

# Student Views

This week we asked Trevians if they felt well represented by the Student Alliance. Here's what they said...



**Caolin Donnelly, Junior**

"I did student senate, but gave up because I felt like I wasn't doing anything."



**Alex Perez, Junior**

"I feel like it's a select group. If they did more, they would be noticed."



**Carlyn Chrabaszcz, Senior**

"They don't say what their projects are. I don't really hear from them."



**Ahmad Searcy, Sophomore**

"My bridge builder told me that any concerns would be handled immediately."



**Jennifer Yamin, Junior**

"What's student alliance?"

## Why Alexander Hamilton is a lucky guy



by Sam Blanc

BEWARE: FANGIRLING AHEAD

For those of you who don't know much about the musical Hamilton (first of all, how dare you?) its closing number, "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story," is about doing what you believe is best regardless of those around. No matter what you do, you can't control your legacy.

Alexander Hamilton was not honored; most people hated him; although any APUSH student can give you the details, the rest of the world didn't really give him much credit until recently.

And now, despite the fact that he was pretty much ignored for more than two-and-a-half centuries, I believe he's one of the luckiest men ever to live.

Not only is his story being told to millions, but the man doing the telling is Lin Manuel Miranda, one of the most moral, modest, magnanimous men ever to grace the stage.

*"You have to do it because you believe in it. You have to do it because you believe you can learn from it. You have to do it because you love it."*

I was lucky enough to see him live last Sunday, interviewed by Chris Jones at an event sponsored by the Chicago Tribune and the Humanities Festival.

I was stationed in the nosebleeds on the second balcony of

the Lyric Opera House.

It was six ornate flights of stairs up and so far back that if I'd taken a picture (which I would never do in a theater anyway) the interview would've been over before the light of the flash reached the stage.

Regardless, I was just happy to be there. There was something about watching Miranda speak in real time.

When the whole theater erupted in laughter or applause, I felt like maybe I wasn't the only one who smiled and sobbed through his Tony's acceptance speech over and over again.

Miranda is an inspiration to me not because he's incredible at what he does (although he is incredible at what he does, and it certainly doesn't hurt) but because what he does is unique.

It is not an appeal to the theater industry or to the whims of the public. He does what he feels passionate about, regardless of the odds stacked against him.

It's easy to do something when you have a reference, when the vision is already mapped out for you.

I remember wanting to write a fantasy novel in seventh grade because I thought people liked them. I fought so hard just to come up with a premise that was 'good enough.'

It's not that I didn't have ideas, but if they even peeked outside the box, I slammed them back in, determined to stay in a certain genre, as if pushing the boundaries was breaking some oath.

Spoiler alert: that novel, if you can call 20-something pages filled with the writing equivalent of cat puke a novel, was awful.

The only person it bored more than my mother (who was forced to read it) was me. I was bored of it before I even started.

I couldn't figure out what was wrong. It was all mapped out, a full plan for a novel that I couldn't bring myself to write, so I gave up.

Of course I knew why. I knew I didn't like the idea, but it was only

after seeing Lin Manuel Miranda that I thought maybe there was a way to get around it. Looking at the gleam in his eyes on the screen (I was way too far away to see his actual eyes) as he talked about writing and planning, years and years of work, I saw what true inspiration looked like. It was the kind of inspiration that transcended time and frustration and writer's block.



linmanuel.com

He explained that there's a four out of five failure rate in terms of seeing a return on your investment in making a show.

"So, what is the lesson you take away from that?" he asked. "You cannot do something because you think it will make money. You have to do it because you believe in it. You have to do it because you believe you can learn from it. You have to do it because you love it."

Being inspired doesn't have anything to do with skill, nor does accomplishment usurp the value of self-satisfaction. Walking away from the event, I, for one, was excited to look for inspiration. I didn't feel daunted by working hard or scared of failure.

So, maybe Alexander Hamilton's story didn't turn out so well. But the story of his story is a huge success, and the story of the story of his story is inspiring thousands, myself included, to look at history, and storytelling, and inspiration in a whole different way.

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## No team in Green Team



by Bella Geroulis

The start of the New Trier football season also marks the launch of the 2017 Green Team. That means tailgating, loud student sections, and a plethora of creative and memorable nicknames.

However, lost amidst all this is the true message of Green Team: to be a team.

Just recently I attended a football tailgate in which I had to leave early. While I was enjoying my time with friends, I realized that though everyone there was there for the same reason, everyone had naturally gathered into their respective friend groups.

As I was driving away, I couldn't help but be struck by the few students who were on the edges of the tailgate feeling uncomfortable, like they couldn't walk up to the big group of students.

The Green Team Facebook page has also proven to be highly problematic. In the past week, the page has become regulated by the Green Team captains, causing every post and every comment to have to be approved by a select few students.

In response, a group of students have created an alternative page for the grade to post without regulation.

This clear split between the grade is not just a reflection on the current state of Green Team, but a reflection of the grade as a whole.

Though everyone in the senior class is welcomed to attend tailgates and nearly all of them have Green Team sweatshirts, it's very clear that there is a social hierarchy that has been created within the group.

Despite the 806 members in the Facebook page, it seems that only a dozen people actually feel comfortable enough to post.

Green Team is supposed to bring the senior class together as a whole to enjoy the last year of high school as we all prepare to embark on the next stage of our lives. Sadly, it seems to be doing just the opposite.

If you go to any of the Green Team events or log onto the Team's Facebook page, you'll see divided groups and snarky comments.

While some may find it funny to observe from the sidelines and are comfortable with not doing anything about it, it's a shame that we seem to be turning a blind eye to the notion that in the end we are, in fact, a "team."

While it is also true that in our senior year we should spend time with the people we really care about before we all have to leave, why not try and embrace the idea that we should branch out and meet new people that we may not ever see again after we graduate?

The graduating Class of 2017 only has nine months left to make it count. We can choose to play it safe and continue with how everything is now. Or we can choose to explore everything high school has to offer.

High school is hard, in every sense of the word. High school challenges us in ways we never thought possible before we entered the Northfield campus four years ago.

Each and every student has changed in one way or another, and though it may feel like this is the end, and like we can't grow anymore, this is only the beginning.

We will grow and change every day for the rest of our lives, and during this final year of high school we should continue to grow and change together.

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