2017 Eagles: Team of Destiny? Let’s Wait and See

By Jeff Avallone

On Monday night, October 23rd, the Eagles defeated the Washington Redskins 34-24 in a game that put Philadelphia in great position in the NFC East. After a sloppy first quarter, both the offense and defense cleaned up their act. The game was won in large part due to Carson Wentz’s outstanding pass accuracy and his ability to extend plays with his feet. He ran for a career high 63 yards including a phenomenal 21-yard run after emerging from what appeared to be a sure sack by the Redskins’ defense. Wentz threw four touchdowns to four different receivers in his third straight game with at least three passing touchdowns.

As a whole, the defense did a great job at containing Washington’s talented offense except for Jordan Reed. The Redskin tight-end managed to pile up 64 yards and two touchdowns during the Redskin loss. In primetime, the Redskins’ tight-end managed to pile up 64 yards and two touchdowns during the Redskin loss. In primetime, the Eagles won a crucial divisional matchup to improve to 6-1 with a 2.5 game lead in the NFC East.

Unfortunately, during the victory, both linebacker Jordan Hicks and veteran left tackle Jason Peters suffered season-ending injuries. Hicks went down only 39 seconds into the game with what was later confirmed to be a ruptured Achilles tendon. With Mychal Kendricks already out due to a hamstring strain, the Birds were left with only one-third of their starting linebacker core. This is a huge loss to the Eagles defense that cannot be filled by the likes of Najee Goode and Joe Walker. The Eagles have a deep team, but the lack of depth at the linebacker position may continue to cause problems as the season progresses.

The Eagles’ offensive line took a huge blow in the third quarter when Jason Peters hurt his knee during the opening drive of the second half. After being carted off the field, Peters was diagnosed with a torn MCL and torn ACL, which puts the nine-time Pro Bowler’s season in jeopardy. Halfoulivai Vaitai replaced Peters in the second half and struggled, which is worrisome. In order for the Eagles to continue their offensive success, they need a competent offensive line, so it may be time for veterans like Lane Johnson, Brandon Brooks, and Jason Kelce to step up and keep the line at the high level that it has been playing.

Currently, the Eagles are the best team in football. Despite enduring many injuries to the secondary, the defense has continued to impress. As the season progresses, the schedule will increase in difficulty. It will be very exciting to see how far Carson Wentz and the Birds can really take this. All I can say right now is that I’m proud to be an Eagles fan.

Opinion: Unblock YouTube in School

By Caeden Cloud

You just had an online assignment in class, and you finished with 10 minutes left. You’re caught up with all of your homework, so what should you do to pass the time? You explore your options and realize that what you would like to do is watch YouTube, but then you remember that the school has YouTube blocked. It’s unfair for the students to not have access to a website with as much information as YouTube.

While the school has YouTube blocked, other websites such as Dailymotion or Vimeo are left unblocked. These websites aren’t much different from YouTube, but they have far less content. A large amount of videos and channels on YouTube are educational. In fact, educational videos are among the most popular types of videos, statistically. Teachers might want to take advantage of the vast amount of information that YouTube offers, but they can’t. Some apply to gain access to the website, but the many teachers haven’t. Many videos offer a different viewpoint or description than teachers are able to give in class; without access to YouTube’s educational resources, the classroom will remain more outdated and students won’t receive as complete of a learning experience.

Many teachers in the school encourage students to research topics using outside resources, and some will allow for students to do something quietly if there is free time after they’re done their work. Most students bring a pair of headphones to school every day, and most students have a phone with internet access. While using a phone is a decent method to watch YouTube videos while in school, many students have very limited data plans and are unable to stream videos. The amount of data used while streaming depends on the length and quality of each video, but five minutes of streaming is worth about a 20th of a gigabyte. Just because the students have phones doesn’t necessarily mean they have the data plans that allow them to access YouTube.

To make matters worse, students have figured out how to use proxy servers to gain access to blocked sites. This is very risky, as proxy servers can be used to steal information from the school’s computers. By keeping YouTube blocked, the school is risking their computers getting harmful viruses and having information stolen.

Ultimately, we have to ask if YouTube is even worth blocking. Any fears of obscene language are completely understandable for elementary school students. But let’s be honest, by the time students get to the Senior High, they’re exposed to adult content through their experience with the internet. YouTube also works extremely hard to eliminate all content that is deemed too inappropriate for the site, and there are age restrictions on less appropriate videos that are left up. In addition, the district’s plan to restrict access to certain sites deemed appropriate by teachers and administration could be hindered by the beauracracy or the approval process. Sometimes, teachers and students need to explore in the moment. If Abington wants to give their students the best learning opportunity possible, YouTube should be unblocked at the Senior High.
Amazon: From Seattle to Philly?

By Matthew Rosen

On September 5, Amazon announced its intent to spend $5 billion on a second headquarters, adding to the one established in 1994 in Seattle, Washington. The company claimed over 50,000 jobs will become available to the inhabitants of the city in which it selects to invest. Since then, hundreds of American cities from coast to coast as well as a number of Canadian cities have submitted bids to Amazon. Among these cities: Philadelphia.

While drafting a proposal, the Philadelphia government created a social media campaign, #PhillyDelivers, to encourage Philadelphia residents to discuss and share ideas. Along with its final proposal, which outlined the Schuylkill Yards, uCity Square, and The Navy Yard as potential locations, the city launched public.philadelphia-delivers.com. This website contains videos designed to persuade Amazon to contract in Philadelphia.

Forbes and Slate place Philadelphia as a top contender for Amazon’s second headquarters. Mayor Jim Kenney has called the city a “Goldilocks zone,” for Amazon and declared, “I just want to say, we're gonna win this [bidding war for Amazon].” Despite the optimism of city officials, the effects of the original Amazon headquarters on Seattle predict negative impacts of a second headquarters on any prospective city.

Amazon’s recent success has produced wealthy employees and caused local gentrification in Seattle. In downtown Seattle in 2009, an apartment cost an average of $31.38 per foot to rent. Since Amazon’s subsequent growth, the average cost per foot had risen to $42.08 in 2016. Home costs in the area have increased by 11.2% in the last year alone. Also, one Seattle columnist wrote that Amazon has caused his city to become, “More male, even more white, wealthier and less diverse, unaffordable to those with lower incomes.”

ASHS Fall Fest: Update

By Grace Spurrier

Every year, the football team’s senior game is a popular night for students to come and watch the Galloping Ghosts send off their graduating senior players with one final home game at Schwarzenbach Stadium. This year’s game was even more well-attended, due to the popularity of another on-campus event: MiniTHON’s second annual Haunted Hallway and Fall Fest, with its newest addition, the Trunk-or-Treat.

After last year’s successful Haunted Hallway fundraiser, MiniTHON decided to once again turn the interdisciplinary wing into a terrifying, but family-friendly haunted house, complete with decorated rooms featuring mummies, mad scientists, surgeries gone wrong, and more. Once children from all over the school district finished the tour, they were free to play games in the courtyard, like bobbing for apples and ring tosses. As always, all proceeds from the Fall Fest and Haunted Hallway were donated to the Four Diamonds Fund to fight pediatric cancer. However, that was not all that was available to the kids this year.

In the student parking lot, dozens of ASHS clubs and teams decorated cars and picked out their finest Halloween costumes for the school’s first Trunk-or-Treat. For this event, the student groups gave out candy and toys and played games with all of the children who came for some early Halloween celebrations. Many of the vehicles followed a theme, such as the Abington Buddies’ Angry Birds van and the Theater Department’s Star Wars and Disney princess cars. There was a great turnout for this pre-game event, with many of the families and students sticking around to watch the game after.

The traditions of the Fall Fest and Haunted Hallway were continued this year by the hard work of MiniTHON’s sponsors and captains, and the newest addition of the Trunk-or-Treat has only added to an already fun night, thanks to the boundless creativity of Abington’s student groups. Well done to all involved, and the countdown is already on for next year!

Green Light for Saudi Women

By Sabrina Trakhtorshuk

For many teens, the ability to drive signifies a new level of personal freedom and is an undeniable right of adolescents, their newest glimpse into adult life. For women in Saudi Arabia, the right to drive is just as new and twice as meaningful; it signifies an important milestone for the rights of an entire gender.

It may be shocking to hear that in certain countries, women are denied so fundamental a right, the right to drive, that many take for granted. The former, harsh regulations that refused to allow women to obtain a license or drive a car oppressed women both physically and mentally. The physical effect was obvious, as it limited their ability to be involved in the workplace, however the mental effect of such oppression was just as tangible. Without the common right to so much as leave the house by motor vehicle, women in Saudi Arabia were trapped, literally and figuratively. Women who violated this law faced serious consequences and in many cases, were sentenced to actual jail time for the violation.

With the ban finally repealed, it will bring forth changes in several areas. The new installment, set to take effect in June 2018 hopes to improve the economy of Saudi Arabia by allowing more women to be a part of the workforce as transportation will no longer be such a costly inconvenience for many women. Though the repeal may face backlash in Saudi Arabia, it is a huge step for the women who fought tirelessly for this right.

Door Holding: Pass It Forward

By Dionna Dash

If you’ve been near any doors in the building recently, you’ve probably noticed that you didn’t need to open the door you walked through. Most likely, someone was holding that door open for you, especially in the most congested areas of the school. A new trend has been catching on at the high school where students going into busy hallways for their next class will hold the door open for the endless stream of students exiting the hallway. Every day when I leave the S-wing after first period, there is a new person holding the door open, accepting “thank-you’s” from passersby. On some days, there is even a student attending to the cafeteria doors when I arrive to school in the morning. To all those holding open these doors, thank you. A kind act like this goes a long way in lifting the spirits of the student body, and with traffic flow in certain parts of the school already being so heavy, it’s nice to have someone make your commute to classes a little smoother. I

November Cartoon

By Grace Bauder

From Monster to Mistletoe.
HEARD THIS MONTH

By Dionna Dash

Have you ever heard your teacher say something that seemed odd or funny? This section is devoted to providing funny quotes that students have heard from teachers all around the building! If you overhear your teacher say something humorous, jot it down, and then email it to dbdash7@gmail.com. You may see your quote in next month’s issue!

“I’m trying to quit gum. It’s an addiction. It’s horrible.”
-Mr. Fiorino

“Guys, we won’t be able to finish Oedipus. I drowned him.”
-Mr. Turner after spilling water on Oedipus

“If I was a talking mouse who had a dog that couldn’t talk, I’d be confused too.”
-Mr. Turner on Mickey Mouse

“Mr. Gillespie’s contribution to Wacky Wednesday was wearing a brown belt with black shoes.”
-Mr. Garry

“We trust the process, unless it’s the Sixers. We’re a little bit weary of that one.”
-Mr. MacNair

“You can kill two bir--actually, I don’t want to use that. I don’t support animal cruelty.”
-Mr. Tinney

“I’ve never been this excited about saltiness in my life.”
-Mrs. Ligi before begging that this quote be in the paper, since she’s never been quoted in it before

“You’re gonna be like a machine after this. You’re gonna be a Mr. Tinney!”
-Mr. Zanetti

10 THINGS TO BE HAPPY ABOUT IN NOVEMBER

By Dionna Dash

1. Breaking out the sweater collection
2. You survived the first marking period!
3. Thanksgiving day parades
4. Caramel apples
5. Getting lost in corn mazes
6. Realizing you really like the book you’re reading in English class
7. Watching the chemistry safety procedures video for the second, third, or tenth time
8. When your pet is really happy to greet you when you get home from school
9. Parties in your classes at school
10. Due dates being extended unexpectedly

10 REASONS YOU SKIPPED HOMECOMING

By Catherine Fantuzzo

1. You now have at least 15 extra dollars lying around seeing as you didn’t spend those on a Homecoming ticket.
2. You also saved money because you didn’t have to buy a new dress, tie, sport coat, heels, etc.
3. You didn’t have to deal with wardrobe malfunctions.
4. More importantly, you got to stay in sweatpants (jeans, leggings, shorts etc.) which are far more comfortable.
5. You didn’t have to awkwardly dance next to people you don’t know.
6. You got to stay home and watch a movie or read a book.
7. If you were a sophomore, you didn’t get shoved around by juniors and seniors.
8. You didn’t have to worry about getting a date.
9. You didn’t have to face the drama that can sometimes be involved in getting a date.
10. Last but certainly not least, you got to each as much food as you wanted just how you wanted it...and you didn’t even have to leave the house.

WORDLINK

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WATCH
Crowdsourcing: Hilarious Internet Products

By Derek Eppinger

In this all-internet age, investing has taken to the web to advertise ideas in the form of crowdfunding. In this marriage of inventions and social media, creators with zero dollars in their pockets can immediately display their product to literally anyone with an internet connection, ranging from a teenager able to give three dollars, to a powerful corporation willing to give three million dollars. Even over four years ago, in 2013, crowdfunding websites raised over 5.8 billion dollars and paved the way for industries such as VR and 3D printing. However, funding on the internet results in an extremely wide range of quality and normality, but more specifically, the latter.

For unknown reasons, there seems to be an extremely abundant amount of food-themed kitchen products found within crowdfunding websites. Have you ever dreamed about smelling like bacon and being chased around your neighborhood by a dog on your way to work? Then Meat Soap is for you. Essentially, Meat Soap is the discarded bacon grease that you have no idea what to do with after cooking bacon fused within soap. So yes, you would literally be bathing with discarded animal fat. Either way, the soap raised over 1,905 dollars and successfully went on sale in 2011.

If you ever get attacked by a dragon while cooking that sweet bacon, you can defend your house with Combat Kitchenware, a line of medieval-themed pans and skillets with authentic and custom sword hilts as handles. The campaign was a major success, raising over 46,000 dollars. However, the creator, James Brown, got carried away expanding the line to further products, and after four years not one of the 651 backers ever received a single product on which to cook their hypothetical dragon eggs.

Similarly as strange looking is the Griz Coat. This is another animal-themed comfort product, but now in the form of a grizzly bear coat equipped with a hood and claws. For the sole purpose of looking like a grizzly bear, the coat raised over 29,000 dollars and even inspired a spin off polar bear model. So, if you’ve ever wanted to look like you are wearing a carpet straight off of a ski lodge floor, the Griz Coat is for you.

Equally as strange is the Stuffed Tomatoes and Peppers with Potatoes (Greek Style). The most famous was created by Zack Danger Brown, a simple man chasing innovation just waiting to be discovered within these sites. The most famous was created by Zack Danger Brown, a simple man who wanted to make potato salad. Zach says it himself, “Basically, I’m just making potato salad. I haven’t decided what kind yet.” All he asked for was a mere ten dollars, with possible reach goals of throwing a pizza party, or simply trying more than one recipe. However the internet took it and ran, raising over 55,000 dollars for the bowl of potato salad. And Zach wasn’t the last. In fact, Zach inspired a Kickstarter subgenre to follow in his very footsteps. This includes Noboru Bitoy, who asked for a measly eight dollars to buy and review a Chipotle Chicken Burrito. He even broke down the eight dollars, requiring six dollars and fifty cents for the burrito, sixty cents for the sales tax, and a dollar for the Chipotle tip jar. However, he managed to raise over a thousand dollars. Skyrocketing to over a 13,000% success rate, he decided to do another review jumping from 13,000 feet in the sky.

Crowdsourcing remains one of the most interesting corners of the internet that continues to produce some of the most spontaneous and random content available. Some of these results, from a sole bowl of potato salad to meat soap, simply happen to be hilarious.

Cooking With Yiayia

By Diamantoula Giannopoulos

What kind of cuisine do you eat at home? Mexican? Turkish? Japanese? Each month, we will highlight different ethnic recipes. Feel free to send in your own personal recipes. Stay tuned!

Stuffed Tomatoes and Peppers with Potatoes (Greek style)

Ingredients:

- 4 large beef tomatoes
- 4 large green peppers
- 2 cups of rice
- Curly Italian parsley
- Crushed tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- Olive oil
- Salt
- Pepper
- 1 lb of baking potatoes (optional)

1. Cut off the top of the tomatoes and the peppers horizontally and empty their inside pulp.
2. Throw out the seeds of the vegetables, but keep the inside juice of the tomatoes in a separate bowl. The tomato juice is what is going to give the extra flavor to your stuffing.
3. Chop the tomato pulp into small pieces.
4. Cut the onion and the parsley into very small pieces.
5. Mix all the prepared ingredients (onion, parsley and the tomato contents) in the big bowl where the tomato juice is.
6. Add 2 cups of rice, salt and pepper, 2 spoonfuls of olive oil and 2-3 spoonfuls of crushed tomatoes to the bowl.
7. Mix the contents of the bowl together.
8. Fill the tomatoes and green peppers with the stuffing and place them in a baking pan.
9. Add 2 cups of water in the pan, and spread some olive oil on top of everything.
10. “Optional!” Add some peeled potatoes, cut in long pieces, in between the stuffed tomatoes and peppers.
11. Bake in the oven for 2 hours, or until the rice is soft and the tomatoes are not burnt!
12. Enjoy!
By Emily Goldfarb

Meredith Miller's debut novel Little Wrecks is a compelling tale filled with mystery and intrigue. The story is set in Long Island, New York and takes place shortly after the Vietnam War, which allows the novel to eke out a vintage appeal. Miller's story follows three high school seniors: Magda, Ruth, and Isabel. All three girls are anxious to leave their confining small-town and finally escape their painful childhoods. Ruth lives with her hippie mother and the accompanying endless stream of boyfriends. Magda is the glue holding the scraps of her dysfunctional family together. Her mom ran off to Mexico years ago, leaving her with an abusive father and an innocent younger brother. Isabel seemingly has the best life of the three girls. She lives on the right side of the tracks and both of her parents are still around. However, under the surface, Isabel's life is anything but perfect. Her mother is consumed with caring for her mentally ill mother; as a result Isabel is left out of the picture. All three girls are running from what they believe is a hopeless, desolate future.

The only bright aspects in their lives are each other and one sacred ritual. When the stress of their small-town lives becomes overwhelming, they take refuge in burning possessions that inflict pain. Unfortunately, even the calming effect of the flames can no longer satiate their desire to leave their current lives behind. Out of desperation they devise a plan to steal marijuana from Ruth's family friend, sell the stash, and use the money to escape.

For once, fate is in the girls' favor. The heist goes off without a hitch and the girls are ecstatic. Unfortunately, their success climaxes here. They can't sell the stash without revealing their criminal natures, and to top it off, each girl has individual demons to conquer. Magda is dealing with a new love that is more than dangerous than beneficial. Isabel is grief-stricken after an act of revenge, and she can't keep a steady boyfriend. Ruth's struggles are endless. She's dealing with the fallout from a one-night stand, she can't stand her mother's latest boyfriend, and she hasn't slept in weeks. As the tension and anxiety build, the three heroines desperately attempt to keep their friendship and sanity alive.

Little Wrecks is a unique novel in that it is almost entirely abstract. Most of the writing is symbolic rather than plot driven. While some readers may enjoy this, I personally did not. I found it difficult to root for the three heroines because no concrete backstory was provided. Additionally, the flow of the entire novel was off. The sentences didn't connect well which inhibited my ability to become engrossed in the story. Finally, the point of view often switched between the three girls with little warning. At times it was almost impossible to understand whose thoughts or ideas were being expressed. Overall, I found this book to be a difficult read, but I would recommend it to readers who enjoy abstract works or novels with a dramatic flair.

By Rachel Oh

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is officially your month! Be careful not to stress yourself out too much about that lofty test score or a paper you had higher expectations for. Focus on your mental health and try to keep your mind on happy and healthy things. Luckiest days: Mondays

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It's time to get on that grind! Catch up on your work and spend some time in the library if you need to. The stars are in your favor! Luckiest days: Fridays

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Something may have happened at homecoming or the pink out game last October that caused a rough patch with your boyfriend/girlfriend. Instead of trying to avert their eye contact at the tailgate, some communication could tie up the loose ends. Luckiest days: Wednesdays

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) You may have had a burning desire to join a club/activity but just couldn't get around to doing it. What are you waiting for? It's not too late to pursue your inner talents! Luckiest days: Fridays

Pisces (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) If you feel yourself slacking and going to sleep at 2 a.m. every night, it's time to change your ways this month. No bad habits will change unless you make an effort to change them! Luckiest days: Wednesdays

Aries (Mar. 21-April 19) This November is your opportunity to give back to our community! Do some research on the Abington website to scout out some service opportunities. If you're a senior, this is a good time to practice for senior give back day! Luckiest days: Saturdays

Taurus (April 21-May 21) This could be a foggy month for you socially and academically, but it doesn't mean you don't have the power to make the most out of everything; stay persistent! Luckiest days: Fridays

Gemini (May 22-June 21) Lately, you're s.o. could have been giving you mixed signals, and on top of that, someone else may be trying to talk to you. Sort your mind out and use your wits to get out of this odd triangle! Also, it doesn't hurt to distract yourself by tackling some school work. Luckiest days: Thursdays

Cancer (June 22-July 21) If an ex-boyfriend/girlfriend is texting you again, turn that phone face down. Instead, ignore your usually cautious nature and take some risks. Try out a new hobby, maybe even become more involved in school! Luckiest days: Wednesdays

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Because you are a natural-born leader, you may have landed a leadership role! However, make sure to not get too cocky and stay grounded. Spending time with your friends and family is also something worth prioritizing this month. After all, thanksgiving is not that far away! Luckiest days: Wednesdays

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may have decided to switch things up this year and take new or higher level classes. Yet, you still feel like you did not fully get the hang of them, despite it being November. Don't fear! Trust yourself a little bit more and everything will fall into place. Luckiest days: Sundays
Oh, Betsy!

By Alice Gao

In her nearly eight month tenure as Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos has made significant changes to the Department of Education. DeVos, a Michigan billionaire previously known for her promotion of privatization of the education system, left her ideological fingerprints on the rollback of multiple Obama-era policies designed to promote student wellbeing, especially on college campuses. Here’s what DeVos has been up to when she’s not too busy flying on private jets and claiming that schools should allow guns as protection against bear attacks:

• In February, DeVos signed off on Trump's repeal of a directive instructing public schools to allow transgender students to use bathrooms in accordance with their gender.
• In September, the Department of Education rescinded guidelines on campus sexual assault investigations that set a standard burden of proof needed for perpetrators to be punished by the school. Campuses in states which have not encoded the federal standard into state law now have the option to set their own standards. Women’s rights advocates and sexual assault support groups have condemned the move as allowing for violence and harassment to be swept under the rug and discouraging victims to step forward.
• In October, DeVos scrapped 72 policy documents that outline the rights of students with disabilities.
• She has also blocked regulation designed to protect students from being defrauded by for-profit colleges.

So, while Trump has hogged much of the national spotlight with midnight tweets and threats of nuclear war and insulting veterans and being called a “bum” by LeBron James and ignoring Puerto Rico, it is important to not lose sight of the real damage his administration is imposing on young people across the country.

What Really Happened

By CJ Petetti

Former democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton recently released a book titled What Happened, which gives her account from the 2016 election. Along with the release of her book, she has been doing a string of interviews and television appearances to try to promote it. In these interviews and in her book she does everything from bashing President Trump to blaming other people and factors for her loss in November.

Mrs. Clinton blames a number of factors for her loss last November instead of herself. Among those factors includes misogyny -- one of her earliest post-election reasons she cites for her loss. This notion is quite silly; it is not right to blame a loss on your gender. If Mrs. Clinton did not run such an arrogant and divisive campaign, maybe this would be a reasonable excuse, but this is not the case. If the roles were swapped, and Hillary Clinton was a man up against a female Donald Trump, the election results would have most likely played out the same way. People who were against Mrs. Clinton were against her because of years of lying and corruption that a large majority of the country was tired of.

Clinton also blamed former FBI director James Comey for her loss. She believes that when Comey reopened the email investigation, that it swayed the election in favor of Donald Trump. Mrs. Clinton said, “If the election had been held on October 27, I’d be your president.” Maybe Hillary should have not used a private email server, and this whole issue could have easily been avoided. While she has said using the private server was a mistake, she should not go ahead and blame Comey. In reality, the election results would have most likely still have won, as people had their minds made up about her long before the email investigation was reopened.

A final point I would like to address is Clinton citing Vladimir Putin and Russia as factors influencing her loss. After John Podesta’s emails released by Wikileaks showed the awful corruption in the DNC and Hillary’s own campaign, the left quickly tried to cover by blaming Russia. The emails showed that the DNC was actively plotting against Bernie Sanders in the primaries, showing that they basically rigged the democratic primary. Clinton should be owning up to what was released instead of trying to blame Russia. It wasn’t Russia who made Donald Trump president, it was Hillary Clinton’s inability to see what she had done wrong.

All Hillary Clinton has shown since the election is that she was not fit to be President of the United States. A true leader does not blame others for losing; they take full responsibility and own up to what they did. Instead of blaming Comey, she should have blamed her own actions in the email scandal. Rather than blaming Russia, she should blame the DNC for the countless acts of corruption, including rigging the democratic primaries against Bernie Sanders. Mrs. Clinton should admit that she was a weak candidate who had many flaws that did not resonate with the voters. Blaming gender and essentially calling the voters misogynists is not going to solve anything. A much better and less divisive way Hillary could have come back after the election would have been to use her newfound time to go out and do some good in the world, and maybe she could be seen much more positively in the eyes of the American people.

Heard This Month - White House Edition

“I had a very respectful conversation with the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, and spoke his name from beginning, without hesitation!”
-Donald Trump (Twitter)

“You would be shocked to see how totally prepared we are if we need to be. Would it be nice not to do that? The answer is yes. Will that happen? Who knows, who knows.”
-Donald Trump on North Korea

“We cannot keep FEMA, the Military & the First Responders, who have been amazing (under the most difficult circumstances) in P.R. forever!”
-Donald Trump on Puerto Rico (Twitter)

“People like liddle’ Bob Corker have set the U.S. way back. Now we move forward!”
-Donald Trump (Twitter, and no, ‘liddle’ is not a typo.)

“I think at the end of the day when his term is over, I think the debasement of our nation is what he’ll be remembered most for, and that’s regretful. It affects young people. I mean, we have young people who for the first time are watching a president, stating, you know, absolute nontruths nonstop. It’s very sad for our nation.”
-Senator Corker

“[Trump] is a f***ing moron.”
-Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, according to NBC news
Lies, Lies, Lies: A National Disgrace

From the Abingtonian Staff

“The result of a consistent and total substitution of lies for factual truth is not only that the lies will now be accepted as truth...but also that the sense by which we take our bearings in the real world...is being destroyed.” —Hannah Arendt (political theorist)

70 percent of Trump's statements during the campaign were false, while only 4 percent were completely true, and 11 percent mostly true – Politifact

President Trump made 1,318 false or misleading claims over 263 days – Fact Checker

In his first seven months as president, Trump “made 1,057 false and misleading claims,” an average of “nearly five claims a day.” – The Washington Post

People can and do disagree about public policy and the government's role in society; in fact, the right to have an opinion about public matters applies to all Americans. However, these opinions should be rooted in verifiable facts. When facts are lost, ignored, or betrayed, the country suffers. When truth is abandoned, our ability to progress and solve problems deteriorates.

Let's set aside, for a moment, the policies of President Trump, and focus on truth and lies. Here is a fact: The amount and extent of Trump's lies is unprecedented in US history. Sure, all politicians lie to some degree; it has become a part of politics. But the frequency of Donald Trump's distortions of the truth and downright lies happen put him in a different category, and our nation is suffering because of it.

We are now living in a new reality, one in which our political leader is an untrustworthy source. Nearly every "Believe me..." he utters (which seems to be in the thousands) is connected to something we should NOT believe. What is this doing to our country and its psyche? The very nature of facts and truth are being assaulted on a daily basis.

When lies come so fast and furiously, they are very difficult to fight; relentless lies degrade and/or destroy our collective ability to properly function with information. Studies have shown that when people get overwhelmed with false, or partially false, information, their brains essentially give in/ up and they stop seeking the truth.

Trump has taken lying a step further than just telling random, disconnected lies. Very often, he will tell the same lie over and over again, even if his claim is proven to be incorrect. The constant repetition of the same lie can eventually result in making it true in our heads.

If any reader is wondering if there is evidence to support the fact that Trump is a liar of the highest order, then do a Google search for “Trump lies” and sift through 54,800,000 entries. Dozens of newspapers curate ongoing lists of his lies. Websites exist to document them. Hundreds of articles, like this one, grapple with what to do in the face of such an onslaught against truth. That said, it is distressing to note that fact checking and standing against Trump's lies doesn't seem to make much of a difference to Trump or his supporters.

When Trump's lies happen so often, no matter how strongly other people try to point them out, the lies become normalized. And that is scary. Facts matter. Truth matters. And they are being degraded on a daily basis. The fragility of truth increases as lies become established and normalized. Trump's lies are creating a new, more severe environment where many citizens' sense of reality and truth is damaged.

So what can and should we do? That, perhaps is better left for another article, but the first step in trying to deal with such a difficult assault on facts and truth, made especially difficult when it is coming from the leader of our country and the free world, is not to give in to the normalization of lying. We cannot tire of standing up for truth and against lies. There is a big difference, and it matters, perhaps more than anything.

Unfair Grading?

By Natalie Faye

Most students care about their grades in school and how well they do in their classes. Many teenagers have likely experienced stress about their grades at some points throughout their educational career, and a large part of that stress comes from tests.

In honors classes at the Senior High, test grades constitute 80% of a student's average grade. In my opinion, this is unfair. This means that four-fifths of students' class grades are dependent on a select few assessments while grades for classwork, homework, and class participation have a relatively minimal impact on academic success.

Many teenagers experience stress and anxiety when taking tests, and this can impact their ability to fully show their knowledge. Also, it is possible that a student may have done poorly on one test, but that this one grade does not reflect how smart or dedicated the student is. Nobody is perfect, and with a lot of work and responsibilities, it is inevitable that teenagers will likely earn poor grades from time to time.

Exams are important in demonstrating students' knowledge of material, and test grades should make up a large portion of their grades, but class grades should better represent both the effort that the student put into the class and the student's understanding of the content. Test grades should make up two-thirds of students' overall class grades. This way, the majority of someone's grade would still depend on scores earned on tests, but the overall effort that one puts into the class would be better represented.
Welcome to the Moment...

By Charlie Viola

After months and months of buildup and excitement from players and fans alike, the Philadelphia 76ers began their season with quite a few expectations. For years now, the organization has been asking the fans to “Trust the Process,” a movement which has taken the city by storm. This so-called “Process” has included multiple first round draft picks, such as Joel Embiid as the third overall pick in 2014, Ben Simmons as the first overall pick in 2016, and Markelle Fultz as the first overall pick in 2017. The Sixers were also able to pick up their first big name free agent in years with J.J. Redick. These new, highly valued prospects have been plagued by injury, with Embiid playing just over 30 games and Fultz missing his entire potential rookie season with a broken foot.

Finally, as the 2017-2018 season begins, everyone is healthy and ready to perform. The Sixers began their season against the Washington Wizards last Wednesday night, with multiple exciting moments such as Simmons’ and Fultz’s first NBA points, as well as Redick’s first points as a Sixer. However, the team was generally outplayed and ended up losing.

NBA Hits the Ground Running

By Timmy Gallagher

The NBA season started on October 17th and already has its fair share of heartbreaking injuries, incredible performances, and upsets.

In the season opener between Kyrie Irving’s Boston Celtics and his former Cleveland Cavaliers, Celtic’s star Gordon Hayward suffered a gruesome, possibly season-ending injury to his ankle just five minutes into the first quarter. This was a devastating blow to the Celtics, who acquired Hayward this offseason, and saw him as a key piece to being one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference. Also, the Cavaliers’ Derrick Rose suffered a less serious ankle injury a few games into the season, a sight Cavs fans do not like to see due to Rose’s devastating injury history. On top of this, Houston Rockets star Chris Paul, a major offseason acquisition which made the Rockets a powerhouse in the Western Conference, suffered a knee injury which will keep him out for multiple weeks. Finally, Brooklyn Nets point guard Jeremy Lin suffered a season-ending ankle injury in the Nets’ season opener.

However, this season has not entirely consisted of injuries and bad luck. Milwaukee Bucks’ star Giannis Antetokounmpo has emerged as one of the league’s best players, averaging 36.8 points, 12.8 rebounds, 5.2 assists, and 2.2 steals per game, with a 65.9 field goal percentage, in the first week. Also, the Sixers’ young duo of Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons has been successful, despite the team’s lackluster record early on in the season. Embiid is averaging 20 points and 12 rebounds on restricted minutes while Ben Simmons just became one of three players in NBA history to have a triple-double in one of his first four NBA games. Simmons is also the first player since Shaquille O’Neal in 1992 to post a double-double in each of the first four games of his career. Another team with a poor start to the season is the Golden State Warriors. Last year’s champions have started the season 1-2, suffering losses to the Rockets and Memphis Grizzlies. At that pace, the Warriors were on pace to win about twenty-seven games, which would be a forty win decrease from last year. However, the defending champs are almost guaranteed to bounce back, and are still the favorites to repeat and win this year’s NBA Finals. Despite the fact that the action will likely settle down a little bit, this exciting first week to the NBA season guarantees that this will be one of the most exciting seasons in recent history.

Dodgers, Astros, Battle in World Series

By Jordan Denish

For the first time since 1970, two teams with over 100 wins are competing in the World Series – the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Houston Astros. However, the Dodgers and Astros took very different paths to reach baseball’s greatest stage. While the Astros built their team through the draft, the Dodgers have built their roster through free agency, boasting baseball’s largest payroll, $265 million. Each team has strengths and weaknesses that will decide this year’s winner of the World Series.

The Dodgers have steamrolled through the playoffs thus far, owning a 7-1 record and 48-19 run differential against the Arizona Diamondbacks and Chicago Cubs. Three-time Cy Young winner Clayton Kershaw headlines a rotation that also includes Yu Darvish, Rich Hill, and Alex Wood. Those four pitchers have combined for a 50-18 record and a 2.80 ERA during the regular season. Additionally, setup man Brandon Morrow and closer Kenley Jansen form a nearly unbeatable at the end of games. This season, Jansen converted 41 of 42 save opportunities with a miniscule 1.32 ERA and an incredible ratio of a 109 strikeouts compared to just 7 walks. Rookie-of-the-Year candidate Cody Bellinger led the team with 39 homers in a balanced offense that also includes Corey Seager and Justin Turner. The dynamic Yasiel Puig has been a sparkplug during the postseason with an On-Base-Percentage north of .500 along with several exciting plays in the field.

The Astros defeated the Boston Red Sox in four games before needing seven games to stage a comeback against the New York Yankees. At 5-foot-6-inches, MVP-candidate Jose Altuve stands tall, deserving consideration as the best player in baseball. Altuve has led the league in hits for each of the past four years, and the three-time batting champion snatched 24 homers in 2017. Young stars Carlos Correa and George Springer lengthen the lineup of the offense that scored the most runs in baseball during the regular season. On the pitching side, trade deadline acquisition Justin Verlander has been exactly what the team has hoped for. The American League Championship Series MVP has dominated with a 9.0 record and 1.37 ERA since joining his new team. Dallas Keuchel and Lance McCullers round out a formidable rotation that has impressed during the playoffs.

This marquee matchup between the Dodgers and the Astros has great importance for both teams. While Dodgers fans have been waiting nearly 30 years for their seventh World Series title, the Houston Astros have never won a championship in over 50 years of existence. Following Hurricane Harvey, Houston has rallied around their baseball team, spreading hope and giving support to the entire city. Those expecting a thrilling World Series should not be disappointed. My prediction: Dodgers in 7.