

Among students, TV and online news dominate

Students' tendencies speak to national trend that online media is on the rise.

by Jessi Zook

Many students no longer read paper newspapers, but opt for online sources, cellphone apps and television programs instead.

According to a Pew Research Study, young people ages 18 to 29 are far less likely to read print newspapers.

In fact, while 48 percent of Americans ages 65 and older read print newspapers, only 5 percent of Americans ages 18 to 29 do so.

Senior Allen Lee is one student who does not read print newspapers. "To me, it's inconvenient. It's rare for me to even see a newspaper that's just lying around available for me to read," Lee said.

Lee opts to get his news online instead.

According to the Pew study, online news is a growing phenomenon, specifically among young people. 50 percent of people ages 18 to 29 get their news from looking at online sources.

In fact, significantly more people in this age category get their news online, rather than from television, radio or print newspapers.

Junior Greyson Miller agreed that online is his preferred news medium. "Different articles will pop up on my home page, which then encourages me to check them out."

Furthermore, Miller said online news sources are available much more readily than paper articles.

"Online news is available whenever I need it. It's immediate and that's something I cannot say about paper newspapers."

Senior Nathaniel Beckmann also chooses to get his news online. "My computer is set up to go to MSN. It's nice because as soon as I open my computer, I'm able to see what's going on in the world."

Other students choose to subscribe to newspapers online. Amber Malik, senior, is one who has chosen to do so.

"I subscribe to the Wall Street Journal and the Washington Post online. I get emails with summaries of the articles and then, when I see something that looks intriguing, I may choose to read the whole article."

Staying up to date on news is helpful for Malik because of her participation in Congressional Debate, where she needs to be informed on current events.

Cellphone apps, such as Snapchat and BuzzFeed are also popular news sources for students.

BuzzFeed is a website and

cellphone app that offers quizzes, videos, celebrity news, and news articles. It's popular among many students, including senior Michelle Vaselopulos.

"BuzzFeed is convenient because it's on my phone, so I have it all the time. It's not strictly news, but also has fun articles and games," she said. It offers news and entertainment in one place.

Lee prefers to use Snapchat to get his news. Snapchat, an app allowing people to send photos with filters and messages, also has a page dedicated to news.

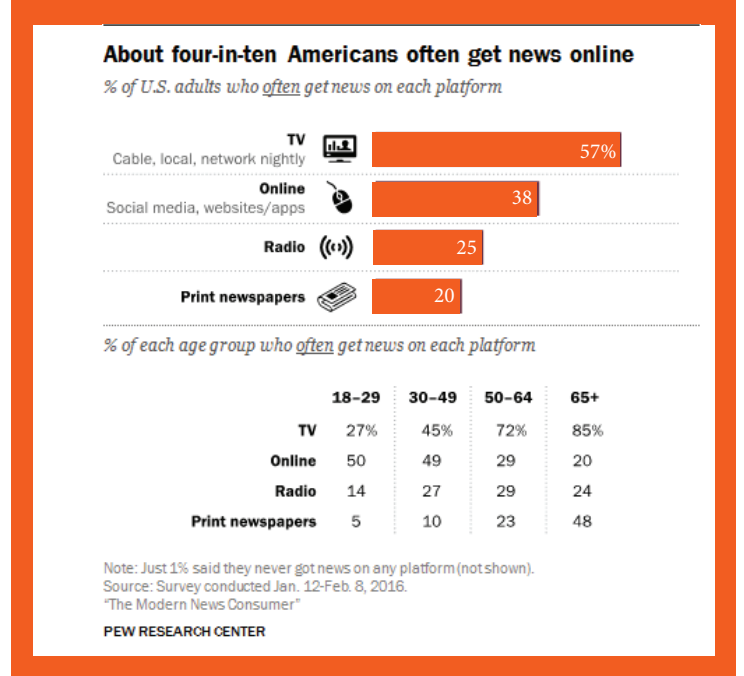
This section includes featured articles, videos and photos that well known publications, such as "Entertainment" and "The Washington Post," can submit to be published.

According to "Variety," 30 percent of Snapchat users used the app as their primary source of news during the 2016 presidential election.

Twitter, a website and app allowing live commentary from users, has also become a popular news platform.

Junior Laura Lenard said, "A lot of the news I see is from Twitter. I'm not always on Twitter to find news, but I may see something that someone else tweets about current events that intrigues me."

Still others get their news primarily from television. Across all age categories, television averages



out to be the primary source of news for Americans, according to the Pew Research Study.

"I get my news from watching the news on TV," sophomore Sophie Weix said. "It's an easy, fast way to get reliable news."

Beckmann also watches the news. "Sometimes NBC is on in my house, so I'll watch that to see what's going on."

Vaselopulos also watches the news when it's on in her house. "My parents will watch the news at home,

usually CNN, so I'll get a lot of current information from that," she said.

Despite print being the reigning medium of news for decades, there's no denying that things have begun to shift.

"Now that we have immediate access to news on phones and computers, I just don't think print news can compete.

Right now, I don't think very many people our age read actual newspapers, and those numbers are just going to keep dropping," Lee said.

Celebrities use their status to inspire change

Popular celebs use their publicity to advocate for social issues

by Charlie Burton

With a click of a button, celebrities can now inform their followers not just about their projects and personal lives, but about hot button issues.

The rise of social media has created a platform for celebrities and professional athletes to speak out about issues like climate change, civil rights, and gun control.

Celebrities have a tremendous following on social media. Justin Bieber, for example, has 84.9 million followers on Instagram and LeBron James has 29.6 million.

However, there may be a problem with celebrities using this platform to offer their insights about world or national issues. No matter how they choose to present it, there will always be bias in their posts.

Today people are more likely to question what sources of news are credible. Celebrities using their platform to inform their followers only creates another outlet of news with different or questionable opinions and facts.

"The problem with celebrities sharing news ideas is that it usually involves political issues," said senior John Paul Sheridan, "People need to be able to think for themselves.

Just because someone you admire has an opinion doesn't mean you will too. People need to be informed enough to think for themselves, not like their favorite celebrity."

Many celebrities may not even be informed themselves which could lead to more false information because celebrities have access to sharing whatever is on their mind to millions of people.

The job of journalists is to interview experts in the field of their sub-

ject and not celebrities who want to share their opinion.

On the other hand, celebrities using social media can raise awareness for important issues in our society. For example, LeBron James has used his twitter as a platform to share problems concerning equal pay and civil rights.

"I believe celebrities have a responsibility to share their opinion with the public," said senior Alice Kipp, "anyone who has been given a podium like that would be foolish not to use it."

Another way celebrities choose to share their opinion is at award shows.

Meryl Streep used the golden globe awards as a way to voice her opinion against Trump, and Leonardo DiCaprio talked about climate change during his Academy Award speech.

"I don't mind when celebrities voice their opinion on social media because it's their right to share how they feel," said junior Colin Morris.

"But I hate it when they talk at award shows because no one is watching those to hear their political opinions."

Senior Taylor Connelly agrees, "When they talk at award shows it almost feels as if they are talking down to us. It's like they treat the rest of the world like we are uninformed and they know what's best for us."

With all of these celebrities speaking out about current events it leaves the question of do they have a responsibility to voice their opinion.

Many new trier students believe that they don't have a responsibility, but they have a unique opportunity.

"It's definitely not their responsibility, but they do have an opportunity that normal people don't.

They have an opportunity to share their opinions, and because they have such a big following it's easy to get the word out."

Tabloids' sensationalized stories strain both subjects and readers

Celebrity news uses flashy headlines to gain readership

by Tia Rotolo

Despite their exaggeration and potential harm, tabloid magazines remain popular.

It's the first thing you see as you're checking out your groceries. A picture of two celebrities caught off guard and in large words: DIVORCE! Underneath is a picture of a woman in a bikini: Celebrity gains ten pounds: Why she's stress-eating! Anything from mental disorders to drug abuse to separations, tabloids capitalize on the personal lives of the celebrities we look up to.

But rarely do they have anything good to say. In fact, all these "insider sources" do is mock up stories of catastrophe to reel in consumers.

And consumers continue to eat it up.

Tabloid Journalism operates on sensational news stories: crimes, astrology, gossip, and "junk food news."

This style of writing allows journalists to be false as long as they credit their stories to an "anonymous inside source."

Even now, in our era of fake news, I'd hope that readers would be smarter about their media consumption. Why purposefully buy a three dollar magazine filled with lies?

Well, entertainment. The stories are juicy. A simple divorce can be mocked up to a six-page spread entailing a secret affair, a baby on the way, and a rising drug problem.

Despite our best judgments of truth, we can't help but look away.

So maybe the problem goes deeper, maybe we're just obsessed with the demise of others.

We want our celebrities to face

elaborate trauma because it helps us feel better about our own lives.

Senior Carlyne Newman agreed that other people's trauma helps our own self esteem. "It's nice to know that people's lives are worse than our own," she said.

But the issue is when these magazines play with our self-esteem and alter our perceptions of normal.

Outing celebrities as gay and tracking the weight loss or gain of someone famous is not only insensitive, but it's a breach of privacy.



These stories are purposefully personal. For celebrities struggling with their sexuality or their weight, a watchful eye from the press isn't remotely helpful.

The National Inquirer boasts countless sensational stories. One headlined, "In Our Prayers!" The story followed with three celebrities that are on their "Death-Watch."

They're outing athletes in a special section headlined, "Out of the Closet!"

What does it show young readers when women's bodies are constantly being criticized for a slight gain or loss?

Young, susceptible adolescents see any changes to weight as a bad thing.

Gain weight and you're considered fat and spiraling out of control. Lose weight and now there must be

some underlying emotional trauma causing you to do so.

The articles don't allow women's bodies to exist if they're not for the critique of the world. Senior Caroline Lesniak notes how harmful this is for young girls.

"They cause negative body images. Girls see these images and feel bad about themselves," Lesniak said. "You can get so obsessed over how you look."

When these magazines line shelves in grocery stores everywhere, they promote one thing: your personal life is never personal. Worse than that, they trivialize mental disorders from anorexia to bipolar disorder.

The fact remains, a celebrity going to a rehab center is none of our business. We shouldn't know about what medications a certain celebrity is on.

Despite the fame, celebrities have a right to privacy especially when the issues being discussed are as personal and detrimental as mental disorders, divorce, or drug use.

These are personal topics that shouldn't be in the public eye, even if they're potentially false.

News that's used to manipulate people's perceptions of others is not news. It's a gossip column.

But this distinction is rarely made. In our manipulated perceptions, we often fail to note that celebrities are human.

Most of the harm done goes back to the unrealistic standards we set for celebrities.

We idolize them like they're perfect, but they're not. They're people too and they have their own struggles like anyone else. These stories are not ours.

It may be compelling to hear about someone's own downfalls, but these tabloids are doing more harm to their audience than their subject matter.