

Congressional Compromise Ends Government Shutdown

By Oriana Tang '15 and Brett Weiser-Schlesinger '14

After sixteen days of shutdown, President Obama signed into effect an eleventh-hour agreement that reopens the government and raises the debt limit until early next year.

The agreement, crafted by Senate majority leader Harry Reid and minority leader Mitch McConnell, was passed in the Senate with an 81 - 18 vote and in the House with a 285 - 144 vote. House Democrats voted unanimously for the measure.

"We can begin to lift this cloud of uncertainty and unease from our businesses and from the American people," the president said in a speech following the Senate vote late on October 16. The bill reopens the federal government through January 15, 2014, and extends the Treasury's borrowing authority until February 7, averting the possibility of an imminent default on the national debt.

By delegating the resolution of the issue to a bipartisan committee, the bill temporarily removes it from the jurisdiction of Congress as a whole. The committee is expected to create a long-term budget deal to be presented by mid-December.

"I've never believed that Democrats have a monopoly on good ideas," Obama said. Citing his con-

viction that Democrats and Republicans will be able to work together, the president added, "My hope and expectation is everybody has learned that there is no reason why we can't... make sure that we're not inflicting harm on the American people when we do have disagree-

and that his party would not attempt to block the bipartisan agreement.

However, despite eventual support from many G.O.P. leaders, most House Republicans voted against the bill, including Paul Ryan, the Budget Committee chairman. In the Senate, dissension came from



President Obama addressed the government shutdown and budget crisis on October 16. Image source: AP.

ments."

The measure does not affect the Affordable Care Act, the health care reform bill which House Republicans had hoped to defund or repeal by using the debt ceiling as leverage. Republican Speaker of the House John Boehner conceded before the October 16 vote that the strategy had proved unsuccessful

the likes of Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Rand Paul, among other conservative Republicans.

With the shutdown coming to an end, 800,000 furloughed "non-essential" government employees returned to work on October 17. Government-funded programs that were closed as part of discretionary spending cuts including national

parks, NASA, and the NIH, were also reopened.

Government employees relieved of work were immediately placed on an indefinite unpaid leave of absence for the duration of the shutdown. Reimbursement for lost salary was unguaranteed until a bill providing back pay to all furloughed employees was unanimously passed in the House of Representatives on October 5. Democrat Elijah Cummings, a supporter of the measure, argued that "hard-working public servants should not become collateral damage in the political games and ideological wars that Republicans are waging."

Though some critics have expressed concern that a similar situation could arise due to lack of bipartisan agreement, Democrats have expressed optimism. The day after the shutdown, President Obama expressed his hope that members of both parties realize that concessions will inevitably need to be made. "We shouldn't fail to act on areas that we do agree or could agree... just because the extremes in our party don't like the word 'compromise.'"

Upon being asked of whether a shutdown could happen again in January, the president had a one-word response: "No."

Shots Fired on Capitol Hill

By Michelle Bao '14

On Thursday, October 3, Washington D.C., one of the most heavily policed places in the world, came to the brink of yet another shutdown. Forcing legislators to take cover, Pennsylvania Avenue was put on lockdown, leaving tourists and innocent bystanders to hide in fear.

At around two p.m., a black Infiniti drove up to a White House security checkpoint only to drive away erratically when approached by Secret Service officers, backing into an officer in the process. Security vehicles later stopped the car at Garfield Circle, but when the driver tried to escape, police gunfire erupted and the chase began.

After many crashed security barriers and fired shots, the vehicle finally stopped. Authorities identified the driver as Miriam Carey, 34, of Stamford, Connecticut. Carey was pronounced dead at the scene.

Two law enforcement officers were injured.

A search of Carey's apartment uncovered discharge papers that listed risperidone, a medication used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. It is unclear if Carey was taking any of the medications, or if the incident was even catalyzed by mental illness. Early investigations reported that Carey believed President Barack Obama had placed her home under electronic surveillance.

Amy Carey-Jones, Miriam Carey's sister, told CNN that Miriam had been diagnosed with postpartum depression with psychosis following the birth of Miriam's daughter; recently, Carey's doctors had tapered her off the medications but Carey had been feeling fine.

Carey's eighteen-month-old daughter was found in the backseat

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New Jersey Legalizes Gay Marriage

By Jared Ebner '14

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie dropped his appeal against a recent marriage equality ruling to the state Supreme Court on Monday, October 21, after the ruling went into effect and couples across New Jersey began exchanging vows.

Christie withdrew his legal challenge to gay marriage less than one month after Mercer County Judge Mary C. Jacobson ruled to allow same-sex marriage in the state of New Jersey on September 27, using the groundbreaking case *United States v. Windsor* as the basis for her decision.

Jacobson stated that because the ruling of *United States v. Windsor* forced the federal government to recognize same-sex partners as equal to heterosexual spouses, the state of New Jersey was violating its citizens' civil rights by not recognizing same-sex marriage.

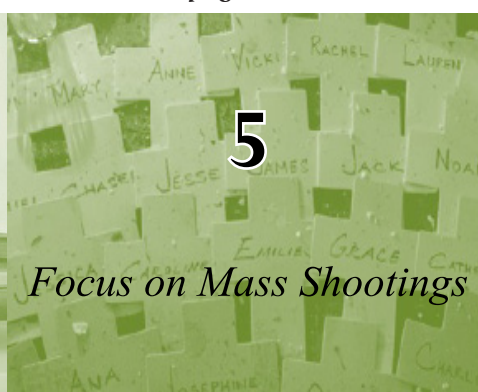
United States v. Windsor also legalized same-sex marriage in the state of California, which had previously allowed it until overturned by the notorious Proposition 8. While New Jersey's situation was considerably different, never having legalized same-sex marriage until now, the case still set a precedent in legalizing same-sex marriage via case law, which Jacobson used as her justification.

The New Jersey Supreme Court has yet to rule on the case, but their decision to allow same-sex couples to marry in the meantime suggests the likely outcome. For the time being, New Jersey is the fourteenth state in the Union to allow same-sex marriage.

Troy Stevenson, executive director of the gay rights group Garden State Equality, said that "the door is open for love, commitment and equality under the law."



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From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief

In a special election on October 16, 2013, New Jersey Democrat Cory Booker was elected to the U.S. Senate. Booker’s victory speech struck a positive note: despite the “cynicism and negativity” that surrounds modern politics, New Jerseyans “rejected all that and came out and voted.”

Unfortunately, only a small part of the electorate was able to shrug off that cynicism, because the special election set a record for the lowest voter turnout in state history. 24% of New Jerseyans voted on October 16.

Early elections in the 21st century have replicated this pattern. In 2008, the turnout rate for the presidential election was 62.3%. In 2012, it was 57.5%.

Despite Booker’s optimism, there’s a clear disconnect between American voter participation in theory and in practice. We pride our-

selves as pioneers of democracy, but we refuse to follow through on our social responsibilities.

Cynicism is the easy way out: we see the government as entirely separate from our everyday lives, men and women in dark suits out for personal gain and perks. This is especially true of young Americans, whose recent drop in voter turnout mirrors that of the nation as a whole.

Elections are about more than mere numbers. They reflect shifts in public opinion, policies that stir up passion, causes that call people to action. They are key aspects of democracy in America, and all around the world. Too often we see congressional catfights, policy gridlock, ineffectual leadership, and as a nation, we decide to sit back and watch.

This is especially true lately as partisan squabbling over one ca-

tastrophe after another—the Syrian crisis, the government shutdown, the debt ceiling—is planting in the collective American psyche a sense of ultimate futility. What’s the point of participating when nothing gets done anyway? What good could one vote do?

Our biggest problem as a nation is apathy. If everyone thought that way—if no one voted, in other words—democracy as we know it would cease to exist. A government of, by, and for the people requires the peoples’ participation.

This October, we failed to reach our potential as a people. But come November, we have another chance. Those of us who can vote, get out and vote! Though it may not seem like much, every vote counts in the process towards a purposeful and enlightened democracy.

Crystal and Rachel

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The True Impact of “Blurred Lines”

By Christina Qiu ‘15

The allegorical imagery of Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” music video is categorical: unclothed women literally stripped of the power of sexuality, seemingly altruistic phrases (“Just let me liberate you”) about the supposedly edifying power of intercourse, and visions of the allures of beastiality. It is, undeniably, a glorification of objectification. But this objectification is not created but enhanced by Thicke’s video.

When an offensive video like Thicke’s appears, it is not enough for social media and informative networks to simply bash on its existence; it is important for us, as a society, to examine how a prominent artist, who has no sexual assault record and is happily married, like Thicke, was able to deem

his music video as “appropriate enough.”

In an age where women have established prominent roles in society and serve as role models for both males and females, it is also not enough to point at the historical roots of sexism or the intrinsic differences between men and women. Although historical roots may have some derivative in the blatant sexism seen in popular culture today, the true origin of its prevalence lies in the objectification many relevant female musicians put on themselves.

It is rare to find a woman who flaunts her sex drive and submission as flagrantly as a popular musician; likewise, it is also rare to find a woman with as much social influence as a popular musician. When a popular song by

a woman about objectification rises on music charts, other people feel a necessity to ride that wave. Indeed, “Blurred Lines” can be viewed as a direct response to Miley Cyrus’s “We Can’t Stop”: “The way you grab me / Just want to get nasty”, a direct reply to, “My home girls here with the big butt / Shaking it like we’re at a strip club”.

It is appropriate to get angry at such a degrading song with such a degrading music video. It is, however, unproductive to whine about sexism and act as if Robin Thicke is an exception to the thousands of sex jokes passed daily, the countless rape cases left unheard, the bureaucracy of sexual harassment legislation. Rather, we should use this opportunity to attack the roots of the cause, not accuse Thicke without action.

Kenya Mall Siege Finally Ends, President Kenyatta Promises “Full Accountability”

By Andrew Peng ‘17

After four bloody days of mayhem at the Westgate luxury shopping mall in Nairobi that left at least 72 dead and hundreds injured, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta announced on September 24 that the government’s military siege had ended.

In a televised address to the nation, Kenyatta said that Kenyan security forces had “defeated” the ten to fifteen militants belonging to Somalia’s Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab terrorist group, who stormed the shopping center around noon on September 21. The group claimed that the attack was retaliation for the presence of Kenyan troops on Somali soil. According to eyewitness reports, the gunmen shot indiscriminately, though some of the shooters quizzed civilians at gunpoint about their faith before deciding whether to kill them, releasing Muslims but targeting others.

The Kenyan government responded to the massacre by launching an immense military siege against the mall, backed by Israeli personnel, eventually resulting in the collapse of three of the building’s floors.



Explosive experts searched Wednesday for possible booby-traps in the wreckage. Image source: AFP.

“We confronted this evil without flinching, confronted our deep grief and pain, and conquered it,” Kenyatta said in his address, adding that his country was “bloodied but unbowed” after the attack.

The victory came at a heavy price. Six members of Kenya’s security forces were killed during the siege, and 62 civilian deaths have been reported, according to the Kenya Red Cross. Five militants have also been killed, and eleven others are in custody for possible connections to the attack. Three days of national mourning have been

announced.

Six British citizens, two French nationals, two Indians and two Canadians, including a diplomat, were among the dead, their governments said.

Public speculation over possible involvement of a British woman and “two or three” American nationals in the terrorist attack is building, and President Kenyatta has ordered forensic experts to collect evidence to establish the identities of the attackers.

President Kenyatta has refused to pull out the Kenyan forces,

which have been part of an African peacekeeping force in Somalia that helped weaken the militant group in the past two years.

Kenyatta promised “full accountability” for the “mindless destruction, deaths, pain, loss and suffering we have all undergone as a national family. These cowards will meet justice as will their accomplices and patrons wherever they are.”

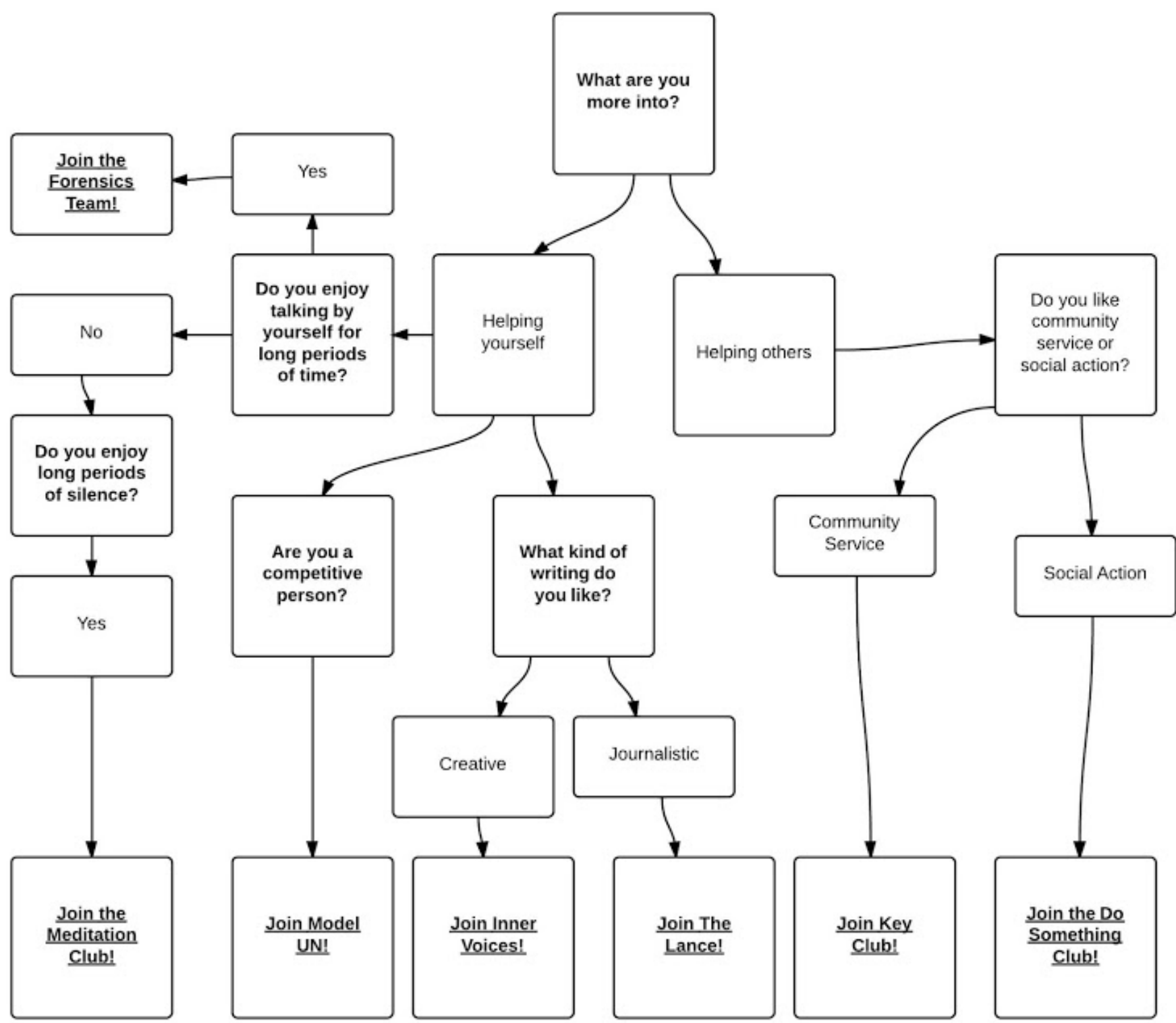
“Shots Fired,” continued from page 1 of the black Infiniti. She survived the chaos unharmed and is now under the protection of social services.

Terrance Gainer, the U.S. Senate’s sergeant at arms, notes, “In general, you would not shoot at a vehicle unless it poses the types of threats that would lead you to believe that there was an imminent danger of death and bodily harm.”

A D.C. police spokeswoman told the *Washington Post* that the U.S. Attorney General’s office will eventually decide whether the agents broke any laws. However, several experts believe that the actions were justified as they minimized the risks to others.

features

THE LANCE’S DECLASSIFIED CLUB SURVIVAL GUIDE



CLUB UPDATES

Inner Voices

By Brooke Moskowitz '14 and Annie Rishty '14

InnerVoices, Livingston High School’s literary magazine, has returned for another year of radiating poetry and heart-wrenching stories. With a fantastic membership turnout, we are truly looking forward to the club’s annual magazine.

This year, we are thrilled to be collaborating with the school’s brilliant creative writing club, Shakespeare and Co. Upon learning that there would be no Creative Writing 2 class to run this year, we took matters into our own hands. Shakespeare and Co. and Inner Voices will be working together to come up with unique prompts to nourish the hunger of our members. At this club, nobody leaves starved, literally and figuratively—snacks are always served.

If you’re interested in joining, stop by on the first Tuesday of the month for a writing workshop. All members will receive the prompt prior to the meeting so that they come prepared with their pieces, ready for

editing and constructive criticism. Do not hesitate to bring a work-in-progress or even a piece you are not confident in.

At other meetings, members gather together and read poems, short stories, and essays submitted to the InnerVoices email. Pieces are voted on using a blind judging system, being given a “yes,” “maybe,” or “no.” Then, as a club, we decide which selections will end up in the annual literary magazine to be distributed schoolwide at the end of the year.

Contributors are not limited to club members or students in the Creative Writing elective. We encourage anyone in the school who has a piece of writing that they would like to submit to the magazine to send it to LHSinnervoices1314@gmail.com.

Every student has a powerful voice and should take the time to take a breather, sit down, and write. Club members will guarantee it’s much cheaper than therapy!

Forensics Speech and Debate

By Morgan Levy '15

Many people fear public speaking more than they do sharks. Forensics is a great way to conquer that phobia.

The LHS Forensics Speech and Debate team, a club where students compete in various speech and debate events, is beginning the 2013-2014 competition season this month. With extremely high membership counts, we are eager to begin competitions.

Forensics is divided into three sections of events: Speech, Debate, and Interpretation. In speech events, students either compose an original speech to present (Original Oratory), present a speech by an influential speaker (Declamation), or compose speeches in a limited time period (Extemporaneous Speaking).

In debate events, students either debate with a partner (Public Forum), with no partner (Lincoln Douglas), or in a Congress type setting (Student Congress). In

interpretation events, students act with a partner (Duo Interpretation), act by themselves (Dramatic Interpretation), or dramatically read a selection of literature (Oral Interpretation).

The Forensics team competes in bimonthly tournaments for the duration of the season, from October until March. Each year, many students compete at the CFL National Forensics Tournament. In the 2012-2013 season, Catherine Yang (Declamation), Jared Goldsmith (Duo Interpretation), and Jesse Kirsch (Duo Interpretation) competed at Nationals in Baltimore, MD.

The team is run by co-presidents Morgan Levy and Kerry Zak, with Dr. Suñga as the advisor. To learn more about Forensics, you can visit lhsforensics.org and follow the team on Instagram and Twitter at @livforensics. If you would like to join the team, you can contact Dr. Suñga in room B245.

The LHS Forensics Team is eager to begin the 2013-2014 season!

features

MEET THE NEW TEACHERS OF LHS: PART 1



Social studies teacher Mr. Michael Collins.
Source: Miranda Dambrot.

Mr. Michael Collins

Mr. Michael Collins teaches Modern World History, Sociology, and African American History at LHS. Receiving his masters at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Mr. Collins had previously spent many years in the business world. As he discovered early into his business pursuits, many of his assignments closely related to teaching. Deciding to change paths, Collins landed his first teaching jobs at Hunterdon Central High School and Voorhees High School. But it wasn't until he came to the "fast paced" world of Livingston High School that he really hit it home. "Everyone always says, 'What a great school,' when I tell them where I work," Collins said. After Collins realized that his chances of playing for the New York Yankees were slim to none, he thought about becoming a teacher. Dreams really do come true! In his spare time, Collins likes reading, playing golf, and running at the gym. When asked how he hoped to impact the students here Collins answered, "In addition to the course content I have a lot of life experience. I want to help my students in the real world. I want to reinforce to them the importance of simply communicating effectively, and most importantly that yes, life is stressful, but it is also filled with do-overs." Collins is passionate and hard-working and looks to share his excitement for history with his students and to teach history in an engaging fashion. He enjoys utilizing media in his lessons, as they are both educational and entertaining. Mr. Collins' class will be a fun-filled learning environment for all.



Social studies teacher Mr. Stephen Schaible.
Source: Miranda Dambrot.

Mr. Stephen Schaible

By Samantha Caruso '16
Mr. Stephen Schaible is one of many new, great additions to the Livingston High School faculty. He is diving right into the Social Studies curriculum, teaching Sociology, Modern World History, and United States History I. Schaible is coming to LHS with stellar qualifications: a degree from Rider University, two previous teaching positions, and currently working towards his Masters degree at Drew University. As for his teaching style, Mr. Schaible has a unique and interesting outlook on education. "My style is a mix of visual aids, lectures, PowerPoint, and learning games. But, I love to get [the students] talking. I believe that students learn best from each other through conversation, partner work, and group work." His hobbies include snowboarding, skiing, and dirt racing photography (certainly not your average hobby!). As a child, he wanted to be a racecar driver. After two part-time teaching jobs at Livingston High School, Mr. Schaible is ecstatic to be teaching full-time here. He wants to impact positively his students throughout the school year and hopes to "inspire them to be lifelong learners. That's what I am and I hope to encourage all of my students to travel down the same path." As for Livingston High School, Mr. Schaible is loving it, claiming that it's his favorite of all three high schools he's taught at. On behalf of the rest of the Livingston High School, we are thrilled to welcome Mr. Stephen Schaible to the LHS community.



Science teacher Mr. Douglas Jay.
Source: Miranda Dambrot.

Mr. Douglas Jay

By Mattie Beauford '17
Mr. Jay has been teaching science in Livingston for seven years. Before arriving at Livingston High School to teach Honors and CP Environmental Science, he taught at Mount Pleasant for six years. His experience as a former naturalist at the Essex County Environmental Center has given him vast knowledge on the subject. For him, science is the best subject because of the discovery associated with it. He believes the science room to be the best place to be and the scientific state of mind to be a good one. Outside of school, Mr. Jay enjoys munching on spicy foods such as Indian and Thai. His hobbies include writing and performing music (mostly bluegrass) and outdoor recreation. For entertainment, he likes watching nature documentaries, and shows such as "Breaking Bad," "Dexter," "The Simpsons," and "The Walking Dead." Livingston High School is thrilled to welcome Mr. Jay.

Ms. Leslie Keeble

By Carly Taylor '15
Among the various teachers new to LHS for the 2013-2014 school year is Leslie Keeble, an algebra teacher that is eager to share her passion for math while getting to know her students and colleagues. Ms. Keeble grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, PA. She attended Seton Hall University, where she remained a graduate assistant in the developmental math program before coming to Livingston High School. When being asked why



Math teacher Ms. Leslie Keeble.
Source: Miranda Dambrot.

she decided to come to Livingston, Keeble said, "The staff and students were very friendly and supportive." The school has continued to make a positive impression on Ms. Keeble, who says that she likes the students and colleagues she works with, and is looking forward to getting into the Lancer spirit by getting involved in events and clubs. As far as the subject she teaches goes, Ms. Keeble said that she has always had a love for math. "I think it is interesting how numbers can model things in the real world," Keeble said. "I also enjoy problem solving." If she weren't teaching math, Ms. Keeble thinks she would teach art. However, when being asked about her dream job, Keeble laughed when she said, "A storm chaser...is that even a real thing?" Ms. Keeble claimed that weather and storms are a great interest of hers, besides math, of course. Ms. Keeble's favorite part of being a math teacher is working with the students because they are so engaged and willing to learn. After hesitating about her least favorite part of the job, Keeble jokes, "I don't like making copies of work because it's boring!" Ms. Keeble recalls having a very busy, yet enjoyable high school experience because she had good teachers and surrounded herself with good friends. Ms. Keeble encourages all the students here to find something they are passionate about and join a club or a sport to add some variety to their school experience. Be sure to greet Ms. Keeble in the halls, or find her in room A220 or A221!

ROVING REPORTER: What do you look for in a college? By Jackson Rynar '17

- “RAH, RAH.”

Chloe Seltzer
- “A big fun school with a good sports program.”

Chase Madorsky
- “A big dorm room.”

Sara Rivera
- “A good education.”

Sam Brown
- “A big rah-rah school.”

Anonymous
- “Low cost.”

Bryan Larney
- “Sports and education.”

Max Saltzman
- “The parties.”

Jordy Bonvini
- “Community service and leadership roles.”

Emily Nevola
- “A small campus.”

Jackie Bauer

opinion

SILENCE AFTER THE SHOOTING

Why Did the Media Ignore the Navy Yard Shooting?

By Jared Ebner '14 & Brett Weiser-Schlesinger '14

On a warm mid-September morning in Washington D.C., a 34-year-old New York native named Aaron Alexis shot and killed twelve men and women at Naval Sea Systems Command at the Washington Navy Yard. It was the second most deadly shooting on a military base to ever occur in the United States, and yet it was passed over by the general news cycle within a day.

At a dark theater at a 2012 mid-summer movie premiere in Colorado, 24-year-old James Holmes killed twelve during a midnight screening of *The Dark Knight Rises*. The shooting was examined by the media ad nauseam for what seemed like an eternity.

These two shootings had equal death tolls, and yet one was given far more media coverage than the other.

Was one more tragic than the other? Not especially. If anything, the true differentiation between the tragedies was *who* was killed.

In Aurora, Colorado, men, women, and children aged from six to 51 were fatally shot, with one of the injured at three months old.

Apathetic America

By Morgan Levy '15

On December 14, 2012, a crazed gunman stole the lives of 20 innocent children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. The story dominated news for months.

On September 16, 2013, nine lost their lives in a shooting in the Washington Navy Yard. It was on every front page across America.

But did you know about the incidents of mass murder that occurred in 15 other places between the Sandy Hook shooting and the Washington Navy Yard one?

The FBI defines mass murder as “the murdering of four or more people at once.” There have been at least 67 incidents of mass murder in

Those killed were all white and generally identifiable with the American public. Aurora is typically identified with affluence, so victims were assumed to be on the higher end of the economic spectrum. The youngest killed in the Navy Yard shooting was aged 46 and the oldest 73, with most victims middle-aged and racially diverse. Do journalists and broadcasters want to commit more time to discussing younger, lighter-skinned, more affluent victims?

Of all the victims of either shooting, the most mentioned was six-year-old Veronica Moser-Sullivan, who was fatally wounded in the Aurora massacre. The child’s mother had a miscarriage due to injury.

The story had it all: a young, privileged white girl that happened to be killed in the midst of a mad-man’s deluded world.

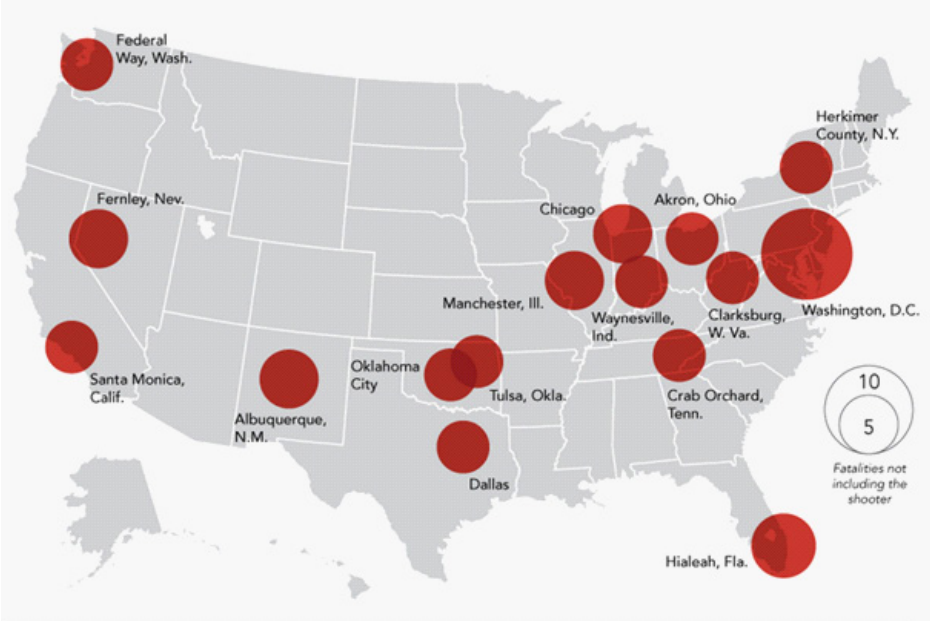
The Aurora massacre was known and publicized throughout the nation, but as for the Navy Yard shooting, many were left wondering about the event’s aftermath. Where were the sob stories? Where were the distraught family members? Where was the media coverage?

Regardless of what network one turned to, the news regarding the Washington incident was sparse to say the least. Neither MSNBC nor Fox News, broadcasts that fall on opposite ends of the spectrum, carried news of the shooting continuously into the next day’s news cycle. Was it the fact that the vic-

tims were military personnel, as opposed to civilians—as in Aurora’s case—and thus drew less sympathy from the general populace? Or was it that these victims came from varied socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds, and thus did not draw the sympathies of the American population as a whole?

Whatever the case, it is clear that the media tends to sensationalize stories it feels are more likely to draw readers and viewers. At its core, journalism is a business, and a key part of that business is putting out articles that will increase the profit gained. To a publisher, what would be a more intriguing story: the shooting of a middle-aged man at work just getting ready for retirement, or the slaughtering of a girl barely getting started with life at a midnight movie screening?

However deadly a tragedy may be, we must recognize its impact on the many lives it may affect, and acknowledge the horror of its occurrence in the first place. Whether reporting a story or just reading it, one should not be more interested in reacting to the shocking death of one shooting victim as opposed to another, less personally relatable one. The media has the responsibility of telling important stories. Why should it ever value one life over another?



Data collected from various databases and news reports and may be incomplete.
Image source: The Huffington Post.

the last three decades, not including the 16 that occurred just this year.

The most alarming aspect of these mass murders lies in our lack of action towards stopping them. In an expansive report, *Mother Jones* investigated the roots of mass murder. Some common threads include these acts being committed by men with poor mental health and legally obtained weapons.

The combination of loose gun laws and the violent nature of American media served as a catalyst for the exponential increase in mass murders during recent years. It’s always all fun and games—

until another occurs. Why has the moral heart of America stopped beating? Mass shootings have become such a common event that many Americans have become completely desensitized to the gravity of these horrific incidents.

We the people, the current generation of Americans, have become increasingly apathetic. The feeling of patriotism has fled the country. In the age of social media, we are more narcissistic than ever, further drawing attention away from the world around us. Can we filter and euphemize incidents of

violence, featuring only the most interesting murders and editing away those deemed mundane in comparison? Why are children and government members considered more newsworthy than other citizens?

The stars and stripes have a languorous spirit these days. We live our lives by mottos like “it’s casual” and “YOLO.” Even the dictionary has regressed to the point where slang makes the cut.

So put down your iPhone, and let’s start the war on gun violence. We the people have the power to catalyze change, the power to save lives, the power to influence policy. Channel the inner essence of democracy and let your voice be heard. Say goodbye to apathy, and hello to advocacy.

Since Newtown, CT: Shootings of 2013

		<div>March 13, 2013 Herkimer County, NY 4 dead</div>			<div>May 10, 2013 Fernley, NV 5 dead</div>			<div>July 26, 2013 Hialeah, FL 7 dead</div>			<div>September 11, 2013 Crab Orchard, TN 4 dead</div>
				<div>May 11, 2013 Waynesville, IN 4 dead</div>			<div>July 26, 2013 Clarksburg, WV 4 dead</div>			<div>September 16, 2013 Washington, D.C. 13 dead</div>	
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT		
<div>January 7, 2013 Tulsa, OK 4 dead</div>			<div>April 18, 2013 Akron, OH 4 dead</div>			<div>June 7, 2013 Santa Monica, CA 5 dead</div>	<div>August 7, 2013 Dallas, TX 4 dead</div>		<div>October 21, 2013 Sparks, NV 2 dead</div>		
<div>January 19, 2013 Albuquerque, NM 5 dead</div>	<div>April 21, 2013 Federal Way, WA 4 dead</div>		<div>April 24, 2013 Manchester, IL 5 dead</div>			<div>August 14, 2013 Oklahoma City, OK 4 dead</div>					

opinion

Sorry, We're Closed: Who Was Responsible for the Shutdown?

By Amanda Glatt '15

At midnight on October 1, 2013, the United States federal government shut down for the first time in 17 years. In simple terms, the federal government projected that it would run out of money on Tuesday—money that was allocated in a budget passed on March 30, 2013, a stop-gap measure meant to last until October 1, 2013. Congress was supposed to approve another stop-gap budget to allocate money for approximately a period of two to three months.

This required that Congress determine the appropriations of money to around 12 federal agencies or else cut all non-essential spending. A routine vote. The aftermath: trenchant spending cuts to discretionary funds.

Mandatory funding areas like Social Security checks, veteran pensions, and the Affordable Care Act remain untouched, although there may be significant delays in the arrival of the benefits. 800,000 non-essential government personnel were placed on furlough.

In addition, national parks and museums closed, the NIH was no longer accepting new research proposals, NASA was closed, and the EPA was significantly impaired in performing its responsibilities. On the 123rd anniversary of Yosemite National Park, Yosemite was closed.

Why?

A lot of blame is going around. President Obama. Democrats. Republicans. The “do nothing” Congress as a whole. These assertions are ignorantly simplistic in their equal allocation of blame. Even worse are the claims that it

Democrats that severely restricted its potency.

Now it becomes clear as it should have always been that there is one group—and one group only—to blame for this government shutdown and every past economic crisis. The extreme right wing “Tea

yet another attempt to defund the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare. A law, one must keep in mind, that was passed by a majority of the congressional houses in 2010 and was also ruled constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

But that's not legal enough for the Republicans who have voted over 40 times to repeal Obamacare. Cruz and Lee saw an opportunity in this budget to tie in a demand to defund a law they deem to be a socialist train wreck, believing that the Democrats would cave as they have always done in the past in order to protect the American economy. Mirroring the events of the 1995 shutdown, the Democrats did not cave in, reasonably hoping that people will place the blame where it belongs on the Republicans and vote accordingly in the next election.

So kudos to the Democrats, because as of Tuesday, October 1, 2013, millions of uninsured Americans began getting the health care they deserve. And an additional kudos to the Tea Party for leaving hundreds of thousands of people without jobs, making the American economy a laughingstock in the eyes of the international community, and for repeatedly holding the American economy hostage in order to perpetuate their selfish demands that benefit only themselves and yet hurt everyone else.



Protestors gather on the steps of the Capitol as the shutdown wears on. Meanwhile, Congress fails to come to a compromise. Image credit: Getty Images & CNN.

was only the Democrats and the President at fault. Not only is the President not a member of the legislative branch who has power over his party, but he and the Democrats have for years now tirelessly attempted to compromise on issues ranging from the tax rate structure, debt ceiling, and immigration reform.

Even “Obamacare” was a result of a lot of concessions by the

Party” of the GOP has hijacked the party and has time and time again threatened to hold the American economy hostage in exchange for these endless Democratic concessions. This time the Democrats rightly refused to capitulate, and the government shut down.

Radical right wingers such as Senator Ted Cruz of Texas and Senator Mike Lee of Utah turned a routine budget bill into

LIVING THE LANCER LIFE

No, The Attendance Policy is Not Screwing You Over

By Natalie Kahn '16

Many aspects of Livingston High School's attendance policy have been modified for this new school year, and these changes can be viewed as both positive and negative. Some new details of this policy include that three unexcused tardies to the same class result in a one-hour detention, while six result in two one-hour detentions, and nine lead to a Saturday detention. Furthermore, for seniors, nine tardies will also result in loss of open lunch privileges. Though the tardies are not erased at the end of each marking period, the count towards detentions starts over.

Some may find the aforementioned procedure excessive; however, this protocol is not entirely unjustified. When threatened with a detention for excessive tardiness, many students will put a greater amount of effort into avoiding unexcused lateness to class. After all, late students can disrupt the class when walking in after it has started, and possibly interfere with their own educational experience by missing key concepts taught at the beginning of class. Moreover, tardy students on test days can potentially harm their own grades by missing valuable class time.

This tardiness policy has loftier effects as well. It is preparing students for their lives ahead in the professional world. Many employers do not tolerate unpunctuality; therefore, it is immensely important for students to practice promptness at this age, so it can be turned into a habit. Also, lateness to a job can result in less money earned.

Another aspect of the new attendance policy is that students participating in co-curricular activities, such as clubs, sports, and theatre, cannot arrive at school any later than 8:50am, with a note from a parent or guardian. These students also must stay in school for the rest of the school day. If a student has a medical appointment, the student must be in school for at least four hours and thirty minutes and have a doctor's note when arriving at school. However, students cannot attend their co-curricular activity for that day if their doctor's appointment is longer than two hours and twenty minutes.

There are still many positive aspects of this new policy. First off, sometimes doctor's appointments are imperative and cannot be missed, and such appointments can frequently be made only during the school day. Many were discontented with last year's protocol,

in which students who were late to school, excused, unexcused, or dismissed early for an appointment, could not participate in co-curricular activities. Now, however, students do not have to sacrifice their sports for their health, or vice versa. This policy is a drastic improvement from the previous one.

This year's attendance policy may take a bit of getting used to at first—however, it will benefit the school and the student body in the long run. Practicing punctuality is important, and doctor's appointments will no longer disadvantage students who participate in co-curricular activities. Hence, this protocol better the Livingston High School community.

It's Not About the Money

By Stacey Cohen '15

Working nine to five, five dreary days a week stuffed into a too small desk, typing away mindlessly at a computer program that will become obsolete in the next few years.

The satisfying click of the enter key as you finally finish that novel you've been eating, breathing, and sleeping for all these years, or having a conversation with a friend about why life on this earth exists and what it's meant to do.

Today, in America's tough economy and even tougher job market, college degrees have shifted from being an advantage to a necessity. Yet, these degrees must be in serious topics like economics or biology; at the slightest mention of something like liberal arts or philosophy, there is always a sneer or comment on how worthless these degrees are in the real world.

It is so easy to consider humans as purely economic beings, especially in this age when times are particularly tough. But if philosophy or English makes someone's world finally make sense and fall into place, who are we to tell them no? To deny them of their right to pursue what makes them happy?

Making money is a top priority, money is what makes the world go 'round, but money is not what pumps through someone's veins when they're ecstatic.

This is not to say that if someone is passionate about more “serious” topics they should not pursue them; they should pursue them wholeheartedly and with enthusiasm, but allow others, whether they have similar interests or not, that same right.

Ultimately, the term “useless degree” is only used in regard to economic value, which is a blatantly inaccurate judgment of human character.

entertainment

Nor & Mally: Finally Seniors!

By Rebecca Popper '14



Editor's Mix: October

- Ghosting
Mother Mother
- Lose Your Soul
Dead Man's Bones
- Glory And Gore
Lorde
- Dead in the Water
Ellie Goulding
- Dead Leaves and the Dirty Ground
The White Stripes
- The Rake's Song
The Decemberists
- Carmen
Lana Del Rey
- (Don't Fear) The Reaper
Blue Oyster Cult
- Billie Jean
Michael Jackson
- Demon to Lean On
Wavves
- October
Broken Bells
- Light the Match
Mirah
- The Funeral
Band of Horses
- Changing of the Seasons
Two Door Cinema Club

Life's a Game

By John Lanigan '16



J.K. Rowling & Warner Bros. Reveal New Harry Potter Movie

By Melinda Hu '16

More than two years ago, people across the globe thought they had bid a final farewell to the beloved world of *Harry Potter*, but Potterheads everywhere are excited to discover that the magic will continue.

On September 12, 2013, Warner Brothers, the studio behind all eight *Harry Potter* movies, announced the film adaptation for J.K. Rowling's Hogwarts textbook, *Fantastic Beasts & Where to Find Them*. Along with being the first movie in a *Harry Potter* spin-off series, *Fantastic Beasts* will be Rowling's screenwriting debut. The best-selling author, who was protective of her creation, felt that seeing another screenwriter interpret Newt, the fictional author of the book, was difficult.

The story begins in New York seventy years prior to *Harry Potter*'s fateful entrance into the Hogwarts. Focusing on the adventures of the fictitious author and "magizoologist,"



Author J.K. Rowling. Image source: The Examiner.

Newt Scamander, the movie details his journey in finding and observing hundreds of strange specimens, from tiny cornish pixies to monstrous chimaeras.

Rowling comments, "Although it will be set in the worldwide community of witches and wizards where I was so happy for 17 years, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* is neither a prequel nor a sequel to the *Harry Potter* series, but an extension of the wizarding

world."

Warner Bros. and Rowling plan to develop the other *Harry Potter* companion books, including *Quidditch Through the Ages* and *The Tale of Beedle and Bard*, into major motion pictures as well. If *Fantastic Beasts* becomes a tremendous success like the rest of the *Harry Potter* franchise, Rowling will also continue to screen write for the other movies.

Unfortunately, the original cast of *Harry Potter* will not return to

the world of witchcraft and wizardry. When asked if Potter fans will return to watch *Fantastic Beasts*, Dan Fellman, president of domestic distribution for Warner Bros, said, "*Harry Potter* has been a sensational project for the studio...I can't imagine why we won't continue to have the fan base of the 'Potter' series come out. We can even go much younger and connect with a whole new generation."

Indeed, the *Harry Potter* community has responded eagerly to news of the upcoming film. Evanna Lynch, known for her role as Luna Lovegood in the movie series, was one of the first fans to react on Twitter. She tweeted, "Let's be honest and admit that life without magical world updates has been bloody bleak. I am SO HAPPY Jo has decided to rescue us!! SO HAPPY."

With such enthusiastic reactions, this new franchise will surely bring a smile to anyone who has found a home in the *Harry Potter* books and movies.

sports & health

LANCER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Our Committed Athletes!



Alexa Altchek
Harvard University
Sport: Softball
Position: Outfielder
Awards/Accomplishments:
First Team All-Conference
Second Team All-County
Back-to-back conferences,
County and Sectional
Champions



Eddie Chin
Princeton University
Sport: Fencing
Position: Saber
Awards/Accomplishments:
2nd at Konin Cadet World Cup
3rd at Godollo Cadet
World Cup
3rd at Louisville, KY
Junior (U20) North
American Cup



Casey Garfinkel
University of Vermont
Sport: Soccer
Position: Left Back
Awards/Accomplishments:
All Conference Player
(Freshman Year)
All Essex County First
Group IV First Team



Monica Flores
University of Notre Dame
Sport: Soccer
Position: Outside Back
Awards/Accomplishments:
All State '10,'11,'12
All Conference Award Second
Team American Division
First Team American Division
NJ Coaches Recognition
NJGSCA Top 20 North I
All Conference Soccer



Sabrina Flores
University of Notre Dame
Sport: Soccer
Position: Outside Back
Awards/Accomplishments:
All State '10,'11,'12
Top "20" north I region '12
All conference '11,'12
All Conference Award Second
Team American Division
Coaches Association:
Sectional Recognition

A Devilish Debate: Schneider or Brodeur?

By Josh Ringler '14

Look back into any Devils highlight reel and tell me who is between the pipes. Ninety-nine percent of the time it is Martin Brodeur, the greatest goalie to ever play in the Prudential Center, and—in my opinion—the greatest goalie to ever wear an NHL uniform.

As a Devils fan, it's hard to imagine any goalie getting in front of the net besides Marty. The 41-year-old has been the foundation for the Devils' three Stanley Cups and five Eastern Conference Championships.

But the man we've seen at the net is no longer what he used to be. We have to face the facts here.

Obviously, the Devils have a poor defense giving up an average of 3.25 goals per game this season, a big difference from the 2.13 goals they score a game. But Schneider has allowed less goals than his teammate averaging 1.99 per game, an improvement over Brodeur's 3.40. This vast statistical gap is responsible for Schneider getting the nod to start in the next few games, a huge decision by coach, Pete DeBoer.

Few would tell Marty to sit out; almost none actually would.

But DeBoer has had my trust since his first year. Find another coach who led an underdog team to a Game 6 victory over the Rangers in the playoffs, and a Game 6 in the Stanley Cup Finals.

Almost every Devils fan has some form of Brodeur memorabilia or apparel. It's like a "Devils Right of Passage." We all knew that one day, he wouldn't be at the net, but we didn't think he would be on the bench instead.

Yet this is the new reality.

Regardless of what happens, Brodeur will still be in the record books and on top in most of his positional categories. So, sitting on the bench, while Schneider is winning could quite possibly be the way Brodeur finishes his career.

But at the end of the year, all 30 teams are competing for the same thing. And if playing Schneider more than playing Brodeur or vice versa results in wins, that's what all Devils fans will want including the legendary goalie himself.

'Redskins' Name is a Moral Mistake

By Jordan Spector '14

"All persons ought to endeavor to follow what is right, and not what is established." - Aristotle

Sometimes, dictionaries and history books are not enough.

The renewed controversy surrounding the moniker attributed to Washington's football team has yielded a flurry of media attention. Many have argued that the ongoing debate is a waste of time. The legal battles have been fought and the name should stay as it is even if Redskin is defined as a racial slur. However, while the abhorrent nature of the word is immutable, facts only paint part of the full picture.

Beyond the aforementioned truth is a Mona Lisa of confusion and naïve opinion generated from a lack of knowledge on the subject. The main reason the majority of average football fans fail to find issue with the term Redskin is simply due to the inherent belief that the only association it has is with piskin and uniforms.

Unfortunately, no painting can be understood without first looking at the whole canvas.

A proclamation issued in 1755 at the Council Chamber in Bos-

ton placed bounties on the heads of Indians. Hunters murdered innocent Native Americans—including woman and children—cut off their scalps, and exchanged them for currency. These scalps were referred to as "redskins."

These are the facts—the corner of the canvas many Americans turn a blind eye to.

After taking history into consideration, it is understandable why the name is insulting.

Team owner Dan Snyder took a clear stance when USA Today asked whether he would consider a branding makeover: "We'll never change the name. It's simple. NEVER. You can use caps."

Snyder, in his defiance, also sent a letter to Redskins fans arguing for the organization's good intentions. His tone seemed desperate, pleading his case to hold on to a name that he knows is a slur no matter how you put it.

Tradition often skews our vision of morality to the point where it is neglected, thrown out to make room for the preservation of tradition.

Redskin Nation is no ex-

ception. It has been morally misguided (including Snyder who grew up a follower)—its fans have been desensitized to the truth behind their beloved brand.

The Washington Redskins never complimented Native Americans; they stereotyped them by disrespecting a culture and race through the conversion of sacred objects and symbols into gimmicky marketing campaigns. They completely disregarded the true significance of the word they try to sell as a positive descriptor and twisted its meaning in an attempt to mask the stench of brutality that it brings to the surface.

Redskin is equal in its racism to the N-word. The Redskins organization claims their use of the word reflects the values of strength, courage, pride, and respect. But whether the term is viewed as a source of honor or a pejorative, the negative connotation still exists regardless of its context.

And it will always exist.

The evolution of language can add meaning, but it cannot erase it.

Social progress comes

to a halt at moments like these—moments where the offended are the minority; their pleas for change are drowned out by the vitriolic banter of ignorant traditionalists simply because they do not matter enough.

It is difficult to argue that the endeavor was not lucrative in its result, though, contributing to a loyal fan base that has loved its team for decades. Yet 81 years of "Redskin" tradition is only a blip in the long history of suffering and bigotry directed towards Native Americans.

The disputed term may not offend you, it may not offend me, and it may not offend Dan Snyder. But it does offend the race it targets and undermines the significance of a dark chapter in our history.

While we can strive for mutual understanding with respect to various cultures, it is hard to do so when thousands of people gather on a weekly basis to root for a team whose mascot, logo, and name represent all that is wrong. Perhaps, it is finally time for the Redskins to do what is right: change their name and abandon an establishment that serves as a reminder of America's racist past.