

Here's hoping!
(what to anticipate in 2017)

50th anniversary of Thurgood Marshall becoming the first black SCOTUS Justice



The inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 20



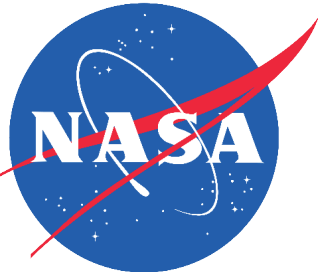
After a highly successful premiere season, *Stranger Things* is going to release a second season

100th anniversary of the Russian revolution

20th anniversary of the death of Princess Diana



On Aug. 21, a total solar eclipse will occur for the first time in 26 years.

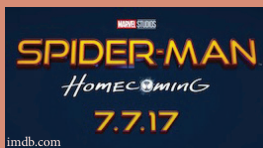


The NASA TESS mission to launch an exoplanet-detecting satellite is set for 2017

100th anniversary of the USA declaring war on Germany during WWI

In theatres

Spider-Man: Homecoming



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2



Star Wars Episode VIII



Cars 3



First semester finals begin Jan. 11 (and more importantly, end Jan. 13)

On Feb. 28, students will participate in a school-wide Seminar Day on race and the fight for civil rights

On June 4, Seniors will graduate from the Sears Centre in Hoffman Estates, instead of the traditional Ryan Field at Northwestern University

On July 1, Dr. Paul Sally will take the place of Dr. Linda Yonke as New Trier's Superintendent

CO-EDITOR'S CORNER

Don't smile because it's over, cry because it happened: a formal review of 2016

by Beth Wall

I'd like to speak directly to the people that fabricated this vicious expedition known as "2016", because boy did they fumble this one.

Maybe it was all in tribute to the eternal Bard, and the 400 years since his death. Truly, 2016 has been a tragedy of Shakespearean proportions.

I think the Summer Olympic games in Rio de Janeiro serve as a perfect tableau to represent the whole production. A shiny (isolated) display of achievement, endurance, and intrepid spirit, set against a looming, poverty-stricken backdrop, thick clouds of smog and high-power stadium lights obscuring the 90.20 crime rate.

What progress seemed to have been made this year was quickly swallowed by a more oppressive force, yielding (what seems to be) no progress at all.

American women reached (half a) milestone--we nearly (almost!) made (close!) it (kinda...) to the White House (sure, the effort was, in the end, submitted to an administration that explicitly promises to confine,

strip, and degrade us, but like...).

The polls predicted a confidently female future leadership, but a silent population surprisingly prevailed. The American process of Democracy needs to be respected to some degree, I suppose, but I also question the despair, protests, and public outcry that would have been invoked in response to the phrase "President-elect Hillary Clinton." Not many citizens, I think, were entirely happy with giving their vote to a politician whose stances are prone to fluidity, but not many also would have feared for their safety, had she been elected to office.

A North Dakota tribe peacefully persevered and, through weeks of torment and extreme conditions, protected their right to clean water, but still, families in Flint, MI continue to be poisoned with the consequences of their government's indifference.

June, 26, 2015. After years of fighting, LGBTQ+ individuals were guaranteed the right to marriage. Just under a year later, 49 attendees of a gay nightclub in Orlando were targeted, and denied their right to life. Had the victims of Orlando survived a few months later, they would have

witnessed a Vice President who, in 2000, proposed that federal funds be directed towards gay conversion therapy, to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A Vice President who also claimed, in 2006 (in support of a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage), "Societal collapse was always brought about following an advent of the deterioration of marriage and family."

"How could this happen?" we all cried out (digitally), following our politically-charged retweets and Facebook feed echoes. The mainstream directs the spotlight and so, the power. This year was pretty terrible, but I don't think we have to look too far beyond our noses for the insitagtor(s).

Michael Phelps's angry face became a pretty serviceable meme, but what of the fav-la which was mowed through to create his swimming pool?

2016 decimated its audience, yet through wincing eyes, they peek out, desperately wondering: *Dear God, what now?*, and paying the price of a double-feature ticket that runs the whole show.

Christmas not just for Christians

by Helen Fagan

Bing Crosby really wasn't kidding when he said that this is the "most wonderful time of the year." Living in Chicago, it's hard to not get in the holiday spirit watching the snow fall and listening to Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas" on 93.9 MYFM.

If you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or anything in between, I encourage you to embrace all that the season has to offer. This experience doesn't have to be in a religious sense—I, for one, don't identify with the whole Baby Jesus/born in a manger story of Christmas.

Granted, there is a religious side to Christmas that is a very valid, and special one. But this is a side that only those of the Christian faith can truly identify with.

The reality is—Christmas is no longer simply a Christian holiday. There are so many more wonderful values and emotions that Christmas brings to light than those surrounding Jesus's birthday.

Whatever you believe, (or don't believe) there is something about Christmas that everybody can identify with and love.

I love the snow. I adore how the trees and roads look in a blanket of white. Driving in a snowstorm and sliding around all over the unplowed roads gives a little bit of unpredictability that I crave. When I'm driving around on a snowy afternoon, and "It's Beginning to Look A Lot like Christmas" plays on the radio, I can't help but feel festive and con-

tent. Everything is a little bit more light, and a little bit more beautiful when there's snow on the ground.

Plus, snow isn't Catholic or Christian or Jewish. The weather is delightfully nonpartisan. Priests, monks, Hillary and Trump supporters alike can all experience its beauty without hesitation.

I realize it can be difficult to see the beauty of Christmas. As with any other holiday, companies have taken over, clouding the true spirit of the holiday with 50% off sales and cheesy Hallmark cards.

But in between the shopping and tchotchke, Christmas has also created beautiful melodies such as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and the iconic (though it may be a little cheesy) Mariah Carey song, "All I Want For Christmas is You." (I'm a fan of the extra-festive version).

Don't let #Elfie sweaters and ruin your holiday season. I assure you, that if you look past the 30% off deals and neon light-up Rudolfs, there is something about this time of year that will really capture your heart.

The whole gift-giving thing really clouds over Christmas as well. Spending money and giving gifts, of course, brings loads of stress with it. In a new relationship, it brings the questions of; "How much money should I spend?" and "Are we exchanging gifts at all?"

Plus, it's difficult to get away from the materialism surrounding the holiday. We are all, in some deep, dark part of ourselves, materialistic. The

prospect of being showered with beautifully wrapped gifts is something that's too tempting to ignore.

All these vices aside, everyone can find something in the true spirit of Christmas to celebrate. Christmas is really about family, tradition, and love.

No matter how you may feel about your family, Christmas brings people together. Sure, some people use the holiday to fly out to some tropical place. They say they're "avoiding Christmas" or "it's not like Christmas", but in reality, on these vacations, even if you don't have a Christmas tree, you're still spending quality time with your family—the same thing those who are going to Christmas Eve mass are doing!

And no matter what insane things happened this year that you had the pleasure of reminiscing about in this issue of the *Examiner*, Christmas always remains the same. People will still make cookies and decorate Christmas trees regardless of who is President. Barring global warming, in Chicago it will always snow in the winter, even when our world is plagued by terror and violence.

In the midst of all chaos, Christmas is a constant. Because it brings stillness in a world of chaos, it brings peace. Even if you don't decorate a Christmas tree or have ever believed in Santa Claus, anyone could benefit from the tranquility that Christmas brings.

Happy New Year!

From The New Trier News Staff

