when Miley Cyrus takes you to her favorite restaurant and you don't know what to eat

THE NEW CONDOM CHALLENGE PROVES A POINT

Amy Poehler at the Emmys

Watch me whip, now watch me Nae Nae song.

It's everywhere! Everywhere!!!!!!!!!

Don't do meth or you'll end up like a certain Sith Lord. #StarWarsTheForceAwakens

New Ailee song got me missing people I don't even know.

Aash Tacos? These tattoos are a lifetime commitment. Me: but your marriage wasn't. 😂

Yes or no?

foreign policy?

Amy Poehler at the Emmys

2015

Lastly, have fun doing this for the next month.
An increasingly controversial topic among conversation seems to be the preservation of culture and the continued conservation of the sanctity of each nationality/religion through a common, seemingly childish view of “it's mine, you can't have it.”

Last issue, this topic was discussed briefly in this exact space titled “Cultural Appropriation—What Is It?” In case you can remember, it touched on the idea that cultural appropriation is everywhere, in the ponchos and sombreros of black Party City aisles and in the windows of infamy-filled henna shops. Given, cultural appropria-
tion *is* seemingly everywhere, especially given the country we live in—America’s known for being the cultural melting pot of the world, where people from every sort of background can come to live, right next to someone of a completely different culture. This is generally good thing. It’s what we’re known for. It’s one of the major redeeming qualities about America.

This constant exchange of culture is perhaps one of the main reasons we experi-
ence so much cultural appropriation. Keep in mind, America is not “just” means the only country with appropriation. We aren’t that special. Moving on, cultural appropriation is indeed everywhere. Along with the conversation of “borrowing” of others’ traditions is the other American qual-
ity: political correctness. So often, we are mocked for the acute sensitivity to others’ actions and words, finding a group need to soften their words to ensure that any may be offensive. When these two meet, it’s clear to see where some people can take things too far.

Pasta in Italy was taken from the noodles of the Chinese. Shall we assume that a scarce few might take offense to this “unprecedented imitation of Chinese” prais
e of a dominant culture for things they pilfer where some people can take things too far. When these two meet, it’s clear to see where some people can take things too far.

This continuous claiming of “ours, not yours” can be able to rid ourselves of social stigmas and prejudice of other cultures and nationalities if we can’t express their appreciation for another's styles and ideas? Furthermore, saying things like “if you don’t take care for it, you can’t have dreads, you’re ___”. How can this be construed as any kind of meaningful conversation when knowledge of each nationality/religion is not the meaning of “cultural appropriation.” It is officially defined as “Cultural appropriation is the adoption or use of elements of one culture by members of a different culture.” Now, the point where cultural appropriation can become more offensive and an increasing faux-pas in society is when it crosses over into other that category of coming from oppressed people, or when the styles/objects/designs/whatever have a much more serious and sacred history. For example, Native American war headdresses. They are, indisput-
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bers of a dominant culture take elements from a culture that has been historically oppressed by the dominant culture this is called cultural appropriation. It’s a power dynamic that privileges a dominant culture over the culture of people who have been historically oppressed by an oppressed culture.” This, in fact, despite the being the first sentences to an article whose title specifically asks for the definition of cultural appropriation, is not the meaning of “cultural appropriation.”

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mongers of a dominant culture take elements from a people from every sort of background can come to live, right next to someone of a completely different culture. This is generally good thing. It’s what we’re known for. It’s one of the major redeeming qualities about America.
This can be particularly helpful in foreign language class - focus in students, provoking thought on the subject matter. This makes it more likely that they are learning relaxed, rather than pressured, easing the anxiety some can feel in a difficult class. As fall morphs into winter, and the holiday season approaches, teachers should consider the effects on their classroom. Yes, the spaciousness and desk arrangements improve the physical environment to their classroom. Some students, relatives fun and harmless or superficial, can have a huge impact on not only the students but also on their teacher's learning and their job. This encourages students to trust their teacher more, and put more faith in being able to learn a language, or any subject for that matter. Taking some time to decorate classrooms can only make the environment more welcoming, inspiring, and happy for students, but for teachers as well. A feeling of fulfillment is mutual in those who work hard and put thought into classroom decoration. It is clear to see that the decorations of a classroom can make a huge positive impact on both students and teachers, elevating the learning experience of all who attend.

Superlatives have been an exciting part of every senior's high school experience for as long as we can remember. So why is it that students are recently beginning to feel that they are being overrated or even annoyed by the thought of them in today's yearbooks?

Students are starting to realize that not all superlatives are exceedingly superficial and demeaning to others. For example, superlatives can make others feel less special if the person feels that they do not rate as the most attractive or “most popular on social media”. Are superlatives truly superficial or superficial and shallow? Let’s take a closer look.

You may be asking yourself, what is a superlative? A superlative is defined as expressing the highest or a very high degree of a quality. Some examples of this include class clown, best artist, however, superlatives can also be superficial as in being the most attractive, nicest car, most adorable, nicest hair, etc. As we looked at this issue more closely, we discovered that high school yearbooks have superlatives that have always had the reputation of being shallow. For example, this is in the 1998 HHS yearbook, we found a superlative that was dedicated to the student with the “Best Body.” The “Best Body” superlative is not only degrading but can also be viewed as an insult to other students suggesting that their bodies are not as good or worse. This can have a huge impact on not only male students but largely on females who may be self-conscious. This could lead to a decrease in self-esteem of high school students and encourage body image issues in their everyday lives. For example, students could be pressured over and over by creating an award based off of looks or body image can create negative effects and is largely underestimated.

“While I look forward to the superlatives in my senior year, I think that categories such as most attractive and best body need to be taken out as it can potentially harm the self-esteem of high school students,” said Naomi Ponce, a Huntington High School Sophomore.

We are not saying that superlatives are a bad thing for the high school community. In fact, superlatives can be really fun and brings the student body together. However, we think that there needs to be a call to change certain superficial topics on appearance. Superlatives have always had a superficial undertone. An example of this is the National School Lunch Program, a federal program that provides free and reduced-price meals to low-income families, a peanut-butter and jelly sandwich is an option to students who agree to pay $1.45 but can be exchanged for an extra chicken sandwich or an extra serving of side. This is a cool and efficient way to make the most of food provided, and while it may not be as nice from a restaurant brought in, it is definitely much more affordable. There may be various opinions about school lunch at Huntington, but everyone should be aware of the effects that food service makes before a judgement is made. In fact, superlatives are a bad thing for the high school community. In fact, superlatives can be really fun and brings the student body together. However, we think that there needs to be a call to change certain superficial topics on appearance.
Immigration has been a troubling problem that continues to plague the world, and several nations are handling the influx of migrants in different ways.

Thousands of travelers from varying countries in the European Union are flooding Sweden, specifically from Romania and Russia. They are not considered true immigrants because causes of immigration in the EU; and citizens within the EU may travel freely inside of its borders. Sweden has been known for its tolerance and openness to foreigners, however, it is a trick of Roma migrants has turned into a flood as they hurry to escape poverty-stricken Romania. These migrants come from Romania with nothing and are forced to beg in the urban streets.

Sven Hovmoller, a professor of chemistry at Stockholm University and vice chairman of an organization created to support homeless migrants, known as HEM, said, “Anywhere in the school, as long as there is a food store, there will be someone sitting outside it begging.” That is due to the fact that, as Professor Hovmoller put it, “poor people have noticed that they too, can move around Europe to try to find a better future.”

The waves of migration are posing important social, political, and economic challenges across Europe. Refugees from outside of Europe exist in asylum, but these Roma migrants get little or no help from the government. Many unprecedented attacks on Roma homes and businesses have been reported, such as the acid assault on Roma migrant Georgette Racu. He stated: “I could feel the skin peeling, I jumped up, I closed my eyes. When more people had doused him with a corrosive fluid that the police suspected contained chlorine. I thought I was going to die,” Racu added.

Unfortunately, activists in Sweden who support the migrants claim that police give low priority to attacks on the beggars who riddle the city streets and neighborhoods. Importantly that endanger the Swedish toleration policy include bigotry, as some Swedes scorn the homeless people that crowd the streets of Stockholm, and believe that they should return to Romania. Threatening the toleration policy in Sweden the most are the Swedish Democrats, a politically anti-immigration party. "In Sweden, the lack of an anti-immigrant party was part of Swedish identity," says Andreas Wiklund, a political science professor at the University of Stockholm. The Swedish Democrats want to criminalize begging—which would brand the almost 4,000 beggars in Sweden as felons. Sweden continues to look for a solution, but every possible answer seems to end with only relocation, and not a full solution.

Conflicts remain because “Opinion among Swedes is polarized by those who see the homeless as part of Swedish identity,” says Andreas Wiklund, a political science professor at the University of Stockholm. The Swedish Democrats want to criminalize begging—which would brand the almost 4,000 beggars in Sweden as felons. Sweden continues to look for a solution, but every possible answer seems to end with only relocation, and not a full solution.

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LET’S TALK ABOUT GUNS.

DO you feel safe?

INFOGRAPHIC COURTESY OF CAR2.COM

TAKING A PAGE FROM THOREAU’S BOOK:

THE LESSONS HE LEARNED AWAY FROM SOCIETY

by Peter Ciccone

Thoreau is trying to encourage us to take that risk and put down our cell phones and stop watching Netflix (in a modern-day setting), so we can enjoy life in its purest form. In the city, where there were factories and light pollution, the air is terrible to breathe in and the stars can never be seen. But, in the wilderness, he was able to see all of the stars and breathe in fresh air. So, that means we should be having more fun outside playing tag or hide-and-seek or Wereswolf tag than inside playing that new Star Wars game, in a modern sense.

Another point Thoreau tries to make is that if we set a goal for ourselves and believe we can achieve success, we will make the most of our time in the wilderness and setting a goal can help us push ourselves to our limits. It says that if we set a goal for ourselves and beat the goal we worked for, we will be much better off than the snobby rich kid who hated his life because he didn’t have enough material things that really had no sentimental value to him.

On that note, in today’s times, no matter how rich or poor we are or how good or bad we think our lives are, let’s appreciate what we have and try to get a life and try to find more positives than negatives, or rather, think only about the positives. By thinking only of the good things in life, we can enjoy life even more without having to worry about the bad things.

Thoreau believed that by living in the wilderness, simplifying, setting goals to achieve, and loving our lives, we would be able to live life to its fullest. By simplifying, we can cut technology out of our daily lives (to a comfortable extent, not necessarily every minute of every day) and focus on pure life and enjoy nature. By setting goals and believing we can achieve our goals and working hard to achieve them, we can achieve our goals and cut all of the stress from our lives in worrying about what we have to do tomorrow, because we did it today. By loving our lives and focusing on the positives, we can cut the bad things from our conscience and not have to worry about those bad things.
This year, an ambitious and eye-catching project is well underway, centered on the renovation of the previously unfinished wall located just outside our school’s entrance. I’m sure you have seen the steady progress, as the Art Honor Society worked tirelessly alongside the artistic leader of the project, Mr. David Whitcher.

Our new principal, Mr. Cusack, initially thought of the idea for the mural. Though he began to think about the potential of the wall before, this year was his first opportunity to ask questions and follow through with the project. Mr. Cusack reached out to Mr. David Whitcher, acknowledging that he was “very enthusiastic about the project and brought a number of design ideas, all of which were fantastic.”

To set the project in motion, a popular club here at the high school, Habitat for Humanity, was first recruited to prepare the wall for the mural. Mr. Gilmor and members of the club were able to scrape and power wash the wall so it could then be primed and painted. With this project, these students were able to continue to contribute to the community’s beautification on top of their work of fixing and building homes.

Though the wall had been thoroughly cleaned and prepped, the process of creating this daunting piece of art had only just begun. Both Mr. Cusack and Mr. Whitcher were able to draft a plan after thorough deliberations, constructing a complex and artistic design. Within the idea were silhouettes of students studying, dancing, and graduating, as well as participating in the Blue Devil Marching Band and Blue Devil sports. With the help of Ms. Mohanty, Art Honor Society members were enlisted to help grid and paint the mural. Mr. Whitcher’s great appreciation for the student’s help was clearly shown, as he welcomed the members and eagerly taught them new techniques. He praised and thanked them for their assistance, noting “particularly Aaron Feldman who has been terrific” both after school and on weekends. Mia Idler has also been willing and eager to assist Mr. Whitcher in painting the mural saying “the wall seems to be a great idea for the school; it will last for years to come and can display the talents of the Art Honor Society.”

Chloe Liepa has also dedicated her free time to help paint the mural and thinks “It is really awesome that we are able to contribute to our community and create something beautiful.” Both students and faculty alike hope the artwork will instill pride in our school and the town for many years to come.

If you would like to submit a piece, contact Ms. Mohanty and email the PDF file to hhsdispatch@gmail.com, along with a brief artist statement that features your name, grade, and inspiration for the piece.

BRIANNA JONES

AP STUDIO ART AND COMPUTER GRAPHICS
GRADE 12

Hi, my name is Brianna Jones and I am in 12th grade. I am currently taking AP Studio Art with Mrs. Singer and Computer Graphics with Mrs. Mohanty. I love this year’s class with Mrs. Singer because AP art is not only challenging, but fun, as I’m with a bunch of other talented artists. Previously, I had taken Studio Art in 9th grade with Mr. Belton. When I reached high school, I had taken Drawing and Painting 1, Pre-AP Studio Art, and Portfolio development with Mrs. Singer.

In AP I have to choose a topic for my concentration section, which will include 12 pieces in total. My theme focuses on a combination of skulls or skeletons with living things, like animals and plants. This piece is a color pencil drawing of a cow wearing a cow skull on its head with acrylic paint as the background. This piece can also show the correlation between life and death, which is what I was going for.

This was the first piece I made during my senior year, and probably one of my favorites. It took a little more than a month to finish, but it was worth it. Creating this piece also boosted my love for color pencils, which I have only used one other time last year for the Art Honor Society’s Project Memory drawing.
MAN BUNS—THE NEW MULLET?

BY GRACE ROWLEY

I’m not talking about the bread we put our hamburgers on. I’m talking about a new hipster hairstyle that became popular in recent months, the man bun. A true man bun is when a guy has his head buzzed from the nape of the neck to the crown area, and the hair on the top of the head is kept long and tied in a bun. However, many people confuse a man bun with someone who has long hair all over and ties it back.

This year, there is a new English teacher at Huntington High School named Mr. Kroll. He’s gained attention from his hairstyle, which is long hair and which he keeps tied back in a bun. I asked Mr. Kroll why he chose the hairstyle he has. In response, he told me, “I’ve always wanted to grow long hair, so when I turned thirty I decided to do it. I don’t consider it a man bun because my hair is long so I put it up because it gets annoying when I’m teaching. On the weekends, I don’t wear it.” I agree Mr. Kroll, contrary to the popular belief of many students, you do NOT have a man bun.

In my opinion, one many seem to share, true man buns are unattractive. There’s no other way to put it. In fact, many students; you do NOT have a man bun. Many teachers, including Mr. Kroll, also constantly ask students if they see themselves with a man bun. Do you really want to reminisce your high school years through social media, years, do you want to reminisce your high school years through social media, and in between pictures of yourself and your “boys” holding cheap beer cans, to see yourself with a man bun? Do you really want to cringe when you think about how you wore your hair? I know I don’t.

Hair grows at a rate of about ½ inch per month, or about 6 inches per year. If you feel like your hair doesn’t grow longer as fast, it’s most likely because of breakage. Bleaching your hair, straightening your hair frequently, etc., can lead to breakage. Damaged hair will still grow, however it continues to break, which prevents it from growing longer. Unfortunately, hair damaged to this extent is beyond the point of fixing (despite claims by hair products), and the only way to get your hair to continue to grow is to cut it off the damaged hair. I know it sounds scary, but think of it as an investment. Trim off the damaged ends now, and your hair will look and feel so much healthier and you’ll reach your desired length in no time. If you can’t wait, I would still recommend a haircut, but you could always get extensions. Extensions can be permanent which generally last about three months before they need to be redone, or you can get temporary clip-in extensions to wear on days you just need a little extra sashm.

As far as getting thicker hair, that usually just depends on genetics. If your hair is naturally very fine, you can try the Invati system from Aveda. This includes an exfoliating shampoo, conditioner, and scalp treatment spray. If you use this consistently for at least one month, they claim you will see results. Additionally, you can use products such as mousse, or volumizing sprays such as the Thickening Tonic from Aveda (which I personally love). Additionally, after blow-drying your hair you can tease/backcomb a few small sections towards the top to provide a cushion and make your hair look fuller. Furthermore, a haircut that establishes a weight line in the back can also give your hair a fuller, thicker appearance. Consult with your hairdresser about a hairstyle that can do this for you.

Best of luck!

FASHION WEEK RECAPPED

This year’s fashion month was truly a hit, with the most popular shows happening in New York and Paris. Talent ranged from Alexander Wang, to Elie Saab, to Valentino, and all collections were absolutely fantastic. In case you missed fashion month, here’s a recap.

To start off, transparency was a huge hit. Transparent dresses, shirts, and skirts were seen from many designers. The sheer material with a slight shade was seen from both Toga and Barbara Casasola. With such transparent fabrics, the choice of wearing a slip underneath is totally up to you.

Polos are back and no, not the type of polo you see your dad wearing. Although Ralph Lauren still monopolizes this look, new brands are starting to take ownership of it too. Swap your normal polo tee for one that is looser and says “edgy” and “vintage” instead of “I’m heading to the nearest country club.”

One question that echoed after fashion week was “Will off the shoulder tops be the new crop top?” Well, from the amount of them seen in fashion week, I wouldn’t be surprised. They were featured in looks ranging from sleek to playful, grungy and urban to clean and classy. Show off your collarbones with a pair of pumps and you’ll be good to go.

Another tip from fashion week? Swap the 90s for the 70s. 70s style was seen all over the runway this fall. Dior, Diane Von Furstenberg, and Roberto Cavalli all incorporated retro pieces into their shows. Bits of suede, bold prints, long dresses, fringe, and layers are necessary to perfect the look. You don’t even need to buy this new fade; you can just dig something up out of your mom’s closet or go to the thrift shop!

Brown, army green, and orange were huge color palettes designers loved on the runway for the upcoming season. Something new and something different. If paired and picked in the right hue, these colors can make for amazing outfits just make sure not to fit them all into one outfit. Look to Prada, Anthony Vaccarello, and Opening Ceremony’s shows for inspiration.

Although these looks won’t be hitting the stores until spring, you can take matters into your own hands and find these yourself. Stepping into these simple pieces of fashion will make you the one wearing clothes everyone envies. And don’t forget the words of Anna Winter, editor-in-chief of Vogue, “Create your own style… let it be unique for yourself, yet identifiable for others.”

“ Transparency Was A Huge Hit”

FASHION COLUMN PT.1: HAIR

Q: How do I make my hair grow thicker and longer faster? –Anonymous

A: Hair grows at a rate of about ½ inch per month, or about 6 inches per year. If you feel like your hair doesn’t grow longer as fast, it’s most likely because of breakage. Bleaching your hair, straightening your hair frequently, etc., can lead to breakage. Damaged hair will still grow, however it continues to break, which prevents it from growing longer. Unfortunately, hair damaged to this extent is beyond the point of fixing (despite claims by hair products), and the only way to get your hair to continue to grow is to cut off the damaged hair. I know it sounds scary, but think of it as an investment. Trim off the damaged ends now, and your hair will look and feel so much healthier and you’ll reach your desired length in no time. If you can’t wait, I would still recommend a haircut, but you could always get extensions. Extensions can be permanent which generally last about three months before they need to be redone, or you can get temporary clip-in extensions to wear on days you just need a little extra sashm.

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Best of luck!
On October 5th, 2000, a new show called Gilmore Girls premiered on the WB (Warner Bros) network. This feel-good series follows the lives of a dynamic mother/daughter duo garnered major popularity and became the network’s most popular show.

Lorelai Gilmore, a witty, wonderfully disorganized former teen mom, helps her 15-year-old daughter Rory navigate a tricky path through life in the fictional town of Stars Hollow, CT. The tagline, “Life’s short. Talk fast,” says it all. Complete with a quirky cast of characters, idyllic settings, and relatable conflicts, the coming-of-age series was especially popular with young women. However, Gilmore Girls was cancelled and aired its final episode in May of 2007 after the creators couldn’t come to an agreement with the new CW Network. Fans were left heartbroken, having grown up with Rory Gilmore from her sophomore year of high school to her college graduation. Now, Netflix is in negotiations to revive the beloved mother-daughter drama as a limited series of four 90-minute episodes. According to TV Line, each “episode” will take place during a different season, totalling as one calendar year.

In October of 2013, the existing seven seasons of the series were made available to stream on Netflix, sparking a re-awakening of interest in the show. The cast — minus the late Edward Herrmann (Richard Gilmore) — who passed away on New Year’s Eve 2014 — reunited at the ATX Television Festival last June, and addressed the possibility of a reunion. “There is nothing in the works,” Sherman-Palladino said at the time. “But the good news is, nobody here hates each other.” She added, too, that if they ever did decide to do a reboot, they’d “do it correctly.”

Now that Netflix has confirmed the revival, another question hangs in the air — which stars will return? While it hasn’t been confirmed, it’s obvious that the series won’t be possible without Lauren Graham (Lorelai Gilmore) and Alexis Bledel (Rory Gilmore). But what other characters will reappear?

The other stars seem game to get back to their tiny Connecticut town. Scott Patterson (Luke Danes) said it was “kind of time,” while Kelly Bishop (Emily Gilmore) said the show needed a proper “wrap and a finale.” Jared Padalecki (Dean Forester) stated, “If possible, I would love to be a part of the reboot. I’d totally jump at the opportunity.” THR says many of the series’ original cast members are in talks to return. Not among them, however, is Melissa McCarthy, who played Lorelai’s best friend Sookie St. James. The show will begin production later this year.

Gilmore Girls isn’t the only show on Netflix’s reboot list. The company is also producing Fuller House, a spinoff of the ’90s sitcom Full House, starring Candace Cameron Bure reprising her role as DJ Tanner.

First of all, if you have not heard “Sunbather” or much black metal in general, there are a few things you should know. Black metal is not for everybody and if you don’t like it you are certainly not alone. Musical characteristics include fast, tremolo picked guitars, blast beats, atonal harmony, and completely unintelligible screams, however that leads me to my next point. Just because you don’t like Mayhem, Burzum, or Darkthrone (some popular Scandinavian Black Metal groups) doesn’t necessarily mean you won’t like Deafheaven. In fact, they are a different form of black metal all together. Their music is much more uplifting than most bands in this style. Their chord progressions are epic, the songs are long but have clear development, and the way the vocals mix with the wall of sound created by the guitars is tears-jerking. So, even if you are skeptical of the genre, give Deafheaven a try.

Finally, to talk about the album. This album shows Deafheaven getting way darker and driving way into their metal roots that they did ever on “Sunbather.” The first track, “Brought to the Water,” opens with a strong almost thrash metal style riff that lead vocalist George Clarke sounds perfect over. Even though it is a more traditional style metal riff, Deafheaven manage to make it sound huge by building the track to an almost 7-minute epic. The track then kicks into a more indie/alternative rock sort of build, a formula that most of these tracks follow. These songs start heavy, devolve into a beautiful rock instrumentation, and then the final chorus really bursts out with an epic song ending. Even when Clarke’s vocals come in over the more traditional rock style instruments, it is still intense and they manage to still sound fresh and unique, rather than a cliché of some other post-metal progressions. The track “Luna” is probably the heaviest and fastest song they’ve ever done. Unlike the other tracks here it barely lets up for its entire ten minute length and it opens with a super thrashing, almost Metallica-style riff that is broken up by Deafheaven’s trademark version of black metal guitar styles. Even though the song doesn’t really slow down until the very end, it doesn’t get boring and it keeps your blood pumping for the whole song. The influence of Metallica shows even more on the third track “Baby Blue,” another 10 minute epic. This track opens with mysterious, chorused inspired guitars that sound like they couldn’t be come off an indie rock track and then slowly builds into a massive heavy instrumental. This is one of the most beautiful songs on the whole album and the long alternative rock outro featuring a gut-wrenching slide guitar melody.

First of all, if you are not familiar with the album, the title track is the one song that really perfected their formula while still adding more metal techniques to their already unique blend of shoegaze and black metal. This album is highly recommended for any fans of metal, alternative rock or just good new experimental music.
BEST ALBUMS OF 2015

1. *TO PIMP A BUTTERFLY* - KENDRICK LAMAR

Simply put, this album is a masterpiece. I can understand someone not liking the jazzier instrumentation, or the very personal yet broad concept, or the complex lyrics. But if you don’t at least appreciate it I recommend you keep listening. To me this album does what the greatest jazz albums do: make music that speaks across the world and the state of humanity while remaining fun, catchy and tough. Kendrick has run with himself as easily the most talented artist in mainstream hip hop and, with this album, he’s seriously making a mark on hip hop history.

Kamasi Washington makes an extremely ambitious and powerful jazz album here. The compositions aren’t really the most innovative that have come out this year, but the performances convey a level of emotion and intensity that makes this album uniquely beautiful. It’s a relatively accessible modern jazz project that you should really pick up and even though it’s 5 hours long don’t feel like you have to listen to it all in one sitting. It is one of the most powerful musical experiences you’ll have all year.

2. *THE EPIC* - KAMASI WASHINGTON

3. *MADE IN CHICAGO* - JACK DEJOHNETTE

I uncover music masters out of Chicago come together for this concert and perform originals by 4 out of the 5 members of the group. The music they make together is unlike music I’ve heard each of these artists. It isn’t the most accessible project (a lot of the music is very soft and atonal), but it also isn’t the most chaotic and bizarre that these guys have put out. The compositions are really strong and the improvisation is incredibly interactive. It’s fun just listening to these guys finish each other’s musical ideas.

This album got some very mixed reviews when it dropped because it is not friendly to metal purists who sovereign. Strange gliding electronics, synths, horns and drums come lead with blast beats, tremolo picked guitars and drumming. I don’t think people thought it sounded like a mess, but not to me. I love hearing all of Liturgy’s influence on this and I’m excited by bands like Liturgy doing something new and unique. Definitely one of the most interesting albums I’ve heard all year.

5. *THE ART WORK* - LITURGY

6. *FLYING BASKET* - JAPANESE NOISE PRODUCER MARATHON (SINGER/SONGWRITER/GUITARIST/OUTSIDER JIM O'REILLY) AND JAPANESE JAZZ MUSICIANS CHIKAMORACHI AND AKIRA SAKATA

This year we see yet another record from the group that brings all of Liturgy’s influences thrown into this pile and I thought it sounded like a mess, but not to me. I love hearing all of Liturgy’s influence on this and I’m excited by bands like Liturgy doing something new and unique. Definitely one of the most interesting albums I’ve heard all year.

7. *NEW BERMUDA* - DEAFHEAVEN

Deafheaven returns with another fantastic black metal album that fuses shoegaze and post rock with typical black metal features. This album is much darker than “Sunbather” but it remains true to their sound and make yet another great project.

8. *VULNICURA* - BRIAN EASDALE

My most anticipated album of all time. The production is beautiful with strings and electronics covering the mix and Björk’s vocals soar over it all as a beautiful, blistering way about relationships, heartbreak and emotions.

10. *M3LL155X* - PFA TWIGS

PFA Twigs’ approach to R&B and pop gets even more experimental here with tons of synthesizer drums and synthesizers that bring out that beauty in her voice. My favorite release from Twiggs’ career is full of great projects.

11. *BIRD CALLS* - MABASHANAPPRA

Mahantappa makes one of the best jazz albums of 2015 with this Charlie Parker inspired project. This album proves that you can be influenced by something and inspired by an artist and still making something that sounds nothing like your influence. This music also includes elements of Bird’s music and goes well beyond it and makes it into something distinctly modern.

12. *THIRD SIDE OF THE TAPE* - DEATH GRIPS

My favorite Death Grips project yet and this is coming from a huge fan of the industrial hip hop oddballs. The first half, “NRA* on the Moon,” is a super glitzy, abstract album with weird Björk samples flying between each other speaker and MC Ride whispering some of his most unsettling lyrics yet.

The second half, “Sonny Dooms,” is loud, abrasive, chaotic and still catchy just like Death Grips did with “The Money Store.” Themes of suicide and the digital age are addressed in Death Grips’ most frightening way yet. This is the one Death Grips release you should pick up if you can only have one and if you’re trying to get into experimental hip hop this is one you should check out.

13. *FROZEN NIAGARA FALLS* - PRURIENT

One of the most wistful and romantic noise albums I’ve ever heard. The screaming is haunting and the sounds are ear shattering at times but they are mixed in with beautiful synths that make this project more accessible than Prurient’s previous work and that of most other artists making this type of music.

14. *UNIVERSAL THEMES* - SUN KIL MOON

Even though I filed “Beij’s” more (and you should really start with that album) I like the direction Mark Kozelek chose to take Sun Kil Moon on this project. Essentially, Kozelek goes through all of life’s mundane details and creates a project that is unlike many others. He basically tells long winding stories that don’t seem to have any particular theme and your enjoyment of this record will depend on your willingness to hear the stories. Personally I was captivated by what he was saying and with patience I think you will too.

15. *I DON’T LIKE S***, I DON’T GO OUTSIDE* - EARL SWIFT

Earl makes his most depressing and darkest project yet. His voice is still raw as a hard, his lyrics is still little circles of people and imagery heavy, but he dives into his own drug addiction and friendships in a super depressing and personal way. With this album, and his great wardrobe that he displays on verse after verse, it’s clear why Earl is the Odd Future future creator making the most buzz at the moment.

16. *DISRUPTERS* - JOANNA NEWSOM

Joanna Newsom is back with her medieval melodies and instrumentation on this album where she becomes infatuated with the concept of love. For me, most impressive on this album was the wide variety of instrumentation including her own harp, keyboards and a variety of guitar sounds, every track had its own sound.

17. *APEX PREDATOR-EASY MEAT* - A great compilation of Lil Ugly Mane’s ideas for the past decade. A great compilation of Lil Ugly Mane’s ideas for the past decade.

18. *WE COOL?* - LIL’ UGLY MANE

Coming from a guy who is not a big fan of pop punk, this album was great. Full of anthems on getting older, dealing with death, and dealing with friendships and relationships, I loved this album front to back. The songs are catchy and it never feels annoying the way some other pop punk albums can feel.

19. *BEAT THE CHAMP* - THE MOUNTAIN GOATS

The Mountain Goats take their ambitious songwriting to this project and create an interesting concept album about the life of a professional wrestler. I know it sounds a little silly but the stories they put together are actually very thought provoking and emotional.

20. *ALGIGERS* - ALGIGERS

Gospel and punk-past are fused here in a way better than I ever could’ve thought. Super socially conscious and creative, a great release all around.

ALL REVIEWS WRITTEN BY DYLAN DELGUIDICE
**NEW COACH, NEW YEAR, NEW TEAM**

BY DONG HAN, OLATUNJI IKOMENISAN, MELISSA INGLE, ALEX TACOPINA, AND ALLY WOHL

**What to Expect from Huntington Fencing in 2016**

Walt Whitman High School and CUNY Hunter graduate, is well versed in fencing. Melnick was part of the U-20 World Cup national team, as well as being a Junior Olympian, and champion in Summer Nationals Division II and Empire State games.

“With our new coach, we have begun a new workout style,” says Jack O’Heir, a senior on the Huntington fencing team.

“It seems it will provide great results and when we start fencing, I think we will show great improvement,” Mr. O’Heir says.

Huntington fencing plans on turning the tide by looking towards a better season and creating a foundation for future fencers to excel in the sport.

“We are looking for a better year”, O’Heir says, “with more of an emphasis on work ethic.”

Huntington will compete against Brentwood/Hauppauge, Newfield, Comnack, Sayville, Half Hollow Hills, Centereach/SWR, Walt Whitman and Ward Melville High Schools.

Last year could have been considered a rebuilding year for Huntington fencing. With the loss of beloved and longtime coach Alan Kuver to cancer, the Huntington team struggled to deal with the loss both on and off the mat.

“We felt very motivated,” said Sydney Jean-Baptiste, a Huntington High School fencing member.

“After the death of Mr. Kuver, we were all very sad, but very motivated to do well for him.”

Huntington obviously felt the effects of losing their longtime coach; they compiled a record of 11 wins and 17 losses combined, with the girls winning 8 and losing 6, while the boys won 3 and lost 11. However, the team did show signs of promise for this year’s team. “We tried our best, that’s all that matters,” said Annalise Mozer, a senior on the Huntington Fencing Team.

Trying to carry on the legacy of Mr. Kuver, Huntington’s new fencing head coach Jillian Melnick, a Walt Whitman High School and CUNY Hunter graduate, is well versed in fencing. Melnick was part of the U-20 World Cup national team, as well as being a Junior Olympian, and champion in Summer Nationals Division II and Empire State games.

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As the winter sports season begins, a variety of sports become options for the student-athlete to choose from. Among these choices are wrestling, fencing, basketball, and track. Track, deemed one of the more popular sports, takes place in both the winter and spring, so there is guaranteed to be a new face every season.

Girl’s track is as successful as it is popular at our high school. Last year, the team won the Suffolk Indoor championship, and went undefeated. Many of the girls headed to division, state, and national championships. The team is determined to do just as well this year. As the team begins to prepare for the first meet, they attempt to try to fill in the spots of the seniors they lost from last year. Some of these girls are Tara and Ellyn Brynes, Kayla Eidle, and Suzie Petryk. The Brynes twins both participated in shot put, Eidle returned with the 1500m racewalk, and Petryk participated in the 1000m run and relays. Although all of these girls did exceptionally well in their last season and helped the team out tremendously, the coaches are preparing to do just as well this year. Seniors this year are all expected to do extraordinarily well. Nina Cartwright, Kelsey Jaminson, Alex Koumas, Lexi Mills, Latoya Shand, and Savannah Richardson all are ready to dominate in this farewell season of theirs. Cartwright and Jaminson both represent Huntington in shot put. Koumas is a mid-distance runner who also competes in the 55m hurdles and relays, usually running the 800m. Mills is a sprinter, but also participates in triple, long, and high jump. Richardson competes in relays and high jump.

The spotlight isn’t just on the seniors, however. In fact, many of the top performers are sophomores and juniors, like Nicole Abondondalo (10th grader), Ryan Gaffney (11th grader), Louise Koepele (11th grader), Alexis Pastorelli (11th grader), and Marina Ruzic (11th grader). All of the girls went to counties last year. A few of them attended Penn Relays, states, and nationals. The girls are ecstatic for the season and expect to do amazing this year. Sophomore hurdler, Mardnie Mentor said, “I can’t wait for this winter season, I’m hoping for big things will happen for both myself and the team.”

The girls are training hard to get ready for their first meet. They had a scrimmage the first week of December against Whitman. Their first official meet is just days after that. Assistant coach Shawn Anderson said in an article on Huntington’s website, “So far, from the few days of tryouts, we have seen some excellent progress from the veterans and newcomers alike. There is some huge excitement on the team.”

The team is expecting great things to come. Even with the loss of some of their top performers, they’re ready to step it up and work together to make this season an amazing one!