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# XAVIER REVIEW

## Xavier's Tech Policy: One Year Later



Students take advantage of Xavier's technology policy

Kevin Ko '15  
Staff Reporter

The use of personal technology has been a fairly recent addition to Xavier High School, inaugurated during the second half of the 2011-2012 academic year. Without a doubt, many schools around the nation have to deal with the rapid changes of mobile technology that present themselves as useful and viable methods of learning. Xavier High School is just one of these many, and this relatively new personal technology policy serves to better enhance a student's educational experience and also makes it more efficient. Popular devices that students utilize in and out of the classrooms have included the Apple iPad, but also laptops and Kindles. Even all the faculty teachers were given iPads this year in an effort to potentially supplement the academic curriculum and make it more interactive for students. In essence the question is this- has this new technology policy so far become a beneficial impact into the daily lives of students as well as faculty members?

In most classes where personal tech-

nology is permissible, students generally use electronic devices in order to take notes and better organize their material. In a recent interview with a fellow sophomore student, his iPad allows him to quickly take notes and focus more on the teacher giving the lecture. A senior also mentions that he was able to turn his messy backpack into a lighter, more organized, and efficient apparatus by cutting back on the number of notebooks and textbooks that he had to carry to class every period. Many of the Pearson e-books as well as literature texts are popular among students to purchase on their mobile devices in order to not only reduce the amount of heavy textbooks required to carry, but also allow easier distribution and organization of digital material. Of a number of students that were polled regarding their opinion of this personal tech policy, many of them would like to see more teachers embrace and take advantage of the tech change in order to develop better compatibility of the lesson. More technologically integrated lessons could further create an interactive learning atmosphere as well.

With the Internet at your fingertips, evi-

dently there are various concerns, mainly regarding the potential distractions and misuses where one would divert off the focus of the primary schoolwork at hand. Nevertheless, one of our religion teachers, Mr. Mulé, provides a different take on this issue. Mr. Mulé mentions that students without technology, whom are not usually distracted in class are most likely not going to be distracted when using technology. He further elaborates that students who have technology and students who don't have technology are equally likely to be distracted. It's just a question of what's distracting them.

Traditional learning-styles are still vital to have at Xavier, which is why some students simply prefer the old pen and notebook. Generally speaking, it is worthwhile to note the step forward that Xavier has taken in order to accommodate the modern world as we know it. In the words of business executive Scott McNealy, "Technology has the shelf life of a banana," and Xavier is doing its best to keep up.

### Xavier Athlete Profile:

### Michael Martell '15

Interviewed by Jack DeFuria '15  
Web Editor



Sophomore Michael Martell recently left his mark on Xavier athletic history by breaking the school record on the Bowling Team, bowling an ultimate tally of 300 points- a perfect score. Martell's talent and athletic achievement were not widely known amongst his classmates before this game. I recently sat down with Michael Martell to talk to him about his game and his passion for bowling.

*Have you ever bowled with a team outside of Xavier?*

I bowl in leagues outside of Xavier, and I have been doing this since I was young. My mom is a manager at Maple Lanes in Brooklyn.

*How did you get started bowling? Why have you kept up bowling since you started?*

I first bowled when I was 2 years old. I was at the bowling alley almost every day because my parents worked there. I've stuck with bowling up until now because I have a deep passion for

for the sport and I want to take my ability to the next level, which would be bowling intercollegiately and professionally.

*When did you know you loved bowling? Is there any particular game that stands out in your mind as "the game"?*

I really started to develop a passion for the game when I realized I had a talent, which was when I was about 9. I have never even considered not bowling or even taking a break from it! What I consider "the game" is when I am in the championship match of a tournament and I need a big game for the win. I love the pressure and it really gets me into the game more. That is why I can't wait to take it to the next level.

*What is it like bowling with friends?*

Honestly, I don't really enjoy bowling with friends as much as I do going to tournaments and such. When I bowl with friends, I feel

(continued on page 2)

## Michael Martell (contd.)

like I get distracted from my goals and therefore I rarely bowl with friends unless they bowl as seriously as I do.

*What are some of your aspirations for the future? In what ways do you hope to continue as a bowler?*

My goals are clearly set: First, intercollegiate bowling. Then, professional bowling. However, I still have a long way until I can achieve these goals. I just need to keep my mind set on the path in front of me and have no regrets.

**Xavier High School is a Jesuit institution serving New York, the Church, and the nation since 1847.**

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## Updates on Xavier's Clubs

Harry Cooke '15  
Editor

Xavier has long been renowned for being a high school attributed with a clear mission: to promote a community of Jesuit roots that fosters leadership and excellence. This distinction found in school, however, is not only within the classrooms during the day, but also in the classrooms after the eight periods of lessons. It seems that with so many opportunities, there is a club for everyone at Xavier. A few teachers have offered to reveal their highlights of the first semester as well as plans for the succeeding one:

### *Mock Trial*

The Mock Trial team is poised for a great start this semester under new moderator Ms. DeRose, along with team captains Vincent Alessi, Patrick Bylis, and Michael Flynn. The first case deals with a student named Morgan Martin versus his computer programming college on account of false advertising. "When Mr. LiVigni asked the faculty if anyone was interested in moderating Mock Trial, I was curious but somewhat uncertain about my ability to be effective, since I am a math teacher and not a trial lawyer," said Ms. DeRose, "but, it sounded exciting and I agreed to take on the challenge." Also joining the team is volunteer lawyer Ms. Frey, who consults with team members on matters of law and courtroom procedure.

"I have really enjoyed getting to know the students in a context outside of the math classroom," concluded Ms. DeRose. "I can't wait to begin competing and expect that our team will perform very well." Save the date: the first tournament for mock trial will be held on February 14th. More information on the team can be found on Ms. DeRose's webpage.

### *Asian American Society*

Led by Ms. Tong, the Asian American Society has had an excellent semester exploring the culture. On September 21st, members of the Asian American Culture Society, along with the Photography Club went to the Whit-

ney Museum for the Yayoi Kusama exhibit and on September 19th, the society did a walking/photography tour of Chinatown, drank bubble tea and ended the trip with dinner at Big Wong's Restaurant on Mott Street. Sites of interest for the second semester include the Rubin Museum of Art located a mere two blocks away from Xavier. You can view some more art discussed in the society on Ms. Tong's Pinterest: <http://pinterest.com/mstracytong/asian-american-culture-society/>, and if you are interested in joining the club, see Ms. Tong.

### *Military History Club*

Led by LTC Campbell, The Military History Club has been infused with great energy this year by a core of enthusiastic "freshmen military historians," along with President junior James Lavelle, or the Vice President, junior Luis Torres. "From the history of military snipers through the ages - to stories of pivotal naval battles - and finally to more modern histories of the New York National Guard/Militia," states LTC Campbell, "club members have presented brilliant PowerPoint slides (accentuated by compelling video clips) to generate lively discussion and debates over tactics and strategy at the operational level of warfare." All new members are welcome to the club as it prepares for the annual staff ride to West Point this spring as well as other historical military sites such as Gettysburg.

### *Microfinance Club*

The microfinance club continues to bode strong numbers in another year led by Mr. Gross. Lending through Kiva.org, the club has thus far made 34 loans to various borrowers. 53 percent of these borrowers are female, whereas 47 percent are male, all from 22 countries in North America, South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. Representing the most concentration per country is Kenya with 18 percent. The mentioned loans are used to, according to leader Stephen Day '14, "start and expand businesses in agriculture, arts, clothing, food, health, manufacturing, retail, and transportation." The microfinance club hopes for the second semester to continue fundraising and helping those in need of starting their businesses.

## The Xavier Review: Online?

Beginning with this issue, The Xavier Review is proud to announce a new website that will offer an online edition of our existing paper copies. Developed by sophomore Jack DeFuria, the new website will feature both content from our paper editions and web-exclusive posts from the students of Xavier High School. Keep up with school news and current events at the click of a mouse! The website will be launched very soon, so stay tuned for updates!

# Sean De Los Santos' Not So Hidden Talent

Jose Vila '14  
Staff Reporter

When students are admitted into Xavier High School, it is because the administration sees some sort of talent that students themselves may not have realized. They saw it in the student's grades, or in the student's extracurricular abilities. These talents not only have to be academic, because Xavier is full of musicians, artists, runners, speakers, writers, hitters, dancers, and scrum-halves. Sean De Los Santos '15 exhibits one of Xavier's more unique and amazing talents. You might remember him as the winner for the Blue Team on Maroon and Blue Day's Xavier's Got Talent, showing off his skill with the yo-yo.

Many people had their jaws drop when they saw the students at Xavier's Got Talent perform. It might be hard to think back to four months ago, but Xavier witnessed its students do a Guns N' Roses cover, a talented break dancing performance, and Sean with his yo-yo skills. While all three performances

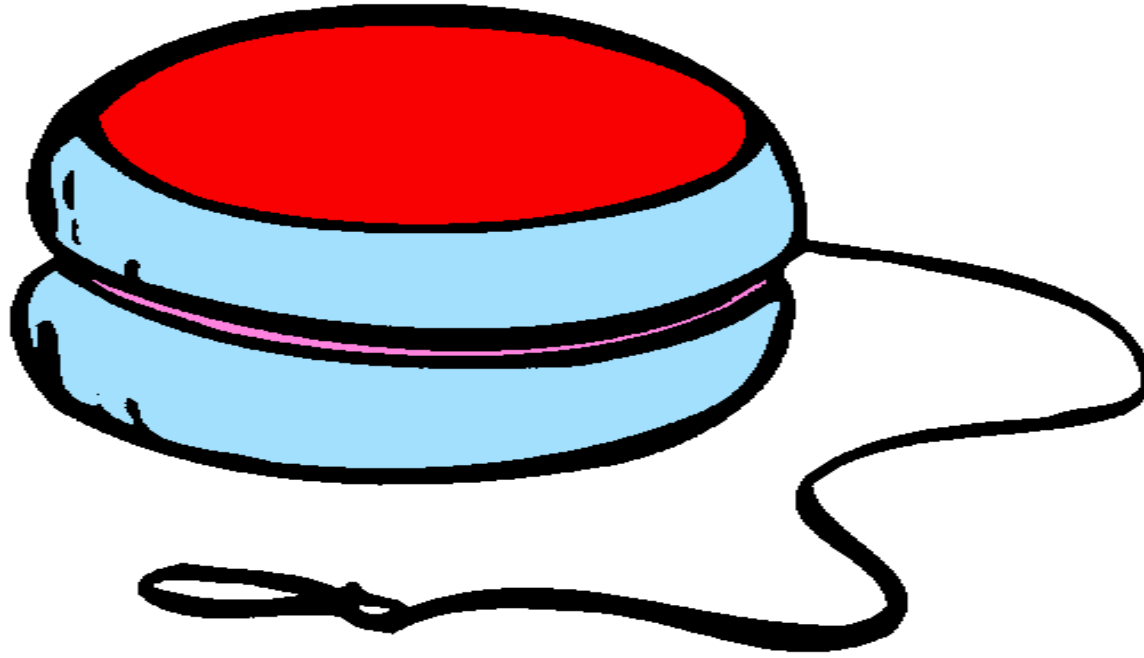
were great, I remember the loudest cheer being for De Los Santos. I also remember him being nervous prior to the performance, and how his friends (who had seen his skill) had pushed him on, confident in his ability to win. These same friends were not the least bit surprised when the Voice of Xavier himself announced Sean De Los Santos as the winner of Maroon and Blue Day's Xavier's Got Talent.

Sean began his interest in the yo-yo when he was only 9 years old. His brother, Christian De Los Santos '14, had bought a cheap yo-yo and showed off the gravity pull (where the yo-yo is pulled up and down). Ever since that day he has dedicated himself to the

art of yo-yo tricks. Surprisingly, Sean is a self-taught yo-yo performer. He says he learned by watching movements of people who perform at a professional level and various basic tutorials. He also tried his hands at the Chinese Yo-yo, also known as the Diablo. He has performed at two other venues beyond Maroon and Blue Day. He first competed in a local tournament. While he did not win, this became a learning experience for him. He then performed at the HAP talent competition, winning the grand prize of cheers from his peers.

Sean De Los Santos is one of the many talented and dedicated students that Xavier has to offer. His talent is not something the

average person can pick up and master in a matter of seconds. It requires a long time of learning and dedication that will never end, similar to playing an instrument or mastering a position on the baseball diamond. While yo-yo performance is still a hobby, second to academics and the Regimental Drill Team, Sean does hope to go pro, getting a sponsorship from top companies like Yo-yo Factory or Yo-yo Jam.



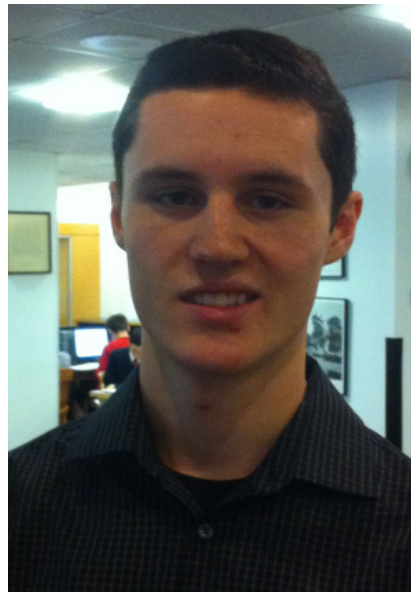
## Word on **16th Street**

### So, Xavier, what is YOUR special talent?



Nick Mavrelis '13

"I have never been defeated in a game of tag. Ever."



Tyler Cabrera '14

"I can fly airplanes."



Mr. Neuhoff

"I can play percussion, piano, brass, and I conduct and compose music."



Ms. Kennedy-Orlando

"I make great Halloween costumes (and I have the pictures to prove it)."



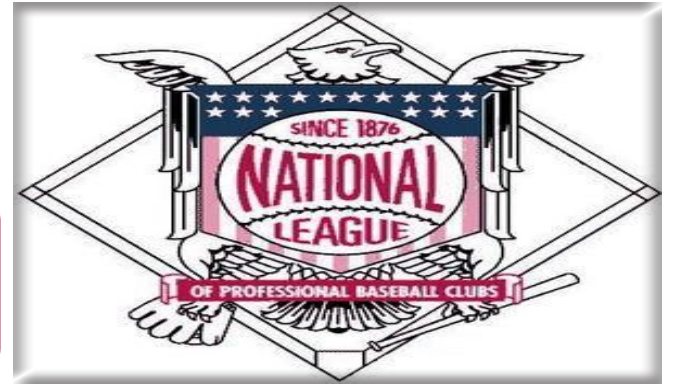
# Major League Baseball Preview



East

by Michael Pedulla '14

*Photo credits to MLB.com*



East

**Yankees:** The Yankees are a year older, however, they still have one of the better infields in the league. The loss of Rafael Soriano is tough, especially with Mariano Rivera coming off injury. If they stay healthy their lineup is still very good, but that is a huge if. The Yankees are one of the oldest teams in the league and they will have to count on their thirty eight year old captain, the now thirty nine year old Ichiro, and their aging ace, CC Sabathia. Now, in addition, A-Rod, known by many as A-Roid or A-Fraud, is likely lost for the year and is dealing with yet another PED scandal.

**Blue Jays:** Wow! That is all that can be said about the Blue Jays. They are the team to beat this season, acquiring Jose Reyes, Josh Johnson, and R.A. Dickey. Their rotation is top notch and their bats are going to be hard to stop. It's a good time to be a Blue Jays fan after years of disappointing seasons.

**Orioles:** It was a great season for the O's last season but with the emergence of the Blue Jays, it will be hard for them to get back to the playoffs. But that remains to be seen; they have the bats to stay competitive.

**Rays:** This will be a disappointing year for the Rays. They lost BJ Upton and traded "Big Game" James Shields to Kansas City. These 2 players were huge reasons for their success in previous years. My prediction is no playoffs for the Rays this year.

**Red Sox:** The Sox have signed Ryan Dempster and Shane Victorino this offseason; however, they have seemed in disarray since Terry Francona was let go. Not sure how this team will do this season as they are very unpredictable. I see a .500 season for the Sox.

## Central

**Tigers:** The Tigers fell short in the World Series last season but they will bounce back strong. They still have the best pitcher in baseball, Justin Verlander, and arguably the two best hitters in baseball, Prince Fielder and the Triple Crown winner, Miguel Cabrera. They also added Tori Hunter who has excellent defense and brings leadership to the team.

**Royals:** With the additions of James Shields and Ervin Santana to their rotation, the Royals should have a decent rotation. However, they don't have that good of an offense to get into the playoffs but they are heading in the right direction. A few good hitters and they will be a contender down the line.

**Indians:** With the additions of Nick Swisher, Michael Bourne, and Drew Stubbs, the Indians outfield has gotten better. I'm not sure if Nick Swisher's mouth will help the Indians or haunt them, but it will be a sight to see. If Jimenez and Masterson can have good seasons, along with the rest of the pitching staff, the Indians will have a great season.

**White Sox:** The White Sox will have to heavily rely on their pitching rotation to be competitive this season. Their offense isn't great and the loss of AJ Piersynski will hurt them.

**Twins:** The Twins don't have much to look forward to, as they have little offense, other than Joe Mauer, and no pitching. They will likely finish last this season.

## West

**Angels:** With the addition of Josh Hamilton, the Angels have one of the best lineups in the league. Pujols and Hamilton together should be a sight to see. They also added Tommy Hanson and signed Ryan Madson to bolster the bullpen. After missing the playoffs last season, they should have no problem making it this season.

**Rangers:** The Rangers lost their best player, Josh Hamilton, this offseason to a division rival. It seems their window has passed as a championship contender, but they can still sneak in the playoffs as a wild card.

**A's:** What a surprising year for the A's last season. They came out of nowhere to win the division and it looks like Billy Beane's method of "Moneyball" is working. They will have another good season this year.

**Mariners:** All this team has is the richest pitcher in Major League history, Felix Hernandez, and without any bats to go along with him, they will have another losing season.

**Astros:** This will be the first season for the Astros playing in the American league. It won't be pretty as the Astros don't have much talent and are miles away from a playoff berth.

**Mets:** The Mets traded a Cy Young award winner this offseason. That in and of itself is a tough pill to swallow. However, they got some pieces back to build a contending team down the line. This year may be a wash, but Mets fans have a lot to look forward to, with prospects on the horizon.

**Braves:** After a disappointing playoff run last season, the Braves are the favorites to win the division this season. They have one of the best bullpens in the MLB and great hitters in Dan Uggla and Freddie Freeman and without a doubt the best outfield in baseball. They recently picked up the fraternal tandem of Justin and B.J. Upton to go along with slugger Jason Heyward. Anything but a Series win is a disappointment for this team.

**Nationals:** This season the Nats will come back better than ever. Stephen Strasburg is coming off a great season and should not have a restrictive innings limit. Geo Gonzalez had a Cy Young type of year last season and looks to continue throughout this season, despite allegedly being busted for the use of performance enhancing drugs. The Nats also picked up some bullpen help, signing former Yankees closer Rafael Soriano, who had 42 saves last year. This team has a ton of youth mixed together with veterans, and it should be another successful season for Washington.

**Marlins:** The Marlins again cleaned house to clear payroll space for the third time in the last decade, selling their team away just a year after putting it together. Altogether, there is no place but last for the Fish this year.

**Phillies:** The Phils' lineup is lacking depth and is aging, but its hard to count out a team with Cliff Lee, Roy Halladay, and Cole Hamels. The Phillies could surprise some people this year.

## Central

**Reds:** After choking in the playoffs last season, the Reds will rebound strong behind All-Star Joey Votto. They added Shin-Soo Choo this offseason and should be able to win the division. As long as their pitching is up to par, they will fine.

**Cardinals:** The Cardinals shocked the world last season, sneaking into the wild card and making it all the way to the NLCS before getting eliminated by the Giants. Led by David Freese, the Cards should make the playoffs once again. Their pitching is good behind Chris Carpenter and Lance Lynn, and if their offense can produce, the Cards may find themselves in the NLCS once again.

**Pirates:** Last season the Pirates played extremely well until the last few months of the season and slowly were knocked out of contention. The Pirates have had losing seasons for twenty consecutive years but that can all change this season behind AJ Burnett and Andrew McCutchen. If the Pirates' lineup can produce, they should have around a .500 record.

**Brewers:** Outside of Ryan Braun and his perennial PED baggage, the Brewers don't have much talent. With the rise of the Pirates, the Brewers will likely slip in the standings for the second consecutive year.

**Cubs:** The curse lives on this year, as the Cubs simply are not good enough to compete. Starlin Castro is the lone bright spot in Chi-Town, as the Cubs stay firmly in last place.

## West

**Giants:** The Giants easily swept the Tigers last season in the World Series to win the ring for the second time in the last three years. They have one of the best rotations in the game led by Matt Cain and a solid offense behind MVP Buster Posey. The Giants will have another successful year and they are my pick win the Series and complete the repeat.

**Dodgers:** The Dodgers are in good position this year after last season's blockbuster trade that brought in Adrian Gonzalez, Josh Beckett, and Carl Crawford. They haven't stopped there, as they signed former Cy Young winner Zach Grienke. They should take the West or at least a wild card.

**D-Backs:** The D-backs have some good talent behind Miguel Montero and Jason Kubel. However, they recently traded former all star Justin Upton, and got only prospects in return. While this may help over the long term, they just don't have enough offense to compete this season.

**Rockies:** Besides Troy Tulowiski and Carlos Gonzalez, the Rockies don't have much as Todd Helton deteriorates. It will be a long year for the Colorado faithful.

**Padres:** The Padres have absolutely nothing in the name of Major League players and they have no chance of winning more than 70 this year.

# Out of the Darkness: NHL Hockey



*Credit: SportsNetwork*

Tom Lally '15  
Staff Reporter

At 4:45 A.M., Sunday January 6, the NHL and NHLPA officials finally agreed on a new deal after a 16 hour negotiation that carried through the most of the night, finally ending the disagreement that started on September 15th when players and owners could not reach a deal over collective bargaining. After losing 625 regular season games including the Winter Classic between the Detroit Red Wings and the Toronto Maple Leafs as well as the NHL All-

Star game, league officials landed on the framework for a ten year deal.

The agreement concluded with a 50-50 split of revenue as well as a \$64.3 million salary cap next year. While hockey fans may rejoice, teams however, had to rush to put together their training camps and organize their rosters. The league's newly formed schedule will total 48 games, with the first having been played on January 19th. With almost 40 percent of the season down the gutter, every team is aware of the overbearing pressure to achieve a playoff spot in such little time. A

greater concern has crept into owner's heads however. A projected \$1 billion is going to be lost this season and to add on to the problems, the NHL can't seem to keep up with other U.S. sports leagues, even losing ground to the MLS. But with play reaching the ice, confidence has been sparked in the hearts of all. Teams are now rejuvenating themselves and fans are riveted as a tense hockey season unfolds. With football season coming to a close, the 119 day ordeal's end has finally resurrected hockey. The season's off to an exciting start and all the local squads have seen some form of moderate success.

## RG3: A Genuine Character



Frank Nugent '15  
Staff Reporter

During this past season the NFL produced many different player personalities that could be labeled as role models, frauds, or just regular players. With all of these different characters, it is hard to find a player in the NFL that possesses all of the traits of a genuine person in addition to being an outstanding athlete. Robert Griffin III, the rookie quarterback for the Washington Redskins who is nicknamed RG3, is one of these jack-of-all-trades NFL professionals who exhibit role model-like qualities.

Griffin was born in Okinawa, Japan on an army base where his parents were stationed. Raised mainly in Copperas Cove, Texas, he attended Copperas Cove High School, where he flourished as a three-sport athlete: football, basketball, and track. Despite his outstanding

passing and rushing production, Griffin and his high school football team lost in the Class 4A Division 1 State playoffs. Also, Griffin received the Gatorade Texas Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year Award after he broke the state record for the 110 and 300 meter hurdles. When choosing between football and track, Griffin decided to play football at Baylor University, where he was named Offensive MVP, graduated at the top of his class among political science majors, and was drafted with the second overall pick by the Washington Redskins. Griffin's upraising and leadership allowed him to encounter immediate success at the professional level.

Remarkably, Griffin took down renowned teams that were expected to beat him, such as the 2011 Super Bowl-crowned Giants as well as the division foes in the Eagles and Cowboys, and led the 10-6

Redskins to first round of the Division Playoffs against the Seahawks. Displaying warrior-like qualities, Griffin played the last game of the regular season with a minor knee sprain and started as quarterback in the playoffs. However, against the Seahawks, after trying to retrieve a fumbled snap playing, the injured Griffin tore both his ACL and LCL knee ligaments. His injury sparked a controversial debate on the advantages and dangers of having a quarterback who can both run and pass in the NFL, like Griffin. In losing Griffin, their most dynamic offensive threat, the Redskins were unable to recover and succumbed to the Seahawks.

Despite this injury, Robert Griffin III is still a genuine person in a league full of polarizing figures such as Ray Lewis. When constantly bombarded with questions about being the best African American quarterback, Griffin respond-

## RG3 (continued)

ed by saying "I don't want to be the best black quarterback. I want to be the best quarterback." This raised problems with ESPN's Rob Parker, who claimed that RG3 "isn't black enough." Griffin, again showing his role-model like qualities, simply refused to acknowledge such stupidity. Parker was fired on January 8th.

Robert Griffin III embodies that persona of a genuine individual who strives to succeed at all that he does whether in sports, academics, or morals. He continues to set an example for the youth and adults everywhere to stay productive and motivated. He exemplifies that when you work hard enough, there is a great chance that you could achieve that accomplishment. For RG3, that accomplishment was winning Rookie of the Year. And the way he carries himself, it wouldn't surprise me if a Championship is in his future.

## Looking Forward: 2016



James Raleigh '14  
Staff Reporter

After an exciting 2012 Presidential Election, many candidates of this past election have expressed interest in running for presidency. While the upcoming election seems far away and both the direction of our country and pressing issues will change, a number of viable candidates have the possibility to become the next President of the United States and are trying to convince their parties to put their names on the 2016 ballot.

Recognizable politicians from both the Republican and the Democratic Parties have hinted at their participation in the 2016 Presidential Election. The potential nominees among Democrats are former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Governor of New York Andrew Cuomo, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, and Vice President Joseph Biden. As for the Republican nomination, the contenders who have expressed interest in returning to the podium once again are former Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Florida Senator Marco Rubio, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, Kentucky Senator Randall Paul (the son of the 2012 presidential candidate Ron Paul), and Republican Wisconsin Representative Paul Ryan.

Right now, Hillary Clinton leads the plausible Democratic presidential nominees by quite a margin, garnering 57% from Democratic supporters in a recent poll while others had trouble breaking 5%. Her most difficult competition may be found in Joe Biden, who has declared numerous times that 2012 would not be his last time on the ballot. Yet, polls in both Iowa and Florida show that Biden is not as well-liked by the Swing State Democrats as many Americans may think; he trails Hillary

Clinton by over 40%. If she runs, he will have a hard time keeping up with her. While it does seem one-sided, Andrew Cuomo is an under-the-radar candidate who has a foothold in other parties and appeals to many Independents. Ultimately, the Democratic nomination should be between Clinton, Biden, and Cuomo.

On the other hand, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, and Marco Rubio lead the Republican polls. Currently, Chris Christie is the only one with enough support to challenge Clinton, but Bush and Rubio's backing from Swing State Florida could make them worthwhile contenders. After Rubio's passionate speech at the Republican National Convention, many Republicans find it easy to relate with a young Cuban-American politician like Rubio. Paul Ryan has not explicitly declared his intent to run, yet in his concession speech to President Obama, he said he is preparing for a victory, hinting at his participation in the 2016 elections. Ryan, though, is having trouble in the polls after falling behind Christie and Rubio. In the end, Ryan, Christie, and Rubio each have a good chance of becoming the next President.

Given his moderate stances on political issues and success in balancing the New York budget, Andrew Cuomo represents a candidate who could gather support from many former-Republicans who have lost faith in their party. Thus, if the Republicans show the same lack of viable candidates as they did in 2012, there is a possibility they will nominate Cuomo as their representative.

Clinton, Biden, Cuomo, Ryan, Christie, and Rubio are the six most likely politicians to become President in 2016. In the next four years, the election will come down to which candidate acquires the most support, especially from America's youth and minority groups. Hopefully, America finds the candidate who is the best choice for our nation, the candidate who will maintain the strong American qualities and ideals while allowing us to move forward.



## On the Economy

Joe Rovito '15  
Staff Reporter

In Robin Williams' stand-up tour "Weapons of Self Destruction", Williams pokes fun at the abrupt change in the American economy from the Clinton Administration to current times. His explanation for the whole mess is precisely that America, as a whole, went under a total 'blank out' or absence of thought. Though this is a comedic response, this is similar to the responses given by many politicians today. They find it was a mismanagement of either government spending or taxing. Though this is true, I'd like to raise the argument that this massive debt has been commencing for years, and has been created by the economics that our government upholds. In order to understand the true reasons for our massive debt, we must look at the actions of our government, the results of our country's economic ideology, and lastly a solution to fix it.

When we hear the word 'debt', we think about how our economy is managed and directed. This is because of our human tendency to represent the immediately apparent facts on the topic. Instead of looking first to economists for answers, we need to look at the current war between the legislative branch and the executive branch to begin to understand why we are under such massive debt. Article I of the United States Constitution grants power to Congress over taxes and spending. Article II, Section 3, grants power to the president to suggest his own budget plan. For many years, Congress has ignored many presidents' suggested budgets if Congress is not in accord with the current president's political party. The Constitution also mandates that the president carry out these budgets, regardless of how bad or good he thinks they may be. Since the president cannot truly do anything to stop a budget that obviously won't work, he must borrow that money in order to adhere to the calls of Congress. This is one major reason why we are in massive debt. The debate between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch has created a war with only political interest in mind. The debt ceiling, which has been raised constantly, has been used as a tool by Congress to blame the president for extreme amounts of debt. As the total amount of money borrowed by the president nears the limit, Congress immediately blames the president for reckless spending that they actually caused in the first place.

According to many politicians today, our massive amount of debt is to blame for the actions of former presidents. This statement simply isn't true. Our economic direction has plunged America into confusion and has made many people today oblivious of the true reason why our economy is failing. The pillar of Keynesian Capitalism must be shattered before economic relief can come. The idea that massive spending will create long-term profit is not the only problem; it is actually where the money comes from to invest. As the Federal Reserve expands credit and sets interest rates low, investors commonly mistake real loanable funds for inflation. On top of this problem, the artificially low cost of credit creates a heavy increase in monetary

(continued on page 8)

# 40 Years, 55 Million Dead

James Gallagher '14  
Layout Editor

The March for Life takes place every year in Washington D.C. on January 22, the anniversary of the controversial Supreme Court case- Roe v. Wade. However, this year's march was unique in that it marked forty years of legal abortions in the United States. It was on January 22, 1973 that the U.S. Supreme Court decided on the case of Roe v. Wade and by a vote of 7-2 they decided that abortion is a fundamental right, protected under the fourteenth amendment of the Constitution. Forty years later, Roe v. Wade still stands, despite a never ending stream of controversy and opposition. Various polls show that a majority of Americans still support the decision, but the dissenters are gaining in numbers. This year's March for Life in D.C. saw over 400,000 people march in favor of an end to legal abortion in this nation, no doubt joined in spirit by the fifty five million babies aborted in the U.S. since 1973.

The Catholic Church has always taught that abortion is always wrong, no matter the circumstances. However many see it as much

more complicated than that. And it certainly is. The issues of rape, incest, and when the life of the mother is in question all pose their own unique questions that deserve more of an answer than simply "no." However, in the cases of a mother simply not wanting a child, it is simply unacceptable to allow a murder to take place as some sort of twisted "choice" or "reproductive right." In regards to Catholics in particular, according to a 2009 Gallup poll, 76% of American Catholics do not see abortion as morally acceptable, yet only 48% object to its legal status. That is a major issue. However, ending abortion is not just a faith issue. It is an issue of common sense.

One typical pro-choice argument, often employed by Catholics like Joe Biden, is that while abortion is wrong, it is not right to impose that view on others. That idea seems ideologically sound but upon further review it makes absolutely no sense. If I believe that rape is terrible, would it be okay for me to not impose that view on others? Just because others don't share your views does not mean that everyone is right. Especially in the case of abortion, there is a right and a wrong side.

In the end, it is difficult to define what exactly life is. Many men have fruitlessly spent their entire lives searching for a definition of life. So, for our purpose, I will define life as the presence of living cells, forming a functioning being. And you don't have to be a rocket scientist, or rather a biologist, to realize that living cells exist at conception, and thus the extermination of these living cells is just that- the extermination of a human being.

I don't mean to write your stereotypical pro-life article. For that you can certainly look up some Rick Santorum quotes or Rick Perry speeches-if they can actually be considered speeches. What I do mean to do is simply raise awareness to the fact that as a result of the belief that we all have the choice to exterminate life, fifty five million babies have been denied life, with future presidents, singers, teachers, and soldiers certainly among them. What I hope that you realize is that abortion is murder and it needs to be stopped. I understand where pro-choice advocates are coming from, and I can only imagine the burdens on a teenager carrying a child, but I am of the belief that all life, especially innocent life, is precious and therefore must be protected.

## What We Should Learn from Newtown



Ryan Gilmartin '14  
Staff Reporter

Here we are about two months after the Newtown Massacre, but still very much attached, emotionally and physically. The Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting that took place on the tragic morning of December 14, 2012 took the lives of 28 individuals, including the shooter and his mother. This is the second deadliest school shooting in United States history and has now raised many questions. People are dumbfounded as to how alarmingly simple it is for one individual to inflict this much damage and receive the resources to do so with such ease. The frightening facts that arise from this incident are the perpetrator's lack of criminal history and his accessibility and exposure to guns while possibly suffering with mental illness.

After the initial shock and heartbreak people across America felt for the victims of Newtown, citizens have now been making sweeping demands for reform and solutions to

avoid a similar lethal shooting from occurring again. The most prevalent argument regarding this massacre is the request for change in gun policy in America. People want it to be more difficult for criminals and people with cruel intent to obtain guns. Background checks would eliminate the possibility of unknowingly providing a criminal the tool to commit their crime. Regarding this school shooting, background checks would also resolve the issue of providing mentally ill individuals with guns who may use them rashly and in fits of rage. The possession of guns should be for self-defense and earned through a rigorous process that ensures the safety of the surrounding communities rather than put them in danger of one merciless stone-cold murderer.

Another type of reform that needs to be addressed is security and protection. One way safety could be increased is allowing teachers to obtain license to concealed carriers for the protection of faculty and students in the hands of a responsible individual. Of course, a teacher should undergo the same process to obtain

a gun similar to that of a criminal or mentally ill individual. By not cracking down on the issue of lack of security and treating the issue with indifference, schools are relying on chance and faith that they aren't next to suffer a similar uncontested tragedy. It is almost impossible to wipe out the transport and spread of guns in America, but getting protection to combat these issues is essential. The service of one individual can save the lives of dozens.

Unfortunately, it took a life-altering tragedy to raise awareness that the school protection and gun systems are flawed. Schools and other establishments are at the mercy of reckless gun wielders because they serve as easy targets in a good-natured and caring, but vulnerable environment. It may seem wrong to expose schools to the harsh reality of the world, but living unprotected has inflicted too much damage. Subtle change is important, not to disrupt the foundations of schools, but still leave them safe and able to combat the dangers of savage maniacs. It is important to remain optimistic and observe the progression that has resulted from gun education and the quest for universal safety.

# The Oscars: Predictions



Nick Inglese '14: Editor

Awards Season is in full swing. The Golden Globes and various other Guild Awards have been presented, and all that remain are the most prestigious of these awards: the Oscars. Here are some of my predictions for this year's winners.

### **Best Picture: *Argo***

Even though Ben Affleck was 'snubbed' by the Academy for a Best Director nomination, I believe *Argo* is a serious contender for the top prize. After winning Best Picture at several other major award shows, *Argo* may be the first movie to win without a Best Director nomination since 1989's *Driving Miss Daisy*. With *Argo*, Affleck was able to combine suspense, humor, and a little bit of action into a thrilling, true story.

### **Best Director: *Steven Spielberg - Lincoln***

Steven Spielberg's direction in *Lincoln* was very subtle, allowing the brilliant actors to tell the beautiful story. This will be Spielberg's first win since 1999's *Saving Private Ryan*.

### **Best Actor: *Daniel Day Lewis - Lincoln***

It was a bad year to be nominated for Best Actor—unless your name is Daniel Day-Lewis. Disappearing into the role of Abraham Lincoln, Day-Lewis will, without a doubt, be taking home the Oscar.

### **Best Actress: *Naomi Watts - The Impossible***

*The Impossible* is one of the most disturbing films I've seen in a long time. Naomi Watts gives the audience a much-needed sense of hope as she and her on-screen family strive to find one another after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami separates them.

### **Best Supporting Actor: *Christoph Waltz - Django Unchained***

After winning this same award for 2009's *Inglourious Basterds*, Waltz is back playing the dentist-turned-bounty-hunter, Dr. King Schultz. A great character actor, Waltz is simply a blast to watch on screen.

### **Best Supporting Actress: *Anne Hathaway - Les Misérables***

Anne Hathaway gives a brief, yet heartbreaking, performance as Fantine in Tom Hooper's movie adaptation of *Les Mis*. Hathaway, along with the rest of the cast, was able to sing live, giving her the ability to sing on screen unlike anything seen in a movie musical before. The result is, I believe, Oscar-worthy.

## Economics (continued)

assets. This is known as malinvestment. The never-ending cycle of the expansion of credit creates an economy dependent on business cycles of booms and busts. It is this that stopped massive economic booms, like the American economic recovery after the Great Depression. The president responsible for the creation of these business cycles is Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Just by looking at FDR's economic recovery, we can see that the boom sets its own demise for the future. With all of these problems combined, massive busts are created, plunging the economy into debt.

After all this negative stigmatism, we must find an answer to our problems--which is

to understand the faults of our current economic direction and move towards a system following the idealism of the Austrian School of Economics. Friedrich Hayek, one economist from the Austrian School that exposed Keynesianism's flaws, proposed that influencing the people to open up savings accounts would be the ideal way to grow the economy. This is because of the fact that saving accounts are made up of real loanable funds, gained by the people, which are given to investors. The money invested is actual funds instead of inflation that is created by the expansion of credit in Keynesianism. Though booms and busts will not be as massive as in Keynesian Capitalism, the people will control

the market. This will create a system in which fields of the economy are affected instead of markets as a whole. Contrary to looking at the recent past, our economic failure has seeded itself for future destruction many years ago. In order to move towards economic stability, we must admit the fact that those presidents we hold as heroes, such as Franklin Roosevelt, must be seen as unqualified leaders that hold thought that is seriously mistake-prone. We must also question government's role in our economy, as they can create a severe change in any economic setting. Through this, we must pave a way for change, sound money, and true economic stability for the people of today and the seeds of the future.