

# Staff Editorial

## 9/11 still warrants a discussion

On September 11 this year, it seemed as if everyone talked about everything except 9/11.

The conversation used to be initiated by our teachers in middle school. They'd talk about what they were doing when they found out about the deadly terrorist attack, show a video of the towers falling, or present us with an article or two about lesser known parts of the event, like the usage of private boats to evacuate the island.

So how come ever since we've become high school students, there are seldom discussions about 9/11 anymore in school?

Our generation was just toddlers, or not even born in 2001 during the attacks; the majority of students here at NT have no direct personal connection to 9/11. This distance naturally makes the event easier to forget or not emphasize—but everyone is still affected by it to this day.

The terrorist attack prompted the US to invade Afghanistan on a mission to stop al-Qaeda, a war that continues. Today, immigration and travel restrictions have heightened, particularly with the recent ban on refugees from certain Muslim countries.

Unlike certain isolated terror attacks, 9/11 became a matter of national importance immediately. There were attacks across the US and national security rose to the spotlight in political campaigns, where it remains.

We are living in the aftermath of 9/11, even if we don't realize it. As time passes, it is even more important that we continue to have discussions regarding the lasting effects of this event.

It is part of a school's job to turn students into responsible citizens of a democracy. This involves more than just teaching the Pythagorean theorem or the conjugation of Spanish verbs. Teachers and advisers and even students should prompt these discussions because the more we carry on like nothing happened, the more we forget something ever did happen. But September 11 changed and continues to change the world for all of us.

Most days of commemoration are for positive events, but it's important to remember the bad times too. Learning the history, both the good and the bad, is essential to informing future voters. Only by studying and discussing the harrowing times of our past can we enact positive change in the future.

So next year around this time, we urge faculty and students to take just five minutes out of their day to have a discussion about 9/11, because to be informed and to be critical is our duty as students and as citizens. 9/11 is the history that we are living through.

# Just listen to Kanye



by Ezra Wallach

Kanye West's new album "Yandhi" should've dropped last night, and if it did, you will probably see me at school today talking about how good it is, because it will be amazing.

The problem is, a lot of hip-hop fans, despite thinking that the album could also be amazing, might not even listen to it, or they might listen to it differently because of the controversial things he has said and done.

Many people don't just look at Kanye as a musician; they see him as a cultural icon. He has never been afraid to speak his mind, which, despite getting him in trouble, has also caused him to become one of the most iconic and influential figures of our generation.

People still listened to his music after he interrupted Taylor Swift at the VMAs or said that George Bush doesn't care about black people, both on live television—but that all seemed to change this year. His newest albums titled "Ye" and "KIDS SEE GHOSTS" were praised for their sound and exploration of mental health issues, but every critique I read mentioned that their listening experiences were tainted by his slavery comments or support of

Trump.

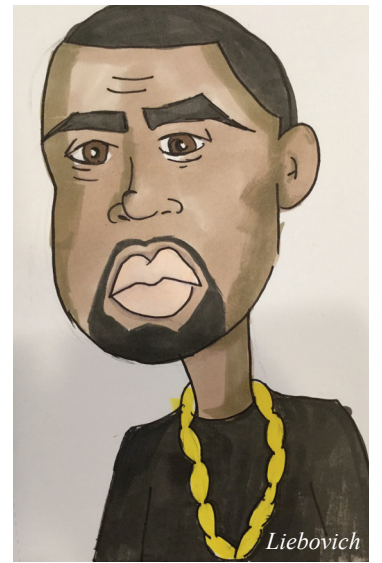
It's not that I didn't find these incidents troubling, it's that I was still able to appreciate his music—but being able to separate the art from the artist isn't really the point.

In the age of "#MeToo," we have been forced to reconsider whether or not we can still watch the movies or TV shows starring the now questionable people that we used to adore, and those decisions have at times been hard to make. If celebrities like Kevin Spacey or Bill Cosby have done so much wrong that you can't watch anything that they've ever been in then that's okay.

With Kanye though, we can't continue to pick and choose what we hear from him. When he says "don't trade your authenticity for approval," we retweet him. When he says Trump is his "brother," many stop listening. In the past year, Kanye West has somehow become a perfect microcosm of today's society: we only truly listen to what we want to hear.

Look, we all should still get to feel a certain type of way about how celebrities like Kanye, or even our classmates and friends, exercise their free speech, but to tune someone out right when you start disagreeing with them is a symptom of a greater problem in our country.

With so much information and entertainment on the internet, we give ourselves the opportunity to only give attention to things we prefer. Thus, it is now more important than ever to listen to others because we are losing the opportunity to expose ourselves to



new ideas all on our own.

So today, if you listen to Kanye's album, just listen to it. If he has a dope one-liner, quote it. If you legitimately hate his music, then I hereby grant you permission to stop listening.

But if you want to stop listening because he says something you don't agree with, I challenge you to just hear him out, because you can't thoughtfully disagree with someone if you start ignoring them everytime they say something you don't like.

I'm not saying that Kanye was right when he said that "slavery was a choice", but if we love to hear him at his best then he deserves to be heard at his worst too. If we want to disagree with each other, and if we want to realistically come to a conclusion, we first have to take a step back and listen.

# Student Voices

From time to time, the New Trier News will publish guest opinions. These letters do not reflect the views of the New Trier News. To submit a letter for consideration, email us at ntnews@nth.s.net.

by Brian Chung

The New Trier Administration has banned technology during advisory, and many students are complaining, but hear me out. This is a positive move for our community.

This ingenious democratic masterpiece of an idea was pushed by the senior administration at New Trier that consists of tech-savvy youth-oriented adults, who have demonstrated their technology acumen by never failing to operate a projector and hovering their mouse over the play button when showing YouTube videos.

Despite how clearly ahead of their time our administration is, many students have their doubts.

Our school has a record of efficient and forceful bans. For example, the "vape ban" works so well that I didn't see a vape at New Trier from June 13 to August 23. The technology ban takes place in the morning, or as the administration calls it, "socializing time" because everyone's favorite time to socialize is during the morning.

Many times I have woken and thought to myself: "I wish I had someone to socialize with." Well now my dream is our reality.

We can see the positive

effects of the ban already; there is increased polite political discourse, school spirit is through the roof and cyberbullying has completely disappeared from Myspace. Despite all the purported benefits, student backlash is rising, as evidenced by a petition that had over 1000 signatures. But, the petition is online, so everyone who signed it should get their backpacks searched, as that seems to be the appropriate punishment for a violation of this one-way treaty.

Students like to claim that they use technology for "homework," but everyone knows their fellow advisees are really playing online blackjack with v-bucks. Who would want to have fun when they could be building bonds that will last all the way until the beginning of college.

Therefore, I urge the admin not to give in to the rabble of the common folk, and uphold the ban on technology.

If anything, due to the success of this current ban, it would be advisable to extend it to the entire school day, and all over school premises (teacher's lounge excluded of course). If anyone in the administration is reading this, please don't give in to community pressure, oh and also I expect my payment for this article in Bitcoin.



by Danielle Kurensky

Living on the North Shore comes with many expectations, but one of the most prevalent is that we should all be taking high level classes and involved in as many extracurriculars as humanly possible.

While this adds stress to the student body, it also takes away from certain aspects as well. Being so busy running from one activity to the next we lose the time to reflect.

I don't know this because I have a bunch of time in my schedule that I spend self-reflecting. Rather this idea came to me when I was sitting in Yom Kippur services and was forced to reflect.

Yom Kippur is a Jewish holiday that centers around self-reflection and atonement for previous wrong doings. It is a time where you are asked to contemplate on the past year and ask yourself what changes you will make for the next one.

Usually Yom Kippur is one of my least favorite Jewish holidays. The services tend to be heavy and

unlike most Jewish holidays, this one doesn't focus around food. So when it rolled around this year, needless to say, I wasn't very excited.

Yet as I was sitting in services this year, my mind started to wander away from the melodies that filled the room.

As I was no longer engaged in the service, I began to reflect on the past year. I thought about how I conducted myself and how I could improve myself for this next year.

I pondered how I can be a better daughter, mainly by not getting upset with my mom when I am overwhelmed, or how I can be a better sister, by checking in with my sisters and their lives while they are away at college.

*I know self-reflection isn't easy and it's not something we always want to do, but that doesn't mean it's not important.*

Although I wasn't paying attention to the prayers at the time, I wouldn't have had this moment of self reflection without being at services. I needed the reminder to take the time to be introspective.

I know self reflection isn't easy and it's not something we always

want to do, but that doesn't mean it's not important.

Most students enjoyed their day off by relaxing, spending time with friends and the occasional few used this time to catch up on homework. The day was not spent reflecting. I don't mean to sound pompous, I most likely would have spent my day the same way if I wasn't Jewish.

Although I seemed to stumble across my own self-reflection, it's something I believe everyone should actively engage in.

Whether realized or not, we all need time to reflect—a designated time to press pause on our busy lives and think about how we can be a better version of ourselves.

This doesn't need to be a big to-do, just a few minutes to cognitively think about your actions and what you want to improve on. I know many of us would rather spend these few minutes doing something else, or claim we don't have time, but taking this time plants the seeds for growth—that you are unable to achieve if you don't take the time to reflect.

To me, self reflection and growth are what Yom Kippur is about and those qualities aren't exclusive to Judaism. Rather they are things we can all benefit from. Sometimes we just need a nudge. Perhaps Yom Kippur isn't too bad after all.

# The New Trier News

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All letters to the editors are welcome, though we will not print anonymous letters. Direct these and other inquiries to our email at ntnews@nth.s.net

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