

Livingston High School Students Take China

By Joan Shira '14

At 5 A.M. on Thursday, April 10, sixteen LHS students, with Mrs. Lee and Dr. Vacca, boarded a plane at Newark Liberty Airport and flew to Beijing, China. They arrived at Beijing at 3:15 P.M., and, twelve-hour time difference notwithstanding, the students went straight to exploring China.

In a matter of ten days, the class visited six cities. First, in Beijing, they visited the Great Wall of China. Adorned with guard towers and battlements, the Great Wall was used in ancient times to serve as the northern barrier that defends the capital and the imperial tombs.

Then, the class visited the Forbidden City. The Forbidden City served as the home of emperors from the Ming dynasty to the end of the Qing dynasty. From Beijing, the students took a high-speed train which travelled an average of 124 miles per hour to Zhengzhou, the capital city of the Henan province.

In Zhengzhou, the students visited and slept at Zhengzhou No. 9 School, a prestigious boarding school. Several students from Zhengzhou had visited LHS in Feb-



LHS students, Mrs. Lee, and Dr. Vacca in front of the Bird's Nest Olympic Stadium in Beijing. Image credit: Sarah Hui.

ruary. Hitting three cities in one day, the students went from Zhengzhou to Deng Feng, where they visited the Shaolin Temple in Deng Feng, then Xi'an.

First thing in the morning in Xi'an, they took a bike tour and saw the Terra Cotta Warriors. First discovered by a farmer, the Terra Cotta Army depicts the armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China. The statues were meant to protect the emperor in his afterlife. In the evening, the students were treated to a dumpling banquet.

From Xi'an, the students flew to Shanghai, the most populous city in China and in the world. In the city, the students visited the Oriental Pearl Tower, and ate at the Bund, the famous waterfront area of Shanghai.

Finally, after missing five school days (since Spring Break was shortened), the students boarded Flight UA 87, and went back home. "It's been a memorable trip," senior Sarah Hui said. "I was really grateful to the school for organizing such a life-changing experience."

Board Announces New Schedule for 2014 to 2015

By Stacey Cohen '15

The Livingston Board of Education has recently announced the schedule for the 2014 - 2015 school year.

The school year, which will begin on September 4 and end on June 25, will see the return of February break (February 16-20) and a full spring break the week of March 30-April 3. Other vacations include a four-day weekend for Memorial Day, with days off on May 22 and 26.

The calendar will retain the traditional three days for inclement weather. If additional days are necessary, days will not be taken off of February break. Rather, these additional days will be made up in the following order: May 22, June 26 (graduation would move to this day), March 30, March 31, and April 1.

"I'm really glad they added winter break back in," LHS junior Jessica Yang commented. "I also like that they're first taking off of summer and Memorial Day before cutting off of spring break."

An anonymous senior said, "I wish we had had February break this year. This schedule sounds much better than this year's."

LHS Puts On Successful Production of Grease

By Morgan Levy '15

A sold-out success, the LHS production of *Grease* wowed crowds on March 13, 14, and 15. The production shined with melodic songs, great acting, and fun 1950's attire. Livingston High School became Rydell High during the spirited night in the 1950's. Cast and crew members successfully emulated the era. The production was directed by Janene DePalo, a teacher at Riker Hill Elementary School.

The dynamic cast was led by summer lovers Layne Silverman as Sandy Dumbrowski and Jared Goldsmith as Danny Zuko. Silverman and Goldsmith shone with a number of harmonies throughout the show. After a summer fling, Sandy and Danny encounter each other when Sandy moves to Rydell High, the school that Danny attends. Even though Danny fell in love with Sandy, Danny plays it cool with his greaser friends.

The greasers show their '50s flair with slick greased hair, white t-shirts, jeans and Converse sneakers.

Doody, played by junior Josh Young, added humor with his out-of-tune guitar playing. Junior Brandon Binsol played Roger and Teen Angel with the musical number "Beauty School Dropout." Kenickie, played by senior Anthony Vecchio, showed off his new car and added to the entertainment of the production. Freshman Jared Kirsch also shined as Sonny LaTierri.

Meanwhile, Sandy attempted to make friends with the cool girls at her new school. The Pink Ladies, a clique of popular Rydell girls, pressured Sandy into smoking cigarettes, piercing her ears, and drinking alcohol. Jan, played by freshman Bailey Grey, added a touch of humor with her ebullient personality and obsession with snacks. Marty, played by senior Ana Talamas, brought strong emotion as her character's Marine boyfriend remains overseas. Junior Jessica Silverman kept audiences laughing as Frenchy, a girl who aspires to drop out of high school and attend beauty *continued page 2*

Search for Debris of Flight 370 Continues

By Jessica Li '16

On March 8, an airplane carrying 239 people from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing, China, mysteriously disappeared, resulting in an exhaustive search for the Boeing 777. After about four weeks of investigation, the search crews have yet to find the missing plane, with ten ships and aircraft searching as far as the Indian Ocean off the coast of Australia.

On March 29, Chinese observers spotted three suspicious items that were red, white, and orange. Authorities have since dropped a marker on the area to investigate further and see if they had anything to do with the plane. Australian observers also saw mysterious floating objects in another part of the ocean, leading to the further search in the Indian Ocean, specifically near Perth, Australia.

However, the search team has run out of time. They were unable to find a black box that has audio and flight data from Flight 370, which emits signals for only 30 days.

Unfortunately, they still aren't sure where the flight ended, with the US Navy equipment attempting to find the "pings" of the box.

Despite the difficulties of locating debris, clues, and now the stormy weather, search operations were determined to find the remains of the plane. Discoveries led to the conclusion that the plane was traveling faster than what authorities thought, meaning the plane ran out of fuel sooner—offering a new perspective on the search.

After Malaysia's declaration that there were no survivors, anger arose against the Malaysian authorities, sparked by Chinese relatives of the passengers on the plane. As many as two-thirds of the passengers were Chinese, and the relatives have expressed frustration on the handling of the situation, dissatisfied with the information they were given and demanding to know more. Relatives of the passengers even refuse to fly home, but officials encourage families to return after the months of turmoil. *continued page 2*

4

Battle of the Bands
Student Spotlight

5

Promposals:
Over the Top?

6

On the New SAT

News 1 & 2

Features 3 & 4

Opinion 5 & 6

Entertainment 7

Sports 7 & 8

Staff

Editors-in-Chief
Rachel Geffner & Crystal Song

News Editors
Jordan Spector & Oriana Tang

Features Editors
Morgan Levy & Rachel Roth

Opinion Editors
Joan Shira & Brett Weiser-Schlesinger

Sports & Health Editors
Randy Posner & Chloe Seltzer

Lead Cartoonist
Rebecca Popper

Special Contributors
Brianna Bachner, Daniella Naaman,
Sami Spencer, & Gabby Watson

Advisor
Joseph Trad

Contributors

Krystal Chong	Andrew Peng
Stacey Cohen	Annie Rishty
Amanda Glatt	Jace Singer
Jon Haspel	Jack Spiegler
Ty Josloff	Carly Taylor
Natalie Kahn	Sarah Tracey
Jessica Li	Bob Towey
Lily Rodino	Kerry Zak
Jackson Rynar	

The *Lance* is a newspaper publication for the reading pleasure of the Livingston District. We encourage readers to submit their ideas and opinions. We reserve the right to edit all pieces for length concerns, libelous content, and material which may cause disruption of the school and/or the district.

If you have any comments or suggestions, e-mail us at: lhs lance2014@gmail.com

30 Robert H. Harp Drive
Livingston, NJ 07039
(973) 535-8000 x8869

From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief

We’ve all seen prom asks go awry. Worst case scenario, though: the flowers wilt. The musical arrangement falls through. The friendship between a proposer and proposee briefly splinters.

Maren Sanchez, a student at Jonathan Law High School in Milford, Connecticut, was not so lucky. She will never attend her junior prom. Neither will her classmates: the school dance became a candle-light vigil for sixteen-year-old Sanchez after she was murdered by fellow junior Christopher Plaskon, having refused to go to prom with him.

Sanchez was not the kind of person against whom anyone would hold a grudge. She was a member of the National Honors Society and active in school drama. The day she was killed, several hours before prom, she asked to be excused early from the set of “Little Shop of Horrors” so she could get her nails done. She was looking forward to attending junior prom with her boyfriend, and had posted a picture of herself in her blue prom dress on Facebook. All of that was gone when Plaskon encountered her on Thursday, several hours before prom, and asked her to be his date; when she refused, he shoved her down a flight of stairs before stabbing her in the neck, face, and chest with a kitchen knife. He turned himself in to the school principal on Friday morning.

Plaskon has been convicted and now faces anywhere from 25 to 60 years in prison. His lawyer claims that he needs psychiatric care—not hard time. But it’s kind of hard to feel bad for Plaskon, who participated in track and football, who was well-known among students and described as a “class clown” and an “alright guy,” who reacted to an innocent rejection by stabbing Sanchez to death. “She already had a boyfriend, so she said no,” one classmate stated, explaining why Sanchez had refused Plaskon’s nonsensical proposal, “and I guess he got angry at that.”

This crime, shocking and outrageous as it is, was not an isolated phenomenon. Last year, in Florida, a man offered a fourteen-year-old girl \$200 to have sex with him. When she refused, he pulled her into his car, choked her until she lost consciousness, and ran her over on the side of the road. In California, a woman out for a jog was run over twice by an angry stranger who’d asked her if she wanted a ride. In Manhattan, a pregnant woman was killed when men cat-calling her from a van drove onto the sidewalk, hitting her and her friend.

Many of these men, like Plaskon, were defended by claims of their insanity. But their attitude toward women is far from insane—in fact, it has become the norm. It

is perfectly acceptable to whistle at a girl walking down the street, ask her to smile for you, or call her a slut as you drive by. It is perfectly acceptable to rail against a girl who “friendzones” you, who enjoys your company but is already dating someone else, who wears something hot on her night out but refuses to go home with you.

What are we to learn from this senseless string of tragedies? That women who don’t give men what they want are punished in the most brutal ways for it? Murder and sexual assault may not be on the same level as street harassment and other microaggressions that many women deal with on a regular basis, but this pervasive and violent attitude is much more common than we’d like to think. This isn’t insanity. It’s entitlement.

Maren Sanchez will never attend her junior prom. She will never apply for colleges or receive her high school diploma, have a career or travel the world: all the things we dream of doing, because we do not believe what happened to her could happen here. We let cases like hers slip into inconsequence, because it is easier to joke about a prom ask gone wrong than address the horror and shock of her death. She was just like us—she could have been one of us.

Rachel and Crystal

Flight 370, page 1

Even after finding satellite images of hundreds of floating objects in the ocean, the shift of the search area to the northeast in Perth brings the investigation back to the beginning.

The Malaysian government has released a preliminary five-page report into the flight disappearance.

Former Kansas KKK Leader Charged With Murder After Shooting Three At JCC



A police car is seen at the entrance of the Overland Park, Kansas JCC three hours after the shooting. Image credit: Jamie Squire.

By Andrew Peng ‘17

A 73-year-old former Ku Klux Klan leader, Fraizer Glenn Cross, has been charged with murder in a shooting at a Jewish community center and retirement home in Overland Park, Kansas that left three dead and two injured. Cross has been charged with first degree murder with a \$10 million bond.

Among the three killed in the shooting were a 14-year-old Eagle Scout and his grandfather. The two were shot at the town’s Jewish Community Center. One died at the scene and the other died after being taken to a hospital, according to local police. The third victim was a woman who was shot at Village Shalom retirement home, where she died on-scene.

After Cross was apprehended, he reportedly sat in the back of a patrol car and shouted “Heil Hitler!”

“We’re investigating the incident as a hate crime,” said Overland Park Police Chief John Douglass.

Cross made no secret of his radical and racist views, describing himself as a “raging anti-Semite,” writing letters to newspapers, and inviting people to white-supremacist meetings in his home.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, which monitors hate groups across the country, says that Cross was the founder of the Caroline Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and of the White Patriot Party, both paramilitary groups, one of which was shut down for intimidating black individuals.

He also obtained multiple firearms and avoided federal background checks by purchasing them from a straw buyer.

Cross previously spent three years in prison on weapons charges and planned assassinations.

Grease, page 1



The cast of Grease assembles on stage during the Thursday show. Image credit: Miranda Dambrot.

... school instead. Betty Rizzo, played by junior Alexis Wasserman, effectively portrayed the sharp humor and serious emotion that the character endures throughout the show.

Other cast members added to the success of the show. Senior Annie Rishty, playing Miss Lynch, enhanced the production with her portrayal of the stern teacher. Playing Patty Simcox, junior Abi Simko gave a spirited performance. Sophomore Brian Miseo added laughs as class president Eugene Florczyk.

The play also shined thanks to Musical Director Michael Jed-

wabnik, choreographer Gina Montalto, costume designers Barbara Geiger and Karen Montalto, stage manager Samantha Brown, lighting designer Alex Ehrlich, sound designer Daniel Laveman, and scenic artist Jaimey Shapey.

The production was an overwhelming success. Senior Jared Goldsmith describes the experience as “definitely a different role for me to play, but I think I did a fine job with it and I am proud of my performance. Our cast worked really hard at coming together as a family, balancing our school lives with our performance lives.”

features

Creativity At Its Finest: Livingston High School Students Dominate at Scholastic Competition

By Gabby Watson '15

Three Livingston High School students—Grace Ming, Oriana Tang, and Christina Qiu—participated and won regional and national titles in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. Since 1923, the Awards have provided young adults worldwide with an opportunity to explore the right side of their brains while showcasing their talents in creative writing and visual arts.

The competition is known for opening new doors for young generations, whether in the form of college scholarships or in predicting future fame as in the cases of renowned figures like Truman Capote (1932), Andy Warhol (ca. 1945), and Sylvia Plath (1947).

“Through high school, I’ve really looked forward to entering the Scholastic Art Competition,” said senior Grace Ming. A stellar artist, Grace’s talent didn’t develop overnight. Rather, it is the product of years spent honing and nourishing a favored past-time. As a young child, she “did what kids do; I colored stuff and took art classes some years in elementary school. When I realized that I was good at it, I started loving it more, which encouraged me to get better at it.”

From there, Grace went on to become an avid participant in the Scholastic Art Competition, submitting pieces in every contest since 2011. This year, she won a National Gold Medal for “Jaipur City Palace,” created using ink pen, acrylic paint, henna paste, colored paper, and a foam board.

However, art is not Grace’s

only hobby. In her free time, she “love[s] listening to and making music... I do track, I really like naps, I love going out in nice weather, and eating, and movies.”

As for her future, Grace plans to incorporate art in some way in college or in her career. “I’m hoping that I’ll be at a place in my life where art and music won’t be secondary to the other things I would be doing. I want to start getting involved with digital art... I’ve considered maybe becoming a tattoo artist. Who knows! I’m interested in getting to know cultures around the world, and hopefully impacting communities around me...but that’s all pretty ideal. I’m just going to focus on getting to graduation right now.”

“I’ve been interested in writing since elementary school, but didn’t begin to take it seriously until eighth grade,” explained junior Oriana Tang. An amazing writer, some of her favorite authors include Tobias Wolff, George Saunders, Junot Diaz, Yiyun Li, Emma Cline, and Flannery O’Connor, and she enjoys reading them whenever she can. “But I’m busy most of the time,” she added.

For the competition, Oriana mailed eight pieces, of which all received regional awards and three went on to receive national awards: a Gold Medal for short story, a Gold Medal and Best in Grade

Award for a poetry collection, and a Silver Medal for a second poetry collection. “Blossom,” the short story for which she received a national award, tells the story of a woman whose mother visits from China to see her and her young daughter. “I was trying to explore intergenerational differences and understand how tradition and modern culture can be consolidated,” Oriana says of her piece.

Ideally, upon graduating college, Oriana would like to pursue a career in literature. Ten years from now, she sees herself “potentially in grad school accumulating more student loans. Other than that, I’m uncertain; anything can happen.”

J u n i o r Christina Qiu entered the competition for the fun and enriching experiences. “Scholastic is an interesting competition because it’s gigantic,” she says. “You truly are put in the middle of a national representation of art, from nearly professional teenage artists to teenage artists who view art as a hobby, from people of all different backgrounds with all different experiences, and, geographically, from people all over the country.”

Christina’s rise to the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards started as a hobby. It wasn’t until eighth grade that Christina began to take her writing more seriously and view it as “a cathartic, self-discovering

process,” and not until last year that she realized her writing was a perfect medium to express her social and political frustration through viewpoints uncommonly found in literature, particularly the Asian-American perspective. “I’ve found that the more I wrote the more I began to think through writing... I get to explore aspects of myself I never knew were there in the first place.”

Christina won regional awards for four of the nine pieces she entered, three of which were entered into the pool for national adjudication. Of those, Christina won two national awards, a Silver Medal for flash fiction and a Gold Medal for short story.

Of her story, “Lucy at Home,” about a Chinese American nurse serving in the Vietnam War, Christina says, “I realized the Asian-American experience during the Vietnam War is a unique, untold, and complex one...I wanted to convey not only the experience of Asian Americans, but also end with the idea that we are all human and we all have the innate ability to empathize with one another—a first step to building from our past and improving our future in not only tolerance, but acceptance, and not only consciousness, but reflection.”

In the future, Christina hopes to publish a book and pursue a PhD. “But,” Christina adds, “if I’ve learned anything from my role models, it’s that life just happens, and most of the time, what ends up happening is so much richer than what you originally had planned.”

Want That Beach Body? Tips and Tricks for Saving Money While Shopping Healthy

By Kerry Zak '15

With spring and summer quickly approaching, everyone is suddenly in a rush to get the perfect “beach body.” However, one of the most frequent excuses behind “I don’t have time” is that eating healthy and exercising is “too expensive.” Using these tips and tricks, you can stay fit and healthy even on a budget.

Shop smart. At the grocery store, look at products that are on sale or reduced for that week. Doing this can even help you vary your diet, since different items go on sale every week.

Couponing. Nowadays, coupons are not just sent by mail or inserted in magazines, but are also widely available online at coupon websites. Look for companies and brands that are marketing new “healthy” products, for which they usually have coupons in order to spark buyer interest. But be careful: not every product that appears “healthy” has nutritional value. Always check your ingredients!



One of the best ways to save money while shopping healthy is couponing. Image source: Chicago Tribune.

Rewards. If you frequently buy a certain product, a grocery store will often reward you with coupons that can be used the next time you buy that product.

Shop locally. Although organic products are said to be the “healthiest” foods, buying non-

organic produce is better than no produce at all. Look no farther than your local farmer’s market to find produce at much lower prices than the supermarket.

Buy in season. Fruits and vegetables are much cheaper when they are in season, and you can get

a variety of nutrients in your diet from coordinating your purchases according to what is in season. If you are really craving a certain food, buying frozen vegetables is just as healthy as buying fresh, and is lighter on your wallet.

Gyms are overrated. Nowadays, you don’t even need a fancy gym membership to get healthy. With YouTube, you can work out for free, and without having to leave your house. Look for fitness channels such as Fitness Blender, BeFit, Blogilates, and others.

Look for freebies. Certain fitness establishments will often give a free class or free week of classes for new members. Take advantage of them!

Buy in bulk. Everyone knows that it is cheaper to buy in bulk. If there is a nutrition bar you are addicted to, or a yoga studio you love, it’s better to buy more! Although expensive at first, package deals and bulk purchases can pay off in the long run.

features

Student Spotlight: *The Lance* Talks to RX Vibe’s Ethan Yampolsky

By Brett Weiser-Schlesinger ‘14

Ethan Yampolsky is one half of the duo RX Vibe, a hip-hop group based in Livingston, New Jersey. Though RX Vibe is currently on hiatus, they are still producing new music, and competed in the 2014 Livingston High School Battle of the Bands competition. Ethan gave *The Lance* some insight into his experiences in music and through high school.

The Lance: Give me some background into your role in RX Vibe.

Ethan Yampolsky: I am just half a duo. I rap. I occasionally try to sing, but I’m not good at it. And I did a lot of promoting and networking at one point as well.”

Lance: How did you get started with creating music?

EY: I really liked heavy metal, like hardcore, death metal, nu metal, and thrash at a young age, so that really drove me as a lyricist.

Lance: What drove you towards creating hip-hop?

EY: I listened to some hip-hop after fourth grade, but didn’t write my first actual “rap” verse until eighth grade. My first verse was more on the simple side...A lot of cheesy



RX Vibe performing at the 2014 Battle of the Bands. Image credit: Joe Ragaza.

metaphors and pathetic attempts at political commentary.

Lance: How have you changed your style from that eighth grade verse to the music you make today?

EY: I’ve really put a lot of thought into my lyric-writing since then, and I’ve had plenty of experiences over the last four years that have driven me to write better bars. The people I’ve met, my relationships with family, my failures, all drove me to rap the way I do.

Lance: What do you think works

best for you when you are creating a new verse?

EY: A whole lot of things have to come together for me when I try to do a track, but it really depends what kind of energy I’m feeling. I try to vary between deep and shallow subject matter. My verse always depends on the beat, too. The lyrics have to match the instrumental one way or another. If it’s a sad, introspective beat, I feel what it projects and I try to write that.

Lance: Who have been the biggest

influences on your lyrics and music?

EY: I really mess heavily with independent hip-hop but I also like mainstream. My two favorite rap albums are probably Mos Def and Talib Kweli’s *Black Star* and Kanye West’s *College Dropout*. Kanye’s attitude when it came to his first two albums seemed to be truly something else.

Lance: Personally, who’s influenced you most?

EY: My friend Daniel and I have been friends for over a decade now. This kid had stuck with me through everything. It’s really people like him that have kept me motivated. He drew the cover for my first mixtape and as of recently he’s started rapping as well.

My mom always tried to tell me she believed I could write. I’ve obviously had my doubts, but I kept going and I eventually found rapping was where I could direct that skill.

And my grandma, of course. The one conversation I will remember for the rest of my life: when I had first started rapping. I went over her apartment, sat down at her kitchen table and told her about it. She smiled, told me I should quit and not pursue it, and we just laughed about it together. I owe her a Grammy now.

Students Create Artwork In Remembrance of the Holocaust



Top: Sarah Tracey’s piece “Torn Apart.”
Top Right: Sarah Tracey’s piece “Inerasable.”
Bottom: Jace Singer’s piece “Never Forget.”
Bottom Right: Jace Singer’s piece “Remember.”
Image credit: Sarah Tracey.



By Sarah Tracey ‘14 and Jace Singer ‘14

To raise awareness of the Holocaust, Livingston High School’s Holocaust and Genocide course, taught by Jill Tejada, got involved in a variety of projects to wrap up the class. Two students, seniors Sarah Tracey and Jace Singer, decided to bring light to the horrors of the Holocaust by creating works of art.

The pieces they made explore the ideas they learned from the course and depict little-known aspects of the Holocaust. For example, in one piece, Sarah drew a progressively aging couple walking down the train tracks to enter a camp. Sarah got this idea from a book that discussed how the Holocaust uprooted millions and tore countless families apart. In her other piece, Sarah incorporated her personal ties to the Holocaust by including a copy of her great uncle’s records of imprisonment at the Mauthausen concentration camp along with other related symbols.

Jace’s pieces, on the other hand, focus on remembrance. “One of my drawings contains the word “Holocaust” in Hebrew as the main focus... [because it] shows why we’re doing this project in the first place,” she said. The piece also depicts a yahrzeit candle, which is lit on Holocaust Remembrance Day, that reads “Six Million” to represent the number of Jews killed. Jace’s other piece showcases a gate on which are written “Arbeit Macht Frei,” the German words for “Work Will Set You Free,” a phrase inscribed on the gate of every concentration camp. In addition, Jace wrote on the tombstone, “Never Forget April 1945,” the date the camps were liberated.

opinion

Head-to-Head: Are Today’s Promposals Over the Top?

YES
By Annie Rishty ‘14

After my fair share of proms, I’ve discovered that the escalating promposals are just ridiculous. I would think that these guys are trying to even out the difference with their date’s extravagant dress, hair and make-up appointments by asking her in an elaborate way. But honestly, guys, it’s totally unnecessary. I’ve seen everything from a simple hand-over of the prom bid to Harlem Shake videos to a guy bringing a donkey to his prospective date’s house. Seriously, save yourself the time and money, and just keep it simple.

Don’t be afraid to give a girl cupcakes, for example, because the prom diet doesn’t start until after you ask her anyway. Some guys are even decent enough to get their lucky lady a rose or a bouquet of flowers . . . even though they’ll last only a couple of days. A poster is a great way for guys to show their creativity and make it personal; it even gives the girls a little souvenir to bring home and show her parents.

Guys need to understand

that the way they ask the girl is of vital importance and leaves an impression, good or bad, on his date’s parents. So, don’t ask the girl in some obnoxious way because the parents will only think that you’re obnoxious; make sure it’s sincere so the parents will believe that you have good intentions.

What I’ve discovered is that a girl wants to bring something home with her, to remember the way you ask her. Everyone seems to ask their lovely bachelorette for purposes of the “upload” and to see how many likes you’ll get on Facebook. But are you doing this elaborate promposal for the publicity or just to simply ask the girl to be your date for the prom?

Promposals for seniors have already begun, but this is good advice for the junior boys to know the dos and don’ts for next year, and even for the senior guys who wants help asking their lady to a Frat Formal. Don’t ask a girl so simply that it insults her, but there’s no need to plan a flash mob and blazing music. Promposals shouldn’t be obnoxious or discourteous; they should be sincere, genuine and memorable.

NO
By Carly Taylor ‘15

Among the buzz that occurs at Livingston High School, prom is one topic that students of all grades seem to have a firm standpoint on. To an underclassman, prom is seen as a distant milestone, and there is still time to dream about the perfect look and hypothetical date. As an upperclassman, prom becomes a chaotic reality in which the hunt for a date and an outfit all become unwanted factors in an already stressful year. The one thing that attendees of all genders have to look forward to: an elaborate “promposal” that will forever be remembered.

As a junior, I can testify that assisting in the planning of a prom proposal for a close friend is an exciting and rewarding experience in the end—when they say yes, of course. Although I never got the chance to “officially” ask my own out-of-town date to the event, it was a thrill to vicariously live through my friends, and take part in some of the action. There is nothing better than seeing the surprised look on someone’s face, and the admiring

looks of others, when a proposal has been successfully executed.

In addition, it’s a great way to prove just how much you know your date! Whether they have a favorite sport, TV show, or food, there is a plethora of ways you can get inspired, and earn brownie points for showing how much you really care about him or her.

In this day and age, social media is often the ultimate deciding factor. Whether you are “doing it for the Vine” or the inevitable Facebook likes, an elaborate promposal will fulfill the need for virtual attention and a self-esteem boost.

The preparation for prom can become a stressful time for everyone, and it is difficult to not be pessimistic about it all. However, your prom night will be one of the most memorable events of high school, even years after graduating.

So, as prom is rapidly approaching for the seniors, and the junior prom frenzy is revived as early as next fall, it is important to keep in mind that although it may seem like a lot of effort at the time, an elaborate promposal will never fail to go down in LHS history.

ROVING REPORTER: “How would you want to be asked to prom?”

By Crystal Song ‘14

“With food. And balloons. Food and balloons.”

Joan Shira

“A fake issue of *The Lance*.”

Morgan Levy

“A full steak dinner.”

Brett Weiser-Schlesinger

“With a scavenger hunt.”

Oriana Tang

“With a rocket ship.”

Sami Spencer

“I need a whole-grain organic almond butter sandwich and the most expensive cologne.”

Joseph Trad

“Kind of cliché, but with a cake or cupcakes.”

Gabby Watson

Violence in Video Games? Rehabilitating a Bad Reputation

By Krystal Chong ‘14 and Brett Weiser-Schlesinger ‘14

As violent crime continues to dominate headlines in the United States, researchers have tried and failed to find a single factor to blame. Gun ownership? Too controversial with far-right activists. Poor parenting? Too controversial with the 85% of Americans that are or will become parents. Over time, blaming the “trendy thing” in entertainment is usually easiest. In today’s case, that thing is video games.

In American culture, a misconception of video game consumers is far too common: that video games, especially of the more violent kind, result in aggressive tendencies among their younger players. But in reality, video games are not limited to pre-pubescent hormonal boys shrieking over a microphone in online game chat. According to the Entertainment Software Association, the average video game player today is 30, with 45% of that population consisting of women. Less



Thatgamecompany’s “Journey,” an example of a video game that promotes creativity rather than violence. Image source: Thatgamecompany.com.

than a quarter of video games sold in 2012 were your bloody “shoot-em-up” style games, and only 4 of the top 10 games are shooters. And a study by Oxford University suggests that video games have no direct connection to violent behavior at all, even exposure to the most notoriously violent titles like Grand Theft Auto or Call of Duty.

Sure, you can argue that Pokemon promotes animal abuse,

or that Need for Speed promotes reckless driving, but in the end, every piece of entertainment has some sort of exploitable negative aspect associated with it. In fact, not only are most video games nonviolent, but many even promote positive and forward-thinking messages over the course of their stories. In Thatgamecompany’s “Journey,” the player controls a nameless, gender-neutral,

universally-relatable robed figure trekking through a vast desert. The mystique of this character leaves the player to create his or her own perception of the figure’s identity. Games that promote creativity are becoming even more common, and will only lead to a better and more innovative future for gaming.

We must remember that the gaming industry is still relatively young. While violent games will continue to be developed and played by a large portion of children, games with a “message” are becoming more popular by the month.

As was the case when the novel, the feature film, or the comic book were each popular scapegoats for violence, video games are not to blame for violent behavior. Moving on from this will help us both to understand our culture better and to appreciate video games as something more than a series of pixels being controlled by a \$50 piece of plastic hardware—maybe, even, as a kind of art.

opinion

The New SAT: All Hype, No Substance?

By Amanda Glatt '15

Candid. Unequivocal. Guileless. I cannot claim for sure, but I suspect future takers of the new SAT Reasoning Test will not have to pull out their hair learning those words. In an effort to realign the current bane of high school students' existences to the demands of college and the workplace, the College Board has given it a makeover: optional essay, 1600 scale, vocabulary more suited to the demands of life. Goodbye "recondite," and hello to "empirical" and "synthesis."

The operative word being, however, makeover. In case that's a word deemed pertinent on the new test, let me define it for you. A makeover is the act or process of making changes to improve the appearance of someone or something. There is no doubt of course that the current SAT has an image problem; more students are taking and more colleges accepting its main competition: the ACT. Fun fact: the ACT prides itself on its optional essay component. Last year, the number of students who took the ACT surpassed the number who took the SAT for the first time ever. Moreover, almost every day a new study is published refuting the popular claim that SAT scores can predict achievement.

So clearly the College Board

is losing its prestige as the maker of the only test that can accurately determine future success. And with lost prestige comes lost money, because we all know the test isn't free, and despite being "non-profit," the College Board is still a business.

At this point, I want to establish that I am firmly against the

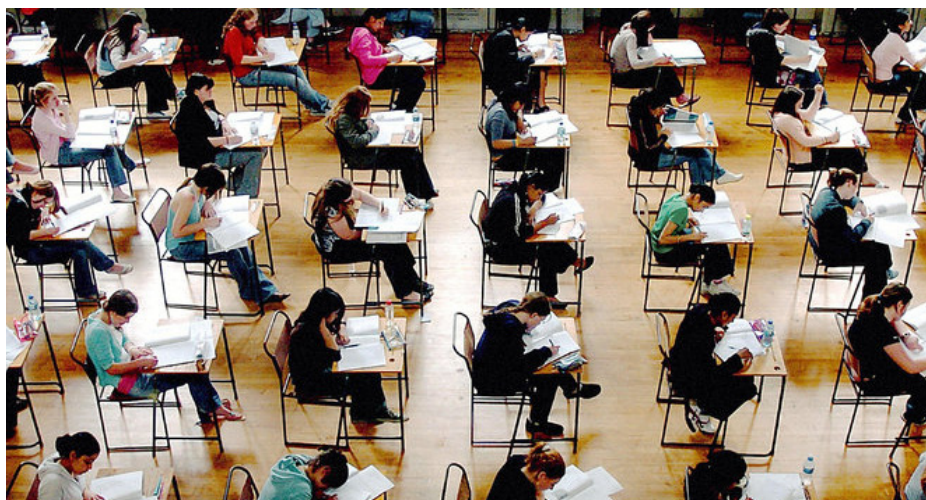
The SAT cannot predict future success not because of esoteric vocabulary, but because of the test itself and what it requires of students.

Students do not traditionally learn ... well ... anything from the SAT. The words are memorized and quickly forgotten. Less obviously, there are common gram-

predictor of success.

The new SAT does not deign to address this glaring issue and several others. What about the fact that for all its hype of standardization, students at a socioeconomic disadvantage still lag far behind those able to afford the countless books, tutors, and classes? For that matter, what about the fact that a test intended to measure solely individual aptitude is often actually measuring the aptitude of a student and his or her tutor? To be clear, I do not fault students for seeking help; tutoring is often the only way to acquire the desired scores, and for that I place all the blame on the College Board.

The new SAT will not be any worse than the current one, and maybe it will even be slightly better, but it will certainly not be the best it could and should be. It is no mystery why the SAT has been dethroned as the king test in favor of the ACT. Maybe the makers of the SAT realized some of this, but I doubt it, because the new test, however superficially improved, will still place some at an advantage over others. I do not believe that standardized includes the word "advantage" in its definition, but I'll reserve judgment until the College Board defines it, because the word "standardized" is probably in the new vocabulary. Homogeneous? Forget about it.



Two to three million students take the SAT every year. Image source: New York Times.

changes to the SAT, but not for the reasons others argue. I take no issue with streamlining the test to focus on vocabulary and mathematics problems that reflect the real world. I do take issue with a makeover, when it has been painfully obvious to me that the SAT needs to be turned completely inside out and reworked. These changes are like treating a gunshot wound with a band-aid: a quick, ineffective fix.

mar and math problems repeated often on the test that can be learned without truly improving those skills. In fact, the only portion of the test that required honing a skill was writing the essay, but that has gone the way of the woolly mammoth. One of the true problems of the SAT has been that it does not test skill, and thus it does not measure skill; it is for this reason that it has been debunked as a

Why the Tesla Ban is Unfair

By Natalie Kahn '16

Recently, the New Jersey Legislature, following Arizona and Texas, issued a ban on Tesla car sales, a relatively new car company that specifically manufactures higher-end electric cars. This ban has not come without outrage from Tesla, in addition to many New Jersey citizens who support Tesla's goals in marketing electric cars that help protect the environment. Also, the ban has raised debate as to whether or not the government should be able to interfere with sales. Since this government prohibition is hindering a company's progress in helping the environment through their practice, it is not justified.

Governments should not use their authority to control industries. It is not reasonable that the New Jersey Legislature is targeting Tesla because they sell their cars directly to the consumer, without a franchise agreement from a car company. In other words, they are cutting out the "middle man" whom Christie believes that he is protecting. However, how is this different from a boutique clothing store that sells its clothing directly to the consumer, without going through a huge franchise? Although clothes may be less expensive than automobiles, it is still unfair that such boutique clothing stores are able to participate as they wish in the American

free market capitalist system, while comparable car manufactures face government opposition.

In addition to the inequality of this legislation, it is also hindering Tesla's efforts of protecting the environment through their sale of electric cars. Tesla was slow to gain speed in the market at first, however, as they have recently started marketing to a wider audience, their sales have increased. People who were previously interested in buying luxury, fuel-inefficient cars are now considering these Earth-friendly models instead.

One small step at a time, Tesla is undeniably helping detoxify the atmosphere, as well as inspiring other automobile companies to manufacture electric cars to add to the competitive pool. Therefore, it is wrong for the Legislature to invoke such a ban on a company as motivated to help protect the world in which we live.

This New Jersey Bill, which is proposing a situation that does not comply with the capitalist system while hindering the efforts of Tesla to market their product, should not be made into law. Luxury electric cars have found their niche in the marketplace, and their sales are only increasing. It would be a travesty to see this worthy company fall as a result of government-imposed sanctions.

The Blade Runner's Last Stand

By Morgan Levy '15

We live in the age of the underdog. It's human nature to root for the unlikely victor, the one who comes from bad circumstances, the one who triumphs over adversity. However, this underdog bias should not impact the judicial system.

The trial of Oscar Pistorius at the High Court of South Africa began on March 3, 2014. Pistorius, known as "the Blade Runner" because of his success as a competitive runner with prosthetic legs after a double amputation, stood accused of the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp, in addition to a variety of gun-related charges.

Pistorius gained celebrity status following his running successes; the double amputee athlete is also tremendously wealthy. Furthermore, the murder trial shows bias towards Pistorius. The South African legal system is one of crowded cells, bail that cannot be paid off, and harsh injustices; Pistorius, on the other hand, was granted bail even though he was charged with a level six offense.

Judges and attentive citizens alike must pierce the web of lies in Pistorius' testimony. Pistorius was not on his prosthetic legs when he fired on his girlfriend through the door of their bathroom, presumably to defend her from an intruder Pistorius claimed to hear; however,

he did not even open the door to verify this assumption before shooting and fatally wounding Steenkamp. This was a fatal lapse in judgment.

More likely is Pistorius' intent to kill Steenkamp. In the months leading up to her death, tension loomed between the couple. Steenkamp sent her boyfriend texts claiming that she felt threatened by him. Even as a double amputee, Pistorius held power over Steenkamp.

Pistorius played the sympathy card by removing his prosthetics in the middle of the courtroom so the jury could see the stumps of his legs, and crying throughout the proceedings. However, Pistorius' true thoughts on violence are obvious in a video taken of him at a shooting range in 2011. An amused Pistorius commented that "It's not as soft as brains, but it is a zombie stopper," while firing a gun at a watermelon—the same gun later used to kill Steenkamp.

The murder was no accident, contrary to the carefully crafted defense story, but instead a premeditated act. When the trial resumes on May 5, society must sift through the net of lies and seek justice: for Reeva, and for all those murdered by celebrities who walk out of the courtroom with no jail sentence. The Blade Runner is capable of violence, even as a double amputee.

This is one underdog story that should not have a happy ending.

entertainment

Spring 2014 Movie Previews

By Jackson Rynar '17

Springtime is sweeping the nation with new and exciting movies such as *Maleficent*, starring Angelina Jolie. The film *Maleficent*, like the book and Broadway musical *Wicked*, tells the side of the story of the villain from the fairy tale “Sleeping Beauty.”

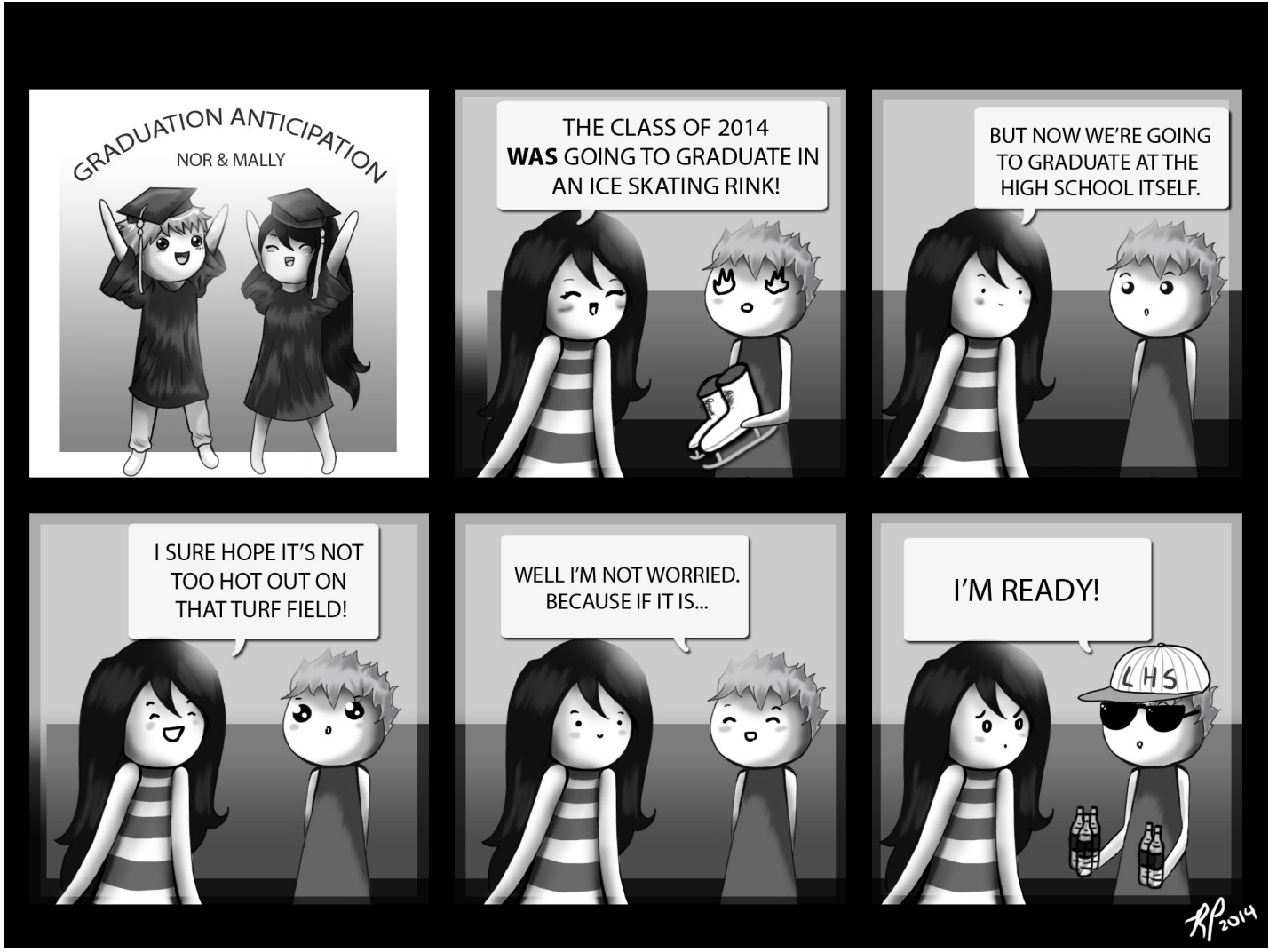
Another film this spring involves the Muppets. That’s right, the Muppets are back in a new film, *Muppets Most Wanted*, which features stars such as Tina Fey, Ty Burrell, Ricky Gervais, and many more. *Muppets Most Wanted* is about the Muppets’ involvement in a European jewel heist led by an evil look-alike to Kermit the Frog.

If you enjoyed *The Hunger Games*, then the new movie *Divergent* is for you. *Divergent* is based on a young adult novel by Veronica Roth that is set in a dystopian future where society is divided into five sections determined by personality. *Divergent* is set to be the number one film of the box office this spring.

If you’re looking for a comedy, check out *Bad Words*, starring Jason Bateman. *Bad Words* is about a middle-aged man who uses a loophole to enter a spelling bee. Another upcoming comedy is *Neighbors*, starring the hilarious Seth Rogen and Zac Efron. The film is about a couple with a newborn baby who face unexpected and comical diffi-

Senior Perspective

By Rebecca Popper '14



culties after they are forced to live next to a fraternity house. From the creators of “Family Guy” and *Ted* come another great comedy, *A Million Ways to Die in the West*, which stars Seth MacFarlane. This film puts a comical spin on what it was

like to live in the Wild West.

Or, if you’re into sports movies, there are two great ones coming out this spring: *Draft Day* and *Million Dollar Arm*. *Draft Day* is about the General Manager of the Cleveland Browns, who struggles

to acquire the number one draft pick for his team, while *Million Dollar Arm* is about a sports agent played by Jon Hamm who stages an unconventional recruitment strategy to get Asian cricket players to play major league baseball.

sports

Shaun Livingston: From Lottery Pick to Journeyman to Brooklyn

By Ty Josloff '17

In 2004, Shaun Livingston was drafted fourth overall out of Peoria Central High School by the Los Angeles Clippers. At six foot seven with exceptional ball-handling skills and a knack for passing, Livingston drew comparisons to Penny Hardaway, a four-time NBA All-Star who was drafted third overall in 1993. It took the point guard a few seasons to adjust to the NBA. “During [that] season, I was feeling good,” said Livingston. “Like I was moving in the right direction.”

In February 2007, the Clippers were playing the Charlotte Bobcats. Livingston went up for a routine layup and sustained severe injuries, tearing his ACL, PCL, and lateral meniscus. He also sprained his medial collateral ligament, and dislocated his patella and his tibio-fibular joint. There was talk of amputating his left leg; many believed that he would never play again.

But Livingston never quit. After sixteen months of rehab, he signed with the Miami Heat in Oc-

tober 2008. He later admitted that it was challenging to go from one of the cornerstones of a franchise to a mere fringe player, struggling to maintain his position on a fifteen-man roster. Eventually Livingston would go on to play with the Oklahoma City Thunder, Washington Wizards, Charlotte Bobcats, Milwaukee Bucks, and Cleveland Cavaliers.

In July 2013, the Brooklyn Nets signed Livingston to a one-year contract. Livingston, now twenty-eight years old, performed well enough to earn himself a spot in the starting line-up after Brook Lopez suffered an injury. He was pivotal in Brooklyn’s season turnaround after an embarrassing 10-21 start and put up his best statistics since his breakout 06-07 season.

While there is doubt as to whether or not the Nets will be able to afford to resign him during the offseason, Shaun Livingston has hopefully found a home in Brooklyn after years of being a journeyman on the fringe of the NBA.

Livingston Lancer Sports Updates

By Bob Towey '16
Baseball

The varsity baseball team currently holds a 4-3-0 record and began their season with a three game winning streak, defeating West Essex 3-1, Montclair 8-1, and West Orange 3-0. However, they lost against Bloomfield 4-6, Nutley 4-6, and Seton Hall Prep 2-6. In their last game, the Lancers defeated Montclair, this time 5-0. The team is led in runs, hits, and RBIs by Omari Beaubien, Austin Bushwell, Jimmy Catanzarite, Chris Conway, Kyle Desmond, Shane McLaughlin, Mark Silvestri, and Tyler Zuppa. Beaubien, Silvestri, Zuppa, and Dom Gamba have also pitched well this season.

Softball

The varsity softball team started off with a 7-0-0 record. To date the team is undefeated, winning against West Essex 9-1, Cedar Grove 10-3, Pascack Hills 4-3, Mount Saint Dominic Academy 7-2, Montclair 16-0, and Newark Academy 3-2. The team is led in hits, runs, and RBIs by Kylie McLaughlin, Marina Lombardi, Alexa Altchek, and Sam

Rothenberger, with Sami Passeri and Sydney McCormack playing pitcher.

Boys Lacrosse

The boys varsity lacrosse team began its season with a 7-2-0 record. The team started with a 12-3 win over Hanover Park before a 5-6 loss to Hillsborough. The Lancers won their next four games, defeating North Warren 16-8, Millburn 12-6, Morris Hills 14-5, and Nutley 18-7. The team then lost to Morristown Beard 14-18 before defeating Mount Olive 13-10 and East Side 17-1. Leading scorers include Tommy Heller, Billy Mandl, Brendan Flaherty, and Jake Hoffer, with Brandon Stone playing goalie.

Boys Volleyball

The boys varsity volleyball team started off its season with a 6-1-0 record, and is currently ranked 16th in the State top 20. The team won its first five matches against Belleville 2-0, Summit 2-1, Montclair 2-0, Golda Och Academy 2-0, and North 13th Street Tech 2-0. The team then saw a 1-2 defeat by Bloomfield and a 2-0 win over West Essex. This year’s team is led by senior captains David Shulman, Mike Cheng, Tom Montesio, and Jay Schaefer.

sports

NCAA Basketball Prospects: Top Players to Watch for the NBA Draft

By Jack Spiegler '16

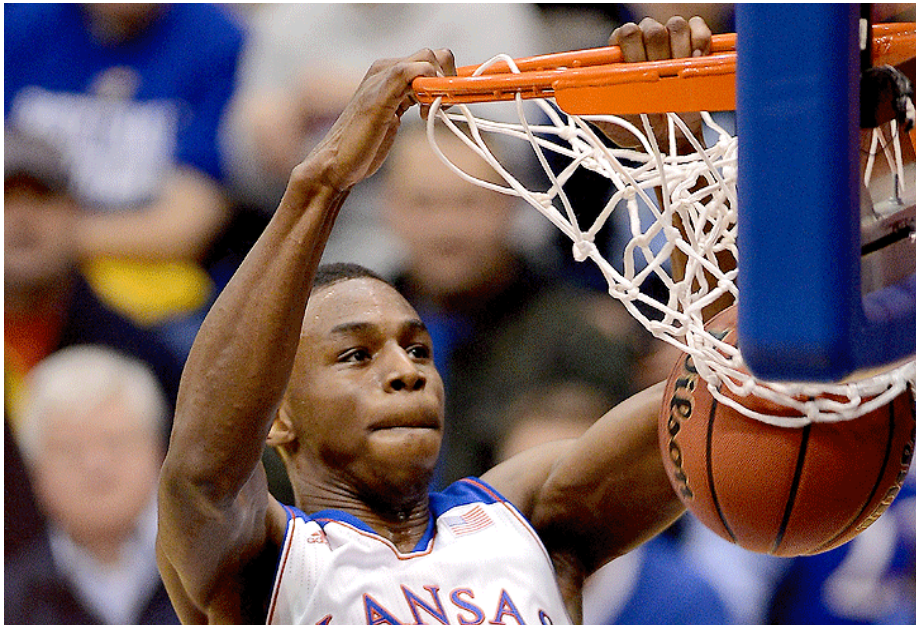
From the tip of the college basketball season, the Final Four in March Madness, to the NBA Draft, the players in college basketball are very exciting to watch. This article will serve as a guide for the elite NBA prospects to watch out for next year.

Andrew Wiggins
College - Kansas
Age - Freshman
Position - Guard
Height - 6'8"

Andrew Wiggins was the top prospect coming out of high school in 2013, and though he still has room for improvement, Wiggins is already a high-quality player with immense potential. Wiggins averaged 17 points per game and 6 rebounds per game, and his play in February silenced the critics. Despite Wiggins being a freshman and losing to Stanford in the Round of 32 in March Madness, Wiggins has proven the star he can be in the NBA. Projected pick: top 5.

Joel Embiid
College - Kansas
Age - Freshman
Position - Center
Height - 7'0"

Joel Embiid is a freshman from Cameroon, and this seven-footer has proven that he will not let Andrew Wiggins take the number-one spot so easily. Embiid averaged 11 points per game and with an average



Consensus number 1 pick and NBA prospect Andrew Wiggins.
Image source: kansascity.com

of eight boards, but Embiid's raw talent is what makes him so much of a threat and good bet for a high draft pick. Embiid has decided to declare for the draft, and regardless of where he ends up, Embiid will be a very successful player. Projected pick: top 3.

Jabari Parker
College - Duke
Age - Freshman
Position - Forward
Height - 6'8"

This Duke freshman has the statistics behind him to prove that he is one of the best prospects for the NBA if he declares for the draft. Parker averaged 19 points per game and 9 rebounds per game

during the season, and is not going to let Andrew Wiggins or Joel Embiid take the spotlight away from him on draft day. Projected pick: top 3.

Marcus Smart
College - Oklahoma State
Age - Sophomore
Position - Guard
Height - 6'4"

Marcus Smart's last name is a perfect representation of his play; he has brilliant basketball IQ and averaged points, 6 rebounds, and 5 assists per game during the season despite his emotional outbursts during the end of the season. If Smart can keep his emotions in check, he can be one good player.

Projected pick: top 1.
Doug McDermott
College - Creighton
Age - Senior
Position - Forward
Height - 6'7"

McDermott is one of the best players in college basketball history, and has been better than ever. McDermott averaged 27 points and 7 rebounds per game, and Creighton's tougher schedule in the Big East is bringing even more attention to McDermott's game. This All-American will see his draft stock skyrocket on draft day with a team seeing the forward's scoring and leadership potential. Projected pick: top 10.

Julius Randle
College - Kentucky
Age - Freshman
Position - Forward
Height - 6'9"

Kentucky is famous for its successful freshmen that develop into high picks in the NBA Draft, including Anthony Davis, Michael Kidd-Gilchrist, and John Wall. Julius Randle is another Kentucky freshman of high talent, and averaged a double-double during his first year as a Wildcat, with 15 points and 10 rebounds per game. Randle also led his team to the Final Four and stunned many spectators by knocking off March Madness favorites like Wichita State and Michigan. If Randle isn't deserving of a high pick, then nobody is. Projected pick: top 10.

The Donald Sterling Saga: What the Expulsion of Basketball's Longest-Tenured Owner Means for the NBA

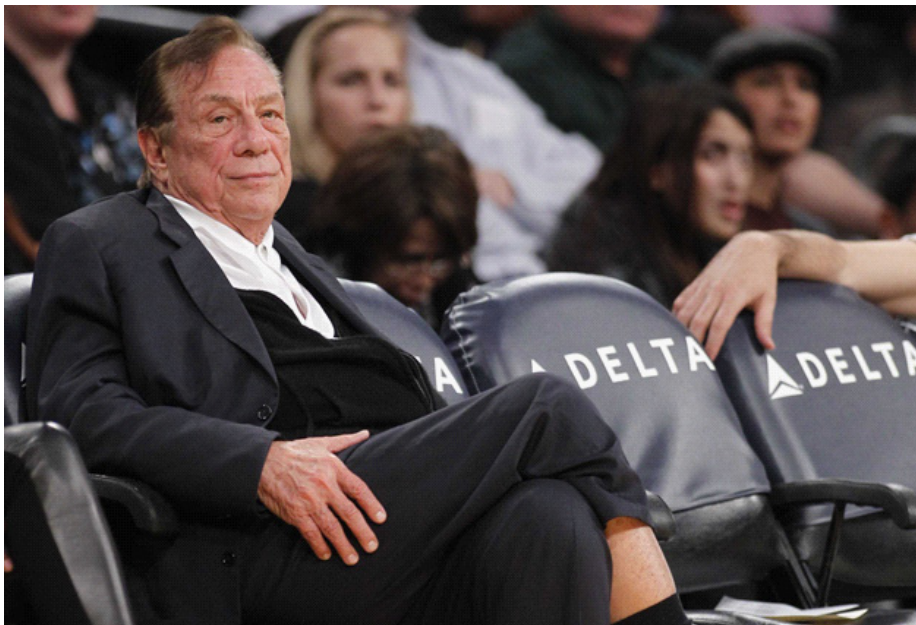
By Brett Weiser-Schlesinger '14

Donald Sterling, owner of the Los Angeles Clippers franchise, was recently fined \$2.5 million, forced to sell his franchise to a new owner, and banned from any future position in the National Basketball Association by NBA Commissioner Adam Silver on April 29. A leaked recording of the billionaire, in which Sterling famously ordered then-girlfriend V. Stiviano to stop "associating with black people" and to "[not] bring black people" to Clippers games, was what led to the owner's fate.

Players, managers, journalists, fans, and fellow owners alike called for Sterling's resignation, and Silver's decision was made easier by the nationwide scrutiny brought to the controversy.

Silver's position has been supported by Los Angeles mayor Eric Garcetti, who told CBS that although Sterling may be proud of his achievements as owner of the Clippers franchise, his comments do not represent the sentiments of Los Angeles and its commitment to diversity and tolerance.

Sterling has held the title of majority owner for the Clippers franchise since 1981, and is the longest-tenured owner in pro-



Sterling was expelled from the NBA after a recording leaked racist remarks the billionaire made. Image source: businessinsider.com.

fessional sports with 33 seasons of ownership. Although the team was consistently overshadowed by the more successful Los Angeles Lakers franchise through the 80s and 90s, the Clippers began assembling high-quality rosters in the 2000s, becoming a true playoff contender for the first time in team history in the 2012 playoffs. In 2013 and 2014, the Clippers franchise has consecutively broken team records with respective 56 and 57 win seasons. Although few attribute the team's

success to Sterling's ownership, Clippers fans can't be too angry with his recent successful leadership of the team.

However, in a professional sports league where over 76% of players are black, making public, inflammatory comments about blacks might just be the worst PR move any owner can make. Silver made both the easy decision and the right decision in this case, with such a large backing for the cause against Sterling.

Silver, with just under three months of experience as commissioner of the NBA, can be said to have passed his first "test" as the new most powerful man in basketball. He did what many feared he would be afraid to do, and has proven his dedication to the average fan's best interests, rather than only catering to the requests of league personnel like so many others.

With the age of "basketball reasons" as an excuse for executive action coming to a close with previous commissioner David Stern officially retiring in February, Silver's leadership seems much more straightforward than that of past leaders. Excepting the flip-flopping league response for Raptors GM Masai Ujiri's profanity-ridden trash-talking of the Nets, Silver has been as direct as any fan would expect him to be.

Besides serving as a reinforcement of the league's intolerance for racism, Sterling's punishment acts as a demonstration of power for Silver. As commissioner, he will, if this case is any indication, not back down from his beliefs and values. Mr. Silver has now given the world its first impression of his leadership in the NBA. The future of basketball will be led by a commissioner more than capable of meeting and exceeding the standard set by David Stern.