

Students trade backpacks for briefcases

Many students choose to spend their summers interning

by Jessi Zook

To some, summer is a time to relax and enjoy time off, but for many New Trier students, it's also a time to get job experience.

Many students spend their summers working and interning. According to Susan Thorngren, post high school counselor, "the most popular jobs are at park districts, golf courses and overnight camps."

She's also heard of New Trier students working at more unconventional locations, like Wagner Farm, engineering firms, and even NASA.

This summer senior Courtney Ketchum worked as a summer intern in the research and development department at AbbVie, a pharmaceutical company in Chicago. She said, "the general idea was to expose high schoolers to what they do there." In other words, her job was really to learn.

While working, she not only spent time among experienced adults, but also got the opportunity to attend seminars and meet with some of the Vice Presidents of the company.

"The goal was to figure out if I want to do something like this in the future," she said. Her dreams of chemical engineering were amplified

by the experience.

Junior Elly Cudmore also interned over the summer, though hers took her all the way to The San Felipe Hotel in Casco Viejo, Panama City. While there, she interned for two weeks, helping the new hotel with "public resources, market sales, and researching the competition in the area," she said. She also promoted the hotel, which hadn't yet opened.

The hotel, owned by a family friend, offered much more than just an internship. "I got to practice my Spanish, and I also got real working experience," she said.

It allowed Cudmore to find a new interest. "I really enjoyed working in hotel management, and never would have thought of that before." Now, Cudmore is considering a career in the field later in life.

According to Thorngren, being exposed to these work environments proves invaluable to students. "Not only do you get your own money, you get added responsibility and it's something different from being a student," she said. It's a way to explore your interests and prepare for your future, as Cudmore did.

Interests, said Thorngren, are one of the most important parts of a job. "When I meet students, I help them seek out jobs that match their interests, their schedules, and their goals."

Senior Danny Kogan was always interested in political science, which led him to work as a financial intern for Congressman Brad Schneider over the summer. Schneider served as congressman of



Danny Kogan (center) waving the flag in support of Brad Schneider at a local event this summer | Facebook

the tenth district from 2013 to 2015. While there, Kogan made calls asking for donations, attended parades, and helped plan a multitude of events. He will be working for Schneider until Election Day in November.

Throughout his internship, Kogan was able to interact with many different people. "I got to work with people from all over the country, which was really cool," he said. While the majority of Kogan's peers were older, he said they were a "very close knit group," and all became good friends.

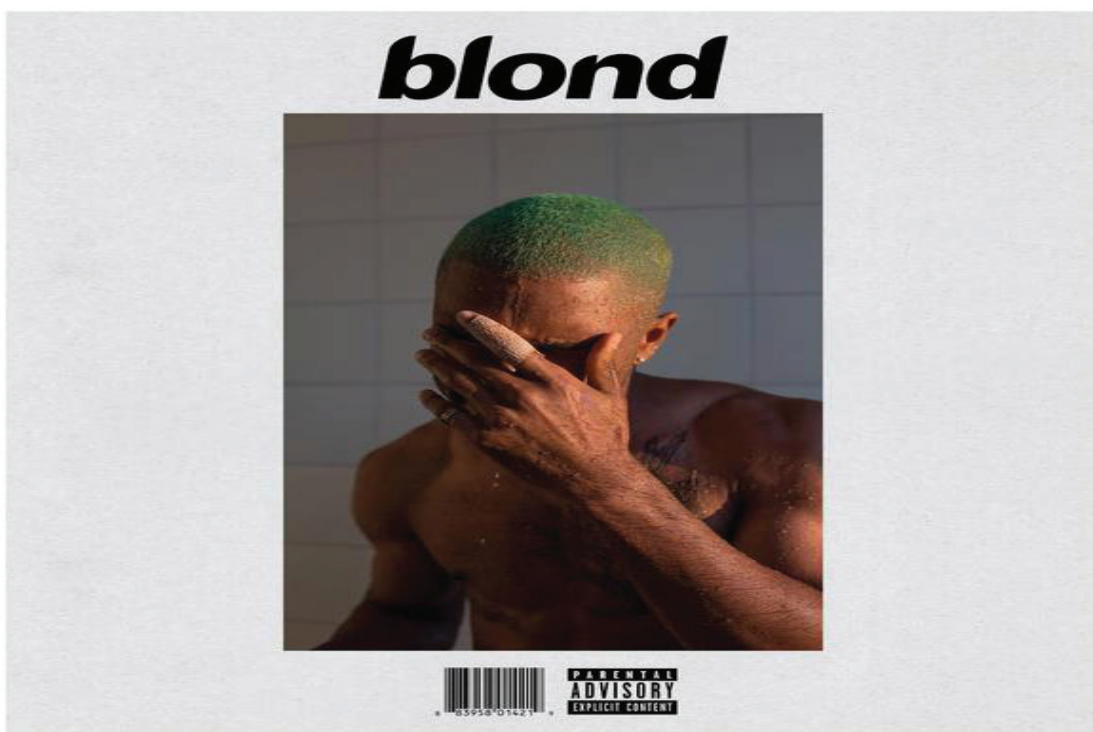
While Kogan isn't sure whether or not he wants to pursue a career in political science, he said that the experiences that he's gained will help him in all areas of his life. "It was a world where you learn to make connections, and at the end of the day, that's the most important trait you can have," he said.

According to Thorngren, high school jobs don't mean you have to pursue a life long career in the field. It may just be a building block. "Many jobs help you build basic skills that qualify you to do the next job, and

the one after that," she said. They make you more desirable for future employers.

Thorngren said that these experiences teach problem solving, social skills, responsibility, and dedication, all of which help in all areas of life, such as school, relationships and sports. Cudmore agreed and said, "it was a great experience that really broadened my horizons."

Frank Ocean going Blonde with new album



Frank Ocean's newest album cover is becoming a well known phenomenon among avid music lovers | Website

On August 20, Frank Ocean released his highly anticipated album, "Blonde".

by Tia Rotolo

Four years ago, Frank Ocean dropped "Channel Orange", a monumental album that synthesized poetic lyrics with futuristic beats. The genre-bending ode to young adulthood hit a new level of success.

Then, Ocean disappeared. After four years of silence, rumors of a new album began to circulate. Release dates were promised. But those dates were met

with more silence. Fans waited. And waited.

On August 20, their prayers were answered. Ocean released his second studio album and nearly everyone was listening.

"Blonde" opens with "Nikes." The simple beat kicks in accompanied with an overly autotuned Ocean singing of childish desire and modern greed. As a mark of wealth and "making it," shoes have been a recurring image for rappers and R&B singers remarking on their underprivileged childhoods, especially in relation to their new lavish lifestyles.

But he takes the image of "Nikes" to the next level. The shoes mark what people want from him. A trivial indication of fortune when

compared to lives taken by similar sins. During the song, Ocean sends condolences to two of his main musical influences, ASAP [Yams] and Pimp C, along with Trayvon Martin.

Ocean even mentions his physical resemblance to Martin, and to grasp the startling fact that it could have been him.

This is the moment where *Blonde* becomes different. While other recent albums like Beyonce's "Lemonade" and Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly" speak out explicitly against police brutality, "Blonde" takes a subtle approach.

The slight realization that Trayvon looks like him, and could even be him, is an honest account of the seemingly indirect effects of

the Black Lives Matter movement, reminding listeners that no one goes unaffected.

Right away, "Blonde" attempts to uncover the future with a nostalgia for the past. His songs remember first loves, getting into trouble, and experimenting with drugs (he also dives into what happens when you mix all three).

The album's inherent use of autotune becomes a conscious addition in nearly every song, resembling Kanye West's 2010 ("My Beautiful, Dark, Twisted Fantasy"). Both albums use autotune as a voice of sin and truth. It's an almost inhuman perspective used as subconscious messages never deliberately stated.

The album deliberately uses a lack of music to convey messages, too. "Be Yourself" is a mother reminding her child of the dangers of drugs. The voicemail is left by a woman named Rosie Watson, the mother of one of Ocean's childhood friends.

Watson was featured on a similar voicemail in "Channel Orange", in which she warns of the dangers of prioritizing money. "Facebook Story" tells the story of a relationship ruined by technology. The messages are subtle forewarnings of more modern idealizations of sin.

In a miscellaneous stew of thoughts battling thoughts of life and death with quickening beats, "Pretty Sweet," brings the album to pure chaos. It mellows out in a melancholy "White Ferrari," which is an account of loss due to ignorance and sheer inexperience.

The song offers potentials of being together in another dimension, a heart breaking resolve for Ocean's vulnerability.

That vulnerability is then denounced in "Godspeed," which

speaks to the lack of validity of male emotion, especially as dealt with throughout Ocean's childhood. The revival of gospel-esque music adds a religious dimension to the album, either an ode to childhood rituals or more reasoning in Ocean's philosophic exploration of past, present, and future. It adds an element of a potential higher power that's present throughout the entire album.

Any doubts of the album's comparison to its predecessor are put to rest with "Futura Free," Ocean's final song. The song's brilliance is encapsulated by an honest account of Ocean's success, paired with his paranoia of being used for fame or objectified by his success.

He wrestles with fears tamed by his accomplishments. He attempts to make peace. It's emotional and thought-provoking. It brings personal importance to the album.

Then it ends, but it isn't over. Following a silent interlude, an interview with Ocean's younger brother, Ryan, is played. Ryan, cussing adolescence, confirms Ocean's earlier nostalgia. Ryan speaks on desired superpowers and is interrupted once his answers become dark.

Confused listeners face one final question before the album really ends: "How far is a light year?" It's a final testament to Ocean's future dilemma.

"Blonde" may not bring the advanced production that made "Channel Orange" such a success, but it brings realness. The subtle jabs at personal struggles make the album relatable, while providing an honest account of one man wrestling the compromising godliness and sin of his fame.