THE DISPATCH SAYS FAREWELL TO:

MICKEY BARON

If you didn’t know who Jimmie Nelson was before this year, you probably know who the Huntington High senior is now. Why? Jimmie turned into “Jimbo” this summer, as he first began recording rap in his free time. Since he dropped his first single this past October, his music has had 12,000 views on www.soundcloud.com, he has released 29 songs (including a music video on YouTube), and he has led the way for many other Huntingtonians with talent to begin releasing their own music.

There are many people who have heard of Jimmie being a rapper, but do not know much about his music and are interesting in finding out more. Let’s get started...

THE WELL-LOVED RETIRED ENGLISH TEACHER IS COMMEMORATED IN THE WORDS OF THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEST- HIS FRIENDS AND STUDENTS. PAGE 5

“MICKEY BARON WAS A KIND AND GENEROUS MENTOR TO MANY OF US. HE SHOWED A GENUINE CARING AND AFFINITY FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND LITERATURE ALIKE.”

- Mr. Pagano, English Dept. & Varsity Boys Soccer Coach

PUZZLES, YEEZY’S, HOTELIER, SMART WATCHES, LGBT AND MORE!
Se les recomienda a todos los estudiantes de prepararse mejor para pasar sus materias, y también que logren un buen puntaje en los exámenes estatales. Ya no hay tiempo para juegos, esta es la hora de la verdad, en la cual todos los estudiantes determinan el futuro de su serano o mucho más grave, el futuro de sus clases para el próximo año.

Este es un llamado muy personal para los estudiantes que constituyen una parte muy fundamental de nuestra escuela, ustedes estudiantes a nivel de ESL. Como un consejo de amigo se les advierte que su camino puede ser mucho más difícil que el de otros, pero ustedes tienen que demostrar que sí se pueden, y que van a lograr todo lo que se proponen. Posiblemente tienen que trabajar mucho más fuerte que otros pero como una de sus compañeras dice “no podemos ver un hermoso arcoíris, hasta que pasemos una terrible tormenta” Angela Villalta. Los muchachos estudiantes de ESL lo saben muy bien porque lo viven día a día. La lucha por obtener buenas notas, y representar a los latino con buena cara en la sociedad queda en manos de ustedes. Los nuevos estudiantes de español también los que ya tienen un tiempo de vivir en este país. Todos nosotros como es el caso de nuestro pueblo, en el cual nunca se da su vida se las imaginaban.

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HUNTINGTON ROBOTICS WRAPS UP THE YEAR AT HOFSTRA

By Rachel Moss

From the first day the assignment was given in January, to the very end of March, our Huntington Robotics team was busy building and preparing for the annual Long Island Regional FIRST Robotics Competition, hosted at Hofstra University. Beginning on March 26th, fifty-one teams gathered at the college’s Sports and Exhibition Complex, where a full arena was built for this year’s event, Recycle Rush. The arena was fully equipped with cans and boxes, better known as totes. All teams transported the robots that they had spent months working on to Hofstra for the competition, including ours which was able to lift a can to the top of a stack of six totes. Each team was then able to set up an area for their robot, team members, and supplies, known as their pit. Practice rounds were organized throughout the day and our team competed with not only our future alliance members, but also with future opponents. Our team’s captains were confident after the day’s practice matches and were eager to return with the rest of the team to compete. With spirit and excitement, our full Huntington Robotics team traveled to Hofstra to take part in the anticipated event the following day. The day started with opening ceremonies where teams, mentors, and judges were introduced. After the conclusion of the ceremony, the pit was full of team members and parents, all eager to see the robot compete in the many matches to come.

Our experienced driver team, including Joe Saginaw, Thomas Kousttron, Cole Blackburn, and "COMPETING SIDE BY SIDE WITH TEAMS FROM BRAZIL AND ISRAEL MADE ME REALIZE JUST HOW IMPORTANT ROBOTICS IS FOR THE FUTURE OF STEM LEARNING." Jacob Strich, enjoyed their second year leading the robotics team in the arena. Although only four members were able to drive the robot during the competition, many other students were able to watch, cheer, direct safety, strategize, and collect data about other teams. At one point, Huntington dropped low on the rankings, however, with motivation and improvements, our team was able to move up twenty spots in only a few rounds. The day ended on a high note when our final ranking for the day was 36th place, a great comeback with so many other talented teams. The final day included only three more rounds for the Huntington Robotics team. John Riley, the team’s Head Technician, was impressed with how the team had done saying, "The team performed very well for just their second year at regional competitions." This year, many new members were welcomed to the team and enjoyed their first experience with robotics. One of these new members, Lindsay Saginaw, Head of Marketing and Public Relations, was as impressed at how international and widespread FRC is. "Participating in Huntington Robotics with a leadership position this year was a phenomenal experience for me because of how globally we can celebrate our robotics event is. Competing side by side with teams from Brazil and Israel and America made me realize just how important robotics is for the future of STEM learning." Competing in the regional competition gave the team even more experience and expanded new team members’ interests in the Huntington Robotics team. Huntington Robotics hopes to continue to grow next year and perform even better at the regional competition.

After last season’s state victory, the members of Huntington’s marching band have a lot to be excited about. But with this upcoming season, the state champions have more to look forward to than ever before. It was announced in late March that the band will be moved up by one competitive division, from Large School 1 to Large School 2. In addition, Ms. Jessica Casteneda will be joining Mr. Brian Stella the new co-director. Additional new music and color guard staff will be joining the program as well. Next season’s new student leadership will include Bailey Rioridan, Jack Malone, and Rachel Bosley as drum majors and Nancy Fallon as field majors. While these are many changes at once, the band is ready to step up to the challenge. If anything, this whirlwind of recent events will cause the group to work harder than ever before, following their undefeated season with another incredible one. Best of luck to next season’s HB-DNB!

HUNTINGTONIANS BID FAREWELL TO MICKEY BARON

By Katy Dara

I am not sure when I first met Mickey after I came to the high school in 1995, but I remember that in the beginning our relationship was not much more than a casual greeting as we walked by each other in the hallway. We knew each other by name but that was about it. At times, the school seems so spread out and it can be difficult to get to know people if you don’t see them that often. I guess over time those path crossings in the hallway led to a “stop and chat” and that’s how we started to get to know each other and become friends. I will always remember him ear-to-ear grin that lit up his face. I found him to be very engaging and he was curious to find out more about my life and me. We found we had a lot in common due to an ethnic upbringing that we shared. He was always so interested in my athletic pursuits and he would love to tell people about my Ironman triathlon experiences.

Many of our conversations were about diet and exercise because Mickey had some difficulty in this area. He became very interested and I was impressed with his ability to focus on his personal health. Although it was a struggle, I was amazed to see that he got himself into shape and he was really looking good. I was so proud of him that I began calling him the Ironman.

When I retired I was honored to be invited to his “personal” retirement party with his closest of school friends. It was at a restaurant in Port Jefferson and it was a great night. It was a combination of a “roast” and tribute to Mickey as he was about to begin a new chapter in his life. We all got to speak and, you could see how much he was loved and appreciated by all his friends. Unfortunately, as life often goes, that was the last time I saw Mickey. There were a few text messages here and there and Facebook, of course, but that was it.

I often thought about my old friend and it always brought a smile to my face. When I heard of his death I was shocked, and heartbroken. I was out running a few days after I got the news, all I could think about was Mickey. As I glided through the woods I began to smile from ear to ear, a Mickey smile. As I ran, I thought he was with me every step of the way. I truly believe that he would want us to continue to live our lives in the most positive way we can. He was a “mensch” in the truest sense of the word; I’ll miss you Mickey, but I will never forget you.

-Mr. Fishlow, Coach and P.E. Teacher

“Mickey Baron played a very significant role in my career here at the high school. He was a great mentor and friend. Mickey made his students and friends feel like they counted and mattered in the world. He used play music in his classroom each morning and he assigned to his fellow teachers. His room was a place where everyone felt happy and safe. I will never forget him and the love and support he gave. He will be missed.”

-Mrs. Kvicinsky, English Dept.

“Mr. Baron was a great guy with a civil personality. He was very helpful when it came to college essays and other reports. One of the best teachers in the high school.”

- Former Student

“Mr. Baron was one of a kind. He was one of the first people I met the first day of meeting when I started at Huntington High School. From the beginning, I knew he was a special person, the type who would always go the distance for his students, colleagues and friends. He loved people and had empathy for all who faced difficulties. Every day before school Mr. Baron and I would speak. He would always ask, ‘What’s on tap for today?’ Even though he retired, he never left Huntington High School in sight. He referred to all of his friends as ‘My Buddy,’ a phrase he truly meant for all who were close to him. I will always miss ‘Mick,’ but the memories of his stories, experiences and that deep laugh, the type that comes from the gut, will always stay with me.”

-Tony Denello, Social Studies Teacher

“I was lucky enough to have Mr. Baron as my tenth grade English teacher back in 2007. Although I was supposed to switch into honors English that year, I decided to stay in Mr. Baron’s class after meeting him on the first day of school, and I immediately felt comfortable in his classroom. I haven’t seen Mr. Baron since graduating from high school in June 2010, but we’re in touch over the past five years via Facebook and we make an effort to check in with one another. In many ways Mr. Baron was not only my teacher, but a mentor as well. Many times I looked to him for advice and support, and he was always there in a pinch if I needed any advice or help. The loss of Mr. Baron leaves with an overwhelming sense of sadness, but I am eternally grateful for all of the teachings and wisdom he bestowed upon me, and many of the other students.”

-2009 Huntington High Alum
You are not who you believe you are. “Across the country, therapists and counselors are telling LGBT [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender] people that they are immorally wrong. This is not just the message each of us has our own unique sexuality and/or gender. This sexuality and gender that we receive cannot be changed no matter how hard one tries. Whenever the topic of conversion therapy is brought up, most people do not know what it is or how damaging it is. Conversion or reparative therapy is a therapeutic practice that attempts at changing an individual’s sexual or gender identity. Samantha Ames, defines conversion therapy as “a set of dangerous and totally discredited practices that attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of a person.” This therapy does more harm than good. The practice attempts to trigger suicidal feelings and depression. There are many forms of this conversion therapy, some going as far as to involve physical torture. Though there are numerous versions of therapy, they all hurt the patient in some way and are all seen as inhumane. Conversion therapy should be illegal to be performed on minors in all states because it is not scientifically proven to successfully change a person’s sexual identity.

The ex-gym movement against LGBT began in the early 19th century when people started to believe in psychoanalysis and the idea of studying the mind. The idea of sexuality was being discussed, if it was something that should be attempted to change, or if it should just be left alone. However, at that time, being gay was not acceptable among most people. Many medicines were discovered to try and fix many of these behaviors. Kenneth Lienesch states “medicine began classifying a whole range of behaviors that were considered at the time, socially unacceptable.” In the early 1960’s, during World War II, gay people started to be seen as people who were mentally ill. Many gays would undergo serious attempts to relieve themselves from their homosexuality. In 1973, the American Psychological Association declared that homosexuality was not a mental illness. Prior to this, many gays and transgenders would undergo many different types of conversion therapy such as aversion and shock therapy, which is a type of therapy when a patient is exposed to a catalyst, while also being exposed to something that causes them distress.

If you ask any counselor or therapist that practices conversion therapy, they will say that it is guaranteed to change a person’s sexuality or gender. However, many of the top mental health organizations in the nation would disagree. Many psychologists would disagree because all experiments that claim to have successfully changed a person’s sexuality have many flaws. Therapists that practice conversion therapy define success in changing a person’s sexuality or gender as “suppression of homoromantic response or mere display of psychological ability to function in heterosexual intercourse.”

“My anti-GAY-THERAPIES also have been known to put PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAUMA on PATIENTS..Brought upon the types of therapies such as ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY and EXORCISM.”

BY ALANNA HARVEY

Anyhow, this does not mean that their sexuality actually was changed, this just means they stopped feeling good to their sexual- ular behavior. Another method they use to attempt to change a person’s sexuality is by convincing them that being gay or transgender is wrong. With religious patients, they use the ideology that God doesn’t make gay people, or that being gay or homosexual or transgender is a sin. This does not change a person’s homosexuality or gender preference, it just convinces them that on their feelings is wrong. These people still remain LGBT. However, just have many negative thoughts about themselves. There are many studies that do say that person’s sexuality has been changed, however these studies have many weaknesses such as many bisexuals being used; their sexual orientation is not addressed in the begin- ning of the study. Also, the patients as well as therapists in these cases have biases toward the effectiveness of conversion therapy.

Many anti-GAY-treaties also have been known to put psychological trauma on patients. This trauma is brought upon by the types of therapies such as electroconvulsive therapy and exorcisms. Frequently, licensed psychologists and psychiatrists perform these tests on patients. These attempts at changing a person to be heterosexual or cisgender, people that identify with the same gender that they were assigned at birth, usually end up with the sub- jects becoming diagnosed with depression and later performing self-mutilation and becoming suicidal. Alex Fisher said, “condemning them to a life of self-hate is not beneficial to their psychological well-being.” The answer should be to make conversion therapy illegal to perform on minors to stop them from being exposed to this type of mental trauma. Psychologi- cal problems at a young age can cause many problems for victims when they become older. Carden Crow, a 36 year old transgender man, previ- ously went through conversion therapy twice and had an exorcism. After, he began to have feelings of depression and later committed suicide due to his depression. LGBT youth that undergo conversion therapy are 8 times more likely to attempt suicide, 6 times more likely to use illegal drugs. Some counselors who practice conversion therapy argue that they change gay people. They say it does not inflict any type of real harm on the patient. They believe that through the practice of conversion therapy they can change a person’s mindset of sessions. These people are convinced that being homosexual or transgender isn’t natural and everyone is supposed to be heterosexual. Some homosexual- ity comes about when a person has a specific event happen in their childhood that causes them to have a change in sexuality. Joseph Nicolosi states “Everyone is inherently heterosexual and experience unwanted homosexual feelings that result from unresolved is- sues.” Many people that undergo reparative therapy don’t see themselves as homosexual. They will consider themselves as heterosexual with ‘problems’. Living a homosexual or transgender life to them is problematic. They feel that they are not doing something that is morally right, most of them believe that they are not working in favor of God. Counselors that believe that reparative therapy is okay usually end up with patients committing suicide. Also, there are many leaders of ex-gay movements that come out saying that they are gay and do not believe in the process of reparative therapy because it harms many people. There are many state laws in the United States that have made a law against practicing conver- sion therapy on minors, New Jersey and California. Many other states such as West Virginia, Pennsylvania have introduced the idea for this new law, however there is no progress been done on this law. One senator in New York, Tom Duvane has recently pro- posed another bill against conversion therapy, even though the previous bill was shut down. However many states want to pass laws in the encouragement of conversion therapy. Oklahoma has previously passed a law that requires that children can undergo conversion therapy without interference by the state. Texas is also trying to pass a law that supports the right of therapists to practice whatever they want. The Texas Republican Party believes that reparative therapy is extremely legitimate and that it is a good treatment for those patients seeking healing and wholeness from their homosexual lifestyle.”

Continued From Previous Page...
Many parents are protesting having their children take these Common Core exams, in the hope of preventing the future creation and distribution of these new standardized tests. However, this only applies to students in grades 3 through 8 because it is a requirement for high school students to complete these exams, and, therefore, they are not able to opt out of taking them.

The Common Core has multiple deficits that make it unworthy as an established educational policy. This includes the fact that teachers are forced to learn a completely different style of teaching, after having taught in the same manner for years. It forces them to abandon an already successful teaching technique and adopt the one that the Common Core has decided to approve.

The Common Core also confines students to standardizing tests that will determine their futures rather than learning and retaining the information taught in school. Children are becoming only as valuable as their test scores rather than the people they are going to become. The government then uses the scores produced by the students to judge the teacher’s capabilities. This does not provide a wholesome perspective of every child, considering some children are not good test takers. The Common Core is providing statistics that don’t take into account all of the different variables that encompass one individual.

As mentioned in the article, “The Case Against Common Core,” by Sarah Jean Seman, California Teachers Association stated on their website, “During the presidential campaign, Mr. Obama contended that teachers should not be forced to spend the academic year preparing students to fill in bubbles on standardized tests and that students deserve to learn in an individualized manner. The narrow content focus encourages teaching to the test, which artificially inflates test scores while simultaneously narrowing the curriculum taught in the classroom.” The teachers were trying to convey that people are so much more than what the score of their test represents, and the Common Core does not allow for individual skills and abilities to shine.

Recently, the state of Tennessee passed a bill, nearly unanimously, in hopes of repealing the Common Core educational curriculum, and officially eliminating it in two years. What remains in question is, “What will replace the Common Core in Tennessee?” In the article “New Bill Could Repeal Common Core in Tennessee,” by Blake Neff, State House member Andy Holt said, “I set out on a mission to do everything in my power to repeal Common Core in State of Tennessee.” In the article “A new report from the Brookings Institution stated on their website, “During the presidential campaign, Mr. Obama contended that teachers should not be forced to spend the academic year preparing students to fill in bubbles on standardized tests and that students deserve to learn in an individualized manner. The narrow content focus encourages teaching to the test, which artificially inflates test scores while simultaneously narrowing the curriculum taught in the classroom.” The teachers were trying to convey that people are so much more than what the score of their test represents, and the Common Core does not allow for individual skills and abilities to shine.

The Common Core is providing statistics that don’t take into account all of the different variables that encompass one individual.

One of the few positives is the way it exposes students to a new, more intense form of rigor in learning. Common Core forces students to look deeper, and form conclusions based on critical thinking and analysis. For example, in English, students are now given a specific paragraph structure, enabling them to get to the point of their writing in a more quick, efficient and concise manner. This new structure also allows students to compare writing effectively, students can edit their peer’s writing with a clear idea of what it should be like in mind.

Another favorable side effect of the C.C. is the way it shrinks the pool of resources so that teachers and students can easily share and compare notes because they are all required to teach and learn in roughly the same manner. It makes it easier for teachers to analyze their students’ performance. This levels the playing field because now students all receive the same education. Students from all backgrounds are coming to school and being pushed to strive for their best in order to meet the rigorous standards of Common Core.

Additionally, Common Core encourages students to broaden their horizons, encouraging them to read outside of their preferred genre and to become immersed in the world of nonfiction—the world that surrounds them. Students are given passages on everything from speeches spoken in the 1930’s to excerpts from classic novels. Developing an understanding of classical literature can help students think more analytically and to work harder to relate the piece to what they already know and understand. Furthermore, when a younger generation can relate to an older one by a shared knowledge of a book or literary work, they are more apt to making valuable connections with others.

In addition, the results, though minimal, are in favor of this new curriculum. In fact, in one article from the national journal states the following: “A new report from the Brookings Brown Center on Education Policy offers some of the first details on the impact of curriculum changes from the new standards. The bottom line is that there are very slight upticks in both reading and math scores of students whose schools are using Common Core. The differences in scores are so small that it wouldn’t be credible for a school to cite them as real improvements, but they could suggest a trend in the right direction.” All in all, although there are very few noticeable results from the use of the Common Core system, any hard statistical evidence present points to a possible projection of improvement and bettering of children’s grades and education.

Although the progress is slow, it is undeniable that there is not only room for growth with this new system, but a possible positive change resulting from it. If continued where will our educational system be in five years? Ten years? Although hard to adapt to, the Common Core and its impending results are something to anticipate.

**Point/Counterpoint**

**THE COMMON CORE – THE CASE AGAINST**

**BY MIRANDA NYKOLYN**

Since 2009, you might have heard the words, Common Core, mentioned by teachers, administrators or even your parents. So, what is the Common Core exactly? The Common Core is a new set of academic standards for mathematics and English, specifically. The purpose of the Common Core is to establish a way for every child in the United States to experience education in the same way. Although this concept might sound like it holds many benefits, it has had rather detrimental effects to the education system in America.

The new Common Core curriculum is commonly viewed in negative light— a very negative light. However, the Common Core curriculum, although possessing negatives, also has quite a few positives when you look at it from a different angle.

**HURTING OR HELPING? THE CASE FOR**

**BY SARAH JAMES**

The views expressed in these articles do not directly represent the views of “The Dispatch”, its Editors, Advisors or Authors.
GOODBYE GUCCI, HELLO GOOGLE

The world has officially become completely immersed in a technological era, one equipped with fancy new gadgets strapped right onto our wrists. The debut of the highly anticipated Android Wear™, from Google Smartwatch, caused a wave of critics and fanatics to excitedly share their opinion on the tech-savvy, expensive, new watch. Here are some facts about several new smart watches to help you decide on a favorite:

Android Wear Moto 360
Price: $149.99
Weight: 60 Grams, Approx. 2 Oz
Design: Leather Band And Stainless Steel Face, Single Button
Battery Life: 24 Hours
Durability: Water And Dust Resistant
Memory: 4 Gb
Features: Must Have Smartphone For Compatibility, Built-In Pedometer And Heart-Rate Tracker
Notes: Essentially A Fitbit, But Will Not Work With Tattoo Sleeves

Apple Watch
Price: Ranges From $349.00 To $15,000.00 Depending On Model
Weight: .5 Grams At Most, Less Than 2 Oz
Design: 3 Style Collections, Many Designs In Each Collection, Stainless Steel Face, Retina Display And Touch Interface
Battery Life: 18 Hour Power Reserve
Durability: Water Resistant, Strong Ion-X Glass Face
Features: Must Have Iphone 5 Or Newer For Compatibility, Heart Rate Monitor, Access To Certain Apps, Bluetooth Functions
Notes: Applicable+ Is Available For Extended Coverage, Ability To Send Drawings And Your Heartbeat To Others

Pebble Smartwatch
Price: $59.00
Weight: 38 Grams, Approx. 1 Oz
Design: 2 Main Styles (Time And Classic), Led Backlight, Rubber Or Silicon Band, Different Colors Available
Battery Life: Up To 7 Days Between Charges
Durability: Waterproof or Water Resistant
Features: Fitness Tracking, Notification Alerts, Basic Apps Such As Compass And Weather Forecast, Bluetooth With Most Compatible Devices
Notes: Very Simple Smartwatch, With All The Necessities And Without The Clutter, Additional Accessories Available Online

Back to the Future Part 2 had the right idea with the creation of a hoverboard. Japan has recently invented a hoverboard, but it’s not a board. It’s a train. The “Maglev” is a floating train that is also breaking speed records at the same time. The train travels at approximately 374 miles per hour. At this speed a bumpy ride would be expected, but the ride was described as “comfortable and stable.” Not only is it blazing fast, but also it levitates at the same time. The train is in the air from about 0.39-3.93 inches. Being in air completely eliminates friction, and paired with the aerodynamic design of the train makes it remarkably fast.

This Train Can Very Well Change The Way Transportation Will Be Conducted Forever.

JAPAN - MILES AHEAD

BY WILLIAM BONILLA

Japan - Miles Ahead

Texting and driving has become an epidemic in our society. It makes sense, we text during any other daily activity, and with such ease, that it seems only natural that with the same speed and grace we could type out a few letters behind the wheel. Of course, texting behind the wheel of a car can spell disaster not just for you, but for anyone else on the road near you.

Texting takes your eyes off the road for a minimum of five seconds. While that may not seem like a long time, it’s enough for you to ram into the car in front of you, veer off to the side of the road, or cause any other disaster on the road imaginable. This is exactly the reason why the PTSA found it so important to try to get through to the students of Huntington High School, many of them new drivers, and explain the risks associated with the privilege of having a license.

At the assembly, the threat of texting and driving was brought into reality by the story of the speaker, whose father was tragically killed when he was hit by a car on his jobsite, in an accident caused by a driver texting and not paying attention to the road. What resonated even more, perhaps, than the death of the speaker’s father, was that the man that killed him now has to live with that for the rest of his life. That morning, he hadn’t set out to end someone’s life. A moment of careless distraction was all it took to completely change the course of his life and wreck him with unimaginable guilt.

Unfortunately, a moment of careless distraction is all it takes. It doesn’t matter how long someone is driving or how good they are at driving. Texting is a sure way to put your life in danger and the lives of everyone else on the road. No day is ever the day to kill someone. No accident caused by a driver texting and not paying attention to the road. What resonated even more, perhaps, than the death of the speaker’s father, was that the man that killed him now has to live with that for the rest of his life. That morning, he hadn’t set out to end someone’s life. A moment of careless distraction was all it took to completely change the course of his life and wreck him with unimaginable guilt.

It depends on your priorities; do you need the most power, the least expensive, or the most capable? It all depends on personal preference. Would you like to have a multi-featured watch that can read your pulse, read by an infrared LED and sent to your Apple-savvy friends, or are you just looking for basic, rudimentary convenience? All of the mentioned new smart watches have various features that are useful in everyday life. Whether it is to track a morning run or swim, these watches can keep up with your daily activities. The price varies, but so does the ability. So, what’s your favorite?
Kendrick Lamar has been endorsed and mentored by Dr. Dre and was known as the "leader of west coast rap" by Snoop Dogg. Both Dr. Dre and Snoop Dogg appear on this album along with other black music legends including George Clinton (of Parliament-Funkadelic), Pharrell Williams, and Ronald Isley (of the Isley Brothers). Lamar also makes an important point of bringing lesser known artists to the forefront on this album including Flying Lotus (producer and electronic music composer), Robert Glasper (jazz pianist/keyboardist and composer), Terrace Martin (saxophonist and hip hop producer), Ambrose Akinmusire (jazz trumpeter and composer) and Thundercat (jazz fusion bassist and producer), all of whom are absolutely worth checking out.

On his 2012 album Good Kid M.A.A.D City, Lamar displayed his ability to make a conceptual album where every song flowed into the next by itself, but also creates a story. On Good Kid M.A.A.D City, Kendrick told a semi-autobiographical tale of a kid growing up in Compton, joining gangs, experimenting with sexual identity, abusing drugs and alcohol, being peer pressured into committing crime and doing drugs, experiencing firsthand the violence that these gangs cause and eventually becoming a famous rapper. Lamar plays two characters, one being a young, popular rapper and the other being the cruel, ignorant, and violent white man who represents América and the way América treats its black entertainers. On the first verse Lamar plays the first character and talks about things he wants to say. He begins with the words "I'm gon' get my Uncle Sam in (necs) you up you ain't no king" and he uses the next song, "King Kunta," to be an overt-the-top youth declaring himself the king. Lamar's narrator talk about the violence and drug addiction, and the wars with each other. Lamar also makes a connection between his confidence on the ghetto and his ability to make a conceptual album where every song flows into the next. Lamar also makes a connection between his confidence on the ghetto and his ability to make a conceptual album where every song flows into the next.

On the opening track, "Wiley's Theory," Lamar plays two characters, one being a young, popular rapper and the other being the cruel, ignorant, and violent white man who represents América and the way América treats its black entertainers. On the first verse Lamar plays the first character and talks about things he wants to say. He begins with the words "I'm gon' get my Uncle Sam in (necs) you up you ain't no king" and he uses the next song, "King Kunta," to be an overt-the-top youth declaring himself the king. Lamar's narrator talk about the violence and drug addiction, and the wars with each other. Lamar also makes a connection between his confidence on the ghetto and his ability to make a conceptual album where every song flows into the next. Lamar also makes a connection between his confidence on the ghetto and his ability to make a conceptual album where every song flows into the next.

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**SUBMITTED POETRY**

**ONE ACT**

**Kindness**

Simple,  easy, lifelongenhancing

One act brightens up a day
One act saves a lost soul
One act makes wrongs right
One act can save a life

- ANONYMOUS

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**BLUE DEVILS STRUGGLE TO GO GREEN**

For a while, our school used to have a very active recycling club, who would make their rounds during the week to collect recyclables from classrooms. However, the once-energetic club has since lost its spark. Continued by Mr. McKee, the group has all but ceased to exist after the discovery of recycled papers being placed in the regular trash dumpsters, rendering the recycling efforts useless, as well as many other problems that are hindering the effectiveness of an HHS recycling program.

Lately, a group of students has been going around the school collecting the recycled papers from the once-forgotten little blue boxes in most classrooms. Therefore, this is a call to teachers and students alike—find those hidden and ignored little blue boxes and use them for what they’re made for. This school goes through a small rainforest within the span of a few days, so take those old tests, last quarter’s graded do-now, that note from your Econ teacher in period 3 and the hall pass from October and give them a chance to be a new test, which you’ll probably fail because you were too busy passing notes to fifth period. The Earth’s having a hard enough time as it is, so take the effort to move your hand 6 inches to left to drop your paper in the recycling bin and give that paper another chance.

**NOTE:** Paper bottles, while recyclable, should not be put into the blue bins. Those blue boxes of ironically green hope are meant for those flat, usually white, things that we write on called paper. Do we use water bottles for notes? I hope not. Anyway, we suggest that you keep your bottles and bring them home, where they can and should be properly recycled.

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**THE BOTTOM LINE**

**RECYCLE YOUR PAPERS!**

**PLACE RECYCLABLE PAPER IN BLUE BINS SO THEY CAN BE COLLECTED**

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**ARE YOU FEELING SOME KINDA WAY ABOUT A TOPIC? WRITE ABOUT IT!**

The Dispatch is always looking for writers and photographers to submit articles they feel passionately about.

Drop in during one of our Weekly Thursday Meetings after school.

Contact Sarah or Michelle about submitting writing for the Dispatch.

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**ARTIST SPOTLIGHT**

**CHRISTOPHER GIORDANO**

**COMPUTER GRAPHICS**

**GRADE 10**

Over the past year or so, I’ve noticed a new style become more relevant through the internet, low-polygonal portraits. Breno Bitencourt’s work on Digital Arts is what I based my piece off of most, since I really liked his style and color choices. I varied mine from his by using polygons of many different sizes, rather than sticking to a single basic size. Trying to see polygons of roughly the same size for an image make it look more consistent, but you can lose a lot of detail.

I’ve always liked art since I was a kid, but my perfectionist mindset made me frustrated frequently, since it’s often hard to correct a mistake in a physical piece of art. As a kid I was also interested in working with and playing with computers, and I seemed to be able to use them proficiently at a young age. These two interests woven together, creating digital art is exactly what I needed. I am able to make art with precision, accuracy, and an CTRL+Z (needed for my unfortunate perfectionist mindset). So, overall what I love most about my class is simply working with digital art; I never find myself bored or uninterested.

Recently, I was able to look at the AP Computer Graphics portfolios of the three students enrolled this year at Huntington, and I was blown away by how talented they are. They are definitely an inspiration and act as a motivation for myself, as I can see the potential of digital art and where my skill level may be in a few years. If you ever get a chance, I’d recommend for you to check out their work; it’s extremely impressive.

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**ERIKA VAZQUEZ**

**COMPUTER GRAPHICS**

**GRADE 9**

My name is Erica Vazquez and I am a ninth grader. I am a student in Ms. Mohanthy’s Computer Graphics class. I wasn’t feeling very confident about the class, but after finishing my first project I realized the class was a perfect fit for me. I became so inspired by what we were learning in class that I began creating work on my own. I was encouraged to complete a tutorial by Yulia Sokolova. This city landscape is the result and my favorite creation to date. I learned how to manipulate new tools such as using a clipping mask and gradient tool. I also become much more adept at using the pen tool and creating a value statement. I am proud that this piece was selected to become an art card that will be sold to help raise money for the Art Honor Society. I am really looking forward to next year’s Advanced Computer Graphics class. I intend to truly develop my own personal style and experiment even more with the programs I have been learning.
**Puzzle Page**

**MEMES OF THE MONTH**

**...Because Why Not**

**INTERESTED IN DRAWING COMICS?**

The Dispatch is Looking to Add a Comics Section

If you are interested, drop by Florea’s room Thursdays after school to submit ideas and comic strips.

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**Word Bank**

ABDERIAN
ACCCUBATION
AGASTOPHIA
APODYOPSIS
BIBIILE
BORBORYGMUS
CABOTAGE
CALLIPYGIAN
CAPERNOITED
ERNACEOUS
GABELLE
GAMBINOUS
GOWPEN
HALFPAGE
IMPSONORATE
JENTACULAR
KAKORRHAPHIOPHOBIA
LAMPROPHONY
LYGERASTIA
MACROSMATIC
NUDDUSTHERIAN
PAUCILOQUENT
PYKNIC
QUIRE
KAYDON
THELEMIC
TITYNYCONE
ULOTHOUS
VALETUDINARIAN
XERITZ
YARBROUGH
YCLEPT
ZOANTHROPY

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**SUDOKU**

Difficulty Level: Medium

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**ESCAPE THE MAZE**

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**Finding the Words You Never Knew Existed**

SuDokufinD The worDs you never knew exisTeD

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**The Dispatch**

MARCH 15

By Michelle D’Alessandro

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**Drawing Comics?**

The Dispatch is looking to add a comics section.

If you are interested, drop by Florea’s room Thursdays after school to submit ideas and comic strips.
TOP 5... 

THINGS TO DO WHEN YOUR SHOW IS ON HIATUS... BY KATY DARA

It’s nearly summertime, and you know what that means: season finales! It can be a seriously traumatizing thing when your favorite television show goes on hiatus. The story and characters that you once depended on seeing once a week at the same time are going to be gone for an extended amount of time and you have no clue what you’re going to do with yourself while they’re gone — which is why you go through many painful stages when trying to make it through your show’s hiatus in one piece. The finale ends with a cliffhanger that you think is impossible in a video game. You can’t just eat a granola bar though and become a genius, it’s (sadly) not that easy. It needs to be a balanced breakfast. Like cereal, milk and a banana or a ham and cheese, water and an apple. You need to touch base with as many food groups as possible with your meal. If you can’t though, granola bars work too, just try to get your hands on a fruit and something to drink.

#1 BINGE-WATCH NEW TV SHOWS

You know those other shows that you’re putting off? You know, the ones that countless friends have recommended, but you just haven’t gotten around to watching yet? Now’s the time to do it! Catch up on Netflix, it’ll help keep your mind off of the impending doom on your other show.

#2 RE-WATCH OLD EPISODES

If this show has seriously taken over your life, sometimes the only solution is to watch it again. Even if it’s only a few of your favorites, the conflicts of older seasons may take your mind off of the current cliffhanger gnawing at your mind. Tired of old storylines? Read fanfiction!

#3 DO SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE

Yes, that’s right: find something to do. Finally organize that binder. Clean your room. Actually finish that book you’ve been reading. Focus your mind. Beat the boss level that you think is impossible in a video game. Whatever it is, keep yourself busy. It’s time to live like a normal person, as if a TV show hasn’t dominated your life. Try it, the results may surprise you.

#4 TALK TO PEOPLE WHO WATCH THE SHOW

Venting your feelings to someone is a great outlet, especially when those feelings have to do with fictional characters. You don’t know anybody who watches it? Go online! There are bound to be blogs, forums, and pages dedicated to your show. Talk to somebody about it, or hear others have to say.

#5 THEORIZE ABOUT THE UPCOMING SEASON

Think about what’s going to happen next. Yes, you may drive yourself crazy with a million possible scenarios, but hey, it’s a start!
**THE LATEST ON KANYE**

**BY CINDY C. RODRIGUEZ**

Kanye West recently collaborated with Adidas and released the Yeezy Boosts. The sneakers cost around four hundred dollars a pair. Kanye’s goal was to combine comfort and high-end style. His wife and family have been spotted wearing them frequently. Kanye has been named best dressed multiple times in magazines such as GQ and Men’s Vogue. Recently Kanye helped his wife Kim Kardashian become a huge fashion icon. The couple is frequently seen wearing Balmain, Ricardo Cavali and Narciso Rodriguez. Kim’s newly found style inspires multiple trends today. For example, the recent trend she has inspired alongside her makeup artist Mario is the contour trend, using dark and light cream based concealers to create more defined facial features. Currently, Kanye is working on a new album called “Swish”. Most blogs online are making claims that Kanye changed his album’s name to Swish for his wife Kim. Recently, he tweeted semi nude photos of his wife captioned “Swish”, apparently its one of the words he uses to describe his wife. “Swish” will include “only one” ft Paul McCartney and “Wolves” ft Sia. Kanye’s very a influential figure fashion and music wise to our generation whether it is acknowledged or not.

**ARTISTS THROUGH THE AGES**

**BY SARAH JAMES**

It is scientifically proven that as humans we respond to music. Music has the power to sway our emotions, as well as the power to shape cultures and transcended time. When I asked some people in my classes who was influential in the music industry today I heard the names Beyoncé, Miley Cyrus, and Kanye amongst others. Then I asked of old artists that they knew had been influential in past decades that are still popular today. People said, Journey, Michael Jackson, Prince, Madonna, and Whitney Houston—even the Beatles. These artists were influential back in our parents’ day, and are still influential now. Madonna for instance, was primarily popular in the 80’s with her single “Like a Virgin” which became a huge hit. Her self-titled album was released in 1983 and became a huge success. Madonna’s music career was certainly not the first. The 1960’s was a time of innovation and change, with much of it being brought about by the Beatles and The Rolling Stones. However, the 1980’s saw a surge in popularity for Madonna’s music. Her music was different from the previous artists, as she was able to create a unique sound that was both popular and influential. Madonna’s music was often accompanied by provocative and edgy music videos, which helped to bring her music to a wider audience. Madonna’s music career has been marked by a number of controversies and challenges, but she has remained popular throughout her career. Madonna has been a powerful figure in the music industry and has helped to shape its course over the years. In conclusion, Madonna is considered influential and has had a significant impact on the music industry.

**IN THEATERS:**

Unfriended

**BY TAYLOR HABERKERN**

I actually really liked this movie. They really did something most “so called”, “horror movies” haven’t done, and that made me laugh. They added so many parts that were funny and that most teenagers can relate with. Honestly, the only problem I had was how fast this movie went. It was about 82 minutes and to confirm anyone’s guess: yes, it is 100% pure Skype call. It’s told from a Paranormal Activity-esque point of view; resembling the “found footage” type of horror movie—which depending on your preference can be something of a problem. It was also sort of problematic how there isn’t really any character development throughout the film. Other than the amazing ending, it’s kind of a sad movie. You could argue that Unfriended is a bloody morality fable, underlining what Plugged In has been telling you for years: Be careful what you do online. Even though Unfriended begins to cheat—springing loud noises and gory cutaways that can’t be explained—there’s a rigor to its dopy, blood-simple conception that one may smile at. I recommend this movie, but don’t go in taking it too seriously. Just sit back, relax and enjoy 82 minutes of a dramatic horror flick.

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**ZENDAYA AND THE FIGHT FOR LOC FOR**

**BY CINDY C. RODRIGUEZ**

Actress and singer Zendaya Coleman slammed Giuliana Rancic for the comment she made about her hair at the Oscars. Zendaya wore dreads with her white Vivian Westwood dress to the Oscar Red Carpet and Giuliana, who works at E! News said, “I feel like she smells like patchouli oil, or weed. Maybe weed?” Zendaya replayed through social media later her white Vivian Westwood dress to the Oscar Red Carpet and Giuliana, who works at E! News said, “I feel like she smells like patchouli oil, or weed. Maybe weed?” Zendaya not only felt disrespected, but also felt discriminated against as an African American. She claims to have been known for her music career, but only light can do that. Hate can’t do that. Darkness cannot drive out darkness, two wrongs don’t make a right. With that to her “locs are a symbol of beauty and strength almost like a lion’s mane.”

She later posted another statement in which she told her fans she accepted Giuliana’s apology. She also wrote that she was not right for posting her first words; two wrongs don’t make a right. She ended the statement with a beautiful quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that.” Zendaya proved herself a very influential person not only for her music and acting, but also for how strongly she speaks out on certain topics in ways that other artists do not.

Despite her young age, Zendaya is not only talented and successful, but is also sort of elegantly and inspiring and poses a good example of African American pride.
**THE HOTELIER- IT NEVER GOES OUT (REISSUE)**

**LABEL-** Tiny Engines ~ **RELEASE DATE-** 3/24/15

**BY PAGE MONTICALVO**

Last year indie-emo band The Hotelier put out one of the most emotionally draining, upsetting, but perhaps the most beautiful albums of 2014, *Home, Like No Place Is There*. Its self-reflective lyrics and heart-wrenching instrumentation was accessible to all music fans, regardless of their preferred genres, and people took note of the small Massachusetts-based band.

Surprisingly, many people who are fans of the record aren’t even aware that *Home, Like No Place Is There* is a modest album, isn’t the Hotelier’s first. In January 2011 the band quietly dropped *It Never Goes Out*, which quickly became one of the punk scene’s hidden gems. Their label, Tiny Engines, decided that following the popularity of The Hotelier’s sophomore album that they would re-release *It Never Goes Out*, and I’m glad they did. The album took me by total surprise with the opening track “Our Love Would Make a Sad, Boring Movie,” reminiscent of a punchy Saves the Day-type track, rather than their usual melodic strumming. Their next track, “Vacancy” although not as lyrically diffuse as most Hotelier tracks, is still a gripping song, and every time vocalist Christian Holden screams out the refrain, “Oh, we are the same!” listeners want to join in. It leaves you thinking about who we ‘really’ represents. The next track, “Lonely Hearts Club” is alright, but it’s really not too engaging and doesn’t bring anything new to the table that other bands haven’t already done. In contrast, the next song is hands-down the best on the album. “Ode to the Nite Rats Club” is a lyrical masterpiece telling a story of two youths breaking into factories, and falling in love. It leaves listeners on an extremely unexpected somber note, “We had ideas of staying close together for all time, I wish I still had that same state of mind”. It’s up-tempo and it’s a fantastic return to form for The Hotelier. The 5th track “Weathered” is very enjoyable. To be honest it sounds like the bastard offspring of a Weakethans and Turnover track, but I mean that in the most loving way. A very slow build up resonates with a resounding cry and a harmonica-guitar-drums break that closes the track nicely, with some solid vocals. Sadly, the album drops off in quality here with the next three tracks being, at least in my opinion, shallow and rushed. “I’m Gone” lacks the lead singer (Holden) on vocals, and guitarist Cody Millet who replaces Holden is just inept at carrying the harmonies. “Holiday” is a minute long mess. The instrumental aspect feel cursory and is lyrically (as well as vocally) not on par with other songs on the album. “Still Water Spectacle” was just boring, with the same chords and structure as the previous track. The last song, “Title Track (There Is A Light)” makes up for the mistakes made in the previous few tracks, with Holden’s voice crowning over a landscape of delicately plucked strings and soft, but somehow strong, drumming. It’s a perfect closer to the album and perhaps good foreshadowing to what the band would come to release later on.

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**OVERVIEW:**

**SCORE:** 7.5/10

**FAVORITE TRACK:**

“Ode to the Nite Rats Club”

**LEAST FAVORITE TRACK:**

“Holiday”

**FOR FANS OF:**


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**BRAND NEW FINALLY RELEASES NEW SONG, ‘MENE’**

**BY PAGE MONTICALVO**

The wait is over. If you’re a Brand New fan, you’ve probably been wondering for about six years now when the band would drop a new track. Well now you have one with the dark, alternative new song “Mene”. It starts off with drums similar to the band’s song “Broken”, but takes a totally different route, it’s in-your-face, hard hitting indie rock that strikes you with lyrics like “We walked to the edge but never lept/What sings to you when you disconnect”, and the repeated hook of “We don’t feel anything”. It’s a welcome return for the veterans of punk influenced alt-rock and it leaves me wanting more.

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**EARL SWEATSHIRT- I DON’T LIKE S**, **I DON’T GO OUTSIDE.**

**LABEL-** Tan Cresida

**RELEASE DATE-** 3/24/15

**LOS ANGELES-BASED EARL SWEATSHIRT IS NOTHING SHORT OF AN ENIGMA. THE ODD FUTURE AFFILIATED RAPPERS RUDICIOUS FLOW AND DARE, CRUSHING LYRICS ATTRIBUTED TO THE COMMERCIAL AND CRITICAL SUCCESS OF HIS DEBUT TAPE EARL, AND HIS FOLLOW-UP LP DORS. NOW HE CONTINUES THE SUCCESS WITH HIS SOPHOMORE EFFORT, “I DON’T LIKE SHIT, I DON’T GO OUTSIDE.”, THE ALBUM SHOWS SWEATSHIRT DISCOVERING NEW THEMES AND IDEAS AND IT PAYS OFF TREMENDOUSLY.**

**HUSBAND**

The album starts off with bouncy organ keys reminiscent of something you would hear in a Tyler, the Creator track, and Earl’s entrance is powerful. Line like: “I’m toasting myself’ and a toast to all my niggas. Ain’t no time limit, I’m toasted as hell/And now I gotta jot it quick cuz I can’t focus so well” show Earl’s powerful poetry. The track is extremely short (1:40) and has a bit of an unnecessary outro that takes away from the aura of the track, but it’s still enjoyable.

9/10

**MANTRA**

This track is the most confident I’ve heard Sweatshirt with him rapping braggadocio over a lo-fi bass-heavy instrumental. He references listening to his own track while “His bitch gives him that throat” while driving and he still “hates when his girl’s home”. It’s extremely outside of character for the usually soft-spoken MC, but it was a risk well taken.

9/10

**FAUCET**

This song comes off as almost an apology to his mother, where he “doesn’t know whose house to call to call home lately”. His voice strains while spitting about his father’s absence and his drug-riddled past. It’s a very in-depth look into Sweatshirt’s homeless life.

7.5/10

**GRIEF**

Upon listening to the first few seconds of this track I felt like I was underwater. The bass sounds like it’s coming from blown-out speakers at the bottom of the ocean, and at first it’s a bit odd, but when you get accustomed to it, you can really see the genius behind the production. Again, it’s braggy as hell and the drug topics are still there, with the second verse even sounding like a drug trip. I think this track balances self-loathing and brassiness well enough to go toe to toe with greats like MF DOOM, and even the songs outro sounds like a DOOM production.

9/10

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**MARCH 15**

**The Dispatch**

**For Fans Of:**

The Get Up Kids- Something to Make You Disconnect with a Rap, Wilco, Moving Units

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**OFF TOP**

This track is a Left-Brain produced mess. It’s a boring crime-com-  19/10

**GROWN UPS FT. DASH**

Just like the last track, this one is a bit of a mess with Earl re- hashing the same ideas as many songs previous. Dash sounded like a great feature to the album with his slick flow, but actually takes away from the piece, with sophomoric rhymes that actually made me groan a few times.

4.5/10

**AM/FM Radio ft. Wiki**

This is where the album returns to form. New York based rapper Wiki spits the first verse and tells a story of a drunken night where he “gets kicked out the crib” and how “every time he raps he blasts off”, and he’s just an excellent, excellent feature for this album. Sweatshirt’s verse has some really strong lines as well, statements like “Rally the horseman/Tally the corpses” show Earl’s newfound confidence and delivery and he pulls it off.

9/10

**INSIDE**

On this piece Earl’s flow is great, the beat is fine, but it just seems forgettable. It’s cut too short and it’s too vague to really comprehend.

3/10

**DNA ft. N’KEL**

The biggest problem on Earl’s last album, Doris, were the excessive unnecessary features. It seems to be happening again with this track with Odd Future rapper N’KEL literally having the worst verse I’ve heard on a rap song this year. The song is childish and should really be dropped.

5/10

**WOOL FT. VINCE STAPLES**

This track is easily the best on the album with Earl and Staples battling it out lyrically until the very end. It has the best lyrics and perhaps the best beat on the album and it’s a perfect closer for an album that so desperately needed a great closer.

9/10

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**OVERALL SCORE:**

7/10

**FOR FANS OF:**

Mac Miller’s “Faces”, Death Grips “Gova Plates”, Madvillian’s “Madvillany”
**YEEZY BOOSTS HIT THE MARKET...**

BY WILL BONILLA

A wise man once said breaking up is hard to do. In the case of Kanye West and Nike's break up, it was for the better. Kanye West never fails to deliver a stylish, outlandish, innovative shoe. Even if you aren’t an avid sneaker collector you most likely have heard about the famous Yeezy sneakers with Nike. After some discrepancies with Nike, Kanye West made a decision to do fashion with Nike's rival Adidas. Kanye's first shoe with Adidas is the hyped release of the Yeezy Boost. The new generation of Yeezy's goes for a more simplistic look; opposed to the previous flashy Nike Yeezy's. In addition, the previous Nike Yeezy's were used mostly for show, but the new Yeezy Boost is also an exercise shoe. With a price tag of $350.00 I would expect a little something more. I guess the hype of having a shoe designed by Kanye West is worth $350.00 though.

Reactions to this shoe are split down the middle. Either you like the shoe or you don’t. From a design standpoint, these shoes don’t look extraordinary or incredibly notable. However, Kanye being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item. Sophomore Matthew West being the designer makes these shoes a hot item.

So here’s where you come in, the savvy consumers and fashionistas of the world. These are the main trends, straight off the Paris and Milan runways, we’ll be seeing this Spring and Summer at our local fast fashion stores. Gear up, ladies and gentlemen. Gingham is back and it’s here to stay.

1. **TRANSPARENCY.**

That’s right, we’re talking sheer fabrics and layers. Think American Apparel/Clueless (the movie) aesthetic. It was all over the runways at Paris Fashion Week in the Dior and Nina Ricci shows. The key to working this trend is subtlety.

2. **ATHLETIC CHIC.**

We’ve all seen the notorious Instagrams of Adidas track suits/sneakers, which are arguably 2015’s strangest fashion trend, and fashion houses are catching on. Think Pharrell Williams meets urban street-style. Sporty slides and athletic jackets were featured at the Marc by Marc Jacobs and DKNY shows. Look to Rihanna for inspiration.

3. **SLOUCHY JEANS.**

Boyfriend jeans, mom jeans, bootcut jeans. Grunge-y teens sporting the typical Topshop/Urban Outfitters uniform have brought the 90s back. Widely accepted by the younger and more modern fashion community, this trend is definitely reaching different demographics. Word of advice: try to find the silhouettes that flatter/fit you best.

4. **TEXTURE.**

Texture is a reoccurring theme, year after year, but this season designers have been putting interesting spins on the concept. Dianne Von Furstenberg and Altuzarra were all about Ging-ham, while Jason Wu and Tibi featured suade in their fashion week collections. Feathers made a comeback at Christopher Kane and Simone Rocha and Paul Smith embraced the tassel.

5. **70s AND 90s.**

The union of Donna Summer and Nirvana has never been so fashionable. Bold mules paired with 90s minimalism, and we might just be on to something. The retro 70s (jumpsuits, platforms and the maxi silhouette) are replacing the grunge aesthetic of the 90s (flannels, chokers, doc martens and crop tops), even though the 90s are sticking around. Pop culture archives are definitely the place to score for references.
TBE? History will judge if Floyd Mayweather Junior truly is the best ever. But he has proved he is a class above his biggest rival, Manny Pacquiao. Mayweather dominated Pacquiao to stretch his unbeaten record to 48-0 and to show he is the greatest fighter of his generation. The judges scored it 118-110 and 116-112, 116-112 and it was as one-sided as that and Mayweather produced a tactical masterclass to bamboozle Pacquiao. Apart from the fourth when Pacquiao briefly had Mayweather in trouble, the pound-for-pound king was in control throughout. Mayweather said, “It was a smart fight, I outboxed him. We did what we had to do.” Bizarrely, Pacquiao disclosed he thought he had won the fight, claiming Mayweather did not throw enough punches. “It was a good fight,” he said. “I thought I won the fight. He didn’t do anything. I got him many times. I thought I won the straight right in the first round in a warning to the Filipino. That quick start by Mayweather was key and Pacquiao had been expected to be more aggressive early on and win the early rounds.

Mayweather dictating, Pacquiao’s best round was the fourth. He hurt Mayweather with a couple of big lefts and backed him up into a corner. For a few brief seconds, Mayweather looked vulnerable, but he as he pushed him onto the ropes and unloaded on his body. But the pound-for-pound king shook his head after each flurry of punches signaling he wasn’t bothered.

Mayweather knew he had won and began to showboat in the 12th round, displaying some fancy footwork. Although Pacquiao raised his hands at the final bell, there was only one winner. In the end, Pacquiao got richer, Mayweather got more richer, people who betted on Mayweather got richer, and I got poorer because I spent 100 dollars to watch the “fight of the century” on Prime Time TV in the first place, which I wouldn’t even pin as the best fight of the century, not even the year, not even that week, saw some more brutal NHL playoffs brawls than that 12 round.
SPORTS

MLB SEASON PREDICTIONS

WITH THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL season in full swing, I give my personal official standings of how I think this season will play out, with a few adjustments due to injuries and totally unbiased evaluations. (PLEASE FEEL FREE to mock me at THE END OF THE SEASON, WHEN MY PREDICTED FINAL STANDINGS are ALL COMPLETELY WRONG.)

BY VINCENT FREDDERICKS

AL WEST

SEATTLE MARINERS -- 89-73
LOS ANGELES ANGELS -- 87-75
HOUSTON ASTROS -- 82-80
OAKLAND ATHLETICS -- 79-83
TEXAS RANGERS -- 69-93

The Mariners have two of the most durable stars in the game in Felix Hernandez and Robinson Cano, some new right-handed punch in the lineup and a potential breakout star in Taijuan Walker. Mike Trout should once again be the best all-around player in the league, but will Garrett Richards and Matt Shoemaker be able to match their 2014 performance? The Astros are going to strike out a million times but they’re going to be fun to watch with George Springer, Jose Altuve and company plus a better bullpen will be a big factor. The A’s will again attempt to mix and match in the lineup but they’ve lost a lot of performance? The Astros are going to strike out a million times but they’re going to be fun to watch with George Springer, Jose Altuve and company plus a better bullpen will be a big factor. The A’s will again attempt to mix and match in the lineup but they’ve lost a lot of

AL CENTRAL

CLEVELAND INDIANS -- 90-72
DETROIT TIGERS -- 83-79
CHICAGO WHITE SOX -- 82-80
KANSAS CITY ROYALS -- 80-82
MINNESOTA TWINS -- 68-94

Corey Kluber and Carlos Carrasco could be the best one-two punch in the AL and look for a big bounce-back season from Jason Kipnis. The Detroit rotation is suddenly full of question marks behind David Price, with Anibal Sanchez never having thrown 200 innings and Justin Verlander’s uncertain level of production. It could all come together for the White Sox behind a big top three rotation of Chris Sale, Jeff Samardzija and Jose Quintana and an MVP-type year from Jose Abreu. The Royals still have a bullpen and defense, but no power and they’ll miss James Shields. The Twins have offensive ability, but the outfield defense is suspect and the rotation still shaky after Phil Hughes.

AL EAST

Baltimore Orioles -- 88-74
New York Yankees -- 86-76
Toronto Blue Jays -- 85-77
Boston Red Sox -- 79-83
Tampa Bay Rays -- 74-88

A healthy Manny Machado, and more productive Chris Davis will help ease the loss of Nelson Cruz, for the Orioles. Red Sox will look a lot better when they trade for Cole Hamels or Johnny Cueto in July. I had the Blue Jays in the playoffs before the Marcus Stroman injury, as I projected him to develop into a legit No. 1 starter. The Yankees are too old (one regular under 30) and dependent on too many starters with health risks. The Rays were already on shaky ground before spring injuries landed Alex Cobb and Drew Smyly on the disabled list.

NL WEST

LOS ANGELES DODGERS -- 92-70
SAN DIEGO PADRES -- 88-74
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS -- 85-77
COLORADO ROCKIES -- 69-93
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS -- 65-97

The Dodgers have Clayton Kershaw and position player depth, but the bullpen is undermanned and the rotation is thin if injury-prone starters Brett Anderson or Brandon McCarthy get injured. I’ve revised my thoughts on the Padres, despite the obvious concerns about the outfield defense and infield offense, as I think the James Shields-Andrew Cashner-Tyson Ross-Ian Kennedy foursome will be excellent and now they’ve added Craig Kimbrel in the ninth. No respect for the defending champs! The Rockies are starting Kyle Kendrick on Opening Day. The Diamondbacks are kind of a mess.

NL CENTRAL

PITTSBURGH PIRATES -- 91-71
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS -- 88-74
CHICAGO CUBS -- 84-78
MILWAUKEE BREWERS -- 78-84
CINCINNATI REDS -- 77-85

After falling just short the past two seasons, the Pirates edge past the Cardinals this year as Andrew McCutchen wins MVP honors and Gerrit Cole develops into an ace. If Adam Wainwright and Michael Wacha each make 30 starts, the Cardinals will be tough to beat, but there are some age and power concerns in the lineup. The Cubs should make big strides and you don’t have to stretch your imagination to envision a playoff team. If Ryan Braun puts up numbers similar to a few years ago and Jonathan Lucroy has another MVP-type season, the Brewers will contend if the thin rotation stays healthy. Reds are difficult to project as Joey Votto and Jay Bruce could lift the offense but the back end of the rotation has to deliver.

NL EAST

WASHINGTON NATIONALS -- 95-67
NEW YORK METS -- 84-78
MIAMI MARLINS -- 80-82
ATLANTA BRAVES -- 68-94
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES -- 65-97

You worry about Anthony Rendon’s knee, but with their rotation the Nationals should blow through the regular season. Zack Wheeler’s injury makes me a little less enthusiastic about the Mets, and I have to remember that they’re the Mets with maybe the worst ownership in the game. The Marlins have a great outfield but the rotation depth is severely lacking, even with the anticipated midseason return of Jose Fernandez. The Braves are going to be inept at the plate and just traded

PLAYOFFS

AL WILD CARD -- ANGELS OVER YANKEES
ALDS -- ANGELS OVER INDIANS
ALDS -- MARINERS OVER ORIOLES
ALCS -- MARINERS OVER ANGELS

NL WILD CARD -- CARDINALS OVER PADRES
NLDS -- NATIONALS OVER CARDINALS
NLDS -- PIRATES OVER DOGERS
NLCS -- PIRATES OVER NATIONALS