



Deconstructing our Democracy

AP Government students observe caucus in Bettendorf, Iowa

by Alex Rubinstein

The caucus center was electric as Iowans, excited to exercise their voice and to fulfill their civic duty, walked in. Supporters of specific candidates stood at the doors handing out stickers and candy and preaching why one should vote for their candidate in a last minute attempt to gain more voter support.

On Feb. 4, 130 New Trier students taking AP Government traveled to Bettendorf, Iowa to observe a caucus. The excursion enabled students to talk to Iowans and witness a caucus firsthand.

AP Government teacher Lindsay Arado said most Americans do not understand the complex caucus process.

“By taking our students to see the caucuses, they have a deeper understanding not only of the process, but of the limitations of this type of election.”

Many students were surprised by the magnitude of the caucus.

Senior Olivia Tussing’s first reaction was that it was chaotic and crowded.

“There were multiple precincts in one giant room, so it was super loud and crammed full of people. The precincts were only separated by a thin black curtain which didn’t block any sound,” added senior Zoe Siegel.

Robin Forrest, who also teaches AP Government, said “There was a concert type atmosphere as people were coming into the convention center.”

In order to participate, Iowans need to physically go to the caucus, and they must stay for the duration of their precinct’s caucus. The caucus in Bettendorf started at 7:00 PM, and lasted until 9:00 PM.

“Generally, fewer than 18% of eligible voters turn out for the caucuses. It’s hard to caucus; people



130 AP Government students at the convention center where The Iowa Caucus was held | NT Educational Foundation

who work at night, people with children, those who are traveling, and people with disabilities, to name just a few groups, struggle to attend,” said Arado.

The actual caucus is split into two rounds. During the first round, supporters of each candidate tell participants about their candidate’s values, trying to persuade people to vote for their candidate. Then participants get to pick a candidate, and they physically stand against the wall near their candidate’s poster.

The people are then counted by one precinct leader or a captain to determine how many votes each candidate received.

Each caucus counts the votes by hand which creates the potential for error. The app designed to count caucus votes state-wide also malfunctioned.

“The press that came out of Iowa after the caucuses played out with some problems with the reporting of the results, could have been fuel for people looking for the caucuses to be eliminated, and replaced with something else,” said Forrest.

While the caucus system enables conversation and collaboration to be a part of the voting process, many students found the process to be

overwhelming.

“I think that Iowa should definitely switch to a primary because of how chaotic the caucuses are. All of the counting for viability is done by one person walking around and physically counting each person caucusing for that candidate, which is pretty easy to mess up,” said Siegel.

In order for a candidate to be viable, they need 15% of the total amount of people caucusing to support them. If they do not get enough people, all of that candidate’s supporters pick a different candidate who was viable during the second round of caucusing.

One of the largest caucuses had 242 people participating. Each candidate then needed 37 people to be a viable candidate.

Andrew Yang did not receive enough people during the first round to be viable, and so all of Yang’s supporters had to pick a different candidate to support during the second round.

“One specific moment that stuck out to me was when I diverted away from the main group and watched this one precinct in which the Biden team was getting heated at the Buttigieg team for trying to claim viability unfairly,” said senior Tommy Serrino.

“It was pretty hilarious to see all of these random Iowans get very worked up at the vote counter guy. Pete’s team was pretty rattled about the whole thing, and the Biden people tried to get me to help them until I told them I was an observer.”

Inside the caucus, supporters in each corner of the room advocated for specific candidates.

Tussing said, “I talked to a lot of campaigners and people caucusing about who they were voting for, but the one that sticks out to me was a Pete Buttigieg representative. I did not know much about Pete, so it was helpful to be introduced to him and his policies through someone who campaigns for him.”

Outside of the main room, each candidate had booths that gave out stickers, buttons, and candy.

The most surprising part for Siegel was how supporters of a candidate tried to lure other caucus-goers to support their candidate.

“I don’t really think being able to offer someone chocolate-covered pretzels should allow a candidate to get an extra delegate or become viable. Bribing people with snacks is not very democratic,” said Siegel.

The caucus system allows voters to engage with others to

make an informed decision. Some appreciated the unique opportunity the caucus offered to have face to face conversations about candidates, issues, and policy.

“It feels like there’s very few other opportunities for those kinds of conversations to organically happen,” said Forrest.

While primary elections can be very solitary, caucuses encourage discussion with neighbors about why supporters favor a candidate, or policy.

Senior BJ Moses-Rosenthal spoke to a woman who supported a candidate whose policy he didn’t agree with. He was surprised how that encounter helped him understand not just the choices she made, but how complicated voting can be.

“I didn’t expect much to come of the encounter. However the lady spoke about how she supported the candidate because of a deep personal connection they shared in their respective upbringings. I came away respecting the woman’s voting choice and on a larger scale now realize that people support candidates for various reasons and aren’t necessarily an extension/caricature of the people they support.”

Not all students felt caucuses create a democratic environment due to how peer pressure plays such a large role in which candidate participants select.

“I would like to share that the trip, while very fun, did not make me feel like our elections were very secure and protected from outside influence,” said Serrino.

Senior Kathryn Hemmer was more critical, “While the caucus process allows voters to debate and share ideas, it’s an overwhelmingly archaic and ineffective system. Caucuses restrict voter privacy, diminish turnout, and create voting debacles because of their chaotic and time-consuming nature.”

An inside look at New Trier’s Student Council elections

What does Student Council do?

The main goal of Student Council bring the opinions and ideas of students to the administration to help create a better New Trier

How does the election work?

Step 1:

Members of student council start off with a typical application, asking questions like ‘why do you want to run?’

Step 2:

They then have to go out and get 50 signatures from other students, not insuring their vote but rather that they are fit for the role

Step 3:

Soon they will have debates within the club, presenting the platform that they are running on

Step 3.5:

If there are more than 2 candidates, the members of student council will partake in a preliminary round of voting to narrow it down to 2 candidates for each position

Step 4

In the middle of second semester, candidates begin to make posters advertising their platform and their policies that students will see around the school

Step 6:

Finally, students will vote on the candidates they see as most fit to serve

What are the responsibilities of the roles?

Student Council creates a constitution every year. These are the roles of each candidate according to this years constitution.

President:

1. Call and chair all formal meetings
2. Call periodic officer meetings as needed
3. Present recommendations for the Student Council Board to consider, but cannot make formal motions

Vice President

1. Assume all responsibility of the President when they are unable to do so
2. Direct all Student Council elections
3. Run, organize and attend all advisory forums to give project updates, and organize constituencies as needed. One or the other must be conducted quarterly
4. Record updates to the Constitution annually

Treasurer

1. Record, publish, and distribute minutes at the request of Student Council members, other students, club sponsors and faculty
2. Assume all responsibilities of the Vice-President when he/she is unable to do so
3. Tally the votes

Secretary

1. Chair the annual Budget Day Committee hearings
2. Assume all responsibilities of the Secretary when he/she is unable to do so
3. Appoint students to the Budget Committee
4. Keep an exact record, in writing, of all Student Council bank accounts and provide a budget report to students, administrators, and faculty who ask for it
5. Ensure the reimbursement for all Student Council expenditures

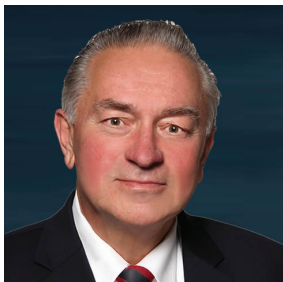
School Culture Commissioner

1. Organize events related to the promotion of school culture
2. Assist the Treasurer with responsibilities of the Secretary when they are unavailable
3. Plan and direct initiatives to enhance esprit de corps and bolster Trevian pride
4. Meet regularly with student constituents to seek feedback and ideas related to school culture and the student experience

Who's on the ballot? Know who you're voting for

compiled by Amelia Jacobson

US Senate Candidates



Casey Chlebek (R)
Education: Bachelor's Computer Science University of Illinois
Platform: more jobs; less national debt by hiring financial experts to review of all entitlement programs; schools should have 1-year and/ or 2 year job training programs for the most popular trades for quick entrance to job market; America should take in more immigrants than they already do; reduce military spending

system in healthcare; pro wall; more tax cuts; reduce national debt by cutting spending; wants to balance the budget.



Richard "Dick" Durbin (D)
Education: JD Georgetown
Experience: Illinois senator since 1997 and an Illinois representative in the House of Reps from 1983-1997
Past Accomplishments: reduced the price of prescription drugs; created more jobs for Illinois; introduced the Dream Act that helped lead to immigration reform

US House of Representatives- 9th district



Mark C. Curran JR. (R)
Education: JD IIT Chicago
Experience: Lake County sheriff from 2006 to 2018 and an Attorney General's Gang Crime Bureau Chief and Senior Prosecutor at Lake County State's Attorney and a Special assistant to the US Attorney
Platform: Pro-life and Pro-liberty



Sargis Sangari (R)
Education: Bachelors of Political Science DePaul University
Experience: CEO of Near East Center for Strategic Engagement and US Army Lieutenant Colonel



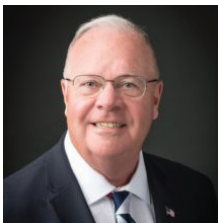
Peggy Hubbard (R)
Experience: Navy Veteran
Platform: focus on improving services towards Veterans; wants to lower taxes; reduce size of government; defend the second amendment; secure border and large-scale network security; limit illegal immigration



Janice D. Schakowsky (D).
Education: Bachelors in Elementary Education University of Illinois
Experience: member of the US House of Representatives since 1998; was an Illinois Public action program director for nine years
Platform: wants affordable health care for all Americans; helped write and pass the Affordable Care Act; Senior Deputy Whip during her tenth term



Robert Marshall (R)
Education: MD Harvard Medical
Experience: US Air Force veteran
Platform: Pro-Life; Pro-wall; Pro-second Amendment right



Tom Tarter (R)
Education: Doctorate Oregon Health Sciences University
Platform: against single-payer



Robyn Gabel (D)
Education: Bachelors Beloit college
Experience: Illinois General Assembly of the State Representatives

since 2010

Illinois House of Representative- District 17



Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D)
Education: JD Loyola University
Experience: Board Member of Glenview Education Foundation; Founding member of Illinois Unaccompanied Children's Task Force



Yesoe Yoon (R)
Education: Bachelor's in Communication and Media at Northeastern Illinois
Experience: Anchor and Host of Global Leaders Network TV Program

Cook County Circuit Court Clerk

Barbara Bellar (R)
Education: JD John Marshall Law School
Experience: licensed Attorney; Veteran Major in the US Army Reserve

Richard Boykin (D)
Education: JD University of Dayton
Experience: 1st District Commissioner on the Cook County Board of Commissioners since 2014

Michael Cabonargi (D)
Education: JD University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Experience: 2nd District Commissioner on the Cook County Board of Review since 2011

Iris Martinez (D)
Experience: Illinois State Senator in the Illinois 20th Legislative District since 2003

Jacob Meinster (D)
Experience: Law Clerk on the Wisconsin Senate Committee on Judiciary and Consumer Affairs

Cook County State Attorney Candidates

Patrick 'Pat' W. O'Brien (R)
Education: JD DePaul University
Experience: Cook County Circuit Court judge from 2006-2015; public attorney for Illinois Attorney General's office
Platform: Believes criminal justice is not political, should be law based

Christopher EK Pfannkuche (R)
Education: JD Loyola University
Platform: Focus on repeat offenders to make community safer; Non-violent offenders should have 'fresh start'

Bill Conway (D)
Education: JD Georgetown University Center
Experience: LT of the US Navy since 2012 and a Military Intelligence officer from 2017-2018; Assistant State's Attorney in Cook County for 6 years



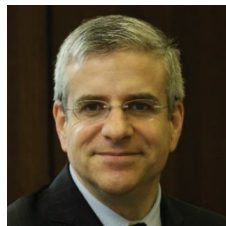
Bob Fioretti (D)
Education: JD Northern Illinois University
Experience: 2nd Ward Alderman at the Chicago City Council from 2007-2015



Kim Foxx (D)
Education: JD Southern Illinois University
Experience: County State's attorney since 2016; Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County from 2001-2013

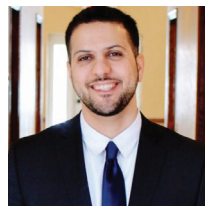


Donna More (D)
Education: JD Georgetown University
Experience: Partner and President of several firms



Dan Patlak (R)
Education: Bachelor's in Business Administration Valparaiso University
Experience: incumbent; Cook County Board of Review Commissioner since 2010

Cook County Board of Review Commissioner 1st District



Abdelnasser Rashid (D)
Experience: Deputy Chief of Staff for Cook County Clerk David Orr; led passing legislation that helped seniors automatically apply for exemption

Tammy Wendt (D)
Education: JD John Marshall Law School
Experience: Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County from 2000-2004

Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board Candidates (Pick 3)

Frank Avila (D)
Education: Master's of Finance University of Arizona
Experience: Commissioner for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago since 2002.

Heather Boyle (D)
Education: Bachelor's Harper College.
Experience: Owner and Project Manager at Sanitary and Storm Water and a part of Des Plaines Department of Public Works and Engineering

Mike Cashman(D)
Education: BA in History Northwestern University
Platform: focus on awareness through education on the environment

Eira Corral Sepulveda (D)
Experience: 10 years as municipal government as Clerk for the Village of Hanover Park
Platform: Climate resiliency; greater public awareness; engagement and trust

Cameron Davis (D)
Experience: Great Lakes Czar for President Barack Obama 2009-2017; President's liaison to congress for Great Lakes; former litigator for National Wildlife Federation and Professor at University of Michigan Law School
Platform: goal is to reduce flooding

Deyon Dean (D)
Education: Bachelor's of Business Administration Southern Illinois University
Experience: CEO and president of Olympian Security Situations Corporation; mayor of the Village of Riverdale from 2008-2013; Associate Director for the Illinois Department of Human Services

Kimberly Dubuclet (D)
Education: MBA University of Chicago
Experience: board member of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Board since 2018; Representative in the Illinois House of Representatives from 2011-2013

Patricia Flynn (D)
Experience: was a Director for Chicago Gaelic Park; spent time in the MWRD lab and as a Pollution Control Water Sampler

Michael Grace (D)
Education: Bachelor's in Economics Marquette University
Experience: owner of Servpro Industries Inc.

Shundar Lin (D)
Experience: Board Member Illinois Pollution Control Board 2008-2010; retired sanitary engineer
Education: Doctorate Sanitary Engineering at Syracuse University
Platform: focus on a balanced budget and keeping water clean

To find more information on any of the candidates or to research local judges, check their website, ballotready.com, chicagobar.com, or cookcountyclerk.com.

Trials and tribulations of voting in the U.S.

by Emma Mansour

One of the staples of our democracy is the right for most Americans to vote. The perception is that each and every eligible voter has an equal opportunity to influence elections, that no one person or group has more power to choose who runs the country over another.

Yet in the status quo, many Americans are limited in their opportunity to participate in our democracy. The obvious example of this is through the electoral college, who’s functionality and value has been highly contested in recent years.

The electoral college was created in a bid to ensure that the more educated and powerful people were able to vote. To do so, electors were chosen to proportionally represent their respective states during elections, the idea being that the electors would make the best decision for their states.

What this looks like now is the candidate getting the most votes in a state receives the electoral votes for the state, and the candidate that gets the majority wins the election.

Though perhaps made with good intentions, in practice it gives greater weight to certain votes. For any of us that vote in Illinois, our vote will matter less than someone’s in Wyoming or any other small state because of how many people there are here versus there. Doesn’t make a lot of sense.

The argument in favor of the electoral college is that smaller states need it in order to be fairly represented. Without the megaphone that the Electoral College provides, their voices may be lost among the votes of Texans or Californians.

In reality, this doesn’t mean that their voices won’t be heard; each individual voice will be heard on the

same scale as everyone else’s when it comes to federal elections.

This is not to say that smaller states won’t be given the opportunity to influence the vast majority of policies; the senate exists for a reason. But when it comes to the person representing the country, it really makes no sense that they should represent certain people more than others.

While the electoral college remains a big issue in the voting process, what is perhaps even more concerning are some of the smaller scales restrictions that impede one’s ability to vote. For example, in some states, you need an address to easily vote.

This isn’t an issue for people who live in a house. Unfortunately, not every eligible voter lives in a house. Not only does this make it difficult for homeless people, but another group that is affected but overlooked are native populations. The territory they live on isn’t given an address, adding yet another obstacle to the voting process for them.

This is just one example of a restriction that makes it really hard to participate in our government. There are countless ways in which different states create limitations, some being the location and hours of voting stations, Photo ID requirements, or limited early voting.

On the surface this is obviously unfair. But calling it unfair simplifies a problem that permeates government policy. Without the ability to vote, native people aren’t able to elect people that represent their wants and needs.

This creates a systemic issue that excludes all kinds of people that don’t have easy access to voting, native just being one of them. With each further restriction comes fewer

votes, especially from marginalized or underrepresented groups that are often affected the most by restrictions.

If you can’t vote for someone who would represent you, you won’t be represented, and the issues that cause this lack of representation never get addressed because no one in the government necessarily has a vested interest. This is an endless cycle that our current system really can’t solve without addressing the issue of voting.

There may be ways around problems that allow any person to vote. But that requires the resources to know about them, and the genuine desire to put the effort into casting a vote. The burden that both of these place on people discourages voting and likely causes a loss in faith in the system. It’s hard to want to go through a million hoops for a system that isn’t really working in your favor in the first place.

Without voting, our government fails; Even now, there are huge issues with voting that hinder our ability to have a fair, representative, and fully functioning government. That means something needs to change. But change is hard and not well received, especially when it means changing something that has become so ingrained in our political system.

Even so, it’s important to understand how our system is flawed and could be improved. As people who have the ability to vote with relative ease, we have a responsibility to do something about the flaws.

So use your power to vote. Vote for people who see the problems in our system and that will work to create a system that works for everyone rather than just the majority.



Democrats: electability is a lie

by Eva Roytburg

Iowa’s implosion has come and gone, Sanders has won New Hampshire, and we’re officially in the thick of the presidential primary season.

“Super Tuesday” is less than a month away, yet there remains no clear front-runner in the race to the Democratic candidacy.

As Democratic voters are scanning their options, it appears there is one winning factor which reigns above all: “electability.”

Ask most Democrats what their main voting consideration is and they’ll say the ability to beat Trump. They want someone who has a chance to stand up to the President, galvanize disappointed Republicans, and appeal to centrist Democrats.

Political electability, for the most part, is a mythical concept that muddles more than it clarifies. Take the leaders of the Democratic field. The voter who prioritizes electability most likely favors Joe Biden: a moderate, who runs on a campaign based on bridging a partisan divide. He also has heavy baggage from Afghanistan, a running list of gaffes, and a terrible record on the War on Drugs.

Most importantly, however, Biden will face the same struggle galvanizing Democrats to vote that Hillary did in 2016. His campaign is quickly losing steam with failures in both Iowa and New Hampshire, and he is losing the moderate stage to Pete Buttigieg.

Buttigieg, the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, has garnered lots of traction in Iowa, and has demonstrated some pull with affluent, educated voters who perceive him as a fresher Biden. His lack of experience, however, could create doubts about his competence in the general election, which is a recipe for disaster in a re-election year. He has repeatedly polled badly with minority voters, especially black voters who question his record in South Bend. This means he’ll probably have trouble with Democratic turnout in some of the more diverse states.

That takes us further left. Turnout is one of the key components of Sanders’ campaign, which argues that the traditional Democratic electorate could be expanded further with the disengaged, working-class voters who would benefit from his policies. However, it is often said that the radicality of some of Sander’s policies could turn off moderate and middle-class voters who were key to the democrats winning control of the

House in 2018.

To the right of Sanders, Elizabeth Warren does appeal slightly more to the moderates and the more affluent voters. Her backtracking on Medicare-For-All, however, has alienated some of the crucial liberal electors who perceive the move as a lack of dedication to the working-class.

In addition, she’s still seen as too progressive by some of the middle-upper class, which means she’s in a lose-lose balancing act that is evident in her lackluster results in Iowa and New Hampshire. That takes us back to Bernie. And so on,

This discourse about “electability” does not bring a democratic voter any closer to the Trump card (pun intended). It is all just hypotheticals constructed from recursive guesswork, a flawed mish-mosh of questions we can’t really answer.

The truth is that elections are decided by a ridiculous amount of variables, and any attempt to gauge which candidate has the best chance to beat Trump through set criteria will not take most of these variables into account.

Take the 2016 election; ask a politically engaged voter why Hillary lost, and they’ll tell you something about her emails, Russian hackers, Trump’s cable television cameos, and the Rust Belt. That mixture of happenings and random qualities made a man who was considered one of the most unelectable candidates win the presidency, and now he’s considered an extraordinarily tough competitor in 2020.

In the primaries, there is no way to determine how a candidate will be perceived in the general election. Sanders could muddle his leftist policies a little, and Biden might announce some radical healthcare plan.

They could be perceived as Socialist or Centrist, and they could just be seen as a plain old Democrat.

So, just vote for who you like the best ideologically. Your favorite candidate, if elected, will have about 8 months to placate whichever disgruntled group of individuals they need to win for the general.

They’ll be surrounded by a highly trained team of professionals who will tailor their campaign carefully, no matter how “unelectable” they appear to be.

If you vote primarily for electability’s sake, you might end up feeling very meh about the candidate and their policies. Vote to represent yourself and what you value in a President; that’s what democracy’s about, after all.

Voting in America must work for everyone

by Michael Howie

Election Day is approaching sooner than we might think. On Nov. 3, Americans across the country will be making their way to polling stations to cast their ballots. Well, some Americans.

The fact is, too many Americans don’t vote. In 2016, a mere 55.4% of the voting age population cast ballots, according to a CNN study. For an election carrying as much weight as the 2016 election did, that number is sad. It’s the lowest since 1996, when 53.5% voted.

It’s important to put American voting percentages into context.

The United States trails just about every other country in voter turnout. In France’s last election, for example, nearly 68% of eligible voters submitted ballots, according to the New York Times. In Mexico, 65% turned out. In Australia, a whopping 79% of the population cast their votes. The highest voter turnout in the United States ever was 81.8%, in 1876, but hasn’t surpassed 60% since the 1968 election.

Why is the United States so far from the rest of the pack in voter turnout? There are a number of reasons—they don’t think their vote matters, they encounter registration problems—but one looms far larger than others. Tuesday.

Election Day has been held on a Tuesday in the United States since the 1840s. Back then, voting was not available everywhere, and many had to travel a long way just to cast their ballots. Tuesday was chosen so people could begin their travels on a Monday, avoiding travel on the



Sunday Sabbath.

Tuesday may have made sense back then, but times have changed. For many Americans, it’s not so much an issue of apathy, but of fatigue. Many simply don’t have the time to vote on a work day. After a long day, people don’t want to wait in potentially long lines at the polls. Often, the lines aren’t even that long. In 2016, it only took an average of 14 minutes to vote, according to The Washington Post.

Some Americans work multiple jobs to make ends meet. They don’t have time to vote. They could skip their shift, but they put their job on the line.

Pretty much every other country votes on the weekend. Iceland? Saturday. France? Sunday. Costa Rica? Sunday.

The fact of the matter is that more people need to vote. How can the winner of an election be a true representation of what America wants?

The best way of addressing this issue would be to create a federal holiday for Election Day. Then, Americans who might not have the time to vote because of their jobs will have the time.

A handful of states have already implemented a holiday for select employees. 13 states give their government workers the day off, according to Pew Research.

In New York and California, government employees can leave to vote and can’t be docked pay. Even some employers have taken it upon themselves to allow their employees to vote. Patagonia, for example, will give their workers paid time off to vote this November.

Of course, anything that increases turnout by making it easier to vote can be seen as partisan because it tends to favor Democrats. America’s working class is largely comprised of Democrats, and their newfound time to vote would undoubtedly increase the Democratic candidate’s chances of winning.

Here’s the bottom line: The right to vote is something that we all take for granted. It isn’t a right in many places. It’s something that people had to fight for. The fact that barely half of us exercise that right is appalling.

We need a federal holiday that allows Americans to take the day off. Everyone has the right to vote.



Canidates struggle for the electable image

by Casey Bertocchi

With the upcoming Illinois presidential primary next month, the Congressional primary elections are often glossed over. Republicans vote for the Republican candidate, Democrats vote for the Democratic candidate.

In the 9th district, the Democrat usually wins. It’s been that way since 1949, when Sidney Yates took office.

Our current representative, Democratic Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, who lives in Wilmette, has been in office since 1999. Challenged by Republican and Democrats alike, and even Libertarian and Green Party members, she has held on to her seat, usually with over 60% of the 9th District’s vote.

This year Schakowsky is up against Democratic write-in candidate Andrew Heldut and Republican Sargis Sangari. Schakowsky, who is currently in her eleventh term, is a member of many House Committees, including the House Budget Committee, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Consumer Protection and Commerce Subcommittee, of which she is the Chair. She has done work in Congress regarding healthcare, helping to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Schakowsky has been a Senior Chief Deputy Whip since 2019, assisting the Democratic Congressional Whip in management of the floor. She specializes in senior health issues and women’s issues and has endorsed Elizabeth Warren for president, putting her far left politically but not a Democratic Socialist like Bernie Sanders.

Schakowsky has raised controversy from some Democratic voters over her views on the Israel-

Palestine crisis. Citing her Jewish faith, Schakowsky is very pro-Israel when other Democratic candidates are pro-Palestine.

Heldut, the Democratic primary challenger, is slightly more liberal than Schakowsky and a self-proclaimed Sanders supporter. A Chicago lawyer and the son of Polish immigrants, He interned for both Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign and Illinois Senator Dick Durbin.

Heldut believes that Schakowsky has been in office for too long and says that he would resign by 2032 if he was re-elected for six terms.

Heldut believes in student loan forgiveness and lower tuition fees, which he claims that Schakowsky does not endorse. According to his website, he said Schakowsky has been an unsuccessful Congresswoman and he pledges to be more active in Congress.

Heldut seems to represent the polarization of the Democratic Party. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders are politically similar, with Bernie slightly to the left of Warren. The party is already split over progressives like Sanders and Warren and moderate Democrats like Pete Buttigieg and Joe Biden.

Pitting progressives against each other creates a divide for leftist Democrats, who have lots of support but broader electability concerns. Those who view Sanders and Warren as safety candidates for each other may be more inclined to vote for a centrist like Buttigieg because his separation from the left doesn’t involve fine details and is less abstract.

The Republican candidate for the 9th District is Lieutenant Colonel Sargis Sangari. Originally from Iran, he moved to the United States in 1980

following the Iranian Revolution.

According to his campaign biography, LTC Sangari is a decorated veteran of the United States Army and has years of military experience, spending lots of time in the Middle East. He founded the Near East Center for Strategic Engagement, a policy and research think tank focusing on U.S. foreign and military policy in regards to the Middle East.

His campaign website lists no political issues, making it nearly impossible for constituents to access and analyze his political stances.

Jan Schakowsky is likely to be elected. She has been the 9th District’s Congresswoman for over 20 years and has been re-elected ten times. Incumbents have traditionally high reelection rates, but in 2018, 8.7% of returning candidates lost their seats, according to Ballotpedia. This is not a high percentage, but it was the highest since 2012. However, the 9th District is relatively predictable based on past trends and would most likely not diverge from them.

Quite frankly, the other candidates don’t stand a chance. Heldut is not extremely well-known and a write-in candidate, which is not a successful combination. He also separates himself distinctly from Schakowsky and Warren, which could be confusing to Democratic voters who see their similarities more than their differences. By setting himself apart from Warren and Schakowsky, Heldut alienates himself as an almost non-Democratic Democrat, who is a leftist but not quite a traditional liberal.

Sangari is running in a district that has been Democratic for the last seventy-one years. This is most likely because the district includes parts of the Chicago area, and cities and the surrounding communities tend to vote blue.

Though Sangari and Heldut won’t be seriously considered by most voters, as the Democratic Party drifts left, some centrists and moderate Democrats could be more inclined to choose a conservative candidate in future elections.

The issue with slacktivism

by Sofia Papakos

Aside from his PETA outburst, I think Joaquin Phoenix was onto something during his acceptance speech for the best actor Academy Award for “Joker.” His speech was a sociopolitical rant that included issues ranging from animal rights to personal sacrifice.

Phoenix focused on expressing his distaste for the egocentric mentality many of us have, and that we use as an excuse to ignore the commonality we have with each other. Including the belief that, although we face the same issues collectively, we’re consumed by ignorance in believing that we fight for different causes.

I agree, and genuinely believe we’re all too caught up in the differences that we see in each other’s beliefs and ideologies to notice it’s all built on the same foundation of morals.

It’s the principles of wanting to better humanity and ourselves. We want to succeed as much as possible and, I would hope, help others to do the same.

From what I’ve noticed, it’s become the barrier that has inhibited us from progressive change. Regardless if it’s conversations about the climate change, abortion rights, or immigration policies, it comes down to wanting to see improvement.

And I don’t mean hitting the like button and calling it a day, but actually raising awareness. It’s nice to think that a click on the like button ignites an actual change. Unfortunately, it doesn’t.

Commenting “I stand with ___” every time a tragedy doesn’t count as an effort to promote political or social change. No amount of shares or likes adequate to the awareness raised through actual, good old fashioned protesting.

For example, the Women’s March in 2017 was the largest single day protest in US history. It inspired sister protests all around the globe, from South Africa to Brazil. Personally, I think those types of protests and sit ins, that are more direct and interactive, have clearly been the most influential types of protests.

Even something as simple as volunteering your time to an organization or issue your passionate about and bringing your friends with you. Any way you can involve as many people as you can in a positive light, I see as activism. That makes a difference.

It’s ridiculous the amount of time we waste arguing with the other side about why what they believe is wrong. It doesn’t matter that what they believe is based on stupidity.

Let them be. We aren’t going to convince anyone if we’re drowned in our own arguments.

We have to just listen. Even if it’s for a minute or two, we’re lucky to have the freedom to hear different perspectives. It’s a privilege that we don’t take advantage of. There’s honestly no harm in it, unless we’re too consumed in our ego.

After listening, we can then feel free to respectfully rebut them with our reasoning. If we want to incite change, we have to do it ourselves because relying on other people to start a movement takes way too long and usually isn’t very effective.

This goes for politicians and for social media. This is kind of cheesy, but I try to remind myself of what Gandhi said; “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” From making it a goal to stop procrastinating and study for a math test to actively supporting movements such as March For Our Lives, it applies to every situation.

Honestly, I don’t think many people, at least at New Trier, are going to protest every weekend. That isn’t the problem. The problem is there’s an overwhelming amount of issues thrown at us that we need to worry about.

Whether it’s environmental or human rights issues, the newest trend to get involved in is circulated in the media. And it’s impossible to keep up. The only way we’re really engaged in social media or news media is through the updates we get on what’s going on. However, I believe if we care enough about certain issues, we should look outside our screens to ignite the change we’re looking to others to fulfill. That’s activism.

Voting FAQ: Primaries

Can I register to vote?

If you are a U.S. citizen, a resident of an Illinois precinct for at least 30 days prior to election day, and at least 18 years old by election day, you can (and should!) register to vote. In Illinois, a 17-year-old may vote in a primary if they will be 18 years old on or before the day of the general election (November 4).

How can I register to vote?

Prospective voters can register online, by mail, or in person at the following locations: the DMV, the County Clerk’s Office, the Board of Election Commissioner’s Office, City and Village Offices, Township Offices, the Precinct Committeeman, Schools, Public Libraries, and Military Recruitment Offices. Two forms of identification are required to register in person, one of which must display your current address.

Can I register on voting day?

Yes! Illinois allows voters to register at the polls. Make sure to bring 2 Forms of ID. One of these two IDs must list your current address.

When will the primaries take place?

March 17, 2020. The polling hours are 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and voters in line when the polls close must be allowed to vote.

What should I do if I’m unavailable on voting day?

You can vote early! For the Presidential Primary Election, Early Voting will take place from March 2-16. Visit the Cook County Clerk website for more information on locations and timing.

What are the voting registration deadlines?

In-Person: Election Day. By Mail: Postmarked 28 days before Election Day. Online: 16 days prior to Election Day.

What should I bring to the polling station?

Illinois state law does not require registered voters to present a form of identification at the polls on Election Day if they are voting at the correct precinct. However, when in doubt, bring an ID! You will need an ID (with your current address) if an Election Judge challenges your right to vote, or you submitted a mail-in registration form that did not include an Illinois identification/driver’s license number or Social Security number.

Do I have to register with a party to vote in the primary?

Since Illinois uses the open primary system, voters do not have to register with a particular party. However, by selecting the ballot of one political party to fill out, voters publicly state their party affiliation. This choice is by no means permanent, as you can choose a different ballot at the next primary election.

Our government’s manifesto of mistruths

by Hope Talbot

On Feb. 4, members of both parties gathered in the House to hear the president’s annual address to the nation, but like most things involving Trump, the event did not come without controversy.

While the majority of Republican senators wore dark suits, the Democratic women of Congress arrived in all white to signify their commitment to the stand for women’s rights.

Enter Trump. As the president approached the podium, both Vice President, Mike Pence, and Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi stood to shake the president’s hand. While Trump greeted Pence, he dodged Pelosi’s outstretched hand.

After that, things got ugly. It’s become tradition that the speaker of the house introduces the president to the chamber with the phrase “Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.”

After the handshake debacle though, Pelosi simply said, “Members of Congress, the President of the United States.” Throughout the address, Pelosi shook her head in disagreement.

At the end of the 78 minutes, Pelosi stood and tore up her copy of the president’s speech in an act of

defiance. This single rip has further divided both Washington and the nation at large, and now Republicans want to write a formal disapproval resolution against Pelosi. So was it right for Pelosi to tear up Trump’s speech?

According to an investigation by FactCheck.org, many of Trump’s statistics were either stretched or totally false. Trump claimed that “illegal crossings” at the southwest border were down 75% since May. Total apprehensions in 2019 however, were 81% higher than what was recorded in 2016 before Trump took office.

While Trump gloated that “our economy is the best it has ever been,” the most recent official estimate has shown that gross domestic product grew only 2.3% in the last year, in comparison to 2.9% in 2018 or 3.8% in 2004. Democrats’ biggest issue with the speech, however, was when Trump claimed that healthcare was now “cheaper” and “better,” when in fact plans created by his administration cover significantly less care.

“He shredded the truth with his speech, he’s shredding the constitution with his conduct and I shredded his state of mind address.” Pelosi said in a statement to Fox News.

While this State of the Union had a strange, reality-TV element to it, it’s important to remember that

these addresses have always been an emotionally charged event.

During Obama’s 2009 State of the Union, South Carolina Rep. Joe Wilson yelled “you lie.” This latest address though, was really the first time I think these emotions and microaggressions spiraled out of control.

Yes, much of Trump’s speech was not factual, but ripping it up was not helpful to anyone. While she was trying to make a statement about truths, Pelosi instead stooped to Trump’s childish, vindictive level.

The president feeds on drama, and he’s looking for anything to turn the tables on Democrats after the attempted impeachment. Pelosi gave him exactly what he wanted.

It’s understandable that Pelosi’s emotions got the best of her.

Trump is like a virus that nobody can seem to get rid of and every time she’s tried following procedure to take him to task, it’s come back to bite her.

While the President has disregarded most standards of professionalism, it’s important that Pelosi remembers that she represents Democrats in the most politically divided state the nation has ever known.

Someone has to be the adult in our government.

Daryl Morey controversy revealing of NBA’s priorities

by Connor Caserio

On Oct. 4, 2019, Houston Rockets General Manager Daryl Morey unexpectedly triggered an international controversy when he tweeted “Fight for Freedom, Stand with Hong Kong.”

For context, last spring, Hong Kong’s pro-Beijing government leaders introduced legislation that would have allowed for criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China.

In the months since the legislation was enacted, the semi-autonomous Hong Kong has been embroiled with massive anti-China protests.

In light of these ongoing protests, Chinese insitutions and political figures were outraged by Morey’s tweet.

Within two days of the tweet, the Chinese Basketball Association announced that it was suspending all relations with the Rockets.

Soon after, the Chinese consulate in Houston released a statement saying that it was “deeply shocked” by Morey’s “erroneous comments,” and Chinese state-run television halted all broadcasts of NBA games.

For the NBA, China’s harsh reaction to Morey’s tweet was an unmitigated disaster. According to Forbes, the league’s business in China is worth about \$4 billion annually.

The Rockets, in particular, will financially suffer as a result of this situation. The success that Hall of Fame center Yao Ming enjoyed as a member of the team contributed to the formation of a massive Rockets fanbase in China, a fanbase that will now be barred from following and associating with Morey’s team.

On Oct. 6, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver made a statement that

attempted to diffuse the situation.

“We recognize that the views expressed by Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey have deeply offended many of our friends and fans in China, which is regrettable,” read the NBA’s official statement on the situation.

“While Daryl has made it clear that his tweet does not represent the Rockets or the NBA, the values of the league support individuals’ educating themselves and sharing their views on matters important to them.”

In hopes of salvaging their standing in China, the NBA attempted to both support Morey and apologize for his tweet with this statement. In the end, though, walking such a fine line proved impossible.

Many in the United States were incensed that the NBA prioritized their financial interest in China over Morey’s freedom of expression. In Congress, for example, the NBA received a rare bipartisan backlash.

Representative Brendan Boyle (D-PA) summed up the nation’s attitude about the NBA’s comments on the Morey situation, tweeting “Stop putting the almighty [dollar emoji] before human rights, for once.”

The NBA completely mishandled this situation, and that is why, at the time, I was among those disgusted by their actions. Today, however, I am not sure the situation is so black and white.

By looking at the way the NBA dealt with Morey’s tweets from a different perspective, the picture becomes more complex.

Most sports fans understand that sports are a business. Sports teams and leagues make money from a variety of sources (tickets, merchandise, television packages, etc).



Hong Kong residents hold up signs in support of Daryl Morey at a rally on Oct. 15, 2019 | AP Images

The vast majority of the time, though, we fans do not fully appreciate how much sports are like any other business. We have real, personal connections with teams, making us feel more closely tied to them than we would with almost any other brand.

We often forget that professional sports are a profit-driven industry, and we rarely consider how important it is for a league to maintain favorable public relations.

For years, I have been proud of the NBA for allowing its players and coaches to speak up on political and social justice issues, more so than any other major American sports league.

In the past few years, for example, players like LeBron James of the Los Angeles Lakers and coaches like Gregg Popovich of the San Antonio Spurs have been critical of President Trump.

In May 2019, Commissioner Silver supported these players’ right

to express their political opinions “like every other American,” saying that he is proud of the NBA’s “history of activism.”

The NBA’s support of its players’ and coaches’ freedom of expression is admirable. However, when thinking about sports from a business perspective, one can see that the league has financial motivations for acting this way.

Because the NBA’s audience skews younger and more liberal than the population as a whole, the league faces fewer consequences for supporting its players’ and coaches’ freedom of expression than leagues with more conservative audiences such as the NFL.

In fact, supporting its players’ freedom of expression on political and social justice issues likely bolsters the NBA’s image with many fans.

That is not to say that the NBA’s support for its players and coaches

is disingenuous, just that the league does so in part because it is good for business. It is hard to say if the NBA would be so supportive of its players’ and coaches’ freedom of expression on political and social justice issues if it were not in its financial interest.

In the Daryl Morey situation, though, there are no theoreticals. The NBA has shown that it values its financial interest as much as player activism. The league deserves to be condemned for being complicit with China’s infringement on democracy and political rights in Hong Kong.

However, solely condemning the NBA for its actions in the Daryl Morey situation ignores the fact that thousands of other American companies do business in China despite it being an authoritarian state.

Until we see those businesses begin to prioritize political and social justice over their own financial interests, the NBA will not change its ways.

From one arena to another: Notable sports figures who have gone into politics

by Matt Murray
All photos courtesy of AP Images



Bill Bradley: Point Guard

- Won Most Outstanding Player of the 1965 NCAA Tournament and 1965 AP College Player of the Year as a member of the Princeton Tigers
- Won 2 NBA championships in 12 seasons with the New York Knicks
- Inducted into both the College Basketball and Pro Basketball Hall of Fame



Bill Bradley: Senator

- Spent 18 years as a New Jersey Senator (1979-1997)
- Campaigned for the Democratic nomination in the 2000 Presidential Election against Al Gore
- Currently a member of the American Committee for East-West Accord



Steve Largent: Wide Receiver

- 7x Pro Bowler in 14 seasons with the Seattle Seahawks (1976-1989)
- Retired as the NFL’s all-time leader in receptions, receiving yards, and receiving touchdowns
- Inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility (1995)



Steve Largent: US Representative

- Spent 8 years as Oklahoma’s 1st District member in the U.S. House of Representatives (1995-2003)
- Came within 7,000 votes of defeating Brad Henry in the 2002 Oklahoma gubernatorial election



Jack Kemp: Quarterback

- Spent 12 years playing professional football (played in the NFL, CFL, and AFL)
- Selected to 7 All-Star teams in the American Football League’s 10-year history
- Won 2 AFL championships with the Buffalo Bills (1964, 1965) as well as the 1965 AFL MVP



Jack Kemp: US Representative

- Served as a New York member of the U.S. House of Representatives from 1971 to 1989
- Served as Housing Secretary in George H.W. Bush’s cabinet
- Running-mate of Republican Bob Dole in 1996 US Presidential Election

Do political ads belong in the Super Bowl?

by Grant Feldman

The Super Bowl has always been known for its commercials as much as it is for football.

The game is the biggest advertising event of the year, and the opportunity to reach such a large audience doesn’t come cheap (a 60-second commercial during Super Bowl LIV cost \$10 million).

2020 marked the first year political advertisements ran during the Super Bowl as President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg each ran minute-long commercials during the game, which drew 102 million viewers.

According to Forbes, Trump and Bloomberg have reported net worths of \$3.1 billion and \$61.5 billion respectively; and according to NPR, they are two of the top three fundraisers among candidates (the third is Democrat Tom Steyer).

The Super Bowl is an ideal time to spend big on ads, and the two richest candidates did just that.

Sporting events are often an escape from the constant barrage of political news, but sports have become more politicized in recent years.

When 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick made headlines for protesting racial inequality by kneeling during the national anthem, he stirred up an intense controversy.

Nike jumped on this controversy and ran an ad campaign featuring the polarizing quarterback, and their

stock increased 5% in two weeks.

Trump and Bloomberg emulated Nike’s strategy by not only spreading their messages (Trump’s ads focused on criminal justice reform and the economy, while Bloomberg’s opposed gun violence) but also by getting people talking in the process.

Both ads were a departure from the lighter nature of Super Bowl commercials, which are typically funny or heartwarming to appeal to the emotions of the audience.

Trump is already well-known, but Bloomberg’s ad put his name in front of millions of Americans who were less familiar with him.

Bloomberg is expected to spend \$300 million of his own money on TV ads leading up to the March primaries, and with a lesser-known background than some other candidates, he hopes to leave a strong impression on voters.

Many fans believe politics should remain separate from sports, but there was no missing Trump’s and Bloomberg’s ads during this year’s Super Bowl. The ads fell at a time of particular political commotion, right between Trump’s impeachment trial and the Iowa Caucuses.

63% of Americans believe the Super Bowl is an “inappropriate platform for political ads from candidates,” according to a poll from data research company Morning Consult.

However, with the 2020 election approaching, it is likely that we will continue to see political ads on TV during sporting events.



Vietnam vs. now: are we being disruptive enough?

by *Mattea Carberry*

On April 15, 1967, over 500,000 people took to the streets of New York and San Francisco in protest of the Vietnam war. Their passionate efforts ultimately pressured the US to withdraw from Vietnam in 1973 and they saw their peace efforts through to the fall of Saigon in 1975.

The protesters were relentless in seeing that their demands were met, protesting heavily for almost two decades especially during 1965-1967.

Perhaps Vietnam was a special case where the protestors came out victorious, but it's important to remember that their cause was highly unpopular – more than some of our movements today – as many took the protesters to be unpatriotic.

So why is it that the issues people protest today such as gun reform, abortion, and climate change aren't reaping the same success?

The most obvious difference between the time of the Vietnam war and now is the rise of social media. There's no doubt that it has the potential to transform the way people are heard and thus demand change. But it can also breed a lack of activism as some grow content with voicing their support through a hashtag or repost.

On the one hand, social media can educate us and encourage intervention in issues anywhere in the world. On the other, it can desensitize

us to the fact that we could actually be affected by some of these issues.

The expansive reach of social media offers the opportunity to quickly raise awareness about varying issues and garner the support needed to present those issues to those in power.

Through platforms like Change.org, people are able to support issues that may not even affect them, fighting for those who may not be able to fight for themselves. Social media has the potential to bring worldwide attention and support to a given cause which wasn't possible before.

Yet the onslaught of information can also deceive us into not being concerned about the issues that could actually affect us. The key is just in striking a healthy balance in regards to how social media influences our approach to activism.

Most importantly, social media doesn't necessarily bring disruption, and one key factor that may be lacking in our movements is just that, disruption.

Change only happens when people work to disrupt the flow of public or political life. The antiwar protestors demanded the attention of everyone in the nation but today there don't seem to be any clear groups demanding that same attention on the daily.

Despite its potential benefits, social media could enable a culture of lazy activism. Right off the bat,



Columbia University students occupied Hamilton Hall on April 24, 1968 | AP

it's clear social media has severely decreased our attention span. With a flood of posts and notifications, it's less likely that someone will take the time to thoroughly learn about an issue and then proceed to do something about it. The most the average person might do is post something on their story, and that's where their "activism" likely ends.

There's also the simple argument that in-person protests are more effective than reposting something or voicing your support through a tweet. It makes sense too. Human interactions always come across more authentic in-person and less so through a screen.

That's not to say the Vietnam

protests weren't special in the force they mustered. Much of the protest centered around the draft because people didn't want themselves or their loved ones to go to war, prompting protests full of raw desperation.

Thus, many people might have engaged in this movement for essentially self-centered reasons and that's why it garnered the support it did.

But thinking about oneself in regards to various issues isn't necessarily a bad thing. It may even be another factor that is inhibiting the effectiveness of our movements.

The point is, we do have to think about ourselves. We need to picture ourselves falling victim to the

various issues in society so that we can pursue change with unrelenting vigor. If we don't, our movements won't have the passion they need to cause the disruption that will bring about change.

Based on the current state of our various movements, it doesn't seem like we're being disruptive enough.

One of America's first mass shootings occurred in Camden, NJ in 1949 when a WWII veteran shot 16 people, killing 13. Fifty years later, two high school seniors shot and killed 13 people, 12 of them being students, at Columbine High School.

The Columbine shooting happened over two decades ago. Groups such as the Million Mom March demanded change in gun laws then and still do now since little change has taken place since then.

There have been numerous climate strikes all over the world, most notably the ones which took place on Sept. 20 and 27 of 2019 in which a total of 4 million people participated worldwide.

But since a great number of climate strikers are students, they may not have enough leverage to prompt those in power to change policy, as a Forbes article suggested.

Students skipping school tend not to disrupt the lives of the general public or those in power, thus making it difficult to transfer strikes into actual policy change.

In both the protest for gun
see Vietnam pg. 10

Tinker speaks to next generation of student activists

by *Julia Nagel and Simren Dadwani*

In 1965, Mary Beth Tinker, her siblings, and a handful of other students decided to wear black armbands to school as a symbol of mourning for those who had died in Vietnam and to advocate for a Christmas truce.

Tinker was a shy 13-year-old, unsure about whether or not she wanted to participate in the symbolic gesture. In the end, she decided to take the leap and join the others.

"I ended up wearing a black arm band too, which was very scary because the [administrators] made a rule against our bands when they heard that we were going to do this," she said.

Tinker added that when she was pulled out of class and told by the vice principal to take the armband off, she complied. However, she was still suspended for her role in the protest. The other students who wore armbands were likewise punished.

When the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) heard about what had happened, they offered to help. The organization worked with the students to reverse the decision that the school board and administration had made.

"We went to school board meetings, but they wouldn't change their mind. So then the ACLU said, 'Well, we're going to have to go to court.'"

The case eventually made it all the way to the Supreme Court, where it was decided in favor of Tinker and the other plaintiffs. In this landmark case, Justice Abe Fortas wrote in the majority opinion that students and teachers do not "shed their constitutional rights...at the schoolhouse gate."

Tinker's involvement in the 1969 Tinker v. Des Moines Supreme Court case spurred a lifelong passion for advocating for students' free



Tinker at the Journalism Education Association Conference in Washington D.C. on Nov. 22, 2019 | Dadwani

expression.

"It's made it possible for me to spend my life with students and young people who are advocating for their own interests and for their own rights. It's given me a way to encourage students, to be with students, to listen to the issues that you care about, and to learn how you are speaking up for yourselves," said Tinker.

For this reason, despite her initial hesitation to participate, Tinker said that she does not regret her decision to don the armband.

"I think kids have a basic sense of fairness, and we thought it wasn't fair that they had told us that we couldn't even express ourselves. We weren't hurting anyone, and we weren't disrupting school. We felt

very strongly about it. It's really a combination of having strong feelings about something, and then having examples of people who do something about their feelings."

Though students now have different platforms--such as social media--that they can use to advocate for causes they believe in, Tinker noted that there are many parallels between students today and those in the 60s and 70s.

"Young people were speaking up for racial equality and even for the environment then, and against war, for having a say in their schools, and gender equality. All of these things are still going on, so there are a lot of similarities," said Tinker.

Tinker's background as a nurse has helped to shape her view that

young people, because of where they are in the development process, are uniquely suited to speaking out.

"[Young people] have wonderful qualities, you know creativity, and energy, and you're more willing to take risks because of your brain chemistry and your developmental stage; you have more dopamine in your brains," Tinker explained.

To Tinker, the fresh perspective that young people bring to the table is also beneficial.

"A lot of adults get used to doing things a certain way, and they get discouraged about the possibility of change. But that's the power of young people. You're courageous, you have a sense of fairness."

Tinker strongly believes that it is important for society to encourage its

youth to use their rights and speak up about the issues that would make life better for them.

"When your rights are suppressed, when you're censored, not only are you cheated but the whole society is cheated," said Tinker.

Tinker also believes that it is beneficial to the mental health of students to advocate for issues they are passionate about.

"It all really has to do with mental health. That's part of the reason I started speaking with students in the last 10 or 15 years, too, because I was a trauma nurse and I find it's really good for your health when you speak up and stand up about things."

By taking action and joining up with other young people, Tinker stated that children and teens are able to meet others and feel that they're part of a group that's doing something to make things better.

Tinker encourages students to take action and to not be afraid to speak up for what they believe in.

"Get together with a few other people who also care about that issue, and then you can think about who might be your allies. Maybe you have some adults or teachers to be your allies, and then think about the creative things you can do to advocate for what it is you want to speak up about."

Tinker believes that similar to the 60s and 70s, students now are growing up in a "mighty time" where many are energized to create change.

But students can lead the charge only if they are aware of and choose to exercise their rights.

"In order to really use your rights, and make them stronger, you have to keep them active. And use them. It's like your muscles: if you don't use them you can lose them. So when the administrators see you using your rights, that makes your rights stronger."

Why is a Democrat the secretary of the Trevian Republicans?

by Caroline Bewley

Junior Antigone Zervas has been going to the Trevian Republicans club most Tuesdays since the start of her sophomore year. This year, Zervas was made secretary and has enjoyed having a leadership role in the club.

Though this isn't an abnormal trajectory for any New Trier club member, Zervas's story is notable in that she identifies as a Democrat.

"I have some centrist views," clarified Zervas. "But I'm definitely more liberal. For example, I support the second amendment, but I'm also pro-choice."

Zervas began attending the Trevian Republicans club when her politically-active friends asked her if she wanted to check it out.

"I quickly made friends with David [Tabarez-Cisneros], the current president, when I first started," explained Zervas.

"It's hard to stop going once you have people you know in the club."

Besides having multiple friends in the club, Zervas continues to go to Trevian Republicans because she enjoys the chance it gives her to broaden her political views.

"Each club meeting is a chance to engage in a bipartisan dialogue, which I've found is a good exercise. The conversations are fun, challenging, and they keep you up to pace."

According to James Wright, sponsor of Trevian Republicans, students of all political leanings are



Zervas enjoys evaluating political issues from multiple perspectives as a Democrat in Republican club | Instagram

welcome in the club.

"I think the students who attend want somewhere to go where they can express their points of view on important issues and hear from others," explained Wright. "Sometimes this will lead to disagreement, but at others the discussion helps generate discovery of common ground."

Zervas agreed with Wright, explaining that she and other liberal members feel welcome in the club, despite their differing beliefs.

"As secretary, I don't feel like my own political values are a problem. It's more that I provide opposition to the more conservative

viewpoints that other members have. In general, the club is pretty relaxed."

Wright emphasized that the Trevian Republicans club is usually laid-back, but admits that the atmosphere can depend on the topic being discussed that day.

"Some of the members may disagree with each other, get riled up, and passionately argue their views," explained Wright. "There are never personal attacks, though."

According to Wright, a typical Trevian Republicans club meeting begins with officers Zervas, David Tabarez-Cisneros, and Gavin Tian presenting a summary of a current event, political issue, or other topic

they would like the club discuss. After listening to the presentation, club members respond to questions posed by the officers and are able to express what they feel about the topic.

"Lately, we've talked about impeachment, the Coronavirus, and World War Three," said Zervas. "We've had some really in-depth conversations."

Wright said that Trevian Republicans have also dedicated recent meetings to discussing the 2020 presidential election. The club met the day after the Iowa caucus and awaited the online results together.

"So far, like most of the rest

of the country, the club members are operating under the assumption that President Trump will be the Republican nominee," explained Wright.

"There has been quite a bit of analysis and talk about the Democratic candidates and where they stand on issues along with how they think each candidate would measure up to President Trump."

Zervas corroborated Wright's words, explaining that the club does an update on the election every week, and that the club members discuss who they believe the most formidable Democratic nominee would be.

In addition to educating its members about current events, the club also finds opportunities to talk about political topics with the Young Democrats club.

"We sometimes come together to have a conversation—not a debate, because people usually debate to win instead of enlarging their own viewpoint—about political issues facing the United States," explained Zervas.

According to Zervas, these conversations are a great way for students of both clubs to try to see politics from a different perspective. Currently, the heads of Young Democrats, Jane Rosin and Daniel Austen, and Zervas are working on a joint discussion about Big Tech.

"I would definitely go to Young Democrats in addition to Trevian Republicans," said Zervas. "But the two clubs are both on Tuesday. Hopefully that will change in the future."

Continued From Page 9 Vietnam vs. now: are we being disruptive enough?

reform and climate change, little change has been made because they simply aren't disrupting the public, or those in power. Someone in Congress isn't going to bat an eye if you repost something on your story.

And if you're just skipping school for a day, it's unlikely they'll notice, but if they do, they're not likely to feel moved to do anything about it.

That's not to say all movements are meant to receive immediate change. Issues such as women's rights and the Civil Rights Movement slowly achieved and are still striving for change over numerous decades of persistent fighting.

What sets these movements apart from gun reform or climate change is the fact that they entailed

changing deeply ingrained societal norms. Slavery was closely tied to American culture for 200 years and thus changing that norm took a lot of effort.

The same can't be said for an issue like gun control because it's something that doesn't affect everyone like gender and race does.

Thus, it's reasonable to demand more immediate change of issues like abortion, climate change, and gun control.

Change is possible but not if we stay content with the way we're asking for it. We need to place ourselves in the issues. We need to use social media to enhance the scope and strength of in-person protests. We need to truly disrupt society and make those in power listen.

Iowa Caucus shakes up Democratic primary

by Graham Ambrose

Prior to the 2020 Iowa Caucus, former South Bend, Indiana mayor Pete Buttigieg was consistently polling lower than other Democratic Presidential candidates. However, after winning the most delegates at the Caucus, Buttigieg has become a front-runner for the party's nomination.

With the Democratic primaries set to take place in the coming months, New Trier students will be paying close attention to the campaign performance of Buttigieg as well as those of his competitors.

Senior Jane Rosin, a co-head of the New Trier Young Democrats club, attended the Iowa Caucus and has been closely following the candidates. She believes that their stances on healthcare could be a deciding factor in who wins the race.

"I don't have a problem with [Joe] Biden's single-payer healthcare plan and that plan's representation of him as a more modern Democrat, but I don't feel that America is financially ready for that yet," said Rosin.

"I also like Warren and Sanders' plans on national government/single payer healthcare, but I'm not sold on Warren's because of her vagueness on how her plan is going to work. I know Buttigieg is far more of a centrist and doesn't support Medicaid for all, and I feel like a lot of his stances on several issues are too flexible, which is what I don't like about him."

The rapidly diminishing opportunity to address climate change has also made it a hotly-debated issue during the primary cycle, and many students, including junior Lucas Eisen, have formulated opinions on how the candidates should combat the issue.

Eisen has paid close attention



Buttigieg speaks in Des Moines during the caucus on Feb. 11 | AP Images

to the Democratic candidates' plans to address climate change.

"I like the more realistic approach that Warren and Sanders are taking, which is the more aggressive route of taxing big corporations and establishing various infrastructures to protect vital environments," Eisen said. "I don't think this is much of a talking point for Joe Biden even though he should have some kind of strategy due to the dire state we're in right now."

Junior Antigone Zervas, a Democratic student who also serves as secretary of New Trier's Republican Club, has also paid close attention to how the candidates plan to address climate change. While Zervas does not think that Buttigieg's method of addressing climate change is unique among the candidates, she supports a significant portion of his plans.

"I like the idea of putting a tax on carbon emissions, especially since it has bipartisan approval," said Zervas. "[Buttigieg] also has a \$200 billion plan over 10 years to assist and retrain displaced employees in the fossil fuel industry such as coal miners. While I'm not a fan of

government retraining programs because they don't work, this policy is much better than Biden's plan, which said that coal miners should learn to code."

Another prominent issue at play has been the business practices of big technology companies. Warren and Sanders, especially, have criticized these companies' treatment of consumers and have expressed concern about their role in the economy in general.

"I do like [Sanders'] and Warren's plan regarding tech company regulation, but I'm disappointed, though, that Biden hasn't come up with a solid plan for this," Zervas said. "If he doesn't have solutions to issues that affect our generation like this one, he won't really get much of the younger voter base."

With the Iowa Caucus and other primaries and caucuses beginning to narrow the field of Democratic candidates, the strongest potential challengers to President Trump have emerged. In the end, voters will evaluate the issues and decide the nominee.

The New Trier News

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From the Archives, March 23, 2018 : Following the Parkland shooting, many NT students walked out to protest the lack of gun control legislation

Walkout unites students in activism

Students participate in the national school walkout against gun violence

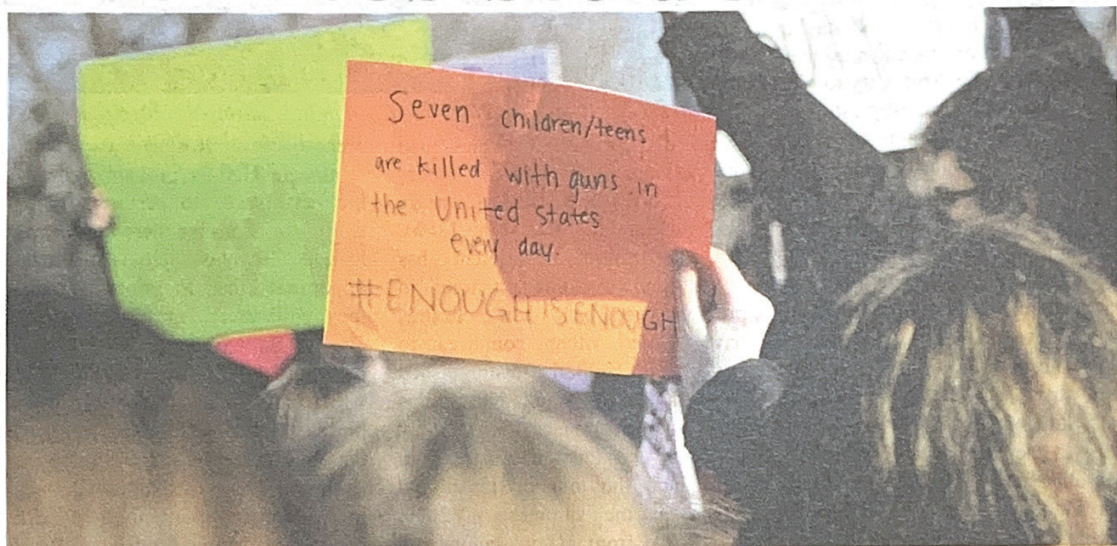
by Molly George

Students are still talking about the walkout a week later with varying opinions, particularly debating the status of the walkout as a political protest or a neutral memorial.

Junior Molly van Gorp was glad the walkout shifted from honoring victims to reform. She said, "I have a friend who goes to Loyola, and theirs seemed much more focused on memorial or mourning of victims. They stated a name for each minute, and it was arranged by the students and administrators together."

Senior Eden Hirschfield felt that the school's facilitation of the walkout was a good idea. "I think this was still a disruption. This is a government building, and they are supporting our cause, and I think that's progressive and I think that's important," said Hirschfield.

Senior Albert Yen said, "If I was a school administrator, I would definitely do the same thing, because I would want students to be safe. We're still expressing our point, and



Students express their support for victims of gun violence and frustration for a lack of school safety | Guthrie

I think it's even better that we didn't get a truancy for it."

The decision to make a special schedule to help students participate in the national protest created some controversy regarding their level of involvement.

Senior Andrew Eisenstein said, "I don't necessarily agree with how the school organized the entire thing, but I think it's important to support the movement."

Senior Helen Ware, one of the many supporters at the gathering on the track, said, "What happened today was definitely more of a memorial.

A protest has to disrupt something; it has to cause a ruckus and cause a change. [Since] we had the period off, it didn't really cause a change."

She added that the way to make a change is by reaching out to legislators, senators, and candidates running for office.

Sophomore Trey Bess agreed, "If we want to get political we need to start talking to people who can actually make a change. I think what's more important is that we remember who was killed. We can worry about gun control later."

Junior Sabrina Morris

participated in the walkout because she has a personal connection to the event.

Morris' cousin is currently a junior at Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

She said, "[My cousin] was really curious to see how schools outside of FL were reacting. She's in full support of our walkout. For her it's also about just bringing attention to the issue and the walkout was a good way to do that and hopefully get the conversation going."

victim." "I hope this gets the government to think about gun laws and restrictions and school safety," added Morris

While school safety is a common priority, not everyone was protesting gun laws. Junior Chaney Laros did not participate in the walkout because of the political elements.

"I knew it was going to be political because I saw them selling those shirts, but if it was just a memorial I definitely would have participated. It was just too political," Laros said.

"It's definitely a memorial, but obviously it has political undertones. I don't think this was organized to be a political movement but I definitely think that it was inevitable that there were going to be political undertones," added Hirschfield.

While opinions vary on how the school managed the walkout, Eisenstein said, "It's a general mindset - the more people that come together, the better - it doesn't have to be political."

Students discuss their views on campus unrest in America

by Rhoda Elveve

The anti-war demonstrations that swept college campuses when President Richard Nixon ordered U. S. troops to smash Communist sanctuaries in Cambodia marked the most violent period in student unrest.

Strikes, boycotts, riots, clashes between students and police or National Guardsmen surged on a scale that many found frightening. The gunshot killings at Kent and Jackson State Universities, a bayonet attack by National Guardsmen on demonstrators at the University of New Mexico — all these and other developments were deeply disturbing to national leaders, lawyers, citizens, and West students.

Almost half of the country's 1,500 four-year colleges were affected, either by demonstrations or some form of shutdown.

New Trier West students joined high schools and colleges throughout the nation in protesting increased American involve-

State. Speeches, memorial services, rallies, and a walkout involving approximately 190 students occurred.

In an effort to learn more about West's reactions to the campus unrest that has buffeted America's learning institutions, the



John Majer

New Trier West News held random interviews with many West students.

All of the students interviewed believe that the war in Vietnam — and its recent extension into Cambodia — is the number one cause of unrest among students.

Still works within system

"But the war is not the only cause," stressed Senior Vicki Santa, who was one of the organizers of the May 8 walkout here. "If it were not the war, it would be something else. Demonstrations in the future will focus on pollution, social injustices, and civil rights," she remarked.

Vicki was shocked about the killings of the four Kent State students. "When I first found

out about it," she confessed, "I cried. It was a waste . . . It didn't make any sense."

"The regular army or a beefed-up state police force should have been called in to handle the violence because both these groups are trained in the handling of guns. The National Guardsmen at Kent State were not, and the result was four deaths," she added.

Despite her frustration over violence here and in Vietnam, Vicki still believes in the system. "Going to Washington, talking with Congressmen, and petitioning are much more effective ways of protesting against the war," she added.

"Walkout not effective"

Sophomore John Majer agrees with Vicki's non-violent feelings. "The majority of kids on college campuses are non-violent," he said. "It's the National Guardsmen dressed in riot gear that provokes a mob to violence," he added.

"The blame for what happened at Kent State should be put on the officials who ordered the Guardsmen's guns to be loaded with real bullets," Majer continued.

Majer was one of the estimated 190 students who participated in the non-violent walkout here.



Bob Ryon

From the Archives

June 4, 1970 :

During the Vietnam War era, students throughout the country protested against US involvement in the war and the military draft.

In this article, students shared their views on the most recent protests.

"The walkout was not as effective and worthwhile as it could have been. It riled up the conservatives against the anti-war demonstrators, causing two factions in the school . . . I don't want to see that kind of division occur again," he explained.

"Fascist Pigs"

Junior Bob Ryon, when asked his opinion of what happened at Kent State said, "I think it's time that the fascist pigs stay off our campuses."

"The campuses are ours, man. We paid the tuition, and we should be able to do whatever we want at college," he added.

Ryon said, "There will be more demonstrations until we get our demands. That includes getting ROTC off campus, and especially getting out of Southeast Asia."

Ryon thinks that college students who burn buildings to show their opposition to government and school policies are wrong. "We should take over the buildings; it's a more effective way of protesting," he declared.



Vicki Santa

ment in Southeast Asia and the deaths of four students at Kent

From the Archives: December 15, 1989

What do you think should be done to improve environmental conditions?

Freshman
Monica Goland

"I think we should stop spending money on defense and start spending it on the environment."



Sophomore
Chad Robins

"Cleaning up our lakes and oceans. I also think we should encourage recycling in our villages and towns."

Junior
Missy Hills

"I think people should be more educated on the problems our environment faces because through education will come understanding."



Senior
Lori Reese

"I think that people need to care more about the environment and start putting more of their concern into it."

Faculty
Mrs. Jean Johnson

"I'm really concerned about the effects of acid rain on the environment. In the past we've had our air (pollution) blowing into Canada. Now we're getting it from Mexico. We need to work together as a global society to solve these problems before it's too late."



THE NEWS



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