

# Student Views

We asked Trevians whether the “One Love” program was helpful to students. This is what they said...



Amanda Stiffler, Senior

“I think the program is important for juniors and seniors to see and it helps tie everything together.”



Finn Wagstaff, Senior

“The program had flaws, but I think it was helpful. I’m glad the school is making an effort.”



Myles Knight, Senior

“I think a lot of people knew the information, but I think it helped show how to spot these issues.”



CT Traci, Senior

“I think the movie gives a good, realistic example of what unhealthy relationships look like.”



Bella Vancil, Sophomore

“I think it was worthwhile. It was very honest and blunt about what’s going on.”

## Political comedy now ‘real news’



by Marie O'Connor

In today’s tense political climate, a surprising news outlet holds more power than ever before. When legitimate news sources and respected journalists are dismissed as fake news or labeled as a slave to an agenda, comedians have a free reign to actually report the facts. Comedians and late night hosts have been having a field day with the current administration, and for good reason. They’re just too easy not to make fun of. With each press conference, appearance, or string of executive orders, there is a new buffet of material

to work with. It’s not only the entertainment that these shows provide that make them so crucial to our society, but also the legitimate information they provide. When dealing with an administration that relies on alternative facts, maybe the most appropriate outlet for news are the skits and jokes written for laughs but based in fact. Hosts like Samantha Bee, Seth Meyers, John Oliver and Trevor Noah have been taking a strong stand. Though many times political happenings and social issues are taken advantage of for the sake of the joke, a good amount of the time the reporting that is done on comedy shows is even better than the highly biased reports of MSNBC or Fox News. Comedians are not politicians. They have no obligation to play a role in politics, but having a prime time show gives them a powerful position with which to voice their opinions

and build a platform for change. Many comedians are labeled far left or closed minded because of the fact that they stand by their beliefs. Successful TV personalities such as Stephen Colbert or Jon Stewart have earned the right to express their opinions, and they have gained fame and popularity for doing so. Because of the power these individuals have, it seems irresponsible to ignore hot button political topics. Previously, I was a huge fan of Jimmy Fallon. He’s funny without being abrasive, and has experience from SNL, which sets him apart from other late night hosts. However, five months ago he invited Trump to appear on the Tonight Show. Rather than focusing on then president-elect Trump’s policies and the platform he ran on, Fallon focused on the quality of Trump’s hair and on getting to know the man behind Trump. This was disappointing, because

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not only was Fallon considered the “king of late night,” but also many of his loyal fans trusted him to actively talk to the president-elect. In contrast, other comedians, such as Seth Meyers brought Kellyanne Conway on his show and took the opportunity to talk about something that matters. Meyers took the time to press Conway to answer his questions about Trump’s media presence, and controversy surrounding Russia. Despite the fact that she swerved every question, at least Meyers engaged her in an important discussion. John Oliver, Trevor Noah, and Samantha Bee, use their airtime to discuss one topic and delve into the specifics of the topic along with adding humor. For example, on “Last Week Tonight” with John Oliver that aired this month the entire show was dedicated to discussing the French elections.

Even sources like SNL provide some sense of truth in their weekly skits and short films. Melissa McCarthy appeared on the show and played the now iconic role of Sean “Spicy” Spicer. The highly dramatized and obviously hilarious scene was clearly comedy gold, and since the first airing McCarthy has returned to SNL to continue the joke. Her portrayal is important for more than just its comedic value. It’s also prompted responses from the White House, which has been adamantly against responding to news outlets. While “real” news sources are tied up with constantly overcoming political tension, comedians are allowed to “report” the news. Not many other news outlets have time to devote a half hour to discuss one topic. Although the sole purpose of these shows is comedy, often the stories they report contain more fact than the politically charged news outlets.



Stephen Colbert talks to former secretary of state John Kerry on his show, the Late Show with Stephen Colbert. | CBS.com

## TREVIAN TROT HIGH SCHOOL 5K

What: New Trier High School’s Wellness Week 5K Run or Walk

For: All proceeds go to the scholarship funds/charities in memory of Julie Sorkin, Shea Fitzgerald and Sam Farmer, New Trier graduates who were victims of the Chicago porch tragedy and Jan Borja, our former principal who died after a long illness.

When: Sunday, April 23, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. Walk begins at 8:05 a.m.

Where: 7 Happ Road, Northfield Campus in the New Trier Stadium

Cost: Pre-Registration: \$10 per Student, \$15 per Adult Race Day Registration: \$15 per Student, \$20 per Adult This includes short-sleeved t-shirts while supplies last.

Register online: <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/TrebianTrot/?terms=trevian%20trot>

For additional information, contact Jennifer Tricoli (847)784-7741 and follow us on Twitter @NTTrebianTrot

### The New Trier News

Published Fridays during the school year by the students of New Trier Township High School, 385 Winnetka Avenue, Illinois 60093.

Correspondence may be directed to the New Trier News Office, Room 011, or by calling (847) 784-2278.

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