the word of Harpeth Hall

LOGOS

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STUDENT BODY CASTS ITS BALLOT: Upper School students cast their ballots on Election Day for Harpeth Hall's 2016 mock election sponsored by Mrs. Moses and her American Government class. *Photo by Ellie Truitt.*

Students unite after a historic election

BY STELLA VUJIC
News Editor

On November 8th, 2016, a few Harpeth Hall students and faculty members were asked to describe how they felt about the state of our political system in one word or phrase.

"Nervous," said both Jack Henderson, history teacher, and Justine Sitton, senior.

"Opportunity," said Legare Vest, chemistry teacher.

"It better not be Brexit," junior Maya Misra said.

On November 9th, 2016, sure enough, the world woke up to a new "Brexit." Despite polls showing Hillary Clinton with a healthy lead over Donald Trump before Election Day, Mr. Trump was ultimately chosen to lead a nation that is more divided than previously thought.

Even though many people rejoiced at his win, thousands protested the result under the slogan "Not my president" from California to New York, according to the New York Times.

Deep disappointment could also be seen at Harpeth Hall, where about 66 percent of students and nearly 92 percent of faculty voted for Clinton in a mock election sponsored by history teacher Bonnie Moses's government class. Only 20 percent of students voted for Trump.

"Coming to school on Wednesday after the election felt like entering another world," senior Vivian Herzog said. "Many people were extremely distressed about Hillary Clinton's unexpected loss and the campus truly felt like a haven of acceptance and love for those mourning."

For others, however, Mr. Trump's win was cause for optimism, bringing welcome change to the partisan Washington establishment.

"I felt really hopeful because I think President-Elect Trump has the ability to unite," junior Elizabeth Carpenter said.

> **"As our nation stands here on the edge of democracy, let us yell out in one voice– reaffirming our pledge to freedom, to justice, and to equality to the corners of the world."**
>
> **Karin Scott**

"He's not the traditional Republican candidate, so I'll think he'll be able to attract a lot of people and bridge the divide between the American people."

The election results have revealed a deep fissure among various regions of the country.

Two maps released by the New York Times indicate that Clinton supporters are overwhelmingly concentrated in urban areas, while Trump voters tend to reside in suburban or rural areas. A recent study at Pew Research Center also showed wide racial, gender, and age gaps between Trump and Clinton supporters.

On the day after the election, senior Karin Scott gave a powerful speech to the upper school in the form of a letter addressed to President-elect Trump. She spoke of the importance of accountability and encouraged all Americans to work together for the betterment of the country.

"As our nation stands here on the edge of democracy, let us yell out in one voice– reaffirming our pledge to freedom, to justice, and to equality to the corners of the world," Scott said. "While the president may change every few years, one thing remains the bedrock of our nation's founding——the right of the American public to control the course of history not only for this country, but for the world."

Students and faculty members also created a "unity board" in the junior lobby. People were encouraged to post positive notes on it as they walked by, complementing posters that included Harpeth Hall's mission statement and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution. Some students simply wrote "Love."

"The purpose of the unity wall was to bring students together, remind them of the values that Harpeth Hall espouses and to encourage civil discourse that represents a variety of opinions," said Mrs. Moses, who helped organize the wall.

"Within our small community at Harpeth Hall, we have had to stop and take stock of our feelings and try to learn how to move forward," Upper School Director Jess Hill said. "I believe we are called to widen our circle of friends and colleagues and continue to listen and learn from each other."

Where do we go from here? As presidential historian Jon Meacham put it during an all-school assembly, the most important thing is to continue fighting for our beliefs and to always have faith in American democracy.

"And so be curious, be gracious, be hopeful; love your neighbor; vote in each and every election; never be embarrassed to put your hand over your heart and join in when a band strikes up the National Anthem…above all, remember, in hours of joy and of darkness, that a life well-lived is judged not by the bottom line but by the big picture," Meacham said.

Despite the caustic tenor of the campaign and the uncertainty that continues to be felt by Americans across the political spectrum, progress will continue to be made no matter who is sitting in the Oval Office.

And even though a woman has yet to win the highest office in the land, female trailblazers – Harpeth Hall alumnae included – continue to make great strides and hold pivotal leadership roles in every facet of American life.

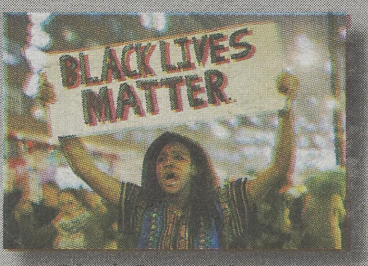
As Meacham said, "That glass ceiling is broken; the shards are on the ground. And they can't ever be put back in place."



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Pros and cons of Nashville's 'it city' status

As population and popularity increase, so do housing prices and infrastructure demands

BY MEGAN MURPHY
Staff Writer

Nashville has recently taken a rather sudden leap into the spotlight - and it's not about country music this time.

Lately, Nashville has grown rapidly. With the metropolitan area gaining 30,875 people per year according to the U.S census, houses are popping up on every corner. In May of 2016 alone, Metrostudy reported a whopping 1,661 residential construction starts, not including any already in progress.

On top of that, the city was ranked fourth in job growth by Forbes. Needless to say, Nashville has gained 'it city' status.

For some, business is booming. Thriving areas like 12 South and the Gulch have received lots of publicity and plenty of investments. The Nashville government is planning to invest $18 million on a pedestrian bridge connecting the Gulch and SoBro (South of Broadway).

Many citizens are excited for the diversity that the city's growth brings. "I think it's great that we have more people from out of town coming in…because the only way our city can get better and better is if we have more people with different ideas," sophomore Emily Beach said.

However, the consequences that come with growth might be a cause for concern. In Atlanta, another major city in the southeast, accelerated growth led to major infrastructure issues. Along with increased traffic and crowds, Nashville is undergoing massive changes that are proving problematic for large groups of the population.

While the poverty percentage has gone down in the Nashville area, it is not due to improved conditions. Areas that were originally populated with affordable homes are becoming popular and therefore more expensive, forcing many families to move away from the city or go homeless.

According to Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH), housing prices have increased by 38 percent, while rent has increased by 50 percent, leaving over half of Nashvillians paying up to two-thirds of their salary to rent alone. This process, which is usually referred to as gentrification, is the most challenging frontier our city is facing.



BUSY STREETS: Bright lights line Broadway as cars get backed up with traffic. *Photo by Ellie Truitt.*

Some organizations such as NOAH are fighting to defend these overburdened communities. During a platform in October, they addressed and brought awareness to issues like gentrification with Nashville Mayor Megan Barry. Their hope for the growing population is to ensure that Nashville is, in the words of community leader Rev. Darrell Drumwright, "Becoming the 'it' city for everyone."

While Mayor Barry has done more than any mayor in history to defend affordable housing, the losses have been too great to make more than a dent. The good news is, however, that even more actions are being taken since the NOAH platform.

The Mayor promised $10 million annually to the Barnes Fund, which is dedicated to financing affordable housing. In addition, legislation was passed that freezes property taxes for seniors and the disabled. This will facilitate the construction of many affordable homes and protect existing ones.

Lastly, she called for citizens' help to construct an open and diverse community.

As the new 'it city', Nashville is facing inevitable growing pains, and there is work to be done. At the NOAH platform, NOAH Vice-Chair Benny Overton called upon the city to fortify itself.

"We must cultivate our garden. We must do the work of organizing our power of democracy…we can't just leave it there and expect ample crops because the opposing forces of weeds will come…we must vote, but we also must vote, through activism, for affordable housing," Overton said.

Through service to the city, girls at Harpeth Hall can help the city flourish - not despite its growth, but with it.

Harpeth Hall faculty and students initiate search for the next Upper School Director

Marlene Shaw of Carney, Sandoe, & Associates helps Harpeth Hall find a new leader

BY GRACE MILLER
Staff Writer

Last month, Harpeth Hall's Upper School Director, Jess Hill, announced her decision to leave Harpeth Hall at the end of the year. The search for her replacement is already underway.

To assist with the search, Harpeth Hall has hired Marlene Shaw from Carney, Sandoe & Associates, which is a faculty recruitment company. The company also helped hire our Head of School, Dr. Stephanie Balmer, and Middle School Director Judi O'Brien. On November 1 and 2, Mrs. Shaw met with teachers, students, Mrs. Hill, and Dr. Balmer in order to better understand Harpeth Hall's goal for the next Upper School Director.

Shaw has worked as the head of other independent girls' schools in the past, and her role in the search is to recruit potential candidates from across the country. Harpeth Hall faculty will also have the opportunity to apply for the role if they wish, but all candidates' identities will remain confidential until next semester.

Students are both saddened and excited by the search." As heartbroken as I am by the news of Mrs. Hill's departure, I am looking forward to change," junior Lia Hayduk said. "I think it will be interesting to see if the new head of school is someone new to the community or a faculty member but regardless, I trust in Harpeth Hall's ability to choose someone who will help us thrive as young women."

Mrs. Hill's retirement marks one of many changes in leadership at Harpeth Hall over the past few years. Dr. Balmer came to the school in 2014, while Ms. O'Brien and Liz Stockdale, Upper School Dean of Students, are both in their first year at Harpeth Hall. The school has big plans for the next Upper School leader. "How does Harpeth Hall move from being a great school to an even greater school?" Dr. Balmer said. High on the list for Dr. Balmer is leadership, honor, integrity and someone who is "able to lead confidently… [and] is going to think and dream big about curriculum."

At Harpeth Hall, Dr. Balmer will work with a committee that includes faculty from each academic department, college counseling, arts and guidance counseling. This group will work to review resumes and determine which applicants they wish to meet with on campus.

The candidates selected by this committee will be brought to campus in late January and early February to tour the school, meet with students and teachers, and learn more about Harpeth Hall.

Mrs. Hill will not be forgotten in the process. Earlier this month, she met with Mrs. Shaw to discuss her role as Head of the Upper School and the various aspects of her job. Mrs. Hill will also meet with each candidate and help with the transition between herself and her successor.

"I hope for Harpeth Hall, and I hope for our Upper School in particular, that we can extend the great work that Mrs. Hill has done in developing our Upper School curriculum, guiding and mentoring our faculty," Dr. Balmer said. "I want someone to come to Harpeth Hall who wants to be at Harpeth Hall...who is not looking for a job at an independent school for girls, but who says, 'I want to work at Harpeth Hall.'"



MARLENE SHAW: Shaw will help Harpeth Hall find a successor to Jess Hill, Upper School Director. *Photo Courtesy of carneysandoe.com.*

HH continues to help the daughters of Lwala

BY MARGARET GAW
News Editor

The daughters of Lwala still need our help. Located in southwest Kenya, the Lwalan community faces a spike in HIV cases, financial instability, and barriers to education, especially for women.

Drs. Milton and Fried Ochieng (brothers from the community) founded the Lwala Community Alliance in 2007, recognizing that the problems in Lwala are difficult to overcome, but that their initiative can improve healthcare, economic programs and schooling for the Kenyan people. And they have already made gains.

According to their website "[Lwala Community Alliances'] education programs are delivered by 17 government-owned and -operated schools. Our health facility is an integrated part of the county's health system – delivering services and collecting data in partnership with local government. Our economic programs are built off market-based models and, after our initial investment, run independently."



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: With the help of Harpeth Hall, girls in Lwala are able to get new uniforms and get an education. *Photo Courtesy of Dr. Jessie Adams.*

Harpeth Hall partners with Lwala in their goal to provide secondary education to young women. Many girls do not attend school because they lack a uniform. By providing school uniforms to girls in grades six through eight, Harpeth Hall helps students in thirteen local schools.

"The partnership with Lwala has been beneficial for both groups involved and in the past few years Harpeth Hall has really committed to achieving a certain goal," junior Helen Rieke said.

"Although this has been great, I think a lot of the drive to succeed has somewhat weakened, and students have become less motivated to take part in this partnership. I think if SLLC can find a way to motivate students once again, renewing the partnership will be beneficial."

How can Harpeth Hall students become more motivated and involved in the Lwala initiative?

"We are starting to prepare for the annual Dodgeball Tournament, which always gets people excited and raises a good amount of money," senior Anna Grace Cole said.

"It is important for everyone to realize that enthusiasm for the partnership needs to extend past the SLLC in order for the partnership to be successful. It is our hope that year-round girls are conscious of the partnership and the ways in which Harpeth Hall is involved."

Our commitment to the Lwala Uniform Initiative is 10,000 dollars per year.

"We anticipate a small amount coming in from the middle school Halloween Carnival," Service Learning Director Dr. Jessie Adams said.

"We are also currently doing Hire-A-Honeybear, in which students can sign up to be hired by faculty or alumnae and donate their earnings to the Uniform Initiative.

"It's hard for me to know whether these activities alone will help us reach our goal by the end of the semester," Dr. Adams said. "My instinct tells me we need more, and I'm open to ideas."

Creative thinking has already generated more ideas. Many students are volunteering to address holiday cards to raise money for Lwala. However, more ideas will be needed. Harpeth Hall's partnership with Lwala continues until May 2018.

After that date, we can choose to end or renew our commitment. This decision will occur within the community at that time.

"Hopefully the partnership will be renewed," Cole said. "It is a very special one that we are able to connect to and be a part of. The needs of the community are always changing, and we want to do our best to meet those, so it is possible that the partnership could look different."

For now, Harpeth Hall will continue to support Lwala in every applicable way.

"From my perspective, the challenge at this point is that we have maxed out traditional fundraising strategies (the "shake the bucket" approach, if you will)," Dr. Adams said. "So it's now time to think of creative and sustainable ways to generate this income. A best-case scenario would be a way to generate recurring income. I'm open to proposals! It's really on all of us...$10,000 is an achievable amount, but it doesn't happen on its own."

Overall, the partnership with Lwala not only helps Kenyan girls continue their educations, it also brings Harpeth Hall together as a community to work toward our goal.

Anna Grace Cole said, "As an all-girl school, we can be the strongest and most valuable advocates for the program, which is what SLLC is trying to convey. Nothing can compare to girls encouraging other girls to succeed."

Not your average assembly: Speaker series inspires students

BY MILLIE KIRKLAND AND STELLA VUJIC
Staff Writer and News Editor

Jon Meacham, Dan Schnur and Linda Breggin - these esteemed speakers are among the many that have visited Harpeth Hall as a part of the school's cornerstone speaker series.

In order to select the speakers, Harpeth Hall considers the input of a student committee. Comprised of seniors, the committee meets at the end of each year to discuss a list of potential speakers. While the seniors' input is very important, other factors must be considered as well. This year, a special point of consideration was the school-wide theme: sustainability. Speakers with professional experience in the field were considered for this year's series. In light of the 2016 election, experts in American politics were also invited to speak.

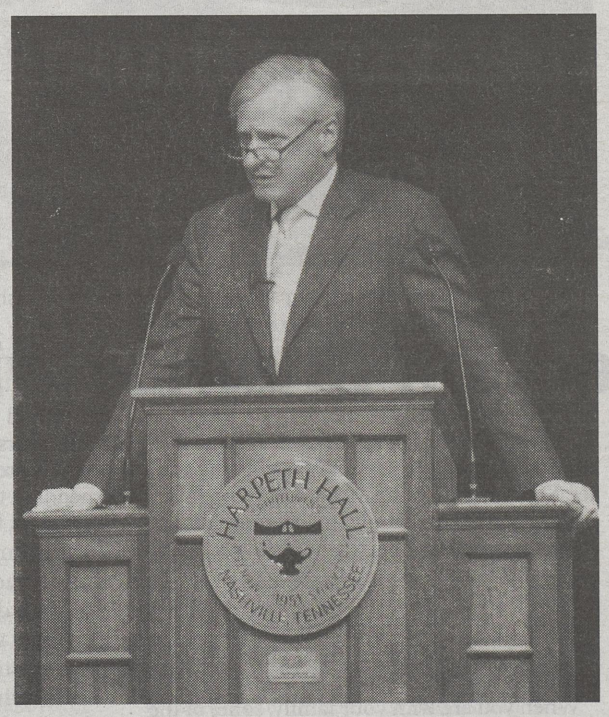
Linda Breggin, who is a leader for the Nashville Food Waste Initiative and an environmental lawyer in Washington, D.C., and Seema Prasad, owner of local restaurant Miel, offered a multi-layered perspective on sustainability during their visit in November. They analyzed the implications of food waste for Harpeth Hall, Nashville and and the world.

"If we reduced that amount of waste by 30 percent we could feed 50 million people who are food insecure," Ms. Prasad said.

"I became more aware of food I was wasting and how I could limit the waste," sophomore Ophelia Pilkinton said following the assembly. "I didn't realize how much waste we are able to produce in such little time. It inspired me to be more cautious of my waste and become aware of the damage we are doing to the earth."

Colin Beavan, author of No-Impact Man, also visited Harpeth Hall in September. He spoke about living a zero-impact life with his family in New York City, and encouraged students to find ways to make less of an energy impact in their own lives.

In September, USC professor and political expert Dan Schnur kicked off Harpeth Hall's ongoing discussion about American politics. He encouraged students to move beyond the partisan divide and analyze the news through multiple perspectives.



WORDS OF WISDOM: Jon Meacham delivers a powerful reminder of America's history following the election. *Photo by Ellie Truitt.*

Students at Harpeth Hall had the opportunity to meet with Professor Schnur on the morning of his visit. They learned about the causes of now-President-elect Trump's rise to power, known as the "Trump phenomenon." His supporters, generally white males without a college education, were attracted to Trump because they felt as if they had been cheated by a society that once promised financial stability to low-skill factory workers.

"Society changed and we now live in a technologically-based world, where physical labor is diminishing. Professor Schnur explained that these men are now out of work and struggling to support their families. They desire a change and they see Trump as this change," junior Lia Hayduk said.

Jon Meacham, a Pulitzer Prize-winning presidential historian, also made a strategically-placed visit in days following the election.

Mr. Meacham offered an inspiring view of American democracy and information on the history of presidents and presidential elections.

"Presidents are people too," Meacham said. "They're not on Mount Rushmore; they're not monuments. They're human beings driven by appetite and ambition... The point is, they're just like us, and they've managed to make a big difference. And that should give us hope, that we too can make that difference in the fullness of time."

Mr. Meacham also stressed the importance of unity among the American people and between the people and the government.

"It was really nice to hear him speak right after the election, as it allowed us to calm our feelings about the results and understand what it meant for our country," freshman Isabel Balmer said. "Harpeth Hall as a whole seemed very dull [following the election], but his spin on what to look forward to in the future really increased positivity and hope throughout school."

As these speakers have demonstrated, Harpeth Hall's speaker series offers students diverse perspectives on events here in Nashville and across the world.

Facebook: out with the old, in with the new

BY MILLIE KIRKLAND
Staff Writer

The current age is often referred to as the "Age of Social Media." There are numerous different sites or platforms of social media, but none more popular than Facebook.

Facebook celebrated its 12th birthday earlier this year. Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg on February 4, 2004. In its earliest days, Facebook was only available to fellow Harvard students, but eventually by 2006, Facebook was open to everyone over the age of 13.

Prior to Facebook, social media existed in the form of MySpace or similar sites. It's the sheer scale of Facebook that first made it unique. According to CBS, at the end of 2015, Facebook had 1.59 billion monthly users and to put this in perspective, the population of the entire continent of North America is 579 million. The number of users is equal to that of almost three times the entire population of North America. Even though Facebook was created in the United States, 83.6% of Facebook users actually live outside the United States and Canada.

This goes back to the idea that social media fundamentally changes the world. The initial purpose of social media and technology is to link entire populations of people together in a way that was not possible before. Communication with someone on the other side of the world is possible in a matter of milliseconds. In this way, technology has altered everyday actions. When presented with a question, people turn to google for answers, when getting in touch with others is necessary, people resort to texting, and social media also provides a way to see what others are doing instantly. All of this provides an instantaneous solution. This quickened lifestyle is reflected in the youngest generation. Even Facebook is sometimes considered too slow for millennials.

Although Facebook is the most popular social media page in the world, Harpeth Hall verifies the idea that it appeals more to an adult demographic. While 85.2% of the faculty surveyed have a facebook account, only 46.3% of students report having an account.

Facebook is a generational tool. Facebook is not used as frequently by younger generations. Instead, phone storage is occupied by apps such as Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter. "Facebook is falling behind in the 'technology game' because not even people our age can figure out how to use it," sophomore Grace McCullough said.

Compared to apps like Instagram that are known for their convenience,



LOGGING IN : Sophmore Zora Young connects with friends and family using the age defying social network. *Photo Courtesy of Sarah Tolbert.*

many millenials see Facebook as less user-friendly. With Instagram, actions include scrolling through the feed and double-clicking on certain pictures. However, looking or posting on Facebook is not as simple.

"I have a Facebook. I get on about once a month and when I get on, I don't understand," sophomore Zora Young said. "I only get on to see who requests to follow me. What is a timeline?" Facebook has many different 'tools,' and often, these tools may be confusing to some. Many agree it is not as simple as posting a picture on Instagram. You can chat people, add photos, poke people, add things to a timeline, look at news, shop, connect to apps and more.

When it comes to convenience, Facebook seems to have fallen behind, and especially with younger generations. Even the most common uses of Facebook, sharing pictures, is achieved through other means. Besides Instagram, Dropbox, Airdrop, and Google Photos are also used for sharing pictures.

Despite the lower percentage of students in the Harpeth Hall community on Facebook, Facebook users only seem to be increasing. For social media in general, there doesn't seem to be an end in sight.

Hungry? Hit up the Harpeth Hall hot spot, Chauhan

BY STEPHANIE CHIGULURI
Staff Writer

As many new restaurants appear in the midst of Nashville's growth, there are some existing restaurants that have gained popularity with their unique atmosphere, including Chauhan Ale and Masala House. Many students are unaware of the restaurant's existence, however, more upperclassmen have been raving about the food and vibe of the restaurant.

It is not a surprise that many of the upperclassmen at Harpeth Hall have become obsessed with the delicious Indian fusion served at this new restaurant. "The ambiance is not just like any old restaurant: Indian movies are projected on the walls," senior Augusta Bowhay said. "It's honestly a steal: a movie and dinner in one."

"The menu is so creative and thoughtful and really blends the traditional Indian flavor profile with that of the South," senior Vivian Herzog said. At the Chauhan Ale and Masala House, not only does one get food, but they also get an experience unlike any other.



A TASTY DISH : From finger licking appetizers to delicous main dishes, there's a plate for everyone. *Photo Courtesy of StyleBlueprint.*

Service is also a factor in making one come back to a restaurant or not. " The service is great," junior Audrey Overholt said. "Servers are always fast at getting your order and have tons of suggestions. Every server I have had has been friendly, helpful, and made my night so enjoyable." The Chauhan Ale and Masala House will have service that provides a welcoming and "friendly" community.

If you haven't heard about this new Nashville "hot spot," the food is a refreshing fusion of traditional Indian cuisine and southern food, but the atmosphere is what really makes it worth the trip.

Students reflect on favorite winter traditions

BY GABRIELLE DALTON
Staff Writer

The winter season at Harpeth Hall is filled with laughter, joy, and smiles all around the school because of how differently we all celebrate the season.

For many, the winter is a season of holidays and family. For others, it's simply a happy time to enjoy the cold weather. When you walk through the halls during the winter months, people are smiling all around you. A Harpeth Hall junior, when asked about the winter holidays, said "It is so cheerful and fun. From the Christmas lights to the nutcrackers, the winter time is the best time." Every now and then, there will be impromptu sing-alongs in the pods, hallways, even locker rooms. You might walk through the Athletic and Wellness Center on a cold day in December and hear "All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey being sung rather loudly in a locker room. The spirit of the cold temperatures and gray weather tends to make girls overcompensate with boisterous, spur-of-the-moment singing.

Another tradition that Harpeth Hall girls tend to have is visiting family during the winter. Sophomore Zenab Mchaourab says "We always go visit my family in Lebanon. It is fun to laugh about how hectic the holidays can be with your family." For many girls, the winter season is a time to see family that you haven't seen in a while and enjoy their company. If you don't see them often, that's all the more reason to visit.

When you are with your family, some of the most important times with them, it seems, are the meals. Many Harpeth Hall girls talk about how they value their family meals as a necessity because it brings the family together. Sophomore Catherine Smith remarks "There is nothing better than being with your family while eating delicious, home-made food". These meals allow the family to come together, maybe after time apart, and just enjoy the presence of your loved ones.

For some, there is nothing better during the winter than a holiday movie marathon. Something about sitting down with your family and focusing on something easy for a few hours brings people closer together. Sophomore Ann Chapman Tirril says that "spending time together and stepping away from all of the responsibilities for a little bit" during a movie marathon is her favorite winter tradition. Many will agree that it's really hard to resist watching your favorite movie with a big bowl of popcorn as it snows outside

Winterim is well known all across the school as being a relaxing, enriching time. Head of the Upper School Mrs. Hill remarks "I love, of course, Winterim, because it's so relaxing." The students and faculty of the Upper School harbor a love for Winterim because of the fun classes and activities during the school day.

During Winterim, there are free X blocks that are filled with fun activities and games. There is a coffeehouse show in Patton where girls can show off their singing or instrumental abilities to their peers. There is also a lip-sync competition where students and faculty can perform a lip-sync to a song of their choosing. All these fun events during Winterim make it a favorite time of the year, and it's a very big part of Harpeth Hall.

There are many traditions of winter time that many people share, and there are some that are not as common. For example, junior Eleonor Wright said, "My family celebrates Santa Lucia on December 13th because my mom is from Sweden. I've grown up always doing this and it is such a sweet Christmas tradition that lifts spirits and always reminds me of my grandparents." Another junior, Blue Byrd, said that she dresses up her pets as Christmas figures such as Santa Claus. These are just a few unique ways that families celebrate the wintertime, as each family has their own special traditions that tell stories of the past and the future to come.

What your horoscope tells you about 2017

BY SHAYE HENDRICKS, OLIVIA OLAFSSON, AND BUSHRA RAHMAN
Features Editors

Aries
2017 for the Aries offers many new opportunities, partnerships and commitments. Don't be afraid to branch out and try what you have been reluctant to do- the stars have aligned for you and it is your time to shine. Because of this, when approaching new people and situations, give them a chance! They may surprise you. Your interest in others will increase, so allow yourself to be open-minded and willing to listen and collaborate with others. In addition, work hard this year and expect recognition for your dedication and growth. This is a great time to make new friendships and explore your passions.

Taurus
2017 for Taurus involves a great deal of independence. Your routine will continue, but you will be navigating certain things for yourself. With these changes, be steadfast, but also allow yourself to make appropriate adjustments in your life. High school is a tumultuous time including constant changes and bouts of uncertainty. Even though the time at school seems regimented, there are many underlying ventures to be considered, especially those outside of school. Try to balance both the expected enthusiasm at school with the same earnestness elsewhere. You will be amazed by how much you can handle, and from this you will learn much about yourself.

Gemini
2017 for Gemini forecasts a socially driven year- whether that be activities with friends, family or others, the schedule will always be full! Hopping from one event to the other will be a regular action, so be prepared for many bustling weeks and weekends. With these frequented social events and activities, a growing affection is predicted. Yes, it may be that dreamy crush you've always adored, yet it also may be a new activity that was introduced to you, the captivating movie you saw with friends or a delicious restaurant you visited with your family. Even with a busy agenda, find the positive aspects of each day.

Cancer
2017 for Cancer seems to hold many changes great and small this year. Large decisions that require lots of thought and planning are present, but also minor alterations to everyday life are equally as valid. But even with these adjustments, your strong ties to home keep you grounded and will support you in your endeavours. Make sure to be prepared and organized as not to become overwhelmed and frustrated, but this may not be an issue because your equanimity in situations always prevails. Allow yourself not only to trust others but to trust your own intuition in making the best choices this year.

Leo
For Leo, 2017 predicts that in general, this year will be a bit slow but this will make it easier for you. You may not always receive the results you had anticipated in the ideal time frame and that's okay. Take things in stride and realize that you may need to wait things out at times. With time feeling like it's moving at a slower pace, you may also feel like you are able to get more done this year. Focus your energy on more productive endeavors and use your time wisely. After your professional commitments like your schoolwork, work on improving your relationships with friends and lovers. Don't let this precious time fly away, my friend!

Virgo
For Virgo, your relationships are highly important during this time. 2017 forecasts warn you to make sure that you are courteous to those above you (parents, teachers, bosses) as well as friends and partners. Try not to let petty fallouts stress you out too much and sever valuable relationships this year. Always try to spare some time for the people and hobbies that you love. It becomes easy to get caught up and stressed from all the commitments that you often find yourself forgetting about the people that matter most in your life. Keeping close ties with these special individuals will provide you with steady support and motivation through all the tribulations you may face this year.

Libra
2017 forecasts that this will be your year of discovery and innovations for a Libra. Let your creative side come to the forefront. Express your ideas to others so that they can understand your dreams better. You will be a leading example for everyone around you. This is a great time to put yourself out there and finally try the things that you were too nervous to try before. Maybe this means to finally run for class officer or club president? Maybe it's time to audition for a show? You also tend to dwell on negatives too much, but doing so will limit your future success and growth. So let go of your previous apprehension and face everything with optimism this year!

Scorpio
In 2017, Scorpio may be in a hurry to leave the past behind. Perhaps things did not go as you would have imagined them to this year. This could lead you to have a fixated motive to make your goals and targets work out for you this year. Be sure to stay balanced and not become too obsessed with the idea of success. Once you reach satisfaction and contentment with where you are in your life, you'll find success running after you. It is also especially important to focus on your health this year: eat healthily to be physically and emotionally fit. Exercise will become a powerful outlet for you as a time for self-reflection and temporary distraction from all that may be happening in your life.

Sagittarius
2017 is going to fly by, so remember to keep yourself composed as much as possible. Take mental vacations and keep your friends and family close. Play to your strengths this year but also know your limits. You are notably one of the most impulsive of signs. As for love, expect the unexpected. Do not set your heart too quickly on somebody for they may end up not being who you hoped for them to be. Nonetheless, don't be scared to take risks and seek some excitement through a romantic fling. Keep your eyes and heart open.

Capricorn
Take your time this year to complete everything you plan. Spend time with friends and family even though you'd rather focus on your work. Your relationship, if you have one, will continue steadily this year or love will soon find its way. Work on yourself these first few months of 2017, but recognize your faults. Embrace your feelings: both good and bad. Energy levels will fluctuate this year, so at times you may feel fully energized or others you may need a personal day. This year is in your hands, so make the most of it!

Aquarius
This is the year for travelling and advancing your career. You have everything you need to shoot for the stars (no pun intended) and achieve your goals. As a humanitarian, you should put your visionary mind towards the betterment of human life. From January until May, focus on cherishing life and building strong relationships. Be aware of those who may be jealous of your accomplishments and be independent. No serious relationships are in your forecast, however, lighthearted flings are highly plausible. Expect gifts or phone calls from a crush!

Pisces
This year will be full of travel and self exploration. You will learn so much this year about yourself and other cultures. Project confidence even if you don't feel assured in your decisions. You will need to have discipline and a hard work ethic, but don't lose hope because you are predicted to achieve great things. With your dreams coming to fruition, take some time to focus on yourself. Don't neglect your needs to fit the needs of others. Find someone who needs the same independence that you desire. You are attracted to people who are adventurous and spontaneous, so be open to new ideas pertaining to love.

Meet the neighbors? There's an app for that

BY MARGARET GAW
News Editor

Mr. Anthony Posey and Mrs. Crystal Craddock-Posey were visiting Seattle, Washington when Mr. Posey lost his camera, according to the New York Times. Posey remembered that he had left it in a men's room in the Public Library, but when he ran back in, it was gone, and this was not just any camera. Posey's film contained hundreds of wedding photos that he had shot a few days before.

Posey posted an ad on Craigslist for a lost camera and did not file a police report because he thought it was a petty and unsolvable property crime. Meanwhile, Seattle police detectives wrote a posting on Nextdoor, a private social network for neighborhoods, about a recovered camera. As a result, a Nextdoor member in northwest Seattle matched the Nextdoor description to an ad he saw on Craigslist. As a result, Posey was able to receive his camera.

Nextdoor connects one person to another in their immediate community. Overall, "we're all in this together — that's what it says to me," Posey said.

According the Nextdoor.com, "Nextdoor is the best way to stay in the know about what's going on in your neighborhood—whether it's finding a last-minute babysitter, learning about an upcoming block party, or hearing about a rush of car break-ins. There are so many ways our neighbors can help us, we just need an easier way to connect with them."

More recent news is that Nextdoor is launching in the United Kingdom and plans to make money off of the network in 2017. With over 116,000 neighborhoods across the country, they want to bring their immediate-community builder on a global stage.

Nashville boasts 323 neighborhoods that participate in Nextdoor. Many Harpeth Hall students, families, and faculty use Nextdoor as well.

"I think it's a great utility," junior Maggie Tattersfield said. "More than once, we have used it to announce garage sales, send notifications about neighbor's lost pets, or notified the neighborhood about suspicious people. I live in 12 South, and a lot of people had their cars and houses broken into and people's messages on Nextdoor helped remind everyone to lock their doors."

For many families, the app has become a neighborhood news source for residential security.

Overall, Nextdoor is a fun and effective way to be involved and in-the-know about neighborhood events.



APPS FOR EVERYTHING : Connect with neighbors through this easy, accessible program. Asking for a dog sitter is as easy as a click of a button.
Photo Courtesy of Allthingsd.com.

Seniors' perspectives on first voting experience

BY MAGGIE SULLIVAN
Staff Writer

Whatever your opinion on the outcome of the 2016 presidential election, there is one thing that is agreed upon by much of the electorate: it has been unusual. The discussions in debate and through social media have made this election markedly different from any before it. In the wake of the past 18 months, and all of the change and unexpectedness they have brought, one demographic has had an interesting perspective: first-time voters.

Many of the 103 girls in the senior class at Harpeth Hall were able to vote in November 8th's election, and several were a part of creating a wonderful political climate on campus through the mock election.

Red, white, and blue decorations and banners were present in the junior lobby all day, and history teacher Mrs. Bonnie Moses and the AP Government students assisted with bright smiles in facilitating the election. Students voted on paper ballots by grade, presented not only with the question of their vote for president but also with questions regarding political standing and reasoning. Though explicit support through candidate shirts or stickers was disallowed, as is customary at polling places, students showed their support for candidates through diverse and exciting costumes. All 103 seniors turned out to vote in the mock election. The atmosphere was hopeful, and those seniors who could vote had manifested that hope in their first experience voting in a presidential election.

Many seniors, including the four interviewees for this article, were able to vote before November 8th in early voting. Voting as a duty and a process was exciting to these women. Senior Grace Anne Holladay elaborated on her voting experience: "When I did early voting, they all yelled 'First time voter!' and started clapping after I left, so it's really fun, no matter who the candidates are."



CASTING OUR VOTE: Senior, Grace Anne Holladay, participates in the AP Government's mock election.
Photo Courtesy of Claire Gould.

Before election results were released, the seniors were asked about their fears for this election. They cited various concerns with the process and candidates. Kat Trotman spoke about her uncertainty: "I'm definitely freaked out. This election season has been really crazy, obviously. I'm mainly just worried if either candidate is elected, what's going to happen … I have more fears for one candidate, but the other, still, I have a little fear." Grace Anne said news coverage of the election was her concern: "Yes, definitely, [I am scared], just especially with the way the media's portrayed everything. It's like the debates, in particular, are like a reality TV show. That does make me a little nervous, because, I mean, it's not reality TV, it's reality."

Karin Scott was specific in her fears for the future: "I am afraid of Donald Trump becoming president because I don't think he knows enough about policy and I think it would be very uncertain what our future would be - it could be good, it could be bad. I'm also afraid that, if Hillary wins, that something will go wrong, and that it will block other women from them becoming president."

Fortunately, these fears were all grounded in the circumstances of the 2016 election, not in voting itself. All of the interviewees were enthusiastic voters, even within such a hectic election. "Way down the road, when this is in a history book, I'll be able to say that this was my first election that I voted in. I think it's gonna be really monumental," Molly Gaglione said. They were also excited by Hillary Clinton's candidacy, and the potential for a female president. Scott said, "Normally I wouldn't tell you who I voted for, but I voted for Hillary Clinton. And that was a very big deal for me, just being able to vote for someone who could very likely be the first woman president." The senior class as a whole was clearly enthusiastic about Hillary's candidacy, with 72.8 percent of the class voting for her in the mock election. Overall, these first-time voters were hopeful for the future and excited to exercise their rights.



ALL SMILES: Senior, Karin Scott, exercises her rights by voting early in the presidential election.
Photo Courtesy of Karin Scott.

Full hearts for new faculty member, Dr. Fulwider

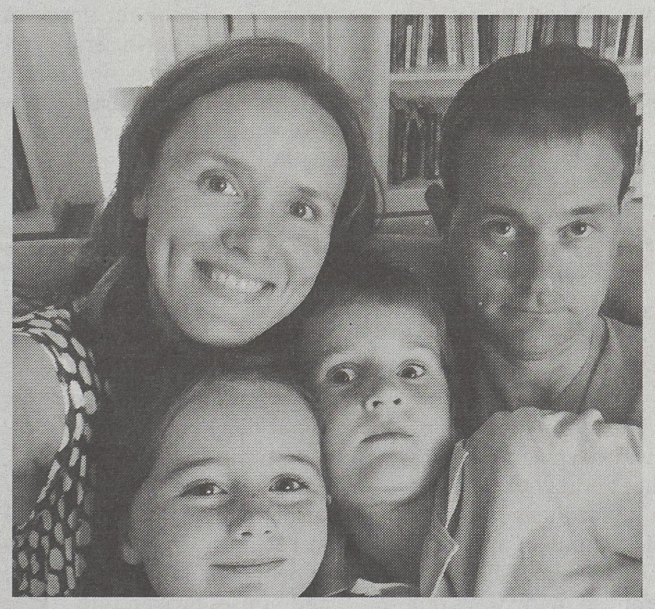
BY NISHA RAMANNA
Staff Writer

Meet Dr. Ben Fulwider: part-time history teacher and a cross country coach here at Harpeth Hall. Although it's only his first year teaching here, his warm personality and intellect have quickly found a place within the community.

Dr. Fulwider grew up in New York where he attended Colgate University. After college, he moved to Washington DC and worked for the Department of Justice. He then enrolled in Georgetown where he received a PhD in Latin American history. As he transitioned from teaching in college to teaching in high school, he began to grow more fond of the history of the United States, which is what he has been teaching at Harpeth Hall.

Dr. Fulwider taught at Battle Ground Academy for five years before coming to Harpeth Hall. His wife is an alumni and that is part of what drew him here. "It's an awesome place," Dr. Fulwider said. "I've seen what a difference this place makes in someone's life down the road." His glowing review of Harpeth Hall makes it clear why he thinks this school is perfect for him.

But working in a new place is always difficult. Despite this, he still manages to put a positive spin on his transition from BGA, which he describes as an adventure for him and an opportunity to discover more about how different schools work. This is also Dr. Fulwider's first time teaching at an all-girl's school. His fresh new perspective has brought a new element into the workplace. He says he believes girls tend to be more collaborative and it has opened a new world of possibilities in the classroom. He loves to incorporate group projects into his curriculum. Each day, his students get the chance to interact with each other, creating a community within his classes and cultivating bonds between the girls.



THE FULWIDER FAMILY: Dr. Fulwider with his wife, Valerie, 8 year old son, William, and 5 year old daughter, Audrey. *Photo Courtesy of Ben Fulwider.*

Dr. Fulwider may be a star teacher, but he also shines out on the race course. He was an avid track and cross country runner all throughout high school and college, and now has the opportunity to help coach our Harpeth Hall cross country team.
He describes cross country as a great team sport and a true bonding experience. Dr. Fulwider's favorite part of this sport is getting to see the girls he teaches outside the school environment. Seeing the different sides of his student's personalities for him is "a good reminder that we're all pretty complicated people. We get into classrooms and we tend to judge each other on snap judgements, but we're actually all pretty complicated."

His love for cross country is as obvious to all the girls on the team.One of the members of the team describes Dr. Fulwider as a coach who will continue to cheer you on until the moment you cross that finish line. What makes Dr. Fulwider a stand-out teacher is he manages to bring that same level of enthusiasm into the classroom each and every day.

It's obvious to see why Dr. Fulwider loves cross country so much, but one may wonder what drew him to teaching history in particular. "History is really important, where we come from, the complexity of the past, all of these things really affect the present in ways we don't always consider," Dr. Fulwider said.

He describes his role as a teacher similarly. He says his job is "to ultimately help us all see the significance and the meaning of the past that shapes us". The students in his class also think very highly of him.

Junior Dhara Patel said, "He actually cares about making sure we understand the material rather than just giving out tests and quizzes arbitrarily. He also presents the material in a way that keeps students interested and wanting to learn more".

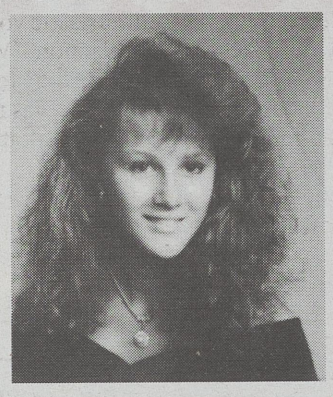
Eleonor Wright, another junior in his class, said, "He is one of the most caring and understanding teachers I've ever had. He really goes out of his way to make sure that we are learning the material but not overwhelmed by the work load. Every single class leaves me with a smile".

Dr. Fulwider passion for teaching and history are apparent and leave no questions as to why he is a perfect fit for the Harpeth Hall community.

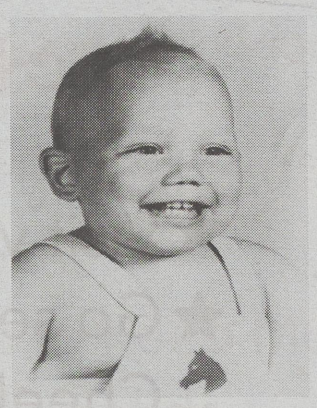
Guess that faculty member!

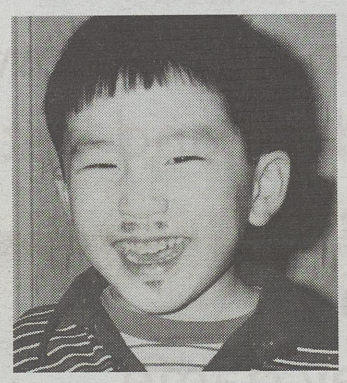
BY SHAYE HENDRICKS, OLIVIA OLAFSSON, AND BUSHRA RAHMAN
Features Editors

You see your teachers and other faculty members everyday in the hallways and in the classroom. Here are some photos of them from yester years. Can you guess who's who? (answers at the side of page).











Key (left to right): row one: Mrs. Keen, Mrs. Biegl, Mrs. Griswold. row two: Mrs. Lemon, Mr. Springman, Mrs. Bond. row three: Mr. Wang, Coach Baker, Mrs. Webster

Best places to find explorer equipment

BY ANN CHAPMAN TIRRILL
Staff Writer

As the temperatures begin to cool, the world seems to gravitate towards the great outdoors, and because of this, finding new gear at the right store is critical. Three options in Nashville include REI, Mountain High Outfitters and Cumberland Transit.

REI is one of the most popular outdoor stores in the Nashville area. They have a wide selection of gear for camping, backpacking, climbing, paddling, and much more to satisfy the need for adventure. REI is one of the few stores that offers a one hundred percent satisfaction guarantee, so their return policy is highly regarded. "I like how big REI is," sophomore Sarah Tolbert said. "They have a huge selection and it makes me want to go outside." REI offers an abundance of campsite kitchen supplies and survival gear that other stores may lack. With this, though, comes a reduced selection of apparel and footwear to make room for the equipment.

REI is choosing to close on Black Friday to encourage people to spend their day outside. This campaign reaches towards outdoor enthusiasts, but does mean that they will not be offering sales on equipment or gear. However, the store contains items that one would rarely need discounts on and some more essential items lack markdowns on prices, which makes REI the most expensive of the three stores.



SEARCHING FOR GEAR: Sophomore Ann Chapman Tirrill considering what outerwear to purchase. *Photo Courtesy of Sarah Tolbert.*

Mountain High Outfitters is known for their wide selection and sales. "They have a variety of things to choose from- they have all kinds of manufacturers and different brands, and they incorporate things I could wear everyday," sophomore Meredith Hollins said.

Mountain High sells equipment for the wilderness adventurer, but also sells clothing for days when explorers are not outside. Mountain High prides themselves in hiring employees who are very knowledgeable of the outdoors and gear. Staff members go through extensive training and are required to have prior experience.

However, Mountain High is a small store. They have a small quantity of gear and very little equipment compared to Cumberland Transit and REI. Also, it is divided into brands, which can make it challenging to comparison shop while in the store.

Cumberland Transit is one of the few local, outdoor stores that is involved extensively in the Nashville community.

"I go to Cumberland Transit because it's local," English teacher Emy Noel said. "It has been owned by the same guy for years, and they host a lot of community events." These events include documentary screenings, retreats and fundraisers. Cumberland Transit actively keeps a blog running and are involved in creating a strong community.

Cumberland Transit supports small businesses around Nashville including Three Brothers Coffee and Thistle Farms. In addition, they also have bike repairs in-store and helpful staff.

Although, Cumberland Transit lacks frequent sales and equipment offered in the store is sometimes pricey because the merchandise is high quality. They also only have a small portion of the store for women's clothing, which compared to the rest of the shop, provides a small selection.

Whether an escape from a stressful day is necessary, or simply the love for nature is a calling, having the right gear and finding the right store to supply it is important to continue and experience the great outdoors.

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OH THE WEATHE

DELIGHTFUL

Playlist:

"Uptown Girl" by Billy Joel
"Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber
"September" by Earth, Wind & Fire
"A Marshmallow World" by The Cheetah Girls
"Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles
"Winter Wonderland/ Don't Worry Be Happy" by Pentatonix
"L-O-V-E" by Nat King Cole
"Mr. Blue Sky" by Electric Light Orchestra

Activities

- Visit your fave coffee shop
- Go see festive lights at Cheekwood
- Go ice skating downtown
- Go to Goodwill and get ugly sweaters
- Go shopping
- See a hockey game
- Go on a hike at Percy Warner
- Go caroling

Desserts







HER, OUTSIDE IS...

FRIGHTFUL



Playlist:

"White Winter Hymnal" by Fleet Foxes
"I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" by Billie Holiday
"Sweater Weather" by The Neighborhood
"Can't Help Falling In Love" by Elvis Presley
"Blackbird" by The Beatles
"Fly Me to the Moon" by Frank Sinatra
"Holocene" by Bon Iver
"Slow It Down" by the Lumineers

Activities

- Snow ball fights
- Baking cookies
- Read a good book
- Hang out with friends
- Binge watch Netflix
- Make comfort food
- Listen to great music
- Make paper snowflakes
- Do some crafts
- Watch a winter movie

Comfort Foods







Hands up, don't shoot: what is Black Lives Matter?

What it means to be a person of color in America

BY: SOPHIA HOWARD
Staff Writer

At Harpeth Hall and beyond, the Black Lives Matter movement is often misunderstood. Many Americans disregard the deep fear and despair that people of color across America feel. Time and time again, the criminal justice system has failed the black population of our nation.

On July 8th, I was in Ireland on an international choir tour singing songs of hope. But on July 8th, I feel betrayed-- not full of hope. As I sat on the bathroom floor of a beautiful hotel on the countryside of Ireland, I wept. I wept out of exhaustion and out of fear. I wept for my brother and my father. I wept for America.

I had just learned of the shooting of Philando Castile in Minnesota by another police officer. Castile was shot 7 times after being pulled over in a suburb of St. Paul, Minnesota. I will never forget how I felt when I watched this black body, and so many others, abused and killed in front of their children and in front of the world through the tiny screen of my phone.

A wave of desperation coursed through my body leaving nothing but a thirst for vengeance in its wake-- I was ready to fight. For the first time in my life, I genuinely feared that peaceful demonstrations and quiet conversations behind closed doors would not be enough. I could feel the pain and hear the screams as if they were my own. This is the fear and desperation that fuels that Black Lives Matter movement.



STOP HURTING US: Nashvillians of all races stand up for black rights. *Photo Courtesy of Black Lives Matter Nashville Facebook Group.*

In this moment, I saw ever so clearly how corrupt the criminal justice system has become. Just as the system has armed our police officers, it has given it given them the power to kill aimlessly without rhyme or reason.

But this is issue is so much larger than these police officers. The racism displayed by our police force is a concentrated representation of the racism that we fail to acknowledge exists. Philando Castile was pulled over 52 times by police prior to be being killed. Black and white police officers alike are unable to see that their own bias and prejudice impacts the impulsive decisions that they make.

For white officers, their overall ignorance is what fuels the fire of perpetual institutionalized racism. If white officers don't understand the stereotypes that plague the black community and if they don't try to understand the people of the community, they unknowingly place a target on the chest of every black person. The black community as a whole has been dehumanized. Police forces need to find new ways to build a sense of tolerance and empathy within black communities if this .

I'm not ready to join the side of those who choose violence as their communication of choice, but I now fully understand the desperation of wanting to do something, anything. But ultimately, the fear is: will my lack of action result in another body face down and will that body be a familiar face?

There are so many things that police forces can be doing that they are not. They don't need to be armed with more weapons. They need to put down their weapons and get to know the people that they are so quick to blame. We all need to understand that the system is failing so many of its citizens and must work to make it fair. Optimistic? Yes. Naïve? Perhaps. But achievable? Yes. What will it take? A lot of hard work and hope.

The Black Lives Matter movement encompasses of all these feelings: the hope, joy, despair, pride and ultimate fear. We, as black people of this country-- of our school-- are scared. I am scared. And we have a lot of work to do.

Going into 2017 with an open mind

One student's views on the presidential election

BY: KARIN SCOTT
Staff Writer

A president being met with ample hostility is not a new concept. In 2010, Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell said to the National Journal, "The single most important thing we want to achieve is to make President Obama a one-term president."

However, compare this with a statement given by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi on Wednesday: "I congratulate President-elect Trump and his family, and pray for his success."

Even after one of the most hostile elections in modern political history left this country's electorate in fragments, our elected leaders have stood up in the face of partisanship to praise the democracy on which this great nation was founded. And nothing makes me more proud to be an American.

Barack Obama and Donald Trump have met in the Oval Office, and their wives have also spoken. Vice President Joe Biden has already invited Vice President-elect Mike Pence to the White House to meet, as well.

While crowds of angry millennials are burning Donald J. Trump in effigy, our government is welcoming him into the White House. This is the peaceful transition of power that has recently been alluded to as the "American Way."

I, among countless others, was shocked at the result of the election and woke up the next morning with a feeling of defeat hanging over my head. I have supported Hillary Clinton since before she announced her 2016 campaign. She is my role model and represents the type of person I hope to be one day. I had never once thought she would lose this election.



GET OUT AND VOTE: First time voter Carrie Haynes commemorates the moment with a picture *Photo Courtesy of Lucy Haynes*

Because, after all, Clinton was, is, the most qualified. She was the First Lady, a United States Senator, and the Secretary of State after a narrow loss to Barack Obama in Democratic primary of 2008. It's like she stepped out of the womb wearing a little American flag pin on her brightly colored pantsuit.

Compare this to Donald Trump, a man who has made his living in reality TV and owning Las Vegas casinos. He insulted a myriad of racial and ethnic group within our own country, as well as fumbling in all three presidential debates against Secretary Clinton.

But he won.

Pollsters around the country showed Hillary Clinton leading in several key states; news organizations predicted her chances of winning upwards of eighty or ninety percent. But what these surveyors didn't factor into their spreadsheets was the feeling of discouragement hanging over working class citizens.

Donald Trump, however, did. He is the choice of the American people and it is our duty to honor that choice.

Protesters are crowding the streets wreaking havoc on daily life, calling for the electoral college to abandon its commitment to the people it represents. The protesters yelled out the threat that Mr. Trump poses to our democracy; however, it is these people who pose the biggest potential threat to our country's ideals.

Elections are in place so that the people can hold our elected officials accountable and have a voice in this country's affairs. When the ballots have been counted and a winner is announced, we accept the result and move forward together.

Very clearly, the people rallying in the streets have forgotten this sacred tradition, and I am more scared of them than I ever was of Mr. Trump.

I can't help but wonder how many of these protestors voted. I can't help but wonder whether or not any of them worked on campaigns or urged their friends to make the right choice. Over 90 million eligible voters did not show up to cast their ballot, and the election result may have been different if they had exercised that right.

Instead of being angry at the people who voted for President-elect Trump, be angry at the people who chose to stay home and silence their own voice, or look towards the future and brainstorm how you can change the injustices this election brought to light.

The other F Word: Feminism at HH

Surprising statistics about feminism at Harpeth Hall and beyond

BY: CARRIE HAYNES
Opinions Editor

I consider myself a feminist. Previously, I believed that all Harpeth Hall students did, too. To most, Harpeth Hall is synonymous with feminism.

However, a recent Logos survey revealed that 10 percent of Harpeth Hall students do not identify as feminists. The poll of 272 members of Harpeth Hall's upper school indicated that while only 4 percent of students surveyed believe that feminism isn't necessary, 10 percent do not consider themselves feminist.

While 10 percent may seem to be a small figure, it seems large for a school supposedly focused on female issues.

At Harpeth Hall, we are constantly surrounded by the awesomeness of females. While other schools glaze over females in history, our classes focus on the forgotten heros. We study women like Emma Willard and Frances Perkins, who advocated for female education and was the first female member of a presidential cabinet, respectively. Quite simply, we empower our students to aspire to greatness and believe they are worthy of success. It seems to me that we are teaching girls the power and opportunities that are possible through feminism.

But clearly, Harpeth Hall and our community has failed in some way. We have failed to define feminism properly. Feminism in and of itself is nothing more or less than the belief that men and women should have equal rights. Putting aside the "radical" beliefs for which feminism is sometimes used as a platform, opposing this movement is, in actuality, disregarding the fundamental equality of the genders.

Molly Power, senior and self-proclaimed feminist, believes this may be an issue specifically with underclassmen. "Some of the disconnect comes because upperclassmen students have a better understanding because their classes pertain to the real world more often than not," Power said. "So maybe better education of underclassmen could help with the problem."

Furthermore, if a significant number of students at Harpeth Hall, a safe and nurturing environment to be proud of your femininity, don't consider themselves feminists, what does this imply about women around the world? What does this tell us about the definition of feminism?

A survey conducted by the Huffington post in 2013 showed that 23 percent of women and 16 percent of men identify as feminists. How can more than two thirds of women not believe that they deserve the same treatment as their male counterparts? On the other hand, this statistic places our ultra-feminist community, with 90% of students identifying as feminists, in perspective with the rest of the country.

On the other hand, I was surprised only ten percent of men call themselves feminists. Why should it be anything but normal that a man would believe, in the 21st century, that women are not lesser? Due to the countless misconceptions concerning feminism, maybe men feel as though supporting it would make them weak or in favor of their own inferiority.

But what are women afraid of? 14% of Harpeth Hall girls would not openly call themselves a feminist, therefore saying they would not openly identify as an advocate for women's equal rights. How could Harpeth Hall do a better job in teaching that being a feminist should be a source of pride, not shame?

Harpeth Hall can generate a feminist bubble that often disregards that way the real world sees feminism. I forget that most of the world's men and even women don't define themselves as feminists and often see this movement as something far more radical than it truly is, seeing as one senior MBA boy described Harpeth Hall as "being extremely liberal and over the top PC."

It's important for us all to recognize this reality at Harpeth Hall and beyond, and address and properly inform our girls during our time here.

We may seem to be a bastion of feminism, but even Harpeth Hall lacks the proper education on these issues. Those of us who are feminists have a lot of work to do here and beyond.



MAKING HISTORY: Senior Claire Gould dresses as famous suffragette Susan B. Anthony and poses with Dr. Balmer in celebration of the first ever female major presidential party candidate *Photo by Bonnie Moses.*

Right to Senior Night?

BY: MARGARET HAYWORTH, BIANCA SASS AND CARRIE HAYNES
Staff Writer, Opinion Editors

As the new school year began, many aspects of Harpeth Hall changed: we have a new Upper School Dean, Nike socks are (finally) within dress code and peanut butter is forbidden on campus. While all these adjustments were aimed to improve and enlighten students' individual experiences at school, I am left wondering if the overwhelming number of changes to our school are having the desired effect.

For seniors, and future seniors, one of the most striking changes is in regards to Senior Nights. In years prior, specific sports have had nights to honor their seniors, normally the night of a critical game. Each senior is presented, locker rooms decorated; it is-- was-- a big deal, something many athletes looked forward to.

However, this year, all sports of a certain season had to gather together to have one big Senior Night. While this may include the sports that didn't historically have Senior Nights, it has taken away the sentimentally that came with an individual sport's Senior Night. In grouping all the Senior athletes together, Senior Night is no longer as personal.

"I think it was a really special moment for teams to be able to celebrate their seniors individually on a special night," senior and Pep Club president Bitsy Pendleton said. "I think it was a respectful way of sending them off of that team, as well as helped the team bond and reminisce on some of the teams memories made that season."

While this change has been unpopular with many seniors, others are very happy with the adjustment. Previously, people competing in sports such as rowing and track did not have the fanbase or practice space to justify having their own senior night. Karen Sutton, Athletic Director at Harpeth Hall, said, "It really only worked well for the sports who had a venue. We have thirteen sports, and out of thirteen sports, over half didn't have that opportunity."

Now, when one senior night is hosted per season, each athlete is given equal recognition. Sutton said, "What a senior night means is just the last time they're playing in their senior year. It doesn't mean it's always happened on the very last game or the very last match, but it's just a time to celebrate that most of them have played four years."

Anna Grace Cole, senior rower and commit to Fordham University, feels similarly and said "being able to be recognized with the rest of my team and celebrate the rest of the seniors was a really nice opportunity." For senior athletes in sports like rowing, swimming, or track, finally being recognized in front of their classmates and friends was long deserved.

For teams such as basketball and volleyball, the alteration to senior nights seems to have little benefit, if not making the senior experience decidedly worse; however, members of other teams eagerly embrace the chance to partake in the celebrations. Ultimately, the change to Senior Night, like many of the changes this year, was made in an attempt to create a better, more welcoming school environment. While taking away the one-team aspect may decrease a sense of camaraderie, hopefully the community will warm up to this new tradition.

Homecoming

Harmless fun or not worth the hype?

BY: ANNMARIE ALLOS
Staff Writer

On October 22nd, Montgomery Bell Academy held its annual Homecoming Dance. A homecoming football game and dance is a tradition that is common in many high schools.

As an all-girls school, however, a ticket to the homecoming dance is a little more hard to come by. This event, although held in high regard by most underclassmen, tends to be blown out of proportion.

Although the dance was met with a big yawn by several Harpeth Hall students, others waited in breathless anticipation to be invited to this "glamorous" event. There were surely many girls who were disappointed when this much hoped-for invitation never came.

A few observed the excitement of their classmates with a mixture of indifference and bemusement. Many of the girls I spoke with said their favorite part of homecoming is not attending the dance itself, but the pre-dance rituals: finding the perfect dress, group manicures, etc.

"It's just a dance with mediocre music and not that big of a deal," sophomore Julia Berman said. "Shopping and getting ready is fun, but it's nothing to stress over. It's supposed to be fun."

Attending homecoming was enjoyable; however, for underclassmen, the hype surrounding the dance seems overblown.

Whispers of who was asked, who was still waiting, and who was hopeful spread through the freshmen and sophomore pods a full two months before the dance.

Frankly, I think the event was given more importance than it was worth by many students.

Director of the Upper School Jess Hill understands that MBA works hard to make homecoming a fun and festive event, but expressed concern about the event.

"The main challenge from our end is that it divides and separates our girls—those who are invited and those who are not," Mrs. Hill said. "For our ninth grade girls, it is especially difficult at the beginning of the year."

Nevertheless, the homecoming dance seems like a rite of passage, a part of the quintessential high school experience. In this regard, it is easy to sympathize with girls who feel as though they were left out.

During the final two weeks before the dance, awkwardness settled within some groups of friends. Some girls chatted eagerly about dinners and after parties, while others sat in uncomfortable silence.

Ultimately, homecoming came and then it went. Hurt feelings gradually healed, riffs between friends mended.

Despite any drama, homecoming is a harmless tradition that provides a nice opportunity to socialize in a formal setting with other people-- but clearly is not a necessity for a positive high school experience.

Harpeth Hall's favorite winter movies

BY: HALLE PETRIE & CAMILLE PATTON
Sports Editor & News Editor

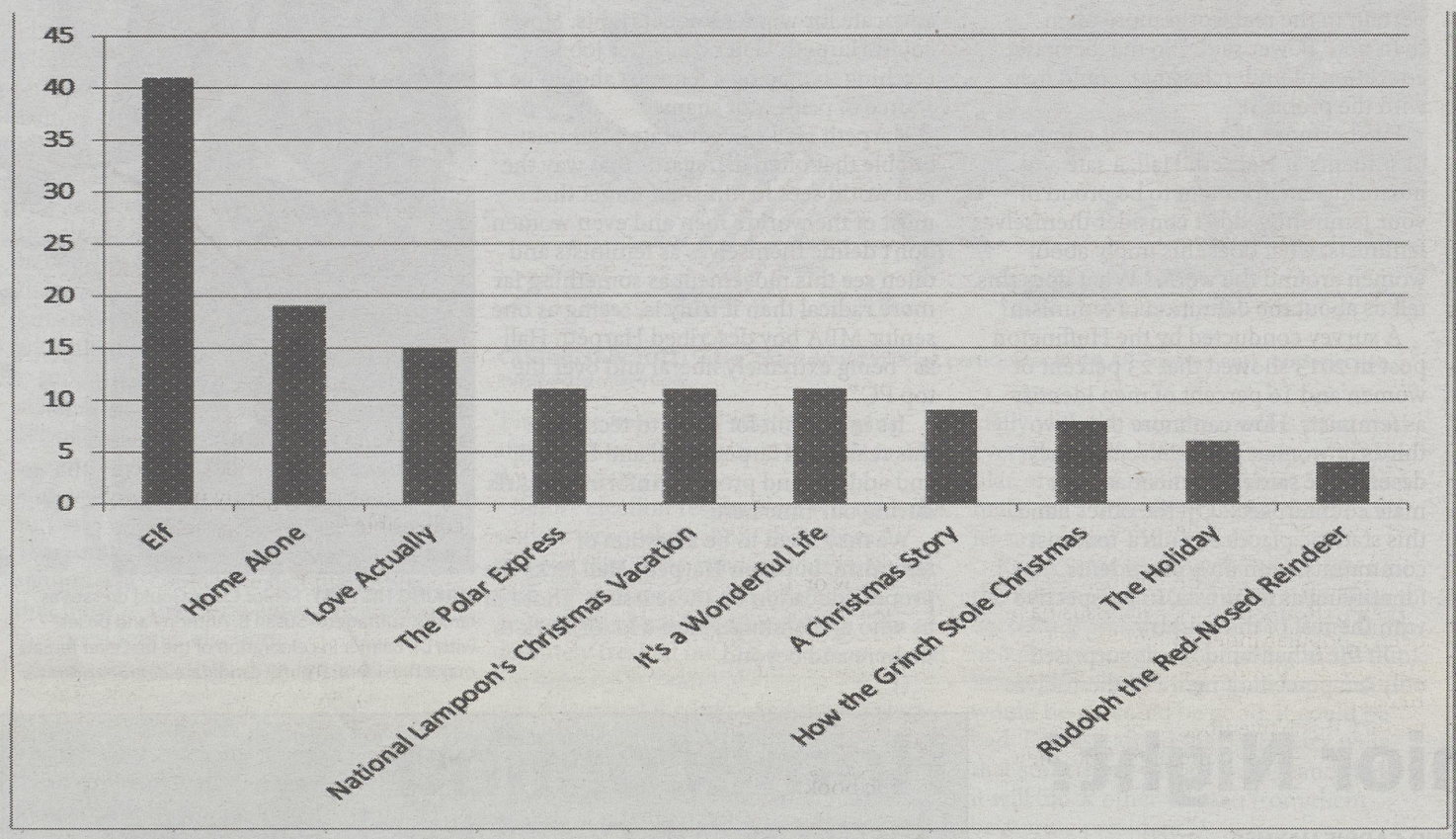
December is a time of year that comes with drinking hot chocolate, sitting by the fire, and spending time with loved ones. As families and friends gather together during the holiday season, a popular theme arises: movies. Watching these with loved ones serves as time well-spent especially during the winter holidays. To honor this time of year, Harpeth Hall students created a Top Ten Holiday Movie List.

Check out the results!

1 The favorite of the Harpeth Hall population is "Elf," starring Will Ferrell, who believes he is one of Santa's elves, but realizes that he is actually a human and travels to New York City to meet his biological father. This movie won in the Harpeth Hall community by a landslide-- taking the lead with 27percent of the votes. To some, like Spanish teacher Claire Gonzalez, it reminds the viewer that "people are good."

2 "Home Alone" is a movie about a boy whose family accidentally leaves him behind after they embark on their Christmas vacation. However, things turn sinister when the Wet Bandits learn of Kevin's solitude. A member of the Harpeth Hall community describes it as "so funny, while at the same time still focuses on Christmas and all that comes with it." Home Alone is a holiday must-see!

3 Coming in third place was "Love Actually," a movie with an all-star cast that follows the lives of many intertwined stories. Each of these stories reveal that they are connected by one central theme: love. Upon watching this movie, you will be able to "feel the holidays in your fingers, feel it in your toes!" To understand this quote, you will just have to watch and see!



4: "The Polar Express"
"The Polar Express encompasses the spirit of Christmas time and the adventure that we all wish we could have experienced when we were younger"-Raegan Coleman

5: "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation"
"It allows me to think that my family is somewhat sane during the holiday time." -KK Savage

6: "It's a Wonderful Life"
"I cry every time I watch it. It changed my life and makes you think." -Mary Johnson

7: "A Christmas Story."
"This movie is probably the most quoted movie in my family. We watch it every year on Christmas Eve until the early hours of the morning... sometimes we watch it again on Christmas Day." -Anonymous

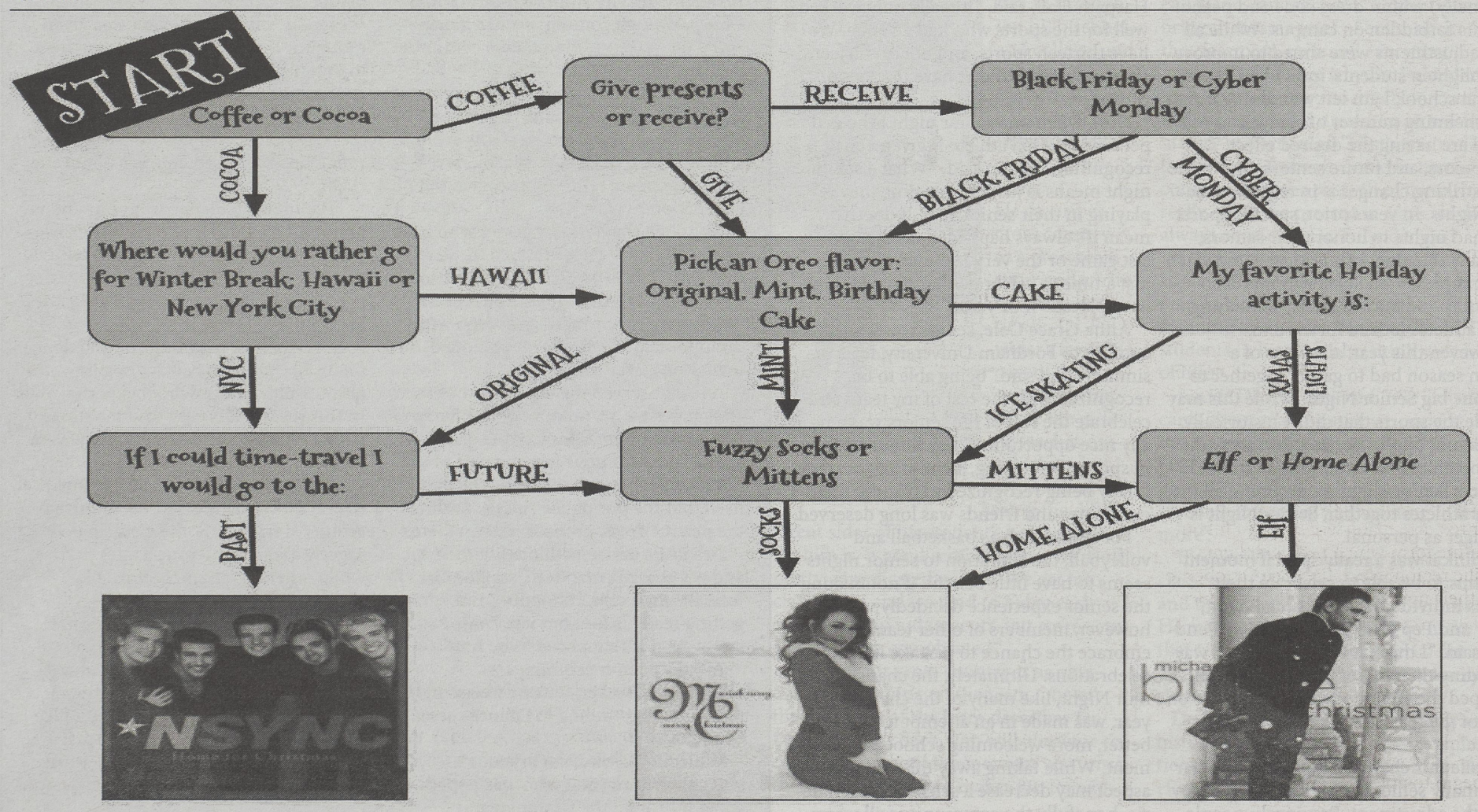
8:"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"
"It shows the power of Christmas spirit" -Anonymous

9: "The Holiday"
" I love the actors and actresses in the movie, and the movie itself is really sweet and happy. I have the best memories associated with watching this movie with friends around a fire with sweet treats!" -Millie Kirkland

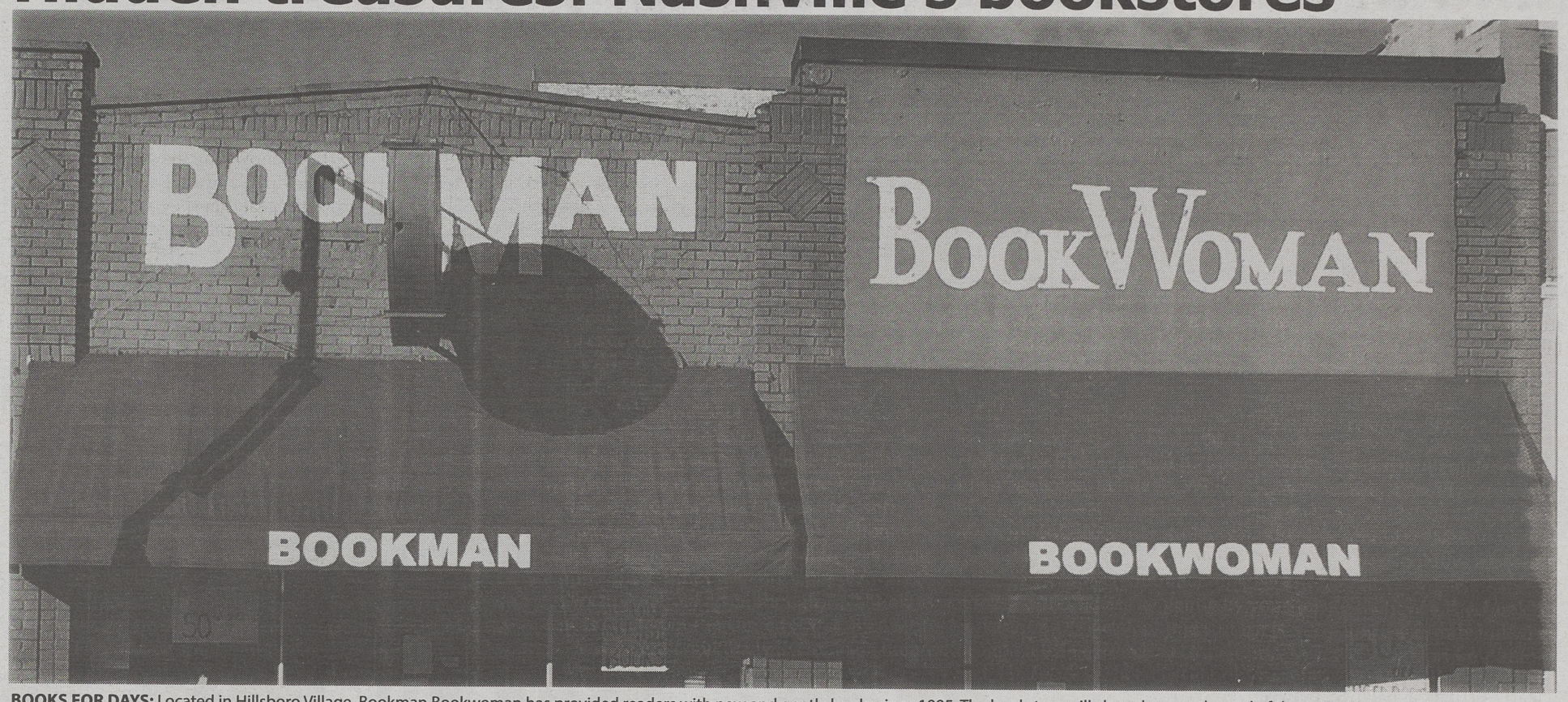
10. "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer"
"It's a wonderful movie that reminds me of my childhood and never fails to make me happy"-Eleonor Wright

Quiz: which festive music album are you?

BY: AVA BONEY
A&E Editor



Hidden treasures: Nashville's bookstores



BOOKS FOR DAYS: Located in Hillsboro Village, Bookman Bookwoman has provided readers with new and gently books since 1995. The bookstore will close down at the end of the year . *Photo by Olvia Kreuger.*

BY: MAGGIE TATTERSFIELD
Staff Writer

Despite the rise of eBooks and audiobooks, the popularity of Nashville's independent bookstores has increased in just the last few years. Whether you only read school assigned books or enjoy reading for fun, bookstores are essential not only because of the books they contain, but also for their warm environment and laid back spaces.

Independent bookstores were on the decline through the 90's and 00's, as the big chain bookstores, led by Barnes and Noble and Borders, began to drive them out of business. The rise of Amazon made it even harder for independent bookstores to survive, even causing chain bookstores to go out of business. For example, Borders closed in 2011 and Hastings closed earlier this year. However, after years of spectacular growth, eBook sales have begun to decline significantly. Suddenly, independent bookstores are staging a comeback and are again thriving. Ingram Book Company, a national book wholesaler, reports that their sales to independent bookstores are up more than 10% this year, and the sales of the eBook phenomenon have been down for the last two years.

In Green Hills, Parnassus Books is a Harpeth Hall favorite. Founded by best-selling author Ann Patchett and co-owner Karen Hayes, Parnassus has been a popular independent bookstore since its inception in November of 2011. In fact, they celebrated their fifth anniversary this November. Whether you just want to say hello to the dogs (yes, they have dogs), find your summer reading, listen to an author speak, or just to pick up a good book, Parnassus is the perfect place to visit. The relaxed vibe and sophisticated staff provide the ideal bookstore experience. Next May, consider going to Parnassus to pick up your summer reading, rather than ordering them online!

After years of being a childhood favorite bookstore in Green Hills, Davis Kidd closed in 2010. "When I was younger, I loved Davis Kidd in the Green Hills mall because they had a downstairs section that had comfy chairs and was quiet," junior Eliza Ossolinski said. "Now, I mainly read on my kindle."

Bookman Bookwoman, a gem of Hillsboro village, is the quintessential place to find a new or gently used book . Books are found from floor to ceiling; digging is part of the fun. Founded by Attorney Larry Woods and Saralee Terry Woods, the store began as a way to sell Larry's 40,000 book collection. The employees are always happy to help you look for a specific book. Sadly, the independent bookstore has announced that it is closing at the end of this year after twenty years of being a favorite used bookstore. According to the owners, operating a small business is time consuming, and while they will miss their enterprise, the couple is looking forward to having some leisure time. Bookman Bookwoman will be greatly missed as a staple of Hillsboro Village.

Rhino Books, located just off the Lipscomb campus, is a great resource for college students. Rhino is also deeply committed to Nashville's creative community, carrying gently used books, collectible first editions, and vintage vinyl records.

Vanderbilt's Barnes and Noble is the largest major chain bookstore in the Nashville area. While Books a Million exists in Nashville, this chain is not as popular as Barnes and Noble. A hub for Vanderbilt students, this bookstore is also the perfect place to get your Vandy gear and is certainly the best bookstore if you ever find yourself downtown.

Whether your favorite bookstore is Parnassus, Rhino Books, or Barnes and Noble, it is important to support Nashville's independent bookstores. Although they may be scarce, they remain staples in their respectable neighborhoods. These unique bookstores deserve to be explore more, as they are not only a place to find books, but also provide space to grow and relax in a one-of-a-kind environment.

NaNoWriMo: how to write a novel in thirty days

BY: LIZZY ASAD
A&E Editor

While many of you spend November gearing up for exams or planning for the holidays, some girls write books in the span of thirty days. National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo, is a nonprofit that consists of participants writing 50,000-word novels from November 1 to December 1.

NaNoWriMo began in 1999 with twenty one members in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 2015, NaNoWriMo had 431,626 participants from all over the world. In order to participate, writers must fill out an online form which registers them in a specific region. Next, they use October to plan their novel and formally announce it on NaNoWriMo. Finally, NaNoWriMo provides word tracking and badge initiatives during the month of November.

The website has plenty of inspiration articles, ranging from advice from published authors to online encouragement forums. On November 20, participants can begin to upload their full text novel onto NaNoWriMo's word count validator. One officially "wins" NaNoWriMo by reaching 50,000 words. Although there is no official prize, winners gain access to special merchandise and experience the exhilaration of reaching their goal. Over 250 NaNoWriMo novels have been published, a few of which includes bestselling authors Rainbow Rowell's Fangirl and Sara Gruen's Water for Elephants.

A few Harpeth Hall students and faculty are part of Nashville's 4628's members. Junior Valerie Sheehan has been participating in NaNoWriMo for the past three years. "Writing is a huge part of who I am, it's a valuable part of my life, and it's something that I love to do," Sheehan said. "I love novel writing in particular because it's a chance to create something entirely out of the bounds of reality, and it's a chance to expand your own reality beyond its current bounds."

In fact, writing has a plethora of benefits. These include reducing stress, solving problems effectively, and clarifying your thoughts and feelings. Most of all, writing allows you to get in touch with your inner self: it is one of the most powerful ways to express yourself.

"It allows you to really encompass feelings or sensations in words," Sheehan said. "Rather than just saying 'I'm happy,' you can really build on that and show the reader what happiness feels like to you, what this specific kind of happiness means, what it looks like, smells like, feels like, etc. And through doing this, you release that feeling."

Although Harpeth Hall has an intense focus on the betterment of its student's writing, many girls do not enjoy writing papers or projects. Additionally, girls face stress when it comes to imbuing their writing with creativity or out of the five paragraph style bounds. Instead of facing your writing assignments with a shuttered mindset, view your writing as another way to express yourself, even if it is not a creative assignment. Approach writing with the same grace you do with the things you love.

Even if you never plan to participate in an initiative like NaNoWriMo, the cultivation of actually enjoying writing is one of the most important mindsets you can develop.

For those who struggle with writing, Sheehan said "the only way to get better is to keep writing. I have written so, so many terrible things. But that's how you get to to the good stuff. You have to wade through so much junk before you get to the gold that sometimes it doesn't seem worth it, but when you finally do reach what you were reaching for, it's a magical feeling. So my advice is to simply keep writing (even if it's terrible), and to never give up on it."

Someone said it to me today and it meant a lot to me, so I want to pass it on: our stories matter. Keep writing.

-Mrs. Griswold

End of a lengendary era: volleyball reflections

BY AUGUSTA BOWHAY
Staff Writer

Bask in the glory that is the Honey Bear Varsity Volleyball Team. This year, the team boasted absolute gold with a senior class that has been playing on varsity practically since the day they were born. I got the chance to ask a few illustrious players about this end of their high school volleyball era.

When asked why their season was so successful, Senior Kelsey Kay Herring responded simply: "We love each other." Senior Vivian Herzog agreed that the team achieved the perfect balance this year. "A lot of seasons are super fun while others are really intense. This year, we struck a balance: it was a lot of fun, and we won more than we ever had before."

The team is particularly special, as it is composed of eight senior girls. "We all matured alongside each other," Herzog said. "In past years, we loved volleyball, but we mired it down in other aspects, especially team squabbles. The eight of us reached maturity at the same time, skill-wise and emotionally, so our love matched our improved skill." These girls clearly struck a balance between emotional cohesion and the sometimes frustrating hard work required to advance in their season.

Their last game together was on October 20th against Baylor. Even though they lost, the game that really stood out in their minds was their previous game against Father Ryan.

"It was so high energy," Herring said. She claims to have never felt so spiritually, mentally or physically invested in a game. Between points, she would pray. When Lauren Bars scored the final point, she cried. The game stretched her mental and physical love for the sport and reminded her why she loves what she does.

Vivian Herzog went in with the mindset that every time she did something, it would be her last. She thought that it was possible that their match against Father Ryan could be their last, so this allowed her to appreciate and enjoy what was left. However, with the hard work and determination of the volleyball team, the Father Ryan game unexpectedly turned out to be a nail-biting win.



SENIOR NIGHT: Volleyball girls pose with their fat heads. *Photo Courtesy of Harpeth Hall Athletic Department.*

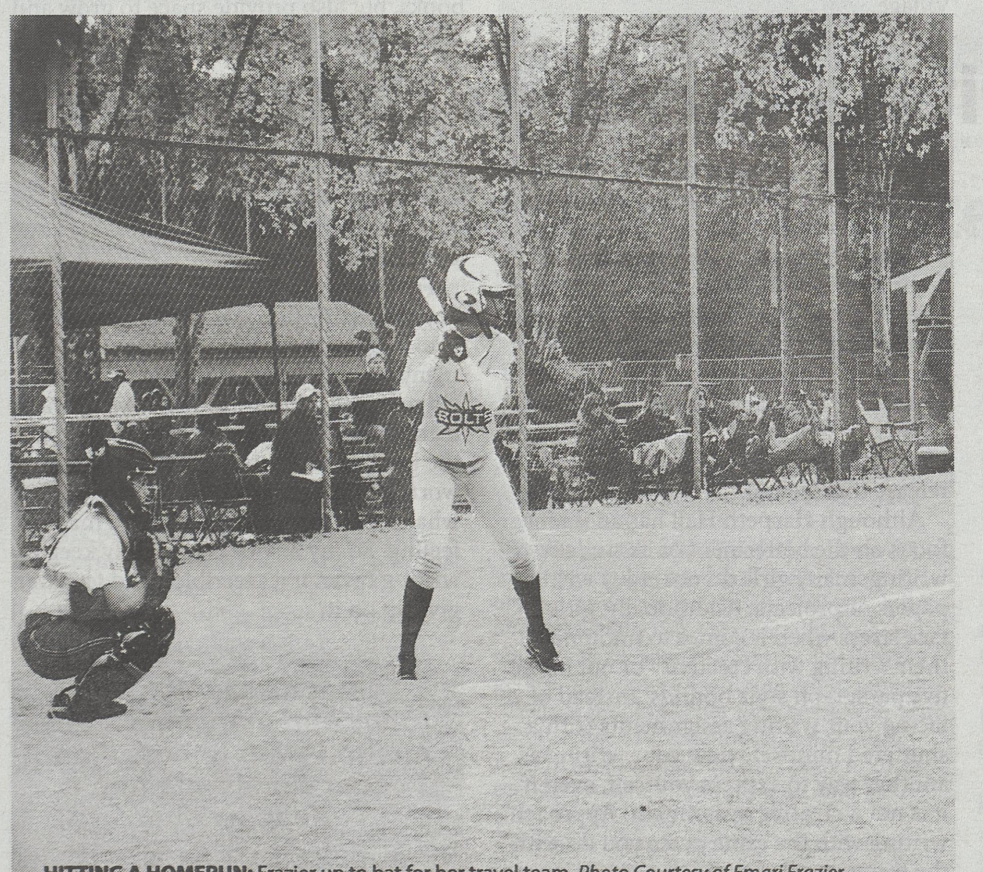
When asked how they feel now that it's over, the girls said that they will miss each other. Herzog noted that "the eight seniors were polar opposites: how they played, how they reacted to stress, how they led. Because we learned to love and respect our differences, we really did become a family." These girls were able to come together and lead the team with an incredible sense of maturity, determination, and dedication.

These four years were not filled with solely sunshine and rainbows. Four hour practices and disagreements were not uncommon during the grueling fall and summer months of the season. However, in the end, the girls cherished every moment of their last season together. After the exceptional season ended, Herring mourned the loss of her afternoon practices and bonding sessions with the team. She said, "This team and this season will forever hold a special place in my heart. I loved every second of it."

Resulting from the gallons of sweat and tears over the years, a victorious season and team led by eight dedicated seniors emerged that will forever remain in the books.

Emari Frazier: all-star freshman commits to LSU

BY ELEONOR WRIGHT
Editor-In-Chief



HITTING A HOMERUN: Frazier up to bat for her travel team. *Photo Courtesy of Emari Frazier.*

Emari Frazier, Harpeth Hall freshman, committed to Louisiana State University this fall to play softball at the Division 1 Level.

Frazier started playing softball when she was 5 years old after trying every other sport and not enjoying any of them. With other sports, Frazier would cry going to practice and games out of dislike, but when her parents put her in softball, she would cry when practices or games got cancelled. She joined an All-Star travel team when she was six and continues to this day.

The process of recruitment started last summer when Frazier was going into her 8th grade year. That summer she made the list which helps prospective college athletes determine which schools they are interested in. Fortunately, UCLA was her number one school as well as the first school to recruit her and, "just from then it's gotten better, more schools."

Louisiana State University's softball program was not the only reason Frazier committed there; she is always seen wearing a LSU necklace and talks highly of the school. Frazier chose LSU "because of the atmosphere, the people, the campus, the lifestyle; there's just nothing better and it's like no other." She has experienced student activities as well and commented: "when you go to football games it's crazy. You see all the people and how much love everyone has for their school."

People often ask Frazier if she is ever worried about already being committed to college but she is sure in her answer: no. "I know that what I chose is right," Frazier said. "It's just like family. The way they treat me and how they feel about me is just amazing... I definitely don't regret it or have any worries."

Some assume that she does not have to worry about grades now that she has selected her college, but she is still motivated; Frazier acknowledges that although she has signed the letter of intent, she must maintain good grades to get into the school. She is also striving for a merit scholarship. Frazier works hard for the university, her parents, and most importantly herself.

"It is a great blessing," Frazier said. Frazier has always known that she wanted to play division one softball but never expected the process to start this early. Frazier is a kind, talented, and hard-working girl who has the opportunity to play softball at a highly ranked university. What is the most humbling is how thankful Frazier is and how driven she remains.

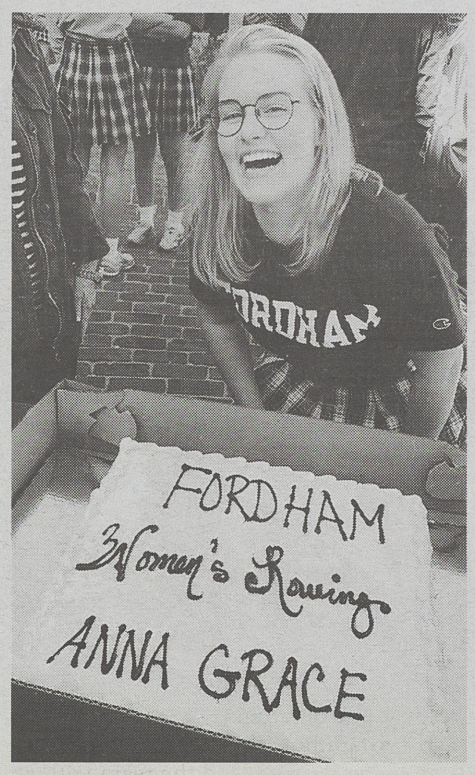
Harpeth Hall heroes: our college-bound athletes

BY EMILY JENKINS
Sports Editor

These athletes are our own Harpeth Hall heroes: those who have decided to further their athletic careers at the collegiate level. After years o f hard work and dedication, these girls have earned their place on the roster of their respective universiities. Anna Grace Cole, Kelsey Kay Herring, Ellie Loving, McKenzie Mason, and Lauren Bars each signed national letters of intent on National Signing Day, November 9, to officially commit to each of their five future homes and colleges.

Here is an overview of their recruitment processes, and an indepth look into their excitement about their next four years.

Anna Grace Cole: Fordham University, Rowing



CUT THE CAKE: Cole after signing her national letter of intent. *Photo Courtesy of Anna Grace Cole.*

Anna Grace Cole loves being on the water. Her dedication to the rowing team borders on obsession, and she even wrote her senior speech about her love for the sport. She spends early mornings out on the boat, and you can find her late at night, working out on the urg. Her time and energy has been well spent, as all of her hard work is paying off.

Anna Grace's natural athleticism and commitment to her teammates set Cole apart. These qualities have aided her in her decision to spend the next four years as a competitor for Fordham University in New York.

On her recruitment processs and excitement for her next four years, Anna Grace said, "I am so excited to be a Fordham Ram! Ever since I first walked on campus I knew it was where I wanted to be; everyone was so welcoming. I am looking forward to continuing my education at such a wonderful school, and I cannot wait to join such an amazing team of rowers and coaches. Beyond excited to see what the next four years have in store!"

Kelsey Kay Herring, Belmont University, Track and Field



WITH HER HERO: Herring with her track coach, Jim Romero. *Photo courtesy of Kelsey Kay Herring.*

Kelsey Kay Herring has always been an athlete; as a child, she participated in soccer, volleyball, basketball, and track and field. Even upon entering high school, Kelsey has maintained her love of sports, participating in both track and field and volleyball over her four years in the Upper School. However, during her junior year track season, she was really able to hone in on her talent in track and field, as she placed second in the region meet and ultimately seventh at the state level for the pentathlon, an event known to highlight some of the most talented overall athletes.

On November 9, Herring committed to compete in track and field for Belmont University at the Division I Level. She says, "My recruitment process has been a fast and furious whirlwind. I met Coach Harvey, the multi-event coach for Belmont University, at the Tennessee State Track Meet in May of 2015. I visited Belmont shortly afterwards, and I fell in love with the campus, the collegiate atmosphere, and the authentic student body. I spent the night with a Belmont athlete, and I got to watch them practice. After that weekend, I realized how much Belmont felt like a second home, and I honestly did not want to leave! I am so honored that I will get to be a part of the track and field team with men and women who are incredible runners and people. I cannot wait to be a Belmont Bruin!" Herring cannot wait to venture down the road to Belmont next year and show off her hometown to the many new students next year.

Ellie Loving, University of Tennessee, Rowing



ROCKY TOP PRIDE: Loving poses in her University of Tenessee shirt after signing day. *Photo Courtesy of Ellie Loving*

Ellie Loving has commanded and steered her team to countless victories throughout her years as a coxsawin for the Harpeth Hall crew team. She is excited to carry on this legacy for her home state at The Univeristy of Tennessee.

In her place at the stern of the boat, Loving coordinates the power and the rhythm of the other rowers and teammates. Led by her coaches Eric Gehrke and Cory Sanderson, Loving has worked with the team early in the morning on Percy Preist Lake to hone their skills.

Upon signing her national letter of intent, Loving said, "Can't wait to give my all to UT Knoxville and Volunteer rowing for the next four years! Rowing on Rocky Top, and I couldn't be happier!" We are excited to watch Ellie continue to excel at the Division I level!

Makenzie Mason, University of Florida, Lacrosse



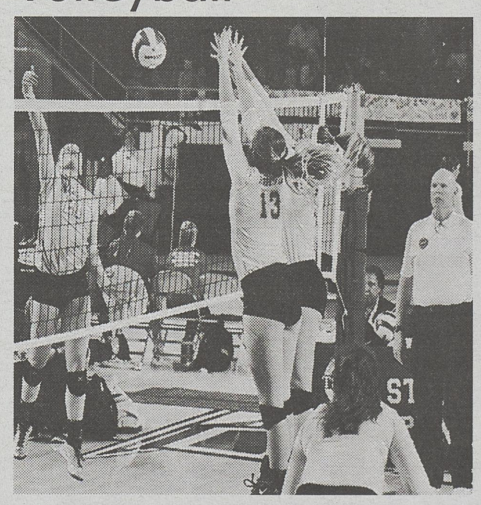
SUPPORTIVE SISTER: Makenzie poses with her sister on signing day. *Photo Courtesy of Makenzie Mason*

Makenzie Mason began her lacrosse career later than most; her freshman year of high school was when she discovered her love for and skill in the sport. Her raw talent and commitment to lacrosse is evident, as it has led her commit to the University of Florida, one of the top five competitive lacrosse teams in t he nation.

Mason plays travel lacrosse as a part of TN Lax, and she is the first person from the program to commit to college for Dision I lacrosse, which is very exciting to the organization and pivotal to its progress.

The University of Florida will be lucky to have Mason, who certainly has refined skill lacrosse, not to mention inspiring commitment.

Lauren Bars, University of Mississippi, Volleyball



GOOD SAVE: Bars blocks the volleyball and sends it to the other team. *Photo courtesy of Davis Stevens*

Lauren Bars has known she would be an Ole Miss Rebel since the summer before her junior year. Her recruitment process has developed throughout the years, and with her signature on November 9th, she dedicated her next four years to The University of Mississippi volleyball team.

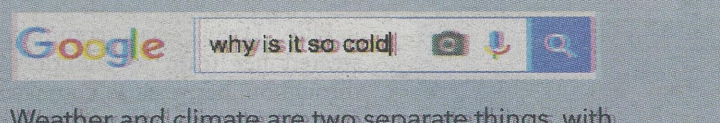
She has no qualms about playing volleyball for another four seasons because she has committed countless hours in the gym already, playing for Harpeth Hall as well as her alliance travel team. Each season has been different, and she has loved forming new relationships with new teams throughout the years.

An integral part of the Harpeth Hall volleyball team, she recieved the coveted award of Most Valuable Player two years in a row for the All-Region volleyball team.

Bars commented that she is excited that she has "committed to Ole Miss, committed to [her] coaches. and committed to [her] teammates."

Her endless success at the ever competitive high school level will certainly continue in her college volleyball career and many cannot wait to see it.

WINTER WARMING



Weather and climate are two separate things, with climate being the average weather over at least 30 years. Therefore, it is not clear if climate change is playing a direct role in the cold temperatures yet.

However, warmer temperatures in previous winters have led to increased precipitation, which in turn causes increased snowfalls for following years. Arctic sea ice is melting at an unprecedented pace, making sea levels rise and causing animals to lose their natural habitats.

This can also disturb ocean circulation patterns and the polar vortex, which could explain this winter's cold temperatures. Hotter air due to global warming leads to heavier precipitation through snow or rain, causing extreme weather in various parts of the globe. Overall, it is up to us to help protect our planet from the worst danger: ourselves.



WAYS TO HELP:

VOTE!

BUY LOCAL FOOD

SPREAD AWARENESS

USE EFFICIENT PRDUCTS

BE CONSCIOUS OF WASTE

By Ashley Zhu
C. Spindel