

# Preparing for the next four years



by Max Minogue

Let's talk about the election. I'll do my best to avoid being like a Facebook post. Although I'm obviously writing my opinion, I don't want to chase anybody away with my bias.

Wednesday at school was a pretty somber day. Kids were crying in the halls and the greater part of the student population was distressed.

In all but one of my classes, we had, at the very least, a mention and short talk about the result. Regardless of political affiliation, it was a really unexpected outcome.

I was shocked, and spent all of Tuesday night glued to the TV, anxiously picking at my nails as the results came out and the Midwest cemented Trump's victory. I'll make my bias clear: I was upset.

I'm somebody who, one day, wants a career on the global stage through work in the State Department or some multinational organization. In other words, a career entirely reliant on America staying a global leader and on all nations working together.

I don't think it's unfair to say that Trump was, for the most part, poorly perceived on the international stage and by our allies.

I remember, probably in 2006 or so, while on a vacation in Italy I noticed that nearly every Italian was walking around with a reusable shopping bag sporting a male statues' unmentionables plastered on each side, and "G.W. Bush" printed in big white lettering.

It was hilarious to 7-year-old me because it had genitalia on a bag. The United States was deemed as a global laughing stock, a viewpoint that's sure to return in the next four

years.

A friend I know from Pakistan, which is in a political mess of its own, sent me a snapchat of her looking upset with the text "You had one job, America." Ouch. But hey, at least Putin and Trump get along!

International politics aside, I'm not too worried about Trump. He's already done the worst he can as soon-to-be-president, saying inflammatory and offensive comments.

Besides that, the president is limited in his power; he's Commander-in-Chief, but I don't see any upcoming problems with Trump there.

He can repeal Obama's old executive orders like Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an executive order allowing illegal child immigrants to stay in the United States in order to let them get an education and give them a chance, give them some sort of stability in their tumultuous lives of poverty, but I digress.

The real reason I'm worried about President-elect Trump is because of his new administration, and the people he's choosing to surround himself with.

There's Mike Pence. It's expected that Vice President-elect Pence will play a big role in the Trump presidency merely based on the fact that Trump lacks political experience and will need Pence to help. Pence has already been named the leader of the transition efforts, a title rarely given to the VP.

If anybody recalls the crisis in Indiana a couple years ago, in 2012 the Governor of Indiana pushed forth a backwards law to legalize the discrimination of the LGBTQ+ in Indiana. That was Pence.

Also, as part of his agenda in 2000, Pence not only publically supported the use of conversion therapy, a widely, medically disproven and discredited tactic to convert LG-BTQ+ individuals into straight, 'normal' people, but said that the government should be diverting HIV/AIDS funding to do so.

There's Newt Gingrich, a man

who is almost certainly going to be granted some sort of position in Trump's administration, although it's undecided whether or not he'll serve in the cabinet or as more of an unofficial advisor. He was a key politician in the movement towards conservatism during the 90's when he served as Speaker of the House.

When Speaker of the House, Gingrich tried to cut off all funding to the Congressional Black Caucus. More recently, in 2008, he spoke of the 'gay and secular fascism' present in America.

The last example I'll pull out is Myron Ebell, the man selected to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and who also coincidentally doesn't believe in global climate change. He called Pope Francis's 2015 research-based statement on climate change "scientifically ill informed, economically illiterate, intellectually incoherent and morally obtuse."

So what to do? I don't think the right thing to do is protest the election. Regardless of opinions on the Electoral College, Trump won fair and square. And honestly, he hasn't done anything wrong yet. He was remarkably cordial in meeting President Obama.

The right thing to do is entirely dependent, of course, on personal political beliefs, and anybody who supports Trump's administration has every right to do so.

Meanwhile, I hope to emulate the fiery student protesters who have made America great in the past, the civil rights protesters and the like. In college, political activism will be my right and most likely, my passion.

If my future is condemned in favor of a deregulated coal industry, I'll go ahead and write letters and send emails and contact every representative. I'll stand and protest with any vulnerable communities if they're marginalized during the Trump administration.

Most importantly, I'll get out and vote in the already upcoming 2018 election.

# Fake Thanksgiving brings authentic thanks



by Sam Blanc

*\*I do NOT hate my family. They are all wonderful human beings and I love them...at least most of them...some of the time\**

There is a divide, I think, between what Thanksgiving is supposed to be about, and what it was supposedly based on. I mean, we're learning to be thankful, and that's nice and all, but our genocidal ancestors are probably not the poster children for that lesson.

They were thankful for the food, I guess, but I hardly think the Native American population was thankful for the murder, or the cattle that ravaged fields of food, or for the smallpox. The depth of that history isn't exactly covered in "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving."

It's somewhat akin to rewarding a serial killer for the days he isn't murdering innocent people. Okay, maybe it's not quite that bad, but a lot of people died, and while we don't have to keel over in unfathomable woe, we should feel something--or at least acknowledge the tragedy of American colonization.

So what's special about a grand dinner feast? Or turkey? Or whatever the heck cranberry sauce is?

This year my family has decided to throw all that tradition to the wind. We will be having a feast of pizza, knishes, and ice cream sandwiches during our all-day movie marathon. Our house will be fairly vacant with only 5 people present--two of whom aren't even family.

And I am so freaking excited.

This is the part where I try not to insult my entire family--note the disclaimer at the top.

I don't think I'm alone when I say that my family sometimes drive me nuts. I like the idea of them, but having them all in one house is similar to being locked inside a closet with a pride of lions.

Except instead of being ripped to shreds and left to rot in peace, you come out knowing more than you ever wanted to about hemp and its supposed ability to cure cancer.

Last year, my dad's entire family came to stay at our house--some for longer than socially acceptable. It was nice seeing them, but after a week or so, it seemed like we all just brought out the worst in each other.

One aunt spent her entire trip working on her computer, or bringing her work to us as she tried to sell us her pyramid scheme health-products.

Of course, she took the occasional break to explain that science is a fraud.

Another felt the need to ask "Where do you go to temple?" multiple times, despite the fact that anyone who knows us knows we're not particularly religious.

It got to a point where even my

mom was exasperated. She'd come into my room every night to rant, absolutely fuming about something-or-other that was, to be honest, completely justified.

So although family is important, I'm thankful for a bit of quiet this November. Without a small scream-o concert in my house, 2000 people in my kitchen, and the putrid stench of WAY too much garlic, maybe I'll have time to actually reflect and be grateful this year.

Remember, if you're fed up with turkey, not all is lost. There are plenty of reasons to be thankful, and plenty of ways to express that.

In fact, we shouldn't need a day at all to be appreciative. I mean, a helpful reminder is nice, but technically we could, I don't know, think about what we're grateful for every day.

It's not stuffing your face with mashed potatoes to honor your ancestors genocidal turf war that makes you thankful.

Forcing yourself into tradition definitely won't bring out the best in you. If the turkey and stuffing is totally your thing, then go for it, but just try to surround yourself with people you love whether they be family, or friends or cats or whatever. Just make sure you stay positive and surround yourself with similar energy. It's a much better way to stay thankful.

So don't be afraid to try something new this year. Happy Thanksgiving, New Trier.

# Staff Editorial

## How we let Trevian football down

Turnout was expected to be huge Friday, November 4, at the New Trier vs. St. Charles Varsity Football game. But it wasn't. Only a few dozen students showed up to support their team at their second round playoff game.

After a record breaking year, where the Trevians broke Maine South's 77 game winning streak in conference play, and the prospect of New Trier going all the way in a successful season, football players were left with little spirit in the barren student section. As one of the biggest public schools in the state, a little more than a dozen students showing up for an elimination football game is embarrassing.

St. Charles bussed in fans to root for their team and one might have been confused about who had home field advantage as the away team student section was roaring in comparison to the Trevians.

Part of the reason the low attendance occurred was because the game was scheduled the same day as the Cubs parade. With only a 51% attendance rate at school that same day, according to Assistant Principal Gerry Munley, it might not be expected for students to attend the game that night. Still, this was a Friday night football game during a season where expectations were high.

Many students claim that the main reason for not going was that the school was breathalyzing students. Usually at a home football game, students are admitted with an ID and can walk to the bleachers. However, according to student accounts at this game, all students had to be breathalyzed for admittance.

What is interesting is that school officials chose to breathalyze students the day of the Cubs parade, where many upperclassmen perhaps participated in illicit activities at the parade.

However, our show of spirit cannot be blamed on the school administration; they were doing their job and ensuring the safety of their students at the school event.

We should have anticipated this and done things differently. Don't we have a responsibility to the team that provided the biggest win in Central Suburban League history and created fan excitement to get to the second round of the playoffs this year? We should have showed up.

We owed it to a team that has worked day in and day out and the coaching staff who was hungry for a state championship trophy. We supported the team throughout the regular season, but we could not show up in the most important and anticipated game of the year.

Yes the Cubs parade was important; we could argue it was a once in a life time opportunity with the Cubs losing track record. Going to the parade was in our right as citizens of Chicago.

But we can do better.

The football team, along with other athletes, stayed at school in order to be eligible to play later that night. They sat through desolate classes without the normal clamor of a packed school. There were no cheers or high fives from friends. But even while walking through the empty hallways there was hope of a successful elimination game under the Friday night lights.

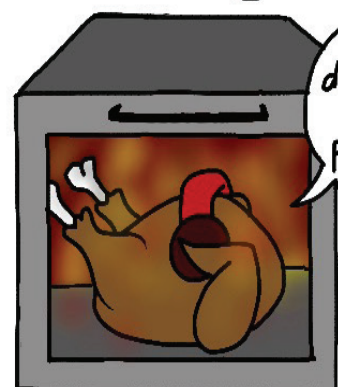
We disappointed them. We should take this failure as an opportunity to do better. Competitive basketball, swimming, soccer and lacrosse seasons are quickly approaching. We should appear for those games and live up to the name of the Green Team. A strong fan section will remind our opponents that New Trier is still a high school to be reckoned with.

And to the New Trier Football team: the fact that St. Charles had a larger fan turnout than the home team is embarrassing. We're sorry.

## A NORMAL TURKEY'S DAY



## A THANSGIVING TURKEY'S DAY!



UGH, does this thing cook any FASTER?

by Sam Blanc