The Clash of Economic Perspectives

Skyler Goldberg

On September 26th, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump faced off at Hofstra University in the most widely viewed debate ever, according to Nelson TV ratings, presenting their economic perspectives in the longest section of the debate, “Achieving Prosperity.”

Clinton said that the government needs to invest in the middle class and end “advantages for the people at the top.” In order to do this, she intends to raise taxes on the wealthy and guarantee they pay their “fair share” by closing loopholes.

With the increased tax revenue, Clinton plans on funding a plethora of social causes such as guaranteeing equal pay for women, raising minimum wage, and making child care and college affordable for everyone.

Under her plan to make college affordable, benefits would primarily be determined by income and the type of college one attends: community, state, or private. For instance, if your annual income is $55,000, you would save $37,640 on in-state college. But regardless of salary, any remaining expenses after 20 years would be forgiven.

This proposal, however, is far curter than her usual detailed, five-page proposals, says Lanae Erickson Hatalsky, vice president at Democratic Think Tank Third Way. Hatalsky said it “sounded much more like something intended to energize a campaign rally.” But Clinton, as noted above, contends that she will fund the proposal with the increased tax revenue.

Similarly, Trump described her as a “typical politician … all talk, no action.” He said that although her plan “sounds good,” it doesn’t work in practice. Moreover, he blamed Clinton and other politicians with similar economic plans for the US’s economic problems, which he compared to a “bubble.”

Contrary to Clinton’s lib-
eral plans, Trump has adopted the Republican theory of Reaganomics, proposing a massive tax cut—15-35% - for wealthy business owners. The theory assumes proprietors will use some of the increased income to expand their businesses and thus create jobs and increase spending. Ergo, money would then trickle down to the lower classes. He asserts that a tax cut of this size would create 2 million jobs.

Trump also said that we need to renegotiate our trade deals in order to keep jobs in the United States. In fact, he called NAFTA’s (the North American Free Trade Agreement) deal removing tariffs on Mexico and Canada, “one of the worst things that ever happened to the manufacturing industry.” He says that if the coalition doesn’t concede, he would attempt to either renegotiate or break the organization altogether.

Clinton argues however that Reaganomics has not worked in the past and won’t work now, even blaming the Great Recession on this policy. In addition to these pragmatic challenges, she objects philosophically, saying that we need to focus on the poor.

As we approach the end of the eighth year in our economy’s expansion cycle, the sixth largest since the 1850s, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the next president will likely face another recession, says Brad McMillan, chief investment officer at Commonwealth Financial. However if it is handled well, it will be short lived, and gross domestic product won’t decline nearly as much as in 2008. Which candidate do you think will handle this delicate situation best: Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump?

Climate change is one of the biggest issues plaguing our society today. In its history, Earth has seen both many ice ages and rises in temperature. Since the end of the last Ice Age, Earth’s climate has remained relatively stable, allowing human civilizations to flourish. Said civilizations are now being threatened by a rise in global temperature and the effects that accompany it. Humans are largely to blame for this issue, and the questions that remains is what the world’s governments and civilians can do about it.

Climate scientists agree that one of the main causes of climate change is the “greenhouse effect.” The “greenhouse effect” is when Earth attempts to radiate heat waves into space, but greenhouse gases trap the heat in the atmosphere. According to NASA, greenhouse gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, which are synthetic compounds. International governments have been regulating the use of CFCs because they contribute to the destruction of the ozone layer, in addition to the role as greenhouse gases.

Humans have increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, thus increasing the amount of trapped heat. Industrial activities have resulted in the carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere going from 280 parts per million to 400 parts per million over the last 150 years, according to NASA. Beginning in 1988, the United Nations brings together a group of 1,300 scientists to create the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. In their Fourth Assessment Report, they concluded that there is a 90 or more percent chance that human activities over the past 50 years have been the dominant cause of the observed warming.

Cassie Leahy

Continued on page 5
TERRORISM in America

Clara Dunlop

Terrorism. One single word that strikes terror in the hearts of the American people, leaving them with a sense of impending doom. It is the reason why the United States has been in the Middle East, fighting in a war that has led to the loss of thousands of lives. Since the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor, numerous incidents of bombing and terrorism have struck the United States: the Oklahoma Bombing; the tragedy on 9/11; the bombs at the end of the Boston Marathon. Just last year, an attack in Paris added to the hysteria surrounding terrorism, leading many people to fear travel. In 2016, just after the nation had observed 9/11, unifying to commemorate the innocent lives lost when Al Qaeda flew planes into the Twin Towers, another attack took place on U.S. soil when a bomb exploded in New Jersey.

This rather frightening series of events first began to unfold at approximately 9:35 a.m. on Saturday, September 17th, with the explosion of what a USA Today article referred to as a "pipe bomb device." That morning, the Marine Corps had scheduled a fundraiser called Semper FiveK in Seaside Park, New Jersey. As a result of the bomb’s explosion in a nearby garbage can along the route, the race was cancelled. As is stated in USA Today, "Problems with registration for the Seaside Semper Five 5K, which was scheduled to begin 9:30 a.m., delayed the start of the race and possibly spared many from injury." Postponing the race was a precaution that probably protected many participants from sustaining injuries. Later that night, at 8:30 P.M., a second device exploded in the neighboring city of New York's Chelsea neighborhood on 133 West 23rd Street, leaving 29 people injured. There were no fatalities. As said by USA Today, "None of the injuries were life-threatening and all those hurt were released from area hospitals by Sunday morning." Although firemen had stated that no one had been gravely wounded by the explosive device, the incident created a sense of insecurity among residents of the tri-state area, prompting the police and the NYC Bomb Squad to begin searching for the culprit behind the attacks before another bomb created more damage.

On September 19th, authorities apprehended Ahmad Khan Rahami, a 28-year-old refugee from Afghanistan who had been suspected of involvement in the bombing. Rahami had immigrated to the United States in 1995 as a young child when his father was seeking asylum, and he became naturalized in 2011. After obtaining citizenship, Rahami traveled extensively to Afghanistan and Pakistan; in July of 2011, he married a Pakistani woman, and between 2013 and 2014, he spent almost a year in Afghanistan. Rahami's family settled in Elizabeth, a New Jersey town located approximately sixteen miles from New York City, where they got a job running the town's First American Fried Chicken restaurant. He had been a prime suspect for the bombing, about which Bill de Blasio, the Mayor of New York, had declared, "We have every reason to believe that this was an act of terror." On Monday Morning, a bar owner in Linden discovered Rahami sleeping in the bar's doorway; while at first he thought the sleeping man was just another "drunk guy," after he saw the man's face, he recognized him as Rahami and called the police. Referring to the incident, the bartender told CNN, "I'm just a regular citizen doing what every
citizen should do. Cops are the real heroes, law enforcement are the real heroes." When the cops arrived, a chase ensued, during which Rahami had to be shot "multiple times." Once arrested, he was taken to a hospital to receive surgery for the bullet wounds, and he has since been charged with, according to CNN, "five counts of attempted murder of a law enforcement officer" as well as "second-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and second-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose." Although Rahami was arrested, law enforcement officers are still investigating whether or not other people were collaborating with the culprit to perform the terrorist act.

Since the tragic Twin Tower incident, the American people have been deeply fearful of terrorists and their detrimental actions. The recent bombing in New Jersey, while not killing anyone, did injure 29 people and, moreover, heightened the fear of terrorism in the tri-state area. The incident may be over, and the culprit may have been arrested, but the residents are still left with a sense of unease upon facing the possibility of another terrorist attack in the future.

Policing the Nation 2016

John Mari

A man pays tribute to Dallas police after a fatal shooting on July 7th, 2016 in Dallas, Texas. Five officers were killed while protecting a group of peaceful "Black Lives Matter" protesters.

Baton Rouge, Ferguson, New York City, Charleston, Baltimore, Los Angeles, Charlotte, Milwaukee. Police make mistakes in stressful situations. In a matter of seconds, they must determine whether or not they must use force to apprehend a suspect or to protect themselves from a suspect with a gun. They need to be able to determine when the use of force is warranted. There are some groups of police that are prejudiced, and use that prejudice in making split-second decisions that can cause bodily harm or death to another person. However there are others put in life or death situations who must act on instinct.

In all fairness, we Americans have to put ourselves in their positions, and ask ourselves what we would do if someone was pointing a gun at us, ready to shoot. You must make a choice as to whether or not to put your life, or the lives of others, in jeopardy. We must remember that the police officers are people too, and they make mistakes. When you are placed under such pressure, split-second choices can lead to either extreme success, or extreme consequences. In recent history, relationships have been severely tried between officers and the communities they patrol.

Just view an example of a law enforcement/community relationship that has been severed quite close to home: New York City. The police-involved shooting of an un-armed black man, Eric Garner, on July 17th, 2014, and the double murder of NYPD Officers Wenjian Liu and Rafael Ramos on December 20th of that same year caused the rift between communities and police to grow dangerously immense. Communities that have been stricken with the tragic loss of family members due to such shootings in New York and around the country are demanding answers from police, as well as local governments. However, other families, such as the loved ones of the five police officers struck down while protecting peaceful protesters in Dallas, Texas on July 7, 2016, have experienced similar grief and horror at reckless actions of lone gunmen. These instances make many Americans wonder if the police, the glue that holds civilization together in many large cities, will prevail, providing law and order for all citizens alike. Other groups of Americans have publicly retaliated towards the police, such as with the Black Lives Matter Movement, most recently with riots and violent pro-
tests against police in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 13, 2016.

The differentiating viewpoints and opinions of all Americans have contributed greatly to the demise of police relations with their cities in the United States. All Americans must realize that we are one nation that shares the common goals of success, freedom, and justice. We all strive for the same outcome of success and the true American dream. All citizens of our great nation must focus on mending the relationship between police and communities and hope for a future that contains a safe atmosphere for the next generation, and each generation to come.

A gas station burned to the ground after an evening of raging protests fueled by the tensions between protesters and police in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 13th, 2016.

Climate change (continued from page 2)

years have contributed to global warming.

Climate change has the potential to wreak catastrophe on modern civilization. We have already observed some effects of climate change: Ice and glaciers are melting as we speak, contributing to a rise in sea level, which could cause major flooding and present huge issues to coastal communities, including Long Island. Civilization is also in danger because our food supply is being threatened. Many crops that we depend on are threatened by a changing climate. Humans are not the only species threatened by a warmer climate. According to the Environmental Defense Fund, Arctic animals are suffering as the ice they need to survive is disappearing and habitats and ecosystems are being disturbed by the more intense weather and heat.

Governments the world over are trying to reach agreements to prevent or reduce the speed and intensity of climate change. The Paris Agreement, for example, forces countries around the world to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Time Magazine calls it “the most comprehensive international agreement ever to combat man-made climate change.” As of October 5, 2016, over 190 countries have signed the agreement, the world’s top three emitters (China, the United States, and India) among them. The Paris Agreement states that the countries that have signed must take actions to decrease their greenhouse gas emissions. How can this be done? These countries must find new ways to produce energy other than fossil fuels, which is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Governments are also encouraged to spend money on adapting to the effects of climate change.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers ways for people to reduce their “carbon footprint” or carbon dioxide emissions in their household. According to the EPA, a household with four people in Miller Place could reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 134 pounds a year if they wash two of their weekly loads of laundry in cold water. Once can also change lightbulbs and appliances to more energy efficient models. As far as transportation goes, drive less. One can ride a bicycle, organize a carpool, or use mass transportation such as trains or buses. Less cars on the road not only means less traffic, but it reduces the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from transportation. Another way to reduce one’s “carbon footprint” is recycling. A household of four people that does not recycle at all emits about 2,766 pounds a year of carbon dioxide from waste alone.

Climate change is an issue for all of us. It is our future, our children’s future, and their children’s future. It is important that we do all that we can to adapt to these changes or prevent them from happening so a disaster doesn’t fall into the lap of the next generation.
This season on *Grey’s Anatomy*, fans will get the answers they have yearned for since the end of Season 12, when many events occurred simultaneously, ultimately leaving a cliffhanger for fans worldwide. Since then, everyone has been wondering how Season 13 would continue with the usual suspense. At the end of Season 12, fans watched a wedding almost be called off, a doctor beat another doctor in a mistake “Wrong Place Wrong Time” moment, and one of the pregnant doctors almost died during a poorly equipped last resort home C-section when the baby became distressed. The conclusion to all this suspense and so much more has been promised by *Grey’s Anatomy* T.V. producers, with Season 13 picking up exactly where the last scene left off.

On September 22\(^{nd}\), 2016 at 8:00 p.m. on ABC network, *Grey’s Anatomy*’s Season 13 earned the privilege of being called one of the longest shows running. All of this and so much more is happening, but in order to avoid spoilers, viewers and those newly interested will have to continue (or start) watching the series Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. on ABC network.

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**The World’s Most Famous Doctors are Back**

Brianna Luise

On September 22\(^{nd}\), 2016 at 8:00 p.m. on ABC network, *Grey’s Anatomy*’s Season 13 earned the privilege of being called one of the longest shows running. All of this and so much more is happening, but in order to avoid spoilers, viewers and those newly interested will have to continue (or start) watching the series Thursday nights at 8:00 p.m. on ABC network.

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Julia Rodda

**The End of “Bradgelina”**

Last month, the world received the shocking news that, after over a decade of being together, two years of marriage, and six children, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, also known as “Bradgelina”, have called it quits. The news comes as a shock to many fans, who watched the pair develop their relationship over the past 12 years.

The two met while filming the 2004 hit movie *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. They got together shortly after the movie’s release once Brad Pitt separated form his then wife, Jennifer Anniston. The pair grew closer and eventually started to develop a family of their own. Angelina already had two adoptive sons, Zahara and Maddox, whom Brad eventually adopted as his own. Soon after, in 2005, they welcomed their first biological child, their daughter Shiloh. A year later the couple adopted another son, Pax. Then, last but not least, in 2007, they had their twins, Knox and Vivienne. The couple insisted on not getting married until everyone in the United States was able to do so, but Brad popped the question in 2012. “It is a promise for the future and their kids are very happy,” a rep told E News. They finally tied the knot in August 2014, during a secret ceremony featuring all six children.

Now, just a month after their two year wedding anniversary, Angelina Jolie filed for divorce citing irreconcilable differences. Jolie requested physical custody of their children, advocating Pitt get visitation rights. Brad Pitt confirmed the separation with a statement to *People*s saying, “I am very saddened by this, but what matters most now is the well-being of our kids. I kindly ask the press to give them the space they deserve during this challenging time,” referring to his children and Angelina. Many questions have been circling following the chain of events, regarding the custody of their kids. As of recently, both parents will be participating in individual counseling. Brad’s visits with the kids will be with a therapist, although supervision and monitoring is not required. Considering there is no permanent legal or physical custody arrangement, this plan will be temporary until October 20\(^{th}\).

Brad and Angelina have come a long way; they’ve had their ups and downs, and due to recent events, now have a rocky road ahead of them. Some people might even say it’s the end of an era.
Sully:

Picture this: You’re on a plane heading to Charlotte, North Carolina when you hear “Brace, brace, brace, heads down, stay down!” Unfortunately, this was a reality for 155 people on January 15th, 2009 on board Flight 1549. Sully follows the moments before the immediate water landing, the investigation into what really happened on board Flight 1549 and how the media coverage and investigation affected the life of pilot Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger. Since then pilot Sullenberger has been called the “Hero of the Hudson.” The Internet Movie Database (IMDB) gave Sully 7.9/10 stars.

Deepwater Horizon:

On April 20th, 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, was an oil rig named Deepwater Horizon. Everything went wrong from the start; the team was 43 days behind schedule, in addition to suffering technical and operational breakdowns. The team of 126 people felt it necessary to run a pressure test, which checks for leaks in the pipe by causing pressure build up. The pressure test failed multiple times. But when no mud came up through the pipe and onto the rig, the British Petroleum (BP) company decided to move forward anyway and told workers to start drilling. After an uncontrollable blowout, 11 people were killed and the rig went up in flames, eventually sinking 36 hours later, and spilling oil for 87 days. The Deepwater Horizon is the worst oil spill in U.S. history. The IMDB gave Deepwater Horizon 7.5/10 stars.

Snowden:

A hero or a traitor? Edward Snowden served in the U.S. Army prior to 9/11, a former employee of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and former contractor for the US government. In 2013 he released to the public shocking illegal surveillance programs used by the National Security Agency (NSA) to spy on not just overseas allies but citizens of the United States. Snowden is, still to this day, protected in Russia. The IMDB gave Snowden 7.4/10 stars.

Others You May Enjoy:

- Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
- Moana
- Hacksaw Ridge
- Dr. Strange
- Queen of Katwe
- Trolls
- Inferno
What do you get when you take a Texas beauty pageant, an obsession with Dolly Parton, a hot guy and two best friends? You get the awesome experience of the book, *Dumplin*!

This is one of my favorite reads of the past few months. The main character, Willow Dean, is a strong, passionate, fierce female protagonist. She knows what she is, she is fat. Like she says on page 9, “But that’s me. I’m fat. It’s not a cuss word. It’s not an insult. At least it’s not when I say it. So I always figure why not get it out of the way.” She knows what she isn’t - she isn’t what her mother wishes her to be. She owns her body and her personality and is a Southern girl, through and through. Willow Dean and her best friend Ellen have been close forever and bonded over their shared love of Dolly Parton. They are good friends, but in relationships, there is bound to be tension, particularly in high school. The author does such a terrific job of characterizing this tension and how it affects the girls.

Willow Dean’s mother, a former pageant beauty queen winner, and current chairperson of the beauty pageant, is constantly reminding Willow about her body weight and encouraging her to diet. This relationship is another source of tension in Willow’s life. Meanwhile, Willow has begun a relationship with her very handsome and steamy coworker, Bo. Yes, this relationship is also a source of tension as Willow feels insecure around Bo in regards to her body.

The drama picks up when Willow Dean, while going through her recently deceased Aunt Lucy’s belongings decides to enter the beauty pageant. She becomes a hero, of sorts, to some of the girls in her school who don’t fit the typical beauty pageant mold and they decide to enter too. Willow Dean didn’t enter to be a rebel, she just entered because she believed it was something her Aunt Lucy never got to do.

The author of this book gives the reader characters who are both realistic (in their flaws) and relatable (in their flaws). The story will make you laugh, cry, yell and think!
The Wonderous and Strange Adventures of Spaghetti Man

Who am I? You sure you wanna know? Wait, you didn't even ask. I'll still tell you.

This story is about a girl. That girl... Well, it really isn't. But she's still pretty.

STOP NARRAT

I wish I could say that was me right next to her. Wait, that IS me.

If somebody tells you I was an average guy, somebody was right.

We were on a field trip to a science laboratory that specialized in mutagens.

Stop. There are 5 normal spaghetti molecules.

That's right. I ate one of them. I couldn't help myself. It just looked so good.

You probably think crazy, but crazy when you divide a joke, I became so elite.

BEEP BEEP

I accidentally blew up the lab.
I live with my aunt who buys me very much. At least I think she does. I couldn't wait to tell her.

Aunt Jamie, guess what.

What?

I blew up a lob!

I got grounded for a week.

But then I realized if I could use my power to blow up a lob, imagine how I could save people.

At a bunk...

GIMME THE MONEY!

THWIP

So I decided to make a costume and fight crime.

I know what you're thinking, and I'm not Spiderman. I wouldn't be in a newspaper comic if I was. I became SPAGHETTI MAN.

Yes that is worse than One Punch Man!
Opinions.

Wait... We Have a School Newspaper?

Brianne Ledda

Attending the Robert W. Greene Summer Institute for High School Journalists at Stony Brook University confirmed what I had already suspected—our high school newspaper, here at Miller Place, is years behind other schools. In order to keep up, it is imperative that we expand onto social media. The lack of a physical copy in circulation has dramatically affected student interest in the K.R.O.B. The utilization of more convenient, more savvy platforms would attract students and could drastically bump up viewerhip.

I propose establishing two Instagram accounts: one, humansofmillerplace, which will focus on individual students, and two, an account that focuses on giving the most recent updates regarding the high school, including promotion of school events. The humansofmillerplace account would be based on a larger, popular journalistic organization with a heavy presence on social media known as humansofnewyork. Shoreham-Wading River High School and the Stony Brook School are two schools that have also created a spinoff of this idea, humansofswr and humansofsbs, respectively. Several other high schools, including Ward Melville High School (thewmkscope), have created Instagram accounts for the other aforementioned purpose. To expand onto Twitter or Facebook would not be difficult, as the posts would remain the same or at least similar as they are adapted to each site’s respective format.

Operation of said accounts would be run entirely by the newspaper advisor and the current editor-in-chief. Password access would be restricted to these two and school administration if need be. All posts would be approved by both the editor and the advisor (as well as any necessary administrative faculty members) before they would be posted. Regarding negative comments that may crop up, Facebook and Instagram both recently released features that allow users to establish filters that hide inappropriate remarks, and Twitter as well has recently released a “quality filter”.

With changing times comes changing interests. An obscure link on the school website can no longer cut it for the K.R.O.B. Too high a percentage of students are unaware that there is a school paper; many, such as Miller Place alumnus Kanen Nelson, graduate in complete ignorance of its existence.

This expansion would cost the school nothing. With free advertisements, it could even create an increase in revenue at school events. Worry about bullying is respectable, but with the release of said filters, measures can be taken - negative or inappropriate comments would not be tolerated.

IF OTHER SCHOOLS CAN PULL IT OFF, WHY CAN'T WE?

The Changes in Gym Class

Carolelynn Marino

Gym classes are now co-education, grades 9 through 12, meaning classes are mixed with girls and boys from every grade. Every gym class has different blocks you can choose from, but the sports in each block differ from class to class. They offer tennis, flag football, volleyball, dance, team handball, soccer, weight room, and more.

In my gym class, there were three different blocks you could enroll in. In the end, the first block was all boys, the second block was a mix of both boys and girls, and the third block was only girls. For the most part, girls and boys are separated. As a girl, I disliked the idea of having a mixed class because boys tend to be much more competitive and play rougher, and that might prevent some girls from wanting to participate.

However, having the different blocks is new and offers more. For example, up until this year, dance was only offered to juniors and seniors, and a few of the sports they are offering this year were not in the curriculum last year.

Although this is mostly beneficial, in my opinion it should be split into a class with freshmen and sophomores and another class with juniors and seniors, so the younger kids do not feel over dominated and intimidated.
Miller Place High School Mock Election

~ A special thanks to our Social Studies Department for helping distribute ballots to students and for better educating them about modern politics! ~
October 11th is, as many know, National Coming Out day. It is necessary to bring understanding to ignorance, helping to quell intolerance and prejudice in our great nation.

National Coming Out day was founded in 1988 as an effort to ease ‘coming out’ about your sexuality to family and friends. The foundational belief behind the day’s creation was that “homophobia thrives in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance, and that once people know that they have loved ones who are lesbian or gay, they are far less likely to maintain homophobic views”. National Coming Out day is now celebrated in schools and universities nationwide, spreading a message of acceptance and love.

Over the past several years, acceptance has been a more prevalent theme in our country, as demonstrated perfectly by the 2015 federal court case Obergefell v. Hodges in which the Supreme Court declared that state bans on same-sex marriage licenses were unconstitutional. A roar of happy marriages were celebrated that day across the nation, some a long time coming. In 2012, the Colorado Girl Scouts organization said publicly that it welcomes any child who [was] born male but [identifies] as a girl and have a family that presents her as a girl.” It seems as we move through each decade, bigotry becomes less and less powerful, with tolerance and acceptance more and more common in the country.

However, not everything is perfect. There are still bigots and homophobes who fight tooth and nail in the most disreputable ways. Orlando, June 12th 2016. 49 people killed and 53 wounded in the gay nightclub Pulse. They won’t go home to their families ever again. Jazz Alford, shot dead in her hotel room in Birmingham, Alabama, September 23rd 2016. She won’t go home to her sister ever again. Rae’Lynn Thomas, brutally beaten to death and shot by her mother’s ex-boyfriend, August 12th 2016. She won’t go home to her mother ever again. These are only a few examples of the brutal violence perpetrated against the LGBT community. The constant violence and fear makes National Coming Out day so much more important than some are aware.

In schools across the nation, rainbow ribbons representing the LGBT flag were handed out and worn by supportive classmates, teacher, faculty and staff. It is a day set to encourage men and women to finally ‘come out’ to friends and family, to not be fearful for their lives. Despite all the evil acts, terrorist, discriminatory, and homophobic in nature, people cannot dictate how one lives their life. As a nation, we need to display a united front against homophobia, prejudice and bigotry.

The world in which we live is not always a kind one, nor a gentle one. It can be twisted and cruel, yet we as a nation shouldn’t wear rose-colored glasses nor horse blinders, averting our eyes from the injustice amongst us. We need to help flourish the cape of acceptance and safety for generations to come, and we can continue doing just that by supporting days such as National Coming Out day.
I once knew an actress, 
whom if I saw now I would gladly strangle.

I once knew another girl, 
whom if I passed her on the street, 
wouldn’t recognize me.

I once knew an outcast, 
who knows me now as a passing nightmare, 
a trauma in her life that she would willingly forget, or 
has possibly already forgotten.

I once knew a rider, 
whom I saw again, 
and she had apparently forgotten everything she’d 
ever given me: 
affection, friendship, her time, bits of her youth…

If I concentrate, I can still feel the ghost of her then- 
tiny arms around my then-tiny shoulders…

Only a little.

I once knew a girl, who 
Accepted me, 
for once, accepted me, 
Blindly
Blissfully unaware of who I was

The monster I hoped to shed with the peeler that is 
Maturity,

and I lost her to the digits, 
some of which were mine own.

What do all of these girls have in common? 
They were all my friends at one point.

That’s the saddest thing.

Because I can still feel all of their friendship jewelry
Suffocating me
Holding me back like chains from reinventing
Rehabilitating
Myself…

Even when I’m not touching them.

I finally broke them, 
Recently,
But I still have them.

For I don’t remember whose was whose 
And some I wish to forget, 
Let go of,
And with others…

I feel the need to wrap even tighter around me.

I don’t wear friendship jewelry. 
It wears me.

Down.
Mr. Mancini, Miller Place High School’s newest math teacher, loves softball and country music. But more importantly, he loves to teach. He earned his Mathematics degree at Fairleigh Dickinson University, and chose to enter education in an effort to emulate the positive impact his own teachers had on him as a student; his strongest memories from high school are of the great times he had with friends and teachers. His favorite part of his job is the interaction with his students; he loves getting to know them, and feels it’s “rewarding and satisfying to watch students grow and succeed over the course of a school year.” In addition to teaching math, Mr. Mancini also works as the assistant coach for both Varsity Football and Baseball, and is the co-advisor for Athletes Helping Athletes.

Ms. Tufaro, a well-known figure in the school for some years now, has been recently promoted to Dean of Students, beginning this September. The advisor to the National Honor Society, she’s a busy woman who loves her job. “I love working with children. I hope I can inspire students and teach them important life lessons that will help them succeed beyond term papers and tests,” she said. She hopes that her advice helps steer the lives of students who ask for it in the right direction. Reflecting back on her own high school experience, she remembers packed out basketball games and lots of school spirit. Ms. Tufaro earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration Management from the New York Institute of Technology, and she runs in her free time.

Ms. McKenna, the high school’s other new math teacher, spent two of her college years at Quinnipiac University before transferring to St. Joseph’s College, majoring in Mathematics and Secondary Education. This job represents the fulfillment of a life-long dream of hers - she has wanted to be a teacher since she was a little girl. With math being her favorite subject in school, naturally she became a math teacher, and is proud to say that she is the current Mathletes coach at the Miller Place High School. She loves seeing her students’ success. Her fondest high school memories include Friday night football games under the floodlights, and outside of work, she enjoys running, shopping and spending time with her husband and family.
The last but certainly not the least addition to the staff of Miller Place is Ms. Aiello, an ENL (English as a New Language) teacher. She attended Cornell University, obtaining an undergraduate degree in Human Development, before attending Hofstra, and obtaining a graduate degree in Elementary Education and TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages). She has always wanted to help people and she enjoys learning about new cultures - she decided the best way she could encompass both passions was by becoming an ENL teacher, and help students who are learning English. She loves her job. Working with high school students opens up class discussions to more interesting topics, and she has found that students have developed their own, distinct personalities at this age. When asked about her own high school experience, she said “I remember feeling a little lost because I went to a huge high school, but at the same time it was interesting constantly meeting new people. I like that Miller Place has a small community where the students all know each other.” Ms. Aiello takes pleasure in volunteering at various events in both the school and community in her free time, in addition to traveling, going for walks and “just exploring the world around her.”

Miller Place High School would like to welcome its newest art teacher and advisor to the Art Club, Ms. Stasi, who splits her time between the high school and the middle school. When asked why she chose to enter education, she said that she has always had a passion for art, even in high school, which also brings back memories of friends and cheerleading. She described her eureka moment, saying that after spending some time working in graphic design, she moved to Italy for a summer. While in an art gallery with her friends, she found herself telling her friends about the works they were viewing. In that moment she knew, Ms. Stasi said, adding, “I knew I had to follow my passion and teach!” She attended both Hunter College and Farmingdale College to get a degree in Visual Communications (Graphic Design), before attending Adelphi University for a degree in Art Education. Her favorite part of her job is “watching students grow and explore as artists, “ and seeing their “A-HA moments.” Outside of school, she enjoys gardening, chickens, art and traveling.

“You can’t spell SMART without ART.”
“Creativity is intelligence having fun.”

“A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.”
Disabilities are not unique to humans, but can also occur in animals. According to research done by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), several studies and tests have been done to prove that humans are not the only species to suffer from mental and stress disorders. Man’s best friend is another species that can exhibit such disorders. The most common disorder among our furry friends is Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), but when referring to animals scientists refer to it as Compulsive Disorder (CD).

When dealing with OCD one may notice that the person or dog will perform a pattern of repetitive behaviors. Each behavior is categorized under the appropriate type. For example dogs who exhibit behaviors such as pacing, circling, tail chasing, jumping in place, chasing light reflections, and freezing are exhibiting locomotory behaviors. Some dogs will exhibit oral behaviors such as self-licking, foot chewing, air or nose licking, toy sucking or chewing, flank sucking, scratching, and snapping at the air. Other dogs will excessively bark at predators who aren’t there. For some dogs OCD is triggered by stress. They will find a way to relieve that stress through repetitive behaviors. For example, holding the toy in their mouths actually reduces the neurotransmitters involved with the stressful event, making dogs more likely to perform the behavior again when they are stressed, leading to CD. Just as a young child cuddles with their toys at night to protect them from the “monsters,” a dog will use its toy as a source of comfort.

An example of a dog with CD is this writer’s Golden Retriever. His family was outside in the front yard with a couple of neighbors and it was noticed that he was tracking, or searching for other animals. However he was not tracking as a normal dog would; after approximately twenty minutes, a pattern became noticeable. The dog would sniff along the walkway and then travel around the bend. Then he would come back around the bend and then sniff along the walkway again. He repeated this routine for about an hour and a half.

If you think your dog displays any of the symptoms mentioned earlier, an appointment with your veterinarian is recommended.

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Kirsten Taylor

I went to Comic Con for the second time on a Sunday this year and it just so happened to be the same time that Hurricane Matthew was striking other parts of the country—so it was pouring. But that didn’t dampen the mood of anyone attending the convention (only our costumes). As soon as we got into the Javits Center, we set to work putting away soaking wet umbrellas and putting on the final touches to our cosplays. The atmosphere felt the same but different this year. It was the same building, the same type of crowd and the same time of year. But my excitement was escalated. This year I wouldn’t be overwhelmed by the enormity of the con, but could enjoy the experience, and take mental notes to write this article.

The highlight of the day for me was the pictures people took with me, and the panel I went to, Gravity Falls: Behind Journal 3, which included some of the writers and artists for Disney’s cartoon Gravity Falls. If you ever do get the chance to go to New York Comic Con, and you’re even the tiniest bit a nerd, trust me, it’s worth it.

If you’re into art, go to Artist Alley! It’s a section of the con where artists (famous or otherwise) will set up tables and sell their artwork. You can even ask them to critique your work if they’re willing, or you can just talk to them (and it doesn’t have to be for an hour straight, which I did with Christopher Jones—an artist for Young Justice. All of the artists are really nice and it’s a great experience for anyone interested in art.

Whether you’re a geek, an artist, a writer, or just a supportive friend or family member, Comic Con is a great experience for anyone who wants to try something new and experience something great.

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It felt like a trip around the world as the four biomes (freshmen-desert, sophomores-artic, juniors-rainforest and seniors-ocean) of the world themed floats made their way toward the MPHS football field at the start of the homecoming game on October 1st. The days leading up to homecoming day were full of spirit. Each grade participated in daily dress themes, hallway decorating, and overall class spirit. Pride for the school and community were displayed through massive planning to make the week and day a success. The cheerleading squad had no trouble keeping the crowd pumped, even as threatening clouds gave way to rain. The pep band entertained the crowd and the crowd homecoming king and queen, Steven Gaudio and Imani Sharif, received a thunderous round of applause from their adoring fans. The student body awaited in anticipation for the announcement on the homecoming winning classes when they returned on Monday. The sophomore class finished fourth, with the juniors coming in third. The freshmen were second, with the seniors taking away the first-place prize and bragging rights for 2016-2017. Although the Panthers didn’t come out on the winning side of a very tight game, losing 29-25 against Babylon, it was a victory for the community!
**SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

Shannon Delurey

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**ARIANNA ESPOSITO**

Arianna is a two star athlete at Miller Place High School. Her older sister inspired her to start lacrosse in fourth grade. Her favorite part about the sport is the competition and the hard work that pays off during the games. She has been very successful, as a county champion on the Varsity Field Hockey team, and also making playoff history with the Varsity Lacrosse team. She will be playing lacrosse in college fairly close to home at Hofstra University. She chose Hofstra because it is close to home with a great lacrosse program. She plans on working to stand out on the field, and on majoring in education. She will always remember playing sports with her friends at MPHS. Moving forward from high school she feels she’s most prepared in English, which has helped her to grow as a student. Arianna looks up most to her coaches as athletic role models, they have pushed her throughout her career to reach her ultimate potential.

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**KEVIN GERSBECK**

Kevin is a dual athlete who has been very successful in his high school career. Kevin has been an integral part in both the Varsity Football as well as the Varsity Lacrosse teams. He will continue his lacrosse career at Lehigh University. He chose Lehigh because of its outstanding academics and because he felt comfortable there. He plans on majoring in Finance or another area of Business. Although he’s excited for the future, he will never forget the great times he had in high school on the field and with friends/teammates. Moving forward from high school, he feels he will be most prepared for his math and social studies classes. Kevin started lacrosse in fourth grade, inspired by his dad, who played lacrosse as well. Kevin’s love for the game of lacrosse came from the competition, being with friends, and wanting to win. One of his athletic role models is Jordan Wolfe, a professional lacrosse player, because even though he isn’t the biggest guy, he still is constantly giving his all. Kevin will enjoy his last year putting on the Panthers uniform in both the fall and spring.

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“Always stand out in a positive way”

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“Enjoy your sport and it will never seem like work”