

Student Views

This week we asked Trevians what they thought about the recent name change from Turnabout to Trevapalooza...



Nick Collins, Sophomore

"I think it's good that they're trying to respect everyone's sexuality since there are same sex couples going to the dance."



Haiti Movafaghi, Junior

"I think it's good because it takes away the labels. Down with gender roles."



Harry Clark, Senior

"If they wanna do it, that's fine. I don't really care. It's an okay name. It's interesting."



McCall Donaghue, Senior

"That might be the dumbest thing in my entire life. Why couldn't they change it to something different. We look like a bunch of tools."



Gabby Fishe, Senior

"I don't like the name change because it lacks creativity and it could've been much more appealing. It seems immature."

Pop music rose to the top of my chart

by Michael Blickstein

Anyone who knows me well also knows my music catalog. Lots of indie alternative, lots of bands you may not have heard of, and a lot of music that I've seen live. As I'm writing this, I'm listening to "The Mowgli's" which likely fits all three categories.

Last week, however, I found myself listening to an EP called "Swaay" by "DNCE." For anyone not familiar, "DNCE" is Joe Jonas' new band who sings the popular song "Cake by The Ocean." This is a band that I probably shouldn't like, but I listened to that EP for a week straight.

Recently acts like The Weekend, Taylor Swift, Justin Bieber have stormed my earbuds at times when I could've listened to something like "Death Cab for Cutie" or "The Avett Brothers."

As a rock and alternative music enthusiast, these drum machines, keyboards and auto tuned vocals make me feel some level of sacrilege.

I grew up on rock and roll, which developed into punk and modern alternative because I thought it gave me a sense of self if I listened to music that made me go against the grain.

But the more I think about it, pop artists make me feel just as happy as some of the smaller artists I like with even a couple of advantages.

The music I listen to is generally very catchy and the kind of music you can sing along to. Lately, my playlist has consisted of "Young The Giant," "The 1975," and "Foster the People," all of which have catchy songs that you can bob your head to and sing along. But if I asked you to name more than one song by each band, you probably couldn't.

Now, if I asked you about any of the other three pop artists I mentioned, you could name at least four songs by each, and in Taylor Swift's case, most of her discography.

Pop music is a much better

talking point than indie music because everyone knows about it and everyone has something to say about it.

I could talk to anyone about pop music for hours. I could listen to the radio for hours with friends and review every song I hear. I could talk about whether I like the beat, whether I like the lyrics, whether it's overplayed, and whether everyone agrees with me is irrelevant because it started a conversation.

I can't do that with a lot of the music I normally listen to because people don't really know it. I can't talk about "The Colourist" or "Smallpools" with a big group of people because odds are they don't know what I'm talking about.

But the second I mention "Coldplay," people automatically start talking about their Super Bowl performance and bring up other artists and the conversation gets bigger.

People who exclusively listen to classic music or obscure music often look down upon people who don't dedicate all their time and money to musical discovery. They purposely try to avoid music that is made for people to enjoy, and I find that snobby and closed minded.

I'm definitely not immune to this pitfall, and lot of times, I won't notice how good certain music is until someone plays it for me or I force myself to listen past the first thirty seconds.

The more I listen to catchy and commercial music, the more I connect with the people around me and the more I'm able to understand how they think.

The one thing I realized is that pop music makes me feel just as good as any other obscure act you've never seen.

I used to feel bad about liking it because I didn't want to be labeled as "generic" or "conformist." Then I realized that those labels don't really matter, and as long as it isn't hurting anyone, I should be able to be happy listening to the new Justin Bieber song. And I am.

New Trier joins the Iowa caucus

by Will D'Angelo

I went on the best excursion of my life last week, and I was fortunate enough to share the experience with other Trevians.

On Feb 1, two AP Political Science classes combined to attend a caucus in Davenport, Iowa. The field trip was fun, rewarding, and an intense experience that students everywhere--regardless of their party loyalty, knowledge, or exposure--would appreciate.

A caucus is defined as a meeting of members of a political body who are members of the same party to select candidates. While this definition is accurate, it does no favors in describing the Democratic and Republican caucuses that I attended firsthand.

There was excitement bubbling among students in Lindsay Arado and Alexander Zilka's government classes. The two social studies teachers had been planning the trip for some time.

"We have never done a field trip of this magnitude," Arado said. "A primary is exciting, but a caucus is amazing because voters can go in and try to convince other voters to vote the same way."

As we boarded the busses shortly after fifth period, we began live tweeting using the hashtag #NTIowa. After three short hours we arrived in Davenport, Iowa.

Stepping off the coach bus, a group of classmates and I decided we would spend our two free hours exploring Davenport and searching for a local restaurant for dinner. While a few students ate at a local Chick-Fil-A, most walked to "Me & Billy" where we feasted on sandwiches slathered in cheese. Senior Patrick Graham had a mac-n-cheese and bacon burger, and said it was "scrum-diddly-umptious."

After adventuring through downtown Davenport, including walking through the nearby Rhythm City Casino and taking plenty of pictures of the city skyline, we arrived at an elementary school to observe our very first caucus around 7pm. As we walked into the building, we were met with plenty of stares as well as enthusiastic handshakes by community voters and campaigners.

I chose to first attend the Republican caucus. Sitting in the hot cafeteria of the school, I listened to five



New Trier students observe the Bernie Sanders caucus corner | D'Angelo

speeches from citizens representing candidates. After rousing declarations that candidates like Trump or Santorum would build massive walls or protect American liberties, I began to understand how the caucus truly worked.

After speeches endorsing candidates, the Republicans present votes for their candidate in lines. It was a quick, efficient process, and it was quite interesting to see how each member of the party passionately expressed their affection for the various candidates.

Unlike the Republican process, the Democratic process was more inclusive. Voters separated into groups in the four corners of the gym based on their desired candidates (Clinton, Sanders, O'Malley, or undecided), and representatives discussed the benefits of voting for each candidate. For Olivia O'Bryan, this was the most interesting part of the caucus. "The highlight of the trip was the democratic process and how the democrats went from completely split up into two groups [Sanders and Clinton]."

At the end of the caucus, Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders carried the most voters from their respective parties, and they won the delegates from Davenport to add to their grand total. After exiting the gym at the end of the caucus, we had three hours back home to reflect on the event we had just experienced. However, before we left, I had the opportunity to speak with a reporter for the New York Times, and his experience covering

the presidential race.

For Ryan Jenkins, a multimedia editor for the Augustana Observer and a reporter for the New York Times, the most important thing that any young person can do is get out and vote. "As social media pulls in more weight on the campaign trail, more and more young people are being exposed to issues and stances," he said.

"However, they don't take advantage of their role in society. Any chance a young person has to get behind a candidate they should take it. Jenkins noted that it's crucial for students to get involved in politics and make a difference in the polls, not just on social media.

On the bus home, students felt a mixture of euphoria and dismay as we reflected on the day and also followed caucus results to the minute as precinct results were announced.

Before arriving back at Winnetka at 12:30am, there were plenty of spirited debates, discussions, and reflections on the day.

Looking back, it was amazing that Trevians like myself were able to experience democracy firsthand. Zilka commented on the excursion and the impact that attending had on himself and his students, saying that the field trip "was an opportunity for students who have a passion for politics and government to witness and experience something that they study in the real world. Some of the students in my other classes were talking about it before I even told them about it. It seems like people were curious and that interest was infectious."