

NEWSPRINT

Newsprint explores the divide between Gen Z and the Baby Boomer generation pgs. 10-11

BOOK, Boomer.

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YOU'RE ONLY YOUNG ONCE

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: DUNYA KIZY, PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY EDITOR

The speaker's announcement to "silence all cell phones" indicates the show's beginning while the play's lead actress senior Zhane Coleman's stress levels triple. Swallowing her anxiety, she tightens her scrunchie-tied ponytail and crosses the stage. She dons her best 80s costumes consisting of beige corduroy pants, a bright striped shirt, and pink converse. Weeks of memorizing lines, blocking, becoming her character, and hours of rehearsals have led up to tonight. The curtain rises, the lights turn on, and the show begins.

You're Only Young Once was written by Glenn Hughes and directed by Performing Arts teacher and alumnae Ms. Isabelle Moore. The Mercy play took place November 8 through 10; it tells a story of jocks, nerds, rebels, and popular girls coming together in one small high school in the 1980s with multiple jokes, twists, and teen angst along the way. The play begins in the principal's office of Lincoln High School where mischievous Gabby Gallagher, played by Catholic Central (CC) junior Nick Czarnota, and Paul Chapman, played by CC sophomore Reid Michener, are sitting in detention. Together, they develop a plan to help their school's football team win the championship game, but when it backfires, it leaves the both of them in trouble.

Throughout the play, Gabby is constantly running into trouble whether it is lying to teachers and the principal, stealing cameras to take pictures of the football game, or trapping people in a closet for the sake of his classmates. He meets his love interest, Shirley Walker, played by Coleman, and continues to find himself in trouble despite his good intentions. Amidst the chaos, other students struggle with academics and social status, mimicking a typical high school setting.

During this two-hour play, it was easy to appreciate

the hard work and practice that the cast and crew put into the performance. For instance, on opening night, all of the lights in the auditorium began flickering out of control and the light crew was unable to use any of the stage lights. Because it was a structural issue, light crew had no control over the situation. To keep things in order, Ms. Moore assured the audience that the show would go on. According to stage manager senior Elly Bryant, all the actors were frozen in their spots, waiting for the issue to be resolved. Members of light crew were responsible for ensuring the spot lights were functional, so that they could use them as substitutes. The spotlights were used for the entirety of the play and although a bump in the road, the show certainly went on with professional work and efforts. Senior Lauren Piziali, a member of light crew, did her best to fix the problem.

"There were crews running around backstage trying to get everything together with the props and stage while light crew was doing their best to improvise, which we did," said Piziali.

Audience member sophomore Maddie Boucher said she thought the lights were going to remain out and that the audience would be refunded. She was very impressed with all the crew members and actors who handled the whole situation very well.

In the beginning of the long process, auditions were held at the end of August which started their nine week rehearsal process. For those nine weeks, crews began building the set, creating props, practicing makeup, etc. Although they work behind the scenes, they have an equal role in making the play as perfect as it can be. Even the most simple sets take time and dedication to perfect.

"We work insanely hard on getting everything ready for

show time," said Bryant. "If there were no crews, the show could not go on."

Freshman Caroline Turco, who played Ms. Helen Jones, has learned an immense amount about how to present herself through her role. According to Turco, because it was her first Mercy play, she was nervous about performing in front of such a large audience, but with the advice and encouragement from Ms. Moore, play producer Ms. Ferguson, and her other cast members, she really improved her skills while having an amazing time.

You're Only Young Once is much different than many other plays Mercy's drama department has performed in the past. For example, the fall play in 2017, *Anne of Green Gables*, and 2018's *Helen Keller* are both set in an older time period, whereas the 80s story of *You're Only Young Once* makes the play more appealing to the young audience.

"This play has been my favorite because it's the most modern play that we've ever done, which makes it more relatable and enjoyable to be a part of and to watch," said Coleman; Coleman has been in Mercy's plays and musicals since her freshman year.

With play rehearsals every day after school, Ms. Moore made sure every detail was as it should be. When she graduated in 2010, she was very involved in both the fall play and spring musical, whether it was acting or on a crew. Now that she is directing, she sees everything in a different light.

"It is a lot of fun to work with the kids every day and even more fun to be on the other side of things and directing," said Ms. Moore. "It's been a real treat to see this play and all the members really come together."



Mona Fisher, played by senior Rachel Glowzinski (right) arguing with Mrs. Ross, played by junior Blanca Straub (middle), in detention during the Mercy High School production of *You're Only Young Once*. Photo by Dunya Kizy



Senior Nick Czarnota and senior Zhane Coleman at the end of the play, uniting after he gets in trouble with the principal. Photo by Dunya Kizy

Our Mercy World

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: LAUREN KRILL, COPY EDITOR

“I feel uneasy around different sexual orientation[s] not due to stereotypes, misunderstanding[s], or past experience. For me it just makes me uncomfortable.”

“I feel threatened when I am not in my designated area.”

“Sometimes around people of the LBGQT community, not in a rude way, just when I'm being flirted with and don't know how to react.”

The above comments are anonymous responses to the question sent out on September 19 by Mercy's Human Relations Council (HRC): “Have you ever felt uneasy around a different race, minority group, sexual orientation, etc.?” The purpose of the poll was to get unfiltered responses regarding the tolerance of minority groups within the walls of Mercy.

The results were jarring enough to spark the creation of our new Our Mercy World assembly which was held Friday, November 22, intended to address past instances of racism and homophobia at Mercy and further educate students on topics that are not often discussed.

“A situation regarding [girls] and the n-word sparked the idea that we need to be more communicative and directly address things that are offensive,” said senior HRC member Ava McElmeel. “This assembly will educate everyone in a different way and will try to touch on a little bit of each culture. It's very thorough.”

By including interactive activities, informative PowerPoints, and students sharing personal stories, the assembly intended to reach students in ways never attempted before. Topics discussed include: racism, body image, ableism, stereotypes in the media, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Although HRC is saddened by some of the poll responses, members are enthusiastic about the opportunity to educate their peers.

First of all, it is important to understand the actual meaning of the term “minority”. A minority is “a relatively small group of people, especially one commonly discriminated against in a community, society, or a nation, differing from others in race, religion, or language”, according to HRC.

A common theme throughout the poll responses is minorities recalling instances where they were directly affected by intolerance and prejudice at school. Another recurring response is non-minorities emphasizing how welcoming Mercy is and the lack of prejudice within the school.

One student wrote that she has been “offended by racist comment[s], sometimes even by [her] friends, which has been hard for [her] at times, because she just tr[ies] to fit and blend in.”

An LGBTQ student wrote that she has



Senior Brooklynne Bates addresses the HRC moderators at the script reading for the Our Mercy World assembly. Photo by Lauren Krill

experienced homophobia from “people making comments against the LGBTQ+ community that are based in ignorance and bigotry, especially calling LGBTQ+ people predatory.”

However, many non-minority students wrote comments like “everyone here seems very welcoming” or they “haven't experienced anything negative from Mercy [and] that everyone is very accepting”.

Where is this disconnect happening? Why do non-minorities believe Mercy is doing just fine, while minorities are demanding an end to intolerance?

Another point stressed in the assembly is identifying stereotypes. A stereotype is a “widely held but fixed and oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing”,

according to HRC.

“Entertainment that we consume almost every day contains stereotypes,” said senior HRC member Katherine Najor at the assembly, “such as black people portrayed as criminals or the ‘angry black woman’ stereotype, assuming Asians are excessively smart, women being oversexualized, or anyone of Hispanic descent not being a U.S. citizen.”

Najor explains how, although individuals cannot do much to prevent these stereotypes in the media, it is possible for one to understand the harm in perpetuating these ideas.

“We may not be able to change what shows are produced and aired, but we do have the ability to resist what we see and hear,” said Najor. “We are able to form our own opinions and not spread these stereotypes, so that we can treat everyone equally without putting them in a box of stereotypes.”

Religion is another topic discussed in the assembly. Mercy has students who are Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and more. Sophomore HRC member Gracie Grady stresses how important it is to acknowledge our religious differences.

“It is important that we as a Mercy community are respectful of people who practice [different] religions or no religion at all,” said Grady at the assembly. “We can do this by acknowledging religious holidays that are different from our own and educating ourselves on our differences.”

Finally, body image is addressed. The societal pressures young girls feel to adhere to unrealistic beauty standards is highlighted, and senior Megan Demshuk speaks about her struggles with anorexia.

“Negative body image becomes a terrible burden on us here at Mercy,” said senior HRC member Francis Lauck at the assembly. “Body image is the perception that a person has of their physical self and the thoughts or feelings that result from that perception.”

Although these topics do not seem to be directly related, they all have a common denominator, which is their impact on our students.

Developing empathy does not come easy, but HRC is working to give students tips on how to become more tolerant and strive for acceptance within our school. Empathy is a word McElmeel used multiple times while describing the goal of the assembly.

The difference between tolerance and acceptance is empathy, which is truly imagining oneself in the position of a minority.

“[The assembly is] really eye-opening,” said McElmeel. “It will make people uncomfortable and that's the goal. You have to look at this assembly as [a chance] to put yourself in other people's shoes.”



"Do you think the upcoming HRC assembly will be helpful in promoting tolerance and acceptance?"

Marlins swim to victory

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: SAANYA ZAIDI

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Junior Sam Szelag readies herself on the block about to swim 50 yard freestyle at Catholic Leagues. Szelag earned 7th place at the Catholic League finals. Photo by Saanya Zaidi



Senior Sarah Puscas swimming the 200 yard IM. Puscas earned 3rd place and a score of 30 points at the Catholic League finals. Photo by Saanya Zaidi

Mercy's Swim and Dive supporters jammed the stands at Livonia Recreation Center on November 16, rooting on their Marlins as they won 1st place in Catholic Leagues. The Marlins scored a total of 585 points, five first place medals, five second place medals, and three third place medals. Junior Greta Gidley scored the highest with 37 points, one first place medal, and one second place medal. The team's success at Catholic Leagues and throughout their season has allowed them the opportunity to compete at states.

The Mercy's Swim and Dive team will never forget their excitement one year ago at State Championships when the Marlins were up one point against Brighton High School. There was only the 400 meter relay left to decide the state championship and the pressure rested on Kylie Goit, Courtney Connolley, Julia Coffman, and Greta Gidley to finish the meet strong.

"It is the greatest feeling in the world being on that last relay and taking it away and sealing the deal," said Coffman. "That was the best feeling ever."

Traditionally, the state champion swim team takes the trophy for a ceremonial swim after medals are handed out. Teams and coaches get to swim in the competition pool and celebrate their final time in the water as a team. On that night, the Marlins jumped into the water as one of the strongest teams in the state with a dominant two-day performance at the 2018 finals.

Since 1991, the Swim and Dive team has won Catholic Leagues 28 consecutive times and has won a state championship four times, most recently in 2018. Holding

seven swimming records and only two losses, the Marlins are one of the strongest swim teams in Michigan.

"Knowing that all the hard work that we put into this season and all the long hours are paying off is a great reward," said Goit when asked about winning Catholic Leagues.

Almost every swimmer on the team strongly believes Leagues are a stepping stone to winning finals. Unlike state meets, Catholic Leagues are bigger, considering that in state meets swimmers have to achieve a certain time to qualify to compete. Catholic Leagues allows the team to get even more excited for States.

"Catholic Leagues are a pretty good predictor of how the team is feeling emotionally but not necessarily physically," explained captain Katherine Hutter.

After every practice, all of the Mercy swimmers line up to hit a sign on the pool deck that says "Champions are made in practice."

The grueling 11 practices per week before and after school, with swimmers averaging three to five miles per afternoon practice, displays the dedication and hard work required to succeed.

"This swim season is about getting these young girls to understand how hard work can pay off, what it means to make sacrifices, and to set goals," said head coach Mike Venos.

Mercy doesn't just focus on building strength in the pool, but outside of it too.

"Swimming, in all honesty, is secondary. Everything that they learn in the pool and everything that they learn from the season are life skills that hopefully they are going to take

with them to be successful in whatever they choose to do," said coach Venos.

The swim team also upholds traditions that make the team function together as a unit. The 2019 senior swim captains Kylie Goit, Katherine Hutter, Julia Coffman, and Emily Guerrero lead these traditions.

"When we wear our swim cap, we wear the section that says the brand of the swim cap in the back," explained Hutter. "We zip up our warm ups all the way so that we all look the same. Everyone walks in together 15 minutes before practice. After practices, we also end with a "dare great", which means to push the limits and push to be your best."

Alongside the swim team, diver Ciara McCliment competes at Catholic Leagues. For McCliment, Catholic leagues is not only about winning but focusing on herself. Unlike swimming where the team is united, diving is an individual sport and McCliment, who is suffering from a hip injury, believes in putting herself first and then winning.

"I never expect to win, but if I do win, it is an added bonus and just adds to the joy," said McCliment.

Although coach Venos wants to continue Mercy's winning streak, winning is not everything to him.

"I have a philosophy. If you go in and you focus on winning, you're not really thinking about what you're supposed to be thinking about. My big goal has been trying to bring this team together. I need these girls to understand that they are family in and out of the water, and I think that we are much more competitive and difficult to beat if we can function as one unit."

Academics to athletics

STORY, PHOTOS, AND GRAPHICS: BELLA APRILLIANO, WEB EDITOR



College: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sport: Rowing

I wanted to commit because...

"Rowing has been one of the best things in my life and I kind of fell in love with the sport quickly. I knew I didn't want to stop rowing after high school and I wanted to continue growing in that throughout college."

Who do you have to thank for where you are now?

"I have my parents to thank for where I am now because they helped me in the process of committing. I also have to thank my club rowing coach, Mike Gentile, because he was always the one to push me to be better. He was definitely one of the people that made me believe in myself the most."



College: University Of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Sport: Volleyball

I wanted to commit because...

"Michigan felt like a second home to me. The coaches create a family atmosphere and that was something that was really important to me. There comes a time in the recruiting process when you know where you want to be and it was a no brainer for me to commit to Michigan."

What was your reaction when you first committed?

"I was so happy when I committed. I was in the recruiting process for a long time and even though I loved it, it was nice for me to finally commit because I knew that was where I wanted to go. My family, friends, and coaches at Michigan were so happy for me."



College: Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I wanted to commit to Xavier because when I visited, I absolutely fell in love with the school community and team. Everyone there is super welcoming and I love how it feels like home!"

When did you realize you wanted to swim in college?

"I realized I wanted to swim in college once I came to high school and especially the past couple years. I realized I couldn't imagine life without swimming and being part of a team."



College: Albion College, Albion, Michigan

Sport: Lacrosse

I wanted to commit because...

"I didn't want to stop playing sports after high school. I wanted the opportunity to go to a smaller school and playing lacrosse allows me to do that."

Has playing lacrosse in college always been a dream of yours?

"It has always been a dream of mine to continue playing lacrosse after high school, even if it was just club sports. However, it became a realistic option for me my sophomore year."



College: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"After I took my official visit [at MSU], I knew it was the place for me. I liked the school, campus, coaches, and the swim team."

What is the best piece of advice you have received through this process?

"The best piece of advice I have received through all of this is to just know that it's going to work out in the end and to not stress about it too much."



College: Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I wanted to commit because I really enjoyed the team at Providence. It's also a great opportunity for me to focus on both my academics and swimming at the same time."

What does it mean to you to be a college athlete?

"To me, being a college athlete means that all my hard work in high school has paid off."



College: Lynn University, Boca Raton, Florida

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I wanted to find a school that was somewhere warm so I could swim outside. I loved the school when I visited and it's very diverse so I'm excited to meet a bunch of different people and learn about their different backgrounds."

What is your goal as a college athlete?

"My goal as a college athlete is to eventually be in the Paralympics so just to train hard and get to that point. I hope to be in the 2024 Paralympics."



College: John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I wanted a way to continue swimming and meet people but still have a lot of opportunities within the school to join new activities."

How did you get to this point and who helped you along the way?

"I emailed the coach, met him on a visit, then set up an official overnight to meet the team. I committed the day after my official visit and cancelled all other visits. My teammates, coaches, and parents made this all possible."



College: Hope College, Holland, Michigan

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I wanted to be pretty close to home and I like the west side and the team is great. I wanted to keep swimming because I like to work out a lot and stay in shape. I also love being on a team and meeting new people."

Who has been your biggest supporter?

"My parents are my biggest supporters because they have always pushed me to keep going when I wanted to stop. They helped me the whole way through with my college decision as well."



College: Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Sport: Swimming

I wanted to commit because...

"I like the school a lot and I like the team a lot, too! I think that it will be a great place for me."

How did you decide where you wanted to go?

"I decided I wanted to go there because I thought that it was the best place for me. I've been there before and I've spent time on the campus. I can totally picture myself there and everyone that I talk to has nothing but positive things to say about it."

MIND THE GAP

STORY AND GRAPHICS: CAITLIN FLYNN, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WHO IS USING THE INTERNET?

Has a Cell Phone*

- 95% - AGE 18-29
- 69% - AGE 65-75
- 56% - AGE 76+

*Pew Research Center, 2017

Are on the Cloud*

- 66% - AGE 14-30
- 57% - AGE 35-50
- 56% - AGE 50+

*Accenture, 2016

Own a tablet*

- 24% - AGE 25-34
- 21% - AGE 35-44
- 8% - AGE 65+

*Pew Research Center, 2017

Hours spent online*

- 25 hr/week - Millennials
- 27 hr/week - Boomers

*Beta News, 2015

As an older colleague's negative comments from the back of the room slowly began to increase, 25-year-old New Zealand parliamentarian Chlöe Swarbrick was determined to gain back the authority in the room during her speech concerning the climate crisis. "OK, Boomer," she said. With those two words, she immediately regained her dominance over the room.

But how did this phenomenon begin? Meanwhile, an older man accused both Millennials and Generation Z of suffering from "Peter Pan syndrome" in an audio clip accusing these generations of never wanting to grow up. The audio quickly became the punchline for several TikTok users and prompted thousands of teenagers and young adults to spell out "OK Boomer", whether it was across their chests with duct tape, made into a model from a 3D printer, or carved into a pumpkin, this phrase is calling out allegedly "out-of-touch" Baby Boomers.

In a much more real sense, the tension between Gen Z and Baby Boomers has been palpable for years. A baby boomer is anyone born between the years 1946 and 1964, born after soldiers returned home from World War II and wanted to begin a family, whereas, "Boomer" is a catchall term to refer to older adults who are incredibly resistant to political correctness, technology, or the climate crisis.

But to really understand this generational gap turned blame game, you have to analyze the environment and political climate boomers and Gen Z have grown up in and are growing up in.

For starters, because the time period covering the birth of baby boomers spans over so many years this is more of a stereotype than anything else. Boomers grew up in one of America's most financially prosperous periods as the U.S. was the world's only remaining superpower. According to the Senior Living Organization, Gross National Product doubled, real purchasing power increased by 30 percent, four-fifths of American families owned a car, and home ownership increased all during Boomer's adolescence in the late 50s.

This was also the time of race riots, man landing on the moon, free love, Anti-Vietnam war protests, "second-wave" feminism, and the American dream boomers were a generation who believed that their new ideas could change the world, similar to current generations. But when they grew up, they stopped fighting "The Man" and became it.

Boomers have a harsh reputation from younger generations for burning up the fossil fuels, filling the atmosphere with heat trapping gas, and will most likely never have to pay the price for it. They also bear the responsibility for launching the U.S. into federal debt even before the recession of 2008.

While Boomers are stereotyped as close minded, politically incorrect, and technology intolerant simpletons, Gen Z is the exact opposite. Known

for aggressive political correctness, cancel culture, and antisocial tendencies, they embody the polar opposite nature.

Gen Z was born into economic recession, political division, and the digital age. Waking up to news alerts predicting mere decades for the earth to survive and falling asleep to another celebrity being "cancelled" has become routine. This is what drives Gen Z to be so politically aware and involved. Following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, Gen Z took to the streets as teenagers Emma Gonzales, David Hogg, and several other survivors created the March for Our Lives movement to protest gun violence and lack of gun control in the United States.

Another famous Gen Z member, Greta Thunberg, spoke out against climate change at the United Nation's COP24, empowering young people across the world to challenge their leaders' lack of support for taking action to alleviate the climate crisis.

Another symptom of being overwhelmed with a constant consumption of mass media is the ability to have the world's knowledge at your fingertips, which only raises expectations. High school students are now taking an average of 27.2 credits, which is a jump from the average of 22.6 in the 1990s, according to the National Center of Education Statistics. High school has increased in difficulty due to college being more competitive than ever, as is the job market. Couple that with the nearly 300 percent increase in average college tuition from 1975, Gen Z finds themselves as the generation with the greatest anxiety rates, according to the American Psychological Association.

Millenials and Gen Z have transformed social media from a hub for hilarious cat videos to a cut throat world of exposing and oversharing. Finding solace behind their screens to bash and attack anything and anyone as there are virtually no consequences. This mindset leads to a heavy lack of social skills, making Gen Z the most "antisocial" generation to date.

While Boomers and Gen Z were both raised in entirely different political, environmental, and social atmospheres, their adolescence is rooted in the same need for reform. Ultimately, it is our similarities that hold the power to strengthen our world even in ever present generational divides. With empathy and understanding, progress and change is possible. We all just need to mind the gap.

STORY: RACHAEL SALAH

Gen Z and Baby Boomers are clearly on opposite sides of a generation gap that is based on mistrust and stereotypes. "Ok, Boomer" is a phrase Gen Z and Millennials are using to dismiss what they see as Boomers' attitudes toward current world issues. Boomers are typically stereotyped as more conservative and very closed-minded to issues considered to be urgent by the younger generations, whereas Gen Z and Millenials are more often stereotyped as liberal and passionate about issues such as: climate change, gun control, abortion, and LGBTQ rights.

"I think we have a louder voice than ever," said junior Anna Blastic. "At this point I feel like we're kind-of overpowering other generations, especially the Boomers, simply because we want change."

Blastic and many other Gen Zs around the world are using their voices at protests and marches. Both the Pro-Life March in Washington D.C. and the Sunrise Movement are ways that the younger generations are making their voices heard. A survey conducted in May by Irregular Labs, a Generation Z-led activist group, "found that 75 percent of respondents said being politically or socially engaged is very important to their identity" (Bustle.com). This indicates that the younger generations are speaking up to show Boomers that change is possible.

Unfortunately, some Boomers refuse to acknowledge these young voices. However, that does not go for all Boomers because some powerful political figures are ignoring the current issues among us. For

example, according to an article by Jeffrey Saches, a CNN reporter, the burning of fossil fuels is one of the main reasons for climate change. However, President Donald Trump (a Boomer) and his administration "are the loyal servants of the fossil-fuel industry" and are resisting the fight against climate change, Saches said.

Mrs. Ann Lusch, a Mercy religious studies teacher and a Boomer herself, says the generational feud has become a blame game.

"It feels like younger generations are more or less blaming my generation for their troubles," said Mrs.

"I think we have a louder voice than ever before." - Anna Blastic '21

Lusch. "So the way Gen Z and Millennials affect the election is to get more involved and make the changes necessary."

Some Boomers, like Mrs. Lusch, are tolerant of "OK, Boomer". However other Boomers have been making their disapproval of the phrase very clear. For example, Tyler Cowen, a writer for Bloomberg News who is a Boomer, referred to the phrase as a "flippant yet passive retort from Millennials or members of Generation Z whenever anyone of my generation decries the dangers of e-scooters or overreactions to

climate change". Many Boomers view Millennials and Gen Zs as immature and disrespectful rather than trying to see eye-to-eye on current world issues.

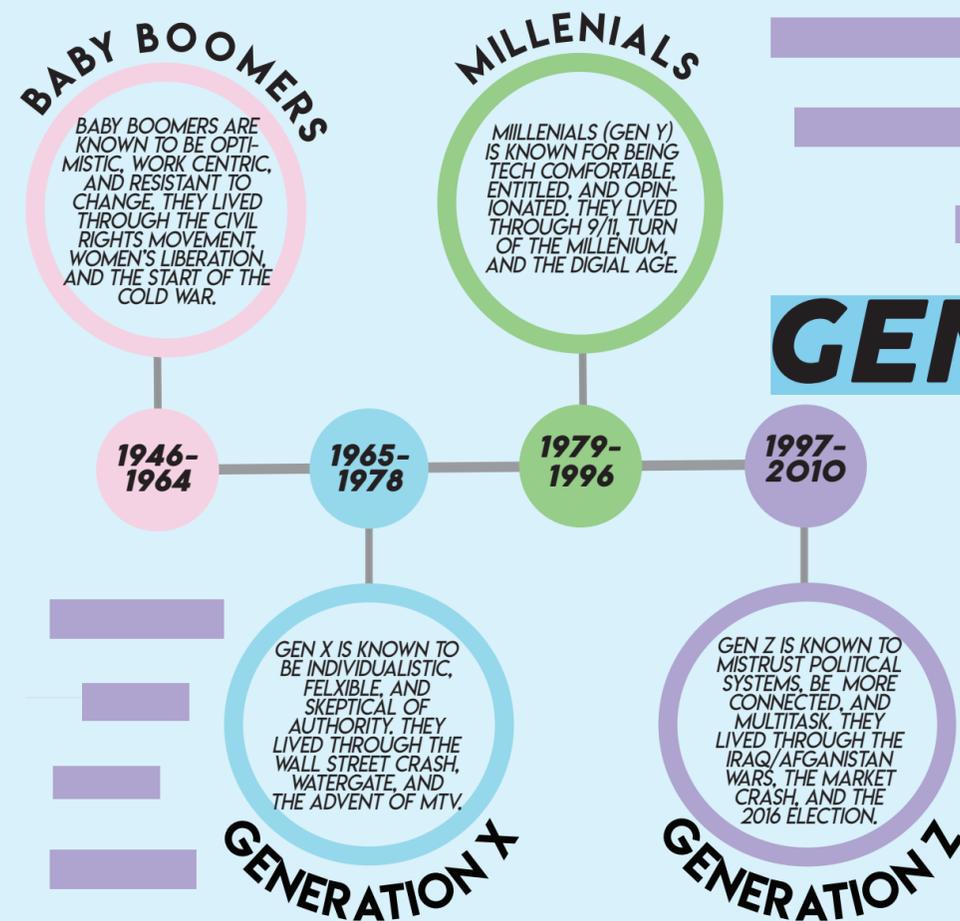
"My understanding is that the younger generation is resentful of my generation because it seems we had some things easier," Mrs. Lusch said.

An example of this is college tuition. Mrs. Lusch's sister paid for her tuition primarily through working at a Baskin Robbins store. Today, that is nearly impossible due to the current high tuition rates. According to the Senior Living Organization, Boomers attending college in 1975 had an average tuition of \$2,647 annually. Yet, even with today's inflation rates, that equals \$12,632, far less than most universities charge today.

"I would say Boomers had it pretty good," said Mr. Mike Barnes, Mercy history and government teacher in Generation X. "We are seeing people from the young generations racked in student debt. The older generations never dealt with that and it's refreshing to see younger generations voice their opinions about that."

And that is one of the major reasons "Ok, Boomer" was created.

"It's funny how Boomers will make fun of Gen Z and Millenials for literally anything and everything... and then we say 'Ok Boomer' and it becomes this huge issue," Blastic said.



THE GENERATIONS DEFINED

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Newsprint highlights the top 6 Democratic presidential candidates for 2020

STORY AND GRAPHICS: LYDIA GIROUX, DESIGN EDITOR AND JULIA CANTY, ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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As a six-term senator from Delaware and the former Vice President under President Barack Obama, Joe Biden is seeking his third Democratic nomination for president, having sought the office in 1988 and 2008. He is currently the front runner based on national polls and receives more media coverage than any other Democratic candidate. Biden has served as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and states that his main focus is health care, as tragedy in his family from health issues has motivated him to help each American receive the best coverage possible. Other important issues on his agenda include criminal justice, sexual assault, and harassment reform, especially on college campuses. A majority of likely Democratic voters believe Biden would be the best candidate to win against Donald Trump in the presidential election. Biden is currently polling in the mid 20 percent range, but he still lacks a strong lead over Warren and Sanders.



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Currently a U.S. senator from Massachusetts but originally from Oklahoma, Elizabeth Warren has previously served as an advisor to President Barack Obama and worked as a law professor at Harvard Law School. She supports completely eliminating private health insurance, taxing the 75,000 richest families in the U.S., and is passionate about worker control of corporations. Her plans for the White House involve ending political corruption in Washington, and strengthening our democracy. Earlier this year, a remark she made about having Native American ancestry sparked some controversy among Democrats and Republicans on the truth of her statement. Warren was close to beating Biden in the polls near the end of September but since the October debate, she has dropped a few points to about 20 percent. While she is not getting as much media coverage as Biden is, she has individually contributed about \$12 million more to her campaign than Biden and has received about \$9 million more in donor contributions.



Fair use: The Washington Post

Despite being an Independent—and the longest serving Independent in congressional history—the senator and former mayor from Vermont is now running a second time for the Democratic presidential nomination. At 78 years old, Sanders would be the oldest president to take office. His platform, however, has appealed to a large portion of the younger generation with plans to make public colleges and universities tuition free and eliminating all medical debt. While Sanders does share similar ideas with his Democratic candidate counterparts, he views climate change as the country's greatest challenge and seeks immediate action. The most recent national polls show Sanders standing consistently in third place in the race for the nomination, but after having a heart attack early in October which was strongly highlighted in the media, voters will likely have concerns for the status of his health. Sanders seems to have the largest amount of contributions to his campaign but remains steadily in third, polling at about 17 percent.



Fair use: TIME

Pete Buttigieg is the youngest presidential runner in the 2020 election race, as well as the first openly gay candidate. Born in South Bend, Indiana, Buttigieg became mayor of his hometown in 2012. He has worked as an intelligence officer for the Navy Reserve and a consultant for McKinsey & Company. Buttigieg announced his campaign in January of 2017, centering it around the idea of creating an America that works for everyone. For example, Buttigieg is a supporter of "Medicare for All Who Want it". Central to his campaign is his plan to change the number of seats in the Supreme Court from nine to 15 in an effort to reduce partisanship. With five seats designated for the Democratic Party and five for Republicans, the remaining five seats would be chosen by those 10 justices as people affiliated with neither party. According to *The New York Times*, Buttigieg is currently polling behind Biden, Warren, and Sanders. He has accumulated approximately \$51.5 million, second in highest contributions only to Sanders (\$61.5 million).



Fair use: The Washington Post

Previously an Attorney General and currently a U.S. senator from California, Harris is competing for voters attracted to Warren and Biden so far in the race. Her specialty as an attorney was prosecuting cases of child sexual assault and gangs that exploited women and children. Her presidential campaign vocalizes her beliefs as an advocate for the vulnerable citizens of the country. According to her campaign website, she is a "determined fighter on behalf of all people". As one of the few female candidates running, Harris is a strong proponent of access to women's health care, an issue highly overlooked so far in the debates. Harris was the first African American and first woman to be California Attorney General and only the second African American female senator. If elected, she would be the first woman to become president. As senator, she gained some media attention for tough questioning of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during confirmation hearings. In most recent news, she has received even more coverage for her bill to extend the school day in California to align with work schedules, an idea that so far has received some negative backlash from the public. In New Hampshire, Harris is polling at roughly 1 percent and based on national polls, at about 4 percent.



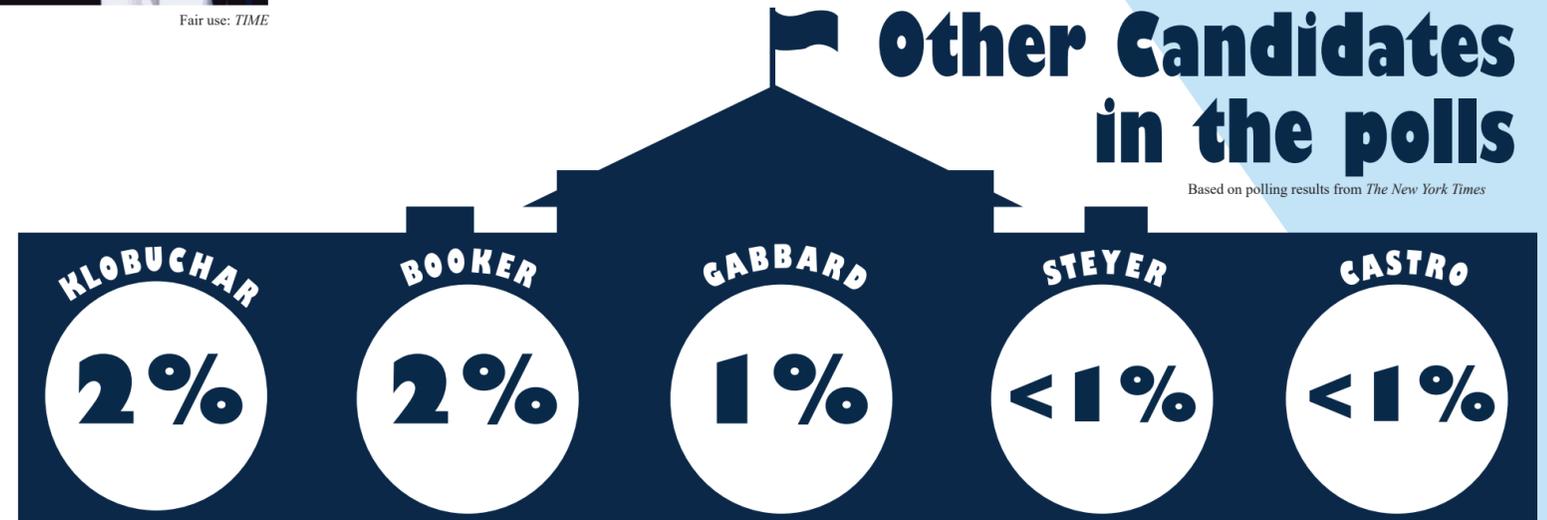
Fair use: TIME

Andrew Yang is a candidate exceeding everyone's expectations as he remains popular among the American public. Yang was born in New York and currently lives in Manhattan. The interesting thing about Yang is his background as an entrepreneur, not a politician. Yang founded the Venture for America nonprofit in order to help bring money to struggling cities. As a result, Yang has seen many sides of America and is especially focused on the economy. For example, Yang's campaign has been centered on his "Freedom dividend". Essentially, if Yang becomes president he wants to give every American family a guaranteed payment of \$1,000 every month. Also, along with several of his competitors, Yang believes in "Medicare for All," and has made it one of his top policies. Due to his lack of experience in politics, many did not expect him to do well in this race. However, Yang has qualified for the debates, is ranked #11 in news coverage, and is polling at 3 percent with \$15.1 million in contributions.



Other Candidates in the polls

Based on polling results from *The New York Times*



Detroit's turkey day traditions

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MEGAN MALLIE



Katie Kim and her younger sister give a thumbs up after running the Detroit Turkey Trot 5K together her freshman year. Photo used with permission from Katie Kim ('21)

Turkey Trot

Thanksgiving is all about traditions: a family meal including roasted turkey, cranberries, and pumpkin pie, “friendsgiving” with close friends, or even volunteering at a food kitchen to serve others a Thanksgiving meal. Whatever one’s traditions, the key is to make time for them and celebrate in a way that is meaningful.

For some families, the Turkey Trot in downtown Detroit has been a tradition for years as a seemingly unconventional way to spend time with loved ones on a holiday that celebrates family.

Mercy junior Katie Kim and some of her extended family have been participating in Detroit’s Turkey Trot for four years, soon to be a fifth this month. Her brother, sister, cousin, aunt, and uncle all run the Stuffing Strut Run/Walk, a 5K race. Her parents do not participate, however, they cheer their runners on from the sidelines.

“We’re always grumpy to get up in the morning to do it,” said Kim, “but [it] is fun to be with [my family].”

The Turkey Trot tradition does not end there for Kim’s family. Later, they follow a more typical tradition of Thanksgiving: eating.

“After we run, we go out to breakfast, but then we don’t always eat too much,” Kim said. “We always go to a Panera that’s just a few miles away.”

Although running is not for everyone, some families regard it as a holiday staple.

“[Thanksgiving] wouldn’t be the same because I’m just used to getting up and going to do the run,” Kim said. “It would just feel like a part is missing.”

Another person in the Mercy community who celebrates Thanksgiving with the Turkey Trot is Mercy Spanish teacher Mrs. Kelly Bickes, who began participating in the race during her own high school years.

“For many years, I did the Turkey Trot usually just with friends,” Mrs. Bickes said. “When I met my husband, we started doing the Turkey Trot together every year. And then when my son was born, the tradition continued.”

The Turkey Trot attracts not only participants interested in running, but also family members or friends of the participants who want to support them as they make their way through downtown Detroit.

“Certain family members who don’t necessarily run. . . come down with us to watch and cheer us on,” said Mrs. Bickes. “We earn all the calories that we’re going to eat later on in the day. . . we just do it because we love following tradition.”



Grace O’Dea and her two friends wear many warm layers during America’s Parade. Photo used with permission from Grace O’Dea ('22)

America’s Parade

Another Thanksgiving Day event is America’s Thanksgiving Parade, a tradition that has been around for even longer than the Turkey Trot. This holiday tradition began in 1924, and has truly stood the test of time as a classic celebration for people to enjoy. Hundreds of thousands of people gather in downtown Detroit to watch the floats and share in the joy this family-centered holiday brings.

It takes place on Woodward Avenue beginning at 8:45 a.m. and ends at 12 p.m.. It is broadcast Thanksgiving Day live on WDIV- Local 4 television for people to watch at home.

Mercy junior Grace Reeber has been attending the America’s Parade for the past five years. It is a tradition her immediate family and her grandmother celebrate, where they all meet at the parade after her mom and sister finish the Turkey Trot.

“[The parade] gets us in the holiday spirit and brings us closer together,” Reeber said. “It’s a great opportunity to spend time together and we grow closer as a family.”

When reflecting on the significance of going to the parade, Reeber says it is a meaningful tradition to her, and will continue to be as the years go on.

“I feel like when I’m older I’m

going to look back, and it’s going to be a part of my childhood,” Reeber said. “It’s just such a part of Thanksgiving to go to the parade. . . it makes Thanksgiving feel like Thanksgiving.”

Another Mercy student who makes the America’s Parade a part of her Thanksgiving is sophomore Grace O’Dea, who started this tradition recently. This will be the third year she attends the parade. She does not go with her family; instead, she has been going with two of her closest friends since eighth grade.

This month she will be starting a new parade tradition, as she will be taking part in the procession.

“I do pom for Mid-American All Stars, so I’ll be doing a pom routine throughout [the parade],” O’Dea said.

Although she will be a part of the actual parade this year, O’Dea has also enjoyed being a spectator. She plans to continue this tradition for future Thanksgivings.

“It’s a fun way for us to bond and spend time together and celebrate the holiday,” O’Dea said. “Now that I’ve gone for two years in a row I think [Thanksgiving] definitely would be different if I didn’t go.”

Mercy in the military

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MADDIE SULLIVAN

A majority of students decide to attend college after graduation; however, some have decided to make the courageous decision to join the military. There are several options for students who aspire to serve, including attending one of the prestigious United States Military Academies, enlistment, or joining a Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) program, which provides scholarships to those who want to receive a college degree in a traditional school with immediate job placement in the U.S. Army after graduation.

Senior Caroline Carlson's older sister, Elizabeth Carlson, a Mercy graduate of 2013, just returned from deployment overseas in Eastern Europe. Ms. Carlson served as the Clinic Officer in Charge, which is the highest role of military medical care in Eastern Europe.

During her freshman year at the University of Michigan, Ms. Carlson met a cadet in a chemistry study group who helped her get started and taught her about the ROTC program.

"After some guidance, I took the Army National Guard Scholarship to pay for the full tuition. With this, I owed six years to the Army, two years for each school year they paid for," said Ms. Carlson.

While in ROTC, Ms. Carlson received a monthly stipend plus additional money for books. A typical day for her entailed one to two hours of time in the classroom, two hours of leadership development, and three hours of physical training.

Once a student graduates college through an ROTC program, they have two options: Active Duty, which is a full time occupation in the United States Armed Forces, or Reserves, which requires one weekend a month of training and two to four weeks in the summer. Cadets also compete for a branch. Types of branches

include infantry, medical services, or intelligence.

After Ms. Carlson graduated from the University of Michigan she entered immediately into Active Duty service as a Treatment Platoon Leader for a Medical Company. A Platoon Leader has the responsibility of supervising and mentoring the 20-40 soldiers in their platoon.

Like the ROTC program, military academies are institutions that prepare commissioned officers for service in the United States Armed Forces while earning an undergraduate degree, but they receive their education in a military environment.

Senior Katherine Hutter's sister, Megan Hutter, a Mercy graduate of 2018, decided to attend West Point where she is currently a sophomore undergoing training.

"I always liked the idea of West Point," said Katherine. "But when [Megan] went there, I was upset at first because she was leaving and we are close. Now I am happy she is there because she's happy."

Megan Hutter has been taking premedical courses during her time at West Point and will graduate with a degree in life sciences as she wants to enter a medical profession later. After graduation, she hopes to be one of the few students in her class to be accepted into medical school straight out of West Point.

"I think she can do it," said Hutter. "If she does, she can be an [Army] medic for a couple years and then transition into the civilian workforce."

Hutter is also considering West Point for college.

"I am looking at other colleges too because I don't know exactly what I want to do," said Hutter. "[Going to West Point] is such a huge commitment, so I want to make sure I am positive."

Both of Hutter's grandfathers also served in the

United States Armed Forces, which originally inspired the sisters to consider serving.

Hutter's parents have been very supportive of Megan's decision to attend West Point and are happy that Hutter is considering West Point too because they feel it is a very honorable choice.

Senior Reese Faunt also comes from a military family. Her father is currently serving, but his name and position cannot be disclosed as it would compromise his security.

"Joining the military was something I always had in the back of my mind," said Faunt.

Faunt wants to follow in her father's footsteps, although she is undecided on what university she will be attending, she plans to join an ROTC program.

"I have known about the [ROTC] scholarship since I was in middle school, but I did not decide on doing [ROTC] until late sophomore year," said Faunt.

Over the summer, Faunt began a physical training regimen with the assistance of her father in preparation for her physical fitness assessment, which she was required to pass in order to apply for ROTC. Her regimen consisted of a two to three mile run each day along with push ups and sit ups. Faunt recently took the physical fitness assessment and passed.

After Faunt completes her college education and the ROTC program, she plans to serve four years active duty and four years in reserve while she is simultaneously enrolled in flight school. Once she completes her service, she can apply to become an astronaut.

"My dad inspired me a lot" said Faunt. "Growing up with him, I didn't realize it was not normal to have a parent in the military, but it's just my life and I wouldn't have it any other way."



Senior Reese Faunt visited many military bases with her family when she was young because of her father's position, which inspired her desire to join the military. Photo used with permission from Reese Faunt



Senior Caroline Carlson poses for a picture with her sister, Elizabeth Carlson. Photo used with permission from Caroline Carlson

Cutting the cable cord

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: **DELILAH COE**

A decade ago people aimlessly flicked through channels looking for something to watch on cable. Maybe they had the setting on their TV that could record the show they wanted, but other than that, the majority of the time, peoples favorite shows would not be airing. Flash forward to today and we have the ability to open Netflix or Hulu on an iPad and sit down to binge content for hours. Over the last decade, streaming services have taken over cable.

The first television was created in 1927, and broadcast television was eventually replaced with cable, but many American homes did not have a television until the 80s and 90s when it became more popular. New technology is continuously changing to meet the demands of consumers who no longer want to tune in to watch a TV program on a designated day and time. Now, there are endless options that allow customers to watch what they want, when they want it. The evolution of streaming services has opened up a new world of entertainment to consumers, and most viewers consider streaming to be an easier and more enjoyable option than cable television. Streaming services are opening up a new branch of the entertainment industry that is making television much more enjoyable to watch.

Streaming services were first launched in the early 2000s, and Netflix, YouTube, Apple, and Hulu began to grow. Netflix quickly became the most popular streaming service because of its ability to outperform its competition. At first, it provided the best options, but when competitors such as Hulu and Amazon Prime started to flourish, Netflix added award-winning movies and Netflix original shows and movies that kept

audiences entertained. Since then, people have slowly started to switch from cable to streaming services. In 2018, Netflix was the world's largest streaming network, but it is now being challenged by various companies of the increasingly growing streaming service industry. Competition between streaming services is forcing all of them to up their game, making their products better for customers.

Although streaming services are competing, they have officially beat cable. According to Forbes, Netflix has reached 50.85 million subscribers leaving cable with only 48.61 million viewers. Stated by Statista, Netflix's profit in 2018 was a whopping \$15.8 billion. "Cutting the cord" is the new trend for television customers today because streaming services are ad free, provide more options, and are cheaper. Rather than paying a high fee for cable or a cable bundle where customers only have minimal options for channels, customers can get rid of cable and buy multiple subscriptions to different streaming services. As this trend grows, the most popular streaming services, such as Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime, are being forced to compete with new services, such as Disney+ and Apple TV+.

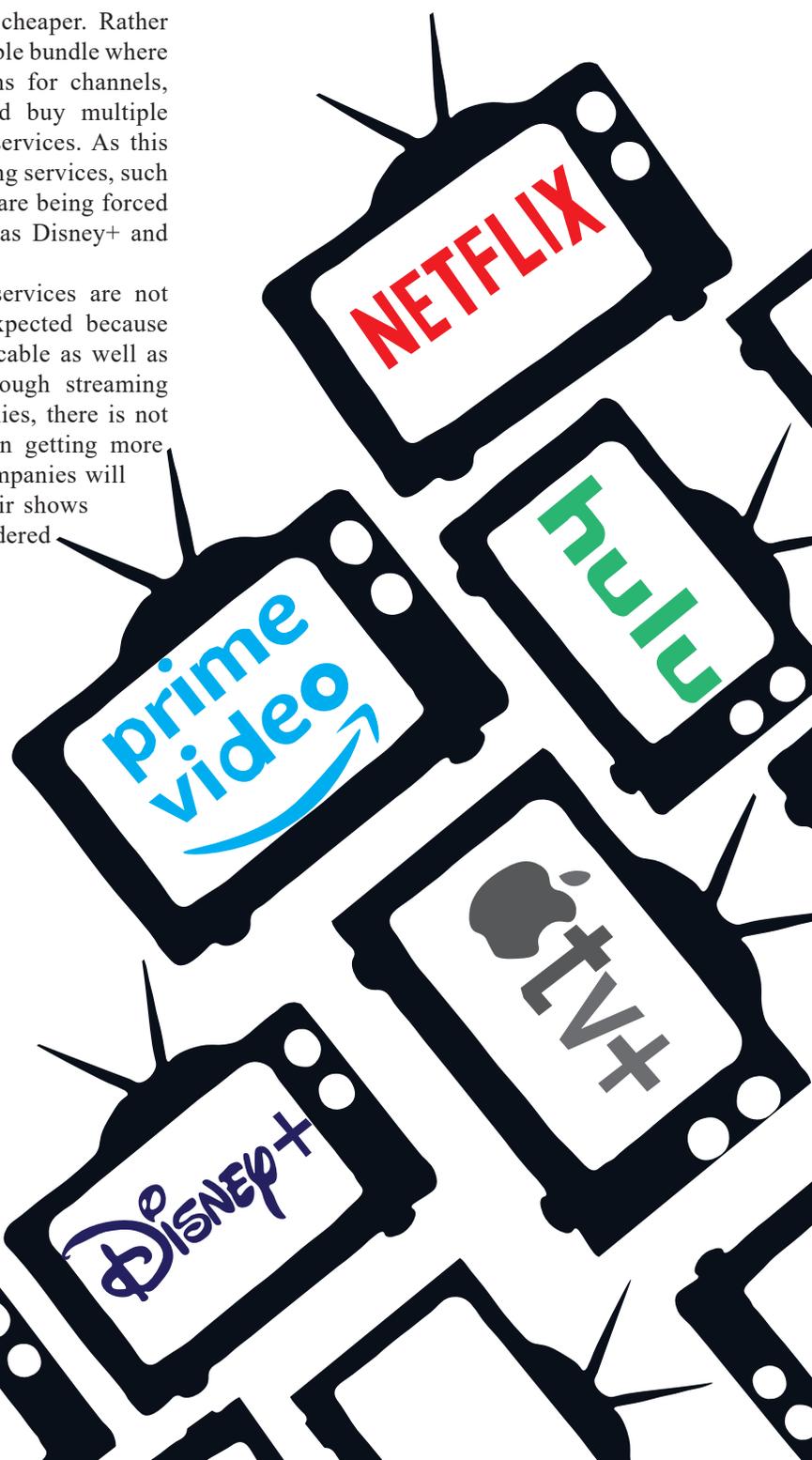
Surprisingly, cable and satellite services are not being affected as dramatically as expected because a large amount of people have kept cable as well as purchasing streaming services. Although streaming services are a threat to cable companies, there is not a big response from them other than getting more defensive with their shows. Some companies will not allow Hulu to have access to their shows anymore because they are now considered

a competitor. It is predicted that cable will slowly start to deteriorate as more people realize the benefits of streaming services.

These new services offer cheaper prices and high demand shows and channels. Netflix's standard service costs \$12.99, an Amazon Prime membership also costs \$12.99, Hulu with no ads costs \$11.99, Disney+ costs \$6.99, and Apple TV+ costs only \$5.00. All of these payments are made monthly. Each service has different products to offer, but all of them provide an easy service that is significantly cheaper than the standard cable or satellite service that averages around \$107.00 per month.



A Mercy girl scrolls through her iPad to decide what she wants to watch on Netflix during her free time at school. Photo by Delilah Coe



Is Disney+ really a plus?

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ISABELLE SAWICKI, EDITOR IN CHIEF

Streaming services have taken over the world of television and film with the decline in cable use and the increase in streaming original movies. Netflix's dominance has created a new way of accessing entertainment. Its original series and movies have gained millions of views and made Netflix one of the leading entertainment companies. However, it seems that whenever a company finds success in one area, other companies follow suit and challenge their predecessors.

Months ago, every Disney series and movie was taken off of Netflix because Disney is one of the many companies trying to emulate Netflix's success. Disney+, released on November 12, is the streaming service Disney created to offer audiences all of their Disney favorites on one platform.

While there are some complaints about Disney's new streaming service, Disney+ is worth the subscription. The monthly subscription fee is \$6.99 per month, or \$69.99 for a year, a savings of about \$13. This monthly subscription fee is cheaper than Netflix's monthly subscription which starts at \$8.99 and can cost up to \$15.99 depending which subscription plan is chosen.

Disney+ offers an array of movies, TV shows, and more. The Disney domain is very large and many entertainment companies are owned by Disney, which allows Disney+ to offer more than just traditional Disney content. Content created by Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and National Geographic are all available on the streaming service.

Along with Disney+, Disney is launching ESPN+ which streams sports that have traditionally been reserved for cable. Disney dominated the entertainment industry for many years now, and the creation of these two services is likely to secure Disney's frontrunner position for many years to come.

When opening the service for the first time, you are presented with an array of films and shows ranging from family films, to action films, documentaries, and so much more. Teenagers are presented with a surplus of childhood nostalgia with the subscription. Series and movies that our generation has grown up watching are all back at your fingertips, bringing back memories, times of stress-free lives, and the shows we all know and love.

One of the companies Disney owns is Marvel, the largest and most successful superhero franchise. One of its most recent films, *Avengers:Endgame*, recently became the top grossing film of all time. With Disney+ comes access to every Marvel movie ever made.

Another company owned by Disney is Pixar, which is known for family friendly cartoons. Disney+ is

flooded with these animations, many of which Gen Z grew up with, and many new ones as well.

Along with movies and shows released before the creation of Disney+, Disney is making new movies and shows through the streaming service. One of the most advertised and anticipated of these is the show *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series*. This series perfectly plays off Millennials' and Gen Z's childhoods by creating a new show based on the generations' childhood favorite: *High School Musical*. Series like these will attract older audiences along with Disney's typical younger crowd.

A downside to the addition of Disney+ is the competition streaming services have created among themselves. Because of Disney+'s creation, every Disney movie and series was taken off of Netflix. The result of it is consumers only wanting to pay for one subscription and having to choose which one. Just like many industries in America, streaming services have become plentiful but only offer certain content, which frustrates consumers and their wallets as they don't want to pay the large sum of money to purchase multiple subscriptions to many streaming services.

The app also has some functionality problems as well. A common feature all streaming services have is the "continue watching" option where when viewers leave the app, their show or movie will pause and once the app is opened again, those shows and movies will appear on the home page. Disney+ does not have this feature within the app.

While this is not a critical component, it does hinder the app's functionality, especially when compared to other streaming services.

If you are a Disney, Pixar, Marvel, or

Star Wars fiend, Disney+ is the streaming service for you. With all that it offers, it is worth the monthly subscription and amplifies Disney's mission to please audiences.



PIXAR + MARVEL + STAR WARS + NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

FROM YEEZUS TO JESUS

STORY AND GRAPHICS: ABBY SHAW

Kanye West is notorious for his explicit albums about racy topics highlighting money, fame, and other provocative subjects. His new album, *Jesus is King*, shows a never before seen side of his music in his first non-explicit and religious album. I do not think that this album is a good representation of Kanye's abilities, and although the music is well-made with catchy beats, I do not recommend this album to anyone unless they are seeking out religious music.

The first track on the album, "Every Hour", features his Sunday Service choir. The song is only a minute and thirty seconds long, and repeats the verse "Sing 'til the power of the Lord comes down" throughout the song. It is unclear whether or not Kanye is singing as a part of the choir or if he is absent from this song as he does not sing any verses alone. "Every Hour" serves as an effective light and energetic introduction to give listeners an idea of the gospel-esque music that is to follow in the rest of his album.

The next song featured on the album is called "Selah". Selah is a term that is referenced numerous times in the book of Psalms in the Bible. The true meaning of the word is unknown, but scholars believe it to mean "to lift up" or "exalt", according to the New American Standard Hebrew Lexicon. "Selah" is Kanye's first song in the album to feature his rapping. Kanye brings out his familiar egotistical personality in the song when he raps the verse "When I get to Heaven's gates / I ain't gotta peak over", meaning he is confident he will get to Heaven and needs no reassurance. Although this rapping is similar in framework and sound as his other albums, the meaning and references behind his words are so different that it is hard to believe this is the same Kanye that has songs entitled "Drunk and Hot Girls" and "Hold my Liquor". I like that this song is similar in sound and style as his old songs, but the lyrics and message are too deep and personal to casually listen to this song as a fan of Kanye's previous music. It includes many references to the Bible to inspire the praise of God. He preaches to those listening to forgive, and that in Heaven, all the mistakes of the past will be forgotten. This song has a catchy tune, and is persuasive in prompting listeners to thank God, but

I do not think it is the type of music his fans are looking for from him. The other songs of the album seem to try to persuade the listeners to start following God.

Kanye's next song, "Follow God", surprisingly does not contain as much of a persuasive tone to enforce following God as the two before it, despite its insinuating title. There are no Bible references, and it resembles the Kanye from his previous albums through a similar beat and catchy lyrics. In his next track, "Closed on Sunday", Kanye refers to Chick-fil-A being closed on Sundays to give time to God. He sings about his family, and his hopes for them to give time on Sundays to pray. He seems to be speaking to his family through his lyrics: "Follow Jesus, listen and obey / No more livin' for the culture, we nobody's slave". He preaches his hopes to "train" his children in faith. His lyrics speaking of his family are endearing and the main chorus of the song, "Closed on Sunday, you're my Chick-fil-A", brings back the uniqueness and unpredictability of Kanye's lyrics. I like that this song does not seem to be calling his fans to follow God, but instead is just talking about what he wishes for his own family.

"On God" and "We Have Everything we Need" are both about giving up all control to God and accepting what he gives. Kanye sings about his thankfulness and how he attributes all his success to God. However, his song "Hands On" refers to his conversion to Christianity, and the criticism he faced throughout it. He sings "What have you been hearin' from the Christians? / They'll be the first one to judge me / Make it feel like nobody loves me". He is referring to the hate he received when he began his conversion. I think that mentioning the adversity that he received in his conversion only brings more attention to his controversial past. However, he also sings "Told the devil that I'm going on a strike" in reference to his questionable past before he converted. I appreciate him implying that he understands he made mistakes in the past, and that he is trying to make up for them, but I do not think he should do so through such an intense religious album. In the past, fans have listened to his music for enjoyment, and for the fun beats, but with this album, they are faced with deep emotions and persuasion to follow God.

Although he does partly address his controversial past, Kanye does not touch on any specifics. It is difficult to really respect his album praising God, knowing that he has released a song in the past entitled "I am a god".

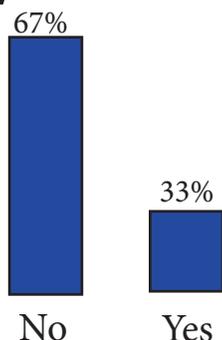
Overall, *Jesus is King* is not a realistic reflection of the abilities of Kanye that allowed him to become so famous. The appeal of Kanye West has always been his unfiltered rap music and his willingness to speak whatever is on his mind. In *Jesus is King*, listeners are not only exposed to a new music style that contrasts all other music from Kanye, but they also seem to be getting persuaded by Kanye to follow God. Such a drastic change in music style is a major turn-off for fans as the Kanye they fell in love with is hardly present on this album. While it is perfectly acceptable for Kanye to express his faith, a whole album dedicated to praising God is such a huge contrast from all his other music that loyal fans are likely to still be supportive, but will not gain the same appreciation for his music as they have with all his other albums.



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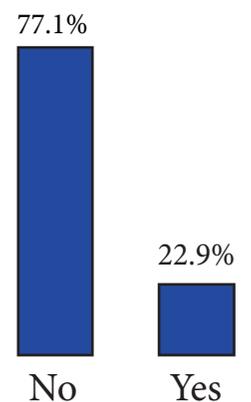
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Have you listened to Kanye's new album?



Based on an informal *Newsprint* poll of 103 responses

Do you like his album?



Based on an informal *Newsprint* poll of 83 responses

ACT®: Test retake option

STORY, PHOTO, AND GRAPHICS: KEILEY BLACK, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR AND DUNYA KIZY, PHOTO EDITOR

Students should utilize the ACT retake option

In today's competitive college admissions process, it is overwhelming to worry about keeping up with extracurriculars, writing the perfect essay, and taking the dreaded SAT or ACT. To help alleviate pressure from standardized tests, the ACT test now gives the option to retake individual sections instead of the entire test. This retake option gives students a huge advantage in standardized testing and students should use it to the fullest extent.

Students are stressed with getting the highest possible score on standardized tests, so they often retake the test multiple times over. Statistics even prove that scores usually do improve after taking the test a repeat time. According to the ACT website run by the College Board, "repeat-testers' latest scores had an average composite score 2.9 points higher than their single-test counterparts." While many students choose to take the test multiple times, most are just trying to get their points up on a particular section of the test they struggled on before. In order to potentially improve on those individual sections, students would have to retake the entire ACT test. That is, until now.

In my personal experience, I took the ACT twice and my score improved by three points the second time around. Going into the second test, I knew exactly which sections I needed to improve to get my score up. Being able to retake individual sections of the ACT would have made a world of difference for me and I may have been able to improve my score even further.

This change will be implemented starting with the September 2020 ACT test. It also comes with a huge shift in the way students take the ACT. Starting with this test date, e n t i r e

exams and section retakes will be available to take online following the national testing day.

This aspect of the ACT will be very beneficial to students and parents alike. Instead of having students or parents drive to a sanctioned ACT testing location, the retake option as well as the ACT itself will be available from the comfort of their own home.

According to act.org, the purpose of the new section retake option is to allow students to do as well as they possibly can on the test. Section retakes will allow students to focus on individual topics as opposed to worrying about maintaining their score on the sections they had previously done well on.

Test anxiety is all too real for a lot of students and can be a roadblock that prevents them from doing their very best on the test. Especially when repeating the test, students may be so worried about improving a section or two that they don't focus enough on the rest of the test. If one of these other sections goes wrong, it may cause a student to become overwhelmed and lose his or her train of thought entirely.

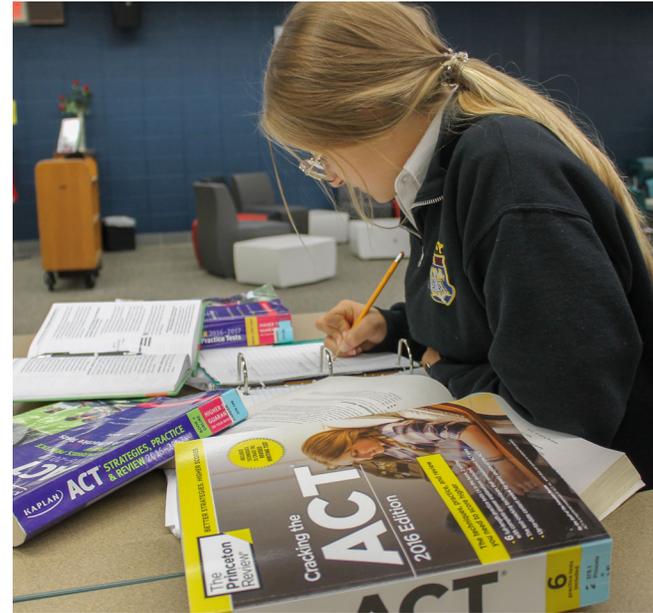
The section retake allows students to shift their focus to what needs improvement and not think about outside factors. The retake option gives students peace of mind that their entire focus can be given to one section instead of also having to think about how they did on other sections.

With so much commotion happening when it comes to college decisions and admissions, the ACT is at least trying to reduce some of that anxiety with new and more dynamic options for test takers.

"I think it's a good idea because if you had to retake the whole test, you may get tired by the time you get to the section that needs improvement," said junior Abbey Baetz.

Students in the graduating class of 2021 are the first class that will be able to fully take advantage of the ACT test section retakes. The junior class will determine whether or not the section retakes improve scores.

However, one concern is whether or not colleges will hold students to an even higher standard for



According to the ACT website, with studying and taking the ACT a second time, 57% of students improve their composite score. Photo by Dunya Kizy

test scores since they have the option to retake just individual sections.

Since the point of the new retakes is to improve ACT scores overall, it is very possible that colleges could increase their admission requirements. Even if students choose not to use the individual retakes to their advantage, colleges will most likely take into consideration that students had the option to retake sections whether they untimely chose to use that option or not. Regardless, colleges will hold that standard true for every single student, so there is no reason not to take advantage of the retake option. Not retaking parts of the ACT if that option is available would be silly.

The ACT retake option is the newest and most flexible option the ACT has given students in a long time and should not be taken for granted. The new option lowers students' test anxiety and gives them the chance to focus on individual sections of the ACT and hopefully be able to improve their scores more than they would have been able to do in the past. Do not let this opportunity go to waste!

Mercy Opinions

Percentage of Mercy girls who support ACT retakes (based on an informal Newsprint poll of 102 responses)

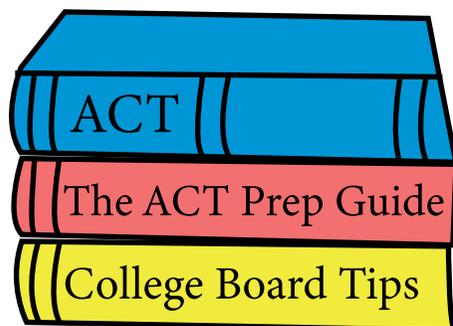
A 54%

B 91%

C 72%

D 29%

E 84%



Recommended ACT books

1. The Official ACT Prep Guide
2. Barron's ACT
3. Princeton Review's Cracking the ACT
4. Manhattan Prep 5 lb. Book of ACT Practice Problems

Plentiful pies

STORY, PHOTOS, AND GRAPHICS: CARRIE JEFFERSON, COPY EDITOR

As Thanksgiving approaches, many long standing family traditions accompany the holiday season. Whether it's running in the Turkey Trot or helping cook Thanksgiving dinner, there is nothing like spending quality time with family. However, pie recipes may be the oldest traditions within a family as they can be passed down through generations for all to enjoy. This remains true for the Zaidi, Jefferson, and Shaw *Newsprint* families who have shared their delicious pie recipes below. From our *Newsprint* family to yours, Happy Thanksgiving!

Ingredients:
 8 ounces of cream cheese, softened
 1 cup of brown sugar, packed
 2 large eggs and 1 egg yolk
 1 ¼ cups of heavy cream
 ¼ cup of all-purpose flour
 3 ½ tablespoons of ground cinnamon
 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
 1 teaspoon of salt
 ½ teaspoon of ground nutmeg
 1 9-inch pie crust
 Powdered sugar for dusting

Instructions:
 1) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
 2) Place cream cheese and brown sugar in the bowl of an electric mixer. Beat on high until light and fluffy for about three to five minutes.
 3) Scrape the bowl with a spatula, then beat in eggs. Scrape the bowl again, then set the mixer on low and mix in cream, flour, cinnamon, vanilla, salt, and nutmeg until very smooth.
 4) Pour the cinnamon filling into prepared pie pan. Bake for 35 minutes until the center seems set when jiggled, but not totally firm. Bake another five minutes if needed. Cool completely. Cover and chill.
 5) Take out of the refrigerator one hour before serving. Dust the top of the pie with powdered sugar.



Ingredients:
 ¾ cup of sugar
 ¼ teaspoon of salt
 4 tablespoons of cornstarch
 2 tablespoons of flour
 1 ½ cups of boiling water
 2 egg yolks
 ¼ cup of sugar
 2 tablespoons of butter
 ½ cup of lemon juice
 1 teaspoon of grated lemon rind
 1 9-inch pie crust
 2 egg whites
 ¼ teaspoon of salt

Instructions:
 1) Mix ¾ cup of sugar, ¼ teaspoon of salt, cornstarch and flour; slowly add boiling water and cook until thick, stirring constantly.
 2) Beat egg yolks with ¼ cup of sugar until thick.
 3) Add small amount of hot mixture and stir into the remaining mixture.
 4) Add butter and cook for three minutes.
 5) Add lemon juice and rind slowly; cool and pour into baked shell.
 6) Make meringue of egg whites.

Meringue ingredients:
 ¼ teaspoon of salt
 ½ teaspoon extract, if desired
 3 egg whites
 6 tablespoons of sugar

Instructions:
 1) Add salt and extract to egg whites; beat to stiff foam.
 2) Add sugar, a tablespoon at a time, and continue beating until mixture forms heavy, lustrous peaks.
 3) Spread over filling, fixing to the edge of the pastry.
 4) Bake in a moderate oven at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 12-15 minutes.

Ingredients:
 1 cup of packed light brown sugar
 1 tablespoon of cornstarch
 ½ teaspoon of salt
 1 teaspoon of ground ginger
 1 teaspoon of ground cinnamon
 ⅛ teaspoon of ground cloves
 1 ½ cups of canned pumpkin purée
 4 large eggs, 3 lightly beaten, and 1 egg for glaze
 1 ½ cups of evaporated milk
 1 tablespoon of heavy cream
 1 9-inch pie crust

Instructions:
 1) Preheat oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit and line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.
 2) In a large bowl, combine the sugar, cornstarch, salt, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, pumpkin purée, and three eggs. Beat well. Add evaporated milk and combine. Set aside.
 3) Make the glaze: beat the remaining egg, and combine with heavy cream. Brush glaze very lightly on edges of pie crust. Fill pie shell with pumpkin mixture. Transfer to prepared baking sheet.
 4) Bake for 10-15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and continue baking for 30-45 minutes more. Cool on wire rack.



A brush with success

STORY, PHOTOS, AND GRAPHICS: CLARE JONES

As Katy Cockrel strolls through the newly renovated downtown area and walks through the door of her shop, she feels a sense of energy and excitement about another day in her salon that she is very passionate about. Many of Cockrel's life skills were first honed while attending Mercy where she learned to multi-task, the importance of giving to others, the benefits of self-confidence, the challenges of leadership and embracing the diversity of others.

A vice president of a public relations firm by day and a business owner by day and night, Mercy High School alum Katy Cockrel ('03) is an influential and creative millennial entrepreneur in the city of Detroit. As the city continues to recover from its bankruptcy in 2013, many determined entrepreneurs have helped Detroit make a comeback. Detroit Blows is one of these businesses making a difference.

Cockrel co-founded Detroit Blows with actress and social activist Sophia Bush, along with native Detroit-er Nia Batt, a film and marketing entrepreneur. These millennials are recreating the traditional hair salon by providing quick service, eco-friendly hair care and styling at reasonable prices. The salon is located in the heart of downtown Detroit at 1232 Liberty Street.

"The core of our service and business model is that we provide hair blowouts, so our name is a literal translation of what we do" said Cockrel.

Although the company's name "Detroit Blows" may sound negative, the business concept is very positive.

"Nia and I are both native Detroiters and we have seen the city go through not only this resurgence but also a series of 'blows' in its storied history," Cockrel added. "It's a nod to the city's resilience as well."



Detroit Blows is located at 1232 Liberty Street in the heart of downtown Detroit. Photo by Clare Jones

A key component that makes the salon unique is the hair technicians who are trained to style all hair textures and lengths to customers from all cultures and backgrounds. It also offers other beauty services beyond just a blowout such as manicures, make-up applications, and packaged services for large groups like bridal parties.

The salon's beautiful interior design is an open loft layout with exposed piping and brick walls with a touch of neo 1960's modern furniture in the lobby. The shop prides itself on using only non-toxic hair products. Preserving the environment is extremely important to the owners since scientific studies have found that hair stylists sometimes suffer from negative health conditions as a result long-term exposure to chemicals in hair and beauty products.

While attending Mercy, Cockrel was significantly

"Female empowerment and entrepreneurship is central to the ethos of [the company's] brand."
- Katy Cockrel '03

influenced by her English teacher, which sparked an interest in a career in communications and public relations. In addition, she began her interest in serving others through her position as student government Vice President her freshman year. While completing these duties, she learned how to become a leader, understand the importance of working as a team and learned to service the needs of her class.

Prior to creating her company, Cockrel had no experience in managing a hair salon so she looked to her partners for support.

"Starting a business is hard" Cockrel said. "You never know what's going to pop up, especially if you do not have the industry experience and you are learning as you go. For us, it's rewarding and we wanted to bring our concept to life that is inclusive, open, inviting and accessible to clients of all backgrounds, which is really important to us."

In addition to a safe and healthy work environment, Detroit Blows is committed to philanthropy and giving



Katy Cockrel sits in her own salon proudly wearing the salon's merchandise. Photo by Clare Jones

back to the community, serving young female entrepreneurs, and women re-entering the workforce after an extended break.

"It's a challenge and very much a day at a time in terms of how to work, life, and balance especially when half that equation is two jobs rather than one," Cockrel notes.

"For every blowout, a dollar is contributed along with a percentage of the company's profits from the company's retail sales to female entrepreneurs and women in need through our non-profit arm called Detroit Grows," Cockrel said.

Most recently, they gave funds to Alternative for Girls, an organization that helps homeless women with children and Fumble who sponsored a contest where grants were awarded to winning female business owners.

"Our business is rooted in having a positive social impact" said Cockrel.

Along with being a co-founder of Detroit Blows, Cockrel is also vice president of public relations for StockX, a retail company located and founded in Detroit. Cockrel is required to travel often to represent StockX's growing company on an international scale. "My life has always been go, go, go!" Cockrel said. I have been working in the [PR] industry for a decade now including most recently working for a StockX, which has been a crazy and hyper growth start-up that has gone global. . . it is more fast paced."

Cockrel was the first PR hire at StockX and has created the company's public relations department as the company has gained success through increased sales and global expansion in Europe. StockX is the world's first live auction for buying shoes and apparel. Buyers place bids and sellers make offers. The transaction is completed when the buyer and the seller meet a price agreement online. The additional value StockX offers is that they guarantee authenticity of the products. Cockrel continues to embrace women of all backgrounds to dare to succeed.



HUMANITY OF MERCY



Senior "Pepi" Posch dedicates hours to her artwork in the Mercy art room. Photo by Emily Walugembe

Senior Frances Posch, who goes by her middle name Pepi, lives a life many artists dream of. For as long as Posch can remember, she has always loved to draw. She is inspired by the way shapes can form different people and buildings, the potential a sheet of paper has to become a new universe, and the feeling of freedom drawing brings her. As a child, it didn't occur to her how much drawing would shape her life, but now she works as a freelance background artist, which is an artist working on the color, style, and mood of a scene that is drawn in animation. As a freelance character designer, she creates a character's concept and style from scratch.

Posch has worked with Youtubers like TheOdd1sOut and The AMAazing by connecting with an amateur Youtuber who goes by the name TurtleAmigo, who hosted an online game night that Posch joined. TurtleAmigo mentioned Posch to TheOdd1sOut and The AMAazing and gave them her contact info. Recently, she worked on the office backgrounds of Odd1sOut's two newest videos and The AMAazing's background.

As a freshman, Posch streamed herself drawing everyday on a site called Picarto. This helped her drawing skills improve and gave her exposure to people who liked her artwork.

Currently, Posch is taking AP Computer Science Principles because her goal is to work in virtual reality. She plans on studying computer science at Michigan Tech University in order to get into the field.

Posch's art skills grew throughout her years at Mercy. She says she chose to attend Mercy because the art program is held in high esteem.

"The art [classes] are serious here and many students want to be a part of it. I stayed here because it's more serious," said Posch.

OCTOBER'S WINNER



"When you think you failed the test, but don't get an NCR."

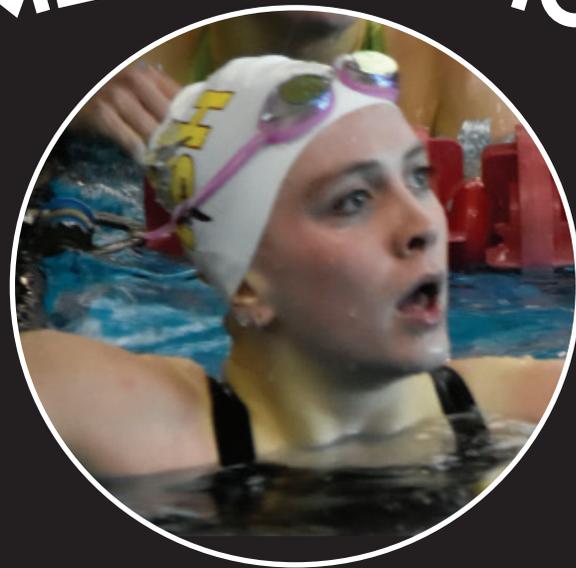
Submitted by: Caroline Turco



Associate Editor-in-Chief Caitlin Flynn dives into her top eight favorite Thanksgiving themed TV episode recommendations.

- 1. FRIENDS: "THE ONE WITH ALL THE THANKSGIVINGS" S1 EP8
2. BROOKLYN NINE NINE: "TWO TURKEYS" S5 EP7
3. HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER: "SLAPSGIVING" S3 EP9
4. MASTER OF NONE: "THANKSGIVING" S2 EP8
5. PARKS AND REC: "HARVEST FESTIVAL" S3 EP7
6. NEW GIRL: "THANKSGIVING IV" S4 EP9
7. IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA: "THE GANG QUASHES THEIR BEEF" S9 EP10
8. BOY MEETS WORLD: "TURKEY DAY" S4 EP10

MEME THIS PIC!



Can you think of a funny caption for this photo of senior Kylie Goit? To have your caption featured in the next issue, go to www.newsprintnow.net and comment on the "Meme This Pic" story under the entertainment tab! Photo by Saanya Zaidi.