

Staff Editorial

Hate crimes are inherently political, but so are we

Thursday: a white man walks into a Kroger grocery store and shoots two black Kentucky citizens. After footage circulates of the man trying to break into a nearby black church moments before, authorities dispel any doubt that the act was a hate crime.

Friday: a man is arrested in Florida for mailing pipe bombs to democratic politicians, journalists, and Trump critics across the country.

Saturday: a gunman bursts into the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh and fires on families during the Jewish Sabbath, killing 11 people and wounding six more, including four police officers. "Jews must die," he allegedly shouted.

Crime in general has reached historic lows across the United States, but by other various indexes, crimes of hate appear to be on the rise. According to the Anti-Defamation League, over the past two years, anti-Semitic attacks have more than doubled—and the attack on Saturday was the deadliest against Jews in American history.

Alongside anti-Semitism, anti-black hatred appears to be rising. It has been expressed recently not only in incidents where white Americans have harassed black Americans for gardening, coming home, swimming, working or campaigning for public office, but in deadly attacks like the one last Thursday.

In the aftermath of hate-driven violence, salvaging any meaning from the wreckage can be excruciatingly difficult. But what has been the most confusing are the pervasive claims that politics has nothing to do with any of it, most specifically that the Tree of Life shooting is not a politically motivated act of violence.

While I see validity in questioning the extent to which toxic political climates can influence a man to pick up a gun and murder people, insisting that these cases of hateful violence have no relation to politics is negligent of the role that our political climate and politicians have played in exacerbating divisions and emboldening these acts.

No, it is not rational to just blame President Trump by any means. The suspects in Pittsburgh, Florida, and Kentucky are responsible for their own actions, but if we ignore the factors that enable violence, we're inhibiting ourselves from preventing violence in the future.

Even more important than this, isolating hate from politics downplays the role that political change in our country can play in addressing the factors that spiraled into the events of last week such as changes in gun laws, stronger stances against hatred and bigotry from our political leaders, and cultivating a less divisive political environment.

More Democrats and Republicans than ever before see the other party as a threat to the well-being of the nation. This growing notion is especially dangerous because it rationalizes extremism; when people lose faith in their government and the political system, they resort to other means.

No matter how disenchanting with politics we feel, it is evidence that we need to keep placing our energy into thoughtful, responsible political discourse and continue placing our faith in political participation. It's why chants of "vote, vote, vote" erupted during the Tree of Life vigil. And it's why many are focusing their feelings into the imminent midterm elections.

These hate crimes are inextricably tethered to politics, but as long as we stay politically engaged, we uphold the hope that they can be prevented in the future.

Late starts aren't that simple



by Danielle Kurensky

Right now the administration is asking for student feedback surrounding a proposed calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

While I'll no longer attend New Trier when the calendar would go into effect, I still feel compelled to say that I don't think we should have late starts on Wednesday.

The proposal for next year's calendar is to replace early dismissals and late arrivals, starting each Wednesday at 9:30 rather than 8:15. While it might seem crazy that I would object to starting late once a week, it's not without reason.

I understand the initial allure, but once I started to truly consider all of the implications that would result from the late start, it's no longer worth it to me.

My first major issue with the schedule is how it affects early-bird students. I am currently taking early bird gym for the second year, and because of this, I am able to have a more balanced schedule and a free period every day.

Many students have similar situations that cause them to take early bird classes as well. With the new proposed schedule, early bird sciences would only meet four days

a week but would start ten minutes earlier every day to make up the lost time.

While this might not seem like a big deal to those who don't take early bird, when you have to wake up before the sunrise, trust me, every minute is precious.

Additionally, it breaks up the continuity of these science classes by not meeting in the middle of the week.

This proposed schedule isn't just problematic for early bird students. Due to the late start, on Wednesday each period would be 33 minutes rather than the standard 40. It isn't likely that teachers would want to test on a day when there are seven fewer minutes of class, so they'll change the date of the test.

This would cause students to have more tests on the other four days of the week and could cause teachers to start new units before the test. Both of these options increase student stress, which is the exact opposite of what this schedule is supposed to do.

The proposed schedule wouldn't just put stress on students, but parents as well. Many students are driven to school by their parent who is on their way to work.

If this schedule went into effect these students would no longer have a way to get to school every Wednesday. While it is possible for the student to get dropped off early, getting to school early on a late start defeats the purpose.

Yet another issue with this proposed schedule is how it affects lab days. The new schedule would

cause lab days to be Monday/Thursday and Tuesday/Friday to avoid having a double period on Wednesday. Though we haven't had many five day weeks yet this year, on those occasions, by the time Friday rolls around, students and teachers alike are ready for the weekend, and no one wants a double period.

I'll admit it would be nice to sleep in a little more on Wednesdays, but we would have to sacrifice early dismissal and late arrivals to achieve that.

These weekends hold importance, to seniors especially, as they make it easier for students to tour colleges without missing as many classes. Even if you aren't touring schools, these weekends can be a crucial time for many seniors to work on their college applications.

This proposed schedule is being marketed to students as a way they can help reduce stress. While it might seem to reduce stress initially, once you stop to consider all the changes that would be made, the stress seems to have just moved around rather than diminished.

The administration has sent out a survey that is open to both parents and students regarding the proposed schedule. I encourage everyone to take the survey so the administration can receive genuine feedback.

Regardless of how you feel about the schedule, let the school know because I doubt it's as simple as getting more sleep and being less stressed.

Too many joy rides in daddy's jaguar



by Ezra Wallach

despite already having so much, like living in one of the more affluent communities in the country, look no further than the line from The Book of Luke, "To whom much is given, from him much is expected."

With lots of money or good health comes high expectations, and by telling ourselves that we need certain things in order to make our days worthwhile and to make us happy, we essentially set ourselves up for disappointment. Lots of times, these high expectations are set by no one other than ourselves.

We complain about how annoying college supplemental essays are, even though in reality, we should be grateful for the opportunity to be writing them in the first place. We complain about our "crappy" ACT scores that won't get us into Michigan or Northwestern, even though we know that people succeed at other good schools. We complain about how Instagram is blocked on the school wifi even though...well...I guess I don't really even need to explain how that one is stupid. And the list just goes on and on.

Our culture traps us into thinking certain things are key to our happiness, but a lot of that is BS. You can be happy without a million friends, fifty comments on your Instagram posts, 10 AP classes, 100 snapchat streaks, a 35 on your ACT, and a starting position on varsity basketball. Trust me, it's possible.

In case you've been living under a rock for the last six years (just kidding), "too many joy rides in daddy's jaguar" is a line from Frank Ocean's song titled "Super Rich Kids."

The song starts with a teenager staring at the view from his penthouse's roof in the morning, and it ends with him jumping off of the same roof that night.

That's pretty intense, I know, but to a much lesser extent, it's kind of relatable: we admire the luxuries we are presented with at times, but when things start to go downhill, we forget about how the basic things that truly make us happy are still present in our lives.

I've deceived myself into thinking that I need little dumb things to happen in my life in order for me to be able to look out on the roof at the end of the day and not be disappointed, but I keep forgetting that I've already proven to myself that this simply isn't true.

I know the point isn't that we've been having too many joy rides in daddy's jaguar. The point is that these joy rides in daddy's jaguar will never make us truly happy, and we shouldn't let wealth, privilege or anything get in the way of that.

Many of us have been given most of the tools for a great life, and instead of trying to have a great life through them, let's try to have a great life with them.



When I had a broken leg during freshman year, I was as happy as I'd ever been in my entire life. In those times when I couldn't even walk up the stairs or shower on my own, I took my friends and family as being enough to make me happy, because I didn't expect to have those other parts of my life present.

But, when I got healthier, I forgot how those simple things could truly be enough.

Why I was happier with a broken leg than with a healthy one used to make no sense. But, as it turns out, there's a switch that turns on in all of us when we are given so much opportunity, and it can make us crazy.

We lose sight of how we were okay with what we used to have because we view these new, empty aspects of our life as a gateway to our feeling of unhappiness, even though in reality, our lives aren't even that much different than before.

If you're trying to figure out how we got to the point where so many of us seek for more in our lives

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