

the wingspan

December 20, 2014

Volume 38 Issue 3

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school calendar decision
stirs up controversy.
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into the music scene.
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get connected.

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chswingspan.wordpress.com

Photo: Martha Hutzell.



MADHU LAL
NEWS WRITER

New National Honors Society members to be inducted

On January 13, the National Honor Society (NHS) will be having their annual induction ceremony. The ceremony will be celebrating and welcoming new members into the NHS family. The event will be held in the auditorium of the school 7:30-9 p.m. All NHS former members, as well as new inductees and their parents, are invited to this event.



MADHU LAL
NEWS WRITER

Centennial choir students participate in choir feeder concert

All high school choir students will be visiting various middle schools across Howard County on January 16. The choir students will be performing for the up-and-coming freshmen in order to inspire them to join the choir program in high school.



AMANDA KREW
A&E WRITER

Music to Keep On Your Radar



Our Love by Caribou

Genre: Experimental, Electronic

If you like: SBTRKT, Disclosure, FKA Twigs
Canadian artist Dan Snaith has released his third album under the stage name Caribou. The beats on this album feel very tight and calculated, a bit of a pun as he has a Ph.D. in mathematics. While this album features a very steady base layer of rhythm, Snaith braids unexpected samples such as a strings in the track "Silver." This album contains pleasingly impersonal tracks that radiate a hollow warmth of sound.



Rips by Ex Hex

Genre: Rock

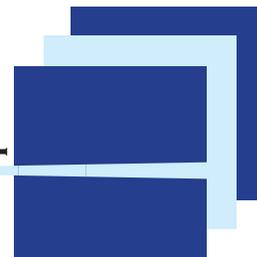
If you like: Blondie, Chrissey Hinde, Heart
DC's Mary Timony, formerly in Wild Flag, Helium and Autoclave, has started her new all-girls trio Ex Hex. *Rips*, Ex Hex's debut album, gets its influences from classic '70s girl bands with its three-part harmonies over heavy-handed, fuzzy instrumentals. The entire track list of this album is drenched in teen angst, touching on subjects like heart break, cheating and infatuation with bad boys, but in no way is this a "girly album" with its cutting guitar solos by Timony.

For more reviews on music, check out chswingspan.wordpress.com under the reviews section.

Design: Miranda Mason
and Sammy Kastner.

THERE'S MORE TO DECEMBER

EDITORIAL
DEC 20, 2014



the
wingspan

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

SAMMY KASTNER
MIRANDA MASON

ONLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

GIANA HAN

MANAGING EDITOR

MARGARET HECK

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

AMANDA ALI (EDITOR)
AMANDA KREW

FEATURE

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NEWS

AMANDA ALI (EDITOR)
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OPINION

JONAH DRENNING (EDITOR)

SPORTS

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PHOTO

COREY GRABLE (EDITOR)
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CAROLINE OPPENHEIMER

MEDIA

ANNA MITCHELL (EDITOR)

STAFF

ASHELY BERRY
SABRINA HAN
IZZIE CHAUSSE

ADVISORS

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ALL OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN THE PAGES OF THE OPINION SECTION OF THE WINGSPAN ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE STAFF IN ITS ENTIRETY, ITS ADVISER, OR THE SCHOOL.

THAN HOLIDAY CHEER: WHY THIS ISN'T A HOLIDAY ISSUE



MIRANDA MASON
CO-EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the month of December, everything becomes saturated with the holidays, from the menu at Starbucks to the plotlines of television shows. Usually, the “holiday” sentiment turns more into a Christmas sentiment than anything else-- which

It's undemocratic and goes against our ethics as journalists to ignore or avoid a topic simply because it doesn't fit in with the popular opinion of the time.

makes sense for coffee shops and tv programs that need to please their mostly-Christian customers and viewers in order to stay in business.

However, it doesn't make sense for *The Wingspan* to follow in these holidays-turned-Christmas footsteps. The role of a newspaper is not to please its customers, it's to report the news that is relevant to its audience-- an audience that is more diverse than just those who celebrate Christmas.

Even when the holidays are incorporated in an inclu-

sive way that is more appropriate for and polite to a diverse audience, the holiday season brings with it a sense of obligatory cheerfulness, which would prevent *The Wingspan* from fulfilling its duty as a newspaper. While positivity in journalism is by no means a drawback, the feeling of being obligated to report only the cheerful leads to ignoring things that

don't fit into that narrative. Any sort of obligatory mindset restricts journalists, even subconsciously, by making events and opinions that don't fit in with that positivity less likely to make their way onto the page.

It's undemocratic and goes against our ethics as journalists to ignore or avoid a topic simply because it doesn't fit in with the popular opinion of the time. While it's not done with the intention of being irresponsible, just with the intention of supporting something that generally

serves to lift spirits and encourage togetherness, it is still wrong to put something forcibly positive in place of something real that doesn't follow along with what is expected and wanted; it goes against the purpose of the newspaper.

In this issue of *The Wingspan*, there is only one article that is related to anything involving the holidays, and that is because it is the only holiday-themed article that promised a fair and thought-out view on things, not something that agreed with what people think should be published this time of year.

The Wingspan has a mission to inform the Centennial community about relevant topics throughout the entire year, and that includes a month during which almost everything else focuses in on one thing. There is nothing wrong with service-based industries tailoring their products to please their customers, but there is something wrong with a newspaper going out of its way to do the same.

Design: Miranda Mason
and Sammy Kastner.

DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, DIFFERENT RULES:

Is removing holidays from the calendar a good idea?



JONAH DRENNING
OPINION EDITOR

Making national headlines across the country, the Montgomery County school district responded to requests from Muslim families for a day off on the holiday of Eid al-Adha by removing all mentions of religious holidays from the school calendar. There will still be no class on holidays such as

sion appears to wipe religion off the school calendar, the end result is the same as the school board simply denying the request of Muslim families. One would think that a school system would be proud of the religious diversity, and it is unfortunate that it is being suppressed instead.

Additionally, this response attempts to pin the blame for the decision to remove all holidays on

Howard County is a diverse environment, and although the school system frequently follows Montgomery County's lead, it would be a mistake to do so this time.

Christmas and Yom Kippur, but the school's schedule will be based on attendance statistics instead. However, there will still be school on Eid al-Adha because the school board states that there isn't a high enough rate of absence to qualify it, according to *The Washington Post*.

While some may believe this is a victory for the separation of church and state, it is only religious discrimination under the guise of secularism. In other words, the school board has given itself justification to selectively discriminate against religions. Although the deci-

the Muslim families who simply wanted their religion recognized alongside the others. The combination of refusing to be tolerant and immaturely deflecting the condemnation onto an already disappointed minority group is unfitting of an organization partially responsible for the future of our country.

Furthermore, it is foolish for the Montgomery County Board of Education to pretend to ignore religious holidays while still not having school on them. Ignoring religious holidays will not make them disappear, especially to all of the families



Howard County still gets off of school on some religious holidays. Photo: Caroline Oppenheimer.

that celebrate them. Since the days off are being given anyway to certain religions, the decision could appear as the school board going out of their way to offend

quite clearly discrimination against a minority, something school systems usually strive to avoid.

Howard County is a diverse environment, and

[It] is quite clearly discrimination against a minority, something school systems usually strive to avoid.

religious families by refusing to recognize their holidays as important enough to even mention.

Also, the troubling aspect of the school board's denial of a Muslim holiday still remains. The most worrying part of the decision is the reasoning; basing it on the fact that there is a small amount of Muslim students despite its status as a major worldwide religion is

although the school system frequently follows Montgomery County's lead, it would be a mistake to do so this time. Hcpss.org states that one of their guiding principles is "enriching learning by honoring our diversity," and hopefully they will follow it in making a similar decision in the future.

Design: Miranda Mason
and Sammy Kastner.

SENIORS OF THE MONTH



JORDANBURK

BIRTHDAY: April 7, 1997

SIBLINGS: Drew & Owen

DREAM VACATION: Greece

HERO: Mrs. Griffiths

FAVORITE BOOK: *Sparknotes*

QUOTE: "I literally can't even."

FICTIONAL CHARACTER: Hannah Montana -
You get the best of both worlds

ACTIVITIES: 1st team All County soccer manager

BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SENIOR:

WW's English class



JESSEKINSTLER

BIRTHDAY: July 25, 1997

SIBLINGS: Ethan

MAJOR: Musical Theatre

HERO: Superman

FAVORITE SHOW: *The Flash*

HOBBIES: Not being vine famous

FUN FACT: I'm a Leo

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM: I don't sports

BEST WORD TO DESCRIBE YOU: Dramatic

QUOTE:

"So what does All Call mean?"



ANDREWCONCA-CHENG

BIRTHDAY: Oct. 2, 1997

HOMETOWN: Silver Spring

NICKNAME: "Conca-Cheng" or "Conca"

FAVORITE CLASSES: Photo and Euro

HERO: Casey Neistat

FAVORITE SHOWS: *Psych/The Office*

FICTIONAL CHARACTER: Groot

HOBBIES: Photography, running, basketball, traveling

DREAM VACATION: New Zealand

WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH A MILLION DOLLARS?

Buy a nice camera and start a non-profit organization



ALICIATOWNSEND

BIRTHDAY: Nov. 4, 1997

HOMETOWN: Camarillo, CA

NICKNAME: Ali, A-Town, Al

MAJOR: Industrial Engineering

FAVORITE FOOD: All

COLLEGE PICKS: WWU Baby! (West Virginia University)

HEROS: Carolyn Cole and Marina Glennon

BEST PART ABOUT BEING A SENIOR: Slumpin' it

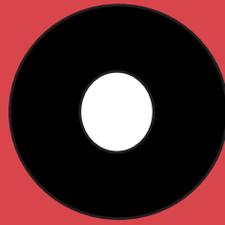
FAVORITE ACTRESSES: Tori Stroud and Brittany Davis

QUOTE:

"Well, it may be stupid, but it's also dumb." - Patrick Star

Photos: Martha Hutzell and Caroline Oppenheimer.

Design: Amanda Ali.



MUSIC LISTENERS ARE *Turning* TO VINYL The Rise of Vinyl Popularity



AMANDA KREW
A&E WRITER

In 1948, the LP hit shelves of record stores only to be replaced by the compact cassette in 1963. Both of these innovations were substituted by the CD in 1982 and put to rest in 2001 when music was in your pocket with Apple's first iPod. Thirteen years have passed since the release of the iPod, and yet, it seems that the way of the

to get their hands on the 12" disks. Vinyl, the way that our parents listened to rock and roll and our grandparents listened to jazz, is now the way that Generation Y is supporting the artists that mean the most to them.

People argue that vinyl is the way to go when listening to your favorite artist. Senior Matt Brady notes, "it's not separate digital parts put together. Its one consistent sound."

It is true that the grooves in a record are much warm-

It seems that the way of the future is the way of the past.

future is the way of the past.

During the past few years, *artists have been releasing their albums on vinyl to eager fans lining up at the front of record stores

er to the ear than the 1s and 0s being pirated off the web, but vinyl was almost extinct by the time that iPods reached people's pockets. Former front man of The



Jason McMillan, owner of The Archive, places a vinyl on a record player.



The Archive record store in Old Ellicott City displays their \$1 record bins.

White Stripes, Jack White, is one of the artists fighting to bring vinyl back into the mainstream with the release of his second solo album, Lazaretto. The disk itself features bells and whistles such as a fixed groove on the outside of the B side, a duel groove intro to "Just One Drink," and the kicker, a hologram of an angel spinning around the inside of the record.

The draw to vinyl is not simply as skin deep as a few extras tacked onto the disk. Vinyl listeners feel closer to the artist and more involved in the thought process the artist took to write these songs because vinyl gives them the ability to look through the lyric sheet tucked away in its cardboard sleeve. Owning an album on vinyl ensures loyalty to the artist because unless your laptop has a 12-inch slot for

an LP, you are not going to be spreading free copies of the record.

Disregarding the record itself, when was the last time you were able to truly enjoy the album artwork on the tiny, six-inch screen of your iPod? It may seem trivial, but the album art contributes just as much to the album as the guttural bass guitar or the steady beat of the drum line.

When I asked Jason McMillan, owner of The Archive record store, "why vinyl?" he admitted to have formulated the answer in his head many times throughout the years.

"There's something about each little pop or click or crackle you might encounter on [the record] that kind of happens over time, so you are kind of hearing its lifespan in a way. That's what I'm drawn to."

Photos: Amanda Krew and Madhu Lal.
Design: Amanda Ali.

listening | awareness | acquisition | retention

GROWTH



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410.591.4943 | jgrable@echoeffect.com

contact: **Jordan Grable**

For more information on growth solutions.



PFLAG
COLUMBIA-
HOWARD COUNTY

Family/Ally Voice of the LGBTQ Community

Support for you.
Support for your parents.

Rainbow Youth & Allies: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,
Queer youth and their Allies ages 12-22, every 2nd & 4th Tuesday

Support Groups for Parents/Guardians of LGBTQ
Individuals - Free monthly meetings – check website for dates

All meetings start at 7:30 p.m.
Owen Brown Interfaith Center (7246 Cradlerock Way,
Columbia, MD 21045)

www.pflagmd.org
443-718-0474 pflagmd@gmail.com
P.O. Box 1479, Columbia, MD 21044

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an ad in

The Wingspan?

Contact the team at
chswingspan@gmail.com for
details.

CHS CLUBS OF THE MONTH



HORIZON CLUB

Members: ~100

Purpose: To provide our members opportunities to get involved within the community through a series of volunteer events

When and where does your club meet?

Every other Thursday in the cafeteria

Club Presidents: Tahiyat Sheikh and Caroline Tussing

Why join the club? We have something to offer everyone

Fun Fact: We are the largest and longest lasting club at Centennial

Goals of the club: To give back to the community by helping out anywhere needed

Club Motto: Help. Lead. Change. Achieve. Do.

BEST BUDDIES



Members: 60

Purpose: To promote friendship between individuals with and without intellectual disabilities

When and where does your club meet? Monthly in the cafeteria

Club Presidents: Ryan McGuire

Sponsors: Mr. Corbin and Ms. Seen

Why join the club? To make new friends

Club Motto: Change the conversation, stop using the R-word (R-Word campaign slogan)