

# Student Views

## What are your thoughts on Cardi B?



Sydney G. Wheeler Sophomore

"I like Cardi B because her personality is so different from other rappers. She likes to be herself."



Teddy Caras, Junior

"She's not afraid to tell the public what everyone is really thinking in a world where we are obsessed with image."



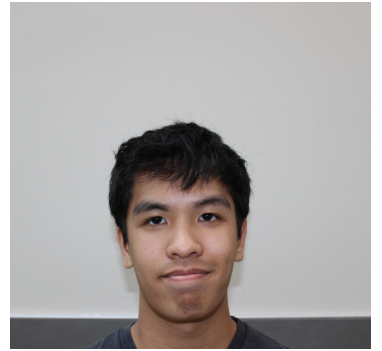
Caroline Bennet, Sophomore

"I think she has a great personality. A lot of musicians seem to be the same person, and she's just so different."



Nicki Montenegro, Junior

"I really like her because she's really funny. My favorite song by her is Bodak Yellow."



Josh Lariosa, Senior

"She's good to dance and drive around to, but I am not that big of a fan."

## #Throwback to when we all cared about gun violence

by Rebecca Lee

On Mar. 14, thousands of students across the country participated in the school walkout organized by a group of survivors of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

The purpose of the walkout, as explained by the organizers, was to demand that Congress pass stricter gun control and to protest gun violence in the United States—which has escalated since the shooting at Columbine High School, the same year that many members of the Class of 2018 were born.

Approximately 1,000 New Trier students walked out of the building for 17 minutes at the Winnetka campus on Mar. 14. We held a moment of silence, we chanted, we waved signs, we wrote letters to local legislators, and we vowed

never again. We also Snapchatted videos, posted photos on Instagram, and updated our statuses.

Social media has become a powerful and even necessary tool for activism in the 21st century.

Social media has connected causes to leaders, enabled individuals to hold accountable those in power, and brought together supporters of movements all over the world.

But, for all of the ways in which social media has pushed forth our causes, social media arguably also has weakened our generational attention span.

As activist movements have become accessible to anyone with a Twitter account, they have also at moments become reduced to photo-ops and hashtags. They have become a little too palatable, a little too trendy, a little too forgettable.

On Mar. 14, close to 1,000 of

us swore that we would never allow what happened at MSD to happen to any student ever again. We swore that we would overhaul the current state of affairs.

But then, one week later, only 3 percent of millennials in Cook County turned out to vote in local primary elections, according to CBS.

The breaking news on Mar. 20 that a student at Great Mills High School in Lexington Park, Maryland had pulled a pistol on his classmates caused only a pause in our scroll through the day's headlines.

Many of us hardly blinked an eye when we heard of the four people murdered by a mentally deranged man with an AR-15 at a Nashville Waffle House on Apr. 22.

On the day of the walkout, many of us wore a tee shirt slandering "thoughts & prayers" and demanding policy and action. But, what is the

difference between a congressman offering empty thoughts and prayers then taking no legislative action against gun violence, and a teenager posting an artsy Instagram of the walkout then skipping the vote one week later?

I'm not saying that we all have a duty to constantly think about and live in fear of gun violence.

I am saying that this past weekend alone, four people died and 25 people were wounded in acts of gun violence in Chicago. I am saying that there are countless young people in places like Chicago and Baltimore and New York who have been working tirelessly to end the gun violence that has plagued their communities for decades, but they've never received the media attention or praise that we received for organizing one walkout.

I'm saying that our work here is

not done. Not even close.

If we are to make good on our promise that we will be the generation that ends gun violence, then we need to prove that we are able to do more than retweet Emma Gonzalez or sign an online petition.

We need to engage in productive conversations with those with whom we disagree about gun control. We need to show up to vote—en masse. We need to demand that politicians represent only their constituents by writing letters and calling. We need to care about gun violence at times other than during the three days after a mass shooting.

If we are to accomplish what previous generations have not, then we need to be prepared to do the work that previous generations would not.

## Right now, we are truly living our best lives

by Husnain Raza

If you turn on any news channel tonight, it's more likely than not that the news anchor will be talking about the most depressing things that have happened recently: terrorism, shootings, people dying left and right.

For me, personally, I can't watch the news for more than an hour before losing all faith in the world. However, no matter how bleak and depressing the news may paint the world, it's important to keep in mind that the current United States is the best place and time that anyone could live in, ever.

In almost every aspect that one can measure, people's quality of life has increased dramatically in the last century.

For example, according to the World Bank, the average life expect-

tancy of Americans in 2015 was 78.7 years compared to the world average life expectancy at 71.66 years in 2015, both extremely better than in 1960 where the world's average life expectancy was a measly 52.5 years.

Thanks to great advances in medicine, things like childhood mortality are much less common, and we have a greater ability to fight off diseases, something that was simply not possible only a short while ago.

In addition to living longer, healthier lives, Americans now live in a time where there is the least amount of crime in history.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice statistics, from 1997 to 2016, crime has decreased across the board; the rates per capita of violent crime have gone down 37 percent, the robbery rate has decreased 45 percent, murder by 22 percent, and so on. Additionally, according to Pew

Research, even though the crime rate in the U.S. has been decreasing, people's perception seems to be that crime rates are increasing with at least 60% of Americans saying that the crime rate was increasing.

*The current United States is the best place and time that anyone could live in ever.*

In my opinion, the greatest example of better quality of life is the development of the smartphone. Even a low-end smartphone can still give you access to anyone on the globe and almost all of the information that humanity has to offer.

Some phones even have a virtual assistant that is practically like

having a person with you 24/7 that helps you with everyday tasks.

And all of this comes from a hunk of metal and circuitry that can fit in your pocket. Technology like this to someone even fifteen or twenty years ago would have been unheard of, but today it is commonplace.

If things have changed so quickly in the last decade, who knows what will the next decade will bring for society in terms of technological advancements?

If you ask me, the future seems like it'll be awesome, considering the developments that people are making in fields like technology and science.

With the rise of things like artificial intelligence that will completely revolutionize the way that technology is used, 3D printing that can literally allow you to go from a

file on your computer to a physical object in your hands, and advancements like CRISPR that allow us to look at humans at the genetic level in order to modify their traits, these advancements are only going to come faster into our lives as time progresses, and I think that will lead to a better world in general.

While the world may seem like a scarier place and we are constantly inundated with story after story about death, suffering, and overall negativity, it is important to keep our bearings straight.

Sometimes, it can be healthy to take a step back and look at the bigger picture. When doing this, you will come to see that humanity is on a course for the better, despite what it may seem.

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