

# The Truman Times

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Harry S Truman High School's Student Newspaper

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Photo by Emerald Fletcher.

## Food for thought Truman reinforces food and drink policy

By Ruben Chico and  
Kevone Williams

On March 22, Truman reinforced its food and drink policy that prevent students from bringing drinks in glass or open containers into the school building.

If you are bringing in a bottled water or juice, the plastic bottle must be sealed.

According to the statement posted on the school's website, students cannot bring any "homemade baked goods items. All snacks must be in a sealed con-

tainer. Food purchased at retail establishments, such as McDonalds, Popeyes, a sandwich from the local deli, WILL be permitted."

The initial announcement, orated by media teacher Mr. Roush, was made during 4th period on March 22.

The announcement outlined the new school policy prohibiting any outside food from entering the building.

It was later corrected on Truman's website with statements outlining the key points of concern for students.

"Nothing has changed in the policy," principal Ms. Alfano said. "It was something that needed to be revisited and reinforced because someone brought something in."

The cause of these reinforced rules is a fight that had broken out on the same day. A student had brought in a bottle full of bleach, which became the main reason of the announcement.

Students were outraged by the unfairness of the announcements and argued about the rules, even though they had not changed.

"It's stupid," sophomore Dante DaCosta said. "They shouldn't restrict students bringing in their

own foods or drinks."

The majority of the students were confused about what this rule entails for their daily entrance.

Many students do not have a lunch period and many are involved in after school activities and stay late in the building.

"I think it's ridiculous," sophomore Ruben Chapman said. "Either take all the food away or let people bring in whatever they want."

Teachers are so unclear about the clarity of the policy change.

"I think the [open containers] were coming in because people were allowing

*(Policy continued on page 2)*

## New SAT changes

By Tai Ballantine

College Board has announced that the Scholastic Aptitude Test has changed once again due to research done by experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

New College Board president David Coleman reviewed new findings by writing director at M.I.T., Les Perelman.

Perelman has been researching ways to change the test since the essay had been added in 2005. Les stated that there were "absurdities" in how the essay was graded. Students taking the test were receiving high score for writing long essays with inaccurate information.

"The format of the new SAT will encourage more people to study for it and to take it," senior Fariha Islam said.

Coleman felt that changes had to be made in order to keep up with what is actually learned in high school.

Aside from the essay change, vocabulary in the test includes practical words used and learned in school. There are also

*(SAT continued on page 2)*

## NYC to roll out new buses

Fleet to arrive starting April

By Nadim Hossain

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced that the Metropolitan Transport Authority will release 2,042 new state-of-the-art buses by 2020 through a \$1.3 billion investment.

The next generation of buses will have public necessities such as wireless internet, 33-55 charging ports and LCD screens.

"These are not gonna be your father's buses," Cuomo said in his announcement.

By the end of 2016, 75 will make their appearance in Queens, some of them appearing as early as this month.

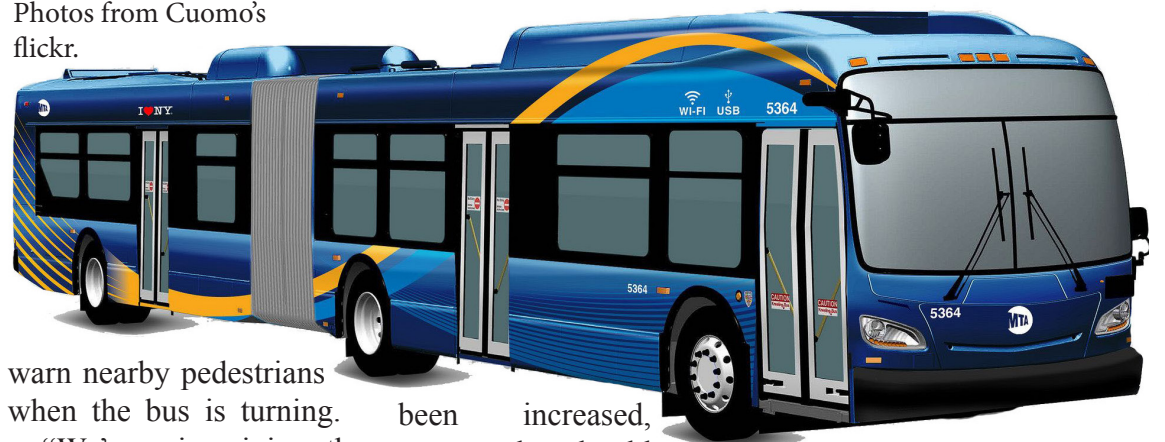
Over the next two years, there will be 70 new buses in Brooklyn, 209 in the Bronx and 18 in Manhattan.

A rendering of the new buses depicts a royal blue bus with gold waves and noticeable Wi-Fi and charging port logos.

"Having Wi-Fi on the buses will be a big deal," junior Khristian Golan said. "Students who have a long commute can catch up on homework or social media on the go."

The buses will also have many new safety features like a collision avoidance system and audible voice alerts that will

Photos from Cuomo's flickr.



warn nearby pedestrians when the bus is turning.

"We're reimagining the MTA to improve services for all New Yorkers," Cuomo said. "This upgrade will create a stronger, more convenient and more connected mass transit system for years to come."

The Pelham Bay Park Station Manager, who wished to remain anonymous, is also excited for the upcoming changes.

"The update is a great thing the MTA is doing for its customers," he said. "After all, fares have

been increased, so people should get what they deserve."

New York City is one of the most rapidly growing cities in the world.

New structures are always under construction and entire neighborhoods are renovated.

Now, the MTA gets an upgrade of its own.

"In a city like New York," the station manager added. "Wi-Fi access on the go is mandatory."

Along with the new features, the stylish look of

the buses will be a welcome change to MTA's design, replacing 40 percent of the current fleet.

"It has a European flair to it," Cuomo added. "I think it has almost a Ferrari-like look and aerodynamic."



(Policy continued from page 1)

them to,” English teacher Ms. Martinez said. “Someone wasn’t being diligent.”

With the food policy outlined on Truman’s website, students are already seeing the effects.

Many students have had their beverages and food thrown out in the garbage by security guards at student entry.

While the policy has always been meant as a safety concern, it proves to be more of an inconvenience for Truman students.

Photo from naplesnews.com



# FLINT, MICHIGAN WATER CRISIS

By Zion Wiggins

Due to Flint Governor Rick Snyder’s decision to save money, tens of thousands of people are at risk of getting lead poisoning in Flint.

Snyder and other government officials decided to stop pumping water from Detroit and start pumping water from the Flint River, which has more corrosive water and damages Flint’s pipes, causing lead to leach into the water supply.

Shortly after the switch,

complaints poured in from residents about weird smelling and discolored water in their homes. Officials knew that the water was contaminated for months and kept it a secret from Flint residents.

The lead caused people to break out in rashes and lose hair. Meanwhile, the doctor who sounded the alarm was ignored.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, a 38-year-old pediatrician, discovered high levels of lead in children, but her discovery was disregarded.

“It’s a shame,” Ravinder, a Flint Uber driver, said in an interview for All Def Digital. “For the most powerful and richest nation in the world to do this to their people, yes, it’s a shame.”

To try and solve this shameful problem, the state sent water filters. The filters, however, didn’t work properly.

The lead count is supposed to read zero across the board, but because the water is so corrosive, the tests gave readings of 202 despite the filters.

“I would feel sad [if I lived in Flint],” an anonymous junior said. “I would be scared that the water I have isn’t healthy.”

The New York Times reported that the filters distributed to the population were adequate but not good. In this case, “adequate but not good” resulted in more harm.

“You give us one filter, so either I’m supposed to wash my behind in the kitchen or I’m supposed to cook in my bathroom,” resident Tanya Rison said to All Def Digital. “The filters do not work because we are ten times the level of what we’re supposed to have.”

Flint residents have no say in this crisis. Their voices are ignored. It’s mandatory for people to pay their water bills, even if it has lead.

“There’s nothing...we could ever do to reverse the effects of lead poisoning,” Benjamin Crump, Attorney President of National Bar Association, said in the same interview. “It is real. It is the cousin to cancer.”

“They have killed our animals, killed the plants, and the environment,” Rison said. “They have destroyed our children. Where is Snyder? He needs to go to jail!”

The crisis could easily be fixed in one year, but there are no consequences for Snyder.

The lives of Flint residents have been halted.

“People have to live with that water,” another anonymous junior said. “They have to wash their food and bodies with it. It causes a lot of health issues.”

Imagine taking care of a baby. Water becomes a crucial part of the baby’s upbringing: washing him, cleaning his bottle, making the formula.

But the baby’s body has traces of lead. The bottle has traces of lead. The formula is mixed with water that has traces of lead.

There’s no cure for lead poisoning.

The only thing Superman can’t see through is lead. How can non-superheroes be expected to live with contaminated water for as long as 15 years when Superman can’t do anything with the water?

If you were to go to Flint, pour water in a glass and hold it up to Superman’s face, he won’t be able to see what’s on the other side of the glass.

Many believe that Snyder should be arrested or step down as governor for the irreversible damage he caused to the people of Flint.

According to his Twitter, he doesn’t plan on retiring.

## Effects of the Zika virus

By Danicia McLeggon and Tasnesshade Stone

The Zika virus, a disease that spreads through mosquito bites, has diffused to more than 20 countries since its outbreak in January 2016. The outbreak caused concern primarily to pregnant women and the safety of their unborn children.

The virus causes neurological birth disorders that can result in complications with the unborn child.

The Center of Disease Control, or CDC, has told pregnant women or those wanting to become pregnant to not travel to areas with the Zika virus.

This announcement caused alarm for expecting women.

“As soon as you learn that you are going to be a parent,” English teacher Mrs. White, who was pregnant at the time of interview, said. “You begin to connect everything to his or

her safety and your ability to protect this baby. So when you learn that there is something that you have so little control over, that can be so harmful. It is very scary.”

In most cases, the illness is mild with symptoms lasting less than a week. The most common symptoms of the Zika virus are fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes.

There is no vaccine or specific treatment for the disease. Instead, treatment focuses on relieving symptoms and includes rest, rehydration and medication for the fever and pain.

Some countries are telling women not to get pregnant for up to two years.

“As long as the mosquito keeps reproducing, each and every one of us is losing the battle against the mosquito,” Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said to CNN. “We have to mobilize so we do not lose this battle.”

The Olympics this year

will be at Rio De Janeiro, one of the affected areas, so athletes have a growing concern about attending the games.

“If I had to make the choice today,” U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo told Sports Illustrated. “I wouldn’t go to the Olympics. I would never take the risk of having an unhealthy child.”

The Olympic Committee hasn’t changed their decisions about canceling the Olympics.

As the temperature gets warmer in the United States, we worry about the Zika virus spreading through the rest of the country.

It’s a growing concern for teenagers who are pregnant. Research states that if infected with the virus, it can remain in your body for years.

“We need to be extra careful,” junior Destini Grey said. “There are long term effects for having a child years later.”

(SAT continued from page 1)

more graphs and charts on the test for visual learners, and the reading section is more focused on the use of evidence in the text.

While these may seem like positive changes, critics argue that the test follows the Common Core Learning Standards. This puts students who have just started following these standards at school at a disadvantage.

Students may have trouble with questions that have to deal with math that they have yet to learn. This is problematic because the College Board is expecting students to answer questions they have never seen in the past.

“The Common Core makes noble demands on teachers and students,” Mark Driscoll, a tutor at The Education Development Center, said. “But, at the end of the day, they are still demands, and it will take students and teachers time and effort to fulfill them.”

Other problems with the SAT are that it puts kids in low-income neighborhoods at a disadvantage because the school or library in their neighborhood may not have access to textbooks or online access to Khan Academy to help them study.

The new version of the SAT was first administered on March 5.

### Old SAT:

- (A) Total Score: 2400
- (B) Essay: mandatory, 25 min.
- (C) Wrong Answer: deduction
- (D) Answer Choices: 5
- (E) Total Questions: 171



### New SAT:

- (A) Total Score: 1600
- (B) Essay: optional, 50 min.
- (C) Wrong Answer: no penalty
- (D) Answer Choices: 4
- (E) Total Questions: 154, 155 with essay

# Battle of the Consoles: Xbox One v. Playstation 4

By Nicholas Pol

Xbox One and Playstation 4 are the two premiere consoles on the market, both strong fanbases.

Anyone can prefer either based on their experiences with their predecessors, but for a gaming console to be better than their competition, it needs to prove that it can display the best graphics, fast loading screens and fast installation of games.

Their current systems have different specifications to their respective consoles, but only one stands out

as superior: Playstation 4.

First, let's talk about the GPU (Graphics Processor Unit) as it is the most important in gaming consoles.

The GPU deals with the visual quality of a game. Pixel rate, frame rate and textures are all processed by the GPU.

The GPU is more important

is found in a system's graphics card and both two systems have the same graphics card, which are both custom made AMD graphics card.

Microsoft's Xbox One has the Bonaire AMD model, which has 16 ROPs (Render Output Pipelines), can run 12.8 gigapixels/second, has 768 shader cores, a clock speed of 853 MHz, which is an improvement over its original clock speed of 800 MHz, and runs at 1.23 teraflops.

This is a decent graphics card but the Bonaire model is an older model when compared to Sony's Pitcairn.

Playstation 4's Pitcairn model is more superior than Bonaire as Pitcairn's specs has 32 ROPs, 25.6 gigapixels/second, 1,152 shader cores, a clock speed of 800MHz and runs at a good 1.84 teraflops.

Playstation 4 has the advantage in graphics as you are going to get the

best graphics out of it, but the differences cannot be seen by the human eye.

You might see superior graphics when it's a console exclusive game, like Sony's Uncharted and Microsoft's Halo.

This is when a developer can fully utilize a system's power.

A graphics card cannot work without a RAM, which holds the images from the graphics card and will release the image onto your screen.

Playstation has a 8GB GDDR5 RAM, which is more powerful than Xbox's 8GB DDR3.

From a graphical standpoint, you might see more dynamic NPC routines in a gameworld such as Grand Theft Auto V Los Santos.

CPUs are used to help run a game and multitask.

The CPUs for both systems are virtually identical as they both opted for a 8-core AMD Jaguar.

Both systems may have

identical CPUs, but Xbox managed to have their processor clocked at 1.75 GHz from the original speed of 1.6 GHz, the Playstation runs at 1.6 GHz.

In terms of CPU power, Xbox leads the way as the system can run multiple apps simultaneously.

In all, Playstation is the ultimate choice for gaming.

It's easy for developers to make games on it and they can take full advantage of the system's power.

Xbox might be lacking for this console generation, but it is doing a complete overhaul by Phil Spencer with the simple vision of having a system for gaming, unlike back in 2013, when it was announced as a glorified DVR.

Both system have their solid fan bases, which helps them sell.

While Xbox offers more applications and can multitask, Playstation certainly has the edge in gaming.

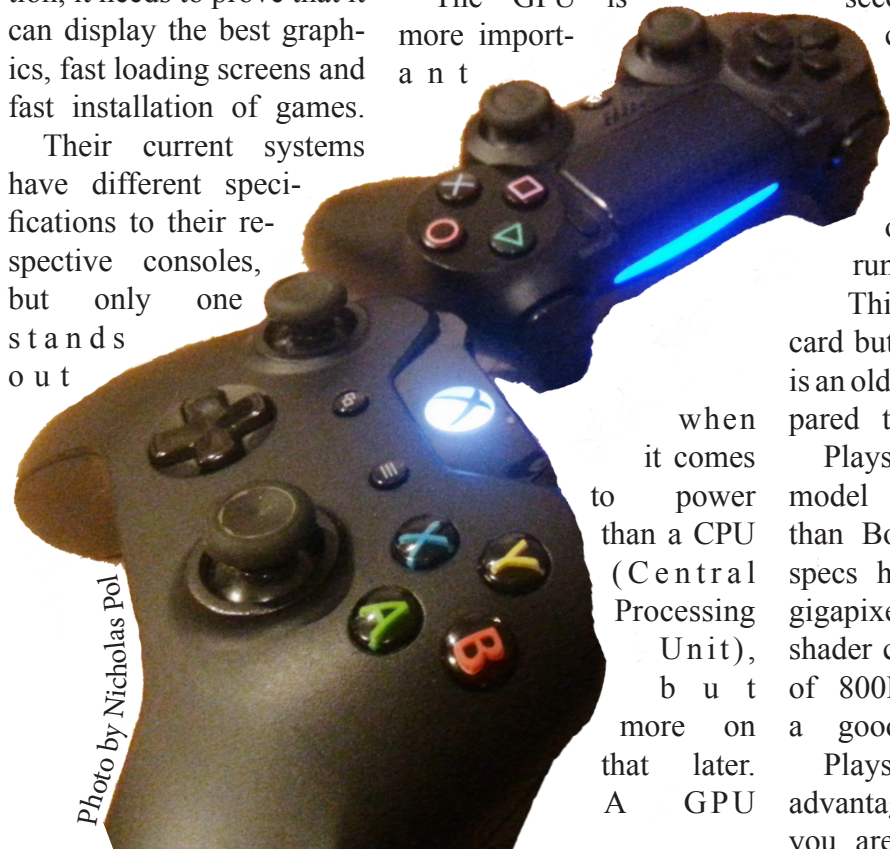


Photo by Nicholas Pol

when it comes to power than a CPU (Central Processing Unit), but more on that later. A GPU

## WORK WORK WORK WORK WORK (for that perfect spring break body)

By Nia Crosdale

Spring break is coming up and you may be worried about making sure that, along with the perfect vacation, you will also have the perfect beach body.

This perfect body doesn't just appear by only eating right.

You have to work your body out too.

Many people would believe that to get a beach body, you only have to do a couple of things and your body will magically transform. That's not the case.

A workout is important for any teen looking to be a healthy adult.

Creating these habits now can lead to having a happy and healthy adulthood.

You don't have to do all of these in one day. Instead, create an optimal schedule for yourself that allows for a balanced routine and free time as well.

Get ready to work!

### The Warm-Up

Many people overlook the warm-up and consider it a waste of time, but it's a basic building block in a workout program that stops muscles from tearing from being cold.

The warm-up can consist of simple movements that allow your body to loosen up and get ready for an intense workout. These simple movements can include toe-touches, walking lunges, high knees or any other movement that can warm your body up to get ready to work.

### Cardio

This is where you would work your heart so that the muscle becomes stronger. Cardio can also help increase your metabolism, which in turn, helps you maintain or lose weight.

Keep cardio in each workout session by doing a run or, an old school favorite, jumping rope.

These are some simple things you can do to get in an hour or two of cardio.

### Balance and Stability

Balance and stability helps your body practice keeping its center of gravity.

A simple exercise you can do is one-legged balances, where one leg is off the floor. This may seem like a waste of time, but it allows you to practice single muscle isolation and works your pelvis muscles.

### Core Training

Everyone wants a beautiful six pack but think only doing sit-ups or crunches will achieve that goal. But it's not that simple. You have to incorporate other parts into your workout in order to get those beautiful abs.

One exercise you can do is ab bikes: lay on the floor and act like you're riding a bicycle but with your hands locked behind your head while your elbows

reach up toward your knees.

This is only one of many exercises, including crunches, that can work your core muscles.

### Upper-body Training

Your upper-body strength is a vital part of daily activities. In any emergency situation, you may need to carry your body weight with your own arms.

Some basic upper-body workouts include push-ups or tricep dips. These basic moves can be done without any equipment but lifting weights can also help to strengthen upper-body muscles.

### Lower-body Training

Your lower-body is where the largest muscles in your body live. These large muscles burn more calories when you work them, so in order to maintain a healthy weight, working your lower-body is optimum.

Simple workouts in-

clude squats and lunges. Want beautiful glutes? Squats are the answer.

### Reaction

Reaction includes how fast you react to a situation. For example, if someone throws something at you with little forewarning, how quickly will you catch it? That is reaction.

So if you don't want to get hit in the face, work on your reaction by playing catch or, for you gamers that find exercising appalling, you can even play video games to work on your eye reactions.

### Cool down

The final part of any workout is the cool down. After a workout, you need to do something to help your previously worked muscles relax.

The cool down can consist of stretching, getting a massage or even just drinking some water to rehydrate yourself.

# Movie Review: Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice



By Zion Wiggins

**WARNING**  
Spoilers ahead!



By Tai Ballantine

If you haven't seen the movie, you've probably heard mixed reviews. Well, the only review you should listen to is this one because that movie was "Gr-r-reat!" But they aren't Frosted Flakes.

Batman v Superman was heavily influenced by Frank Miller's work "The Dark Knight Returns," but it also used some iconic moments from other comic books. I loved that the producers took all of Batman's suit design right from the comic book. That was beautifully done.

His classic, everyday suit to the suit of armor he wears while fighting Superman were taken right from the source. But those weren't the only things taken from the comic.

In the beginning, while explaining Batman's origin, there is a scene where Martha, Batman's mother, is shot and killed and her pearls fly everywhere. That scene came from a frame in Frank Miller's version of the fight. In the movie, Batman has a vision, and soon after the vision, the Flash shows up to send Batman a message.

This isn't in Miller's version, but the production team must have done their homework to make this movie the best it could be.

The new Flash movie is scheduled for 2018 and will feature the Flash's ability to time travel. He also wears a full armored costume and had a bit of a beard growing, so if Flash looked a bit different in the movie, that was the reason. He was dressed as he will appear in his solo movie.

Similarly, in the comic "Crisis on Infinite Earths," the Flash appears to a number of heroes to warn them of future threats. Flash was warning Batman, hence why Flash told Batman, "You were right about him! Lois is the key!"

Overall, the movie was pretty amazing. Of course, there could've been things done better, but it was still a great movie. I would watch it again.

Batman v Superman, one of the most hyped movies of 2016, is meant to pave the way for many others, such as Suicide Squad and The Justice League. But if you ask me, there was a little too much hype.

Considering that it's called Batman v Superman, instead of getting either multiple small battles and one large battle at the end of the movie, we have one hour and 30 minutes of explaining why the two culprits don't like each other and a seven minute scene of Batman beating the daylight out of Superman.

It would have been more entertaining to show the two battle earlier in the movie. Batman could also have learned about the alien throughout the movie but instead, Batman just knows and comes and beats him up at the end.

All the action was in the last few minutes of the movie. This can be captivating for some people, but others expect more out of a superhero movie, which is supposed to be about action, power and explosions.

Some of the things in the movie were just unnecessary, such as the repetition of how Batman's parents died. (If you don't know Batman's story, then you have no business seeing the movie.)

The movie did have some good things about it. Casting Ben Affleck, who everyone thought would mess up the movie, came through in the clutch.

The movie also stuck to the comics. The comic shows Batman win the battle, but for movie purposes, this shouldn't have been shown in the movie because Superman looked plain weak.

I won't be completely harsh. I give this movie 2.5 out of 5 stars only because it can only get better from here. The characters did a good job working with the script, but this doesn't mean I agree with how the directors and writers decided to portray this movie.

## Humans of Truman



"I joined the wrestling team because I wanted an aggressive sport all the school had was flag football. That wasn't aggressive enough for me, so I joined the boys wrestling team and eventually helped start the girls wrestling team. This taught me that you don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great."  
- Pearl Fletcher, junior



"I was raised in a family where cooking was central to everything. My grandmother would cook complete meals for 15 people every night. She taught my father, who taught me. By 14, I was working in my first kitchen. I was born to do this. Cooking, along with coaching the varsity baseball team, is not work to me. It's my life."  
- Mr. Chase, Culinary Teacher



"I started down the path to become a teacher the moment I learned to play the piano. I'm fortunate to start a band program here. We have students with hidden musical talents, we have the instruments, and Principal Alfano has supported the program from day one. There is nothing quite like the magic of making an instrument come to life."  
- Mr. Harrison, Music Teacher



"School in the United States is fair and simple. Growing up in Australia, the work was hard, but here you can do it. The teachers here are great because they listen and help way more. At home, my role models are my parents. They are smart and hard-working people. They encourage me to do my best now so that I can be OK in the future."  
- Bernard Appiah, senior

# Teach sex education before senior year

By Mahalia Allwood and Tasnesshade Stone

There are many concerns about teaching sex education before senior year, but it should be because most students are sexually active at an early age.

Unfortunately, most children are introduced to sex when they do not know enough about it.

“Sex education needs to be taught because many students in school may have STDs,” senior Rene Wells said. “That would be preventable if they had proper education concerning safe sex and contraceptives.”

Studies showed that adolescents ages 15-24 consist of almost half of the 20 million new cas-

es of sexually transmitted diseases each year.

Today, four out of ten teen girls have had an STD that can cause infertility or even death.

Teenage males between 13-19 make up three-quarters of HIV diagnoses, even though the rates of HIV are very low among adolescents.

Most teenagers don't realize the risks they are putting themselves into until they are facing the consequences.

“Sex education should be provided because one in four teens get an STI in their lifetime,” health educator at Morris Heights Health Center Grace Figueroa said. “They may not have any symptoms or they don't use protections.”

The school's clinic

also has information on how to practice safe sex and there are health educators and doctors who can provide you with the information you need.

“Most teens say they don't have enough information about STDs,” Figueroa said.

You may see their posters on the walls advising students to get tested.

Testing, however, is not enough.

Students start becoming sexually active at young, tender ages and don't consider the risks.

“Between 10th and 11th grade, students start being sexually active,” the clinic's medical provider Giselle Tortorell said. “So, it's important to teach students about

sex before senior year.”

Too many adolescents are diagnosed with STIs or STDs, and it makes other teenagers who are not sexually active look bad.

Before students reach a certain age, they are curious to try out new things.

Sex might be one of the things on their bucket lists, but they might knock

over the wrong bucket and receive bad results.

We are lucky to live in New York, where we have access to confidential testing. But why wait to learn about sex when we can be educated beforehand?

This proactive method could help decrease the number of adolescents with STDs.

## Most New Cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections Occur in Youth and Young Adults

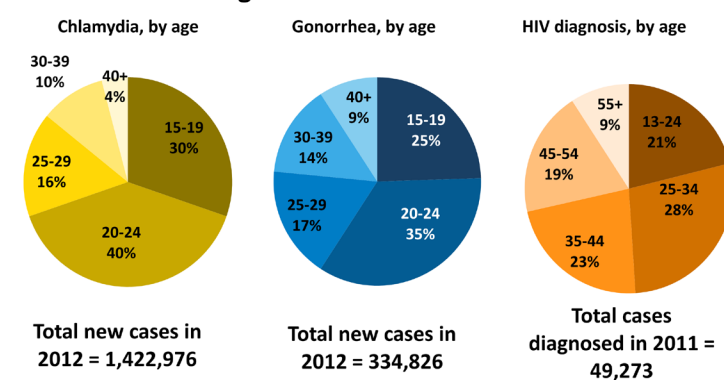


Photo from kff.com

By Mya Qualls and Sunabara Webb

# Raising homework percentage is 100

Currently, homework is only 10 percent of our overall grade, so most students dismiss homework assignments because of its low percentage.

Wouldn't it make more sense if this were higher? Homework is often forgotten or considered “optional.”

But if the homework percentage were higher, it would make students actually want to do homework and put in effort in studying at home, increasing its importance and function.

“Homework is a practice of what we learn from the day of,” junior Ajani Scott said.

Oftentimes, students don't want to do homework because it's considered time consuming. A student might get homework online but might not have any computer access at home.

By the time a student finishes any other extracurricular activities after school, the student may not have time to get to the library.

Even some teachers believe that the percentage should change.

“Repetition is another way of studying,” forensics teacher Dr. Binishi said. “So, the percentage should increase.”

Also, students may have jobs or have to do chores for their families, making the increase controversial or unnecessary for some students.

And what about those students who are working hard despite their busy schedules?

They should be acknowledged for their work, and it should be more than just 10 percent.

“Homework is deter-

mined by how hard you work,” said junior Pearl Fletcher. “It's based on the effort you put in.”

Teachers should recognize that students are trying to improve their grades and work in school. If the percentage increased, students could see that doing homework helps with test and classwork grades.

If homework were a higher percentage, students would be more determined to actually do it.

Some students may disagree and be satisfied with

the current 10 percent. They may be lazy after school and consider doing homework a waste of time.

It's a greater waste, however, to let work go unfinished when it could actually help increase your grade.

As a school, we should push to make studying a good habit despite our schedules because in the real world, we are in charge of our future.

These good habits can improve if we have more of a motivation to continue work at home.

## The wrong combination

By Lucia Perez

Since I've entered high school, there have been debates about why we don't have lockers. Although many students think that lockers are necessary, I beg to differ.

First, students wish that the school schedule was shorter. It's not going to get any shorter if lockers are allowed. The late bell would have to be extended in order for students to make it to class on time, meaning more time in school.

Second, having access to lockers increases the risk of stolen items or possession of drugs and weapons. We are trying to prevent this, but adding lockers would only make this problematic.

Third, aside from high risk of stolen items, the chances of suspension are likely to increase because students will be using their phones more often than usual. Instead of leaving their phones in their bags and storing these bags in lockers, students will carry around phones in their pockets, even more than they already do.

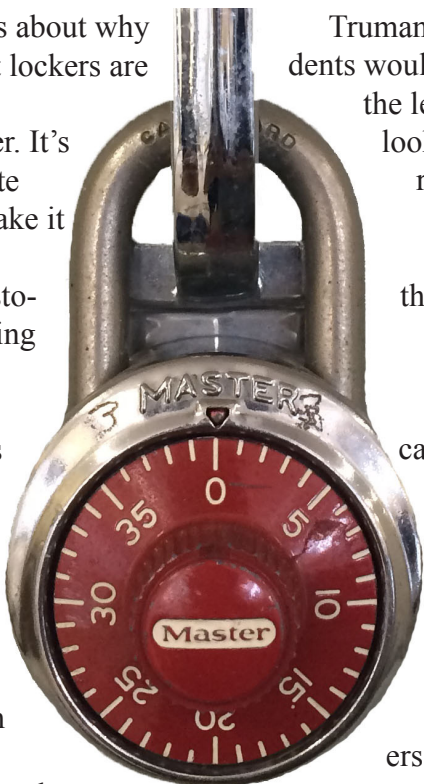
Finally, while students leave their bags in their lockers, they will likely leave behind important materials such as homeworks, notebooks and pens. Grades would lower because students will be unprepared and teachers would not let students leave to go to their lockers because it will interrupt the lesson.

Lockers would just make the day longer, increase the chance of theft, promote cell phone use and make us forgetful. Say no to lockers!

## To lock or not to lock?

## Locks away!

By Nia Crosdale



Truman would greatly benefit from providing student lockers. Students would be able to put their belongings in areas that do not hinder the learning process. All throughout the school day, students are looking through their bags for things like their phones or other random things that have nothing to do with the lesson.

With lockers, we can leave these items in a designated space. This would promote students to follow the rules because they would no longer have the temptation of the phone in the bag or the freedom to carry around bottles with harmful materials in them.

Lockers will also teach students to be more organized because they will be obligated to know where all of their things are placed so they can get to class on time and still have required materials.

Sure, people will be missing pens or pencil, but those will be the same students who have bags on and no pen. This will force them to make sure they have their things or lose participation points on their grade.

Ever seen athletes carrying huge bags all day? With lockers, they can have a designated space to store their bags! They can leave them in lockers and go back when practice begins.

Our school has so many untapped opportunities and lockers are one of them. If students are allowed that freedom and responsibility, they would be able to grow more as individuals.

# INFLUENCE OF MAINSTREAM HIP-HOP

By Diovanny Santiago

Assuming that the majority of people reading this listen to hip-hop or trap music, every time you listen to mainstream artists, ask yourself: Is hip-hop a good influence to society?

A lot of hip-hop artists, from Eminem to Kanye West, talk about their childhoods and how difficult it was to get where they are today. Unfortunately, there are too many hip-hop artists who send the wrong message.

“Most of hip-hop is kind of pathetic and doesn’t make sense,” said sophomore Isis Vega. “It talks about the same thing of society, like guys using girls as sex toys and girls exposing themselves too much.”

Some hip-hop songs have incoherent lyrics. Most of the lyrics from a Chief Keef song sound like unintelligible sounds and words. Similarly, Meek Mill is the obvious example of rapping incoherent lyrics in the diss track he made against hip-hop and R&B singer, Drake.

The lyrics of Mill’s song are barely possible to hear, but they were made worse when he ripped the entrance song from WWE superstar, The Undertaker, and got sued.

Of course, some hip-hop artists provide a positive influence and rap about politics, the economy, the government, or their strug-

gles to get to the top. They rap about the reality of life.

The cons of the influence of hip-hop, however, outweigh the pros:

**1. Gang related assaults/problems:** Gang affiliations affect our generation, for even children who are just in middle or elementary school are initiated into gangs.

**2. Drug and alcohol usage:** A majority of people who listen to hip-hop get influenced to smoke marijuana or do other drugs like Molly, and drink while being underage.

**3. Negative female influence:** There is little to no positive influence for women in hip-hop. It makes women look bad and has a hypocritical and controversial effect as well. This affects not only adult women, but it affects kids from the ages of 10 to 18.

In an interview for HipHopDX, GZA of the Wu-Tang Clan said, “radio-friendly rap with more emphasis on lyricism is dead. Therefore, hip-hop is not about the art anymore.”

Next time, listen to some of the lyrics of your favorite hip-hop artist and ask yourself:

Do I want to do the same thing he/she says in this song?

Your answer may surprise you.

# EDITORIAL FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

Have you ever leisurely walked to class and all of sudden, you feel the rush of 100 people running past you like dinosaurs to their prey?

This is most likely the result of another fight breaking out in Truman High School.

Fighting is an epidemic, not just in Truman but in most New York City schools. In fact, Truman isn’t as bad as other city schools.

“Truman is considered one of the safest schools in the city,” Police Officer Jackson from the 45th precinct said. “In comparison, Lehman is the third worst in the city.”

Yet, we have many altercations in our hallways. There are different opinions on the cause

of this problem, but no one, absolute answer. It may be because of the lack of harsh punishment by schools or the neighborhoods of schools themselves, but either way, it is a problem.

Recently, there has been an escalation in the amount of fights. Some floors see more fights than others.

Fights don’t just affect the students involved, but they also affect people in the vicinity. These students are often late to their next class or can be mistaken as some-

one involved in the fight.

School safety officers, who are meant to keep hallways clear, are often missing during fights. Teachers have to come rushing out of their rooms to stop a fight even though it isn’t in their job descriptions.

It is, however, in the job descriptions of the school safety officers. When asked about the increase in fights,

“Truman is considered one of the safest schools in the city,” PO Jackson said. Yet, we have many altercations in our hallways.

the only responses we received from safety officers were that “there are no fights at Truman” and several statements of “no comment.”

Most of these fights break out due to petty things like name-calling or accidentally bumping into someone.

Fast forward to when you’re applying to college. Colleges won’t call you for an interview and ask if you had a good reason to get into a fight. In fact, they may never call you at all.

Even if you don’t get

suspended and a college doesn’t see it on your record, they might see it elsewhere because us teenagers record everything. It’s bound to be seen by millions of people on the Internet. Your impulsive behavior is now permanent.

High school isn’t somewhere we come to hang out or fight. We come here to ensure that we get into a good college and have a good job. Fighting in school is just ruining your chances of reaching your fullest potential.

In the real world, fighting will not be taken as lightly as it is taken in school. Instead of school safety, real cops will arrest you, affecting more than just a high

school record. A criminal history is far worse than your transcript because it can bar you from certain jobs and may ruin your future.

Instead of asking someone to hold your earrings or throwing your backpack on the floor to initiate contact, stop. Take a look at the security camera watching you. Or that student ready to film the semester’s latest fight. Think about it: you may end up on World Star but in the real world, you may be behind bars.

# New lesson: teach life’s lesson

By Kevone Williams

With the many challenges that students face in life after high school, we must ask: should life skills be taught in schools?

Many students face challenges throughout life after their high school graduation if they don’t go to college.

Let’s be honest, many

high school graduates won’t want to go to college as schools get more expensive every year. Many working middle-class American families just can’t afford college.

If so many students stress about their lack of funds after high school, shouldn’t they be taught how to balance their bud-

get, pay taxes, spot a manipulative deal when buying a car at the dealership or even how to change a tire?

When are we ever going to use the Pythagorean theorem in the real world?

This is not to say that math isn’t important, but many linear equations, exponentials and lines of symmetry are not going to be used on a day-to-day basis unless you’re an engineer or architect.

“In real life, you won’t need to know how to factor a trinomial,” junior Mecca Hartridge said. “But you will need to know how to balance a checking account.”

According to The Wall Street Journal, the unem-

ployment rate for people age 16 to 24-year-olds without a high school diploma was 28 percent in 2012. In 2011, the rate was 19.7 percent.

While a college education is helpful, not everyone will be able to go to college. Instead of being unemployed, why not teach us a skill so that we can find work in machinery or at least function as adults?

“Life skills are essential because students don’t learn them until later in life,” history teacher Ms. Hernandez said. “Students should learn how to effectively use credit cards. Often, students learn this the hard way in college when it’s extremely easy to obtain a credit card.”

Many college graduates are unemployed and can’t find a job and could use several of these skills in the age of broke and jobless.

“We should teach students about interest and how it adds up quickly,” Hernandez said. “This way, students won’t have unnecessary debt later in life.”

Why not follow the ideas of Booker T. Washington? Not everyone can be a doctor, lawyer or engineer. Instead of teaching children skills that won’t be used after school, why not teach them something that will help them get a job? This way, we won’t walk across the stage at graduation and stumble right into reality.

## Schools Out

Share of recent high school grads enrolled in college.

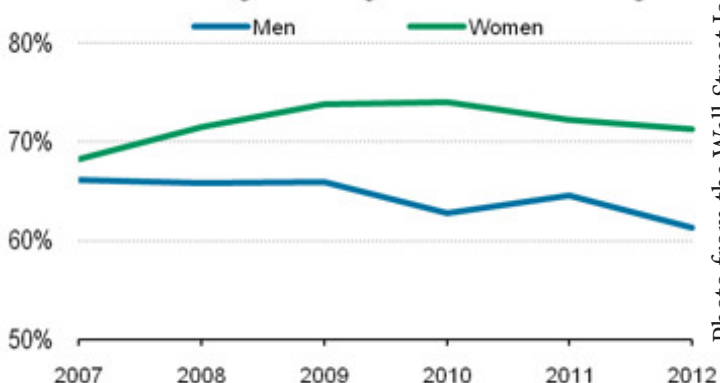


Photo from the Wall Street Journal

# Relay places first at biggest meet of the season

By Ruben Chico

Truman Mustangs indoor track team accomplished an impressive athletic feat in their demonstration at the Bronx Boroughs Championship meet on Feb. 7.

“I am very proud of my guys,” Coach Mr. Brescia said. “Through their hard work and dedication, they have improved over the season from becoming an average relay team, to the number one relay team in the Bronx.”

Brescia expressed his satisfaction in his runners competing in the 4x200 meter relay team featuring freshman Brandon Mills, sophomore Raneil Bailey, junior Revnor McGlashan and Bronx Health Science

senior Raheem Chambers.

Their cumulative efforts competing against New York City high school teams succeeded in earning them the best time at the meet and a gold medal with the first place finish of running 800 meters in one minute and 34.93 seconds.

To put this into perspective, the world record for a single runner in the 800 meter dash is one minute and 40.91 seconds.

This goes to show the commitment and success that the boys have put into their performances this year.

“When I first started, it was difficult,” junior Ethan Goodman said. “We got along because we were able to cooperate with each other and work as a team.”

Goodman, long time runner with three seasons under his belt, is proud of seeing the team’s success and its culmination of becoming a family.

Goodman, along with Bailey, Chambers and Shem Spencer, also featured in a successful 4x400 relay team at the Bronx Boroughs Championship meet that clocked a three minute and 38.41-second time to land second place overall.

This commitment does not just go for the relay part of this beautiful and historic sport. Individual performances that ranked exceptionally throughout indoor season include Mills’ two first place finishes at the Pilgrim Games: freshmen 55-meter, each clocking in

at seven seconds, and the Night at The Sprints, where his first place 300-meter dash clocked at 38.45 seconds. McGlashan came in fifth place in the varsity 55-meter dash, coming in at an impressive 6.82 seconds at the Bronx Borough Championship meet.

It’s clear that the indoor track team has accomplished one of their most successful performances. The runners are set to come up big in their following competitions as this new generation of young and motivated athletes reach maturity and increase their speed.

Although indoor season has ended, the success seen here should serve as a hallmark to the 2015-16 full track schedule.

The Truman Times is written and edited by Harry S Truman High School students.

To write for the last issue of the year, come to room 519 on Mondays and Wednesdays.

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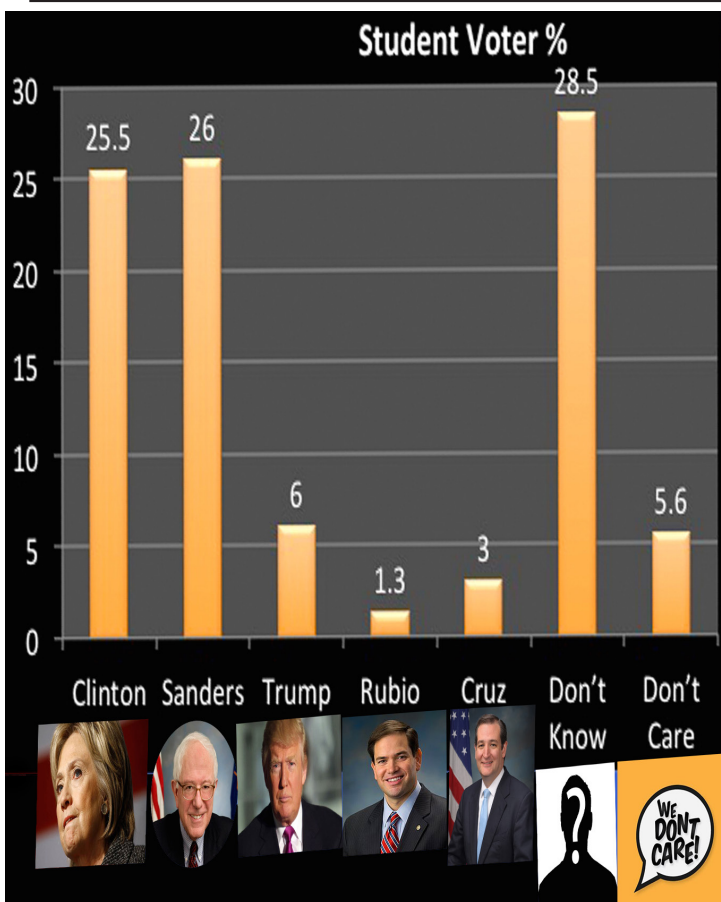
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On March 3, 2016, students were given a survey about the upcoming presidential elections.

The survey asked a range of questions, such as whether or not a college education should be free, voter registration rates and the most important issues in each student’s opinion.

This data was collected and analyzed by media teacher Mr. Roush and his students.

To the left is a visual representation of students who would vote for a specific candidate.

This infographic was created by junior Jimmy Santana for Ms. Vennoch’s Graphic Design class.

# FLAG, YOU’RE IT!

## Girls flag football team catches new season

By Ruben Chico

Astronomers and scientists alike have trouble comprehending one large mystery of life.

How great are the lady Mustangs flag football team?

Recent evidence points towards “very.”

This year, the fighting opens up following an undefeated season by players who are now in college or continue to lead the team towards greatness.

Although there are some impressive members this season, it is ob-

vious that there is missing presence in the team.

Wide receivers Danielle Taylor, Keiya Ager and Nilah Washington, as well as center Haley Osei and quarterback Joi Higgs will be missed.

Looking toward the future, however, the team is full of anticipation and energy for the young blood.

“We’re gonna make it,” sophomore Daisy Ramirez said. “I know that for a fact.”

Newly appointed sophomores, juniors and seniors are all getting the job done

with efficiency and passion.

“I’m excited for everybody on our team,” assistant coach Mr. Gordon said. “We have got a good team that’s strong, young and hungry.”

The loss of four year veterans throughout the team is apparent to the leadership, but the influx of new talent permits hope that the newly anointed players Arileidy Alvarado, Lakeema Dupree and Masita Coulibaly can use the leadership provided by coach Allison Hili to avoid another playoff upset.

Last year, a single point

loss against New Dorp High School knocked out the undefeated Lady Mustangs.

“We want to win,” Hili said. “Win everything, win the championship. Definitely win the Bronx.”

It is expected that the Mustangs will once again have a stellar regular season.

The backbone of the players that made last season such a rout for the opposition in the Bronx bracket are now the vetted leaders bringing athletically skilled youngsters to the field.

When it comes to the



playoffs, it is safe to say that the team has learned its lesson from past plays and are training twice as hard to get that championship. With the build-up of strategy and new plays drafted, it is very likely that we will see success this spring. The team will start its season on April 7 in an away game against John F. Kennedy High School.

# SPORTS

## Senior Kevin Dennis awarded at MSG

Contributed by  
Mr. Furriel

On Saturday, March 12, senior Kevin Dennis was honored with two prestigious awards at Madison Square Garden by PSAL, or the Public Schools Athletic League: Total Rebounds and Rebounds per Game.

These award are only given to the top student athletes in the city who participate in the elite basketball division, or PSAL "AA."

Dennis is currently finishing his senior year.

His journey started in February 2012 when Dennis and his mother, Ms. Monique Dennis, visited Truman.

Ms. Dennis was im-

pressed with everything she saw that day and Dennis started attending Truman in September of that year.

As a student, Dennis prides himself on his 80 average, excellent attendance and total commitment to his academics in pursuit of a college degree.

His focus and determination is evident not just in the classroom, but also on the court.

As an athlete, he played all four years at the varsity level. During those four years, Dennis utilized his 6-foot 3-inch stature and scored 1,124 points and grabbed over 900 rebounds.

He was also the captain of the team in his ju-

nior and senior years.

On Feb. 23, 2016, Dennis contributed to Truman's first playoff win since 2006.

The boys varsity basketball team defeated Susan Wagner High School in Staten Island with a score of 52-49.

Dennis was also selected to participate in the Mayor's Cup on April 3, 2016.

The Mayor's Cup is a competition between the 15 best PSAL student athletes from public schools and those from the Catholic Leagues in New York City.

Dennis will attend SUNY Morrisville in September, where he will be playing for Coach Smith and the Morrisville Mustangs.



Dennis, on left.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Furriel.

## BUMP, SET, SPIKE!

### Boys volleyball season begins with a win

By Sunabara Webb

The boys volleyball team started their training and are ready to take on other schools.

The team is competitive and is off to a good start this season.

In their first game of the season, the boys won against Walton Academy on March 24 with a score of 2-0.

"I'm hoping that we build a good team and make it to playoffs," junior Marquese Johnson said.

The boys won again against John F. Kennedy on March 28, but lost to Bronx Science and Christopher Columbus High School on March 30 and 31, respectively.

In 2015, the boys volleyball team had a strong year, winning a total of six games.

Coach and guidance counselor, Ms. Gaskins, is hopeful for the championship this season.

"I'm hoping for victories," Gaskins said. "I want this to be a rebuilding year."

Assistant coach and English teacher, Ms. Martinez, also has high hopes for the boys' attempts to make it to playoffs this season.

"I'm looking forward to

seeing the team win a lot of games," Martinez said.

Last year, Bronx Science's team had an undefeated season until they played the Truman boys and lost.

Besides winning, the boys have other expectations for the season.

"I hope this team has the ability to come together and build a strong bond," junior

Marlon Prawl said. "This way, we are able to depend on each other in the game."

The team lost many seniors last year, leaving behind just two seniors this season: Justin Perales and Saluhu Malam.

These seniors will have to be the leaders and role models for the underclassmen.

"I'm feeling really confi-

dent about our chances this year," Perales said. "We can actually make it to playoffs and exceed, although there is still work to be done."

In order to make it to the playoffs, the top two teams in the division that win the most games have to play against each other.

The Truman team

is in Division A.

Division A is the most intense and the Truman boys are prepared for this intense journey for the rest of their volleyball season.

The boys have been practicing nonstop and are ready for their next away game at Dewitt Clinton High School on April 15.



Photo by Ms. Martinez

Back row, from left to right: Nadim Hossain, Joseph Botwe, Adrian Ramirez, Saluhu Malam, Marlon Prawl, Khristian Goland, Justin Perales.

Front row: Kawane Strickland, Marquese Johnson, Daniel Adlam, Austin Yarf, Richard Appiah, Raphael Apraku.