piece after piece trying to perfect our work. Some of us even take that long walk to Hayden after school to try and perfect our parts," Harry Kang '17 explained. The lighting spectacle we were all told about lived up to the hype. The dazzling disco lights paired with the fusion of modern rock influences and classical christmas carols were wonderful. The Holiday Pops concert was performed on Friday, December 11 at 8pm in the Knight Fine Arts Center.

The Eggplant: Ping Pong to Return to WRA at Intramural, JV, Varsity Levels



ALAN DOE

Past participants in the Ping Pong program are gearing up for the highly anticipated table tennis sport.

By **ARTHUR AUBERGINE**

With the winter season in full swing, the Murdough Athletic Center is a hub for activity every afternoon. While the gyms and natatorium are full, there is a noticeable absence in the fieldhouse. Just two years ago there were a flurry of paddles and ping-pong balls as well as budding table tennis program. However, the program was cut short with little explanation. The tables stand unused in storage. Attempts to put them to use in the form of a club sport were ultimately futile. The community can be comforted by the recent announcement that the table tennis program is set to make a much anticipated comeback in the winter season of the 2016-2017 school year.

Also it is important to know that the program will not be limited to the category of 'afternoon activity.'

In its newest iteration, table tennis will be a full fledged varsity sport. According to a source familiar with the subject, "It makes a lot of sense for us to add table tennis to our roster of varsity athletics. In its first form, the program wasn't quite up to our standards." Now Western Reserve Academy will be able to compete with its peer institutions, many of which already have strong table tennis teams. "We really hope to develop this into a premier program in the area, and we will certainly look to recruit top talent," the announcement stated. WRA already serves as a popular institution for students looking to take an extra year of high school to bolster their academic and athletic resume before getting recruited by colleges; and, with this new offering, a whole new group of students will look to the fair halls as a place to develop

their skills prior to the possibility of D1 collegiate competition.

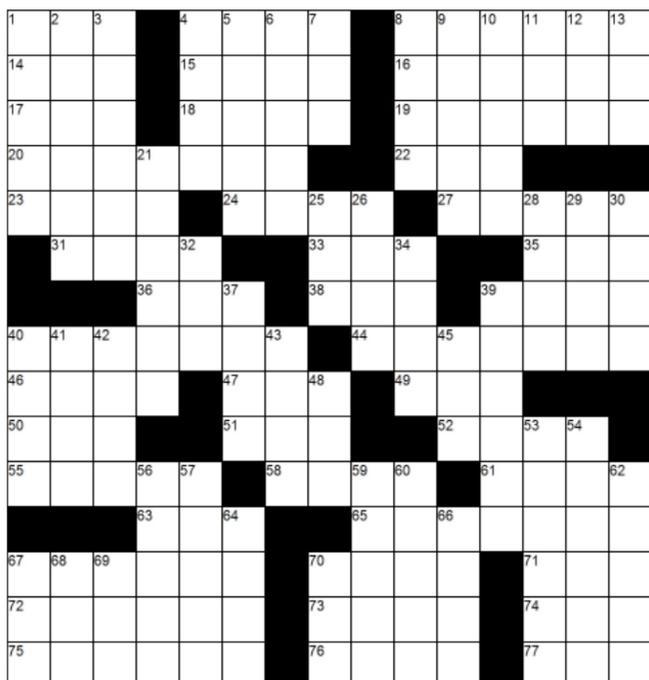
Of course, in addition to student talent, there remains the question of the coaching staff. According to the source, "WRA is currently engaged in an international search for a competent head ping-pong coach. We have shortlisted a few candidates and are in the midst of conducting interviews." The decision should be made by next fall. Naturally, it is vital that this process not be rushed and that the search committee takes time to find a staff that lives up to our standards of excellence, integrity, and compassion. As of press time, the question remains whether or not the basketball gym will be retrofitted to accommodate the new table tennis arena.

The Eggplant is a satirical sub-publication, not a real news article.

Winter Break | by Jaret Skonieczny '17

Across

1. Test being revised
4. Association (abbr.)
8. aeiou homophone
14. ___ Direction
15. ___'s wide (6 down)
16. Ones and zeros
17. Young woman
18. Killed
19. Main course
20. C6H12O6
22. Bow tie maker
23. Stats spouse's sport alternative
24. Capital of Western Samoa
27. Blank ___
31. Teeth holders
33. Civil War traitor
35. Complement to Reserve
36. Shot ___
38. Chop off
39. Death of "B"lues legend
40. Knowledge over summer does this
44. Newly born
46. Vientiane
47. Amazement
49. East Northeast
50. French: like/as
51. Slippery substance
52. Edible holiday money



- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 55. Beat it! | frequency (abbr.) | ___ |
| 58. First letter of the Arabic alphabet | 75. Portmanteau of a leaving Mediterranean state | 7. North northwest |
| 61. Sneak in the shadows | 76. Grating sound | 8. Killed by Mylott's Eden Character |
| 63. ___step | 77. Vibrant Colorer | 9. 5 second videos |
| 65. Record Editor | | 10. Atop (2 wds.) |
| 67. Bored scrawls | Down | 11. Battle of nations |
| 70. Jewish calendar month | 1. Wet | 12. Is |
| 71. Pressure unit | 2. Not digital | 13. Soap component |
| 72. Common Martial Art | 3. South-Central Dravidian Language | 21. Faculty twin of Salma |
| 73. Bread | 4. In addition | 25. Unwell |
| 74. Extremely high | 5. Chips best friend | 26. Billions of years |
| | 6. (15 across)'s wide | 28. Opera solo |
| | | 29. Penny |

30. Line on a shape
32. Casual greetings
34. Fencing sword
37. Pad ___
39. Sports injury position
40. Verbal guffaw
41. Soft white mineral
42. Shout
43. Wedding song
44. Hand movements, but female
45. Strenuous exam giver
48. Slippery water snake
53. Grouped together
54. Not "recyclcy"
56. Large, whitish antelope
57. Prefix for many
59. Jaipur Junction's cuisine home
60. Improper plural of a dozen inches
62. Pointy PB spreader
64. Bright red root
66. Exam Donut Locale
67. 10 grams (abbr. for dekagram)
68. Rowing tool
69. Miner's goal
70. April (abbr.)

Adele's Goodbye: A WRA Parody

By **OLIVIA CHAN '17**
and **ZANNA LECIEJEWSKI '17**

Hello, it's me, I was wondering
if we could go over questions one
through forty-three
since I forgot everything
They say you get used to all the
stress, yeah
but APUSH disagrees

Hello, can you hear me?
I'm in Ellsworth dreaming about
the old toaster machine
Before it was broken, by Will
Downing
I've been in line for an hour just to
realize the ketchup was missing

There's such a distance between
classes
And a million flights of stairs

Can we go back to Camp Wise
I kissed my GPA goodbye
So tell BB I'm sorry, for not know-
ing covalent bonds
And when I try to get help, I just
play with his dog (s/o to Baxter)

Hello to my 3.5

I must've failed a thousand times
So tell Schnupp I'm sorry for not
having enough notecards
I was too busy studying the capital
of Myanmar

Hello, how are you?
It's so typical of me to fall asleep in
class, I'm sorry
I hope you couldn't tell
Did you ever make it out of that
block where nothing even hap-
pened?

It's no secret
That the two of us can't make it to
class on time

So goodbye to the passing side
Shakespeare makes me want to cry
So tell Deebes I'm sorry, for every-
thing that I've done
You know that math homework? I
haven't even begun.

Hello to the times I'll cry
I know those tears will never dry
Tell Warner I'm sorry, for not know-
ing grammar by heart
But it doesn't matter, I'll just major
in art.



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Holiday Movie Review: Spread Christmas Cheer with Buddy the Elf

By **ZANNA LECIEJEWSKI '17**

With Christmas just weeks away, it's time to dust off those treasured winter movies and get into the holiday spirit. Every year, I watch at least twenty classic, Christmas films, not even including ABC's "25 Days of Christmas". The movie at the top of my list, which I never miss, is *Elf*. Released in 2003, this Christmas comedy stars Will Ferrell and about a hundred elves from the North Pole. The plot revolves around Buddy, an "adopted" elf, and his quest to make people believe in Santa. Realizing that he is not like the other elves, (not just because of his height) he travels to New York City to find his birth parents. While waiting for Christmas in the Big Apple, he cuts down a tree in Central Park for his birth parent's apartment, accidentally sleeps in the mall unattended and learns that "passion fruit spray" is not edible.

I love that after twelve years, the movie never fails to make me laugh. My favorite quote from this American favorite, which you probably have heard me say often, has to be "Son of a nutcracker!" What truly makes for the perfect Christmas movie? With my sixteen years of experience, I must say that a Christmas movie requires four main



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things: Christmas puns, caroling, a happy ending and of course, Santa. *Elf* meets all of these criteria and more, putting a smile on everyone's face, while leaving "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" stuck in your head.

When you look back on a Christmas movie, the best ones always leave you with a final expression of Christmas spirit. For me, it was Buddy's quote, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear." So when you sit down this break to watch a movie with your family, I recommend *Elf*, because you don't want to be a "cotton headed ninny muggins," and you will have to watch the movie to know exactly what I mean.

Hard Work Pays Off

Athlete Spotlight: Vince Brookins

By STEVEN YANG '19

When Vince Brookins arrived at Western Reserve as a new sophomore, he did not need someone to motivate him. He had a mission that he wanted to complete: to become a better basketball player than he believed he could be. "I was far behind my peers when I began," Brookins reflected. "I didn't play AAU and never put any extra time into the game." In his two years at Reserve, the crowds that came to see him work his craft have spotted drastic improvements in all aspects of the game. Although there is much to see this basketball season and in the years that follow; there is much that came before what you already know about Brookins' career.

At a young age, Brookins was a well-rounded athlete. He played a variety of sports, including basketball. However, he further explored the game for a reason that may seem unorthodox. "Basketball was always my worst sport, and that drew me towards wanting to be a better basketball player." That desire carried him a long way. Coming into the WRA varsity basketball program as a sophomore, Brookins had not committed himself to the game. From then on, he sparked a focus in himself that eventually led to a historic junior season. The team went on to have a 17-3 record, which made them the winningest team in the school's boy's basketball program. Individually, a great deal came out of the season for Brookins. "Starting every game as a junior and being an integral part of that team was unforgettable. The togetherness and the relationships that we all had on and off of the court was something special," Brookins claimed. In addition, all-Ohio second team honors made the year more rewarding for him.

Outside of school, Brookins continues to develop his skill during each offseason. "I play with TNBA East during the spring and summer," Brookins added. In addition to playing, Brookins attributes part of his improvements to a family member. "My father is my biggest influence and inspiration for my



ALAN DOE

basketball career. Being a former player, he helps me with my technique. Having such a close relationship, he always gets the best out of me."

Out of the array of achievements, Brookins' biggest accomplishment exceeds winning any trophy. Instead, he enjoys reflecting on how far his game has gotten to through the development he's made in the past two years. "Seeing where I came from and the improvements I made is very self-fulfilling," mentioned Brookins. Out of all aspects, there are specific parts of his game that he admires most. "I feel that I am strong in all areas, but I think my shooting is a stronger aspect of my game. I am very vocal on the court and able to process what's in front of me well, which is something that attracted many schools when they recruited me." In spite of his strengths, Brookins remains humble, refines other bits and pieces that are not up to par. "Overall, the aspect of my game I need to work on most is my athleticism and quickness. That was my drawback for many Division 1 programs," Brookins answered. "I feel that if I can improve on that, then my game will improve immensely."

The individualized approach of

basketball is the driving factor of why he plays. "I love the team aspect but also the accountability of being ready to play as an individual. If one person is not handling their business, they will get exposed, and it will be very evident as to who has been working on their game and who has not," Brookins stated. Position-wise, Brookins primarily spends his time as a point guard or shooting guard. With the circumstances brought upon him, he may see minutes at each of the five positions. "This season, we have a fairly young team. Being the only two-year varsity veteran, I will get the opportunity of being a leader on and off of the court to help this year's team reach its full potential. It will be exciting to see how the season plays out, especially as the senior captain," Brookins expressed.

Before the start of the season, Brookins had the opportunity to commit to one of the top division three basketball programs in the country. "I will be furthering my education and basketball career in the fall at Williams College (Massachusetts)," Brookins commented. With his future set, Brookins looks forward to guide the team to another successful, yet memorable season in his senior campaign.

NBA Season Off to a Strong Start

By JOHN SMIDLEIN '17

On Tuesday, October 27, the 2015-16 NBA season began its seventieth season. The beginning of the season started out with two games. The first was between last year's runner up, the Cleveland Cavaliers vs. the Chicago Bulls, in which the Bulls won. The second game that day was between national champion, the Golden State Warriors, and the New Orleans Pelicans, Warriors being the victors. There are two teams that made records to start the season. The Philadelphia 76ers are making history in a not so favorable way, breaking the record for most games lost from the beginning of season, coming in at 16 losses with their most recent loss to the Timberwolves. On the opposite end of the spectrum, the Golden State Warriors are on fire. They broke the record for best start by any NBA team in the history

of the league when they won their seventeenth straight game against the Phoenix Suns, making Golden State still undefeated. In the Eastern Conference the Cleveland Cavaliers are on top with sixteen wins and seven losses. The Chicago Bulls are behind them, second in the east. Third, are the Toronto Raptors with the Indiana Pacers behind. In the middle of the Eastern Conference are the Charlotte Hornets, then the Miami Heat after them at 6th. Under the Heat are the Boston Celtics, Orlando Magic, Detroit Pistons, Atlanta Hawks, New York Knicks, Washington Wizards, Milwaukee Bucks, and Brooklyn Nets. At the bottom of the conference and the league, with one win, are the Philadelphia 76ers.

In the Western Conference the Golden State Warriors are in the lead with twenty-four wins and one loss. The San Antonio Spurs are after them. Third, are the Oklahoma

City Thunder with the Los Angeles Clippers close behind. The Dallas Mavericks are in the middle of the conference. Then there is the Memphis Grizzlies, then the Houston Rockets after them at seventh. The Denver Nuggets are under the Rockets. After that there are the Utah Jazz, Phoenix Suns, Portland Trail Blazers, Sacramento Kings, Minnesota Timberwolves, and New Orleans Pelicans. At the bottom are the Los Angeles Lakers. Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors leads the league in points per game scoring an average of 32.6 points each game. On November 27, he passed LeBron James of the Cavaliers on the all-time made three pointers list. Andre Drummond leads the league in rebounds, averaging 17.1 per game and Rajon Rondo of the Sacramento Kings leads in assists, averaging 11.2 per game. The NBA season has begun and it will be an exciting ride.

WRA Athletes Commit

By ANDREW SONG '19

Getting into college is one of the most memorable, exciting processes in a student's career. Though most students decide which school to attend later on in the year, six WRA students, have already experienced this process because of their athletic abilities.

Kyle Buseck '16 has committed to Haverford College to play goalie for its lacrosse program. "I chose Haverford because it is one of the best liberal arts colleges in the country and I love its close proximity to Philly and I felt very comfortable with the lacrosse coach and lacrosse program," explained Buseck. His efforts were not only noticed by Haverford, but also Swarthmore College, another top liberal arts college in Pennsylvania.

Another athlete who has committed to a top liberal arts college is Vince Brookins '16. He is going to Williams College to play basketball as a point guard and shooting guard. "Williams has the number one ranked liberal arts college in the country and the number two ranked overall school in the whole country. In terms of basketball, Williams is competitive for a national championship year in and year out, and I have an opportunity to come in and make an impact. When I took my overnight to Williams for my second visit, I left feeling like it was the place for me and it was a place I could really see myself for the next 4 years." Brookins elaborated. He was also getting recruited by other division three schools such as: Amherst, MIT, Hamilton, University of Chicago and Colgate.

After winning a Gold Medal award at WRA for field hockey, it would only make sense for her to

play field hockey in college. Cristen Barnett '16 is going to Temple University to play the forward position in their field hockey program. Barnett revealed that there were other Division one and three schools recruiting her, but Temple stood out among these schools. "I chose Temple because I really like the strong academic and athletic programs as well as the urban aspect and the big school feel," Barnett added. Even though the aforementioned athletes are seniors, that doesn't mean a student has to be a senior to commit.

Brett Erskine '17 is going to Jacksonville University to play lacrosse as an attack/midfielder. He stated that he likes the coach and the feel the school had, which is why he chose Jacksonville over other colleges like the University of Massachusetts.

The next athlete not only committed to play soccer, as a goalie, for their college, but she will also join the lacrosse program as a defender. Maria Paparella '16 committed to Kenyon College, as they saw her at a few soccer tournaments and kept in touch afterwards. "I chose Kenyon because of the community and the inclusive environment I saw while I visited. I also gelled really well with the team when I played with them in the summer, which made me feel like I belonged there," Paparella explained. She had also considered Case, Bowdoin and Vassar.

The final athlete to have committed is Sam LaFontaine '16. He is attending Rollins College to play baseball.

With all the talent here at WRA, it is no wonder there were students who have already been accepted into their respective colleges for something more than academics and we wish them the best of luck.

JV Basketball Adds Veteran Coaches



COURTESY OF WRA.NET

By SPENSER VALENTINE '19

This year the JV boys basketball team has gotten some new, but experienced coaches. Math Chair Joe DiBiase was asked to be the coach for this team and he asked his colleague and math teacher Gerard Manoli to help out with the team. Manoli agreed to start coaching again. He was the boys varsity basketball coach for ten years before leaving that position to become the boys head track coach which he is still coaching now. Manoli says "I look forward to assisting Mr. DiBiase in teaching the boys a little bit about the game of basketball" and with his many years of experience he will contribute to the evolution of the team. He also looks forward to "helping this fine group of boys

become better ball players and a competitive team." So far in this season the boys are one and one and seem to be getting better everyday. Manoli and DiBiase have been working extremely hard to have this team do the best they possibly can.

One may ask, "why are these two fit for the job?" Well, amazingly enough, rumor has it that DiBiase actually coached Luol Deng during his coaching career. Though there may not be any seven-foot-tall African men on the JV basketball team, DiBiase is bringing extensive experience to the table for our team. With these two WRA community veterans at the helm of the team, the junior varsity team is sure to experience success in the coming months.

Bernie Sanders 2016: Feeling the “Bern”

By LOGAN SNELL '18

On Monday, November 16, a sizable crowd gathered in Cleveland's Wolstein Center to see Senator Bernie Sanders at a rally for his 2016 presidential campaign. Sanders' impressive speech lasted for over an hour and a half, and it covered many of the pressing issues facing the United States today. While Sanders' speech encompassed many topics, he focused in on issues facing Cleveland, and his message struck a chord with the crowd.

Sanders humbly admitted that while he would not be able to do everything within his eight years as president, he vowed to do the most he could, and laid out his plan for the United States. He talked about his plan to raise the federal minimum wage to a living wage, something that has been needed in this country for a long time. Some might argue Sanders' plan lacks logic and that it would decrease job growth, but what these people fail to realize is, as wages rise, workers can pour more money into the economy, thereby creating more jobs. Sanders also plans to equalize women's wages to that of their male counterparts.

Several other candidates share this sentiment, including Hillary Clinton. While Sanders and Clinton agree on this issue, they do not hold the same opinions on several others including Wall Street regulations, something Sanders discussed in Cleveland. Sanders believes in

“breaking up” Wall Street Banks saying that “if a financial institution is too big to fail, it is too big to exist,” referring to the 2008 bank bailout.

He went on to talk about marijuana legalization, an issue that recently affected Ohio, when the legalization of marijuana (through a monopoly) failed to pass on the most recent ballot. Sanders vowed to legalize marijuana on the federal level, something that would drastically decrease low-level drug offenses in the United States.

Sanders also discussed voter ID laws, referencing the fact that some of Ohio's Republican officials are attempting to make it harder for people to vote in elections, saying that “they will not get away with suppressing the vote.”

In a direct jab at his Republican counterparts, Sanders remarked, “if [Republicans] don't have the guts to participate in free and fair elections, these cowards should get another job.” While all these issues invigorated the crowd, the biggest cheer of the night came when Sanders discussed his plan to make every public college in the United States tuition free through a tax on Wall Street speculation.

The crowd's passion for Sanders' campaign manifested itself throughout the night, and at the end of the his speech, Sanders encouraged the crowd to go out and “create a government that works for all of us” and asked for them to “please join the political revolution.”

The Lopez Lowdown: Hudson Jimmy John's

By MARCOS LOPEZ '16

I could not help but notice all the hype around campus circulating over the newest dining hotspot near campus, Jimmy John's. I have heard many different opinions on Jimmy John's and their “gourmet” sandwiches. No one knows food like I know food so I knew I would have to find out for myself whether or not they meet the hype. I was spending my Sunday as I usually do, with my best friend, Sam Becker '16, in his mancave of a dorm. He was spoiling me with snacks and beverages, when he came up with the brilliant idea that we should order Jimmy John's for the first time.

I was ecstatic! Sam and I both ordered the country club with no tomatoes. Each sandwich was \$5.99. Their pricing is fair and definitely on the cheaper side. To our satisfaction, it was at the front of Long House within 15 minutes. Their speed and efficiency took me a little bit by surprise. When I grabbed the bag from the friendly driver, I noticed that the size and weight of these sandwiches was also sufficient. They had impressed me already. All I needed to do now was taste it.

Here comes the moment you have all been waiting for. I peeled back the paper, lifted the club, and stuffed it deep into my jaws. All I had in my mouth was a mouthful of shredded lettuce and cold, untoasted bread. Jimmy John's does not toast their sandwiches!!!!!! How

can you call yourself a sandwich joint if you do not even toast sandwiches? It does not make any sense. I was filled with more anger than sandwich.

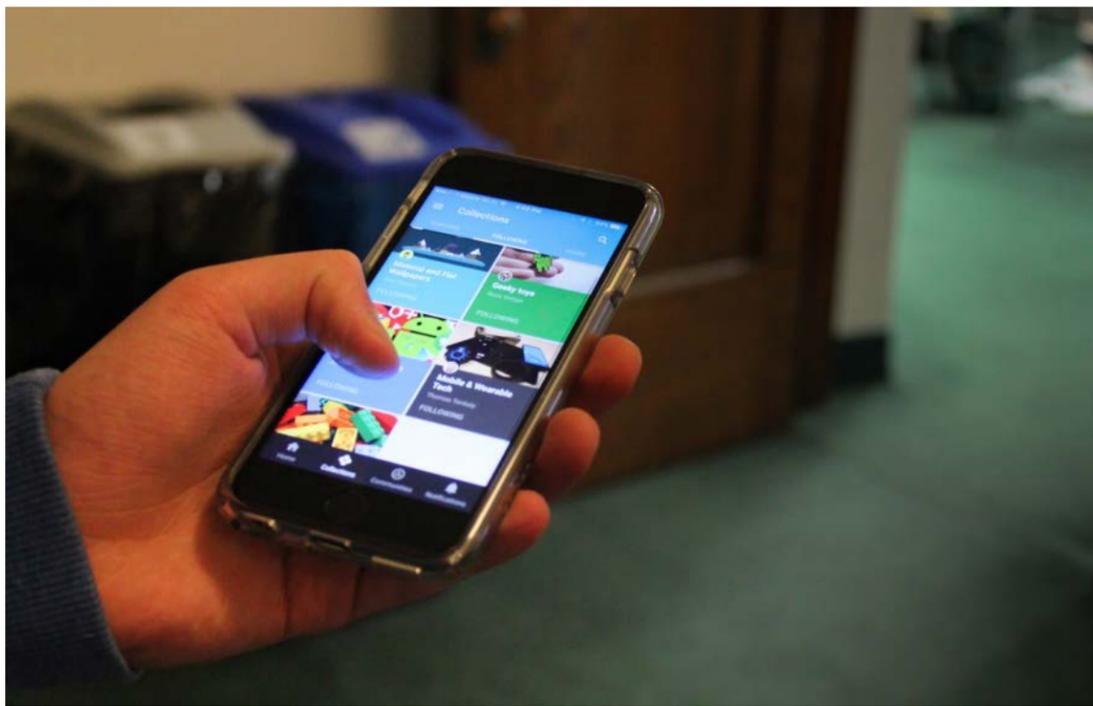
How foolish it was of me to think everything would work out perfectly. I let my guard down. I opened my sandwich and learned that there were only two slices of meat and a pound of lettuce. If I wanted an awful, thin, cold sandwich, I would have waited until sit down lunch on Wednesday. My favorite person on this Earth, Sam, commented “The short delivery time and cheap cost make up for how much the food lacks originality and genuine flavor.”

Unfortunately, I have to agree. The lack of food places that deliver to campus at such a low price makes Jimmy John's a popular option. If you really want a good bang for your buck, I would suggest Dave's Cosmic Subs.



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Google Plus Revamps, Rebounds



MAX BORRMANN

By PETER CAMPANELLI '18

In 2015, many social media sites and apps exist. Western Reserve Academy students frequently use Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook and others daily, hourly and even every few minutes when not in class. Many often overlook tech giant Google's social media platform, Google+. The service may get a bad rap for its attempted takeover of the internet, but the service, in its latest form, is actually pretty cool.

Google+ launched in 2011 as “the Google+ Project,” a communication tool and social network. The service originally boasted features like Hangouts, Circles and Sparks. “Hangouts,” video and text communication with other users, still exists today as Google Hangouts, now a separate service; “Circles,” which also still exists today on Google+, helps split their contact list into private, distinct groups; and “Sparks” gives users a way to define interests and stay updated

on them. Later, Google added the Google+ “+1,” the equivalent of Facebook's Like button.

I joined the service in 2013. Google+ feels useful, looks visually appealing and offers functionality in my life: I like viewing posts from friends and celebrities, communicating with friends and keeping up to date on topics I'm interested in. Google incorporated posts, photos, people and profiles in a way that felt natural. Unfortunately, the service couldn't avoid its biggest problem. Almost zero of my friends even set up profiles on Google+, and those who did, never posted.

In 2013, YouTube started requiring users to connect Google+ to their accounts or they would be unable to post videos or comment. This angered some members of Google+ and YouTube alike. Google+ became hated and shunned as a useful social network.

Today, Google+ has morphed from communication into content

sharing. The social media site focuses less on Circles and now more on the service's new “Collections” and “Communities” features, with the new slogan “The stuff that you're into and the people who get you.” Users can now see a “Collection”, a batch of posts or other Google+ users on a certain topic, such as “Science GIFs” or “Star Wars News and Rumors” that a single Google+ user will create. The “Communities” function allows users to join a group of similar interests where those subscribed can post, view and discuss text, pictures, polls, etc. relating to a certain topic.

Some of the more popular features of the old Google+ have separated from their host. Google+ Photos and Google+ Hangouts now work as Google Photos and Google Hangouts.

Go try Google+. You might like it. The more people who use it, the better it becomes. But until then, I will stick with Facebook.

Media Brews Starbucks Controversy

By ADAM BIRCH '16

Starbucks' revealing of their annual Holiday cup marks the beginning of the holiday season. Since 1997, Starbucks has covered their cups with different winter-themed designs and symbols such as snowflakes, reindeer and tree ornaments. In 2015, however, the company moved away from past design norms and introduced their new design: a solid red cup.

While some users on twitter have praised the new minimalist design, others have dubbed it a “war on Christmas.” Twitter users tweet “#CupGate” when discussing the issue, and many companies including PETA and Dunkin Donuts have used it to promote their companies. Dunkin Donuts continued the controversy by introducing their overtly Christmas themed cup, featuring green holly leaves and the word “joy” written in red. Dunkin Donuts replied to the speculation claiming that they have featured these items on their holiday cups in the past.

“No more ‘Merry Christmas’ at Starbucks. No more,” Presidential Candidate Donald Trump remarked, noting that the coffee giant has a location in Trump Tower in Manhattan. “Maybe we should boycott Starbucks. I don't know.



SAMMY BLUSO

Seriously. I don't care. By the way: That's the end of that lease.”

Many people on Twitter have tweeted out against the backlash, noting that “it's a cup. It's a cup you use for about 30 minutes then throw away.” Some even telling people to “get over [themselves].” Some Twitter users also pointed out that Starbucks currently has a Christmas Blend coffee, proving that the company is not anti-Christian. In fact, the company sells an

assortment of Christmas themed items, from ornaments to cookies to Advent calendars.

“I think it's a non-event from a traffic and stock perspective,” asserted Will Slabaugh, managing director at Stephens, a financial services firm. “It's blown up on social media among a select group of consumers and non-consumers that likely won't change their habits.”

Starbucks has not made any plans to remove their cups from stores.



Biting the Apple and Switching from Spotify



By ALEC WILSON '16

Spotify is dead. It is only a matter of months before everyone with a brain will switch over to Apple Music. Spotify kicked the bucket on June 30, 2015, when Apple released Apple Music to the public. The app is easy to operate and vibrant with color, unlike the depressing black and grey of Spotify. Both Apple Music and Spotify have the same thirty million available songs that you can listen to offline. Originally, the big catch to Spotify was that you only had to pay \$9.99 a month for a single person to listen to unlimited songs. Now, you can pay the same price for Apple Music or you can pay \$14.99 a month for six people. Six people! That means that six people can all listen to different music on the same account. Back home I have some friends, who are brothers, that pay for two individual accounts because they do not like the same genres. With Apple Music, they only have to pay for a single account and four other people can join them.

With Apple Music you get a three month premium trial for free. Spotify is having a “deal” until January 2, 2016 where you are required to pay \$0.99 for a three month trial. This is the exact same music that Apple offers, but for a price. The real savings are again at Apple. All new Apple devices are sold with Apple Music pre-installed.

Who doesn't like specific songs picked to their preference? Just how Spotify has a number of preset playlists that you can browse, Apple Music takes it one more step by having a radio service called “Beats 1” with a 24/7 DJ who controls hundreds of carefully chosen live playlists. Best of all is that you can even message him or her with requests.

There is now an entire new category that sets Apple Music apart

from it's competitors. You can now stream full length music videos (ad free) wherever you go. It streams everything from Taylor Swift to clips

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of the London Symphony Orchestra. Before artists even release their songs, they can publish patches of their work in “Connect” as they write and record it. This way you can watch and listen as artists like Drake, Pharrell Williams, Bastille, Alabama Shakes and Pearl Jam progress from just an idea on “Connect” to winning a Grammy. Each artist has a respective page where they can add their latest works and show off their music videos.

Because artists are putting out music videos and demo songs in addition to their music, Apple is paying them even higher royalties. So even if someone does not use the music videos, the artists are still getting paid a higher wage. This allows artists to get all of their de-

served money, not just the music. Apple music pays its artists 71.5% royalties in the US and 73% outside of the United States. Spotify pays only 70% royalties globally. Apple pays more, you get more, artists get more and you pay the same amount as Spotify. And speaking of royalties, or rather, royalty, Queen of Pop Taylor Swift's album “1989” is only available on Apple Music. It is details like “1989” and all of the other additional artist specific bonuses that sends Apple soaring over its competitors.

After trying Apple Music for two out of my three month free trial, one of the biggest changes is the layout. Spotify's colors are black, gray and snot green. Apple Music is much more appealing to operate because it incorporates the en-

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tire rainbow into the format. One of the most annoying things that I



encountered in my two years of using Spotify is efficiency. When you want to search something you have to scroll back through every page that you have opened. Apple Music has a simply located search bar that requires only one leftward-swipe instead of four or five.

So here is the case, Apple has struck gold again with music. They will be running Spotify to the ground in the next few months. You can either listen to Apple Music for the same price as Spotify or you can take advantage of the great assets that simultaneously permits six people on the same flat-rate account. You can continue listening to the same couple of Spotify playlists or you can listen to Apple's 24/7 DJ and listen to your favorite songs while watching their ad free music videos. Lastly, you can either listen to the product that artists have made or in addition you can watch them as they shape riffs into songs. It is entirely up to you on whether you want to spend \$9.99 on just music or if you want to spend it on something that is truly valuable.



Spotify: The Superior Music Streaming Service



By CHARLES VOSMIK '16

Spotify was founded in 2006 in Stockholm, Sweden. The program was then launched in 2008, although it was not released in the United States until 2011. I first downloaded the program in 2013 and have been a Premium member since. The program is a popular music streaming service that provides millions of songs to those who choose to sign up. If you are a free member, you can listen to their entire library but only have a few “Skips” and must listen to periodical ads. As a “Premium” member, there are no advertisements, you can skip as many songs as you want and you can save music offline so that you can listen without the internet. Other competitors, like Apple Music, only offer paid subscriptions. This is where Spotify is usually favored with its freeware

availability.

Another strong suit of Spotify is its friendly design. Updates and other messages are delivered in plain talk forms. I think this makes the program much more inviting. The app is also very well laid out and I found it much easier to use than Apple's. In Apple Music, to put songs in a queue you have to look through a menu, and on Spotify this is done by a simple swipe of the song title to the right. I tried to use Apple Music during my free trial, and I found the program crowded and difficult to use. Although Apple's library is enormous, they did not seem to use it. Many songs are unavailable.

Spotify also treats its customers very well. At the end of each year, the company sends each user their “Year in Review”, a personalized webpage that sums up your listening for that year. This page provides the total time you listened to music for that year. For example, I listened to 38,000 minutes of music in 2014. It also breaks down a

person's listening by season and day of the week. Spotify creates a playlist of your top 100 most listened to songs of that year, as well as a playlist of songs they think you will like in the next year. I found that this list was very accurate as I enjoyed most of the songs. Another amenity

At the end of each year, the company sends each user their “Year in Review”, a personalized webpage that sums up your listening for that year. For example, I listened to about 38,000 minutes of music in 2014.

Spotify provides is the “Discover Weekly” playlist. The program uses an algorithm based on your recent listening and creates a list of 30 new songs they think you will like. I was shocked by how current the list is. One week I listening to electronic music and it had more of that, but the next week I was listening to slower acoustic music and the selections changed to reflect this.

Spotify's other major feature is its social aspect. You can follow your friends and their playlists and



broadcast what you are listening to for your followers to see. I like this feature a lot, as it makes it very easy to share music that you like with your friends. You can also create collaborative playlists. Leo Holland '17 and I have a joint EDM playlist that we both contribute to and blast whenever appropriate.

Some people say that Spotify is inferior due to the price. However, Apple Music costs the same. Also, if I were to buy each one of my 1500 songs, it would cost more than \$1500.00. With Spotify, it will take over ten years of Premium at \$9.99 a month to equal that. That is a great deal in my mind. Another argument against Spotify is that it is not as compatible with some IOS functionality. However, this is not as much of an issue as it may seem. Siri will pause and play it, and it works very well with bluetooth devices. The Spotify app can distin-

guish and control output to various devices simultaneously.

Overall, I think that Spotify is one of the best music platforms ever created. I think that while Apple Music is okay, it is not as good as it should be. Apple is one of the most valuable companies in the world, and they have billions in cash on hand. They should have made a far superior product. Spotify is constantly improving and they really listen to

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consumer feedback, making tweaks they believe will improve the experience. Spotify is here to stay. Even when Apple Music launched, Spotify still saw an increase in users. I think Spotify is a quality product and an excellent music service, far superior to Apple Music.



Wear Neckties: Don't Look Like a Clown



By CHRIS SPRUNT '17

So, ties or bowties? For me, this is an easy one, and it should be for you too. But before I inform you of the superiority of a tie over a bowtie, I'll first start by telling you all why this question is so important. When guys go out for a formal event, there are few venues for creativity in the male wardrobe. We wear blazers, some nice trousers, a collared shirt and then the question arises: black tie? Crazy tie? Black bowtie? Crazy bowtie? All of the sudden the choice becomes tough: the neckpiece is the focal point of formal menswear. Allow me to make that choice a bit easier.

Let me first start with a bit of history. In the 17th Century, Croatian mercenaries strolled into towns wearing mysterious, but undeniably dashing pieces of cloth around their necks. Noticing many women hanging around with the mercenaries, others decided to adopt the tie, and it spread rapidly across Europe, eventually making its way to our own Western Reserve Academy

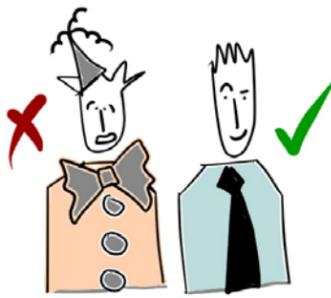
campus.

So enough history: Why are neckties better? First of all, ties are much more versatile. There is a time and a place for bowties, and I will admit, bowties are a great option when wearing a tuxedo, but in every other scenario, a necktie is my go-to. You can wear a chambray shirt and a knit tie with a pair of jeans, or you can wear a slick black suit with a silk tie. From work to the bar, from the bar to the club, and from the club to the bed, you get there wearing a necktie.

To enhance the versatility of the tie, you can wear a tie with dozens of types of knots to choose from. The measly bowtie can only be tied

According to Morgan Connellee of the Huffington Post, guys who wear bowties week in and week out appear to be "menswear snobs" or "eighty-year old college professors."

one or two different ways, giving the user of the bowtie very few options. If you are feeling fancy, you can go for a trinity, eldridge, or truelove knot. If you want to keep it classy and standard with a half or full windsor, the tie can still get the job done. Pair one of the fancier knots with a classic white shirt and



a suit and strike an eye at a dinner party, or tie a windsor and steal the show on the street.

Now let's address the bowtie. I will preface by saying that the bowtie is notoriously used by clowns in circuses as the focal point of their immature comedy. Furthermore, the stereotypical nerd look is also spearheaded by a bowtie. Now, nothing against nerds, I, to some degree, consider myself to be one, but the sweater vest, short sleeve shirt and bowtie combo is nothing on which to base your style. Also, very few people can pull off a bowtie, and the majority of bowtie looks, those worn without a tuxedo, often appear forced and cheesy (resembling more of the clown look) rather than sophisticated and slick. It is easier to pull off a tie and look elegant while doing it. Additionally, if you are short, a necktie has the potential to give you a bit of a boost in height. A short guy wearing a bowtie tends to look a bit more cute and immature than strikingly sophisticated.

So what do the ladies think about

neckties and bowties? According to Morgan Connellee of the Huffington Post, guys who wear bowties week in and week out appear to be "menswear snobs" or "eighty-year old college professors." Pop icon and beauty herself, Taylor Swift, has been the dream date for men around the world ever since she strolled onto the pop stage with her luscious blond hair a few years back. Recently, Ms. Swift stated in an interview about prom attire with radio.com that she prefers the tie over the bowtie. Two of WRA's very

Now let's address the bowtie. I will preface by saying that the bowtie is notoriously used by clowns in circuses as the focal point of their immature comedy.

own lovely blondes, Millie Elliott '16 and Theresa Oxford '17, also attest to the tie's superior elegance over the bowtie.

So which one do guys themselves prefer? Surprise surprise, it is the tie. According to askmen.com, the tie has presented a more manly appearance over the course of history. Star student and WRA fashion icon Cole Howard '17 can attest to this statement: "Bowties, if I'm being honest, are trash. I mean unless you are at a black tie event and you are wearing a tuxedo, toss that bowtie

in the bin."

So I think the tie speaks for itself. If you are a student here at WRA

"Bowties, if I'm being honest, are trash. I mean unless you are at a black tie event and you are wearing a tuxedo, toss that bowtie in the bin."

getting ready to ace that test, tie yourself a tie for a bit more confidence and Taylor Swift's support. If you are on Wall Street trying to make a deal, don't be the clown in the bowtie. Even if it is just handsome Tuesday and you are feeling saucy, whip out a tie and stroll out of the house with gusto. When that special someone finally realizes that you have style and asks you out on that date you have been dreaming of, you will be glad you did.



The Bowtie: Stand Out Among the Crowd

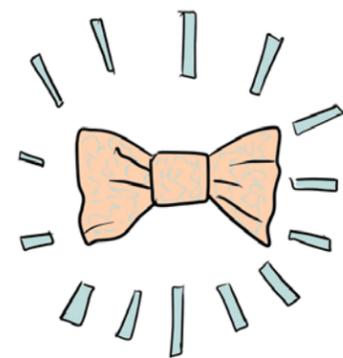


By LEO HOLLAND '17

At Western Reserve Academy, the student dress code requires that male students wear either a necktie or a bow tie as part of their uniform. The uniform is designed to reflect a seriousness of purpose in our students, to encourage them to be proud of how they present themselves to others, and to help in preparing them to engage confidently in the various professional and social settings they will encounter as adults. But, the rules are clear. For male students, it is compulsory to wear a sports jacket, dress pants, a buttoned shirt, and either a necktie or a bow tie. As a student, only having two options for neck wear seems like it would be a difficult proposition. Then why is a necktie more frequently worn and seemingly more popular than a bow tie? This dilemma boils down to three different aspects: history, practicality, and uniformity.

The bow tie had its genesis with Croatian mercenaries during 16th

century in the 30 Years War. It was a scarf designed to be used to keep the collars of their shirts closed. However, it exploded onto the fashion scene when the French aristocracy adopted it in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The necktie originated from the same Croatian mercenaries as the bow tie, but the modern necktie did not emerge until the early 1920s. After World War I, hand painted neckties became popular and sold very well. The necktie width has varied over the years, but it has always corresponded with the width of the lapels of jackets, the brims of hats and the popularity of waistcoats. The history of these garments is important because it illustrates the ebb and flow of fashion. What is fashionable now was not necessar-



ily fashionable one hundred years ago. The world of fashion seems like it changes every second, but it doesn't. Each change you notice is just a small tweak. In larger context

of fashion history, neckties are still a newer fashion trend. Bow ties, however, are older and have become a niche fashion, but the reality of the fashion world is that any trend, no matter how small, can explode onto the scene.

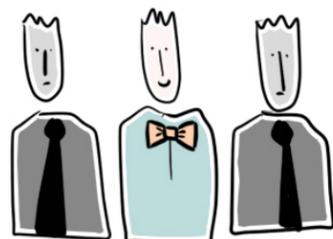
In many aspects, efficiency is something that many humans strive for in their lives, but not fashion. Two hundred years ago people wore frills and tassels on their coats. They wore layers and big fancy hats. Today humanity has whittled it down to the aforementioned dress code. However, neckties remain as one of the glaringly inefficient and impractical aspects of clothing. Neckties are long strips of cloth that dangle from our neck. They sway from one side of our bodies to the other like a pendulum. If one is to walk outside on a windy day they may find their tie to be acting more like the colors on a ship than a fashion accessory. The most egregious offense is that neckties have the unfortunate tendency to dangle their way into food. Too often does one finish gobbling up a bowl of spaghetti to find that either the tip of their tie is doused in marinara or a large red stain is centered right in the middle of the necktie. This is a painful experience because it is not only embarrassing, but very nearly permanent because of the silk fabric used in most ties. Bow ties fix every single problem presented by neck ties. They are firmly affixed to the neck and do not dangle in any way and when you wear a bow tie the marinara

stain goes on your shirt, which is easily washable. Many people gripe about how difficult it is to tie a bow tie. It is not anymore difficult a task than tying a necktie. In order to tie a bow tie you must only practice, which is exactly how anyone learns to tie a necktie.

The human lifespan is short. In 2011, the male life expectancy in the United States was seventy six years. This is shorter than the amount of time that neck ties have been around. The reason that it is so difficult to wear something besides a necktie is because of uniformity. Fathers and grandfathers and great grandfathers all wore neckties. Neckties were the fashion rage when great grandfathers started to tie neckties. Then they taught their sons how to tie them, and then those sons taught their sons how to neckties. It is an arduous task to break away from a fashion trend that has

However, neckties remain as one of the glaringly inefficient and impractical aspects of clothing.

existed since the oldest living person can remember. The momentum that has been gathered by society forces us to wear neckties until another fashion trend becomes larger. However, the massive amount of



people wearing neckties is a benefit to bow ties. This has allowed bow ties to become more expressive. Bow ties now carry with them the inherent quality of individualism. Many people describe wearing a bow tie as somewhat of a contrarian or rebellious act. Often times those who wear bow ties are thrust into stereotypes, but they always include some aspect of individualism. This quality stems from the level of difficulty that comes with breaking the mold. In order to wear what people are not wearing, one must actually be conscious of their choices. This seems to be the most difficult leap of all.

Neckties and bow ties each have their own strengths and weaknesses. Neckties are popular right now and they have the inertia of the public. Bow ties are more practical and have cultivated a connotation of individualism. At the end of the day, whether or not you wear a bow tie is a personal choice. Fashion is a fast paced whimsical world that changes unpredictably, so one should wear both bow ties and neckties while they are still around.

Terrorists Attack Hotel in Mali

By **TIM LUND '16**

In the early hours of Friday, November 20, heavily-armed gunmen attacked the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako, Mali. The attack came just a week after the devastating attacks in Paris. Around seven in the morning, multiple attackers armed with fully automatic rifles rushed the entrance of the hotel, overwhelming the hotel staff and shattering almost all of the glass in the front of the hotel. Due to the peaceful history of the hotel, the staff were not prepared and could not anticipate the devastating attack. Guests in the upstairs rooms barricaded their doors upon hearing the gunshots in the lobby. The attackers took as many as 170 hostages in the entire affair, at least twenty of whom were killed, one of which was an American. As the ordeal pressed on, more and more hostages were allowed to leave the premises, but not all were so lucky. Security officials swept the hotel, killing any attackers remaining in the hotel. As the officials moved from floor to floor, the hotel was secured. According to the government of Mali, three suspects had escaped and were on the run and a search was in progress.

Though there is not definitive blame for the attacks, multiple



COURTESY OF REUTERS

This is one of several military conflicts Mali has faced in 2015.

groups have claimed to be responsible for the attack. Before much information was revealed, many believed that the attack came from Boko Haram, as its African presence is ever-growing. However, another group associated with al-Qaeda, the northern-Mali-based Al-Mourabitoun, has claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they were carried out by two men. Though the defense minister of France claims that the attacks were most likely carried out by Al-Mourabitoun, the disparity between the group's claims and

the statement issued by the government signifies that there may be a different group at play here. Another group that is based in central Mali called the Macina Liberation Front may be the group to blame for the deadly attack.

As terrorism all across the world has been increasing, more and more countries have increased their support for afflicted countries. Though countries around the world have many differences, we should all stand as one to fight against the radical terrorists.

Nation Faces Tragedy: Multiple Shooters Attack Paris



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By **CHARLIE KOLODZIEJ '18**

On November 13, thousands of fans piled into the Stade de France outside Paris to watch a soccer match between Germany and France. It was a night many of the spectators and those around the world won't soon forget.

Halfway through the match, explosions rattled the stadium. During the broadcast of the game, screams can be heard while the athletes continued to play, unsure of what to do. Meanwhile fans rushed to the exits as a second bomb exploded leaving more wounded and others dead. Later, reports confirmed that the two explosions were suicide bombs by followers of the Islamic State, also known as Daesh. In addition to the stadium bombings, the terrorist group targeted five other sites around the city.

After the horror at the stadium, the terrorists held hostage at least a hundred civilians in the Bataclan concert hall where a Californian rock band was performing. The terrorists entered the concert hall and immediately began opening fire on the crowd. Grenades were tossed at the hostages as the

French police got ready to raid the hall. The terrorists within the Bataclan were killed in the police raid, but it was too late for many of the citizens trapped inside. Only a half mile from the concert hall a gunman began shooting at patrons at the Petit Cambodge restaurant and Le Carillon cafe. Dozens were killed in this single spot and in total 130 people have been reported dead as a result of the Paris massacre.

Further attacks were carried out surrounding the Louvre museum and the restaurants in the 11th Arrondissement. Following the attacks, a state of emergency was declared in France, and the borders were closed to prevent any of the assailants from fleeing the country. Thus far seven terrorists were killed during the massacre, with the lead operative found and killed in a shootout at a suburb two days later. Following the attacks France has initiated an aerial bombing campaign known as against ISIS, whose de facto headquarters is in Raqqa, Syria.

On Facebook, a French flag filter was created for people around the world to show support for the

country of France during this difficult time. President Obama issued a statement regarding the attacks, "Once again we've seen an outrageous attempt to terrorize innocent civilians. This is an attack not just on Paris, it's an attack not just on the people of France, but this is an attack on all of humanity and the universal values that we share."

These attacks come almost a year since the Charlie Hebdo shootings leaving the French people with an oppressive sense of national fear. Immediately following these latest attacks, French president François Hollande issued a call to the French people to be brave in these dark times: "Faced with terror, France must be strong, it must be great and the state authorities must be firm. We will be."

However, far-right parties such as the U.S. Republican Party and the French National Front are already calling for tougher immigration laws and denouncing plans to accept Syrian refugees, fearing that ISIS militants could be among them. Their ideas are gaining ground in both the U.S. and France, where fear of any further attacks has led to a rise in anti-Muslim populist rhetoric. Republican hawks took the opportunity to denounce what they considered Obama's weak foreign policy, and the French National Front was propelled into the spotlight. The policy implications of this attack has generated a massive discussion: after one of the attackers was caught in Belgium, the Schengen area came under fire, a European Union policy that abolished border controls at their internal borders.

Surely, this event will go down in history as changing how we view the world around us in the new age of terror.

Paris Hosts Conference On Climate Change

By **NIRAJ NAIK '16**

The world watched as the 2015 United Nations Climate Change conference commenced in Paris, France mere weeks after terrorist attacks had taken the city by storm. A new threat faced the citizens of Paris: climate change.

World leaders and diplomats including United States Secretary of State John Kerry and President Barack Obama spent time in Paris hoping to reach a solution. Chinese Premier Xi Jinping and Indian President Narendra Modi met with President Obama on the first day of the conference to discuss their nations' attempts to better impact climate change. This conference distinguished itself from previous meetings as both the United States and China pledged to make significant changes to their policies regarding sustainability.

The assembled nations had a clear goal in mind. They wanted a legally binding agreement that would lower greenhouse gas emissions below 2 degrees celsius (35.6 degrees fahrenheit). The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicated at the conference that global temperature had risen by .85 degrees celsius from 1880 to 2012 and that if no

action was taken that temperature could increase by another 1.5 to 4 degrees celsius.

One day late, world leaders were able to come together on an agreement that according to environmentalists, takes the world in the right direction. The agreement would keep temperature below 2 degrees and would force developed nations to help smaller, developing nations make movements in line with this agreement.

Throughout the conference, Secretary Kerry and United States Chief Negotiator Todd Stern became increasingly concerned with how the agreement would be enforced. While a provision of the agreement forces nations to regularly report their emissions output, Kerry and Stern argue that countries should only be legally required to work towards the agreed-upon goals. The goals themselves should not be legally binding.

Ultimately the deal should change the way the fossil-fuel industry runs, and nations will hopefully enact legislation that incentivizes big corporations to work towards more sustainable options. While many environmentalists celebrate this historic treaty, the fight against climate change is far from over.

Turkey Shoots Down Jet

By **AJAY DAKAPPAGARI '16**

Recently, Turkish F-16 fighter planes shot down a Russian military jet coasting along the Syrian border, which sparked a fury in Moscow. This incident threatened to undermine the efforts towards creating a new international coalition meant to stop the rapidly expanding Islamic State terrorism.

This attack, recorded on video, marks the first time in almost 65 years that a NATO member has shot down a Russian warplane. Russian President Vladimir Putin went on the air to publicly rebuke Turkey for their actions, accusing the Turkish government of "a stab in the back" and of aiding these specific terrorists.

Thus the state media began a fury of propaganda against Turkey. Along with this, many Russian officials cancelled meetings with Turkish officials and postponed trips to Istanbul. Russian tourists were urged to stay away from Turkey, a popular vacation destination.

As expected this incident seriously impacts Russian-Turkish relations. Although Putin appeared noticeably upset from these events, there was no indication as to whether Moscow would respond with mili-

tary action. This strike makes it more difficult for world leaders to convince Russia to join the U.S led, anti ISIS coalition, which includes Turkey.

The Turkish government responded to these accusations with claims that Russia breached Turkish airspace from Syria, earlier in the year. They also accused Russia of targeting Turkmen fighters in northwestern Syria and this raised concerns about refugees from this ethnic group pouring into Turkey.

After an emergency meeting, NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, proclaimed its support and backing for Turkey's actions while urging both sides to settle the differences in a peaceful manner. Likewise, President Barack Obama defended Turkey for their attack, citing Turkey's right to defend their airspace. America and its allies have continually struggled to contain Russia's influence in Syria and persuade the Russian government to play a more constructive role in targeting ISIS fighters.

Clearly this event has taken a serious toll on the relations between the two countries. They continue to blame each other for mistakes and no aggressive actions have been taken yet.



COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS