In Memory of Mr. Frayne

by: Lauren Stewart

On Friday, April 14th, Thomas Frayne, the assistant principal at Kenwood Academy High School, passed away in his sleep. Frayne, 66, was in Washington D.C. visiting his sister, and according to the D.C. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner he died of natural causes.

Frayne became the assistant principal at Kenwood in 2012. He also taught algebra to remain close with the students. He was respected and well liked by his colleagues. As a beloved member of the Kenwood community, his death has had a huge impact on the school.

“I’d never spoken to him before this year, but I remember he helped us prepare for the SAT and gave us calculators on test day,” said junior Shelbi Townsend. “I really appreciated that.”

Mr. Frayne taught at Roosevelt High School, Phillips and Kenwood academies during his 20 year career. He was also a priest at St. James Catholic Church until 2002. He is also remembered as an outspoken, but kind hearted, community advocate.

Dr. Gregory Jones, principal at Kenwood Academy High School, sent out a letter to students and parents that the school will be providing grief counseling services for students who feel deeply impacted by Frayne's death.

“I’ve never heard anyone say anything bad about him,” Jones wrote. “He was a good friend. He had a good relationship with the students.”

Mr. Frayne's family is asking for donations to be made to Chicago House, the United Negro Fund or the Kenwood Academy choir and band.

Black History Month Assembly:
We Wear the Mask

by: Tanaya Luckett

Kenwood Academy’s African American History class hosted a Black history assembly on February 27th. The first act, entitled “We Wear the Mask,” talked about citizens being oblivious to the mistreatment African Americans. There were nine scenes performed by students of Ms. Bedford and Ms. Brady.

“The Black History Month assembly was an extremely enjoyable experience for me because I got to see first hand how difficult it was to pull off,” said Billy McCaskill, a senior at Kenwood. “I accomplished something and learned more about myself during the production of the play.” McCaskill said he also felt very relieved after the assembly was finished. The students worked very hard, practicing both before school and after school, but they are ready to get back in the classroom.

McCaskill added, “I also learned a lot about myself, and realized that I have a much more prominent voice in my school than I initially realized. I now know that I should be more active in order to be successful. I consider myself extremely lucky to have been apart of the production. I built relationships with people who I didn’t know previously, and I’m happy for that.”

Some students admitted that participating in this year’s play was a bit out of their comfort zones.

“The first part of the play was difficult because I was in Ms. Brady’s class instead of Ms. Bedford’s, and my class was a little behind in schedule,” said Naimah Jackson, a senior that took part in the play. “I wished we had more time to practice. I’m glad it’s over, even though I had a lot of fun.”

Despite encountering a few hiccups along the way, it seems the Black history assembly was a real success.
Fire and Desire
by: Kennedi Jeannine Glover

Kenwood Academy hosted its annual Blackout Dance on April 22nd from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at The Lacuna Loft.

This dance usually takes place every school year on a Friday in March, but this year the dance will take place on a Saturday. There is always a theme and this year’s theme is "Fire and Desire." Blackout gives students a chance to dress up and have fun with their peers one last time before the school year is over. There is always a big fuss leading up to the dance about students not attending, but there is always a great turnout. Depending on the venue, each student is allowed to bring two guests. By allowing students to bring guest, students from different schools have a chance to experience how much fun Kenwood students have, and how welcoming the students can be. Every year Kenwood sells out of tickets due to high demand from non-students.

Friday April 22nd, the day of the dance, Kenwood is going to be full of preparation for the dance. There will be music playing over the intercom, snacks passed out on the first floor, and much more. Most students try to use this Friday as a day off, but there is a catch, in order to attend the dance you must attend all of their classes that day.

"Kenwood’s Blackout dance is always a great turnout," said Sydney Jones, a junior at Kenwood Academy. "I go every year and I cannot wait to go this year, especially since the dance was pushed back and now I have more time to find what I want to wear."

Now that the dance is later in the month most students said that it is more convenient and that it will be easier for them to go.

“I come as a guest every year and I always enjoy myself," said Lauryn Liberty, a student from DuSable High School. "I wish my school did something like this. I love Kenwood."

However, there are typically more girls than boys that attend the dance and this prevents some boys from going.

"I’ve gone to the dance two years in a row and I really enjoyed myself but there were more girls than guys." said Calvin Hill.

This year the dance should be a very good turnout because it is being promoted early and a large number of seniors plan on attending the dance.

Overall, the Blackout dance has been a great experience every year for most Kenwood students. Different themes make the dance more exciting each year. It looks like this year will be no different.
Scholarship Wednesdays
by: Kennedi Glover

Senior students all over the country are experiencing the anxiety and pressure of crunch time. A major concern among Kenwood students is how senior students will pay for college. Because of this, a member of Kenwood’s staff, Ms. Julie Stanton has created “Scholarship Wednesdays.” Scholarship Wednesdays gives students the opportunity to apply for scholarships to help pay for college.

This program, which started a few months ago, allows students to go to the college lab before school, on their lunch period, or after school to see what scholarships are available for them. There are scholarships from fraternities, sororities, and for unique talents like tap dancing. There are also alumni who come help Kenwood students write scholarship essays. Most Kenwood students find these workshops very helpful because they get the help they do not get at home. This has also helped raise the attendance rates because it brings kids to school earlier since they are already there working on scholarships.

“I think these workshops are very helpful, especially the essay writing because although I am only a junior, it helps me get head start on how prepared I need to be for senior year,” said Sydney Jones, a junior at Kenwood.

Although the scholarships are mainly for seniors, many other juniors agreed with Jones that the essay writing has been very helpful. “I usually go every week to see what scholarships are available for me to apply to,” said Zakiya Collier, ranked No. 3 in the senior class. “I usually do the scholarships that do not take as long to complete. By doing those I get the chance to fill out as many as many scholarship applications as possible.”

All in all, Scholarship Wednesdays are very helpful at Kenwood Academy and can benefit just about every student.

Teacher Appreciation
by: Taylor El

National Teacher Day is a day for honoring teachers and recognizing the lasting contributions they make to our lives. This year, National Teacher’s Day is May 9. With this day quickly approaching, it would be an honor to dedicate an article to them.

Political and educational leaders first began discussions for a day to honor teachers in 1944. In 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt lobbied to persuade the 81st Congress to declare National Teacher’s Day. In 1980, Congress declared National Teacher Day, to celebrate all educators nationwide.

To celebrate National Teacher’s Day, which has since become National Teacher’s Week, educators are given gifts from students and offered free and reduced-priced food at stores and restaurants. They get pats on the back and are celebrated for being real life superheroes.

“National Teacher’s Day should be a day for everyone to pause, and say thank you to teachers, mentors, coaches, counselors and anyone and everyone who has made a positive impact in our lives,” said Ms. Kenya Hayes, a Kenwood teacher.

Many agree teachers play a critical role in educating and shaping children: the future leaders of the country.

“Many students agree that teachers play a critical role in educating and shaping children: the future leaders of the country.”

“A teacher’s smile and motivational words are extremely encouraging to young minds,” said Hayes. “Teachers hold so much unappreciated power.

Many students agree that teachers play a critical role in educating and shaping children: the future leaders of the country.

“I am glad that my teachers went to school to acquire their knowledge so they can pass it on to us. And we can do the same for the next students,” said Demi White, a junior at Kenwood Academy.

Teachers have the power to make a person think and aspire to become and desire to do more. All of us have encountered teachers who have made a difference and they should be celebrated.
The Price of Being Women

We believe that the excessive luxury taxation of women's hygiene products, especially when compared to the pricing of men's products only supports the societal construct of inequality for women.

It doesn't make sense for women to be charged so much for products that are actually a necessity. Feminine sanitary products such as pads and tampons cost more than any hygiene product geared towards men, and this is especially unfair considering the pending wage gap between genders.

We have realized that the excessive luxury taxation cost doesn't stop with feminine sanitary products. Other products such as deodorant, lotion, razors, soap, shampoo, etc., are taxed at a higher percentage than those labeled for men. However, there seems to be no just reasoning considering that both men and women use the products to adhere to basic hygiene.

Though some states have attempted to end the tax on feminine products that are an obvious necessity, the majority of bills needed to make this happen have been vetoed. Many advocates have "decried the tax as an unfair burden on women since tampons cannot be considered a luxury."

Tampons, and other similar products are completely tax-exempt in only four out of the 50 states in the United States because they are still considered "tangible personal property" and are known as luxury items; in 2016, 15 other states introduced legislation to eliminate the tampon tax completely.

Some people may claim that feminine sanitary products cost more when compared to men's products because hygiene care is a more intricate process for women, and more is required to take care of women in general, but it doesn't make sense to add luxury taxes to any product that is necessary in everyday life.

Feminine products are not luxuries, they are crucial in the care process for women. This being said, the idea that women are charged more than men for hygiene products only supports oppression towards women, and makes it harder for them to succeed economically in a society that already considers them to be the inferior gender.

The History of Women's Rights in Chicago

by: Lauren Stewart

On January 21, just one day after the election of Donald Trump, women all over the world marched in solidarity. The city of the Chicago unexpectedly received a huge turnout. Over 250,000 people gathered downtown on Columbus Boulevard, but a mere 22,000 was all that was expected. This will go down as the second largest protest in Chicago history. However, the history of women's rights in Chicago runs deeper than just this singular incident.

A century ago, Chicago was home to one of the most robust local women's suffrage movements. The first women's organization to raise the issue of suffrage was the Chicago Women's Trade Union League, led by American physician Rachelle Yarros, who demanded birth control information as an unalienable right for all women. In 1915, Yarros and the organization eventually convinced the Chicago Women's Club to organize a birth control committee. In 1923, the committee tried to set up a clinic in Chicago where poor women could receive such information, however the Chicago Health Department refused to issue the requisite license. The committee moved to promoting birth control centers that functioned inside doctors' offices, and founded the Illinois Birth Control League to do so. This eventually blossomed into Planned Parenthood.

Although white Chicago and Cook County women were at the forefront of much of the early movement, the feminist movement slightly expanded across racial bounds. The most notable example of this for black women specifically was the creation of a Chicago chapter of The National Black Feminist Organization (now The National Black Feminist Alliance) in the 1960s. This was one of the largest conscious raising groups for black women in the city at the time.

Another early element of the feminist movement in Chicago was the birth control movement. Feminists argued that the lack of access to affordable contraceptives discriminated against women. The Chicago Women's Trade Union League, led by American physician Rachelle Yarros, demanded birth control information as an unalienable right for all women. In 1915, Yarros and the organization eventually convinced the Chicago Women's Club to organize a birth control committee. In 1923, the committee tried to set up a clinic in Chicago where poor women could receive such information, however the Chicago Health Department refused to issue the requisite license. The committee moved to promoting birth control centers that functioned inside doctors' offices, and founded the Illinois Birth Control League to do so. This eventually blossomed into Planned Parenthood.

In 1967, feminists met in Chicago to organize chapters of the National Organization for Women, whose recently adopted Bill of Rights called for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, maternity rights in employment and Social Security benefits, equal job training opportunities, and women's right to control their reproductive capacities.

Moving into the 1970's, after many reproduction and sexual freedom feats had seemingly been won, the focus narrowed more on economic equality. Unlike many earlier in the century, the new feminist organizations emphasized gender equality in the workplace as well. The Coalition of Labor Union Women was formed in Chicago in 1974 to give union women access to leadership positions denied in the male-dominated union structure, to help union women overturn discriminatory insurance rates and pension benefit deductions, and to secure maternity leave. The organization Women Employed worked in Chicago during the 1970's and 80's to fight hiring and job discrimination for nonunion women.

Flash forward to present day and you can see that the women's liberation movement is still alive in the Windy City, even here within Kenwood Academy High School. Junior, Maxine Wint, is the co-organizer of the organization Youth For Black Lives, and was among a group of black high school girls who led a student march through downtown Chicago. The march garnered plenty of media attention, and it didn't stop there. Wint and others negotiated to have monthly meetings with Chicago Police Department superintendent Eddie Johnson, in efforts to improve police relations with the community. Wint and the other members of Youth for Black Lives were present at the Women's March, and to top it all off, Wint is receiving a 2017 Impact Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women.

So despite there being a plethora of problems still facing women in this city, and many others, all around the world, it's reassuring to know that the fight for women's rights hasn't died.
Trump's Insanity
by: Sloane Williams

Newly inaugurated president Donald Trump has made many executive decisions in the first three weeks of his presidency, and quite frankly, is taking advantage of his executive power as president. The immigration ban, aka the ‘Muslim’ ban swirling around social media is taking a toll on almost every Muslim in America. Most are believed to be terrorists just because of their religion, and this new order “effectively bans citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the U.S. for at least 90 days”, says Chris Sommerfeldt from NY Daily News.

Such an absurd ban has caused a lot of outrage across America, and crimes against Muslims have increased. This ban, originating from the prohibition of immigrants, has increased. This ban, originating from the prohibition of immigrants, has increased.

Hatred placed upon the Muslim community. Author and professor at DeVry University, Suzy Ismail, says “Islam and Muslims have been both vilified and simultaneously victimized. There seems to be two extreme reactions to the deed itself. One is sincere curiosity and interest that motivates education and the other is blind hatred and misunderstanding that leads to scapegoating and stereotyping.” This is one of the many instances of which Trump is just absolutely out of his mind.

A recent poll by Rasmussen Reports shows that “Fifty seven percent of likely voters support President Trump banning refugees from seven Muslim-majority nations from entering the U.S. Thirty-three percent opposed the travel ban”, while ten percent remain undecided. While many of his decisions and statements appear to be outrageous, you’d be surprised at how many people actually support his notions. Honestly, he is just a vile, disgusting, and cruel person. From his racial slurs, to insulting imitations, he never fails to surprise me with the continuation of disrespect.

Because of such statements, Trump has gained a lot of publicity, being good and bad. In nearly any interview found upon the Internet or seen on TV, he has yet to make an appearance without embarrassing himself. The amount of supporters he has blows my mind… but then again, what would you consider the face of America to be? On the other hand, a rally in New York City’s Times Square was held, and protesters filled three city blocks to express solidarity with Muslims. The protesters gathered to speak out against President Trump’s executive order of banning immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries. Signs were held saying messages such as “LOVE THY NEIGHBOR,” and “I am a Muslim too!”

“We’re using the Muslim community as a scapegoat. We are being mean to the people who are the victims of terrorism,” Simmons, a former friend of Trump’s, told the crowd. After Trump called for a ban on Muslims entering the U.S. in 2015, Simmons wrote an open letter, describing Trump as a “one-man wrecking ball willing to destroy our nation’s foundation of freedom.”

The Issue With The “Loving” Left: Why Do Minority Voters Put Their Trust In Democrats?
by: Lauren K. Stewart

Since President Donald Trump has taken office we’ve seen an array of protests and outrages for help from white liberals. However, the presence of these liberals was severely lacking at Black Lives Matter protests, they were silent about the dozens of black girls going missing in Washington D.C., and they were nowhere to be found in dealing with community violence that has been plaguing cities like Chicago. It seems that these “progressive” individuals can only spring into action when their livelihoods are in danger, and they expect everyone else to rush to their aid and ignore the fact that they’ve turned a blind eye to the mistreatment of others marginalized. So this raises the question, why do racial minorities continually believe that left wing liberals hold our best interests at heart?

The two major political parties that Americans can identify with, the “loving” left wing Democrats and the hard right wing Republicans. When most people of color view the right wing they are often faced with very real examples of racist rhetoric and policies. The Republican party has historically nurtured and cultivated hostility towards minorities for their own political gain, most notably with the “Southern Strategy.” This is a series of coded appeals and propaganda meant to court white, racist voters. It is attributed to Kevin Phillips, Richard Nixon’s strategist, but has it’s roots in practices that made way for things like poll tax and literacy tests, which were designed to keep poor blacks from voting.

This legacy has alienated millions of minority voters. The Democratic party was presented as a better alternative. In the 60’s, the introduction of figures like John F. and Jackie Kennedy; both young, attractive, “trendy” figures, helped them court young people. During that era Democrats gained the support of many African Americans with the elections of Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, two Democratic presidents that paid attention to civil rights. During the 1970’s, Republican president Richard Nixon’s Watergate scandal gave the Democrats a chance to capitalize and paint themselves as the virtuous party.

However, it’s not all sunshine and rainbows within the left. The only reason it is truly seen as the diverse party because the Republican’s are viewed as the worse party. All they have truly done for the last 50 years is use people of color for votes, while simultaneously holding them back. It was under a Democratic president that we witnessed the rise of mass incarceration rates among people of color. Bill Clinton signed the 1996 bill that emphasized welfare reform which gutted a safety net for underprivileged individuals. He also deregulated Wall Street and signed the 1994 crime bill, both disastrous for minorities. Ultimately the Democratic party is where progressive politics go to die.
Should “Catfishing” be Illegal?
by: Ayanna Fourte

In this day and age, many couples meet through social media. Although it can be convenient, it can also be very dangerous to meet new people this way. There is a fairly new term called “catfishing” which has been brought to the light by an MTV series called “Catfish.” It is described as when someone pretends to be someone else on social media to lure someone into a relationship. Often times, people use someone else’s photos and false information to create a profile that they think men or women would find attractive. Catfishing can occur on a number of sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. The “catfisher” can lie about age, gender, race, status, location, etc. Another risk is that the pair could decide to meet in person, only to find that the person they thought they were talking to is a fraud. One would think that something like this should be illegal, as it is a form of identity theft, however, it isn’t. Catfishing often turns to scam because the catfisher will convince the other person to think they’re in a relationship by making promises of a future together, making promises of meeting up and causing the other person to feel an emotional attachment by these promises. They often ask for money and the “catfisher” may comply because they think they are just doing a favor.

However, catfishing does fall under the definition of identity theft which is “the fraudulent appropriation and use of someone’s identifying or personal data or documents, as a credit card” (dictionary.com). However, it shouldn’t be classified on the same level as the more commonly known forms of identity theft such as credit card fraud. The effects of catfishing can be very devastating. From the creator of the MTV show “Catfish”, showed us this firsthand. When finding out that he was not talking to the person he thought he was talking to, he felt betrayed and hurt, as would anyone. Catfishers fail to realize what they are putting the other person through, can cause them to feel traumatized, which is why it should be illegal.

Should Traditional School Dances Have Polls for King and Queen?
by: Simone Iroegbu

All across the country, public schools, private schools, and many others have traditional school dances. The dances include traditions such as rewarding a couple King and Queen or, duke and duchess. I believe that students should not be subject to being a king or a queen or anything of the like. It is not fair to the other attendees to have to come and not be appreciated as much as the six boys and girls do. The purpose of the honor is that the student body is allowed to elect six people to the court to receive a crown or a tiara for being a winner. But on such a special night, I believe everyone should be a winner. The use of these ballots does nothing to boost the self esteem of the people who don’t win.

Another reason having a King And Queen has become controversial across the country is because it is not a gender neutral action. When people write names on the ballots for who they would want to win they typically write a male or a female. How often do they write the name of a person who identifies as LGBTQIA? This is a huge problem in high schools because these honors are often not inclusive of all students. Recently at Hillsboro High School in Oregon, they have decided to drop the ballot entirely stating that “the titles of king and queen were too restrictive for students whose gender identity might be more fluid than one that fits the titles of king and queen.” Due to situations such as this, sensitive topics like that of the LGBTQIA community have to be respected and more understood by the student body.

By removing the election of homecoming king and queen, you give all student the equal chance to be appreciated and have a moment to be in a spotlight.

War on Drugs: CPS Edition
by: Ayanna Fourte

Students and teachers across the nation seem to have very different ideas about whether or not students should be required to take drug tests. It’s understandable why teachers and staff would want students to take drug tests: they don’t want students coming to school intoxicated. However, school staff do not know all of the problems a student may be facing and his or her reason for getting high which is often to deal with stress. I believe that what students do before school, after school, or on the weekends is their personal life and has no right to be invaded by the school system.

Drug tests, depending on the method (hair, urine, blood), can show presence of a substance for up to 90 days according to Green Rush Daily News. This means that a student who may choose to, for example, smoke marijuana over the weekend will have that show up in their report. Being reprimanded will not help the issue of students partaking in drugs to relieve stress, if anything it will worsen it. This will turn good students into troubled ones for the simple fact that they decide to smoke weed, drink alcohol, etc in their free time. A student of Kenwood, Amari Binion, stated “Smoking weed or drinking [alcohol] shouldn’t hinder students right to their education.” Just because a teen decides to take part in these activities on their own time does not automatically mean they’re not a good student.

There is not always a direct correlation between drug use and a student’s performance in school. There’s a problem if a student comes into the school with a strong marijuana odor, if they are selling drugs on school campus or cause distraction by an obvious state of being in class. However, if the student is not doing any of these things, I don’t think there is any reason for a school official to interject. If anything, parents should be able to decide whether or not they want their child to take a drug test. Parent of a Kenwood student, Joi O’Banion, said “That would definitely be an invasion of you all’s privacy. If we, as parents, don’t feel the need to give you a drug test then that shouldn’t be a decision made by the school”. The school system has to remember not to overstep their boundaries. Although students might have identification numbers, we are more than that eight-digit number. Behind that we are real people, not proper- ty of the institute.
An Outrageous Price
by: Justin Patterson

On February 1, 2017, the city of Chicago implemented the “checkout bag tax,” charging seven cents per paper or plastic bag at all stores. According to ABC News, five cents will be given to the city of Chicago, and the additional two cents goes to the retailer. Although the city is earning more money, this new bag tax is only beneficial to the government rather than the people of Chicago.

The city of Chicago doesn’t really think about the causes and effects of such a drastic law. Sure, this brings in more money for the city, but this law also has negative effects. People that bring in backpacks and additional bags to avoid the “checkout bag tax” have better opportunities to steal. The bag tax also prevents the use of reusable paper and plastic bags that customers like using.

The “checkout bag tax” is not just occurring in the city of Chicago, but has influenced the city of New York as well. According to Times Union, a New York assemblyman proposed statewide plastic bag fee. Brooklyn Democrat, Felix Ortiz, wants to impose a five-cent fee on plastic and paper shopping bags to spur reusable bag use. Not only does this affect the outrageous amount of New York shoppers, this can spark a nationwide conversation about the taxes put on shopping bags.

Although the checkout bag tax brings more money to the government, it also limits the amount of reusable paper and plastic bags being distributed, and increases the amount of criminal activity within stores. So Chicago policymakers ought to take another look at this outrageous tax.

Senate Votes: Should Women be Drafted into War?
by: Sydni Goodrum-Davis

The United States Congress has been engaged in an indecisive battle over the role of women in the military force and whether or not they should be required to register for the draft when they turn 18. A mandate for drafting women into the military has been ongoing debate since President Obama took office in 2008.

On January 24, 2016, the U.S. Senate approved an extensive military policy bill that would require women to register for the draft. However, in November 2016, it was revealed that Congress had abandoned the plan after months of negotiation between the House of Representatives and the Senate Armed Services. If this bill were to have passed, women turning 18 on or after the date of January 1, 2018, would be required to register for the Selective Services.

In December 2016, the Obama administration voiced its support for requiring women to register; the former president had taken the passing of this bill into hard consideration in December 2015 after Ash Carter, the Defense Secretary of military services, instructed that the military must open all jobs to women, including any jobs which involve direct combat.

The U.S. military converted to an all volunteer force after the country’s involvement with the Vietnam War ended in 1973. The Selective Service enrollment requirement for adult males was then terminated by President Gerald Ford in 1975. The draft was then re-established in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter, but no U.S. citizens have actually been drafted since before the Vietnam War.

The idea of requiring women to register for the draft has caused controversy between the Armed Services Committee and the House of Representatives.

Many conservatives argued that the bill should be dropped, saying that requiring women to register for the draft would be putting ‘culture wars’ above national security, as stated in an article by journalist, Rebecca Kheen.

Though there are many that oppose the bill completely, some people argue that the passing of the bill would help with the ongoing fight for equal rights for women. Josiah Ash, a junior at Mount Carmel, always be a choice.

Sydni Hatley, a junior at Kenwood, disagrees. “I don’t think women should be forced to register for the draft,” Hatley said. “I think everyone should have the right to decide if they want to join the military. The inclusion is great in a sense because there may be some women out there that actually want to, but it shouldn’t be a requirement do to so and making it one for women won’t solve anything. It should always be a choice.”

Although requiring women to register for the draft has been ruled out by the Senate for the time being, government officials continue to discuss if this decision is the most beneficial for the country.

#WatchYourFriendRequest
by: Sloane Williams

Social media has been a successful resource when it comes to communication, endorsing, and attaining information. But the main use of social media has evolved over the years, to where it is now used as a weapon towards the vulnerable. This especially has been emphasized in adolescents, for sites such as Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram are open doors to cyberbullying, and child predators. These days, people have to be much more careful when using social media, including adults, for catfishing has been another issue on social media.

Bullying is yet another negative aspect of social media. The term for this is cyberbullying, and in 2013, 42% of teenagers with tech access reported being cyberbullied in that year only. But it gets worse. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people with approximately 4,400 deaths every year. Along with this, they also estimate that there are at least 100 suicide attempts for every suicide among young people. Cyberbullying is bigger than just snarky remarks on social media, and affects a person mentally and emotionally.

It is especially difficult to prevent cyberbullying, as it is not illegal to speak freely on social media. Some social media accounts cannot be traced, and the only way to be safe from this occurrence is to stay away from social media as a whole. Blocking an account that has been harassing you may not stop the problem, as the attacker can easily create another account and continue the tormenting. This as well as catfishing can be prevented by simply not talking to strangers on social networking sites, and not giving out any personal information can further solidify your protection. The best thing to do is to report any suspicious or unusual activity/messages, for this can go a long way.

OPINION
Blacks in Baseball

by: Johnathan Butts & Lauren K. Stewart

A 2016 report found that only 7.7 percent of Major League Baseball players are black, making this the lowest amount since studies began in 1991. Those numbers are diminutive compared to other professional sports leagues, with approximately 74 percent of professional basketball players and 70 percent of professional football players being black.

Baseball is not a popular sport for black children, especially those living in urban communities. Most end up playing basketball or football, which are regarded as more popular sports. In metropolitan areas with high concentrations of black people, like Chicago or Washington D.C., blacks are nearly 5 times more likely than their white counterparts to be impoverished.

Baseball is among the most expensive sports, and while youth leagues can provide a more affordable option, most of those programs aren’t available for children older than 12. After a kid hits that age, they find basketball or football to be a better option.

Representation is another issue. Baseball has always lacked a black presence, which made it less desirable to young black children than other sports where they saw faces that looked like theirs. Also, there is a more apparent history of racism in the MLB. Just four days ago, Baltimore Orioles center fielder Adam Jones was subject to racist taunts and had peanuts thrown at him during a game against the Boston Red Sox.

“Baseball is more than a hobby for me, it separates me from the other African American athletes as well,” Brandon Green, a member of the Kenwood baseball team, said. “It is a nice road to college. I’ve been around baseball since birth and when it has motivated me even more to become successful. I want to get to the highest level of play I can and use the sport to get into the best college I can.”

Julian Zavala is a 16 year old baseball player who attends Stagg High School. He wants to go Division I and, hopefully, get drafted.

“Not many other people play the sport with passion anymore,” said Zavala, who plays summer baseball for Team Demarini. “So, I play to win. I would love to attend UC Irvine, and go on to play for the White Sox-- my hometown team.”

Though baseball is not a popularly played sport among African Americans, the ones that do play seem to be very committed.

Girl’s Basketball Senior Night

by: Tanaya Luckett

On February 9th, Kenwood defeated Saint Ignatius College Prep in an astounding 55 to 43 victory. This was Senior Night for Kenwood’s Girls Varsity Basketball Team and the celebration meant a lot for the senior girls, as they were being recognized for their hard work.

“Senior night was amazing,” said Tarsheia Page, a senior at Kenwood. “We got the chance to play one more home game in front of our friends and family; Senior night always brings out the fun and laughs of the team, laughs that you wouldn’t normally see. We had so much support, even from students that normally don’t show up to home games, but decided to make this one count.” This was definitely a night to remember.

The girls played every minute with a grueling mentality, which only hyped up the crowd even more. The crowd was so excited, and the team had a great support system, including the boys basketball team. “I feel as though senior night went well,” said Shania Jackson, a sophomore at Kenwood. “The students came to support, and had a good time; Even the boys came too.”

Saint Ignatius is one of Kenwood’s rivals, and this had the crowd anticipating a challenging game. “I felt that they could’ve done way more for the girls,” said Jonai Johnson, a junior on the girls basketball team at Kenwood. “I’m talking balloons, smoke, a bigger crowd, more advertisement, and free tickets. They [administration] always do more for the boys basketball team. Not only was it senior night for the girls, but it was also the last home game. There could’ve been more posters for the senior girls, in the crowd and spread out all over the gym”. For the most part, everybody wished for better, but the mere fact that everyone stayed later after school on a school day meant a lot to the girls.

“Senior night was great. I had a good game, and the people that came were very supportive,” said Tamara Narb, a sophomore also on the basketball team. Everybody enjoyed themselves overall, and it was a good win for our Senior Varsity Girls.
Basketball and Race

by: Lauren K. Stewart

The composition of race and ethnicity in sports as a whole is ever changing. However, the trends in basketball specifically have drastically shifted. Prior to the late 1940’s, the National Basketball Association was 100 percent white. Wataru Misaka, a 5 foot 7 point guard of Japanese descent, was the first non white person to play in the league. It wasn’t until 1950 that the first black player, Earl Lloyd, was drafted. In 2015, it was recorded that 75 percent of players in the NBA were black. So how is it that the league is overwhelmingly black, but it turns a blind eye to the plights of black people? Where does race end, and basketball take precedent?

“It’s weird how basketball is such an important sport in the black community, but the league doesn’t reach out to this fan base,” said Andrew Stewart, a varsity player on Kenwood Academy High School’s basketball team. To be particularly clear, race and basketball should be inextricable, considering that the league is dominated by black players. However, it wasn’t always this way. The first sizable influx of black athletes into the league occurred in the 1960’s when black players selected by NBA team owners were meant to be “role players”. In no way were they akin to flashy passers like Allen Iverson or exciting scorers like MJ. These men weren’t meant to be creative or individual, as many of the white players who crossed into African Americans leagues were, their purpose was to keep their heads down and play the game quietly. Bill Russell is an ideal example of a role player, as he was known for his defensive skills, rebounding and intensity rather than scoring or personality. However, when digging deeper it’s apparent that the racial makeup of coaching, management and higher level executives doesn’t follow this trend. Over the past 20 years, 77 rookie NBA head coaches have been hired. Out of the 31 of those that did not play in the league, only 5 were coaches of color, in a league in which more than 80 percent are. So what’s the disconnect? That’s not to say that white male coaches aren’t qualified, it’s just shocking that others aren’t given the same opportunities. But there’s a pretty clear reason as to why. Only two NBA owners, Michael Jordan and Vivek Ranadive, are people of color. The other 28 owners are white. With the lack of diverse representation in ownership there seems to be a trickle down effect within the rest of the organization.
The Legacy of Barack Obama
by: Jazmyn Wright

On January 20, 2017, the American people lost something. Former President Barack Obama has made his impact as the 44th president of The United States and is someone that the American people will never forget.

Obama, a South Side Chicago resident, made history in 2008 as the first black president. His rise to Pennsylvania Avenue is one that is unlike any that preceded him. He ran a successful grassroots campaign, engaged voters, and somehow maintained his cool, South Side appeal.

Though Obama was not perfect and seemed to have been road-blocked by members of the opposite party, he managed to get some things done during his eight years in office. During his tenure, he added 13.7 million jobs to the American economy and lowered the unemployment rate to 5 percent. He successfully passed the Affordable Care Act which provided health care to 17.6 million people. The Obama administration also passed legalization for same-sex marriage, captured and killed Osama Bin Laden, dismantled Al Qaeda, and restored the relationship between America and Cuba.

“I thought that he was a good president,” said Alyssa Younger, a senior at Kenwood Academy. “Obama got us out of the recession and apologized to the Hiroshima victims for the bombings of WWII.”

Obama also successfully passed Wall Street Reform that regulates the financial sector. Ever the commander in chief, Obama ended the war in Iraq, and repealed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” allowing people of the LGBTQ community to openly serve in the United States military.

“He didn’t do anything to dramatically mess up of our country, so I guess he was a good president,” said Tyler Bloomfield, a junior at Kenwood. “He is right on social issues but is center right economically. Even in cases where we moved in the right direction, it was too little for the change he promised.”

Though people are torn on what his legacy will be, he will certainly be remembered for making history and the hope he gave people in this country.

Even though he has left the office of president, Obama is not truly lost. He has said that he will continue to fight with the Democratic party and support the American people the way he feels is right.

Tattoos On Teenagers
by: Jazmyn Wright

In the world that we live in, tattoos and piercings are now commonplace among everyday people. Though the legal age to get a tattoo is 18 years old, tattoos and piercings are considered unacceptable by society’s standards when on a teenager. Often, teenagers with multiple tattoos and piercings are viewed as thugs or delinquents by parts of society that views tattoos and piercings as bad. Tattoos and piercings are seen as a life commitment. Because of this, people believe that it is too big a decision for teenagers and thus, unacceptable.

“My daughter came back from college with a tattoo,” said Marie Posey, the parent of Robin Wills, a senior at Kenwood Academy. “At first, I was opposed to the idea but overtime I realized that she is an adult and that it is ultimately her decision to express herself however she sees fit.”

Posey is one of many parents who have encountered this dilemma but she is one of few who have come to terms with it.

Charles Jackson Sr., had a very similar situation yet an opposing belief. After his only child, a son now aged 24, returned from liberal arts college with a small body tattoo. “Charles (Jr.) came back home after his vacation and I knew something was wrong.” Jackson, Sr. explained. “He would wander around the house with extra layers of clothes even though our house is well heated. One day he slipped up and the truth came out. Tattoos are the devil’s work and no child of mine can live under the same roof as me that I payed for and practice sacrilegious values.”

Most teenagers in the present day are more accepting and open-minded than past generations that have gone on in the world. Also, teenagers nowadays seem to have varying opinions from most adults and think that tattoos are very cool.

“I think that everyone should be able to have tattoos nowadays,” said Thomas Jones, a junior at Kenwood Academy. “They are seen on more people and I think that more people are accepting of tattoos, especially for teenagers. Teenagers are very capable of making sound decisions about their own lives and bodies.”

But not all teenagers think the same. So teenagers think that tattoos are very serious and people need to put more thought into getting tattoos.

“I just think that we are too young to make decisions that are permanent for the most part,” said Janae Brown, a senior at Kenwood Academy. “We need to wait until 18, any age younger than that is too young.”

Regardless of one’s belief on the matter, a tattoo is a body art that will remain relatively permanent. As mentioned before, it is a major life decision and if one wishes to obtain one, they must consider all the benefits and drawbacks of getting one.
Are Sneakers Still Worth the Hype?

by: Jazmyn Wright

Sneaker culture has been a big part of a lot of lives since the 1970s. People line up hours for sneakers or people wait online for shoes to drop and the shoes sell out instantly. Many people purchase shoes for hundreds of dollars beyond the retail price or even sell fake shoes. But the question is, do sneakers still have the same impact as they did back in the early years of sneaker culture?

“To me sneaker culture is still very strong and alive,” said Dylan Morgan, a sophomore at Kenwood Academy. “Every time Yeezys drop they sell out immediately and people line up for them.”

According to other studies, the once-anticipated Air Jordans don’t sell out like they used to.

“Some sneakers that release now don’t sell out like they used to,” said Tanya Wells, a senior at Kenwood Academy. “It doesn’t have that same affect on the kids nowadays. It’s a different time. People don’t care about getting all the sneakers that release anymore.”

People have different opinions on sneakers. Some kids are in on it and others aren’t. “Outfits are less focused on what people have on their feet and more on their bodies,” said Thomas Wright, a junior at Kenwood Academy. “The shoes aren’t the most important part anymore. Honestly you just need a few pairs a shoes nowadays to style with everything.”

Sneakers have changed over time and so has the culture and it will likely continue to evolve. Whether coveted sneakers are sitting on shelves longer or not, sneakers will still sell because people need shoes on their feet. Sneaker culture is an evolving movement with new sneakers being released everyday.

Does Listening To Classical Music Make You Smarter

by: Ta’kyra Wade

Statistics have shown that listening to classical music before taking exams can significantly improve scores. Different studies reveal that brain cells may be lost or gained depending on what type of music a person listens to; certain types of rap music may cause the loss of brain cells, while calmer music, with a “happier” and more resilient vibe increases brain activity and processing.

The techniques used by classical artist, such as Beethoven and Mozart are different from the styles used by majority of today’s artist. Not all forms of rap music result in a loss of brain cell activity; a type of rap referred to as “trap music” causes the most defined difference in activity, and part of that is due to some of the derogatory messages conveyed in this music style. The primary difference with classical music is that there are no actual lyrics used. The message conveyed to the listener is partially left up to their imagination, and the way the song makes them feel.

Classical music has a soothing effect on the brain because the rhythm raises the level of serotonin produced in your brain. Serotonin is a compound in the brain that constricts the blood vessels and acts as a neurotransmitter. Classical music causes blood vessels to constantly constrict, which is the reason that brain activity is significantly increased.

A study done by scientist at Stanford University in 1993 shows that college students who listened to Mozart Sonata while taking IQ test received higher scores when compared to people who didn’t listen to music at all. These scientist recently discovered a molecular basis for the Mozart effect, which is a set of research results indicating that listening to Mozart’s music induces a short term improvement on the performance of certain mental task. Many teenagers have different opinions regarding how music affects their testing abilities.

“Listening to certain music helps me focus on my school work. Listening to jazz music helps me focus on my school work and gets me in the zone to do work. I’ve listened to classical music and it sounded very calming a relaxing to me. It is way more calming than rap music,” says Nia Sterling, a sophomore at Kenwood Academy.

Classical music helps people accomplish tasks everyday. It’s been proven that music has and will continue to help people during both school and work.
Seniors: Where are you going next year?

Kolani Cole: “I plan on attending DePaul University. I look forward to the freedom I’ll have with no parents and the responsibility I will have to have upon myself to be successful in college.

Jermey Royal: I plan on attending Central State University. I will be happy to be away from home and being responsible for myself. I will become more independent.

Jabari Simpson: I want to attend Georgia State University. I’m looking forward to playing football on a college level.

Zakiya Collier: I plan on attending Emory University and I am excited for the challenge I will get on my education. I like challenges, being challenged makes me work harder.

Cameron Bowels: I want to attend Tennessee State University. I do that I can experience freedom and responsibility on my own. I also look forward to furthering my career in basketball.

Sean Shelton: Next year, I will be a student at Morehouse College. I am looking forward to the new experiences that Atlanta has in store for me and expanding my network in efforts to be as successful as possible.

Mason Posey: I will be attending Florida A&M University. I look forward to the amount of networking and bonds I’ll be able to form while I’m down there. I will strive to be successful and accomplish all task that lie ahead of me.

Leilani McCoy: I will be attending Florida Agriculture and Mathematics University. I am looking forward to being more independent, gaining a new learning experience, and being one step closer to flourishing in my career.

Jing Guan: I’m going to University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. I plan on studying engineering and hopefully change this society for the better.

Brian Chen: I am attending Illinois Institute of Technology. I look forward to living my life as an adult and a college student.

Manny Patterson: I plan to Attend the University Of Wisconsin Green Bay this upcoming summer and i am looking forward to the next season as well as getting on campus to start my new journey to greatness.

Justin Turner-Mustaf: I plan on attending Harold Washington Community College for one year and transferring to Georgia State University. I look forward to Majoring in International Business and enjoying the college experience.

Cornelius Brown: I will be attending Olivet Nazarene University this fall. I am looking forward to gain more independence.

Samantha Hardison: My new journey begins on the campus of Cornell College. I’m most-likely looking forward to a clean slate, new opportunities, new people, and most of all the “TRACK”!

Ying Guan: I’m taking a gap year in Australia to study and build my portfolio. I’m excited to travel and meet new people.

Sydney Falls: I’ll have with no responsibility I will have to have upon myself to be successful in college.

Ying Guan: I’m taking a gap year in Australia to study and build my portfolio. I’m excited to travel and meet new people.

Laurence Minter: I will be attending Cornell University. I am looking forward to the opportunity to study abroad and engage with people all throughout the world.

Jada Robinson: I will be attending Hampton University in the fall. I look forward to growing as a person and experiencing new things.

Bianca Ousley: I will be attending The University Of Illinois Urbana-Champaign this fall. I’m looking forward to meeting people who have the same interests as me.

Kai Muhammad: I am attending Jackson State and I am most excited about exploring a new place.

Tariell Franklin: I will be attending Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in the fall of 2017. I am looking really forward to experiencing new things, meeting new people, and expanding my horizons.