

The Westword

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Student voice of the Westhill community
"The test of good journalism is the measure of its public service."



Congratulations, Class of 2017

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The Westword

2016-2017 Staff

June 2017

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Dear Readers,

As we approach the end of the school year we welcome you to the seventh, and final, print edition of *The Westword* for the 2016/17 school year! This senior issue is the result of the staff's dedication and hardwork. We hope you enjoy the last issue of the year!

To start off, the Editorial this issue is an Editor-in-Chief yearly reflection as Dong Zhi Guo says a bittersweet farewell to the *Westword*.

In News, you can read about the STEM fest at Mill River Park. Additionally, in Viewpoint, readers can learn more about the controversial extension of free

speech involving politics.

Following Viewpoint, our Las Noticias section looks into an evaluation of college education. Within Supplement, we had Westhill seniors send in their senior wills as a final goodbye to high-school.

On the Feature pages, we highlight seniors who are taking a nontraditional post-highschool career path.

In Scatterbrain, we go over some college dorm packing essentials for all graduating seniors. In Sports, we celebrated Westhill's best athletes, in the West-awards.

On Online, watch a video interview of the new Westhill prin-

cipal, Mr. Rinaldi, talking about his new position and plans for the future. Additionally, read more about France's newest president elect, Macron, and an overview of the Pleasantville Musical Festival.

We encourage any readers with comments, questions, or concerns to contact us by either dropping a letter into Dong Zhi Guo's mailbox in room 224 or emailing us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Dong Zhi Guo, Maddy Cohen,
& Josh Eimbinder
Editor-in-Chief, Print Executive Editor, & Online Executive Editor

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Editorial Policy

The Westword will be guided in the publication of material by a concern for truth, human decency, and human benefit. It is published during the school year by the late night staff, along with the Journalism and Communications classes. Letters to the Editor, advertising requests, comments, criticism, or suggestions are always welcome. The views expressed in Viewpoint and the Op-Ed page do not necessarily represent the opinions of *The Westword*.

The Editorial Board consists of Dong Zhi Guo, Maddy Cohen, Josh Eimbinder, Noah Klein, Caroline Boccuzzi, Maeve Ronan, Nicholas Zarrilli, Michael Hernandez, Liz Yamron, Janet Manina, Jenny Gorski, Melanie Gorski, Sarah Goldberg, Mr. von Wahlde, and Mr. Wooley. The Editorial can be found on page 3.

Announcements

We very excited to announce our new management for next year: Editor-in-Chief, Noah Klein, Print Executive Editor, Addison Magrath, and Online Executive Editor, Josh Eimbinder.

Corrections

For Athlete of the Month, we spelled Rishabh Tandon's name as 'Rishab' instead of Rishabh. Additionally, in News, we mistakenly said Nova Nahiyani is a junior, but she actually is a senior.

If you have an announcement or an advertisement you would like published in the next issue, please e-mail us at westwordwhs@gmail.com.

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Visit ourschoolnewspaper.com/westword to view our print archives.

Editor-in-Chief says her final farewell to Westhill

When I first walked through the door of 224 as a freshman, I never would have fathomed the countless hours I would eventually spend sitting in this very room fretting over everything from late articles to randomly deleted pages and disconnected wifi. Yet, as I sit down and attempt to encompass my experience at *The Westword*, I am at loss for words (not the west kind).

It is hard to articulate how impactful *The Westword*, and the people involved in it, from the illustrators to the section editors, have been on my high school career and my individual character. When my family first immigrated to the U.S. when I was five years old, it was in search of a community that puts a priority in the wellbeing of the public, and in many ways *The Westword* epitomizes that very idea. With the motto of "The test of good journalism is in the measure of its public service," I firmly believe that through the stories we are able to tell, and issues we bring to light, we are truly creating a better community.

Four years ago, a publication of nearly a hundred members seemed impossibly large to me, and as cliché as it sounds, I never would have imagined I would possibly leading an organization with this many people. Yet, this incredibly detailed and intricate network that is *The Westword* staff, who create the monthly 40-page paper, and online website you see today, make it easier than ever to head. I am always inspired by the talent and enthusiasm from the many members of Westword and their perseverance through the many challenges we face throughout the year. Needless to say, it is the staff that makes *The Westword* an award-winning newspaper that never fails to make an impact on our community.

This year, among others, has been a memorable one, not only in the scope of journalism, but for our student-publication as well. Throughout this year, we have covered many controversial topics including the presidential election, racial diversity in AP classes, and rape culture. Most

notably, our initiative "Purple & Gold Day" spearheaded by the Editorial Board, stemmed from an Editorial coverage examining how student call our two cafeterias "black caf" and "white caf." Through "Purple & Gold Day," we encouraged students to sit in different cafeterias and rebranded the cafeterias Purple and Gold. In April, the Finch cafeteria has been officially been painted purple, and the Raynor cafeteria yellow. As Editor-in-Chief, I am extremely proud of *The Westword* Editorial Board and what they were able to achieve.

Through all seven issues spanning the school year, it would not have been whole without Maddy Cohen, the Print Executive Editor. Thank you for your willingness to fill in on my shortcomings and always keeping the "stressword out of the Westword." Your much needed sass and quirky humour was exactly what I needed to maintain my sanity during times when everything seemed to be going wrong. And to Josh Eimbinder, the Online Executive Editor,

this year brought many changes, and your ability to stay on top of the digital age always amazes me; I am more than excited to see what feats you will accomplish next year.

Our managing editors, Caroline Boccuzzi, Maeve Ronan, and Nicholas Zarrilli, have truly exemplified the definition of hard-working. You all make the job seem easy, when we all know how much time and dedication it truly takes.

Also to our advisers, Mr. von Wahlde and Mr. Wooley, thank you being the necessary guiding voices that ensure we do the best we can, and dealing with our chronically late editorials every issue. As advisers, it is often a thankless job, but we could not have been more lucky than to have you both as our mentors.

Above all, I would like to thank you, the readers, for continuing to trust in us to bring you stories about the Westhill community and beyond. *The Westword* would not exist, if not for the endless support of our readers, advertisers, and community

members, and for that, we are more than grateful.

As I conclude this never ending list of thank yous (and my term as editor-in-chief), I would like to congratulate next year's Editor-in-Chief, Noah Klein, Print Executive Editor, Addison Magrath, and Online Executive Editor, Josh Eimbinder. I am more than confident that not only will you continue the legacy of *The Westword*, but make it the best that it can be.

The Westword has been an integral part of my high school experience, and as I close a distinctive chapter in my life, I am filled with emotions of eagerness and optimism for the what the future holds for Westword.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your editor-in-chief and I could not have asked for a better way to spend my years.

Sincerely,

Dong Zhi Guo
Dong Zhi Guo

Congratulations to next year's editors



Addison Magrath
Print Executive Editor



Noah Klein
Editor-in-Chief



Josh Eimbinder
Online Executive Editor

Photos by **Ryan Murace** / Media Manager.

Summer and spring asbestos removal

Hannah Nekritz
Reporter

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that poses dangerous health risks. It has been used in industries such as building and construction, for insulation, roofing, sound absorption, and more. The EPA has concluded that consumers should reduce the risk of their contact with asbestos. The growing concerns regarding the threats that it poses to public health has led to its decreasing use in the United States.

Asbestos poses the clearest danger to the lungs. When fibers are released into the air, they can be inhaled, and trapped in the lungs, where they remain for a long time. If this occurs, the fibers can cause scarring and inflammation, damage to breathing, and severe respiratory issues. "Asbestos has been classified as a known human carcinogen,

a substance that causes cancer, by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the EPA, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer," according to the National Cancer Institute. Along with this, asbestos has been linked to numerous forms of damage to the lungs.

Over this past summer, from August 1 to August 26, 2016, asbestos was removed from certain regions of the school. This work was conducted over the summer to minimize the number of people in the buildings. The removal was initiated within the Raynor and Finch main offices, with the intent of removing the dangerous substance from the building.

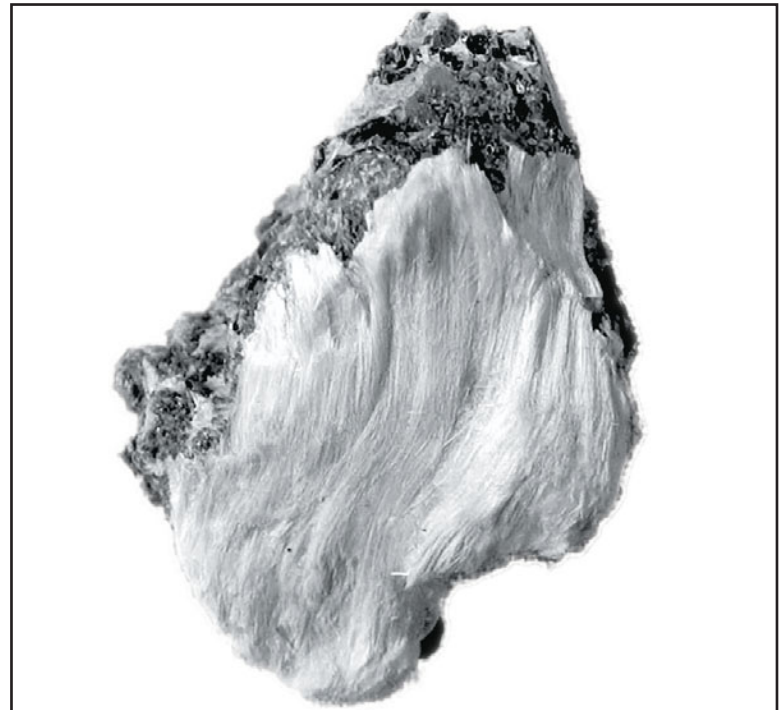
During the spring of this year, a construction project was launched in the Westhill auditorium. Although it began as merely the replacement of the carpeting in the school auditorium, the discovery of

flooring material and adhesives contaminated by asbestos prompted another project to remove the dangerous material. This project was completed over the April break, beginning on the 7, and ending on the 16 of the month.

The Stamford Public School system takes precautions to remove traces of asbestos found throughout the schools. Other removal efforts have occurred most recently in such facilities as Turn of River Middle School, Stamford High School, and Northeast Elementary School. These asbestos abatement projects are overseen by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Further precautions taken include scheduling these projects for periods such as vacations where less people are in the buildings, and isolating the construction area "by locked doors and airtight containment barriers to prevent accidental entry and air exchange."

Within the last year, Westhill has twice conducted asbestos removal projects, over periods where most of the students and staff are absent, minimizing risk. The school

district handles these situations across the area with caution, under the supervision of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, to ensure the safety of students and faculty.



Asbestos is a harmful natural mineral that causes cancer. Asbestos was recently found in the auditorium, but has now been removed.

The Untold Stories

Column by Noah Klein



This issue The Westword sat down with Jose Abad. Abad is a junior in Mr. Sandoval's 7th period Bi-Lingual History class. We would like to thank Maria Mirafuentes for translating Jose's story in order for him to feel most comfortable.

The Westword: When did you come to the United States and why?

Jose Abad: I came to the U.S. because I had dreams of becoming a soldier and learning skills to protect people. I saw the way the people in my country were being treated and I wanted to change it, so my mother brought me here to help me achieve this dream.

TW: What are your plans after high school?

JA: I want to go into the army so that I can learn how to protect people. I also want to go back to my small village to

share the knowledge I have gained here. I want to be able to help as many people as I can in my village.

TW: What made you want to be a soldier?

JA: I was 13 and I saw a huge fight breakout over politics. I decided that from that point on I wanted to do something to stop it. I saw people fighting constantly and I really felt like I needed to do whatever I could do to stop it.

TW: How does school in Mexico compare to school here?

JA: School here is much better. If I came late to my old school I would get beaten with a ruler. If I came with my fingernails too long they would hit me on my nails really hard to teach me a lesson. Here it is so different, the teachers are much better.

TW: How do the students in the United States compare to those in Mexico?

JA: The kids here have an at-

titude as if they have earned everyone's respect, as if they are above everything. The kids all think they are all that. In my old school everyone was normal, they respected everyone and no one had the attitude that I see here.

TW: How do you like the United States?

JA: I like it a lot. I think there are a lot of dreams and opportunities for me and I like that. I feel like I can do or be anything I want. I can live out my dreams.

TW: Who did you immigrate to the U.S. with?

JA: I used to live in Guatemala for a short time with my aunt and uncle because my mom and dad went to the U.S. This was the worst time of my life. I would always see people hitting each other for no reason. This made me so upset because I wanted to help them. I missed my parents so much. I am happy to be with

my mom now.

TW: What is your favorite class at Westhill?

JA: To be honest, none. I am not really interested in any of the classes. I guess math and English are okay sometimes. I just really want to learn how to help people though.

TW: What advice would you give to a student who is new to the school?

JA: I would tell this student that they are welcome and that they can always come talk to me, I would say the school is really good and that they teach very well. I would make sure the student was welcomed and that he or she felt comfortable.

TW: What do you miss most?

JA: I miss my father and my grandmother the most. I haven't seen them in years, I am not even sure if they are alive. I wish I could see them so bad, I have not seen or heard from them since I

came here.

TW: How do you feel about the things President Trump has said about Mexicans, and immigrants in the past?

JA: I support my people, whatever God wants to happen, will happen. I am obviously sad when I hear the things Trump says about Mexican people and my country, but in the end, I believe in God and he will guide us. I do like however, how Trump discusses getting rid of criminals because of course I am against violence, any way we can stop crime and fighting is good.

TW: What is your favorite memory in the U.S.?

JA: My favorite memory is just being in the U.S. I am thankful for every moment I get to spend with them, God is great for bringing me together with them. I am always thinking of them and always am happy to be around them.

STEMfest stops at Mill River Park BRIEFS

Lexi Boccuzzi
Reporter

On May 20, Stamford hosted the 4th annual STEMfest. This highly anticipated event is a place for all of Stamford to come together and celebrate their love of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The festival, held in Mill River Park, has been a hub for local institutes, organizations, companies, and schools to assemble each year and teach Stamford's youth about STEM. This year's event was once again a hit, with appearances from local educational institutes ranging from preschool to college as well as environmental organizations such as Soundwaters and The Stamford Museum & Nature Center.

The event consisted of more than 50 tables surrounding the main courtyard of the park, each occupied by a different STEM related group. At 10 a.m. on Saturday, students of all ages flocked to the event to learn about and practice different STEM disciplines, as well

as to enjoy the food trucks and musical entertainment. Each table was headed by its own group, who taught the local students about their respective program and gave them some activities to try out. Soundwaters, a local marine protection organization and educational facility, brought some of the marine animals from the Long Island Sound to show the kids. At their table, they were able to teach the students about the importance of science in our oceans and how we can help to protect them.

Besides being a great learning program for younger students, STEMfest was also provided a chance for high school students to explore different STEM careers. UConn Stamford had a booth at the event where they promoted the school's expansive STEM program and allowed students to try out a digital media program. "The only thing that grows the economy, and allows us to progress as a society is STEM," said Phillip Bradford, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engi-

neering, who thinks STEM professions make for great careers. "I think it's very important for children to learn about STEM. It's a great career option to think about especially for high school students because there is so many things within the STEM field that you can do," said Brit Montmeat, who works at Connecticut Science Center. The CT Science Center is helping to make this possible by collaborating with Stamford Public Schools through field trips and in-school visits to teach students about science.

This type of exposure to science and technology is becoming more and more crucial. As our modern society progresses to become increasingly dependent on technology and engineering, children must be more educated in these fields in order to remain relevant in the real world.

Elementary schools in Stamford have realized this and are starting science programs with their students from a very young age. Mark Bonasera, Principal of Roxbury Elementary School, attended and worked

at the event. He explained that he thinks STEM should definitely play a large role in education saying, "Yes, I think that as long as we have a balance. Science and technology at the forefront balanced with the other disciplines," said Bonasera. Roxbury held an Art and Science fair on May 18, where students presented their science and art projects for parents and visitors. Bonasera brought 18 of the student science projects to STEMfest, where 12 of those students were able to present their projects. "The event was filled with curious, smart, and interested kids with a love for STEM activities. It was great to see so many people enjoying the event. After talking to one of the volunteers, it made me feel so good to know that I could have been apart of the STEMfest event," said Stamford High student Maggie Meister ('20), the designer of this year's STEMfest logo.

Overall, STEMfest was a very successful event and everyone who attended it learned a lot about STEM while also having a great time.



Hillside Muse makes a comeback

Molly Cannon
Reporter

The Hillside Muse magazine is a student run and operated literary magazine that is returning to the campus of Westhill High School. Liz Yamron ('19) and Hoshahnia Kumaran ('19) are currently working on bringing the magazine back to life in a print and digital form. "With so much of the world evolving to be more technology-based, especially at Westhill, we decided that a website would serve as a better platform that people are more likely to look at," said Yamron. Both Yamron and Kumaran have worked to create a user-friendly website in order to showcase many Westhill student works.

The magazine aims to encour-

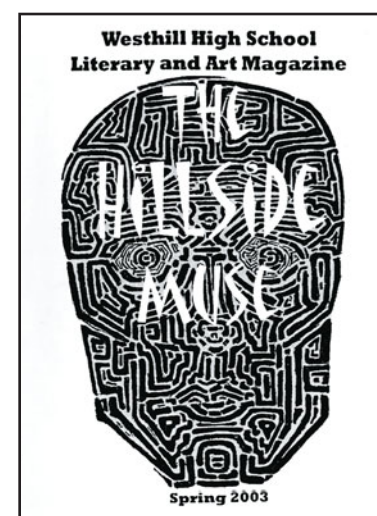
age and showcase the creative literary abilities of the students at Westhill. "[The magazine] is a place where students are able to express themselves creatively without conforming to any boundaries the school may provide them with. There are so many amazing, talented writers, poets, photographers, artists, and musicians in the school community that deserve to be recognized," said Kumaran.

The magazine, which will be distributed to both the Westhill community and the general population, is run by a group of students as an after-school club. Yamron and Kumaran will be the co-editors of the literary magazine. However, *The Hillside Muse* is interested in expanding their staff in order to

fully support a functional publication. The club is supervised as well as run by Mr. von Wahlde and Mr. Pinsince. *The Hillside Muse* is expected to start publishing in the 2017-2018 school year.

The magazine will serve as the third publication to be written and produced on the campus. *The Westword* and *SAGA* will no longer be the only publications that showcase the works of the Westhill student body. The magazine, which strives to publish many works of literature written by students, including but not limited to, poetry, short stories, essays, works of both fiction and nonfiction, and other literary works, will prove an interesting addition to the high school. If you are interested in joining *The*

Hillside Muse or are interesting in learning more about it, contact Mr. von Wahlde in room 216 or Mr. Pinsince in room 219.



Photos by Ewa Misiak / Photographer.

Skip days

Junior and Senior Skip Day are something that occur every year. These are two separate days where most of the junior and senior classes will take a day off from school. It is not an official day set on a calendar, however, everyone still seems to know when each skip day is. What students decide to do on this day ranges. Some students stay home and take this time to relax while others may do more exciting events. For example, students enjoy going to amusement parks, the beach, having cookouts and more. The administrators are aware of the event, however, it is not excused. "For Senior Skip Day, I was planning on spending the day on the beach with friends. For Junior Skip Day I slept in and ate breakfast food with my friends," said Lisa Martelli ('17).

Senior prom location switch

In past years, Westhill's senior prom has been held at the Greenwich Hyatt, but this year, the seniors are shaking it up. The class of 2017 student council made the decision to change the venue due to the Hyatt's cost. For the past few years, the Hyatt has been charging more to accommodate senior prom, until the class of 2017 student council felt it was no longer worth it. This year's senior prom will be held at The Loading Dock, which, according to their website, is "industrial-chic" and "brings the vibe and style of a New York City SoHo loft to the heart of Stamford, Connecticut." Although the venue will make for a great prom night, the decision to move the prom has caused some controversy. The Stamford High School (SHS) prom, located at the Greenwich Hyatt, will be held on June 2, the same time as the Westhill senior prom at The Loading Dock.

Briefs by **Bria Pettiford & Jenny Gorski**
/ Staff Writer & Supplement Editor.



Good Month Bad Month

Column by
**Max Zussman &
Matthew Greenbaum**

Good Month For...

Pippa Middleton Pippa Middleton, the sister of Kate Middleton, just walked down the aisle at her own wedding on May 21. 33 years of age, Middleton is now married to James Matthews, who is eight years older. The young lovers were spotlighted on world media, which portrayed stunning pictures of the high society wedding.



Logic On May 5, the Maryland rapper dropped his highly anticipated third studio album titled, *Everybody*. The fourteen track project comes after his widely popular *The Incredible True Story* that officially put Logic on the map. His album soared to number one on the Billboard's Top 100 for a week and was met with overall positive reviews. Fans are left to wait on his final album expected to drop late 2018 early 2019.



Fidget Spinners Fidget spinners have recently blown up and have become very popular amongst students. A fidget spinner has two or three paddle-shaped blades attached to a central core. Squeeze the core, give the blades a flick and they spin. Some retailers have made claims that the fidget spinner has health benefits such as easing stress, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Although the toy was originally invented in the 1990s, they have become very popular in the past few weeks.

Bad Month For...

Tiger Woods The legendary golfer, who is currently recovering from back surgery, was arrested on Memorial Day in Florida. He was pulled over for driving under the influence. This is not the first time Woods has had a high-profile mishap. In 2009, the golfer was taken to a hospital after he was injured in a car accident in front of his Orlando home.



Masahiro Tanaka Masahiro Tanaka, one of the Yankees star pitchers, has been having a lot of trouble recently. Over his past few starts, he has been getting rocked by the opposing batters and letting up more runs than usual. Tanaka squeezed in extra bullpen sessions and even made a technical adjustment before his start against Tampa Bay, but still managed to lose 9-5. The Yankees as a whole are struggling as they have lost the past 7 of 10 games.



FBI President Donald Trump abruptly fired the director of the FBI, James B. Comey, earlier in the month. Trump's decision was met with controversy and speculations as Comey was the top official leading a criminal investigation into whether Mr. Trump's advisers colluded with the Russian government to steer the outcome of the 2016 presidential election. The stunning development led to the Democratic Party to immediately call for a special counsel to lead the Russia inquiry. Trump explained his firing by citing Mr. Comey's handling of Clinton's private email server investigation.

Concern over grades freezing

Isabella Fiore
Staff Writer

Many seniors are taking advantage of the newly introduced Senior Internship Experience. The program, available to every senior student in the Stamford Public Schools district, is in its first year of running. It allows students to experience learning in the workplace outside of the classroom. The primary focus of the program is to not only provide a smooth transition from high school to college, military service or the workplace, but to engage students in an environment where they can either pursue an interest or gain experience in a field of study, that may eventually translate into a college major or job.

Despite all of the opportunities the internship itself offers, one of the biggest perks for students in the program is the freezing of fourth quarter grades starting May 15, the first day after AP exams. Students participating in the internship are no longer expected to hand in homework

or complete the classwork for the day, cutting off a good two months worth of grades. Finals are a thing of the past as well, as every senior, regardless of their end of the year grade per course, is exempt from exams. This, according to many seniors, was one of the biggest draws, as the rest of the seniors strive for an A average for the course to ensure they are exempt.

However, some seniors believe that the freezing of grades does not allow them the general time given to try to work on their grades for the entire year—as many did not make the decision to apply for the internship experience until halfway through the school year. Without an extra month to two month's worth of grades, there is less work to put towards each course's average, which may cause grades to be slightly lower. "I think we should have an opportunity to make up some of the work that we would be missing, even as extra credit points, to make our grades for the year up," said Nneka-Shay Grant ('17), who is interning

at the Stamford Hospital.

Some senior teachers find this to only add to the complexity. "Teachers were told that students' grades would be frozen upon the day they left for their internship. However, some students wanted to turn in work that was due after that date, which does not really make for 'simpler,'" said English teacher Ms. Tobin.

Many senior teachers, are extremely hopeful that the experience will either allow their students to gain more knowledge in a field of study, or open their eyes to a new passion or interest, while still engaging them in a workplace environment. "It has the potential to open a student up to a lot of good. It is not necessarily simple or complex for me, as a teacher, but I believe it's a good time in a student's life to open themselves up to new opportunities and hopefully come back with the love or passion for a new thing," said Mr. Mazza. The internship experience has drawn a lot of attention and has so far been seemingly beneficial to the seniors involved.

Interested in becoming
a staff member for the
award-winning paper,
The Westword?

Contact Noah Klein for
more information at
westwordwhs@gmail.com

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The Next Street Stamford

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Stamford, CT 06905

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VIEWPOINT

The extension of free speech

The fine line between free speech and hate speech

Melanie Gorski
News Editor

The election of President Trump has brought a wave of backlash from liberal voices across America. This backlash has fired in every direction and continues to attack conservative views on women's rights, environmental protection, and foreign policy. However, perhaps the place where the backlash remains the most aggressive, is on college campuses.

In the past couple of years, liberal intolerance has grown stronger and it has impacted debate culture on college campuses. This trend is particularly clear in the disinviting of speakers, which is when a college will invite a speaker with conservative beliefs to lecture interested students. But upon persistent student protest, colleges are forced to cancel this invitation. This cycle blocks out any opposing opinion to the liberal masses on college campuses and is a breach to the "freedom of speech"

clause of the First Amendment.

The Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech." Whether students like it or not, each speaker has the right to express their ideas. This was not the case, though, at Middlebury College located in Vermont. In March, Charles Murray, a controversial social scientist who claims to have discovered that intelligence is linked to class race, was set to speak at the college. However, Murray was met by hundreds of student protestors who chanted lines such as, "racist, sexist, anti-gay, Charles Murray go away" or "shut it down."

While these protestors truly believed they were fighting for freedom of speech and against white supremacy, this quickly became a hypocritical argument. In the process of speaking out so loudly against Murray, his own freedom of speech was taken by protestors. Murray was forced to step off the stage, and the Middlebury College Head of Communications then announced that they would instead televise a live streaming of Murray's speech in a private location. The demonstrators went further still and prevented the livestream by pulling the fire alarm which made the livestream inaudible and killed all non-essential power to

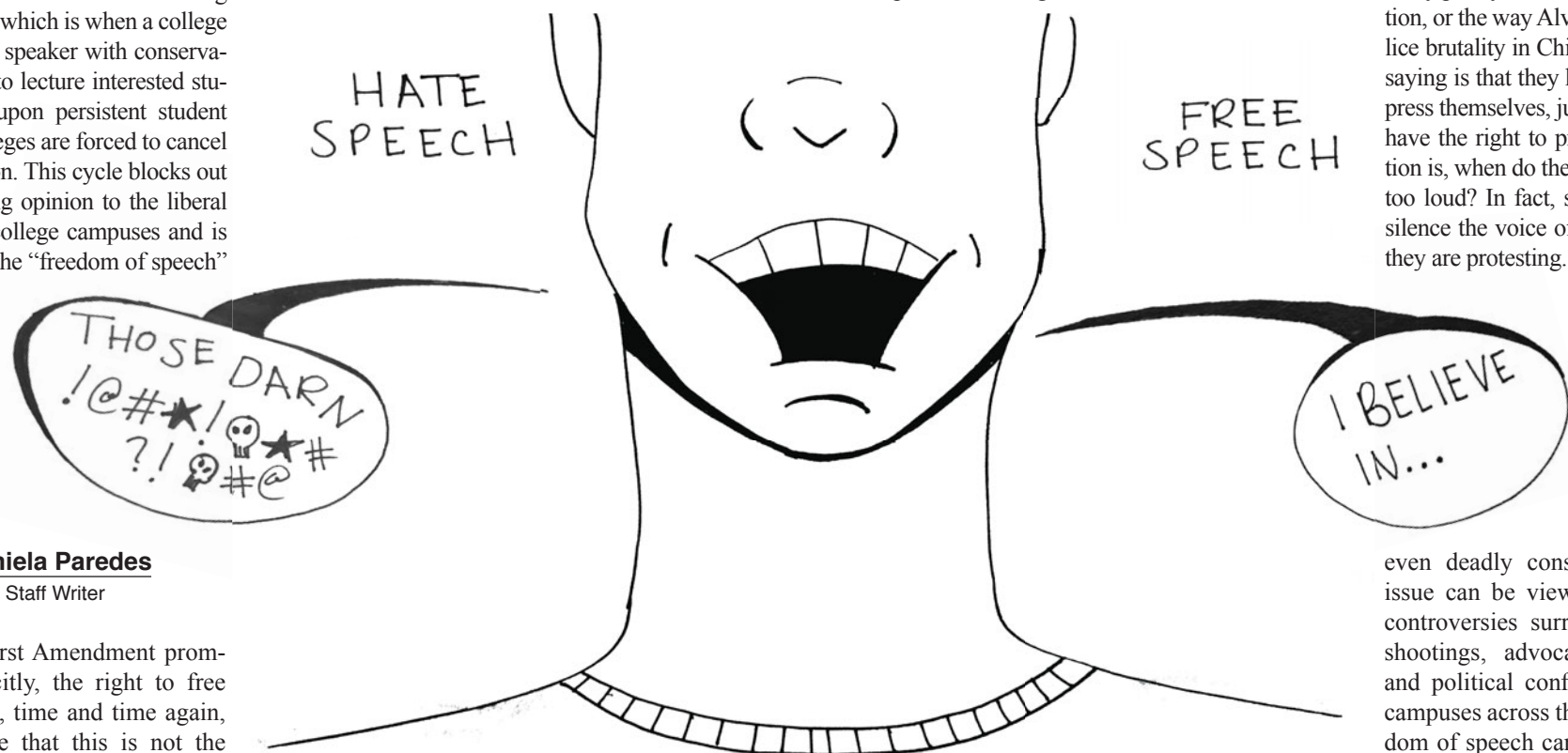
the building for 15 minutes. The fire alarm was pulled three times before it was decided that Charles Murray would not speak.

This scenario is not exclusive to Middlebury. Condoleezza Rice, the Secretary of State under the Bush administration, backed away from speaking at Rutgers due to protests. Former Cook County, Illinois State Attorney Anita Alvarez was protested off the stage at the University of Chicago by protestors who felt she had not done enough to fight against police brutality.

Cancellations like these limit debate on college campuses to a single, and often times, liberal side.

"A huge part of the college experience is being pushed out of your comfort zone and being introduced to new perspectives, and all disinviting speakers do is shelter students from those new and different perspectives, which does not help make us more rounded as students or people," said Leah Taylor ('17). By only presenting liberal ideas, institutions are only presenting one side, and are in turn, censoring their campus and making their students less independent.

This is not to say that I agree with Murray's conclusion that intelligence is related to class and race, every policy of the Bush administration, or the way Alvarez handled police brutality in Chicago. What I am saying is that they had a right to express themselves, just like protestors have the right to protest. The question is, when do the protests become too loud? In fact, so loud that they silence the voice of the very source they are protesting.



Daniela Paredes
Staff Writer

The First Amendment promises, explicitly, the right to free speech, yet, time and time again, many argue that this is not the case. Legendary court cases, such as *Schenk vs. the United States* (1919) concerning criticism of the draft, or *United States versus O'Brien* (1968) concerning the criminal prohibition to burn a draft card, in which people attempted to spread their own concepts of "democracy" and their assumed right to unhampered expression, have posed a conflict to those who believe these rulings to be the greatest signifiers of violations to the Constitution's stated rights. From a political standpoint, those who disagree with these Supreme Court rulings find it to be a paradoxical conundrum: the "law of the land" itself dictates that you have the right to say what you want, yet the same governmental structure that institutes this right

is able to deny it based on the Supreme Court's surmised right of judicial review.

On the other hand, most Americans agree to some extent with First Amendment limitations and restrictions. "When you use it, people think you can say whatever you like. Free speech means [you] are able to speak your mind, but it is obvious there are certain things you cannot say. It comes with restrictions," said Camina Valbonard ('18), who believes that the First Amendment's right to free speech comes with inherent curbs.

This point of view is shared by many, especially in the context of discriminatory and defamatory speech that may incite violence or emotional damage. "I think free-

dom of speech is a good thing, but it depends on the type of people that you talk to and about, or the kind of people you critique, and the way you say it," said Danielle Grant ('17), who asserts that it is both a matter of perspective and circumstantial considerations.

However, a vast majority of youth and millennials do not necessarily agree with these points of view. A study released in 2015 by the Pew Research Center collected data based on surveys, and determined that only 40 percent of millennials, less than one half of the individuals that were interviewed, think it is "okay" to restrain speech that is derogatory towards minorities.

Regardless of this, the con-

sensus still established that millennials were "far more likely than older generations to say the government should be able to prevent people from saying offensive statements about minority groups." Older generations such as Generation X preceding millennials agreed with this less and less. In particular, 80 percent of the people who were alive during World War II and many having lived through World War I as well, believed that individuals have a right to say "offensive" things to minorities.

Nonetheless, unrestricted use of the commonly dubbed "freedom of speech" amendment can often lead to political and social turmoil that bares unfortunate, and

even deadly consequences. This issue can be viewed through the controversies surrounding school shootings, advocacy journalism, and political conflicts on college campuses across the nation. "Freedom of speech can be used to harass, slander, or libel people. Some people just do not know where the line is," said Asli Foster ('17), who profoundly agrees that there should be restraints to the extent of the First Amendment.

The debates on the use of free speech are many, but the fact prevails: a lack of limitations on this right has been proven to bring adverse detriments to our society. A society that does not have both rights and restrictions cannot survive without inauspicious consequences. Whether it be "shouting fire in a movie theater", or imposing harmful words on others because we have the "right" – free speech does indeed have its downsides, and history has demonstrated it, and will continue to do so in our country.

Illustration by **Alexis Marchetti** / Illustrator.

Filling in the grade area

Ryan Murace
Media Manager

One of the most common complaints students have about their classes is their grades, or more specifically, not knowing their grades. There are too many times when students are left feeling clueless as to what their grade is in a class because the teacher did not enter the grade in Powerschool, the online grading system for all students in Stamford Public Schools. Students deserve the right to know how they are doing in their classes, which is something teachers must be held responsible for.

That said, most teachers do inform students of what their most updated grade is in a timely manner. However, the teachers that are lagging in this are putting their students at a great

disadvantage. If students do not know their progress in a class, there is potential for them to go an entire quarter under the impression that they have done well on ungraded assignments, when in reality, they may be underachieving or struggling. Therefore, they may not seek extra help because they do not know if they need it.

With the deadline to officially enter grades for fourth quarter rapidly approaching, there is not enough time for students to improve their grade when only given a few days of notice. Unfortunately, this has happened before. "There was an instance in which a teacher had not put a single grade in all quarter and at the last second threw in an undesirable grade. There was no opportunity for reparation or to even know beforehand that this was

my grade," said Jaret Chase ('18). Students should never have to be put in a situation where something as important as a quarter grade is affected as a result.

For teachers who actively use Powerschool, inputting grades should not be a difficult task. This being said, the problem lies in that not all teachers use it as their primary gradebook. Some teachers keep their own gradebook, whether by hand or through Schoology, and only use Powerschool to enter the grade in at the end of the quarter. This creates another issue for students who cannot enjoy the privilege of real time grade updates mainstreamed on one platform.

If all teachers used Powerschool throughout the entire quarter, it would be much more preferable. While not

ideal, there is no rule against alternative grade keeping. As long as teachers enter the final quarter grades on Powerschool by the assigned deadline, they are free to use whichever grade keeping method they choose.

However, teachers can forget to make sure students are aware of their grade on Powerschool or another platform. When grades are inputted, students can get phone notifications. If teachers do not take advantage of Powerschool's automatic updates, they must find another way to inform students of their grade, such as handing back work, calling each student up individually to see their grade, or reaching out to students that are struggling. "I think it is the student's responsibility to keep track of their grades. Whether or not the grade is actually in Pow-

erschool is not as important as physical feedback," said Spanish teacher, Mrs. Petrizzi.

Many other teachers also believe it is up to the student to find out their grades. "It is the student's responsibility to know where they are in the class," said history teacher Mr. White. While school is a place for students to become more responsible, the educational development of each student must come first. If a student is in danger of failing there is no denying that as an adolescent, the student is responsible enough to approach the teacher for help. However, all teachers who do not actively update their student are responsible to inform their students of their current standing in the class. Not doing so is withholding information that can hinder the student's education.

France's controversial presidential election

Maddy Cohen
Print Executive Editor

Recently, France has elected a new president, Emmanuel Macron, the youngest president in the history of France. The election took place on April 23 and resulted in a runoff between Macron of La Republique En Marche (En Marche), the social-liberal political party, and Marine Le Pen of the National Front, the right-wing populist and nationalist political party. This election comes after a tumultuous time of extreme terror and unemployment rates.

The runoff election took place on May 7. The top five candidates were Macron, Le Pen, François Fillon from The Republicans, Jean-Luc Mélenchon from La France insoumise, and Benoît Hamon from the Socialist Party. Under the French government, the president serves a five-year term and the election results only in two rounds if no candidate secures an absolute majority of votes in the first round. The French government also has a multiparty government.

The En Marche Party was founded by Macron, intended to be a progressive movement that

unites both the left and the right parties. En Marche is a relatively new party, founded in April of 2016, and is both socially and economically liberal.

Le Pen is the president of the National Front party, focusing hard on nationalism, leaving the European Union, national conservation, anti-immigration, and souverainism. Le Pen has been criticized harshly for leading the National Front, which is notorious for anti-semitism, and called herself the protector of French Jews, drawing parallels to President Trump's anti-semitic comments during his election trail.

Le Pen's father is even known for his controversial comments about the Holocaust, dismissing the gas chambers that killed millions as a mere detail of history. Despite this criticism, Le Pen had high rates among younger citizens in France, who were looking for solutions to their unemployment. Other comparisons can be drawn between Macron and Trump, as both had never held elected office before the presidency.

The results of the elections could bring great change for

France. In contrast to Le Pen, Macron has established support for a stronger European Union, which in his opinion, is the best "guarantee of peace." Macron also has put forward an investment plan in areas like job train-

ing, farming, and healthcare, to pushing towards renewable energy sources, and reducing unemployment rates. Another contrast to Le Pen, Macron refuses to create a France that shuts out immigrants and those seeking

asylum. "I am interested to see what [Macron] will do given his age," said Matt Greco ('17). Many French voters seemingly agreed, as Macron won over 66 percent of the votes during the second round of elections.



MACRON POUR PRÉSIDENT Emmanuel Macron of the En Marche Party defeated Marine Le Pen of the Nationalist Front in the recent French presidential election. Macron plans to spread peace and strength within the European Union.

Photo courtesy of politico.eu.



A night of conflicts

Many seniors feel conflicted that Westhill senior prom, Stamford High senior prom, and the first day of Governor's Ball Music Festival are on the same night.

Prom is one of the most anticipated days of the school year, especially for seniors. This event is an elegant celebration which focuses on the completion of high school and is a special way to "cross the finish line." Many students go through the stress of what to wear, where to take pictures, who to go with, and where to go after prom. While these are all common questions people stress over, this year, there are more complications over the date of this year's prom. In context, the date of Westhill senior prom is the first day of a popular music festival, Governor's Ball (Gov Ball), as well as being the same day as Stamford High's senior prom.

Although senior prom is a once in a lifetime event, many people look forward to Gov Ball, and attending this festival is an annual tradition for many. Gov Ball is one of the most popular music festivals that teenagers go to in our area, because it takes

place on Randall's Island in New York City, which is very accessible for teens. Although this is a three day festival, the June 2 lineup happens to have some of the most raved about musicians.

The lineup is arguably the strongest, featuring Chance the Rapper, Lorde, Flume, Charlie XCX, Kehlani, Schoolboy Q, and many more. For some seniors, all their favorite artists are performing on the first day of Gov Ball. "I am incredibly infuriated that senior prom is the same day as the first day of Gov Ball. Artists like Chance the Rapper, Flume, and Lorde are all performing on Friday. The student council should have taken into account the popularity of this music festival and how many people will be disappointed to not see one of their favorite artists," said Matt Greco ('17).

It is understandable that the available dates for booking our

senior prom are limited. However, it definitely put some students in a conflicted position of whether to attend an exciting day of performances at Gov Ball, or make it to their senior prom, a special event in one's high school memories. Some seniors are sacrificing their senior prom to attend this event. "Friday has the best lineup for Gov Ball and I know I would be disappointed if I missed seeing my favorite artists. It is unfortunate that prom and Gov Ball are on the same day, but Gov Ball is such a fun experience and I do not think I will regret it," said Katie Cotton ('17).

Since Westhill's senior prom is also on the same day as Stamford High's, there has been controversy. For many seniors in the Stamford community, they have a friend, or significant other, who attends the other public high school in Stamford. In these situations, what are se-

niors supposed to do? They are forced to go dateless, go with another person to their proms, or they are forced to attend their significant other's prom instead of their own prom.

A much simpler solution could have been Stamford High and Westhill coordinating, to make the proms on different nights. "Last March we contacted Stamford High School and asked if they would flip-flop and hold their prom May 26 at the Hyatt, which had the date open, and we would hold ours at The Loading Dock on June 2, the only date The Loading Dock had open. The advisors there were willing to move it, and so were the kids, but as I understand it, the parent group was not interested in moving their after prom to the start of Memorial Day weekend," said senior class advisor Ms. Tobin.

For people who are friends with students from both Wes-

thill and Stamford High, it could make them obligated to choose which pre-prom to attend. Not to mention, the police officers in Stamford will have to be even more attentive of underage drinking and partying for teenagers in all of Stamford. With two senior proms occurring on the same night, for two separate large high schools, the risk factor is even higher.

All this being said, I, among many other students are still appreciative of the hard work and countless hours being spent into the preparation of Westhill's senior prom. Despite it being a conflict for some people with the date, it might have been difficult for Westhill to rearrange the prom date, so it is expected for students to sacrifice other events for our own senior prom. However, in the future, we can hope that this will not be a conflict for seniors.

—Caroline Boccuzzi ('17)



Photo courtesy of governorsballmusicfestival.com.



Be careful, you don't want to say...

“I’m in the Wrong Driving School”

Don't be fooled by the “Driving School Factory” or Part-Time operators, who have brought the fast-food mentality to driver education in Stamford.

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Even though some companies do not agree, when it comes to driver education, just like shoes, **one size doesn't fit everyone.** We believe every student deserves the focus, care, and concern that comes from an organization run by local businesspeople who are actively engaged with their instructors, students, parents and community. Please see the chart below to learn more about one of the most important decisions you will ever make... **DRIVER EDUCATION.**

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	OTHER DRIVING SCHOOL OPTIONS	HIGH RIDGE DRIVING SCHOOL
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Driving Hours	We know of students from other driving schools that have needed to go to other towns to finish their driving hours. Some schools do not even offer in-car sessions on a regular basis!	We drive 7-days a week, all year long. You're assigned an instructor who's dedicated to providing you with the best driver education experience possible. Plus, we pick-up and drop off ANYWHERE locally.
Off-site Testing at the School	As of this mailing, NO OTHER driving school offers DMV License Testing in Stamford!	Available in Stamford multiple times a month since 2005 - And always will be!
Customer Service	Questions, phone calls, and DMV paperwork usually handled by a corporate office or a branch office in another town, generally only by phone. Some schools do not generate DMV CS-1 certificates in Stamford. VERY limited office hours in Stamford, if at all.	We're almost ALWAYS open – in person or by phone. All phone calls, certificates, and paperwork handled in Stamford. No phone queues or customer service reps, we deliver REAL customer care with our dedicated Stamford staff. We invite parents into our facility, and offer training and support to ensure the time spent driving with your teen is productive.
Locally Owned	No.	Yes, one owner lives in Stamford, the other lives nearby. Ownership or G.M. on-site 80+ hours a week.

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Acceso a la educación universitaria

Michael Hernández
Editor de Las Noticias

Cada año se gradúan aproximadamente 3,5 millones de estudiantes en los Estados Unidos. Es un momento que marca distintamente el comienzo de una nueva etapa académica que está acompañada por el proceso de aplicación para la universidad. El proceso es simple y transparente para la mayoría de graduados. Sin embargo, los estudiantes que aún no poseen estatus de ciudadanía americana se encuentran cara a cara con un proceso complicado y muchas veces poco transparente.

Una estudiante de último año de Westhill, Monica Muralles, constató que <<el proceso universitario es intimidante porque es algo de lo que nosotros como estudiantes no hemos experimentado>>. Mónica es ciudadana americana y aun así conoce las dificultades de ir a la universidad, lo que por extensión sugiere que los estudiantes que no son ciudadanos enfrentan obstáculos mayores en el proceso de aplicación. Este proceso incluye el acceso a recursos financieros como el FAFSA, los cuales solo están disponibles para ciudadanos y residentes de los E.E.U.U. La aplicación del FAFSA se basa en el ingreso anual de cada familia para demon-

strar la necesidad económica de cada aplicante. Los resultados permiten que el aplicante reciba prestamos del gobierno federal y también comparte esta información con las universidades de interés del aplicante para que el aplicante puede acceder a las becas institucionales.

Los estudiantes que no pueden acceder a esta fuente de dinero se encuentran con una situación repleta de incertidumbre. La universidad es una institución que se encuentra alejada de la realidad del estudiante común. Se podría argumentar que la universidad está aún más alejada de la realidad de los estudiantes que no tienen documentos en el sentido que no cuentan con una fuente sólida de dinero.

La única manera para poder pagar la tuición de una institución de alta educación es a través de los recursos financieros personales y con la adición de dinero conseguido por becas que no sostienen requisitos de ciudadanía. En el estado de Connecticut las universidades públicas aún no ofrecen ayuda financiera institucional, pero hay grupos de interés que están cívicamente activos para empujar hacia el abandono de esta práctica. También existen universidades públicas donde la tuición estatal, que suele ser mucho más baja para estudiantes de tal estado, es negada a estu-

diantes indocumentados. Estados como Connecticut y Nueva York han reformado su legislación para permitir que los estudiantes indocumentados de su estado puedan beneficiarse de la tuición estatal.

Un análisis de poca profundidad revela las complicacio-

exámenes SAT y finalmente para buscar ayuda financiera.

Aunque los consejeros tengan un conocimiento convencional sobre el proceso, no garantiza que los estudiantes que se encuentran en circunstancias atípicas podrán recibir guianza.



Fotografía por Michael Hernández

nes asociadas con el proceso de aplicación para la universidad. ¿Que ayuda existe en Westhill High School para poder navegar este proceso? El consejero Mark Marchasani de Westhill compartió que los estudiantes pueden acudir a los consejeros de la escuela para aprender cómo llenar las aplicaciones de la universidad, registrarse para los

A esto Marchasani respondió que la escuela invita a miembros de *CT Students for a Dream* cada dos semanas para asistir a los estudiantes indocumentados. Adicionalmente, hay dos consejeros que son bilingües: La Srta. Ochoa y el Sr. Agosto.

La composición diversa de la escuela Westhill permite que existan estudiantes con

diversas circunstancias. Con tantas diferencias entre los alumnos solo existe una clara similitud: que todos los estudiantes pueden asistir. Tamara Melgar, una estudiante de último año, afirmó que <<La escuela provee recursos adecuados para ir a la universidad- y se puede lograr lo que sea si uno se mantiene enfocado>>. La Srta. Melgar es una estudiante inmigrante lo cual la convierte en un ejemplo del éxito del estudiante inmigrante en Westhill. Ella compartió que a pesar de enfrentar barreras del idioma y de no ser una ciudadana americana, eso no significa que la universidad no es una opción alcanzable. La situación de Tamara Melgar contradice el pensamiento común de que un estudiante inmigrante, en esencia, no puede asistir a la universidad.

Aquí en la escuela se manejan diferentes situaciones y en la mayoría de los casos se produce un estudiante graduado que sí puede asistir a la universidad. El proceso de aplicación ya no es un tan complicado como lo era antes ni tampoco tan oscuro como lo fue una vez. Al contrario, el proceso es transparente y poco a poco su complejidad se está desenmascarando.

¿Elegir una institución pública o privada?

Daniela Paredes
Escritora del Personal

Con el paso del tiempo, el dinero que es necesario desembolsar para obtener una educación superior – sin importar de qué universidad o institución de educación postsecundaria – ha ido aumentando. Muchas veces, las opciones de un estudiante se ven limitadas por el costo de las universidades o por la situación financiera de la familia. Estadísticas con datos del año 2014 publicadas por *The Institute for College Access and Success* (TICAS) muestran que en promedio 62% de estudiantes en el estado de Connecticut terminan con deuda estudiantil – un porcentaje del cual se puede sacar la conclusión que

la mayoría de graduados deben dinero cuando concluyen sus estudios. La deuda promedio de estudiantes en el estado, tanto de aquellos que asisten a universidades privadas como públicas, se calculó que era un aproximado de \$29,750. ¿Pero, realmente existe gran diferencia entre los costos de una universidad pública y una privada?

Las ventajas y las desventajas son numerosas para cada tipo de institución, y deben considerarse en su totalidad por los padres y los hijos al embarcar en el proceso universitario. Sin embargo, existen muchos conceptos inadecuados sobre algunos aspectos del proceso de aplicación, admisión, y compromiso. Por ejemplo, muchos creen que las universidades privadas tienen precios anuales que son inal-

canzables e incluso ni siquiera comparables con los de instituciones públicas – por lo tanto, muchas familias persuaden a sus hijos a aplicar únicamente a universidades públicas. La realidad es que, a pesar de que son generalmente más baratas en cuanto a precio anual, otras universidades con costos mayores ofrecen becas y ayuda financiera que pueden bajar el costo dramáticamente y suelen incluso ser menores a los costos de instituciones públicas al comparar paquetes financieros.

En cuanto a diversidad y ambiente, una escuela pública ofrecerá un ambiente con más diversidad estudiantil debido a que suelen poseer variedades mayores en las áreas de carrera y estudio. Una escuela privada, sin embargo, poseerá más número de clubs y actividades de las que pueden

elegir los estudiantes. Un artículo lanzado por el sitio Fastweb, sugiere que al comparar instituciones privadas y públicas, no existe un tipo de universidad o educación que sea “mejor” que la otra – sino que cada tipo de institución es la “mejor” opción para cierto tipo de estudiante. Como padres y alumnos, es importante determinar qué tipo de escuela será mejor de acuerdo a las diversas circunstancias y otros factores como son estatus académico (calificaciones, GPA, etc.) y actividades extracurriculares (servicio comunitario, deportes, trabajo de medio tiempo, etc.)

Los estudiantes inmigrantes pueden tener algunas dificultades al navegar el proceso de admisiones – pero es importante que consulten todas sus opciones con sus consejeros y sus padres. De acuerdo al sitio bestcolleges.

com, sin embargo, los alumnos inmigrantes atraviesan el proceso primordialmente de la misma manera en que otros alumnos lo hacen: necesitan escribir su ensayo para la Common App, pedir un mínimo de dos cartas de recomendación, entre otras cosas.

En esencia, el proceso de admisiones y el trayecto universitario son en conjunto un proceso tanto alentador como complejo, pero con el apoyo de otros alumnos y personal administrativo como oficiales de admisión y consejeros estudiantiles, todos los estudiantes – sin distinción alguna – son sujetos a recibir apoyo y asistencia en este proceso que a lo largo trae grandes resultados y ayuden a forjar un futuro positivo.

The Westword Supplement



Each year, The Westword gives graduating seniors the chance to submit a Senior Will and have it published in the June issue. It is their chance to leave behind their legacies to family, friends, teachers, and other important people in their lives. The theme for this year's Senior Wills was inspired by scrap-books and memories. Throughout the next 15 pages, you will find wills from graduating seniors to help keep the legacy of these students alive even after they no longer attend Westhill.



Erica Abela
Quinnipiac University

I, Erica Abela, of lovely mind and delicate body, hereby leave...

Alex: crossword puzzles, rooftops, aly dogs, hand hugs, deep talks, beautiful disaster, find my friends app, and happiness. Caroline: the best life advice, cats (shoutout Frankie and Scooter), rap playlists, Cloonan, and 6 hour conversations that we thought would only be 1. Courtney: dancing, 3 a.m. conversations, YouTubers, Paris, Tumblr, Free People, roses, and every other flower. Riley: Chipotle burritos, Rihanna, *Terminator*, gangus littus, Mario Bedescu, and breaking our necks at each other when the teacher says "present." Emma: *The Office*, screaming Taylor Swift lyrics, Stillwater gang, meat sandwiches, makeup, and falling asleep to Netflix playing under the pillow. Liz: The earth, save the bees, team Stelena, the Rangers, Brendon Urie, all too well, APES, and the color yellow. Will B: Being my first high school friend, Twitter, Spanish classes, that time you were obsessed with college bball, 1 2 step dance, and insta rants. Mark: Simba, Prom?, Peruvian puff pepper, Kanye West, Supreme, and Instagram livestreams. Seb: Meaningful conversations, eb, music (shoutout BAAO), "Jesus of Suburbia," Soundcloud links, and being lowkey soft. Jorge: Six Flags, fashion show, Chipotle, my house keys, AP Psych, V1RUS. Nick: Louise, *Star Wars*, constant singing and big hugs, Houseparty calls, the best sandwiches, and "wow is that a touch screen!?" Jacob: CAPS, Catfish and the Bottlemen, chicken and waffles, every meme ever, sleepy pills, 11:11 wishes, Winston, *La La Land*, "are you done?", and endless laughs. Yuika: dream team, being bodied, FaceTime calls without talking, cuddles!, "I'll scoop but you pay for parking," small vanilla, McDonald's app, read receipts on to piss each other off, acrylic, walking meme, daquan, and naps. Paige: dream team, sunsets, Grace Farms, coffee, adventures, car rides, mixtapes, maximum 50, Weed Ave, Arthur holding a fist, daily vlogs, *Continuum*, and Brandon. ***The Westword***: thank you for letting me express my creativity. To my teachers: thank you for all your help. Mr. Weintraub, you're the realest! To anyone else I've spent the last four years with: I wish you all the luck, love and success in life. Be happy!

I, Matthew Alswanger, of able mind and sound body, hereby leave...

Westhill Football Team: my years of hard work and dedication. Jake Dardis: leaving during study hall to get food (after talking me into it). Sammy Gallant: hanging out on the weekends, Prom x2, watching Netflix together, you judging my diet of boneless BBQ wings from Westover, muffin, all your sarcasm that I don't understand, and doing English homework together. Trish Kelley: helping me through Spanish and figuring out how to split time with Steven. Roni Moskowitz: Freshman health squad, LRC squad, and having a catch on the field on hot days. John Nilsen: surviving not only Pre-Calc, but Calc as well. Smigs: the random stuff you'd put in my hood in Gov. and the daily complaining walk to Accounting. Akhil: kicking and punting no matter how hot or cold it is outside and no matter how much snow there is. Sam Cortell: Scarfing down a large order of wings from BWV. Andy Putterman: our political conversations, hanging out on weekends, playing monopoly, and you always looking through my Instagram until you finally got one senior year. Gil Daniels: no matter how polar opposite our political views our friendship never dwindles, and watching you on *SNL*. Lily Jackson: hanging out, canoeing on your pond, you helping me understand Calc, and getting me through accounting. Will Hallett: you attempting to kick a field goal with me and playing lax in 95 degree weather for the first time. Everyone I know: always giving out gum.



Matthew Alswanger
Tufts University



Jordan Benzaken
University of California Berkeley

I, Jordan Benzaken, of Berkeley mind and California body, hereby leave...

Rebecca Siegal: my entire life/18 years of friendship/sisterhood, Haru, Miyazaki movies, my pool-side photoshoot pictures, multiple injuries, *Black Mirror*/Lord of the Rings/Cowboys vs. Dinosaurs, the right side of your old house with the poison berry bush, inspirational pug, daily inspirational quotes, *Jane Eyre*, Victorian fanfiction, the best *Hamlet* texting stream, falafel on the swings, the seat behind me in math class, weed-maple syrup, Mock Trial raps, PROM, AP World History German cursing, karate classes, my tears when I even THINK about ELT, awesome active combinations, our future apartment, and the axe. Neha Mathew: Snoooooooooot/Sneha/Snahoota, INDIA, Mabby wisdom, Jewish prayers, your wedding dance video with Abby, the SoM (but not Julie Andrews), annoying you in Bio, Pinky's music videos, the Chordate book, Bio reading guides, our history projects (*Hunger Games*, Indian cooking, WWI), GINGER not GARLIC, Women's March, fanfiction/YouTube/Tumblr, falafel dates, our Trump documentary, a FF zone, Jimmy, your dad's puke, the Indian king, the Indian drugs your dad gave me, diving lessons, fish we never caught, the electric fly-swatter to defeat all the men in the world, Tiggy's Instagram posts, annoying Abby at 1 a.m., Beyonce/Ed Sheeran/Troye, Leo/Joa, and a life of support/love/adventure together. Abby Aronica: a bottle of Gay Mountain Whiskey, 14+ hours straight of playing Bookworm on the plane, the African babies, hallucinating in the orphanage, that flower thing that plays the birthday song, all of Neha's food, Neha's family, anything that belongs to Neha, and Neha. Kaira Ramon: "Oh Baby You," "When a Man Loves a Woman," "My Milkshake," "All I Want for my Birthday," strawberry-banana smoothies, teddy bears, BBQ eating competitions, falling asleep after eating, being "my dude"/"sister," being the only JORDAN in your life, the right side to the opening to the dugout, my softball bat, our handshake, the name TJ (Tom Junior), racist jokes, swimming lessons, Serena Williams, car rides through the forest, my pops/my mom, and a hat/sunglasses to wear you can't see at first base. Gabby Laccona: carrots to crunch loudly, the name A**-Rose, my Muriel sunglasses, and the Tom video. Will Bruno: *The Most Popular Girls in School*, middle school bus rides, testing (and never doubting) your knowledge of figure skaters and gymnasts, Victorian fanfiction, inspirational quotes, inspirational pug, all my English reading guides, the best *Hamlet* texting stream, falafel on the swings, and death by Scully. Josh Mensah: *Avatar the Last Airbender*, *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson*, a dance at the 8th grade dance, 7 years of friendship, sitting next to each other in every class in middle school, our constant stream of gmail messages, our *Scrubs* handshake, all my work in Wooley's class (oh wait there is none), my moodiness, and the Chordate book.

I, Caroline Boccuzzi, of thoughtful mind and happy body, hereby leave...

Alex: Skyview/Green Tree, bus 155, playing robots and Barbies, "mediocre chicks," Ron and Jane, and being my forever friend. Thomas: the car, being late to first period everyday, the empty house, mom and dad's attention, the lit playlist & Sonos, annoying texts, and deleting me on snap. Hayley & Adriana: Stillmeadow memories, Santorella, "yesa," freshman cypher, Timeless obsession, hot chocolate the morning after hoco, and car videos. Emma: Scalzi baseball games, loving Ele more than you, driving aimlessly, sharing a Netflix account, putting me on to Kam Pei, dry texts, your mom's cookies that you never got to have, and ping pong matches between our dads. Paige: the nickname P, pidge, ceramics, sunsets, Tame Impala, coffee, clown alerts, nfs, u valid, and oh lawd. Erica: my thunder buddy, the Cloonan days, Ms. Rosenblum, long FaceTimes, artsy Instagrams, and always just knowing. Liz: first friend in high school, Bmeno, "All Me," every class together freshman year, THE alpaca picture, and Kentucky. Yuika: next four, being the only one you don't get mad at, wishing we met each other sooner, and my advice. OG gang: my singing Snapchats, and my horrible spelling. Emily: your parking, photoshoots, bonding with P, and being a mom with homework reminders. Dong Zhi: expensive stationary, being trendy, your Instagram aesthetic, sassy comments, passive aggressive emojis, killer layouts, cute cafes, Chance the Rapper station, the group chat, Jason, and bringing back Simon's Insta. Josh: Mets everything, randomly dabbing, Ms. Taylor (Bae), choosing the music at *The Westword*, and online editors. Noah: metrics, sunglasses inside, muscle tees, the KleinWord, being wavy, the Dong Zhi pose, Ed board, the group chat, being left alone at BOE meetings, getting flamed by everyone, and varsity jackets. Marley: trendy designer clothes, CSPA memories, Josie obsession, and dinner dates. Maia and Jasmina: Being attacked by markers in stats. Courtney: Scooter spams, freshman Bio, and *Gossip Girl*. Stef: four classes together, typing races, black coffee, and Bae-Hill. Chrissy: Info Tech torture, Rockrimmon with Thomas, and the parking spot. Mattia: apple picking tradition (even in the pouring rain), baking to rap music, our moms being BFFs, and creating the name T-Cuzzi vert. Maddy: being the first Print Executive Editor and killing it and making bomb smoothies. Maeve: The Lumineers radio, and technology "trying." Nabilla: Jason and journalism. Addison and Bailee: trendiness, getting mad compliments at *The Westword*, the most dynamic duo, and the future of the paper. Ryan H: winning back the Hungry Vikings (someday) and snowballs. Ryan M: hating the games you come up with and pizza at CSPA. Nick: always bringing the best *Westword* dinners. Westword management: Too many hours in 224, InDesign, CSPA in the snow, THE stairs, TTBD. All my section editors: Being the first sections to finish, long group texts, and appreciation. Teachers: thanks for all the help along the way. Special shoutouts to Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Petrizzi, and Ms. Cahill. Westhill High School: thanks for the memories!



Caroline Boccuzzi
University of Connecticut



William Bruno
Elon University

I, William Bruno, of imaginative mind and overweight body, hereby leave...

Northstar Playmakers: a ton of love and good luck for future productions! **Amelia Daube:** spit sisterhood, incessant, real-world psychological applications, Indie music, baby pictures of Chase, philosophical conversations over tea, myelination, parking in your spot, changing genders at the drop of a hat, and all my love. <3 **Maeve Ronan:** Baskets and Baskets of Ehpples, hopping on the Chance bandwagon too late, all the steak puns, potatoes, "low and behold," smashing the patriarchy, a queen's crown, salads, the Bebeist of Bebe vibrato, mIEV, Troyb's unhinged jaw, succeeding in physical warmups for drama, knowing your lines before everyone else, drinking at a bar in Toronto after a funeral, and RIIIIIIPE strawberries RIIIIIIPE. **Ben Freedman:** "generically" when "generally" was intended, schadenfreude, LDDE apparel, crumping to Vivaldi, gay culture and terminology lessons, biker shorts, divulging boy troubles, malfunctioning CVS photo databases, Dodita (among many others) impressions, Settlers of CATan, stage kisses, *Hairspray* duets, a token of my appreciation for your superior leadership as a fellow dance captain, seats on my face, iconiQUE, a house of cards, Dr. Sanders, Mr. Troyb, and Tennent's infinity scarf. **Chambers:** passive aggression, general frustration, obeying the laaaahw, adding infinitesimal amounts of time to night rehearsals, background noise to your small side conversations, and checking that at the door. **Trinity Wilson:** TRINIDAD, the most expensive Bosnian pearls, pettiness, Contraction Ballet, a preponderance of creases, brightness and sunshine to the darkest days, unrivaled scamming, bank statements, and Julio. **Nick Smeriglio:** Thyas Vyoice, anger management, being so incredibly extra all the time, licking upside the face, and hammy *eggplant emoji*. **Blake Newcomer:** my unrelenting love and affection and 'Prom?' on a butt. **Rebecca Siegal:** fierce intellect, misunderstood emo *Frankenstein* art, paraphrasing, public copulation, and falafel. **Jordan Benzaken:** hypothesis tests, the cutest pictures of us, *Ironman*, hearts of palm, and short-lived Spanish tutoring. **Leah Schwartz:** my 7th grade loathing for you, my love for you now, and mutual love of psych! **Leah Taylor:** VENUS, SERENA, getting out of my Caucasian home, triple Bio, enough POGILs to last you a lifetime, weekly trips to Florida, and millions and millions of dollars. **Lucy Hart:** WAFFLE CABIN. **Emma Cali:** *Silent Rage*, doodling, ALL the receipts, and cliff diving. **Inde Heuman:** motherhood, Marcos Pinto-who?, tripping over drinks in your basement, inde_is_mad, and Hillary Clinton's gorgeous nephew. **Dave Mezas:** working on Bio projects and sideswiping my car. **Amalia Skoparantzou:** graduation walks and Nintendo chat. **Rachel Melia:** Thanksgiving nights in your basement. **Courtney Xu:** GORGEOUS LOB, lowkey tennis, all caps texting, and positivity and happiness. **Sydney Lesser:** DRAG RACE FOR YANERVES and MAWMA. **Gabbie Veseli:** Matt Anderson, Matt Anderson wearing a beanie, and volleyball players in general.

I, Maddy Cohen, of neurotic mind and clumsy body, hereby leave,

Jimmy Fallon: fire pits, Mario Party, Leah's basement, "ghooooost," *School of Rock*, and literally everything. **Maeve:** eyeliner, Taylor Swift, The Lumineers, the Mets, my blonde friend, the Amy Poehler to my Tina Fey, bookies, lemon squares, Asbury Park, field day at Northeast, *Beauty and the Beast*, "you're tacky and I hate you," Vestword, clusters, just knowing, being my girlfriend, being my dad, angry rants, angry everything, crying, and ALL of my love. **Amelia:** that one time we went to Wellfleet, Long Ridge Camp, that one xx concert I went to, narwhals, boys, middle school, soccer teams, Bond girls, paddle tubing, dirty socks, Lip Sync Battles, CheaterCheaterBestFriendEater, Arctic Monkeys, "I'm so quirky," lots of tea, being way more positive than me, Nathan Marchant, chomances, writing letters at camp, not realizing Mohawk is an all girl's camp, middle school yearbook, and my worst years. **Leah:** Light Rock Crabs, Josh, History Day, Doris, Chloe, George M. Cohan, the dance, *Twilight*, the *Gone* series, Taylor Swift, Warriors, the other trash series she wrote, biting you during *Beauty and the Beast*, pet chickens, Mr. Cohen, and being mean to me. **Dong Zhi:** my soulmate, labeling the day of graduation, ink covered hands, "advisers," being my voice, being the adult, being my editor, coffee, a big coat for Boston, all my thanks for being with me all these years, and holding pad Thai against you. **Hayley:** dirty socks, *Diners*, *Drive-ins*, and *Dives*, Norwalk, Aimee, volleyball, AG, donuts, Passover, and New Year's. The advisers: a snarky email, a Print Executive Editor who knows what they're doing, a bigger room, a stolen computer, and the best Editorials. **Ryan:** a new job, a documentary, BBYO, a soundproof room to scream or cry in, unlimited time for Rose, Bud, Thorn, and a Media Manager. **Josh:** whatever Dong Zhi left you, plus a perfect drive to and from school. **Caroline:** drama, a group chat, dairy free chocolate milk, and section editors who always come thru. **Nick:** computers and editors that always work, another person to bring amazing dinner every time, and endless popcorn. **Fran:** new friendship but it's over now, Ms. Wheeler, clusters, and prom tables. **Noah:** an inflamed ego, the Kleinword, master suite at the Marrakech Hotel, endless muscle tanks, and the KOTD. **Rachel:** so much, Long Ridge Camp, driving you home, getting to BBYO early to talk, talking in the car, ranting in the car, rooming at convention, conventions, best convention ever, my endless love (this is the part where I cry), my little, Tikvah, and *The Westword*. **Liz:** colorful and ever-changing hair and Supplement. **Bailee and Addison:** power duo, best dressed, being the coolest, the future of *The Westword*, and being mean. **Joseph:** watching YouTube videos in inappropriate places and lots of drama to listen to. **Katie, Bailee, and Emma:** Mr. Bertone, please take good care of him, he needs it. **Mr. Lukas:** a way to calm down, a room to just scream in, and being ridiculously cool and insanely intelligent. **Anyone else I forgot:** thank you for being a part of ~journey~, it's been lit. ***The Westword:*** all my passion, all my motivation (and then some), a soundproof room, and an amazing legacy.



Maddy Cohen
University of Colorado Boulder



Amelia Daube
Ithaca College

I, Amelia Daube, of disorganized mind and lengthy body, hereby leave...

Jimmy Fallon: late night fire pits, bad 1d imagines, zip zap zop, laundry chutes, anomia, questionable couches in the loft, and 4 years of endless laughs and love. Kina: *The Circle*, Agents K and M, Father John Misty's dance skills, 24 hour car drives, the bags of stress chocolate stage right, Nick's Camaro, thunder down under, our secret language (hohoho), fights about aliens, Shia Lebouf, my book of spells, love of fire, Bo Burnham, throwing spoons into insulation, goats and ducks, dissected key boards, cat butts, late night facetimes, love for your everlasting patience when I start over thinking, and being the sister I always wanted. Maddy Cohen: narwhal buddies, paddle tubing, Light Rock Crabs, spooey, Emily Fishkin and the rest of Van A, "tu es bavarde!", love test calculators, NJBs, the back room of the Rippowam Animal Hospital, the peppermint ice cream, camp letters, Nathan Marchant, that horrible 6th grade film, dirty socks, Mr. Lukas's two favorite students, yearbook staff, being mistaken for Blakob's girlfriend, and endless support. Maeve Ronan: illegal ice cream runs, throwing cauliflower at me, omnom, macing on Matt, BROCK, Bill Clinton buttons, one black coffee, a love of tea, reusable cookie boxes, mug cakes, E team, Mr. DeFlippo's tattoos, tragedy of the goldfish, robeks runs, screaming for sign ins, sister spots, the Arctic Monkeys, the burning ring of fire, and a love of John Mulaney. Leah Schwartz: Tiny Tower, first impressions, baby neighbors, bromothymol blue, smores, Light Rock Crabs, introducing you and Josh, middle school bus rides, oranges, hot sauce on necks, Sophia Bender, awkward aquarium dates, literally never being around due to swim, one year of debate, that guy who thought he was dating Katy Perry, CORRELATION DOES NOT PROVE CAUSATION, Matt's granny voice, tangents, and APES 2k17. Hayley Smith: dirty socks, endless desserts, minions, chicken lemon pasta, choosing between photos, boy obsession, chamomile lavender tea, driving classes, judging dresses, only being free Saturday nights, being a whale, flan, awkward double dates, and Mrs. Angry T and her circle scarf. Rachel Plotzky: Michele's Mermaids, never having enough water, looking like a bruise, poolside rants, Natalie's own world, 102 boyfriends and 1 girlfriend, and hoping to be co counselors again. Will Bruno: three years of sitting next to each other in math, "I'm Ben Freedman...", spit sisters, awkward lunches with our favorite people, a love of psychology, shouting matches with my mom, intense tea conversations, and endless amounts of love. *The Westword*: popcorn, working dinners, a sunny CSPA, the Marrakech Hotel, and a 3 great years. Tech: accepting the musical only kid, Nick's fear of the green couch, a love of Clifton, and battery acid. Ben: ascots and dirty *Guys and Dolls* jokes. Mrs. Grant: abandoning us for 3 months and sun salutations.

I, Alexandra Fischer, of lively mind and lanky body hereby leave..

Caroline Boccuzzi: mediocre chicks, all the heat, anxiety, Christmas cookies from Jane, and being the more important neighbor. Anna Schlachtenhaufen: 1 million cups of dd, the office bathroom, laps on the track, dirty white converse, meadows revival, your choker, every indie song we've ever shared, disgusting cookie dough, hair cuts, and the last four years (in exchange for the next). Bible study: pick your own cluster, Wheeler notes, Sunday mass, David Mezas. Erica Abela: aly dog, Name three players, and all my love always. Ian Ostheimer: "Sure Thing" by Miguel, any country song ever, yellow dd drink, alex roll, chicken parm, different color socks, and that squirrel on riverbank road. Maia Luders: errands whenever we feel like it, sunny daes whenever we feel like it, disfigured cars, reckless driving, Carlos, your bed, record time dd runs, (not) studying for euro, conversations with ruby, your hijab, the unfinished documentary, all you can eat sushi, and gushers. Elizabeth Lupinacci: melatonin before going out, "the type" joke foundation, and always just knowing. Caroline Stanton: Hart elementary school, ear piercing photos, and hating the 3 mile. Erica Shaulson: the glove, dirty looks, my undeniable lacrosse skills, and the number 86. David Mezas: Flume, Prom 2016, cummerbund, bleach, and as many visits as you like. Yuika: any tips under \$20 and the Splash Zone. Sammy: my impeccable dance moves, the car, all of mom and dad's attention (you're welcome), and any teacher who won't like you because of me (sorry about that).



Alexandra Fischer
Pennsylvania State University

I, Ben Freedman, of disposing mind and present body hereby leave...

The Northstar Playmakers: 92,000 rehearsals and *Catch Me If You Can*. Mock Trial: Club Glee, Cosi, negligence, a house of cards, and political debates on the bus. Debate: Snakes, muffins, and pocket constitutions. L.L. Be(a)n: Corn Husk Johnson, thy creature, illiteracy, thicc cats, and beasts. Leah Schwartz: 2-1 debate records, pictures without heels, the guest room, Catan, the lemon, *Get Smart*, MVTee, the Freedman-Schwartz information network, and "This Is Gospel." Maeve Ronan: Josh Lyman, Prinaldi, John Mulaney, my timed write pose, potatoes, King James I, getting pumped, and Jesuit values. Period 4 Euro: my sword for coups and Kahoot. Period 5 Gov: iron triangles and the NRA. Ms. Petrizzi: *Gran Hotel*. Ms. Cahill: Cahill cash and the ending to *Of Mice and Men*. Ms. Miraballes: John F. Kennedy and skipping The Gilded Age. Andy Putterman: my junior year schedule and bagel embezzlement. Anna Schlachtenhaufen: Hickory Hill Farm and a party. Flight Crew: SPLAIN, the deli, the bill, Beatles Songs, the Northeast roof, an unfinished heist, and a clean basement. Jacob Stockman: bass and drumz, ESQ, and Rock Hood. Andrew Blum: Starbucks coffee caps and framing frame. Blake Newcomer: impeachable more so now, huh? and tickets to sports games. Nick Smeriglio: my black fidget spinner, never going out of key, the Chuck Berry dance, Monday Night Mayhem, paid Mario's meals, and smelling of Vitalis and Barbasol. Charlie Teeters: my horrible parking, playing my week, Hellsbrook, and Tyreek Hill. Michael Grafstein: MLB 2k12, Madden 05, highs, the Dream Team Documentary, and Jordan's top 50 plays. Tyler Lasicki: our freshman year HUG final and a dunk in a 2 on 2 game. Elizabeth Lupinacci: *Guardians of the Galaxy*, "Cherry Bomb," and spellcheck. Abby Lupinacci: dabs. Will Bruno: trash, BYE, Kathleen, Twin Snakes, partial credit for Charlie's theater career, and JULIE! Amelia Daube: my marker and moving my own set pieces. Emma Jelliffe: cat snapchats and dog walks. Paige Sottosanti: checked facts, a dropped chicken, recaps, and flakiness. Mary Troy: poems, divorce papers, and an invite to the Democratic Party. Charlotte Kriftcher: NJBs and The Mets. Gil Daniels: J-Boyz and politics. Michael Newman: shotgun in Naresh's car. Jake Dardis: And-One Insurance, *The League*, getting ambushed by children, and my fantasy championship. Naresh Kumanduri: a real one, Lomo Saltado, DCU, Five Guys, and Shot Down. Chamber Singers: endless travel, attitude checked at the door, and interrupting the rehearsal process.



Ben Freedman
Yale University



Amelia Friedman
University of New Hampshire

I, Amelia Friedman, of happy mind and beautiful body, hereby leave...

Christina Burgess: DD runs, Forgione's class, Starbucks, morning drives before school, and Mish Mosh. My friends: thanks for laughs and tears throughout the last 4 years! Alexandra Jordan: never being in class, getting me food, Mona, and car adventures. Agriscience Program: the best place and home and family to me for the last 4 years. Ms. Midy: for being the best when I was annoying during the college process and having a great smelling office. Mr. Andrews: for adopting me as guidance aide occasionally with Alexandra.

I, Samantha Gallant, of exuberant mind and clumsy body hereby leave...

Stef: sushi, 90s karaoke sessions, French veganism, Gucci wardrobes, and Lucie. Lily: 10 a.m. ice cream and fries, being sneaky af, all the advice in the world but still always going against the smart choice, and Mt. Kisco massages. Jackie: terrible but hilarious puns, wake up Marco, always being fine, almonds, Green Day jam sessions, and a cat. MLSJ: 6,000 seconds of unopened Snapchats. Matt: Prom, indecisiveness, windy North Stamford roads, *How I Met Your Mother*, and Instagram DMs. Maanav: French class and Matt's amazing pronunciation, free tacos, and "Stacy's Mom" and "Mrs. Robinson." Marley: bland wholewheat pasta, my dog, always sleeping through breakfast plans, and mean nicknames. Amanda: the gym, just winging it, Robeks, laser, and impromptu adventures and sketchy places. Roni: Mermaid Man and Barnacle Oy, Sundays at 3:00, and 7th grade bonds over *PLL*. Andy: Tequila Mockingbird. Will: Gil's brother and Tourettes Tuesday. Angelo: incredibly uncomfortable conversations, last minute 10 pages essays, and your terrible music that yells at me.



Samantha Gallant
Pennsylvania State University



Rebecca Gatz
Northeastern University

I, Rebecca Gatz, of loud mind and napping body, hereby leave...

Praneetha: a whole onion, a new deck of cards, a day in sophomore chem where we are both there, all the Sporcle games, a productive study hall, naps, hair strengthening shampoo, #endracism, an apartment in the city with seven dogs, and my endless friendship. Harlene: tissues, all the grilled cheese, me not falling asleep while you're over, running laps with me on your back, a lighter parlor, Cafe Fromage, Netflix binges, yearly broadway tickets, better skiing ability, and a plane ride to Boston to visit. Cristina: braids, extra fight points, G&G corporation, every Kurt Vonnegut book, smiles for pictures of you and a shot glass from everywhere I go. Nicole: sushi, Adam Levine from Ohio, a recording of *SNL*, a mummy bag, theater talk, good homemade cookie dough, and a crazy good time in Boston together. Neha: pictures from kindergarten, Latin, and answers to the Calc packet. Sid: a memorable game of tic tac toe and an awesome Prom. Rachel: Student Council meetings, every punny note you taped to the letter, Explo, Book of Mormon together, and almost 10 years of memories. Squad: intense BS games, the 300s, and that time Maanav skied into a puddle. Will: the Charlie Brown footie pajamas and non arbitrary lyrics. Ben: the "Bushel and a Peck" dance and a psych up as good as the Addams one. Maeve: mermaid outfits we can actually move in and the rose and speech you deserved. Marcos: the kite from Charlie Brown and a show you can direct. Sara: Tux, a ride to Dunkin Donuts next year, NOT my room, #biologicalbaes, and my legacy at Westhill. Chambers: "you're disrupting the rehearsal process," counting the seconds, melody for the altos, and political discussions. Northstars: Ms. Cahill, regular monthly meetings, Sal, extra bobby pins and hair-spray, amazing discussions in the makeup room, a costume room closer to the auditorium, and all my love. APES 2K17: a trip to the river, "You can do it as a group," and 5s on the AP test. Ms. Cahill: that driving school video, board meetings where we don't digress, WHIP, and eternal gratefulness. Mrs. Grant: an outline of why you love us, three extra months of class, new textbooks, and free babysitting anytime.

I, Jenny Gorski, of sarcastic mind and hungry body, hereby leave...

Melanie: \$8, rain drops to run through, interest on your ever-expanding debt, enough condoms to completely cover our parking spot, *Home Alone 1 and 2*, Sunny Pawar, "and then some," a spray bottle to train you not to touch your hair, "sartness," fist bumps, Michael Barbaro and the *NYT Daily Podcast*, niowce/fioowwnnee, Dad's hugs, Mom's boomerang skills (or a lack thereof), *says in British accent* "Congratulations!," the co-mother to our "children," hut-to-hut hiking, crossword puzzles, lemon curd cake, calling constituents, sitting on the end, 5/7 classes together, passive aggressive fights in the car, and my whole heart, but UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES may you have Dev Patel (I have permanent dibs). Mercedes: a yard-full of flamingos, Cape Cod, Nonna's mini golf skills, a very unfortunate volleyball game, Eric putting us on the same team, the homeland, that guy from Lehigh, harm parm, my amazing photoshop skills, the blue dot, study halls spent at Berkeley's trying to ignore the singing in the background, an APUSH t-shirt, Willy B, Main C, and the Viks, Burrata cheese, weekend hikes, and the next four years of my life. Leah: text messages to Robbie, super slutty brownies, Bitmojis, your neighbor's pool, nail care, "I will not," weekends spent at home (not in FL), Instagram pictures of your horses, North Stamford, and lots of mac n' cheese at UVA. Sam: cranberry juice, the song "Baby it's Cold Outside," Heroy buds, quesadillas, Sam I Am gonna..., and driving to Southern just to get apparel. Dong Zhi: the best EIC ever, liberal discussions, Calc squad, the "wiz," every episode of *Stranger Things*, an "Office of Economic Development" sign on the last day of work, Nicoise salad, a judgy waitress, GalTech, future visits to BU, and a four-year supply of compliments on your outfits. Maeve: a deep squeak, next Christmas at the Ronan's?, and undying love for my Westword mom. Ms. Tobin and Mrs. Grant: a *Hamilton*-themed bat mitzvah, a fancy conference room, and, of course, Liz Sue bagels. Westword: aka Stressword, too many nights that ended at 10pm, lots of laughs, CSPA, Polaroids, Cards Against Humanity, and Insomnia cookies. WW crew: Sunday morning meetings and an eventful day at the Central Park Zoo. OG crew: 4 Vineyard Vines whale hats, annual log flume rides, awkward rave encounters, Sean Keane, summer days spent either at Leah's trampoline or Merc's pool, hipstah patches, Maine, Clue (should I have brought that up?), and barricades to doors (see prior parenthesis note). Squad: college surprises, secret santa, Bachelor nights, our ability to "click" (whatever that means), frequent dance parties, last-minute Halloween costumes, and my very best friends, I love you guys. Incoming Vikings: the best and worst of times.



Jenny Gorski
University of Connecticut

I, Melanie Gorski, of over ambitious mind and under ambitious body, hereby leave...



Melanie Gorski
Loyola University Chicago

Jenny: car fights, walking a husky and a horse, spoonfuls of peanut butter, five classes, roundtables, *New Girls* weird scene on replay, meme bank, cattens, John Oliver, philosophical discussions, *NPR Morning Edition*, Christmas spirit, wedding planning, HGTV, the money I owe you, the daily crossword, apartment in San Francisco, a lake house for Dad, bags for sale, sans gluten, hot cocoa in Montreal, plans to hike the AT, binging Oscar movies, podcast obsessed, spring break in Chicago, the best of luck at UConn, and a sisterly bond like no other. Mercedes: going our own pace, that time I went to church, puppies, carpooling, "borrowed" Polaroids, Wisconsin pride, cheese curds, pictures of Jenny asleep, the triplet, "there's never dirt," cat ladies, never-ending games of Simon Says, watching *Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates* with Roberta, study too hard, and the greatest time at UConn (you deserve it). Leah: French yogurts, an Instagram full of horses, my interview skills, goldfish, Made Good, buying me milk, house or maze?, the ongoing Robbie saga, disappearing on Fridays, traits of a domestic goddess, another Kate Spade bag, and the best four years at UVA. Sam: burger heaven, camp friends, "art," all the flashcards, what the kids are saying these days, rap music I don't know, keeping me young, and the best of luck at Southern. OG Crew: late nights on the trampoline, swimming in the neighbor's pool, dance parties in the kitchen, left out when you don't know the words, the barricade, the great Clue fight of 2015, so sart, whale hats, Kate Spade, Coca Cola, cream puffs at Ralph Lauren, messy New Year's Eve (apology to Leah's floor), trips to Cape Cod, you've been flocked, mean girls group, planning a day in the city but forgetting to bring the map, beach bums, preschool romance, and judgements made by sales associates at Restoration Hardware. WW Crew: waiting 3 hours for a milk shake, dem old line guys, bravo stickers, the many uses of a water bottle. Squad: *Bachelor*/ *BIP* nights, 1989, activities of after prom, burrata and all the tapas, offered the drink menu, trips to Lord and Taylor at 12am, taking photos in front of brick walls, painted parking spots, all-you-can-eat sushi, and all my love. Dong Zhi: all the widows, misspelled words, every compliment ever, staying awake in Calc, shrimp cup of noodles, "I'm not a hipster", Starbucks runs in pjs, pet Snapchats, screenshots of Simon, thrifted jeans, and all the luck in Boston. Maeve: alpacas, a deep squeak, army coats, Insomnia Cookies, Polaroids, hot hotel rooms, moist yule log cakes, and a daughter's love for her mom. Andy: Ronald Reagan memorabilia. Mrs. Grant and Ms. Tobin: wasabi peas, endless piles of t-shirts, baby's breath, bistro lights, and ultimate appreciation. The Westword: microwave popcorn, a stolen computer, Carmine's garlic bread, sliding down the stairs of death, and all the buds and roses but none of the thorns.



Dong Zhi Guo
Boston University

I, Dong Zhi Guo, of scattered mind and coffee-filled body, hereby leave...

Nabilla: highkey judging, "pics or it didn't happen," Instagram aesthetic, getting rice to go but not the noodles, Halal Krispy Fried Chicken, "you walk in first," MUJI, getting lost in the subway, FIT Saturdays, Korea street, Terminal 5, "I get it, can we share," latte art, WETFRQG, one piece of basil at Pepe Giallo, local trains, watching the soup, crying while you take selfies, and GalTech. Anna: coming over to nap, second grade drawings, ramen with eggs, Bonjo aftermath, walking everywhere, Lucky's, cancelled parties, black tea, Sunnydaes, all the secrets, and complaining about high school. Maddy: too much, my other half, late night stressing at Westword, "I disagree," last minute editorial edits, twinning with VW, "Can you drop me off at my parking spot," The Lumineers, Chance the Rapper, Print Executive Editor-in-Chief, Joan, everything BBYO, incorrect labeling, stained hands, and free falling into our roles. Caroline: of all *Westword* ppl, "lit," Jason, MVP every month, on time Hungry Vikings, no corrections or announcements, *The Office* stare, shade everywhere, "I'm shook," roasting Noah, Bad and Boujee, and fangirling over guys. Maeve: braiding skills, all the musicals possible, and The Lumineers radio station. Paige: long block DD runs, SOPHIE ear pails, and going to Korean BBO pescatarian. Nick: one thousand bags of popcorn, memes on top of memes, all the technical skills, and BOMB dinners. Josh: lifetime pass to Mets games, Vineyard Vines, future BU student, and section editors showing up for online. Noah: the future of *Westword*, getting roasted 24/7, 2 hour long Ed Board meetings, extreme muscle tees, The Kleinword, "for you anything," successful Purple & Gold Days, and Westhill Varsity Jacket. Emily Savitt: Mish Mosh gift card adventure, photostopped smoke, photographer queen, DD, and Gofers ice cream. Ryan M: rose bud thorn, and better video thumbnails. Jenny & Melanie: collage of Simon, snaps of Royal, Dev Patel, falling asleep during Calc, endless laughter, parking spots in Namia, The Granola aesthetic, its LIBERRY, the fake salad at CSPA, MYEP, not getting the Kraus scholars, salt over *Hamilton*, and all my love, Mercades: unpublished economic development website, breaking a leg, and taking two hour lunch breaks at Riviera Maya. Sakshi: design queen, the complete adobe creative cloud suite, trying to dance at J-Thon, CSA projects, "it's still pixelated," GalTech, *Mr. Robot*, not going to CSPA, and doc procrastination. Liz: MUJI pens, and my midori traveler's notebook. Addison & Bailee: stylisness, the ultimate duo, and *The Westword*. Von Wahide and Wooley, a single bed at Marrakech and early editorials. Westword: a sunny CSPA, an endless supply of candy and food, late night non-working dinners, and a soundproof room.

I, Alexandra Jordan, of quiet mind and beautiful body, hereby leave...

Sasha Ostrovsky: room 309, smurf, being your personal chauffeur, pointing out every nice car we see, Shark, Greys, Luke Bryan, the hoodie, Florida Georgia Line, your nonexistent Adidas, word count, George Lopez the dermatologist, 42, and our hikes. Amelia Friedman: always asking me for the weather, our rant sessions with Mona & Sean, car adventures, dark vs light blue shoes, taking over Mr. Andrews' office, making every yellow light, and constantly not being in class. Theresa Persico: don't cry over split milk, vanilla frosted donuts, and your NCIS. Juliana D'Elia: Reggie/Paul, muffin girl, the bam, and California Pizza Kitchen. Nicole Piperera: always accidentally wearing matching outfits, and "The Talking Chair." Noa Tovia & Olivia Jordan: I am your personal Uber eats. Moriah Pardo: George Lopez and geometry days. Andrew Dietzman, Danielle Nieves, & Anela Music: Human Behavior Crew/Family, wouldn't have survived without you guys. Emma Ostrovsky: "Da Bestie" and Shake Shack. Muna Begum & Amiri Foster: our insane period 6 class. Danielle Nieves: iPhones, period 4, your Mets obsession, great minds think alike – literally, fasten your seatbelts, and *Prison Break*. Nicole Vantman: every allergy known to man, sports med for 2 weeks, and period 7. Andrew Dietzman: car shopping in class, your Camaro, the parking spot, and "bogie." Mona: Mother Mona and fourth daughter. Mr. Bertone: letting Anela and me steal yourbff, sarcastic personality, and Health 1 & 2 days. Ms. Cikatz: thanks for adopting me, our common views, and Zillow. Gym man Sean: strawberry lemonade, large shakes from Carvel, and fidget spinner. Mr. Andrews: "I have a question," personal office decorator, we won the decorating bet, 14 years later, and best guidance aide. Mr. Marchesani: I won the decorating bet! Your word/letter magnets.



Lily Jackson
University of Connecticut

I, Lily Jackson, of happy mind and carb-craving body, hereby leave...

Tennis Team: Lots of Ws and sunburns. Westover Girls: my bow collection. Jackie S: my sisterhood. Morgan: my spottify playlists. Sammy: my iMessage and FaceTime. Matt: all the food in my house. Andy: everything and anything Vineyard Vines. The Band: my *High School Musical* CDs. Ms. Tobin: my 5:45 a.m. bagel duty alarm. Mrs. Khetan: my love for math. Jackie B: my VideoStar app. Trish: my Lilly planners. Future Westhill Students: hard work and the best memories.



Yuika Kominami
University of Connecticut

I, Yuika Kominami, with a crazy mind and an energetic body, leave...

Caroline: scooter, next 4, being soft, gucci, SONOs speakers, and rap music. Liz: Berkeley's notes, diaz, your spelling, and facetime rants and the quesadillas (with pepperoni). Alex: unscrewed lax stick, pre wrap, and CP pizza. Riley: pina colodas, Chipotle, and third wave dd run, Jacob: nothing. Nick: the racist jokes, Housepar-ties at 12 am, and of course, and mi amor next four. Maura: the apple watch. Mark and Jorge: the apartment, next 4 (months), birthday shiki nights, and Six Flags. Seb: oxygen fitness and Cutolo's rants Haley: all of the laughs, lax, the infamous green lax stick, daily rants, zigging (oh my god), and YER. Dave: ur support/help for AP Statis-tics, spoons, and prom! Mr. Weintraub: the tissues and the support throughout the 4 years. Erica: those stomach hurting laughs, the nickname "godzilla", memes, 6 hour FaceTime calls, large fries from McDonald's, creation of "yuki", tropikaes, car rides, and my unconditional sarcasm. Paige: Scofield orientation, Special K bars, vanilla soft serve on a cone, 1000 cranes, and my love.



Kelsey Kopec
Coastal Carolina University

I, Kelsey Kopec, of vibrant mind and sassy body, hereby leave...

The Westhill Cheer team: my enthusiasm and all the memories we made on the mat. Chelsea Valdez and Athena Christon: responsibility as cap-tains and the aux cord/speaker on all of the bus rides. Mona: all of the fake dismissal passes. Tintle: your free periods, that weren't so free because I always would come bother you. Weintraub: the "Where's Mona" lookout spot since everybody would always interrupt class to see if Mona was on the prowl. We love Blake groupchat: endless memories and party reminders.



Rachel Lese
Brandeis University

I, Rachel Lese, of so-so mind and slightly better body, hereby leave...

My little children: my maternal instincts to the friend group, late night games of Cards Against Humanity, and the ability to bring more of us in (and the fact that I am now your freshman). Audrey Molina: the fact that I have already completed this task (and the knot hole fungus). The Westhill Stage: my literal blood, sweat, tears, and the best 4 years of my life. James Hicks: food and money to FINALLY get yourself your own lunch. Ewa Misiak: the flirty lantern, the shadow moss and 4 years of psychotic fifth graders trying to kill us. Jose Regio, Steph Tancs, and Reshmil Ranjith: my amazing TA skills and the luck that you'll need to conquer teaching everyone. Mr. Sarkar: your lab and my countless questions. Everyone scared to take Computer Science: the courage to take it, cause it is really not that bad. Julia Brown: a very very VERY long to read list. Shannon Twomey: too many years of our randomness, conversations on google docs in the middle of class, and the adventures of Vivian the Space Flamingo/Hutchie/Sunburned Panda. All my non-westhill loves: money to see every single Westhill production. The incoming freshmen: the best four years you could ask for.

I, Maia Luders, of imaginative mind and lazy body, hereby leave...

Will Hallett: impromptu Lorca trips, before they were cool and "Fergalicious" on repeat everyday I drove you home junior year. **Nick Smigs:** instant cheer ups, being a groupie, obnoxious hallway hugs and our almost neighborly parking spots. **Jacob Stockman:** dead baby jokes... because no one likes them, and all the lessons on being a good person that clearly didn't stick. **Sofi Cespedes and Will Eby:** sad goodbyes and lots of reunions. **Dave Mezias:** unlimited trips to visit me at college and mandatory FaceTime rants. **Haley Blau, Lizzy Ruffels and Jason Diaz:** one of favorite memories ever: the reservoir, Mumford and Sons and Long Ridge Road. **Naresh Kumandari:** being the fakest NBA fan ever, your jail sentence and all the stupid sympathy you got for your injury. **Charch Kriftcher:** Crocs, jandals, and anything made of denim that isn't jeans. **Gab Laccona and Liv Wise:** always getting in trouble for laughing/not paying attention and my love for both of your dogs (mostly Samson). **Mr. White:** lunch everyday, splitting almonds and apples, Thanksgiving next year (because I am convinced you're my grandpa), Luders sailboats, and being the only teacher that actually liked me. **Amalia Skoparontoz:** all the years we should have been friends, the Epcot ball, every Vine ever made, hands, and an immense appreciation of memes. **Lilu Em:** anything pink, smoothie bowls, our future trip to Hawaii and an apology letter for Mr T. **Liz Lupinacci:** lots of capital letter texts, emo, every black article of clothing I own, lots of love for tv characters no one else cares about namely Bob and Oliver, Melatonin. **Caroline Stanton:** my Shawn White impersonation, ur broken mail box, *Zoey 101* and *H2O* marathons, that time you drove on the wrong side of the road and almost killed us all, when I got shut in the elevator, counting lizards, and always getting stopped by the TSA. **Julia Bova:** the strongest and longest friendship ever, always being on the same page, Vermont weekends, reading each others minds and a bond that nothing can break along with our weird childhood memories like Mexican toe hats, the armpit clay and of course dum dum. **Anna Schlachtenhaufen:** never ending Donut Delight meetings, the neighborhood watch protection program, driving around aimlessly, schemes, the best friendship I could have asked for, and never ending love. **Alex Fischer:** involuntary trips to stop and shop, Der Der Der, no boundaries, calling little spoon, constantly making fun of each other, made up words, the cot in Florida, my horrible comforting, lowkey affection, always being there for each other and a lot of shouting.



Maia Luders
Boston University



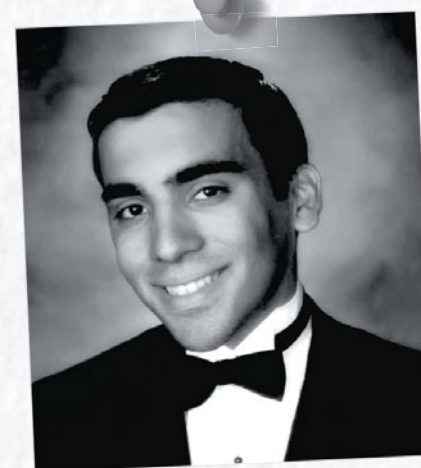
Janet Manina
Tulane University

I, Janet Manina, of tired mind and sleepy body, hereby leave...

Mary Troy: your purple Jeep Renegade and Uber eats. **Jacob Karell:** my konichiwa car. **Mark Camones:** Apple Music playlists. **Jason Reyes:** longest "yeah boiii" meme video. **The Westword:** endless popcorn and a new microwave. **Tyler Lasicki:** anything Supreme that I have in my closet. **Nick Rich:** kitty.

I, Ryan Murace, of creative mind and BBYO covered body hereby leave...

The Westhill Hallways: lanes and a minimum speed limit. **Westhill High School:** working and consistent heating and AC. **Westword Photo Staff:** Trello assignments and (the greatest) photos. **Online:** videos. **Dong Zhi:** deciding front cover, Westword questions, getting off topic, talking about how amazing English class is, saying picture ideas are too hard, and more Westword questions. **Maddy:** 27 slices of bananas, CO!, special sprinkles, "It's fine," and my resignation (you can't fire me anymore). **Noah:** sneaking into Ed Board meetings and pictures from the Board of Ed meeting. **Josh Eimbinder:** #LGM. **Maeve:** a Lox Box. **Nick:** lemonade, world-class dinners, and a lifetime supply of popcorn. **Caroline:** asking for opinions on photo edits. **Viewpoint Editors:** photo ideas during article planning. **Emily:** trying not to take all of the pictures and the May issue front cover that never happened. **Rachel:** pictures from space. **Sarah:** photography and the negative I cut in half. **Janet:** everything wrong with Honors Chemistry. **Stamvegas:** "On me!", pushing tables together, and tootsie rolls, but not the game because I lost it. **Leviticus:** helicopters, North Carolina, "Raise Up," tilted pins, the baby, "socks... on his hands," and a llama. **Tikvah:** 100 members and a penguin. **OG Twinz:** spills, rocks, drumming, Wal-Mart, our table, soundscapes, Dad glasses, "Maple Tree," twinz, "Hallelujah," and The New York Metropolitan Area. **Zach:** #2, #12, 1-10, our mileage count, Frisbee, "it's rigged," "can you give me a ride," CLTC, IC 2016, Kallah, IC 2017, Inductions, and Life. **Max:** special sprinkles and Westword visits. **Patashio:** the Texas Motor Speedway, #12, 1-10, "It wasn't my fault," and Lucky Charms. **Josh Appel:** intentionally missing a high five. **Brett Lubliner:** #LGM, rap battles, emoji filled texts, and rides to steering. **Etan:** I want my briefcase back. **Jacob Herz:** Rob the Drummer and a trombone. **Hudson:** The Texas Motor Speedway. **Westword Staff:** my rose: an issue where all the pictures are on time, quick photo edits (like they always are), a soundproof room, my brief stories, puns, CSPA, Koronet Pizza, Alma, Cards Against Humanity, train safety, subway > stairs, and Steve Kent, my thorn: the stairs, the November 2016 Supplement Cover, and late night attitudes, and my bud: a gold crown, Lakeside donuts, and Senior Will at 100!



Ryan Murace
University of Connecticut

I, Sasha Ostrovsky, of stressed out mind and lazy body, hereby leave...

Alexandra: every nice car on the street, your Ford, test driving cars, Tod's Point, random trips to the mall, Target bathing suits, room 309, prom dates, chicken nuggets, gas money, back in parking, *Grey's*, my basic white girl shoes, the man in the closet, shark, Carvel, Mish Mosh runs, SMURF, the hoodie, 42, Luke Bryan, FGL, every unhealthy food in my house, driving me everywhere, and basically being my sister. Hannah: mancala, going to water the plants in December, passing out in my bed, red red red red neck, getting me into country, boy troubles, fights with my mom, and our girl talks. Shana: GIVE, P Sloane, sushi, my stressful break-downs, Ophelia's "Sanity," Sunny Daes, and Mary. Hayley: glass bottles and the honorary historian page. Lauren: the geometry grade I never got, Malagisi's every weekend, Chris's girlfriends, taking horrible pictures, burrito, the Granola Bar, and watching horror movies at Chris's till 10. Jon: scrapbook, yelling at you for everything, the historian lines I never knew, hydrochloric acid, and the tissue culture lab. Gabby: growing up Russian, Lovishchuk, my iPhone 5, health class, every game pigeon game, not doing any assignments, and being like the same person as me. Maeve: Limelight editor probs and being an amazing managing editor. The AG Officer Team: official dress, State Convention being a day after prom, a cold AG Olympics, officer bonding that never happened, senior pictures, banquet in the media center, my ripped officer shirt and the best team I have ever been on. The AG teachers: helping me with scrapbook, mediating fights with Jon, kicking me out during period 2 and being the best overall people ever! The Westword: no section partner, a warm CSPA, and stairs of death. The future AG Historians: the chapter scrapbook (good luck!).



Sasha Ostrovsky
University of Connecticut



Theresa Persico
University of Connecticut

I, Theresa Persico, of logical mind and vivacious body, hereby leave...

Nick Bellantoni: corgis named Rex, hockey pucks, avoiding salads, talking trash in public settings, memimemime *insert word,* *Power Ranger* band-aids, lil spartan, Vinny the otter, Baethoven, pencil stabbing in personal finance, always having milk stocked in the fridge, cheeseburger eating in movie theatres, *Buzzfeed* quizzes, "sk my db," Scooby-Doo fruit snacks, and midnight convos about Jensen Ackles. Kate Williams: Forever 21 sock shopping sprees, bagel stealing, white milk, "free sha va ca doo where are you," all my mallets, the mother-daughter experience, TB shots, the center marimba from Dartmouth's selfies, pre-meeting Chester feelings, unplanned matching outfits, uncomfortable public smiles, convos about our boyfriends, my bad puns and luck. Emily DiGiacomo: risky drives to Mish Mosh, driving lessons, perfect *Heathers* harmonizing, band injuries, being my doppelganger, funky colored leggings, split meals, uncomfortable captain meetings, and bad snapshots. Robert (Righteous): world class burger making and all my memories on Facebook. Alexandra Jordan: I leave my ugly English Snapchats, donuts, and white milk puns. Monica: my physiology notes, coordinate dress up days, lunchtime rants, tampons, clementines, Destiny's Child's "Say my Name," light chime, weird snaps from Norwalk guys, the left side of the pit, sneaking food into the movie theatres, and my anxiousness with police officers. Love of my Life: Love you mom-my! Lily Jackson: *High School Musical* singing for every competition, bus ride chants/rants, clarinet shenanigans, band-aids on our noses, Ombre Effect Squad, "what are you wearing to the concert?", taking a long time to fill up the water so we didn't have to run, emotional bus ride songs, only standing on the inside for parades, and random Liz Sue Bagel trips. All the Girls in room 330: face masks, synched periods, excessive food buying, Mike selfies, "I gotta start working out," scooby doo yogurt, and dinner with the guys. Sebby Padilla: "business-casual," walking home in the rain, pinks shoes and extravagant socks, cooking with vinegar, and baby faces. James Alfonso: walking me down the aisle, "You're a wizard James," 112 bus ride partners, and unnecessary high levels of sass. Harry Travaglino: my chops, reverse whipping, bacon egg and cheese sandwiches, ugly photos of everyone in the pit, and "Question!" statements. Audrey Molina: clarinet visuals, that High F, my cubby, first chair clarinet, and Nikhil as your right hand man. Jacob Stockman: our theme song (I am the greatest), uplifting chats, les devoirs, and captain lunch dates. The Band and Mr. Wyatt: continue getting the Best Woodwind Award and bring home the gold in Dayton next year.

I, Maeve Ronan, of creative mind and Celtic body, hereby leave...

Maddy: Asbury Park, crepes in the air, sunburns, "I can't believe you're still bitter," Chestnut Hill playground, Eye-liner™, tiny moms club, West Beach, pictures of dogs, Northeast field day, The Lumineers, passive aggressive Pinsince, my sweet Desdemona, Sierra Grille and Tina Fey. **Leah:** a lifetime supply of hummus, pretzel walrus, banana bread, meme humor, the big book of myths, Bishop Chance, turning into a cloud, literary competitions, Ken Bone, Obaema, Catfish, scatter dodgeball, grinding for Calc, "boom roasted," the Federal Bunz Investigation, a bowl of oranges and not letting the bastards grind you down. **Amelia:** tea, "one time in Iceland," Bo Burnham, throwing cauliflower, omnom, walking 20 blocks for cookies, vinyl dance parties, Jake Bugg, mug cakes, Rockrimmon fireworks, the bend and snap and that one episode of *Top Gear*. **Hayley:** *Phantom of the Opera*, Pound Plus bars from Trader Joe's, the Nature Center swans and baby goats. **Ben:** *The West Wing*, Meriwether Lewis!, Ms. Baehill, quoting John Mulaney's specials, being too blessed to be stressed, the man wants a glass of malk, loving JFK/RFK, being the better co-prez, never doing English homework, YOU!, doing your eyeliner, every hell week memory and some reading lessons because you're illiterate. **Will:** scamming the Nature Center, baskets of ehpples, I slept out here, my Jodie Foster impression, steak puns, having no rhythm, Canadian Thanksgiving, good COLD water and a good constitution. **Dong Zhi:** endless amounts of coffee, sweatshirt money, cup of noodles, drinks instead of food and failing physics. **L.L.Be(a)n:** post-mock trial bool sessions, Kahoot, twin snakes, I aM ThY cREaTurE, writing essays for Euro but writing about America instead, Ben's illiterateness, ghOOSTS and "Leah's asleep." **Jimmy Fallon:** bad 1d imagines, St. Leo's, Leah's basement, beanie babies, "jeans and a nice top," firepits and homemade pizzas. **Westword:** email snark, a warm CSPA, graphic design memes, DD runs and all my love. **Chambers:** political debates, looking at the clock, only singing about seasons/sleeping and a \$5 fade. **Mock Trial:** shoulder holders, the Wall of Shame, Aleksandr, good barbecue, Pepe's Pizza, RON, three words, and trash-talk bus rides. **Lucy:** being your mother, aggressively cursing for no reason, Trader Joe's, psych projects and Baked Goods™. **Sydney and Gabbie:** playing a hooker in every show, hell week cuddle puddles and a visit to Boston. **Caroline:** getting hit by snowballs and DD not having lemonade. **Fran:** the OG cluster and "I don't know him." **Mrs. Khetan:** an actually free free period. **Mrs. Grant:** sun breaths, being crunchy, surviving and thriving, killing all the goldfish and being my mom. **Ms. Cahill:** "I am fleek," Ben falling off his scooter and ruining *Of Mice and Men*. **Noah Klein:** endless muscle tees, Ombudsman out, "do you play football?" and the Kleinword.



Maeve Ronan
Boston College



Stefanie Ruiz
University of Connecticut

I, Stefanie Ruiz, of incoherent mind and very short body, hereby leave...

Isabella: middle school drama, our pimped out Cloonan agenda pads, One Direction, Tumblr, Rebecca Black, A\$AP Mila and Ca\$h Money, "Call Me Maybe," your flawless rendition of "Look at Me Now," Mrs. Bucci & the most lit parties in Cloonan history, Mr. Hanna and pessimism, your rap phase, jam sessions under the 100s stairs, HOCKEY GAMES, those two seniors in our freshman math class, Mrs. Chief Keifer, AP Psych with Tintle ("medulla oblongata"), and the longest friendship I've ever had. **Sammy Wammy G:** the tarnished Gallant name, four years of sass and car rides to Mish Mosh and Robeks, car accidents (we can laugh about that now, right?), tons of Donut Delight, Queen's entire discography (oo ya make me live!), second tier friendship, sushi, our Gucci future, *The Lego Movie* with Loeschy poo, my future fall wedding, PINTEREST, your psycho aunt Marian (or MariAn), that failed extra credit project for Mr. Page, last-minute documentaries, our crazy moms, Snapchat boredom, Bitmojis, and Kendrick Lamar. **Care and Chrissy:** the KumBae, Chrissy's infamous bathroom breaks, struggles in Infotech, junior drama (whose dress?), and annoying freshman who complain about how "hard" high school is. **Mag:** your "hate" for Adriana and I, Dionio and his role as Goldilocks, "Adriatic brothers," happy cappy, Micheluz, Italian movies with no plot, a ton of dialogues and the fear of not meeting expectations, bathroom breaks, lots of tardies, the massive fight we got into in Italian 3, green tea, and "sexy Brazilians" (extra credit?). **Ms. Maria DeAng:** lots of plastic spoons, sarcasm, your future bridesmaid (right?), Creative Writing and Marc DeLuca, your ridiculous impression of my voice, the happiness that is coffee, Othello's hilarious seizure, Ms. English?, tons and tons of copies, Trader Joe's salads, and your honorary teacher's aid. **PaneiraBreadOfficial:** walks to the golf course, low quality Polaroids, butt worms, the drooling emoji, memes, the four months you were vegan, Riptide, Vine compilations, screenshots on screenshots on screenshots, underrated Netflix shows, super long text messages, my creepy neighbor, the mere exposure effect, and Acapella videos. Another shoutout to Ms. DeAngelis, Tintle, Mag, and Ms. Cahill, it's been real!!



Mercedes Sabel
University of Connecticut

I, Mercedes Sabel, of genius mind and lazy body, hereby leave...

Melanie: eight dollars, we are so sart, deep convos on cliffs, Clue games that lead to door barricades, me and Jenny leaving you (literally but not figuratively), Cape Cod, Nonna being rude to waiters, stealing my Polaroids, the homeland, news crew, making our own running lines, forcing me to learn new music, spring break in Chicago, and the best four years of your life to come at Loyola. Jenny: #microprobs, "Bohemian Rhapsody," Dr. Forbes's birthday songs, history buddies three years running, the beautiful music we get to listen to in study hall, best Catchphrase partners (behind you and Mel?), always being on the same team, putting up with Mel's stubbornness, our brandy bomber jacket and boyfriend jeans, listening to throwbacks at lunch, sweat dripping down our dirty laundry?, and lastly, on to the next four baby! #UConnNation Leah: asking me to be your bridesmaid for my birthday (my answer is yes btw), always having the best book recommendations for each other, our moms' Tuesday walks in the park, our shared love of chicken wings, Westhill buddies, the very interesting double date, enduring the Robbie struggle, only double spot in the lot, all the mac and cheese you will feed me when I come visit you, and the best time streaking your way across the lawn at Virginia. Sam: my gym buddy, keeping me up to date on the slang used by the youths, Judy's mac and cheese (I mean salads!), "Baby it's Cold Outside," and that very special spot on your neck. Can't wait to see what you do at Southern the next four years. Jasmina: giving me free Starbucks that one time, von Whalde's class (still not sure if that's how you spell it) and an amazing time at Sacred Heart. The Wiz: you'll always be the wiz in Thomas Madden's heart, teaching me everything about illustrator, and going to fun restaurants (I want ramen), so happy you get to spend all four years in Boston! Maeve: I'll miss you mom, have fun in Boston with the Wiz. OG Crew: all the *Transformers* movies, endless dance parties in Leah's kitchen, Leah's trampoline, literally peeing in our pants, Six Flags (annual trip on the log flume? I think yes), Up 2 U, Weed Beach, days spent at the pool, me throwing up all the time, Annie being a professional photographer, going through all of high school together, and all my love, don't know what I'm going to do next four years without you guys. Squad: *Bachelor* nights, going out to eat way too often, all the sushi in the world, T-Swizzle and a bunch of rap songs I don't know, all the cat Snapchats, our college "surprises," Barcelona, midnight trips to Lord and Taylor, and Jenny's meme bank. To the best friends I've ever had: love you guys.

I, Harlene Samra, of a Netflix influenced mind and teary-eyed body, hereby leave...

Nicole: an octangle, an egg, my tears, car convos in the school parking lot, and every bag of chips we have ever devoured in 2 minutes. Praneetha: watermelon, an onion, piña coladas, South Korea, and your own identity. Gatz: every scream in the world combined (AKA ur voice), Café Fromage, seeing you in school once a month, no first name, and the ability to stay awake when we hang out. Cristina: your braiding skills, all the fight points against Praneetha, and an excellent time at two proms. Sid: the Hindu shuffle (better than your way), \$1 (for good luck), and the adventures of Siddarth Gupta novels. Maanav: California CP Chem, duck boots, the terrorist watch list, a puddle, a broken girl's ski, and the frisbee you hit me in the face with. Josh: the freezing bleachers at Terry Conners, my first time eating at Five Guys, Borat, and the Just Dance game. Rebecca S: all of our glorious "we the Calculus students" memes, vegan food, and all the paint in the world (which happens to be located on your pants 24/7). Jordan: your mad softball skills and your excellent portrayal of King Henry the 8th!! Abby: all of space, nerd box kazoos, and your magnificent dance moves. Courtney: my utter gratitude for your immense kindness, Courtney jokes, and your insane sense of style. Neha: the under-world (AKA your home), all the samosas, and the fear you instill in everyone you meet. Leah T: your magnificent fluffy corgis, our suffering in BC Calc and Multi, and every food marathon in all of existence. Juan: Borja, pasta, 100000 hard pats on the back, and the website we are building together. Andy P: the terrible pronunciation of my name by Dr. K, daily walks from Spanish to Physics where you sing your newest favorite Spanish song, and finally your favorite words, "ganda" and "Reagan." Adrian: a fidget spinner, endless pool games that I always win, and screaming from the bleachers at Terry Conners.



Harlene Samra
Carnegie Mellon University



Paige Savitt
University of Delaware

I, Paige Savitt, of positive mind and caffeine-filled body, hereby leave...

Dong Zhi: my music column, weekly Dunkin Donuts runs during long block, Cashmere Cat concert (sophie), and the Mayor's Youth Employment program. **Rachel Fein:** Sara Walker nursery school, Lake Compounce, summers away together, New Year's Eve, and growing up side by side. **Caroline Boccuzzi:** AP Stat "study" sessions, any rap music ever, ceramics class, being triggered in CHill's class, and being valid af. **Emma Graziano:** AP English?, Cafe oo la la coffee, and sharing your beautiful lunch. **Mark Camones:** *The Fox and the Hound*, being a pacifist, always having my back, and never ending love and laughter. **Elizabeth Lupinacci:** Yosemite National Park, Jared Leto, singing *Mama Mia* at the top of our lungs, crying during beautiful summer sunsets, "Boys?", never ending laughter with chicken nuggets while watching *Big Brother*. **Brandon Hoak:** *Life of Pi*, Stamford High prom, the Strokes, Tame Impala, and every band/artist inbetween, never ending support and success, *The Governor's Ball* music festival, Brooklyn birthday gifts, carving pumpkins, and all the vinyls and Polaroids in the world. **Emily Savitt:** morning car rides, all the cars in the world, and everything that's mine is yours. **Erica Abela:** mixtapes, rides home, polaroids, vinyls (all of them) endless CDs from F.Y.E., Lana Del Rey, sunsets as perfect as you, and endless smiles!! **Yuika Kominami:** 7 years of amazing friendship, being annoying as hell, paddleboarding in Miami, dragging you to museums, all the green grapes in the world, THE Uncle's Deli sandwich, the Weeknd, from AP Stat, Psych and everything inbetween, all the car rides in the world, spot 99 and 100 in the senior lot, *Grey's Anatomy*, being scared of mocha, spontaneous sleep overs, mexican food and 16 Handles, free ice cream, and don't ever leave me.

I, Leah Schwartz, of eager mind and chlorinated body, hereby leave...

Maeve Ronan: Broadway Baker, Dark Kermit memes, all of the goldfish, a love of physics, one of the Ls, Native American garb, Cornhusk Johnson, study hall, Jacksnaps, the real Farquard Starsquad, "sure babe," Bishop Chance, beautiful braids, drained ovaries, and Victorian ladies. **Maddy Cohen:** George M. Cohan, a copy of *John Tucker Must Die*, the LRC scavenger hunt roast, Mrs. GCF, Jew club, cute shorts, my preschool placemat, best swim meet attendance, and Carlotta stories. **Amelia Daube:** 15 shirts, staring out the Psych window, near blindness, Jew club, my butterfly shorts, tons of tea, the "curse," the AG courtyard, chortles, and the broken Athena statue. **Hayley Smith:** period 2 English, "saltwater only" pool parties, my little quesadilla, and sparkly eyeshadow. **Jimmy Fallon:** Anomia, firepits and s'mores, middle school "questions," so many homemade pizzas, exploding (but only occasionally muted) group chats, and so much love. **Ben Freedman:** seeing eye cats, chicken adobo bowls, Kahoot, explanations of *Gran Hotel*, the Be(a)n, "let's call her Debbie," the *Gone* series, Debate Saturdays, Zoo Tycoon, the word legislative and the workings of congress, Mr. Boomitrix, late English homeworks, APUSH "worsts" brackets, Sheena and the door, pocket Constitutions, illiteracy, and college road trips. **L.L. Be(a)n:** a bag of twin snakes, texts sent too late, occasional roasts, un avion muy ahumado, the beast, a bag of Lays, La Familia, ghosts, APUSH jokes, and nighttime bool sessions. **The OG cluster:** Francine, wantons, and sexual undertones. **Will Bruno:** ICONIC, "you can't dance," North Carolina, and our ongoing All School feud. **Diana Bustillo and Valery Aguilar:** Westhill Mock Trial (literally) and my hopes and dreams. **Abby Bushell:** showers, "locker room talk," the Great Barrier Reef, and that one sweater. **Ms. Grant:** all my love. **Andy Putterman:** everything Reagan themed, captain's meetings, Bossman Putterman, and a poodle driving a convertible. **Raquel Fein:** a fire Create One and knowledge of accident reconstruction. **Maanav Sunderaraman:** snakes and no knowledge of accident reconstruction. **Roni Moskowitz:** so many Geckos, ten pounds of sunscreen, Fabian, "Where's Gretta?", and playing favorites. **AP Enviro:** t-shirts, potlucks, getting roasted on lab reports, and slight abandonment issues. **AP Euro:** Mr. Petrone's dry sarcasm and Dutch Kahoot. **Girls' Swim & Dive:** kick sets to outdated songs, secret psyher, the utmost fear of Greenwich, plenty of chlorine, and a hole in our hearts in the shape of Kyle. **Debate:** Paul Kim, back-to-front reading skills, and neg world vs. aff world. **Mock Trial:** the wall of shame, that one picture of Alex laughing, baby hyphen killer, endless Dude jokes, "Mr. Troyb!," ice cream cakes, the best raps, a shoulder holder, Ron, objections to "please state your name," and a house of cards.



Leah Schwartz
Duke University



Nicole Somerstein
Boston University

I, Nicole Somerstein, of expansive mind and slender body, hereby leave...

Harlene: my Calc BC midterm grade, too many schedule conflicts, tarjetas de vocabulario, and my failed attempts to mimic your interpersonal speaking. **Praneetha:** stress induced hair loss and my inability to play cards. **Gatz:** so much screaming, after school naps, fights about eyebrows, and a broken deck from pre-prom. **Sid:** 6 years of friendship, fake relationships, and The VHS Collaborative. **Courtney:** a fully re-stocked school store, Mr. Sarkar's class, dragonflies, the entire state of Montana, and FBLA Nationals. **Maanav:** snow pants, El Toro pictures, and the 100 average in Multi. **Josh Mensah:** my screams echoing Terry Conners, a fake Ivy, and Darude-Sandstorm. **Juan:** the memory of Borja, empanadas every day, and the many Pato Renato stories that were written but never collected. **Cristina:** Mario Kart and really good makeup days. **Liz:** a slippery Norwalk High School gym floor, track team, "Is there anything you would like to say?", and so many college essays. **Abby:** OM, back paintings, and too much raw cookie dough. **Jordan:** a very stressful Create 2 project. **Rebecca Siegal:** Freshman year Health class and fire-roasted Oreos. **Girls Volleyball:** really sketchy car washes, being locked out of the gym every Sunday practice, and cheating our way through 4-Corners.

I, Leah Taylor, of motivated mind and restless body, hereby leave...

Mercedes: Westhill buddies, lobster night, not stopping at red lights, chicken wings, butterfly flash tattoos, Cape Cod, the infamous picture (I promise to only bring it back on your birthday), a shared love of books (genre specific), middle finger, "But miss, it's Christmas," our parking spot, and countless visits to see you at UCONN. Melanie: on the road interviews (thanks to Annie T for the answers), a red cape, brown rocks, Made Good, "But miss, it's Christmas," North Stamford crew, an iconic finsta video, and the time of your life in Chicago. Jenny: bags for sale, North Stamford crew, making your own memes, t'was, mic drop, leahnupperpants, and four incredible years at UCONN. Sam: Bitmojis, beach breakfasts, COLE SPROUSE, "Baby It's Cold Outside," language of the youths, "Bounce Back," and the best four years you could ever hope for at Southern. Will: women's tennis, those Mormon clones from Utah, "Colors of the Wind" (national anthem?), Serena Williams (QUEEN), triple block AP Bio, all the cute boys at Elon, and a year long trip following women's tennis. Harlene: *GILMORE GIRLS*, the struggles of Multi, mug cookies, and an incredible time at CMU. Student Council: never-ending wristbands, round or rectangular tables? Ms. Khetan: one UVA shotglass. OG Crew: whale hats (can I have four?), some cute pics in an Urban Outfitters, Clue and Catchphrase (who's cheating?), Maine (gotta break down those barricades), bis-que-que, slutty brownies, some crazy times on the trampoline, cats, some pretty questionable clothing choices, more than one eventful New Year's Eve, "can we walk slower?", Six Flags (rip log flume), sending pants in the mail, staging Snapchats, it's five o'clock somewhere, and all my love. Squad: dancing it out, bachelor nights, T-Swizzle, Queen (can anybody find me somebody to love?), some pretty great boy advice, "I can't I'm in Florida," Bartaco, Chris Pratt lookalikes, raves, countless screenshots, Cards Against Humanity, midnight Ubers, and a place in my heart forever.



Leah Taylor
University of Virginia



Samantha Weinreb
Southern Connecticut State University

I, Samantha Weinreb, of able mind and sound body, hereby leave...

Jasmina: the gym, Starbucks, constant roast sessions, Wifey for Lifey, sister switches, promposals, water bottles, complaints about growing up, yoga, plots for revenge, plans for our future children, and a bond that just can't be broken. Emily: my couch, bike, Dunkin, constant FaceTime calls (both missed and answered), my makeup, and Brianna. Mel & Jen: Heroy, Pathfinders, cranberry juice, bickering, dodgeball, and the most recent rap music. Leah: bby advice, memes, G-Eazy, breakfast at the beach, *Riverdale*, Bitmojis, and unanswered texts from Robbie. Mercedes: workout tips, Lord and Taylor, Marshalls, sushi, dorm decorations, and successful trips to take a zumba class. Jess: photography, Chinese food, *Dancing with the Stars*, *The Bachelor*, East Hampton, and all the Maryland stuff money could buy. Amanda: Donut Delight, dry pasta, endless late night drives, *Vampire Diaries*, *13 Reasons Why*, going to sleep at 6 a.m., and all our weekends spent with each others family. Bri: my car, clothes, New Girl, Good one Buddy, boys, mani-pedi's, my leftovers, Arizona, twerking, my adidas, Met Games, and all my love which will be just one phone call away. Kiley and Edyliese: Robeks, Mish Mosh, hiking, softball, "Despacito" (is that how I pronounce it?), "Ayy Ladies," Puerto Rico, Ed-AYEE, Team Hunters 2k17, and all the complaining in between.

I, Stephanie Zachariadis, of fried mind and tired body, hereby leave...

The Westhill Film Club: an (impassioned) pile of scripts and Play-Doh for future wars. Anthony Huertas and Samantha Lucas: leadership of Film Club, may Cthulhu have mercy on our souls. Piotr Sokolowski: my dignity. That's all. Meghna Sharma: my excellent command of the Latin language. Ryan Perez: my bracelet that you lost in the dirt four years ago (I never forget). Patrik Sokolowski: my collection of fortune cookie fortunes so you can feel like you're always at Panda Express. Ewa Misiak: my brief email conversations with YandereDev. James Hicks: permanent psychological scars from reading my middle school poetry. Michael Abreu: my sophomore year mixtape. Mr. Johnson: the beret I always for some reason wear when filming. Ms. Reap: my picture on your Wall of Fame. Danielle Glead: my old goth sense of style, wear it well, child. The crew: an unforgettable four years that will probably haunt me for the rest of my life.



Stephanie Zachariadis
New York University



SPECIAL REPORT: 29

College tuition in first and third world countries

Nabilla Harahap
Reporter

American universities are well known internationally for being very prestigious, and for the wide variety of quality schools that provide a multitude of options for students when they are deciding to go to college. In the developed world, the United States has a highly regarded reputation, and is a popular destination for many international students. However, aside from the U.S., Australia and the UK also have a world class university system.

Australia does not have a population as large as the U.S. or UK, but the country still manages to have quite the number

of reputable universities. Australian students usually attend the university that is closest to their home and will make that commute when they have class. When applying to universities in Australia, they require you to immediately apply into your major. The average cost of tuition is \$7,692. Aside from lower tuition costs, the living cost is relatively low as well.

In the UK, the education system is more on the independent side for the student. The average tuition cost is \$5,288. Although the cost of living is higher especially in London, the lower cost of tuition balances it out.

Other developed countries with some of the best univer-

sities in the world are in Asia. South Korea and Japan both have highly ranking universities. They also have some of the world's most rigorous education systems therefore college is a lower stress level experience for them. Japan's average tuition is \$11,865, while in South Korea, the average tuition is approximately \$6,000 a year.

In the developing world, everything is a different story. For the most part, in these developed countries with a stable government, and high quality education, students are also able to manage expenses for their education in some form. In developing countries, the biggest issue regarding education is the significant gap

between the rich and the poor. In these nations, only wealthy people are able to go to college and very few people who are considered poor are able to get an education to begin with.

In Brazil, there are public universities that offer free tuition for those admitted. However, the biggest issue here is that those who are accepted tend to already be middle class, or wealthy students. The medium income in Mexico is \$4,615 while the average cost of tuition happens to be \$2,200.

In some countries, such as China, the all or nothing factor that determines whether or not you get into a university, is a university entrance exam. In

India, where the population is also outstandingly large, students are overflowing and have started to go to study abroad. Yet tuition itself in India for its most prestigious university, India Institute of Technology is approximately \$1,500.

Overall, there is a significant difference especially in terms of tuition that is expected when comparing developing and developed countries. Interestingly, there are a few countries that are developed where college is virtually free and without considering living costs. Some of these countries include Germany, Finland, Sweden, and Norway.

Living conditions in colleges around the world

Yael Roll
Scatterbrain Editor

Living in a first world country is a privilege that is taken for granted. For those who do live in first world countries, many are aware of the privileges they encounter in their daily lives such as access to internet, having a safe and comfortable home, and being able to afford basic necessities. However, many people overlook conditions in college living spaces when thinking of first world privileges. Those who can afford to attend colleges and universities often arrive to dorms with countless amenities.

High Point University in High Point, North Carolina is a university known largely for its amenities that draw in students. The university boasts a beautiful campus, swimming pools, hot tubs, a complimentary movie theater, putting green, sports bar, and on-campus steak house. "It is nice to live in a country that grants us with unlimited opportunities to strive academically yet unfortunate how

teens just like us from different areas in the world are not given the same chances and are not provided with the resources needed," said Jessica Ostroff ('18)

On the other end of the spectrum, those who attend colleges and universities in third world countries may find themselves fearing for their lives instead of making reservations at their campus steakhouse.

In 2013, at least 50 students were killed at Yobe State College of Agriculture in Nigeria in the middle of the night. The attack was carried out by the Boko Haram group, whose name loosely translates to "Western education is forbidden." Students at schools such as this one are furthering their educations for the same reasons as many American students, to have more successful and comfortable futures. "First world college students rely on money to get them through. Those living in third world countries simply rely on education," said Shira Cohen ('20). However in this case, these students were not even able to focus on their education.

It is clear that educational standards are not the only disparity between first and third world countries. Quality of life is crucial for students to remain motivated and focused. Students should be attending college in order to become

more productive citizens in the future. Lavish amenities are far from necessary, especially when others have no choice but to choose between their safety and furthering their education.

While there is no one person or

group to blame in this situation, it seems like both students and administrators should rethink before adding amenities and instead place their focus on working to equalize educational standards both in and out of the classroom worldwide.

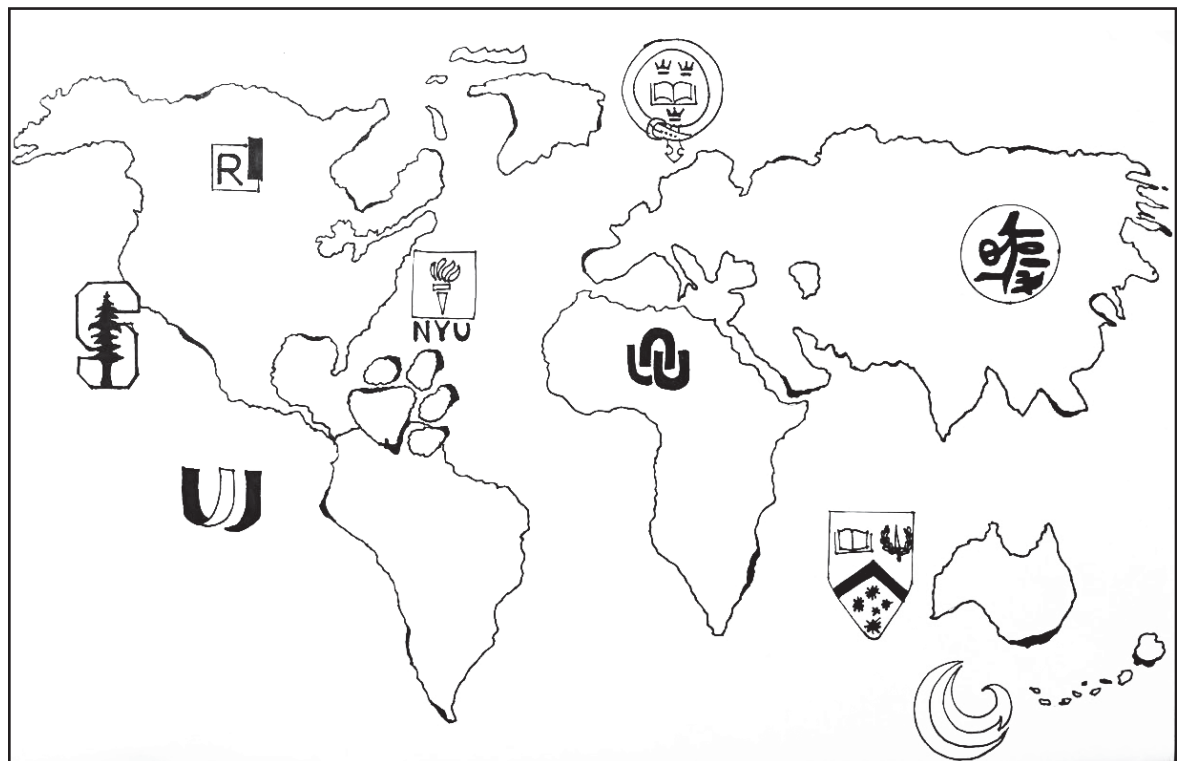


Illustration by Alexis Marchetti / Illustrator.

A Special Report Year in Review

In the first issue of the year, Special Report discussed how people prepared for Hurricane Matthew and the relief systems following it.

October



November

Special Report reviewed what might occur during President Trump's presidency and the new appointments in government.



December

This issue outlined economic situations around the world and compared the best and worst economies throughout the world.



Will TrumpCare follow up?

Dong Zhi Guo
Editor-in-Chief

On May 4, the House of Representatives narrowly passed the new Republican healthcare bill called the American Health Care Act (AHCA); which was initially met with unpopular opinion and was pulled twice from voting due to a low number of supporters. The Republican's new healthcare bill is the first step in repealing and replacing The Affordable Care Act (ACA), or more commonly referred to as ObamaCare. Throughout Donald Trump's presidency he has garnered votes with the promise of a better and more substantial healthcare than that of ObamaCare.

When former President Barack Obama signed the ACA into law in March 2010, it was met with a lot of opposition. The bill passed with a 219-212 vote. All Republicans voted against the Senate-revised health-care bill in the House including 34 Democrats.

Many people expressed their dislike over the ACA. "ObamaCare was a disaster and I do not know yet whether TrumpCare will follow that path. Whenever the government gets involved in anything it becomes a mess," said Kevin Harrington ('19).

Although the ACA helped many Americans obtain healthcare, it was not perfect. It reportedly cost \$58 billion to implement and three to five million employees lost their company-sponsored health coverage, according to thebalance.com.

While some aspects of ACA are still being retained, there are extensive changes in the new bill that will affect millions of Americans.

Similarities between the two healthcare bills include allowing children to stay covered through their parents' insurance policy until they are 26 years old, in addition to not allowing insurers to set limits on essential health benefits like pregnancy and childbirth, mental health services, and doctors' services.

However, it is where they differ that will make passing the AHCA difficult

for the Republican party in the Senate. This new bill will not require large businesses to provide healthcare for full-time employees meaning those currently insured by their companies may have to find their own healthcare provider with higher premiums if this bill is put into action.

One of the more controversial parts of the bill is with its policy regarding those with preexisting conditions. Under the ACA, people with pre-existing conditions are protected against paying more

will lower costs for those without pre-existing conditions.

"The AHCA is being passed without any intention of helping people. Their plan for coverage for people with pre-existing conditions will lead to higher premiums for potentially worse coverage. The bill is purely bipartisan and hopefully will not pass

for nearly 125 million Americans with pre-existing conditions. "In order to operate a functional high-risk pools in all 50 states, the federal government would need to provide \$15 million to \$20 billion annually, leaving the AHCA short even with the proposed money," according to *Business Insider*.

"I would be sad if [The American Health Care Act] passed the senate and went into law because people with pre-existing condition would be put out of their health

than 63 days must pay a 30 cent surcharge on their premiums for a year, according to independent.co.uk.

During May of last year Donald Trump tweeted, "I was the first & only potential GOP candidate to state there will be no cuts to Social Security, Medicare & Medicaid." In contrast, AHCA or TrumpCare will be cutting \$880 billion from Medicaid, the program that helps the poor obtain health insurance, over the next 10 years. Under the Obama administration, they made it a priority to expand the Medicaid program by increasing taxes on the rich. In contrast, the Republican health care bill will be defunding Medicaid to compensate for the large tax cuts targeted towards the wealthiest Americans.

Just recently, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), an independent authority on economic policy, released a report stating the AHCA will leave 23 million Americans uninsured. Healthy individuals will also see a 20 percent increase in their premiums annually.

Westhill students alike are unsure about this healthcare bill and what it entails. "The American Health Care Act is a bill that was created to please the constituents of Republican representatives who are displeased with specific aspects of the Affordable Care Act. I believe the Republicans who created and supported this bill, most notably Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, failed to take many details into consideration. Healthcare is undoubtedly a hard subject to grasp, which is why our representatives should have taken the time to receive the extensive research necessary to best provide healthcare to the public. There are significant issues with the existing healthcare system, ACA, but the house's bill seems to create more problems than it solves," said Rachel Fein ('17).

Whether or not the AHCA passes the senate is still unknown, but it is clear that not all Americans will benefit from it.



for health insurance than a healthy individual. However the AHCA will be taking away that protection, allowing insurers to raise their premiums. Citizens with diabetes and cancer are included in those with pre-existing conditions.

In order to section off people with preexisting conditions, they have placed them in what is called "high-risk pools" separating them from the rest of the market, which

the Senate, because if it does it's going to hurt a lot people in this country," said Ben Freedman ('17).

The bill will set aside \$8 billion over the course of five years for those in high-risk pools, however many health organizations are skeptical about whether \$8 billion is enough

care that they deserve and are accustomed to; It would change their way of life completely and make it worse," said Matt Greco ('17).

Under ObamaCare, approximately 24 million Americans gained coverage due to the individual mandate that required all Americans to have health insurance. The AHCA repeals the individual mandate and instead introduces a new system where those who are uninsured for more

Graphic by **Sakshi Patel** / Creative Director.

Continued...



February

Animal cruelty was at the forefront of this Special Report issue, shining a spotlight on how animals are abused in different industries.

This Issue featured the greatest space accomplishments. It also illuminated the biggest achievements in space and Earth's orbit within the last 60 years.

March





April

This edition covered the best 3D printers on the market today, and the use of 3D printing in the medical field and in Stamford.

FEATURE

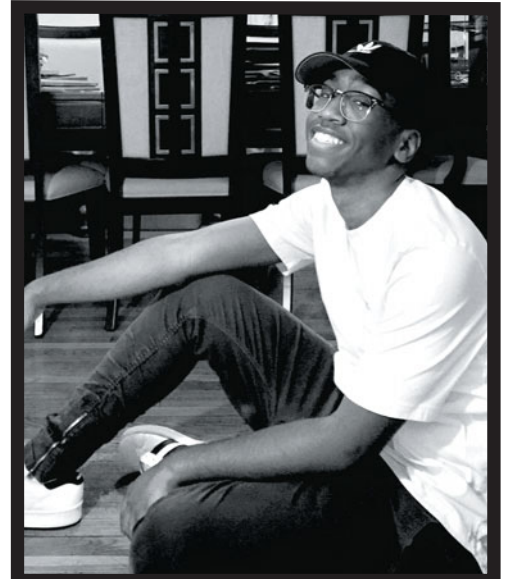
Seniors looking ahead...

|31



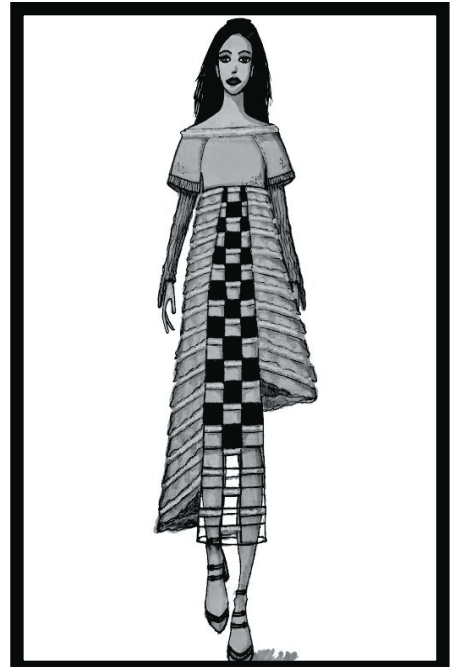
Matthew Pierre-Louis
Johnson & Wales University

I am going to Johnson & Wales University as a Culinary Arts major and learning how to cook starting from the basics. I bet you are wondering why food out of all things? Well, it is crazy to imagine that one small show sparked a dream of mine. I dream of being able to travel the world while cooking, and eventually settling down to own a restaurant someday. But before I can achieve that goal I hope to be able to study abroad and learn as many foreign cooking styles I can while hopefully making some friends that share a common dream.

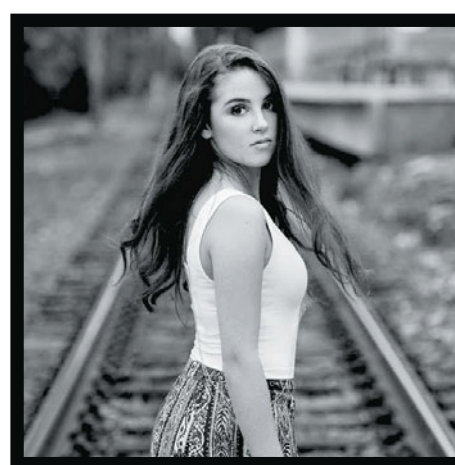


I began drawing fashion designs when I was twelve and kept doing this throughout the years. In the summer before senior year I realized I had to prepare for college applications. I had no hesitation in wanting to prepare for all of the top design schools in the country. I worked on my portfolio for fifteen hours each week and ended up with two collections, one with the theme of plant cells and the other with the theme of Renaissance architecture. I even made a plant cell themed dress out of wool and plastic. Somehow I got accepted to each school I applied to, but in the end I chose to commit to Parsons. I cannot wait to start my freshman year at Parsons and I hope to experiment with new ways of thinking about and creating designs. I want to make designs that are not simple to look at and I want to create things that make people think.

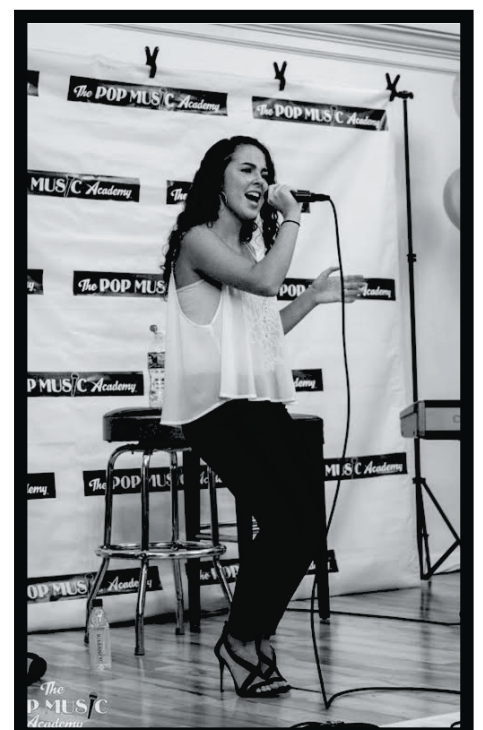
Lily Huaman
Parsons School of Fashion



Hannah Cassara
Berklee College of Music



Music is my way of amplifying my life. I see my decision to pursue music as a vocation rather than a career. Although I am taking the path less traveled, I chose Berklee because they are able to offer an experience in the music industry that you cannot get anywhere else. Through their talented faculty, diverse student body, abundance of resources and networking opportunities, I am guaranteed to excel in music. At Berklee I will dual major in Music Therapy and Music Business, while finding myself as an artist and jumping at any opportunity that comes my way.



Seniors share their internship experiences

The Westword interviewed two Westhill seniors, Leah Taylor and, Alex Fischer (pictured from top to bottom), about their senior internships that began on Monday, May 15. Students involved in this internship program went through an interview process that placed seniors in their job of interest.

in

Leah Taylor is interning at Double H Farm which has two locations, one in Ridgefield, Connecticut and one in Wellington, Florida. The barn claims that the horses of Double H Farm show at the best competitions in North America and the world Alex Fischer works at Workpoint, a unique new 15,000 square foot shared office facility in Stamford right on the Long Island Sound.

The Westword: What is your internship?

Leah Taylor: My internship is at Double H Farm.

Alex Fischer: I work at Workpoint in the shippan area of Stamford.

TW: How do you like it?

LT: I absolutely love it!

AF: I like learning new things about the businesses and the professional environment.

TW: What does the company you intern at do?

LT: Double H Farm is a barn that competes at the top level of international show jumping.

AF: [It] is a coworking space.

TW: What is your job at your internship?

LT: My job entails learning about barn management (which includes coordinating vet care, horse care and training, submitting competition entries, etc.) and being educated in all aspects of the equine business!

AF: As an intern I get to learn from each tenant about the kind of company they run and help host events when the office space is rented out.



Briefs by Samantha Gallant / Staff Writer.

The Reel Review: Second Chance Dogs

Column by Ashley Shapiro



Second Chance Dogs is the emotional documentary on Netflix directed by Kenn Bell. The 56 minute film was produced by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The film was released in 2016 and can be found in the documentary section on Netflix. The film shows the members of the organizations attempting to rescue and rehabilitate dogs of all ages.

The dogs that are sent into this program are dogs rescued from hoarding houses or puppy mills. Puppy mills are a company breeding dogs for commercial sale without considering the dog's health. In the puppy mills, the dogs are kept in small cages and often fed very little. The puppies that comes from these conditions are usually traumatized or even very ill.

The ASPCA also rescues

dogs from hoarders who do not even realize what they are doing to the dogs is awful. When they take the dogs to their facilities they are often sick, underfed and terrified. The ASPCA can rescue up to 200 dogs in any given night. After rescuing the dogs, they are sent to many different shelters but some dogs need extra assistance.

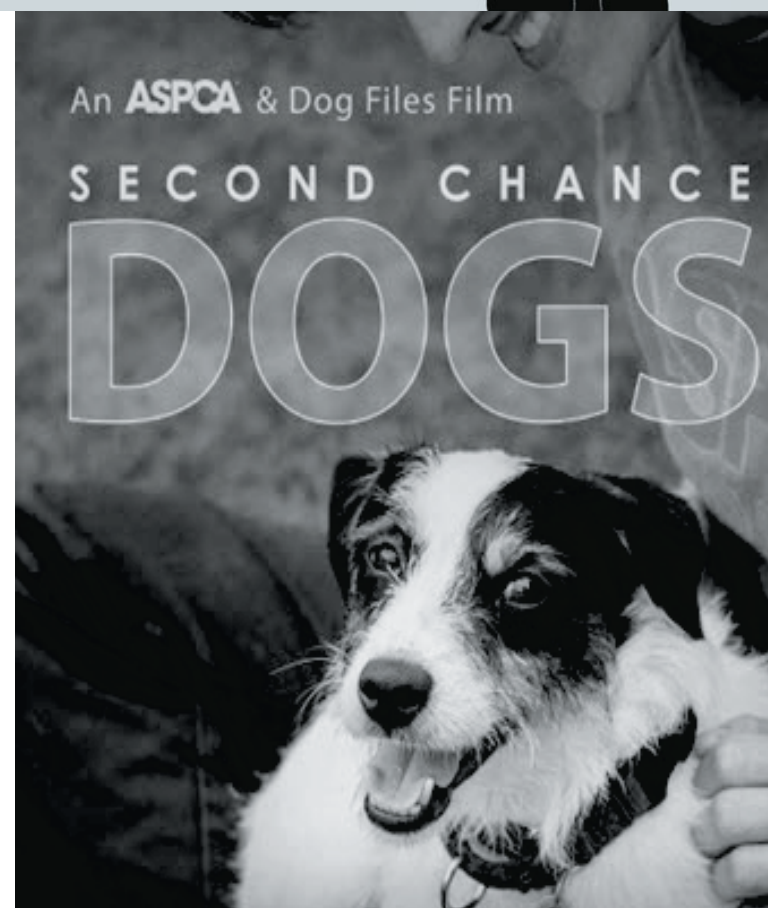
Dogs that are especially afraid of people have a very low chance of being adopted but the new trial program the ASPCA is developing gives them a chance. The trial program was named the Anti-Cruelty Behavior Research. The ASPCA workers specialize in working with fearful animals. Through patience and encouragement, they are able to help the dogs. They first perform behavioral evaluations to gauge the dog's fear and cooperation levels. Through constant track of data and trial and error,

the ASPCA is able to develop strategies to help the dogs. The many strategies shown in the film offer positive reinforcement and consistency.

Without the Anti-Cruelty Behavior Research the dogs shown in this film would never find a home. Shelters can only support fearful dogs for so long and after a time they would be put down. This program turned out to be a huge success and saved many dogs lives.

The documentary was a high quality production and there are many clips of footage that gives the watchers insight into the ASPCA's process.

Second Chance Dogs is a great film and a uplifting story. There are many movie interviews and the film shows the potential for the program nationwide. I would highly recommend this film to any animal lovers who enjoy a moving and heartwarming documentaries.



Northstar springs into action

Bailee Esposito
Viewpoint Editor

Westhill High School's third production of the year, *Guys and Dolls*, brought new life to the stage. The musical boasted countless flamboyant suits, thick New York accents, and comical songs to keep the audience interested. Although the tickets were far higher in price than the fall drama, the show was worth the admission fee.

In watching the production, it became clear early on that the cast was a tight-knit group. This may not seem essential due to the fact that they are acting, but there is certainly a different atmosphere created when the cast seems comfortable with one another. At times, characters Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Benny Southstreet, portrayed by Marcos Pinto-Leite ('18) and Will Bruno ('17) respectively, looked at each other the way only long time friends would, giving their characters' relationship depth. Each character's strong conviction and graceful dancing made the show thrilling to watch.

The sheer number of cast members was impressive. "It was the best Northstar show in a while," said Liam Gelling ('19), on why this production drew so many students in. Students of all grades could be seen dancing and singing along side one another with what looked like no stigma towards age.

The musical's four shows spanning over two weekends generated large crowds for each performance,

far larger than the crowds of the fall dramas. "The play was very good. The set and costumes were too. The singing was incredible and I would see it again," said Amanda Veseli ('19), after seeing the show for the second time. High praise was explicitly given as people filed out of the auditorium at the end of the night. Many of the audience members in attendance were parents and relatives, nevertheless there was a large number of patrons who had heard about the production in the community and had decided to come support Westhill theater.

"Being in *Guys and Dolls* was a great experience. It was really cool to see the evolution of the show throughout rehearsals and how it all came together in the last few weeks." Said Sydney Steinberg ('19), When asked about her take on the play as a cast member.

When performing a show that is highly popular and has been done in the Stamford Schools community, it is important that a show sets itself apart from others who had done it in the past. Remembering Stamford High School's production of *Guys and Dolls* a few years ago, the set, while still amazing, was virtually the exact same. Nonetheless, the Northstar playmakers did a fine job at putting a spin on some of the characters and musical numbers. Rebecca Gatz ('17), who played Miss Adelaide, gave her character a bit more strength than other portrayals of the character. Her demure disposition did not stop her from

demanding what she wanted to Nathan Detroit, her fiancée, played by Ben Freedman ('17).

"I think that the costumes looked very authentic," said Elizabeth Lupinacci ('17), when prompted about what intrigued her in the play. The set and wardrobe did indeed have many redeeming qualities. These included the frosted windows of the mission and the floor to ceiling three dimensional mural of the sewer, which struck the audience with professionalism and the feeling of being in New York City in the early 1950s.

As for the plot, the audience was captivated by the perilous nature of the floating crap game throughout the show. The twists and turns of each relationship brought the audience to a deeper understanding of the plot. Although there were quite a few all encompassing group numbers, the one-on-one scenes were common and shockingly intimate. As characters Sky Masterson, played by Nick Smeriglio ('17) and Sarah Brown portrayed by Victoria Iparraguirre ('18) fell into a forbidden and unwavering love for one another, their soulful duets overtook the crowd with admiration for the pair. From beginning to end, the actors did a phenomenal job with developing the story through body language, expressions, and attitude. As the audience left, they felt a sense of resolution, which is not simple to achieve and for that, they deserve recognition as a cast and crew.



Photos contributed by Maeve Ronan / Managing Editor.

Record review of the month



How will you know if you never try? by COIN by Paige Savitt

COIN is an indie pop group that originated in Nashville, Tennessee. The four men that complete the band, Chase Lawrence, Ryan Winnen, Joe Memmel, and Zachary Dyke, met at Belmont University where they started making music together. After releasing a couple of singles in 2012 and 2013, they released their first studio album self titled, *COIN* in 2015.

The self titled album *COIN* features one of their most well known songs, "Run." "Run" really put COIN on the map in terms of indie and alternative music because it was being played on

many alternative radio stations.

COIN has received further attention with the release of their single "Talk Too Much" which definitely follows more of a pop genre. "Talk Too Much" was the first song I ever heard by COIN, and as I began to explore their music more, I realized they are less pop/rock and more indie pop. "Talk Too Much" is also the third track on their album *How Will You Know if You Never Try*. This is their second studio album and was released in April of 2017, featuring 11 songs.

Another one of their more

upbeat songs is "I Don't Wanna Dance." It has very techno and pop sounds to it. COIN writes a lot about relationships and girls, which is obvious by most of the names of their songs. "Feeling" is the ninth song on the album and is also very upbeat. "I Don't Wanna Dance" was the second single released before the entire album, and "Feeling" was the fourth single.

Although the name of the album seems long and vague, COIN got the name from a line in their song "Hannah." This is another one of their best tracks, and it appears fifth on the al-

bum. "Hannah" clearly follows the trend of love on this album, as it is named after a girl. "I'm sorry Hannah / But I've got other plans" is part of the chorus, it is unclear how the artist really feels about Hannah, but the pattern of love and relationships continue throughout the album. Other songs that clearly follow this trend include "Boyfriend" and "Heart Eyes".

The rest of the songs on *How Will You Know if You Never Try* are more indie pop. Indie pop, like all music, is a required taste. If you enjoy al-

ternative pop, it is very likely you will enjoy indie pop. "Talk Too Much" is very popular as it has even been played on mainstream radio stations. If you enjoy their song "Talk Too Much" I encourage you to take a listen to the entire album. Some of the songs sound very similar, but in the end they all have their own message behind them. I think this album is giving COIN a new sound and a new name in mainstream music. Most low key 'underground' bands like to stay this way, but getting some mainstream buzz cannot hurt.



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SCATTERBRAIN

COLLEGE PACKING ESSENTIALS



Graphic designed by **Sakshi Patel** / Creative Director.

1) FIRST AID KIT

For small scrapes or cuts, a first aid kit that has rubbing alcohol or bandages can be helpful. Purchasing a small, portable first aid kit at the local pharmacy or grocery store makes it an affordable necessity that can save someone when they are in need. And, it is easy to store for when it is not needed.

2) MINI FRIDGE

In order to keep basics like dairy, meat, and fruit fresh, a refrigerator is a must-have, but not all schools provide them. Not only will they be hassle-free when the big move happens, but they are fairly inexpensive. Most brand-name mini fridges range between eighty to ninety dollars at chain retailers. Not to mention, if it can be used by everyone in a room, and people can pitch in money and split the price.

3) WALL POSTERS

Bringing wall art or posters to decorate their personal area can make students feel like they have a “piece” of home even if they are hundreds, or even thousands of miles away from it. Adding wall art can add liveliness and make their dorm rooms seem more attractive and reminiscent of their old spaces.

4) BULLETIN BOARD

Daily reminders are always important – regardless of where, what, or who someone gets them from. Even with the myriad apps and technologies that can get this job done, people still more often than not forget to do a lot of activities and important things. Having something big that can refresh the mind about the things that need to get done – whether they be imperative or minute to minute, everyday things, is very important.

5) SHOWER CADDY

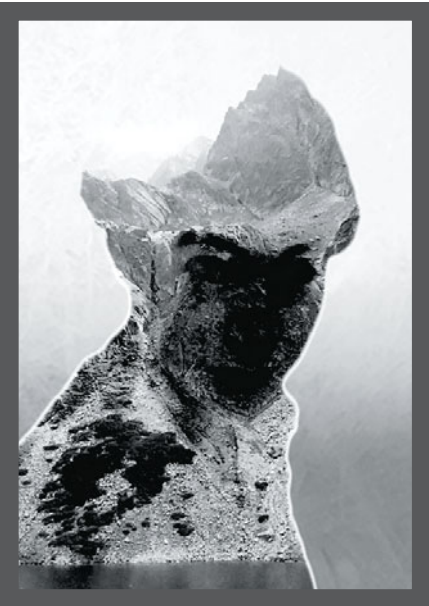
Once again, with the exception of some higher-end suites and dorm rooms, most college students have to face the more often than not, uncomfortable shared shower accommodations. With not much more than a curtain dividing these showers and with little space to bare – getting used to this on a daily basis can be challenging. However, having a shower caddy that one can easily take in and take out shower basics from will most likely make this process more accessible, a lot easier, and much faster.

6) DURABLE GOODS

However, bringing light, healthy snacks such as granola bars, cereals, or trail mixes can go a long way if you are looking to save the money; as expenditures throughout the day and the week can start to add up for many students. Durable goods are an easy go-to for many reasons, and can help students save money and tedious late-night snack trips.

Briefs by **Daniela Paredes** / Reporter.

The average person spends 6 months of their life waiting on a red light to turn green. Hot water is heavier than cold. Honey never spoils.



EWA MISIAK



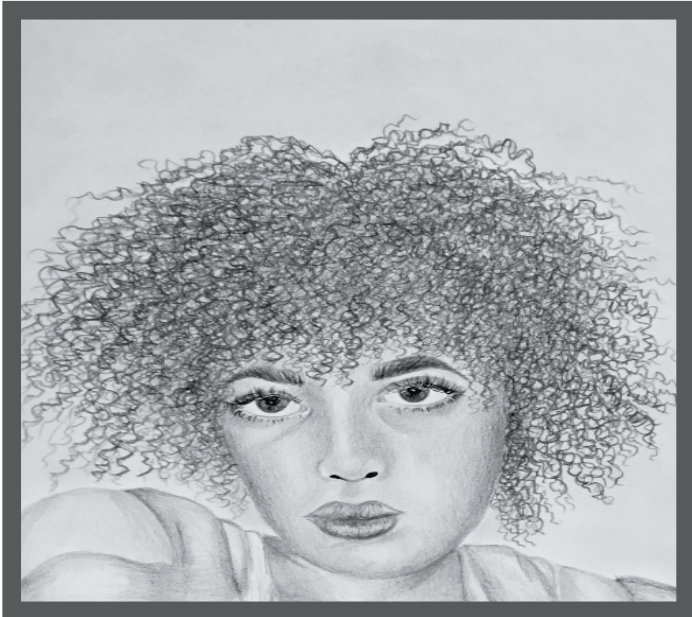
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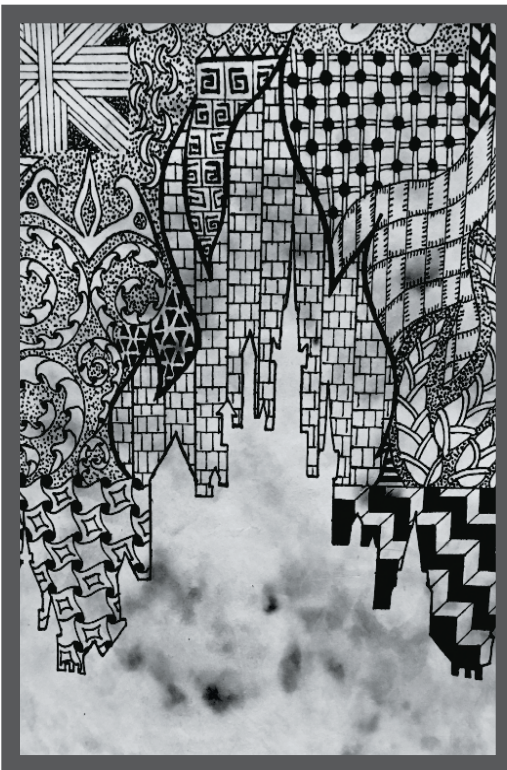
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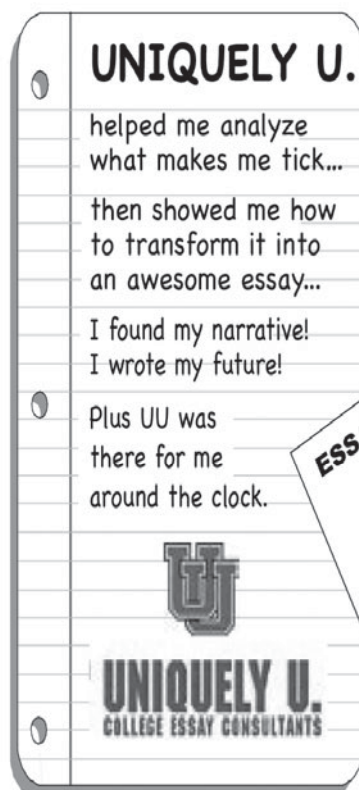


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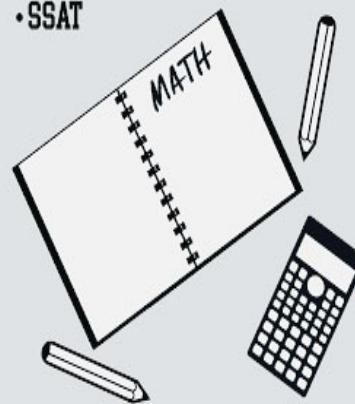
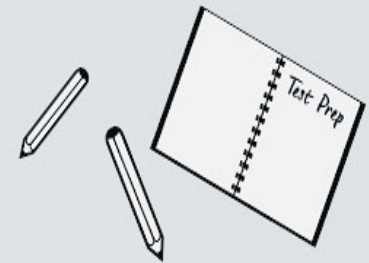
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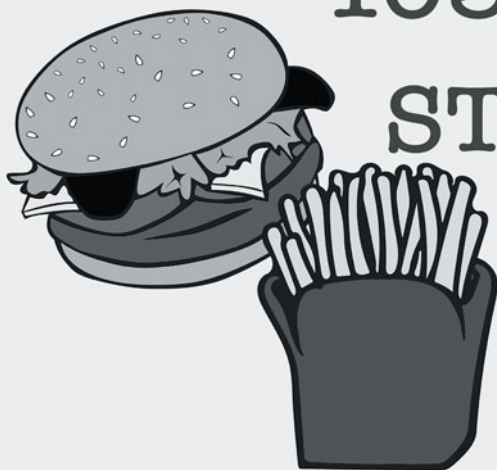
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SPORTS

Student athletes share their proudest moments

SOFTBALL

Gabby Lacona



"Beating Stamford High on my senior night."

ITHACA COLLEGE

BASEBALL

Dean DePreta



"Winning on Senior day to clinch 1st place in the Fairfield County Interscholastic Conference (FCIAC)."

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

FIELD HOCKEY

Emma Jelliffe



"When I passed to Brooke and she ran down the field and scored her first goal of the season on our senior day. It was epic!"

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

FOOTBALL

Michael Newman



"My proudest moment playing for Westhill is when I got the win against one of our city rivals, Trinity."

MASSACHUSETTS MARITIME ACADEMY

HOCKEY

Nick Rich



"One of my proudest moments was hitting a home run against Trinity this year."

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TENNIS

Kunal Barta



"My proudest moment was probably beating Darien in the regular season this year."

PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Weinreb proves softball is not for softies

Michael Lisinicchia / Athletes of the Month / Samantha Weinreb



THE BASES ARE LOADED Weinreb has proven her talent on the field through her determined attitude and relationship with her teammates.

Maddy Cohen

Print Executive Editor

Samantha Weinreb, one of Westhill's best softball players, has come to the end of her final high school season. The Westword sat down with her to reflect upon her high school career and what she is looking forward to in the future.

The Westword: What age were you when you started to play softball?

Samantha Weinreb: I started playing when I was 6 years old.

TW: Why did you start playing?

SW: I started playing softball because I used to watch my dad play when I was younger and really wanted to start playing a sport.

TW: What is your favorite part about the sport?

SW: My favorite part is about playing is being a part of a team.

TW: What are some of your

strengths or weaknesses?

SW: I would say one of my weaknesses is running the bases but one of my strengths is hitting.

TW: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

SW: One pre-game ritual I have with a few of my teammates is to listen to the song "Ayy Ladies" and get a Robeks smoothie.

TW: Are you planning on continuing to play in college?

SW: I do hope to continue playing softball at Southern [Connecticut State University].

TW: Any advice for someone planning on playing softball?

SW: My advice to someone planning to play is to not give up. If you are not playing the position you were hoping to, keep practicing and when you get your chance, show them what you got.

TW: What are some of your most memorable moments?

SW: Some of my most mem-

orable memories are definitely all the ones made with my team on and off the field. Whenever we are together we laugh and that is what it is all about, having fun.

TW: What challenges have you faced?

SW: One challenge I faced while playing softball is not always getting to play my position. I do not always get game time but whenever I do, I contribute in whatever way possible.

TW: What team do you have the biggest rivalry with?

SW: The team we have the biggest rivalry with is Stamford High.

TW: How do you feel now that your final high school season has come to an end?

SW: This softball season coming to an end is bitter-sweet. This team by far has been the best team I have been part of.

Lisinicchia plays a grand slam



BATTER UP Lisinicchia is a star pitcher and a natural on the field.

Maddy Cohen

Print Executive Editor

Michael Lisinicchia plays baseball for Westhill and has been on varsity for the past three years of his high school baseball career. He was one of this year's most prominent pitchers and sat down with The Westword to talk about his experience as a player.

The Westword: What age were you when you started to play baseball?

Michael Lisinicchia: About 5 or 6, the average age kids start playing T-ball.

TW: Why did you start playing baseball?

ML: As I grew older I played just about every sport, Baseball was just the one I started with.

TW: What is your favorite part about the sport?

ML: My favorite part would be when you are playing and accomplish a goal without even trying. That is when you know you are really in tune with what is going on around you, and you have to be in baseball.

TW: What are some of your strengths or weaknesses?

ML: One of my strengths would be how I do not let my emotions cloud my judgment. I can remain levelheaded most of the time. One of my weaknesses would be that I over analyze certain situations when there is no need.

TW: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

ML: To be honest, I do not think I do. I just sit down, tune everything out, and think about how the game could play out different ways.

TW: Are you planning on continuing to play

in college?

ML: Yes I will be playing baseball in college [at Post University] and am very excited about that.

TW: Any advice for someone planning on playing baseball?

ML: Some advice would be that you fail more than you succeed so do not get discouraged. Every coach will tell you but it is true.

TW: What are some of your most memorable moments?

ML: Some memorable moments would be the fun bus rides home after a big win, the pre-season practices, and the look on our coaches faces after we finished regular season this year. Considering our past records, that was the most memorable moment.

Viking Sports

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The girls softball team swing for the fences

Athletes of the Month *p.39* / *The Westword* presents the Westwards *p.38*



Michael Lisinicchia



Samantha Weinreb