

PRIDE



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THE PRIDE

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF
Leah Babins Ellie Hartleb

LAYOUT EDITOR
Isabelle Vieira

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Dakota Palmer

BUSINESS EDITOR
Jaime Miller

ASSISTANT EDITORS
Colleen Campbell Emma Verdecchia

WRITING STAFF

Heba Aslahani	Uma Rajiyah
Dai'Vonna Battle	Jessica Reed
Lexi Ednie	Alexa Snarski
Henry Palatella	Alex Storer
Dylan Pickard	Alec Ward
Molly Quinn	

LAYOUT STAFF

Madison Bruno	Janice Lee
Emily Widomski	

ADVISER
Ms. Elena Parthenakis

*The Pride is a student-produced publication of the Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy
2825 State Street | Erie, Pennsylvania*



EDITOR'S NOTE

Collegiate Academy – the intellectual, dorky, misunderstood school. Every year it seems as though somebody is trying to define who we are. Whether that person is saying that Collegiate is more than just academics, or telling the student body to embrace just how nerdy it is, it appears that he or she wants the entire school to fall under one category.

The fact of the matter is that the student body at Academy is eclectic and eccentric. The students cannot be categorized as one stereotype; they are athletes, artists, writers, scientists, delegates, musicians, mathematicians and more.

So, in this issue, *The Pride* staff wanted to focus in on what makes Academy such a fascinating school by looking at all of its different aspects. We highlighted the hidden gems of the school, while also investigating the most influential current events on the students.

In this magazine, you will find features on everything from Collegiate's most engaging clubs and star musicians to the controversial issue of gay marriage. We even threw in one of most teenagers' favorite part of a magazine – the beloved quiz.

There was one question the writers continued to ask themselves as they collaborated on their stories: what does our audience want to read? First, we decided to give the students of Collegiate the answers they are dying to know. For example, Uma Rajiyah will let you know how you manage to drain your bank account every month. You will no longer feel guilty of your mounting expenses though, because the total cost of being a teenager is astounding. Next, Dak's and Al's Advice column and Collegiate's own strategic planning committee will answer your questions about how to prepare for college.

Rest assured, the magazine is not wholly devoted to serious topics. The new "Ask the Deans" feature will reveal which superpower each dean wishes he could have. You can also find out the best local tourist attractions, and when you can see the next show featuring Academy's own musicians. So, I urge you all to enjoy this lighthearted issue; discover the most exciting events in town and even find out what Academy teacher you are most similar to.

Sincerely,

Leah Babins
Editor-in-Chief



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Advice From the Guidance Office

Your goals for this semester from the Strategic Planning Committee and the guidance counselors

LAYOUT BY ELLIE HARTLEB



9th

- 1) Take the PLAN test and learn how to interpret your result.
- 2) Get involved in extra curricular activities.



10th

- 1) Prepare for the PSAT.
- 2) Take the PSAT and learn to assess your results.
- 3) Understand what the 11th grade PSAT is for.
- 4) Update your resume/Naviance with activities you completed this summer.



11th

- 1) Prepare for the PSAT, SAT and/or ACT.
- 2) Make a list of colleges that interest you.
- 3) Start zeroing-in on a major or majors that interest you.



12th

- 1) Retake the SAT and/or ACT if needed.
- 2) Write college essays.
- 3) Get teacher recommendations
- 4) Visit colleges if needed.
- 5) Research scholarships.
- 6) Apply to colleges (late fall).
- 7) Apply for financial aid (late fall).

5 Tips for Writing

a College Essay

BY ELLIE HARTLEB

1) Write quickly.

Once you choose the common app prompt you will respond to and begin to draft your essays, Don't Stop Writing. This is just the first draft, so write everything you can think of and tweak it later. Writing quickly without stopping will give you an uninterrupted flow of thoughts which will eventually be the base of your essay.

2) Go to your happy place.

It's important to be in a good mood when you write something like this. This essay is part of your first impression on admission officers and you don't want to come off as an annoyed teenager. Relax and write.

3) Have something worth saying.

Also, if the subject of your essay is someone who influenced your life, make sure you balance the amount you talk about that person with the amount you talk about yourself, An admission officer doesn't want to read about the inspiring qualities of someone who isn't applying to their school-- they want to know about you.

4) Be yourself.

Don't overstate or understate the purpose of your essay. There is nothing more off-putting than a show-offish teenager. This is your chance to show colleges who you are, so make the most of the opportunity.

5) Don't cry over spilled milk.

This is a first draft. And there will be many more drafts. Don't fret over the amount of editing your essay needs. Devote the time to make it the best it can be in order to really show off both your writing skills and the personal characteristics you are showcasing in your essay.

MEET THE DEANS

LAYOUT DESIGNED BY DAKOTA PALMER



Q: What is your favorite thing about Collegiate Academy?

What is not my favorite thing would be an easier question to answer. The parents, teachers and students are awesome. It is a great collaborative community.

Mr. Vieira

Q: If you were a super hero, what powers would you have?

The power to fly. That is always a good one.

Q: If you could be any fictional character, who would it be and why?

I would want to be the Hulk so I could jump long distances. I would jump down to Georgia and see my son.

Q: What is your favorite thing about Collegiate Academy?

The positive atmosphere. I also like that the students are very focused and their priorities are learning and interacting.



Mr. Nickson

Q: What is your favorite thing about Collegiate Academy?

The students, hands down. The kids are awesome and dive into everything; they are not afraid to try something new. There is a lot of energy here.

Q: If you could be any animal, what would you be and why?

I would be a shark. It is my son's favorite animal. They have all of those little extras and are really cool.



Mr. Schneider



Student Senate Serves You



Kris Chandler
Senior Vice President



Sam Trostle
Senior Vice President



Colleen Campbell
Junior Vice President



Jacob Binder
Junior Vice President



Ben Hartleb
Sophomore Vice President



Danielle Wiczorek
Sophomore Vice President



Jada Rossman
Freshman Vice President



Adi Hadzadic
Freshman Vice President

ARTICLE BY COLLEEN CAMPBELL
LAYOUT BY MADISON BRUNO

As the year progresses, Collegiate Academy students enjoy a full calendar of school-wide activities and events, most of which are planned by the Student Senate.

Student Senate is Collegiate's form of student government and is run very differently from the councils of other schools. In student senate, there are two vice presidents from grades nine through 12 and one senior class president. All officers reserve the same amount of power because events are planned as group discussions with no voting.

Student Senate advisor, Mr. Taylor says that one of the most important jobs of Student Senate is to "represent the views of the student body in the activities, events and other issues in the school." Student Senate plans a number of events throughout the year such as Beachwalk, the fall dance, semi-formal, the holiday basket collection, freshman event, sophomore lockdown and the junior trip. In order to plan activities, the officers must find open dates on the school calendar, reserve venues, provide entertainment and get the approval of the administration.

Mr. Taylor says that the officers must work with the administration to provide a student perspective on things that would otherwise be handled by faculty members.

The goal of student senate is not only to plan events that run smoothly, but also to ease the stress of the students during the school year.

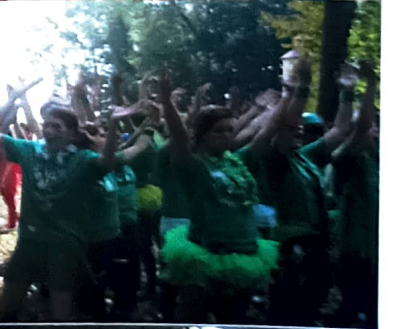
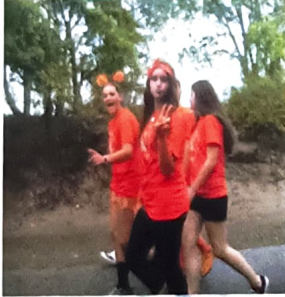
Senior Class President Dakota Palmer said that the most rewarding part of being an officer of Student Senate is getting to see the happiness and togetherness of classmates after each event. Beachwalk is her favorite event because it is "one of those days where everyone gets together and has a good time."

"The most important job of Student Senate is to help maintain the culture established at Collegiate Academy," says Taylor. "The culture must respect and encourage student involvement in shaping their high school experience."



Dakota Palmer
President

Mr. Taylor
Advisor





ENJOYING COLLEGIATE'S INVOLVE

BAND BIOS

Melrose

Formed January 2013

Members Tyler Falls (Junior, Collegiate Academy): vocals, lyrics
Connor Moore (Junior, McDowell): lead guitar
David Plitto (Junior, Central Tech): rhythm guitar
Everett Cotter (Junior, Collegiate Academy): bass, lyrics
Cameron Silvis (Junior, Collegiate Academy): drums

Style/Genre Metalcore

Influences Emmure, The Plot in You, Parkway Drive, August Burns Red, Chiodos

Upcoming Shows November 15 @ PACA
 1505 State Street, Erie PA 16501

Teatime for Three

Formed November 2012

Members Jack Rys (Junior, McDowell): vocals, guitar, harmonica, lyrics
Aaron Sutton (senior, East): guitar, keyboard
Ell Kerr (senior, McDowell): bass, backing vocals
Nick Dzurlicky (senior, Collegiate Academy): drums

Style/Genre Garage rock, basement blues

Influences Jack White, The Black Keys, The Who, Emerson Lake, Palmer, Black Sabbath

Upcoming Shows N/A



The melody of an overdriven lead guitar flies frantically across a landscape of chunky bass and grinding rhythm. The drummer fires away on his set with machine-gun like speed as the vocalist throws his entire body into a hair-raising scream.

To some, it is chaos; but to Collegiate students Tyler Falls, Everett Cotter, and Cameron Silvis, along with the other musicians and fans that often inhabit Basement Transmissions, it is a hobby, a passion, a way of life.

"I love doing small shows," says Junior Tyler Falls, front

man of local metalcore band Melrose. "You can look around and see everyone's faces. You know that you're not a big band - that it doesn't really matter - but it's still a surreal feeling."

Falls, along with band mates and Collegiate classmates Everett Cotter and Cameron Silvis, have a second life and a second home at Basement Transmissions, an unimposing venue on the east side of midtown State Street. The building greets visitors with a vampire's open maw- "BASEMENT TRANSMISSIONS" spelled out letter by letter on the teeth. Look into the vampire's mouth on any given

THE CHAOS: NT IN THE ERIE MUSIC SCENE

Article By Alex Storer

Layout Designed by Janice Lee



Friday or Saturday night, and chances are you will see some of Erie's most promising young musicians at work.

Although the venue is small, the performances there can be downright impressive. Basement Transmissions' stage is actually on the same level as the crowd, allowing the bands and their audience to have a more intimate experience. Guitarists and vocalists can wade out into the crowd, looking their friends in the face as they play or sing.

The sheer talent of the musicians, however, is what makes the place so special. Erie band Teatime for Three, which includes Collegiate senior Nick Dzuricky, ad-libbed at least 20 minutes of impromptu music at the end of their Sept. 6 show. The band fired up the crowd with their eclectic style and energetic stage antics, making the night a memorable one for all involved.

The environment at Basement Transmissions (B.T.) allows and encourages the area's young musicians to thrive and grow. "You can tell that everyone supports each other and that they love what they're doing," says Dzuricky, who drums for Teatime for Three.

"Basement Transmissions pretty much makes the Erie music scene possible for high-schoolers, because it's an all-ages venue."

The venue has seen the rise, reign, and fall of several of Erie's most prominent bands. Its owner, Robert Jensen (affectionately known as Bobby J) has offered many local music acts their first opportunity to perform live. Melrose, a fairly new band that played their first show at B.T., has made great strides in the past eight months: "We've really improved on the business end of things, as far as booking shows and things like that," says Falls. On Nov. 15, Melrose plays a show with Chunk! No, Captain Chunk!, a pop-punk band whose latest album peaked at number 72 on the Billboard 200.

The long-term future of these bands remains unclear; members of Melrose have stated that they will stay in Erie for college if the band is signed by then, but if not, they will likely go their separate ways. One thing is clear; no matter where they go, these musicians will continue to enjoy their craft and expand their skills.

BASEMENT

ALL-AGE VENUES

Basement Transmissions
1501 State Street, Erie PA 16501

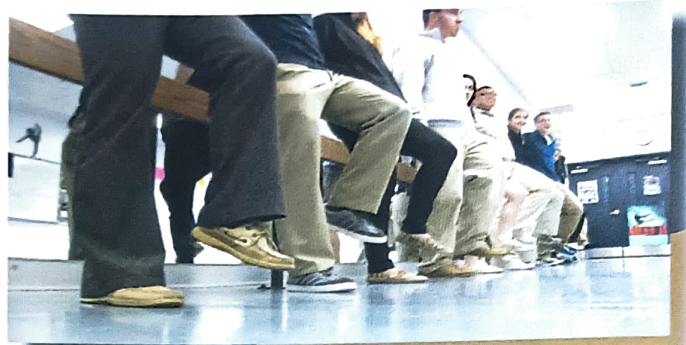
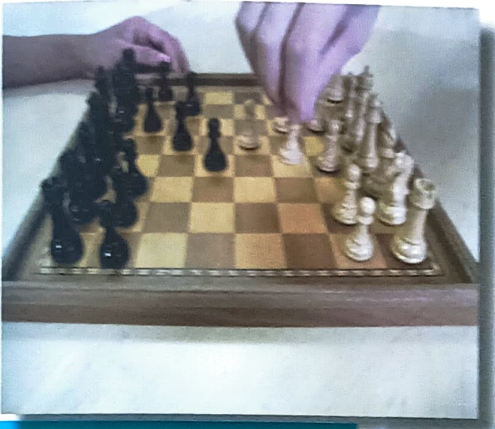
Performing Artists Collective Alliance (PACA)
1505 State Street, Erie PA 16501

Forward Hall
2502 Peach Street, Erie PA 16502

TRANSMISSIONS

Collegiate Clubs

More Meaningful



Monday

Archery Club:
Feiock, 3pm, Old
Gym

Chemistry Club:
Reed and Rinderle,
3pm, Rm. 213

Guitar Club: Pow-
ell, 3pm, Rm. 105

Model UN: Lasher,
3pm, Rm. 6

National Honor
Society: Holmes,
Time TBA, Library

Tuesday

Math Club: Fleming,
3pm, Rm. 214

CIA/Robotics: Reed,
Time TBA, Central
Tech

Green Team: Petri, 3pm,
Rm. 9

SAT Math Prep: Gra-
ziano, 3pm, Rm. 201

Step Team: Nicolìa,
3pm, Dance Studio

Wednesday

Team Hope: Wiley,
3pm, Rm. 110

National Honor
Society: Holmes,
Time TBA, Library

Performing Arts
Boosters: Tryzbiak,
6:30pm, Rm. 21

Photography Club:
Lanich, 3pm, Rm.
114

SAT Reading and
Writing Prep: Kern,
3pm, Rm. 122

Make High School

LAYOUT DESIGNED BY COLLEEN
CAMPBELL



Thursday

Anime Club:
Sheldon, 3pm, Rm.
5

CIA/Robotics: Reed,
Time TBA, Central
Tech

Mock Trial: Fuller,
3pm, Rm. 1

Friday

Ski and Snowboard
Club: Feiock, Tima
and Place TBA

Apply and Audition:

KingTV-Hilinski

Yearbook-Ditrich

News Magazine-
Parthenakis

Theater- Tryzbiak

Cadence- Hughes
ASL- Sheldon



The Expenses of Academy

After compiling some common expenses among teenagers, it is certain that being a teenager is more costly than one would think. According to Collegiate Academy administrators, a normal senior's fees include the following:



Beach Walk:
\$51
Shirt- \$6
Pledge - \$30
Additions to Outfit-\$15

Prom:
\$295
Dress/tuxedo- \$150
Dinner- \$40
Ticket- \$25 each
Hair and nails-\$70
Corsage/boutonniere- \$20

Apparel:
\$1,200 (\$100 per month)

College Application Fees:
\$300
(about \$50 per application)

SAT Fees and ACT Fees:
\$200



Semi-formal:
\$260
Dress/suit- \$150
Dinner- \$40
Ticket- \$10
Hair and nails- \$60

Food (groceries, fast food, restaurants): \$1,800 (\$150 per month)

Senior Apparel:
\$45
Senior Days:
\$30
Senior Banquet:
\$25 + \$1 for the senior video

Sports- \$135
Sweat shirts and sweat pants
\$60
Shoes and socks- \$75



Being a Collegiate Senior



ARTICLE BY UMA RAJIYAH
LAYOUT BY MADISON BRUNO



Cap and Gown:
\$30



Car Expenses:
\$13,840
Insurance- \$3,000 (\$250 per month)
Second-hand car- \$9,000
Tires- \$500
Gas- \$1,040 (\$20 per week)
Speeding tickets-\$300 (about 2 tickets in a year)

AP Tests:
\$45 (\$15 per test)



Electronics: \$1,164
Smartphone- \$200
Phone bill- \$564 (\$47 per month)
Tablet/iPad- \$400

Social Activities (going to the movies, sports games, etc.):
\$1,300 (\$25 per week)

This comes to a grand total of \$19,380 in the span of a year.
*Most of these factors reflect the average costs or estimated values. Some may not apply to everyone.

Get Fee waivers for tests such as the SATs and ACTs (only available two times for each test)

Get a job!

Beachwalk is free if you fund-raise instead of paying the entire \$30 yourself

Spend time at free venues rather than paying for a movie or sports event

Doing your own hair and nails for formal events can save money and allow for a bigger clothing budget

COMING FROM JAPAN AND DEUTS

Article by Heba Alsahlani

Layout Designed by Isabelle Vieira

Seventeen year old Yumi Tsunoda (Yu-mi Tsu-no-da) has lived in Kanagawa, Japan all her life. "My city, Kamakura has many historic spots, such as Daibutsu the Great Buddha, and Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine," Yumi says.

On Aug. 8th Yumi traveled a total of 15 hours from Kanagawa to Erie and is now staying with sophomore Eva Yochim's family. She is excited for her senior year at Collegiate Academy.

Foreign exchange students come from around the world, willing to accept this challenge and opportunity. Collegiate Academy has the honor of having two foreign exchange students, for the 2013-2014 school year.

Fifteen year old Lena Wenrich (Lee-na When-rich), from Hamburg, Germany, flew to Erie on Aug. 29. Hamburg is a large city containing about 1.8 million residents so the difference of the environment Lena experienced upon coming to Erie seems unimaginable.

Both Yumi and Lena knew at a young age that they wanted to come to America.

"I have never been to the United States, and I wanted to have a change from my life in school," Lena says.

At thirteen, Yumi came to Florida to visit a family friend and knew that she wanted to return to America.

Yumi is still adjusting to the American lifestyle. The food has been an interesting experience for her, due to the sudden change of flavors. Surprisingly, the sushi here is not very much to her liking. Learning the language is her main foreign challenge, and Yumi is constantly translating everything, trying to do everything in her power to learn.

Lena can speak and write English at a proficient level, but it also still seems to be a challenge for her.

She is enthusiastic about America. "It's different but I like to be here," Lena states.

Yumi loves to be involved in school. In Japan Yumi loved to sing, and has brought that passion with her to Collegiate. She is now part of the chorus.

Lena participated in cross-country, dance and horse races in Germany, but she has not gotten too involved in Collegiate yet. Lena is a sophomore, and even though she is almost half way through high school, her classmates have tried to make her feel welcome.

Yumi will be returning mid-June to Japan. Currently though, she is not too home sick because "this home is so nice, so I like being here."

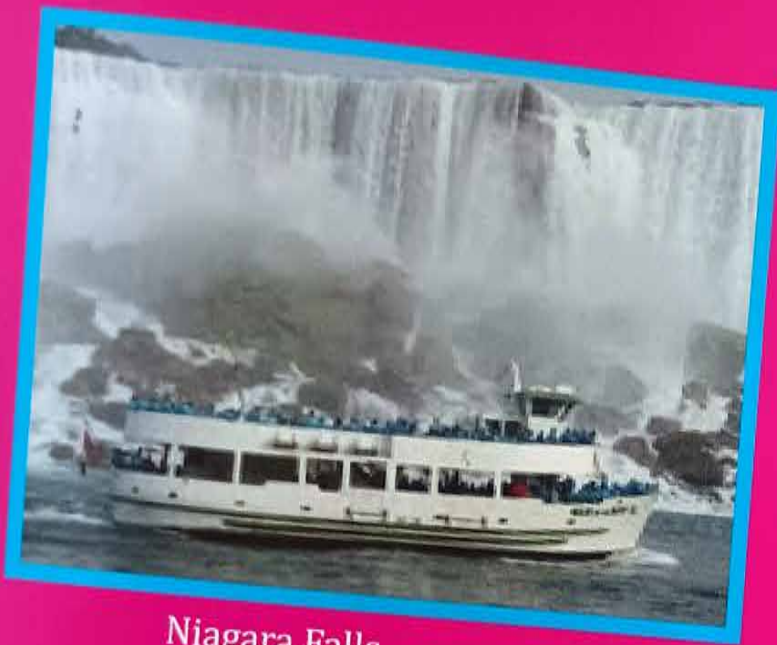
Lena will be returning to Germany after the end of this school year. However, Lena is still trying to adjust but is excited for what comes ahead.



CHLAND TO COLLEGIATE ACADEMY



YOU GOTTA SEE THIS



Niagara Falls



Pymatuning Deer Park

The Erie area hosts abundant activities. Here is a list of places and activities in the tri-state area that one should visit.

- o The local Erie beach at sunset
- o Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium
- o Panama Rocks
- o Cedar Point
- o Niagara Falls
- o Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
- o A Pittsburgh Steelers Game
- o Splash Lagoon
- o Skiing or Snow Mobiling at Snow World
- o Asbury Woods or Brown's Woods
- o Grove City Outlets
- o Waldameer
- o Erie Otter's Game
- o Erie Explosion Game
- o Erie Seawolves Game
- o Lake Erie Speedway
- o Pittsburgh Arts Festival in Schenley Park
- o Carnegie Science Center in Pittsburgh
- o Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm
- o Pymatuning Deer Park
- o Linesville Spillway

There are many other places to visit in the area. Visit them with friends.



Panama Rocks

opportunities to have fun. The following
places (in no particular order) in Erie and the
area are worth a visit before leaving for college:

Rock and Roll
Hall of Fame

Rock 'n' Peek
and other hiking trails

Spring
in Pittsburgh
and Edinboro

and festivals in the summer, and, of course, these are all best



Pittsburgh Zoo and
Aquarium



Linesville Spillway

Layout Designed by Isabelle Vieira
Compiled by The Pride Staff

1: Are you a boy or girl?

- A) Girl
- B) Boy

2: Are you athletic?

- A) Yes, definitely.
- B) Not at all.
- C) Somewhat.

3: If asked to make a speech in front of the whole school you would:

- A) Decline
- B) Agree

4: Are you organized?

- A) Yes, of course!
- B) No. My papers live in my book bag.
- C) Only in school. My room is a disaster zone.

5: If you could take one thing on an island with you, you would take:

- A) A nice, long book(s)
- B) A cell phone
- C) Puzzles, pencils and paper
- D) Another person

6: Which high-school dream most closely resembles your own?

- A) Be crowned prom king/queen
- B) Be the most athletic person in the school
- C) Be the best looking person in the school
- D) Be able to get all A's without studying

12: Would you rather:

- A) Wait until the night before to do an assignment
- B) Get it done weeks before

11: How often do you play/listen to music?

- A) All the time
- B) Sometimes. Homework takes up a lot of my free time
- C) Never. It hurts my ears.

10: What kind of book would you rather read?

- A) Fiction
- B) Non-Fiction
- C) Read? Never!

9: Out of these colors, which one would you most likely wear?

- A) Black
- B) Pink
- C) Yellow
- D) Blue

8: Would you call yourself creative?

- A) Yes
- B) No

7: What is your favorite place to study in history?

- A) I hate history.
- B) United States
- C) Europe
- D) China

13: Is the glass:
A) Half full
B) Half empty

14: Would you start a club at the school?
A) Yes
B) No

what TEACHER are you?

Article By Dai'Vonna Battle
Layout Designed By Janice Lee

Mostly A's and B's :

Mr. Reed- You have a snippy personality but you're caring. You care about a lot of the important things in life and often see the bigger picture. You're pretty organized, but when you procrastinate, things pile up and you get lost in the clutter.

A little bit of everything:

Mrs. Gealy- Your warm and endearing attitude instantly captivates everyone around you. You are pretty talkative and like to tell stories and share tips to help everyone/

Mostly A's, B's and D's:

Mr. Boetger- You're a very optimistic individual who always looks at the bright side. Your large and inviting personality lets people know that you will always be there to help in whatever problems they face. You are a person of faith and know that character outweighs intelligence when looking at the bigger picture.

Mostly A's:

Miss Lanich- You're the life of the party and you bring light into every room. Your words of wisdom draw people in for advice. You don't deal with drama and you make sure everyone knows that you don't put up with any shenanigans.

Mostly B's:

Mr. Harvey- Your quirky behavior makes you a likeable person. You joke with everyone you meet and make them more comfortable. You do, however, know when it's time to settle down and listen.

Mostly A's, B's and C's:

Mrs. Nicolia- Your high energy and beautiful personality engages everyone you meet. You make friends easily and make sure that everyone is in the best mood possible. You try your best to make everyone's day and most of the time you succeed... Except maybe in the morning.

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Gary Cortina, MD,
David Babins, MD,
James DeLullo, MD,
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D. Patrick Williams, DO



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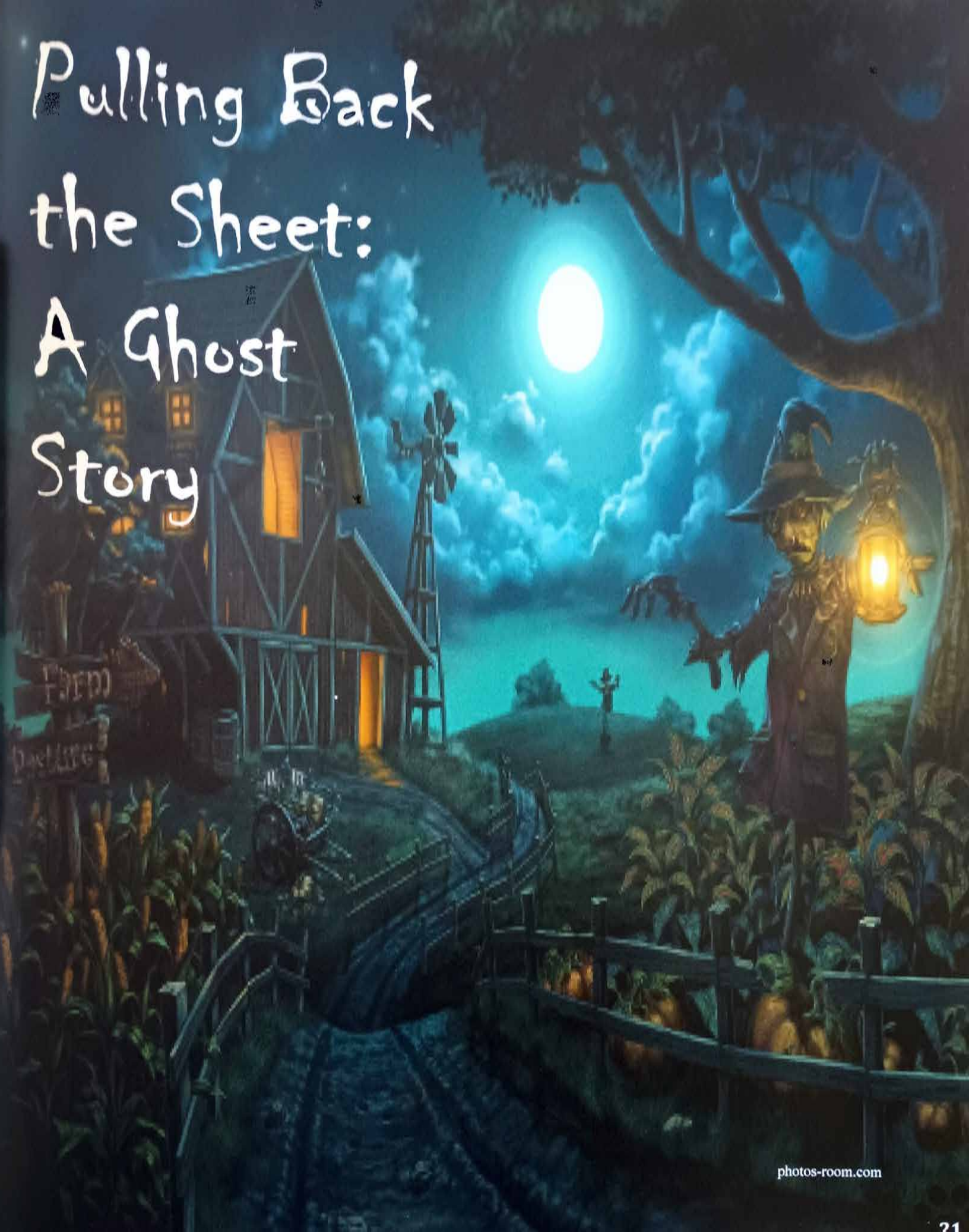
Lefty's Tavern

1248 Brown Ave
Erie, PA 16502
(814) 454-4805

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Pulling Back the Sheet: A Ghost Story



C

Charlotte awoke and rubbed the sleep from her eyes. Propping herself blearily up on her elbow, she swung her feet over the edge of the bed and touched them to the cool floor. It was still fairly dark out, sometime in the middle of the night, but the moon shone brightly through her open window, a light breeze stirring the curtains. She stood and crossed the room on her tiptoes, careful to distribute her weight so as not to send the floor creaking into the stillness that had settled over the cool night air.

A great full moon hung above the little farmhouse, glowing a fiery harvest red, bright enough to cast long shadows across the yard. As her eyes traced their dark shapes, Charlotte noticed the pale figure standing in the grass below. It had an indistinct, vaguely human shape, as though a person had covered themselves with a sheet and taken up a post beneath her window. Charlotte let out a little squeak of fear, and reaching hastily up, she banged her window shut and slid to the floor, hugging her knees. A few minutes of tense silence passed, during which, Charlotte was surprised to find, no pallid specter emerged from the shadows to devour her mortal soul.

It's easy to cast doubt upon a fearful figure glimpsed in darkness if you are given enough time to rationalize it, and after just a few minutes, Charlotte's terror had been reduced to mere butterflies. It was probably nothing more than a trick of the moonlight. Gathering up what few strands of courage she could manage, Charlotte peered over the sill. The figure had not moved. Charlotte frowned at it.

Standing decisively, she pulled her curtains shut with a huff, tiptoed back to bed, and climbed in, squeezing her eyes shut. As long as this thing wasn't presenting an active threat, Charlotte figured she might as well just ignore it and go back to sleep. She was dreaming, she reasoned, and when she woke up in the morning the ghostly column would have evaporated along with the early morning dew.

It was no use, though. Charlotte was fully awake now, and on edge, and this certainly didn't feel like a dream. She threw the covers off and sat up furiously, her mouth setting in a hard line as she hopped out of bed and landed with a determined thunk. Grabbing her backpack from a nearby chair, she unceremoniously upended it, school supplies falling haphazardly to the floor. After a minute of fishing around for the appropriate supplies, she threw in a flashlight, a granola bar, and a favorite stuffed animal for luck. With that, Charlotte slipped the straps over her arms and snuck quietly through her bedroom door.

The stairs were no trouble. They were heavily carpeted, and as such, didn't make enough noise to stir the rest of the household. It was always the front door that was the trickiest. The first time Charlotte ever snuck out to go adventuring in the night, her parents had woken up to the screeching of its massive hinges and had quickly found her out. Naturally, her next attempt had been much more cautious, and she had found that the window in the front hall was quiet enough not to arouse any suspicion.

Charlotte dropped her backpack into the grass before climbing carefully out after it, closing the window behind her save for an inch or so of space that she could hook her fingers under when she wanted back in. Taking a breath to steady herself, she slowly turned her eyes up to the spot in the yard where she had seen the ghostly figure. It was gone. Nothing remained of it but a swath of white fabric pooled on the ground where it had stood. Another quick breath and Charlotte strode through the dewy grass to examine it more closely. It was a cotton bed sheet. Holding it open, she examined it for a moment before looking up and seeing that the figure had reappeared.

The sheet-ghost was standing some hundred yards further off now, at the place where the yard ended and the woods started up. It did not move. Perplexed, Charlotte threw the sheet over her shoulder and began to walk, more carefully this time, to confront the figure. Its hem danced in the breeze, billowing ominously as she inched forward, coming just close enough to touch it. She reached out a shaky arm, grabbed the sheet between her fingers, and gave it a hard tug. The fabric slid easily away from whatever strange being stood beneath, and Charlotte flinched as it revealed. Squeaking, she spun on her heel and scurried halfway back across the yard before she could stop herself. It's nothing, she whispered, turning it into a calming chant. There is nothing there. There is nothing to be afraid of. She forced herself to turn back and stare, wide-eyed, at the spot where the second sheet now lay crumpled on the grass.

It took a while for Charlotte to work up enough nerve to investigate. This time she pulled the flashlight out of her backpack, switching it on as she slid gradually forward. Upon reaching the

cloth heap, she bent down and poked it with the butt of her flashlight. Nothing. She waved her hand through the spot where the ghost had stood, but could feel no indication of the solid, looming mass which had been there a minute earlier.

Charlotte scooped up the second sheet and threw it over her shoulder with the first. She looked up, and a little way into the woods, saw yet another ghost, identical to the first two. There was little hesitation this time as she stepped into the underbrush, one hand held before her to push away stray branches, the other training the beam of the flashlight always in the direction of the third ghost. It's nothing, she mouthed over and over into the quiet night. She reached it in little time, and with a firm yank, dislodged the sheet, leaving nothing behind but air. The sheet went over her shoulder, another ghost appeared in the distance, and Charlotte strode bravely off to repeat the confrontation.

This went on for some time, until Charlotte found herself at the very edge of the woods, which happened to end in a rather substantial drop-off carved out by a stream flowing far below. The most recent ghost stood on the brink of this cliff, and as Charlotte disrobed it into nothingness, she glimpsed a strange light coming from about halfway down the cliff face. It looked to be a cave of some sort, glowing faintly from the inside as though lit by a flickering torch. She felt certain that this cave should be her next destination, that this was what the ghosts had ultimately been leading her to, but she was unsure of how to get to it. It was as she sat on a nearby stump, gathering her thoughts, when she had an idea.

By this time, Charlotte had accumulated a fairly large number of sheets. She took one of these and hooked it through the stump's protruding roots, tying it as securely as she could manage. From there, she fastened one sheet after another to the end of this expanding chain, ending up, after a good while, with a rope just long enough to reach the cave. Tying the end around her waist, Charlotte moved to the very edge of the cliff, sat down, and with a silent prayer, lowered herself gently over. The sheets held firm, and she was able to work slowly down until she was close enough to plant her feet in the entrance and pull herself in.

The space inside was larger than she had anticipated, though still not very large. It was lit by an old gas lantern sitting off to one side, casting a warm yellow glow over the final ghostly figure standing mutely in the center of the cave. The back of Charlotte's neck prickled; she could feel the specter staring at her, though it had no discernible features with which to do so. Meeting its intangible gaze, she stepped up to it, gripped the sheet, and pulled. This time, there was something beneath it, though not the tall, imposing figure it appeared to be. Instead, lying scattered across the cave floor where the hem of the sheet had covered, lay a human skeleton.

Charlotte dropped the sheet in horror, letting out a yelp of fear and dancing back a pace or two, though she was conscious that a few more steps would take her over the edge. The skeleton smiled up at her. Something glinted from above its vacant eyes.

Charlotte reached nervously forward and fished about in the bones. Her fingers brushed against something cool, and she gripped the object and brought it up from the pile. It was a pair of old-fashioned, wire-frame spectacles. She turned them over a couple times, holding them up to her eyes and peering curiously through the lenses. They were surprisingly clear for such an old pair of glasses, sharpening everything around her. Maybe I need glasses, Charlotte thought absently as she placed them over her nose. The world jumped into focus, became suddenly more alive and vibrant, and somehow Charlotte was not surprised to see one final specter standing unobtrusively before her. This one, however, was not covered by a sheet. It was fully human in shape, a young man about her age with short hair and a crooked smile. Charlotte's hand did not shake, she did not hesitate as she reached forward once more and grabbed at the ghostly figure before her. As the boy dissipated brightly between her fingers, she found herself suddenly awake in her bed, breathing heavily. The sun was coming up on the horizon, though the pale outline of the moon was still faintly visible in the dawn light. Charlotte jumped up and skipped lightly to the window, throwing it open and sticking her head out into the crisp morning air. She surveyed the yard and the woods beyond, and somehow, in the morning light, it all seemed so much smaller.



BY JESSICA REED
LAYOUT DESIGNED BY
ISABELLE VIEIRA

Ask A



Dear Alec and Dakota,
I'm a junior. What should I be doing to make myself look like the perfect college applicant?

Junior year is by far the most important year of high school. I like to call it the "Year of the Standardized Tests."

The most important thing to do is keep your grades up. Do not slack this year, because your grades will reflect it, and colleges look for students who are motivated and intelligent. Junior year is important because typically, seniors apply to college in the beginning of their senior year, so not all of your senior grades will appear on your transcript.

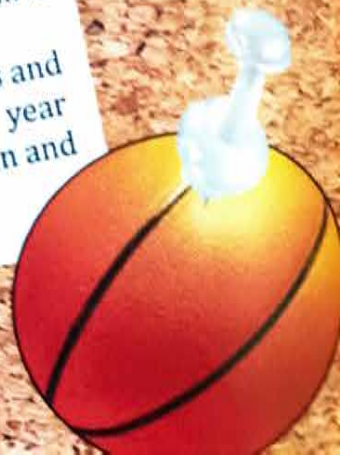
The SAT is another huge aspect of junior year. Most colleges look at the reading and math scores, so the best thing to do is practice, practice, practice. The SAT takes getting used to, but going to SAT Prep and taking a lot of practice tests will improve your test taking skills. It is best to take the SAT sometime between mid-winter and early spring to allow for more time to retake the test. College Board will send your "Super Score" to colleges, which is a combination of your best overall reading, writing and math score.

The ACT is not a required test for most colleges, but it is good to have. Speaking from experience, I thought the ACT was much easier than the SAT. It has fewer questions, requires less thinking and is overall less stressful. A majority of colleges in America only require either the SAT or the ACT, but some may require both.

That being said, do plenty of research on colleges that might interest you. We have colleges visit outside of the dining hall all the time, so pick up packets, talk to representatives and stay informed. Even if you do not know what you want, it is important to have at least an idea of where you want to apply by the end of the summer before your senior year. I started seriously looking at colleges toward the middle of my junior year and then used most of the summer to do so, as well.

To be a well rounded college applicant, join some clubs. Do not join clubs just because you feel like you have to, but do it because you are truly interested in the club. Colleges want students who are involved, and can balance academics and extra-curriculars. There are a ton of activities and clubs to join at Collegiate, so use them to your advantage to make your application stand out when it is time.

Stay positive. Do not feel like you have to overload with AP classes and clubs this year. Do as much as you can handle, and have some fun. Junior year is important, but it is more important to have a nice balance between fun and productivity.



& Dakas

BY DAKOTA PALMER AND ALEC WARD, LAYOUT BY DAKOTA PALMER



Having a solid academic year is the main thing. These are the grades colleges will be looking at. Really make sure you do your homework. There is no sense in losing easy points on this. Also, be passionate about the material in your classes, especially in subjects you think you might pursue in college. You will get a feel for what you like and do not like academically, and keeping your grades up.

Interacting with teachers will give you plenty of options for recommendations next year. Believe me, the teachers here would much rather write about someone who was genuinely interested and participated in their class, than someone who got good grades but said nothing all year. By now, there should be definite areas of study you enjoy and are interested by (If not, maybe you should rethink this whole higher education thing). Take what you like in school; then run with it.

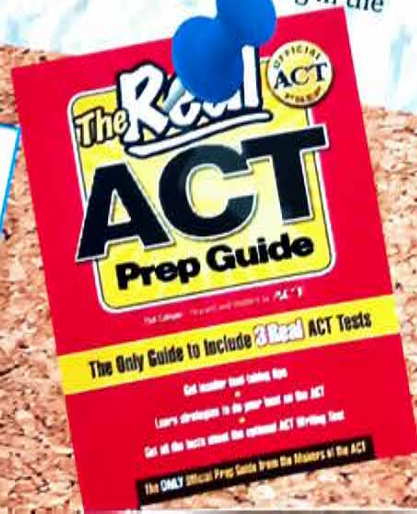
I agree with Dakota about extracurricular activities. If there is a club or activity you have wanted to join but have not for whatever reason, now is the time to do it. Make sure you are doing something you are committed to, because after-school activities should not feel like a chore, and colleges are attracted to this. Having one or two areas you have really pursued and have taken on a leadership role in will almost certainly look better on your resume than having halfheartedly participated in a dozen clubs. Admissions officers can tell who is dedicated to the things they do and who is simply padding their resume.

That being said, the key is to be yourself. Junior year is a feeling out process for you, to start to understand where you stand with academics and extracurriculars. Do not get caught up in the college frenzy too early. Schools already know what they want in a student. Take some time to think about what you want in a school. Most importantly, enjoy your junior year. Keep up the good work in classes and extracurriculars, maybe with a renewed focus and passion.

When you begin working on that college resume (Do not forget to update Naviance), you should not be worried about it reflecting what you think colleges want to see. It is more important that you are happy with the work you have been doing in the classroom and in the activities you are a part of.



NAVIANCE



Love Knows No Bounds

America's Evolving Attitude

Article by Alexa Snarski
Layout Designed by Emily Widomski

Same-Sex Marriage Still Banned in Most States

In 2004, Massachusetts was the first state to legalize gay marriage. Since then, 13 others have followed, and recently the Supreme Court ruled the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. This act, forbidding the government from recognizing same-sex marriage, violates gay and lesbian rights and interferes with a state's right to define marriage.

So what do these developments reveal? They show the growing support for gay rights and the decreasing, or at least less forceful, arguments against them.

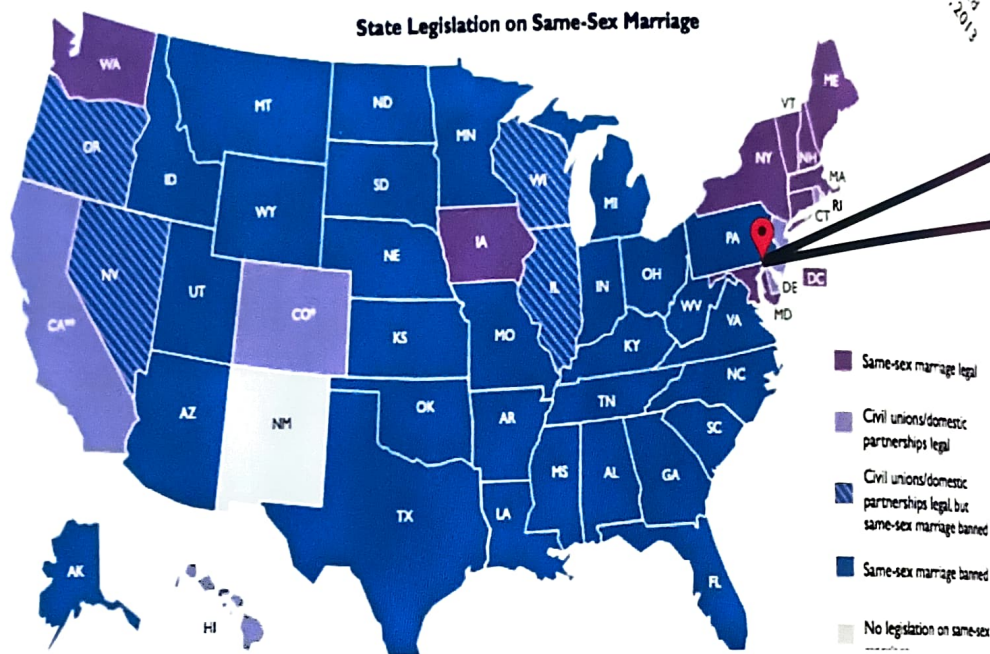
Collegiate Academy senior Alex Storer attended the American Legion Keystone Boys State program this summer. This program is a government simulation that allows students to set up mock governments and present bills to be passed or rejected. Similar to the United States form of government, the participants differ on political parties and political opinions.

Storer described the atmosphere of the simulation as ultraconservative because a majority of the students had republican political views. Traditionally, conservatives have been known to be adamantly against gay rights. During the simulation, however, a liberal student created a bill to legalize gay marriage. With just a few amendments, such as allowing churches to deny marrying a gay couple, the bill passed.

Such an event shows how differently this generation views gay rights. Even the emerging conservatives of the generation are not totally opposed to equal treatment.

"Twenty years ago all that was on television were shows like the Brady Bunch and Happy Days. Now there are shows like Modern Family, which is incredibly popular. It just shows how much the media has changed."

-Ms. Wiley



Map taken from nationaljournal.com

Pop culture is another major example of the changing views. Homosexuality is no longer a taboo topic. The public praises celebrities like NBA player Jason Collins and TV host Ellen Degeneres for their bravery and strong voices in support of gay rights.

Even music and television shows are becoming increasingly gay-friendly. Rapper Macklemore recently released a song titled, "Same Love", in which he voices his strong support of gay rights. TV shows like Modern Family and The New Normal both feature gay couples who Hollywood portrays as, not only acceptable, but also a typical family.

Wellness teacher Ms. Wiley says, "Twenty years ago all that was on television were shows like the Brady Bunch and Happy Days. Now there are shows like Modern Family, which is incredibly popular. It just shows how much the media has changed."

Federal and state governments are also working together to make progress by banning laws hindering the ability to make gays equal under law. The Supreme Court overturned California's Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in the state, in 2013. DOMA was the first case concerning gay rights to go to the Supreme Court. Also in 2011 the Obama Administration repealed the Don't Ask Don't Tell Clinton policy, concerning the army's acceptance of gay soldiers, which now allows openly gay people to join. Minnesota became the 13th state to allow gay marriage on Aug. 1, 2013.

Gay rights movements are also taking place more locally. Recently, D. Bruce Hanes, Montgomery County's register of wills, registered 174 marriage licenses to gay couples in Philadelphia. Pennsylvania's law does not yet allow same-sex marriage, but Hanes issued the licenses after the Supreme Court threw out portions of DOMA.

Updated April 3, 2013

What's going on? in Washington D.C.

September 22, 2013

On this day, long-time friends David Hagedorn and Michael Widomski were married in Washington D.C. on a rooftop overlooking the capital. This occasion is marked by the presence of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who performed the ceremony. The couple decided to marry after the Supreme Court struck down DOMA in Dec., 2012. In the DOMA case Ginsburg said, "There's two kinds of marriage, there's full marriage and then there's sort of skim milk marriage." Widomski and Hagedorn expected the gay community to only be able to receive the skim milk version of marriage. The couple topped off the ceremony by toasting the judge with glasses of whole milk, referencing Ginsburg's previous views on gay marriage.



One of the couples who received a license is family friends with German teacher Mr. Golembeski. Hanes issued the license to the couple, Wendy and Tiffany Titus, nearly one month ago. Since then the Titus' have had a wedding in Golembeski's backyard. The couple was married by a priest in an informal ceremony.

Though Wendy and Tiffany are officially married at this time, Governor Corbett is attempting to sue Hanes for illegally issuing marriage licenses. If Corbett succeeds Wendy and Tiffany will no longer be legally married.

In the Erie Times-News the couple says that they were not surprised by the outcome because what Hanes did was illegal. They knew that they would most likely lose the license.

However, the Titus' also express in the article their gratitude to Hanes and their hope for the future. Wendy says, "I think it is pretty awesome that someone is willing to stand up for people like us, that it matters to, and he has put himself out there and that is a huge deal for us."

"For us there is no more waiting. We are in it to win it and we are just going to keep pushing forward and we are going to see how far we can take this until we can say our marriage is completely legal and no one can touch it anymore," Tiffany adds.

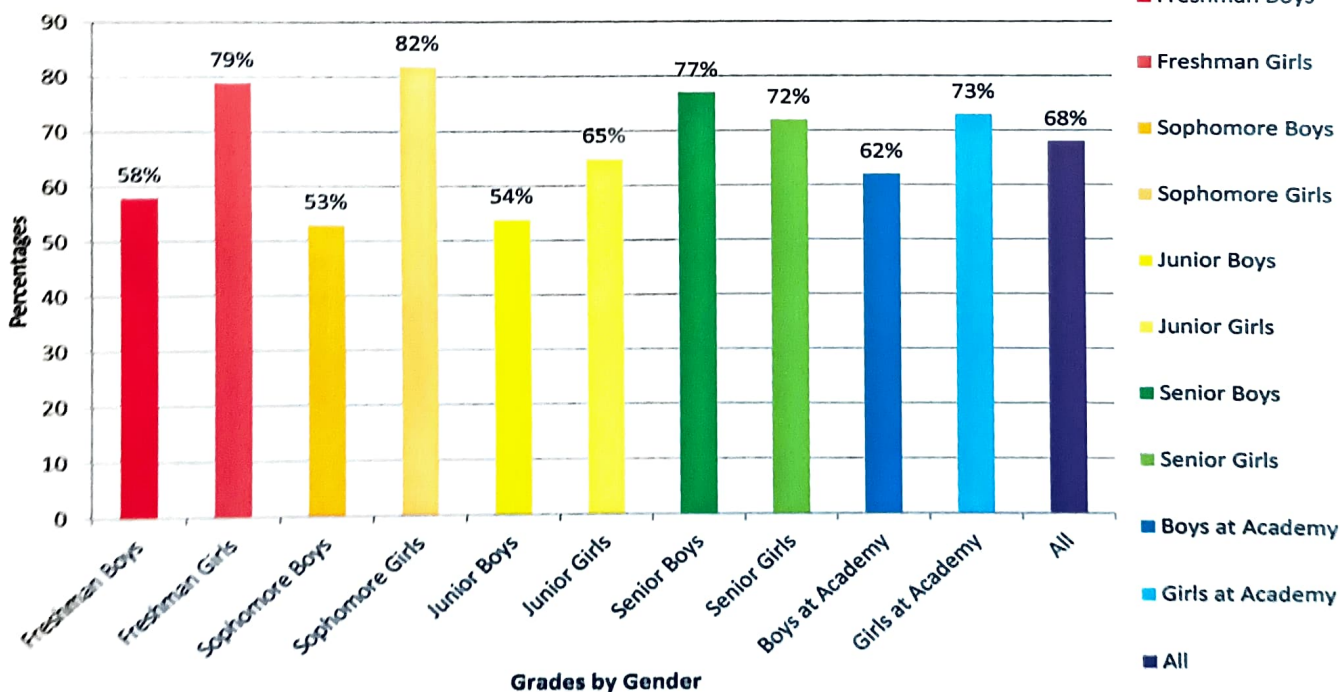
National Numbers

"Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?"

Month/Year	Should	Should Not
July 2013	54%	43%
May 2010	44%	53%
May 2006	42%	56%

**Based on the national average adult vote taken from PollingReport.com

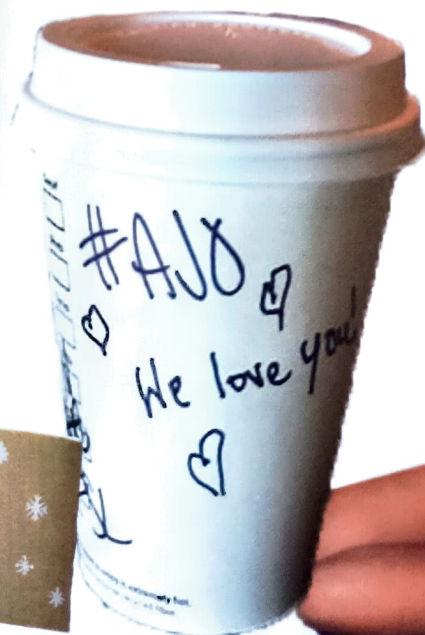
Supporters of Gay Marriage by Gender and Grade





As Tragedies Strike, Communities Unite

Article by Emma Verdecchia
Layout Designed by Emily Widomski





Tragedy hit a family, a city, a state, a country and the whole world recently when Alyssa O'Neill, former student of McDowell High School, passed away on Sept. 4, 2013. Although Alyssa died, her family was able to use her death as motivation to "pay it forward" for other people.

After an unexpected decease, most people solely mourn over the death of their loved ones. However, the O'Neills decided not only to mourn the death of their daughter but also to rejoice for the life she had. They even passed on her positive nature to a movement at Starbucks that went worldwide.

The parents, Sarah and Jason O'Neill, bought 40 Pumpkin Spice Lattes and told the workers at Starbucks to write #AJO and #payitforward on the cups of the next 40 people to buy those drinks. Not only has this affected the whole city of Erie, but it has also spread across the world to countries like Italy, Australia, Germany.

The story of AJO has even made it to celebrities. The Zac Brown Band heard about this misfortune when Alyssa's classmate and longtime friend Sean Gallagher made a video in order to remember Alyssa with the band's song "Free" playing in the background. They were so inspired by the video that they are dedicating the song "Free" to Alyssa at their concert at the Erie Insurance Arena on Dec. 13, 2013.

The AJO movement has spread beyond Starbucks to other establishments, such as Panera Bread, Menchie's and Dairy Queen. Senior and Dairy Queen employee Jordan Hunter says, "I have a manager who's in charge of making t-shirts for AJO and she encouraged us to advertise it more by putting the #AJO on the drive-through window and also on a sign out front. Since then we've kept a running gift card and randomly pay for a few orders a night to try to get it going."

It seems as though this movement will not come to an end soon. Hunter says, "I think it's having a big effect on the community

because it isn't just stopping. The parents want to make a scholarship in her memory and they're actually going to be on Ellen. It's growing bigger and bigger, and I love it because it's teaching people the effect that a random act of kindness can have on someone."

This is not the only instance where a family decided to make a difference in the world after misfortune afflicted them. In 1999, after Rachel Scott was shot to death during the Columbine shooting, her family decided to start an anti-bullying campaign named Rachel's Challenge. They wanted to provide safer learning environments since their daughter was one innocent victim to two boys who felt compelled to murder innocent people after their harassment went unnoticed.

Before her death, Rachel Scott demonstrated living a bullying free life. She said, "I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go."

The story of this calamity has been turned into something that could make a difference in the world. Although Columbine took many lives, the Rachel's Challenge programs are able to save others.

These disasters that hurt innocent families, cities or countries have changed both the world and the way people view the world.

It is not only individual deaths that have brought the world together. Disastrous hurricanes such as Katrina of 2005 and Sandy of 2012 have also brought communities together to create a beneficial change. Many people went out to rebuild those cities and to give food and clothes to the families that had their houses ruined.

Although hard times are bound to occur, whether it is the death of one individual or a devastating natural disaster, the world always finds a way to come together and fix things, proving one's kindness can go a long way in someone else's life.



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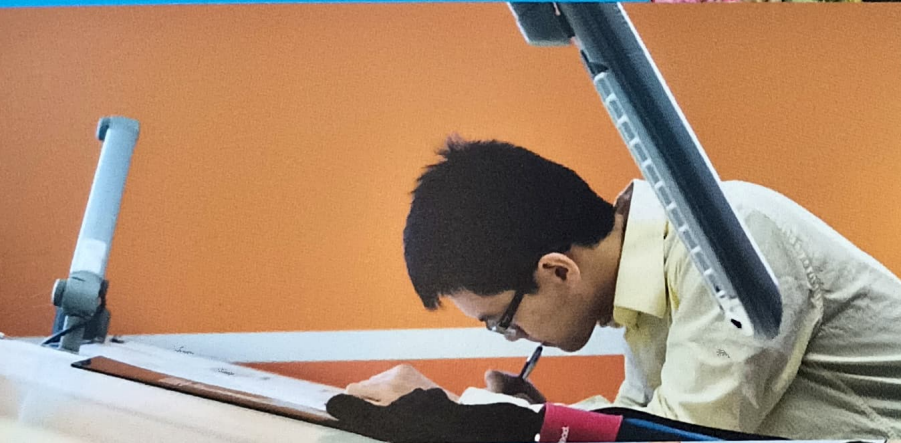


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