

THE **JAGUAR**





CONGRATULATIONS Zahar Alao Staff Writer

Our editors and staff at the Jaguar Journal would like to say a very big "Congratulations!" to Gabriel Carvalho for being accepted into Berklee College of Music! He is one of the many seniors in Jackson Memorial who are being accepted into many great schools. Gabe was recently interviewed about his great achievement and

here is what he had to say:

What were some of the requirements for your application?

"It was actually a really simple application process. The just asked questions like 'Who are you?', they asked about my school, and my musical background." How did you feel when you were notified that you were accepted?

"I was happy, really excited. I actually waited up to receive the email at 12:03 am."

What piece did you prepare for your audition?

"I performed a song called Claire de Lune by Debussy. I also did some sight-reading and rhythm clapping. It was a lot of improv."

What is your major?

"MPE. Musical Production and Engineering."

Why did you want to go to Berklee?

"I wanted to go, not only for the education, but also for the fact that I'd be provided with an insane amount of connections that would give me everything that I would need to make my career."

When did you suddenly realize your passion for music?

"Probably like 6th grade. I only played piano, and I just started teaching myself guitar. I realized that I really love singing, too. Now I play I play alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, piano, guitar, and the tuba."

What is your favorite song to perform?

"I love to sing The Point of No Return from The Phantom of The Opera."

What is your favorite song to listen to?

"I like Miracle Sun by Anthony Green."

Once again, a huge congratulations to Gabriel Carvalho and all the rest of your seniors! Your achievements are being recognized and appreciated, and we'd like to wish you all good luck for the future!



JAGUAROPINION AN OHIO TRANSGENDER TEEN'S TRAGIC STORY

n December 28,2014, teen Josh (Leelah) Alcorn was struck by a tractor-trailer early in the morning. At 14, after finally figuring out his preferred self-identification as transgender, Josh gave himself the female name Leelah and came out to her parents. However, the teen's Christian parents were very disapproving and her mother declared it was just a passing phase. The mother brought Leelah to multiple therapists because she thought the child was suffering from depression and she hoped to get her child back to 'normal.' But Leelah refused to open up.

Leelah reportedly had all the support in the world from her friends and classmates after opening up, but after having her social media taken away, she suffered from *Contributor* loneliness and depression from the cruelty of unaccepting parents. After feeling all of the pressure of having few

ing parents. After feeling all of the pressure of having few friends, trying to do well in school, and saving money to one day have enough to get her surgery to help her look more female, Leelah decided to commit suicide. Her suicide note was posted on Tumblr

after the teen's tragic death. It is heartbreaking to me

how this teenager, someone

my age, killed herself because she felt isolated. I believe a parent should have nothing but unconditional love for his or her child, no matter gay, straight, bisexual, or transgender. My family has the strongest bond and to have that severed due to lack of acceptance would feel horrid.

There are many people in today's society who believe people should be raised according to a certain criteria and cannot stray from that. But this is far from true. People must begin to accept the fact that everyone is made differently. People need to spread more love for others, not hate. If you were the one in this situation, wouldn't you want support and not criticism? It is time for people to become more accepting of our differences. After all, hating others gets us nowhere.

BARE NOIZE REVIEW OF "DIRE"

Dance music has been around for decades and does not seem to be leaving pop culture any time soon. Within the last few years, the term "EDM" (electronic dance music) was coined to distinguish the genre of modern electronic dance tracks from other categories of music. Since the start of the recent major EDM buzz in America, dance music producers have not been using their talents to their full creative abilities; many producers have been making tracks that would get the attention of big name labels (like Spinnin' Records) for potential sales and revenue, rather than using their gift to create sonic masterpieces. Since the release of Martin Garrix's "Animals", the EDM scene has been flooded with tracks that have similar song structure, sounds, and composition. However, thanks to Bare Noize and others, the entire dance music scene is not completely saturated with redundant, commercial-sounding productions.

Bare Noize, a duo from London, England, has been deejaying at venues around the world for years. Daniel Brown and Oliver Pile, the two masterminds behind the project, have developed their own unique sound within the bass music scene. The two have mixed their filthy style into major reworks of label artists Skrillex, Medison, and several others and have released collaborations with artists like Subzee-D. Additionally, they have released solo projects, such as their very

Eric DiGiovanni Contributor

own "Dire" which debued on UKF Dubstep on December 22, 2014.

Some will call it dubstep; others will call it experimental. Whatever the genre, "Dire" is definitely a work of its own. Never have I heard a track so are scattered throughout the ambience to give a "spacey" vibe. As the track builds, a beautifully synthesized set of sounds is present to establish tension and anticipation for a transition into the drop (or the main part of the track).

"..it invites the listener into a somewhat futuristic realm of peace and tranquility via sound."

minimal yet so powerful. The track begins with a slightly explosive stab followed by mellow, twangy lead. Throughout the gradual progression of the work, a few synth and bass stabs are played alongside ride cymbals and a kick drum to keep movement and rhythm. Percussive elements There is a kick, then a pause, and then some strange stutter. A soft, soothing bass then becomes present. Above the sub bass is the midrange bass, a stab hitting the same note every few beats, creating some sort of relieving feeling for the listener. The stab does not overwhelm the listener, but at the same time does not bore the listener; it invites the listener into a somewhat futuristic realm of peace and tranquility via sound. Simplicity is the key to this track's main section. Unlike typical dance music, there is no "punchy", "in-your-face" bass that grabs the attention of the listener. Instead, there is a series of glitches that creates a sensation for the listener that most dance music is unable to create. In this mind blowing track, Barely Alive gives the listener calmness and peace of mind. Barely Alive evidently proves that there are other sides to the dance music spectrum other than the commercial, fist pumping, bass heavy vibe that a majority of dance music gives off.







Contributor

Unbroken, directed by Angelina Jolie, is a drama based on a true story that illustrates Louis Zamperini's chilling journey during World War II. Louis, played by Jack O'Connell, was an olympic runner who joined the war and endured getting lost at sea for 47 days after his plane crashed. He was found by the Japanese Navy and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp where he would be beaten, starved, and tortured until the war finally ended. As a prisoner, he was personally victimized by Watanabe (a.k.a. "The Bird"), 2 one of the ruthless camp leaders played by Takamasa Ishihara. The film depicts Louis' inspiring, tenacious, and faithful qualities that left him "unbroken" after the hardships that he faced.

While watching this film, I felt strong emotions that made me realize how powerful of a movie *Unbroken* really is. The film showed a lot of brutality and I felt disturbed at many points, but I also felt a great deal of resentment towards the Japanese prison leaders. My heart wept for Louis as he gave a tear-jerking speech to his parents, letting them know he was still alive. I feel that this film gave off such raw emotion because it is a true story and these traumatic events are true parts of people's histories. Furthermore, I felt a great sense of pride knowing that our American men fought through with everything they had to protect our country. Unbroken gives the audience something to root for and provides hope. I would recommend this movie to anyone because it shares the beautiful message that one is strong enough to overcome anything if he have faith and perseverance.



TIMELINE OF FRESHMAN SEMINAR

As a freshman in high school, the top priorities of your first year are quite simple. They may include finding exactly where every class on your schedule is before the first semester is complete, adjusting to high school standards, or simply getting used to the fact that the day consists of four class periods rather than eight. These are the major concerns that constantly remain in every freshman's mind while transitioning from middle school to high school,

not the material taught in Freshman Seminar classes.

In addition to every incoming freshman's daily concerns is the requirement of the Freshman Seminar class. What does Freshman Seminar consist of? The knowledge of finance, credit, savings, and investments. Not only does a freshman need to learn about the importance of finance during their first year in high school, but also they are expected to remember the information for four or more years

Courtney Walsh Contributor

later on in their lives when it is actually vital. Do you really think students will remember facts from freshman year that do not relate to their lives at that time? Of course not! Freshman Seminar courses should be altered into Senior Seminar courses, which would offer a better chance for students to retain and use the information learned for the real world.

"I am too young to be learning about how to buy a house or even paying bills, I'm fourteen years old," exclaims a freshman student here at Jackson Memorial High School. This student is absolutely right! How is it logical to require students ranging from the ages of thirteen to fourteen years old to take these courses, when a majority of them live on their parents' money?

I strongly believe that the concepts and topic areas covered in the Freshman Seminar curriculum would be more beneficial if taught to juniors or seniors, rather than freshman. At the later points in high school most students are working, or applying for jobs, saving for a car or college and have some experience with money and paying bills. So, educating students about putting together a budget or financial planning is much easier to relate to as an upperclassman than it is for the current students in the Freshman Seminar course.



College introduces a brand new social scene and newfound independence for young people. It is no secret that fraternities and sororities are at the forefront of this social scene, both throwing parties and getting involved with the community. Through the haze of drinking and fun, though, lies a serious issue that is coming up more and more often in today's world. College students have to get through pledging in order to become a brother or sister, and they are often hazed. The type of hazing that is making the national news with tragic stories does not involve simple things like being forced to clean a bathroom, though: it is something that is an entirely different level or cruelty, and is sometimes causes death.

In November 2014, a student was found not breathing in a fraternity house at West Virginia University due to fraternity activities and hazing, and he eventually died. Things he had tweeted earlier indicated that there was heavy drinking and suspicious activity occurring. That same month at the school, underage pledgers of a fraternity were drinking and left in the woods to find their way back to the house, and were caught by the

police.

Chapters of fraternities have been closed at Coastal Carolina University and the University of South Carolina for hazing. A fraternity at Quinnipiac University was also shut down due to hazing. A student is even suing Bowie State University over a hazing incident. Though it is not as common in sororities-at least not serious enough to have headlines like those in fraternities-it is evident that in the modern world hazing has become too much of a social norm. Clearly, it never leads anywhere good, and hopefully members who think it is

funny and their duty to haze can begin to stop the horrid behavior.

The horrid behavior often involves forced drinking and being forced to consume and do things that are embarrassing and sometimes dangerous, like the West Virginia incident. In the most severe cases, death results, and it is unfortunate to see a newly independent young person lose his or her life trying to get into the social scene of college.

Greek Life is a staple of many universities, yet many frats are making a bad name for themselves by engaging in activities that threaten the lives of young people both physically and mentally. College is the step up to more independence and a new social scene in many people's lives, and hazing is unfortunately something they may experience in order join a fraternity or sorority. This new national issue has caused deaths and tragedy, and, unfortunately it is up to these young people who have just found their independence to put a stop to it, for only the fraternities and sororities can govern their own actions.

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NEW DISCOVERY OF AN OLD ARTIFACT

William Meriney Contributor

n December 11th, 2014, a time capsule from American fathers Paul Revere and Samuel Adams was found in Boston during repairs of a water leak at the state house. It was opened on January 6th, 2015. Inside there was five pristine folded newspapers, 24 coins, a title page from Massachusetts colony records, an engraved silver plate, and a Massachusetts commonwealth seal.

The box was opened before in 1855, documented, and then put back for about 160 years. In 1855 the technology that is available today did not exist so before it was opened this time, it went through many X-rays, and experts were able to see the contents before it was opened to see if they inside could withstand being taken out and handled without breaking.

The opening process took seven hours just to get

the screws out of the ten pound, 5.5 x 7.5 x 1.5 inch box. The next step was to extract all of the materials out of the time capsule without damaging them. All went well in the extraction process and the five newspapers were in surprisingly good condition. Some of the more interesting pieces of metal in the capsule included a pine tree shilling from 1652, half cent coins, and a copper medal showing George Washington.

The next step will be to preserve the contents of the time capsule and put them on display in a museum so that the public can see what their American heroes left for them to find. Eventually, the exciting piece of history must be reburied and it will be interesting to see if executives will place anything else in the time capsule so that future generations may see what this time was like.



THE JOHN LENNON WALL: AN END OR A NEW BEGINNING? Taylor Baals

The John Lennon Wall in Prague, Czechoslovakia -a major tourist attraction, collection of art, piece of history, and symbol of peace and freedom-has been turned into a plain white wall without any notice. Overnight, art students painted over the wall claiming it was time to open it up for the new generation. The Lennon Wall, a history of the Velvet Revolution and western culture inspiring a fight against communism is gone, to be seen only in pictures, but the wall will live on. New artists are contributing all the time, returning it to beauty telling a new story. Many have seen it as a large loss but others are happy to see what this new story brings them.

In the 1980s after John Lennon was murdered, many young people in Prague

Contributor viewed him as a hero, using him and western culture to fight against the communism they were trapped under. The wall became covered in art and, despite being repeatedly painted blank by police, was filled again and again. Not only had the wall become a huge tourist attraction, but a significant symbol of art, peace, and freedom. Unfortunately in early November of 2014 people awoke to a white wall, entirely blank except the words "Wall is over." painted on it. The art, dreams, and messages of a generation's peaceful revolution lost overnight.

However, the wall is not quite over at all. Some of the first graffiti to find its way back onto the wall stated, "The wall is never over! Just imagine..." keeping the wall's

previous glory in mind with the word imagine; inspired by John Lennon and The Beatles lyrics from the song, "Imagine." Although it was tragic to lose such a significant collection of art and history, hopefully it will pave way for a new story.

Since the John Lennon Wall has been painted over it has already started to grow with new art adorning it. A new story is being written, yet not without tribute to its predecessor. The silent remodel of the wall was truly tragic as the wall was more than just covered in graffiti; it was covered in beautiful art, like all graffiti, and in history. The story of one generation documented now only in pictures and a new one starting to fill in the blanks.

JMHS STUDENT TAKES POLAR BEAR PLUNGE Kathryn Farias

n Saturday February 21st, at 12:30 p.m. over 6,000 people were lined up on the snow-covered beach of Seaside, NJ, some dressed in outrageous costumes, others wearing nothing but a swimsuit. At 1:00 p.m. those same people-with giant smiles on their faces- all threw themselves into the 34-degree ocean water, only to dash back out, screaming from the cold. This chaotic event is known as the Polar Bear Plunge and, despite the seemingly idiotic practice, there is a reason why many people, myself included, braved the ice-cold water that afternoon. The Polar Bear Plunge is a charity event that takes place every year in the winter; the goal of this function is to raise money for the Special Olympics of New Jersey. Every participant must register either online or on site and the only requirement is that you raise a minimum of \$100 in donations in order to be able to take the plunge. Although this was my first year participating, thanks to the 4 combined generosity of both

teachers and fellow students, I was able to raise \$233 in total donations.

My uncle has been doing the Polar Bear Plunge every year for the past fourteen years; however this year he decided to make it more of a family event and invited a few other members of the family to join in. I accepted, of course, and two weeks later found myself wearing an amusing costume, walking towards the boardwalk with my family (at least those who actually showed up) who were also wearing costumes even more outrageous than my own. As for the time between when we arrived and the moment of the actual plunge, we spent most of it wandering the boardwalk, taking pictures and admiring the other absurd costumes. There were men and women alike dressed as mermaids, TV show characters, superheroes, and for whatever reason there were several groups of Vikings. My own costume was simple and something I threw

Contributor together at the last moment; it was comprised of a sparkly blue tutu with a fuzzy pink hat and some very colorful

tie-dye socks. Although my uncle had the best costume

cap and attached to it was a

a polar bear and flag, and he

also made himself a bikini

by far; he wore a blue baseball toilet plunger decorated with

top using the rubber ends of two more plungers. This outfit combined with his participation for the past fourteen years has earned him the nickname of "plunger man" among a few of the other regular plungers.

After about an hour and a half of pictures and food it was time for the plunge. All plungers were ushered onto the beach at 12:30 and so began the countdown. The anticipation could be felt in the air as the lifeguards counted each minute until it was only ten seconds to 1:00. The crowed of over 6,000 began chanting the countdown of the last ten seconds, and then it was 1:00 and chaos erupted. Every single person on the beach sprinted



towards the icy ocean waves. I ran in also with my family by my side. At first I felt nothing until I was about waist deep, then it suddenly felt as if needles were being stuck into my skin. As quickly as they ran in, everybody began stumbling as fast at they could out of the freezing water, a task made more difficult now that most of use were numb from the waist down. I threw on my towel the second I got back to the place where we had all left our bags. My legs were numb,

I was shivering, there was sand everywhere, and my feet hurt from the cold. However even though I was the coldest and most uncomfortable I've probably ever been, I was also the happiest I've ever been. My family and I had managed to raise about \$1,000 total for a good cause and we had a great time doing it. There is no doubt in my mind: I am definitely doing this again next year.

LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOR

re Disney films taking a turn for the better? With all these new Disney inspired movies being released every few months, one must wonder- "why?" Do critics enjoy the use of real people as characters? Do people enjoy the modern twists with realistic life lessons? Whatever the reason, one certainly cannot be unaware that millions of people around the world are buzzing about movies like Frozen, Maleficent, Into the Woods, and even a new Cinderella!

I recently decided to watch a few of these movies to see just what kinds of changes were made to the plots and what new ideas Disney has produced. *Frozen*, for example is a story about how love comes in many forms, and that we are meant to appreciate all of them equally. Anna, the main character's sister who needs saving in the end, ultimately realizes that she doesn't need love from a prince in shining armor because her Staff Writer older sister loved her more than anyone else ever could. In fact, her sister, Elsa was the one who protected her from the evil scheming prince that she would have married.

In Into The Woods, there are a few fairy tales that all come together to make one story. These include Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk, Rapunzel, and Little Red Riding Hood. Each one of the characters from all these stories ultimately helps to lift the other up and teach themselves about the values of the real world. One scene that really struck me was the disappearance of the witch. She explained to all the other characters about how they aren't necessarily as "good" as they think they are, or perhaps as others make them out to be. "You're so nice. You're not good, you're not bad, you're just nice..." Each of the characters is nice, for they refuse to sacrifice one of themselves in order to solve their problems, but they aren't actually

good. This is shown when the baker's wife is unfaithful (but still seen and described as being a good woman), or when they all decide to kill the female giant, rather than attempt to create peace with her. In the end, there really isn't a cliche "happily ever after". All the characters seem to just make the best of their current situation and continue living as best as they can. This added a sort of twist to each of the tales, signifying to younger viewers who are watching that there really is no such thing as a perfect person or a perfect life.

My personal favorite, *Maleficent*, is a story that uses elements from Sleeping Beauty. Maleficent's story is told from her childhood where she befriends a human boy who later in life betrays her in order to become king. She then proceeds to cast an evil spell on his daughter, and the king sends his child away with some fairies for protection. The fairies don't do a very

good job at protecting the little princess, but Maleficent and her servan both look after her. Instead of holding the eternal grudge she had planned, Maleficent slowly warms up to the prin cess and

becomes her mother figure, caring for her more than even her own father did. Evidently, this is the love that was needed to break the curse, and all is well with Maleficent and her "daughter". I loved this film because it also goes to show that true love does not have to come from a night in shining armor and that hatred can be mended into love. Love can



come from just about anyone, even from those you least expect it from.

The truth is, love can come in many different forms, and from many different places. Maybe this is what audiences are now looking for in their fairy tales. With all the tough situations different people are facing, sometimes it's nice to sit down and watch a more realistic love story.

HAVE THE SEAS CALMED FOR JOURNALISM?

"HE WAS NOT ON THE COPTER"

Brian Williams, one of the most well known nightly news anchors for NBC, was suspended without pay for six months because he exaggerated his role on reporting in Iraq. Williams embellished a newscast that explained an incident in Iraq in 2003, placing himself into the story he was reporting. After falsely placing himself on a helicopter that took fire in a war zone in Iraq and changing the story, soldiers who had been on the copter clarified that Williams was not present the copter.

NBC began an internal investigation, fearing its credibility had been damaged due to a scandal by their most popular nightly news anchor. Williams had been bringing in 9.3 million total viewers each night, according to the New York Times. Many question if Williams will return to NBC after his six months suspension or step down from the industry entirely. Only time will tell. been reporting on pop culture for more than five decades. In those five decades, notoriety blossomed as stories captured the attention of readers in higher numbers with each innovative and sometimes provocative publication. However, the prestige of Rolling Stone magazine has been muddied by a recent slip in its fact checking.

In the Rolling Stone story, "A Rape on Campus," a gangrape of University of Virginia freshman by the name of Jackie was published in November of last year. Greek activities faced a temporary shut down by university officials, and the story seemed to be aiding an otherwise silenced sexual

Layout Editor wane until her identification of one of the alleged attackers proved questionable. Jackie said she was attacked at a "dating function" of the fraternity Phi Kappa Psi, however there were no such events on the weekend that Jackie cited as the weekend of the alleged rape. Furthermore, when Jackie identified one of her alleged attackers, her friends discovered that the particular student identified belonged to a different fraternity and that no one by that name had ever belonged to Phi Kappa Psi. Also, Jackie claimed to have met the young man while working at a pool. Although the young man by that name did work there, he never

a huge problem with sexual assault in the United States."

However, the inconsistencies of Jackie's plight are not all from her own account. "A Rape on Campus" has been criticized for not obtaining the viewpoints of the fraternity brothers who allegedly raped Jackie. Although this was due to the request of Jackie, UVA student sexual assault advocate Alex Pinkleton explains that the "the job was done poorly" in writing the story because "as a reporter, you can't be, like, an advocate and support a story and listen to it and think everything is true and then report on it without trying to figure out if it was true." Pinkleton goes on to explain that, "My job as an advocate was never to question Jackie's story or to question the details because I didn't need to. But the role that she's in as a reporter, she needed to do that." In another reporting based inconsistency, email correspondence between the fact-checking editor and university spokesperson only included broad questions about the ways in which the school handles sexual assault allegations. There were no specific questions on Jackie's alleged assault. Although the finer points of the gang rape could have been discussed over the phone, it is notably odd that the centerpiece of the story was not discussed in the

104 pages of emails between the UVA spokesperson and Rolling Stone fact checking editor.

Overall, although there are notable faults and inconsistencies in "A Rape on Campus" and Jackie's own accounts, perhaps the more important lessons are much bigger than one debated story. In the end, all charges were dropped and the case closed.

JE SUIS CHARLIE

On January 7th, 2015, the offices of the French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo were attacked by two Islamic terrorists. Twelve people died and another dozen were injured. This attack brought an outpouring of support for the staff of the publication and the belief in free speech. In the streets, chants of "Je suis Charlie," meaning "I am Charlie," could be heard throughout France. The phrase was inspired by an edit of the publication's style of text over a black background. The image was originally published on Twitter and became a rallying call in support of Charlie *Hebdo* and free speech. A publication of typically 60,000 copies, the following issue of Charlie Hebdo printed 5 million copies in six different languages. The revenue went to the families of the victims, including those of the lost cartoonists. 5

A CONFUSION ON CAMPUS

Journalism has experienced many rifts in the tide of events throughout the past twelve months. More recently, three events in particular have brought both challenges and discussion for readers and journalists.

Rolling Stone magazine has

assault survivor.

However, doubts about Jackie's account sprung up in the months that followed the publication of the story. This was primarily due to details of "A Rape on Campus" that didn't line up with accounts of people mentioned within it. As an example, Jackie's own friends were wrongly portrayed in the story. They were portrayed as discouraging and disbelieving of Jackie. In reality, Jackie's friends came to her aid on the night of the alleged incident when she called them. In fact, one almost called the police until Jackie insisted to go back to her dorm.

This trust didn't start to

worked with Jackie or met her in person.

Many details of alleged attackers are similarly minced from several sources of Jackie's past: the name of a student in Jackie's high school chemistry class mixed with the personality of an unrequited crush at UVA. However, one of Jackie's friends who came to her aid that night cites the social-cultural issue of rape as more important than his own and others' questioning of Jackie's story. Ryan Duffin explained that although he is not certain of the validity of Jackie's story, "The thing is, it doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if it's true or not because whether this one incident is true, there's still

SENIORS OF THE MONTH



JMHS has shaped me into the person I am and has inspired me to pursue who I want to become, but I'm still missing graduation to see Paul McCartney.



I'm most nervous to see what I end up doing as my career in the future. At the moment I have absolutely no idea what I want to do or even what general field I want to go into which is pretty scary. I'm not really one to plan that far in advance, but hopefully one day all of the hard work I've done will pay off and I will surprise myself with something that I enjoy doing.



Dylan Sidali, March

My biggest regret is ripping my pants in front of the entire band during a practice. Coincidentally, that's also the accomplishment I'm most proud of.

Not pictured: Shawn Nevers, February senior of the month.