



Editor-In-Chief
Alyssa Sullivan

Editors
Shauri Gonzalez
Zoe LaVigne

Copyeditors
Wren Wheeling
Brittney Williams-Poke

THE ECHO



Do Sports Affect Grades?



Photo Credit: Joseph Powell

By Harmoni Dortch

Sports can help enhance and hurt a student's academic achievement.

On one hand, sports are beneficial for students in school. Research strongly suggests that playing sports positively impacts a student's academic performance.

Sports provide self discipline for the student, leading to better academic focus and helping students to banish procrastination.

Lauren Cross, junior, agrees that sports help her reduce procrastination and focus on school much more.

"You need good grades in order to be on the team. I'm always gonna play

ball, so I always do my work so I can stay on the team. I don't really have a choice really. I just do my work and get it out the way cause I don't really have time to waste."

Sports are also great for the average student because they help him or her become much more versatile. Student athletes have the ability to improvise during the day when things don't go as expected.

Aaron Truss, freshman, says "I always multi-task to get my work done. I do work in the day, in the morning, or before going to bed. If I know I need to get something done, I always make sure it gets done despite what happens during the day."

Students sometimes leave school early to attend games or meets later on that day. This results in the student not only losing class time, but also causes the student to have missing class work.

"Last year, for track meets sometimes I would fall behind in a lot of my classes because sometimes we leave early for meets. The teachers normally let me make the work up that I missed when they get the chance," Shaniya Howard states.

Moreover, students who are involved in sports have complications getting their work done because sports cut out the time they could be spending studying or completing school work.

Daesha Winston, junior, admits sports contribute to the downfall of her grades.

"I'm not doing track this year. I'm already behind and me doing track is just gonna make it worse. My mom let me do cheer, but track is a no-no. That's why I had to quit last year. My grades were dropping."

Being involved in a sport is a challenge. However, it all depends on the student. If the student chooses to not take care of their school responsibilities, chances are that grades are going to drop. If the student chooses to be responsible and take care of all responsibilities, chances are that student is likely to become more successful in school.

Whether sports hurt or help students is still up for debate, but there is one common ground: the student decides whether he or she succeeds or fails.

A survey conducted by the Minnesota State High School League in 2007 and reported by the NFHS, The National and Administrative Service of High School Athletics and Fine Arts, found that the average GPA of a high school athlete was 2.84, while a student who was not involved in athletics had an average GPA of 2.68.

The survey also showed that student athletes missed less school than their non-athlete counterparts, with a total of 7.4 days missed and 8.8 days missed, respectively.

On the contrary, people still argue that sports actually hurt a student's academic achievement.

Involvement in sports affects the amount of a student's given class time.

Dress Code: Sexist and Necessary?

By Shauri Gonzalez and Harmoni Dortch



Dress codes dishonor freedom of speech, but they are professional. They create a safe set of rules for the school environment, but they perpetuate gender bias. Is it possible the dress code is both sexist and necessary?

In popular culture, it's almost unremarkable to wear crop tops, mini skirts, and baggy pants, yet these clothes break the school's dress code. The Urbana High School student planner states that "at no time may students wear clothes that are too revealing as determined by a dean and/or administrator," yet students don't see their clothes as too revealing. Their norms break school norms, leading to rebellion and perceived unnecessary punishments.

People dress to express personality and character, so a dress code often limits student expression. Because so many of the rules affect young women, many feel they are particularly targeted.

Dress codes are made to present a solution to the problem of "distraction towards others," but it creates a different problem: student anger and frustration. In addition, dress codes affect teachers too.



Alyssa Pavlakis, English teacher, agrees that the dress code can be unfair but believes it is necessary for the school environment.

"I think that the dress code is necessary because if we don't make sure that there's some kind of specification for what people can wear, then it gets out of hand," she explains.

Pavlakis admits that the dress code has a flaw. She understands that the dress code rules are aimed a lot more towards girls in school environments. "Just in general, dress codes can be more unfairly swayed towards girls. I mean when was the last time you saw a guy wear a spaghetti strap top or a short skirt, you know? And that's unfortunate that it does get swayed that way but I don't think that it's intentional by the administration or by the people making the rules."

To many, school dress codes have gained the reputation of discriminating against girls more so than guys in the school environment.

Daesha Winston, junior, says "I don't see guys get dress coded at all. A girl can get dress coded, sent to the dean's office, or even get sent home for a spaghetti strapped t-shirt,

however, a guy just simply gets told to take his cap off, or to pull his saggy pants up. It's clearly unfair."

Pavlakis also thinks it's unfortunate that the male audience does not get dress coded as much. Due to the popular culture and media she says that, "it feels like the woman has to be the distraction."

Saskia Bakker, student, also agrees with this concept.

"Girls are definitely more sexualized in general, especially girls with curvier bodies. The same clothes on different girls may be subconsciously treated differently in regards to the dress code because of their body shape," she stated.

In addition, the school's dress code requirements have gotten young females sent home because of what they might have on. A common phrase regarding this concept is "it's a distraction."

Still teachers side with the dress code even when they believe it's unfair.

Gerasimoula Kokkosis insists on taking care of her students as if they were her own. She believes she is preparing them for the "real world." This also means she puts in the extra work to call out anyone who is inappropriately dressed.

She explains that like the laws of the road, dress codes are there to regulate, and that there are some students who don't understand the type of environment that they are in. She explains that the way those students dress is as if they were "partying," but instead they are at school to study and work.

"The dress code is there to also protect students, and students don't realize that," she explains.

With many years of experience, Kokkosis has noticed that girls have been revealing more and more as the years go by. To her part of preparing the students for the "real world" is helping them realize where social standards are.

Every setting has a dress code, but it's rarely ever discussed, it is a student's job to realize when that implied dress code is there and what it is. "Let's pretend you're an attorney, is there a dress code there? Is there an understood dress code?"

With a long pause, she does agree that girls get dress coded a lot more than boys, but not because of sexism. Like Pavlakis she believes it's "simply because they (girls) have a lot more choices in the clothes that they wear."

Still, some students see dress code as something more than just clothes. Winston says "I am not aware as to why certain adults are so strict about the school dress code. I'm convinced that it is more of a control issue. They have the power, the authority, and tendency of giving out orders, specifically aimed at young females."

Kokkosis doesn't see it as control, but as caring. She enforces the dress code because of the love she has toward her students and her commitment to her job.

"I don't think I would be doing my job as a teacher, as a mentor, as a grandmother, and as a mother."

For some the dress code is necessary, for others it's sexist. With discussion, perhaps we can reach a middle ground.

Minorities in AP Classes

By Joey Wright

Ethnic Background	# of student enrolled in AP courses
White	115
African-American	38
Asian	19
Biracial	15
Hispanic	13
Native American	1

In high school classrooms across the nation, it seems like minorities are just that: a minority.

Urbana High School is no exception.

Last year, 115 of the 201 students enrolled in AP courses at UHS identified as white, meaning that only about 43% of students in advanced classes were of a minority ethnic background.

Ceigan Westfield, an African-American junior at UHS currently enrolled in two AP classes, sees that changes need to be made to fix the imbalance of minorities in advanced classes.

“I feel that minorities of all kinds are definitely capable of being in AP classes. The ones in AP classes now are the ones who are applying

themselves, and that is a problem because it is a relatively low number compared to white people.”

The problem isn’t only seen by the students. Administration knows that there is an ethnic imbalance in advanced classes. Michael Gourley, an associate principal at UHS, grants that the problem can be improved upon.

“It’s fairly good right now... it’s not horrible, but it’s not where we would like it to be. We’re targeting specific things in terms of improving in that area and increasing the number of students of color and minority that have access to those classes.”

The important thing to note when discussing the problems that schools face with diversity in AP classes is that they are not exclusive to any

one region. It truly is a nationwide problem. A quick Google search for “diversity in AP classes” turns up search results from a variety of sources from all across America, such as the Chicago Tribune, The New York Times and a bevy of local publications.

The lack of minorities in advanced classes, both in Urbana and on a broader American stage, realistically is not a problem that is likely to go away anytime soon. However, it is clear that the problem does exist and that steps will need to be taken to correct it for the good of American education in the years to come.

Semester 1 Exam Schedule

Day 1 – Wednesday, December 14th

Period 1	Exam	8:00 - 9:20	(1hr 20 min)
Period 2	Exam	9:25 - 10:45	(1hr 20 min)
Period 3	Class	10:50 - 11:20	(30 min)
Period 4	Class/Lunch	11:24 - 11:59	(35 min)
Period 5	Class/Lunch	12:03 - 12:38	(35 min)
Period 6	Class/Lunch	12:42 - 1:17	(35 min)
Period 7	Class	1:21 - 1:51	(30 min)
Period 8	Class	1:55 - 2:26	(31 min)

Day 2 – Thursday, December 15th

Period 4	Exam	8:00 - 9:20	(1hr 20 min)
Period 3	Exam	9:30 - 10:50	(1hr 20 min)
Period 6	Exam	11:00 - 12:20	(1hr 20 min)

Day 2 – Thursday, December 15th

Period 4	Exam	8:00 - 9:20	(1hr 20 min)
Period 3	Exam	9:30 - 10:50	(1hr 20 min)
Period 6	Exam	11:00 - 12:20	(1hr 20 min)

New Changes for Study Support

By Zoe LaVigne

“Study support is about ownership of your own academics,” states Principal Matthew Stark. “It’s 100 minutes to success, using that time during school to get additional help. To work on stuff to advance yourself is what the theme of study support should be, not a joke.”

This school year, Stark is looking to change the image of study support. He began the year with a meeting of the students in study support where students were given helpful studying and note taking tips.

“If you want to work, I want to make sure that study support is an environment in which you could work and an environment in which when you ask for help, we can find a way to get you help,” he says.

With the new study support rules stationed, it seems that teachers

have been able to get students the help that they need to be academically successful. Some of the changes include grade checks, stricter phone and talking rules, and possibly incentives for those with A’s, B’s and C’s.

“My study support teacher is a science teacher and I have a lot of trouble with that, so she has been able to help me,” sophomore Ayesha Mehta mentions. “And I’ve noticed there are a few students in my Study Support who are having trouble with math and my study support teacher knows that too so she invited math majors from the U of I to help out.”

“The teachers keep us on task more.” states sophomore Kaylyn Johnston. “If we don’t do their work they’re on us and they try their hardest to help us succeed. And last year they did that but it wasn’t as set in stone.”

It does seem like last year’s study support reputation was based on a lack of communication between administrators, teachers and students.

This year, with expectations more clearly stated, study support offers more academic help to students.

“We’re just trying to improve communication in what we’re trying to have done.” Stark says.

Stark is also aware that students don’t always have the motivation to get work done during study support.

“If you’re getting any grade below a C, study support should be a time you’re working to get that grade up. We would love to see kids get all A’s B’s and C’s.”

During the study support meeting earlier in the semester, discussion was made on what incentives the students wanted and which ones were doable. Educational phone usage and headphones have been allowed since then. However, we haven’t heard much since.

Stark has appointed teachers Ron Lavaire, Alyssa Pavlakis and Steven

Pavlakis to head study support.

Lavaire has mentioned incentives and ways they hope to improve study support such as a few open lunches every week for those in good standing, as well as a program where five study supports of different subjects are assigned to a group. With this system, students can go to teachers of different subjects for help.

Study support has come a long way since last year from when rules weren’t as clear and some study supports were free for alls, but Stark still sees room for improvement.

“We need students to buy in because if you buy in, this is a great time for you to knock things out and to get what you want out of high school academically,” he says. “It’s gonna take a while to change the culture and climate of study support, but we’re working on it.”

9 Tips To Help You Pass Your Exams

By Bayyinah Hill

Final exams are a nightmare for teens because we have to spend countless hours studying multiple subjects. You may feel like final exams have a great impact on our grades and will affect us forever. But just chill, here are some helpful tips that will help you ACE the exams!

1.) **Make flash cards.**

Writing notes and definitions more than once will help imprint information in your memory. Plus, what an easy pocket-sized way to review right before the test!

2.) **Join a Study Group**

Joining a study group is a great way to reduce the workload and make sure you understand the material, plus you might make a new friend in the process.

3.) **Test yourself**

No one wants to take an extra test, but practice ones can help you relearn and remember facts. You’re preparing for the exams as you review.

4.) **Later take a break**

Try taking a ten minute break every time you study for thirty minutes. It will keep you focused and alleviate stress.

5.) **Manage your time wisely**

The only thing worse than having a deadline is missing a deadline. Stay organized, cut down on procrastination, and your workload will feel much more manageable.

6.) **Get enough sleep (and not just the night before your exams)**

A tired mind is a slow mind. Getting enough sleep is one of the most important things to do.

And remember...

7.) **Relax**

8.) **Never give up**

9.) **Good luck on your exams!**



Homelessness in C-U

By Alyssa Sullivan



Shaking bodies line the streets in the dead of winter. People are lying on street benches, some without shelter. As the temperature decreases, this situation becomes even more dire.

Homelessness is growing nationwide. In Champaign-Urbana even more people are without a place to call home. The News-Gazette's annual homelessness point-in-time survey shows an increase of homelessness and inconsistent housing locally.

So what can citizens do to get involved?

Deacon Hopkins, a worker at the Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal and former counselor at Urbana High School, believes citizens should "encourage the state government to finalize a budget and see that local

agencies receive the money they need to do their work."

Without a state budget, government programs can't finance local shelters. Getting involved in the local government can encourage change within the higher sectors of politics.

Don't be afraid to contact the mayor or the state representatives. Always remember that your voice matters!

"Another would be to donate money directly to any local agency providing overnight shelter for the coldest months of the year, such as the Salvation Army, the TIMES center, or any of the downtown Champaign churches seeking to host overnight guests. Third would be to volunteer to help at any local agency that provides food or other assistance, such as The Daily Bread soup kitchen, the Phoenix drop in center, empty tomb, Salt and Light ministry, or Habitat for Humanity."

Programs have developed in the community to help people with different needs. A Woman's Place-Domestic Violence Shelter is for women and children who have suffered from domestic violence. The Champaign-Ford Attendance Improvement works with local school districts to reduce absenteeism and fund school supplies for homeless children.

In the local community, people can get involved in several programs to foster change.

Although the misconceptions about homeless people might be responsible for stifling the social progress in creating positive change in local communities, with enough help progress is possible.

The Harshness of the Winter

By Darian Younggren-Halliday



Despite hot October and mild November, people still think the weather in winter may be harsh.

Despite it's name, many think that global warming may cause harsh winter weather this year.

The average temperature for November is in the 60's in the state of

Illinois, but the county of Champaign is having highs in the 70's.

In some places of the United States it has already snowed, so there is no wonder that people think that we are going to have a harsh winter. Never fear, because according to the experts, we won't.

Jack Gerfen, Meteorologist at WCIA predicts, "We will be closer to normal with temperatures and snow. Maybe a little warmer than normal, but closer to normal than last year. Near normal amounts of snow, so probably around 20 inches."

Over winter break there is no need to worry because the weather will be average, enjoy the winter by sledding with all your friends.

Trying For Change

By Nakia Emery

Prior to November's meeting, you may have forgotten what the student congress was or that it even existed. This is something Principal Stark is trying to change for the upcoming semester.

Principal Stark designed the Student Congress to give students the chance to have their voices heard.

Every homeroom has one representative who is a member. The people in that homeroom tell their representative their concerns, issues, or ideas. The representative then goes to meetings with the congress and shares what his or her fellow classmates have to say.

Myles Cobb, a member of the student congress, says it's a way to bring "awareness to issues."

Two main topics discussed at November's meeting were bathrooms and homophobic slurs.

There are mixed emotions about the way it started out, but for the most part students involved believe that this idea is a strong change. The Student Congress is arguably the best student-centered change made recently here at Urbana High School.

Most say if the congress continued to meet, that they will "feel more included" in the decision-making regarding our school.

The next meeting is scheduled for early January 2017.

Use this opportunity to have your voice heard!

Killing All Birds With One Stone

By Tatyonna Winn



Have you been looking for that WOW gift for a friend or family member? Students at Urbana have come together to pitch their creative ideas for the holidays. All the stores listed below can be found at the Market Place Mall located in Champaign.

You will be able to do all your shopping in one place instead of running around, which can be stressful.

The stores are starting to become crowded, so get the good gifts before it's too late!

1.) Scented Candles

Who doesn't love the aroma of a Christmas cookie or a winter candy apple? You can find scented candles just about anywhere, so let your nose lead you!

Try Yankee Candle and Bath & Body Works for a candle that will impress.

2.) Smell Goods

Want to be the person that turns heads due to your musky or floral scent without breaking the budget? This time of year body sets are majorly discounted.

Try department stores for Ralph Lauren or Victoria's Secret.

3.) Shoes and Clothes

You can't go wrong with buying people trendy outfits. Purchase clothes that you wish your friend would rock or buy the shoes that your cousin has had his eye on forever.

Try these stores for something unique:

Finish Line
Jimmy Jazz
Charlotte Russe
Forever 21

4.) Makeup

People go crazy over makeup. You can impress that special someone, or just yourself, with the high end products at Sephora.

5.) Video Games

One of the hottest video games out right now is *NBA 2K17*. You can purchase this game at Gamestop. Look out for special sales around this time of year. You never know what you'll find!

All gifts don't have to be extremely expensive. Some people even make their own gifts. It's always the thought that counts anyway, right?

Here are some homemade gift ideas:

1.) Personalized Ornaments

You can make these ornaments out of the same things you find around your house. For example: bottle caps, ribbon, buttons, etc.

Write inside jokes or draw funny memes on the ornaments to make them even more personalized.

2.) Pencil Holder

This kid's craft can easily become a sophisticated gift! You can find these items around your house or purchase them at your nearest Family Dollar. All you need is an opened and washed aluminum can and some ribbon or paper.

This can also double as a vase for flowers!

3.) Bake Something

Spending hours baking something delicious for someone creates more than just a nice treat; it shows that your taking time to make them feel special. Also think about all the extra desserts!

Classic Holiday Cookies

By Brittney Williams-Poke

Chocolate Chip Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

-3/4 cup granulated sugar
-3/4 cup packed brown sugar
-1 cup butter or margarine, softened
-1 egg
-2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
-1 teaspoon baking soda
-1/2 teaspoon salt
-1 package (12 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips (2 cups)

DIRECTIONS:

1.) Heat oven to 375°F
2.) Mix sugars, butter, vanilla and egg in large bowl. Stir in flour, baking soda and salt. Stir in chocolate chips.
3.) Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet
4.) Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown (centers will be soft). Cool slightly; remove from cookie sheet. Cool on wire rack.

Sugar Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

-3/4 cup sugar
-2/3 cup vegetable oil
-2 teaspoons baking powder
-2 teaspoons vanilla
-1/2 teaspoon salt
-2 eggs
-All purpose flour

DIRECTIONS:

1.) Heat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, mix 3/4 cup sugar, the oil, baking powder, vanilla, salt and eggs with spoon. Stir in flour.
2.) Drop dough by teaspoonfuls about 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet. Press bottom of glass onto dough to grease, then dip into additional sugar; press on balls until 1/4-inch thickness. Dip bottom of glass onto a wet paper towel, then dip into dry gelatin; press onto dough. Repeat until desired color appears.
3.) Bake 8 to 10 minutes until light brown. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely.

Chocolate Oatmeal Drop Cookies

INGREDIENTS:

-2 cups quick-cooking oats
-2/3 cup peanut butter
-1 can (3 1/2 oz) flaked coconut
-1/4 cup unsweetened baking cocoa
-1 teaspoon vanilla
-2 cups sugar
-1/2 cup milk
-1/4 cup butter or margarine

DIRECTIONS:

1.) Line cookie sheets with waxed paper. In medium bowl, mix oats, peanut butter, coconut, cocoa and vanilla; set aside.
2.) In 1-quart saucepan, heat sugar, milk and butter to boiling. Boil 1 minute, stirring constantly. Pour over oat mixture; quickly stir to mix well.
3.) Immediately drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheets; cool. Carefully remove from waxed paper to serve.



Have we Been Living in an Alternate Dimension Since 2012?

The Mandela Effect Takes Over the Internet

By Wren Wheeling

As stories of the Mandela Effect sweep the internet, people all over the world are convinced that we have been pushed into an alternate dimension where the Monopoly Man does not have a monocle and KitKat is spelled without a dash.

The Mandela Effect gets its name from Nelson Mandela, a man who many people swear died in prison long before his actual death in 2013.

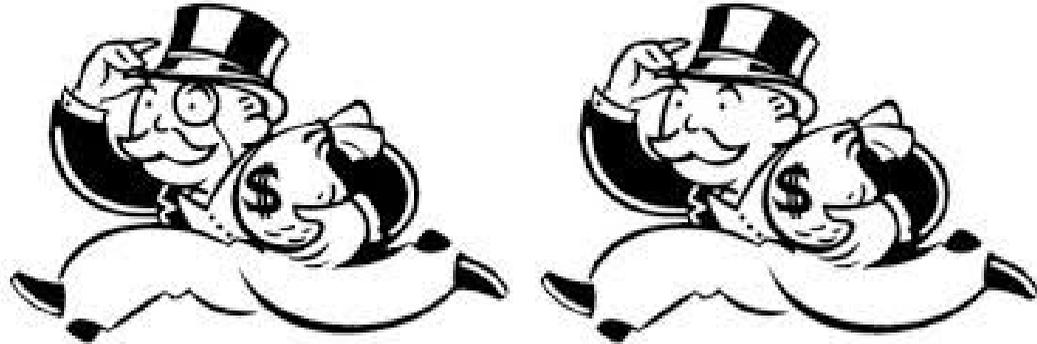
Ask someone to spell “Febreze” for you. They often easily blurt out “F-E-B-R-E-E-Z-E,” which is how most people remember the popular air freshener being spelled. However, if you look back into the history of the product, you will find that the extra “e” has never existed.

A similar situation is that of The Berenstain Bears, which people recall being the Berenstein Bears instead—with an “e” instead of the actual spelling with an “a.”

People believe that because so many things are changing, we aren’t actually living in our original dimension anymore.

A few other popular examples of the Mandela Effect include

- “Oscar Meyer” is actually “Oscar Mayer”
- “Sex in the City” is “Sex and the City”
- Pikachu does not have a black tip on his tail
- “We Are the Champions” by Queen does not end with the words “...of the world!”



Hasbro

- Curious George does not have a tail
- C-3PO is not all gold—he has a silver leg
- Darth Vader says “no, I am your father” instead of “Luke, I am your father.”
- Sinbad did not star in a genie movie in the 90s
- The witch from Snow White and the Seven Dwarves says “magic mirror, on the wall,” not “mirror, mirror.”
- “Jiffy” peanut butter has never existed—it’s called “Jif”
- Shirley Temple did not die as a child
- The Lindbergh baby was found three weeks after the kidnapping—contrary to the popular belief that the case was never solved

So is this the result of a spontaneous reality conversion, or are our memories simply failing us?

There have been multiple reports of people with photographic memories who are losing their minds over some of these anomalies. Though most of these people remain unnamed, Tumblr user Ypsiowns001 made a text post sharing her thoughts.

“Some of these are really creeping me out,” she writes. “Because I have a photographic memory, I have correct memories from when I was 4.”

“Mandela died in prison to some, not in 2013. This one is insane. I remember when I read about his death in 2013, I was hit with Déjà vu.”

These changes have been around for years, but people are just recently beginning to take notice.

A popular theory is that they began in 2012; the year the Mayans predicted would be the last.

The Mayans were highly intelligent people, so it’s possible that they didn’t actually predict the end of the world—they predicted a sort of reset, or a mass consciousness switch.

The darker side of this theory, however, is that it would mean that our original dimension has died out and we will be forced to live here forever.

But that’s not too bad, is it?

Ugly Christmas Sweaters: We're Ugly.... And We Know It!

By Shauri Gonzalez

Tacky? Maybe. Cute? Probably not. Ugly? Heck yeah—it's the season to be! Winter is the time to get into the spirit of things. Christmas songs will get stuck in your head until the next year, and this year might be the year I finally try eggnog.

We shiver and quiver but that's okay because we'll have a nice warm..... Christmas sweater. In addition, a nice warm fire in our chimneys to later use to burn that Christmas sweater.

It's worth the buy, no matter how ugly though. Christmas sweaters will be the clothing item that dominates stores this time of year because it's just a tradition. Winter is the holiday season when most people spend time with loved ones and cherish the moment. What's a better memory than a funny (ugly) Christmas sweater?

But which sweater is right for you?

Depending on the store and purpose of your ugly attire, you might want a classic traditional Christmas sweater. You know, the one that are knit by a loved one with Rudolph or Santa on it and a funky pattern with beads to add that "wow" factor.

Comedic factors are a great way to brighten a snowy or cold day! And to Christmas sweaters too! So you might want a silly (inappropriate) slogan knit on your sweater to add that adult humor to this jolly season.

Get a modern touch to your ugly Christmas sweater by getting it themed of a specific fandom you like. Anime is a popular theme that gets characterized for the holidays. Christmas Snoopy is just another cute little feature that gives your sweater an "aw" moment. Or make the Harry Potter or Star Wars franchises richer by getting those funny knit cartoons. Like it simple and sweet? Ugly Christmas sweaters are out there for you too! Sweaters of traditional Christmas colors with patterns of snowflakes or reindeer is perfectly a simple way to share the winter joy.

Forever 21 has a great selection of sweaters with patterns, phrases and cute little characters!

Ugly Christmas sweaters aren't just for those who celebrate Christmas. It's the fun that counts! The fun makes the outfit, so just get out there and be jolly.



Now that you have chosen a sweater, the real question is, how to wear it? Here are a few ideas on making "ugly" beautiful:

- Dark colored jeans with a fur vest and high boots.
- Colored pants (red, green or white) with an open sweater
- High-waisted light colored pant with the sweater tucked in
- Leather mini skirt (knife pleated) with boots and socks. Plus a hat!
- Simple leggings can go a long way
- Shorts with black tights underneath
- Bell or flared skirts then tuck in the sweater
- Wear a really REALLY overgrown Christmas sweater and wrap a belt around your waist and call it a dress!

Horoscopes

By Wren Wheeling and Zoe LaVigne

Aries- (Mar. 21- Apr. 19)

You may be feeling a little out of it this month and want nothing more than to feel safe and secure, but now is the time to get out there and try new things. Who knows, you could make a life long friendship.

Taurus- (Apr. 20- May 20)

You are rather stubborn and like to get your way, but soon an occasion will arise where you will benefit from letting another person take the reins.

Gemini- (May 21- June 20)

You tend to rush through things and forget to live in the moment. Slow down. Don't go through your life so quickly and stress about the future. You may be missing out on what's in front of you and neglecting the people who care about you.

Cancer- (June 21- July 22)

You are a very trusting person and you probably enjoy meeting people. You might soon meet someone new who seems perfect, but beware. You never know who will hurt you until it's too late.

Leo- (July 23- Aug. 22)

Your ability to appear composed and in control causes people to be intimidated by you, but soon there will be someone who can see the inner you. Your actions alone will determine if they stay a friend or become a stranger.

Virgo- (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)

You may see errors that others don't, but there will come a time when those around you will get frustrated with your constant corrections and will finally snap. Try to keep calm and be mindful of the emotions of those around you.

Libra- (Sept. 23- Oct. 22)

It may seem as if all the responsibilities of the world are on you and people are asking you for favors left and right. It's okay to say no and take some time to relax from the stress of life. Your true friends will understand.

Scorpio- (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)

You tend to be very passionate about the things you believe in, but soon an occasion will arise when someone close to you will disagree with you. Tread carefully, or you may lose a friendship.

Sagittarius- (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

You tend to be happy and energetic. You often act carelessly and doing so can get you into trouble. Be sure to keep your outgoing personality under control and enjoy life on the safe side.

Capricorn- (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)

You are a very independent person and that's a good thing, but don't push away the people who offer you their help. You may need it soon.

Aquarius- (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)

You often deal with your emotions on your own. When going through a difficult time, it is important that you don't shut yourself in and bottle up your emotions. It's okay to talk to your friends. You won't heal any other way.

Pisces- (Feb. 19- Mar. 20)

You are a caring person but can be easily upset. Negative emotions can sometimes lead you to do things you later regret. Sometime soon a situation like this will arise, so be sure to give yourself time to calm down before you react or you could hurt someone close to you.



Go Get It List 2016

By Myles Cobb

As the Thanksgiving season comes to a close and Christmas season draws closer, the question of what to get loved ones arrives in every household nationwide. The solution that I usually take involves a ton of gift cards to different establishments because of my lack of attention and interest in the human race. Don't be like me.

This year is another story due to all the new music dropping from mainstream artists. It would be a crime not to bless the ears of your loved ones with the heat these artists have produced, just in time for your holiday haul.

This year we've decided to create a list of the top seven albums expected in the end of 2016. With top names like Alicia Keys and John Legend, you have to give this list a gander.

TOP 7:

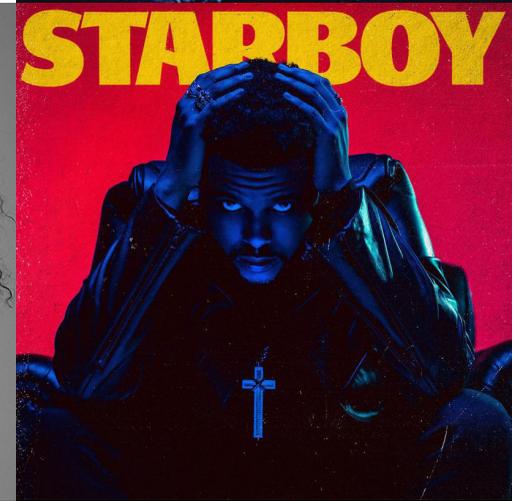
- Alicia Keys: *Here*
- DNCE: *DNCE*
- The Weeknd : *Starboy*
- Childish Gambino: *Awaken, my love!*
- John Legend : *Darkness and Light*
- Bruno Mars : *24K Magic*
- The Rolling Stones: *Blue and Lonesome*

As you can see this season, giving will be more than just a casual trading of presents. For this year you will have the opportunity to share culture and provide taste to the ones you love. This season will be a moment to modernize the lives of those you love and officially welcome them into the modern era.

Art for Childish Gambino's *Awaken, my love!*



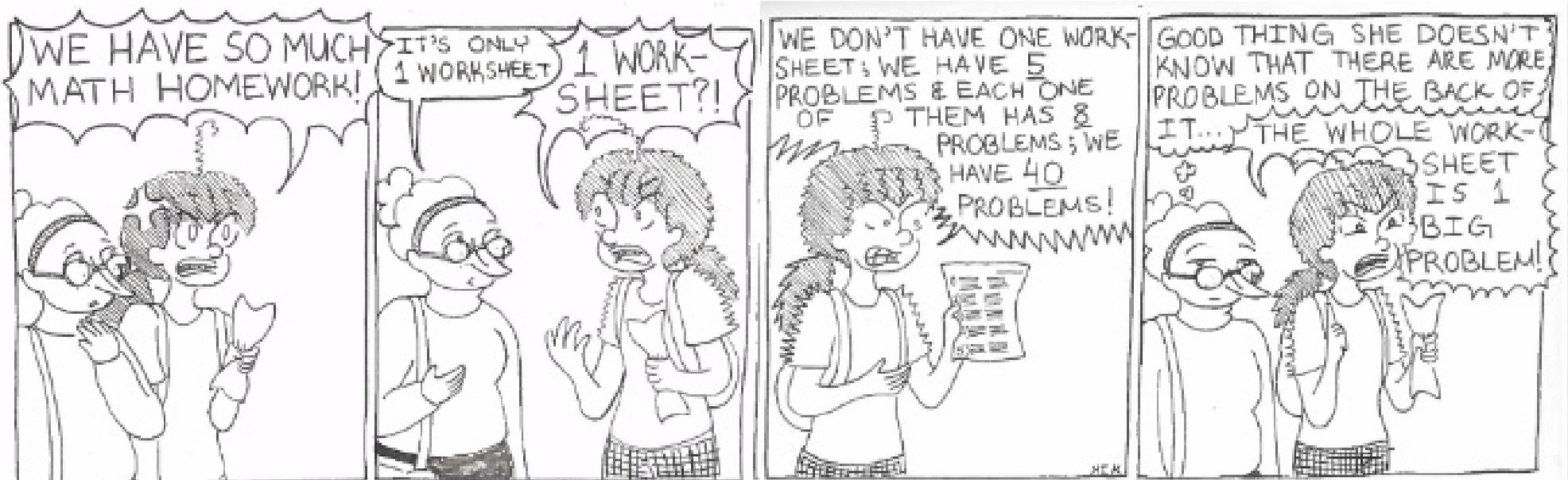
Art for Alicia Key's *Here*



The Weeknd's album *Starboy*

One Big Problem

By Ksenya Kouzminova



Poppin' Movie Options for Break

By Ayesha Mehta



You're going to have a lot of free time this Winter Break. Spend it seeing one of these new movies!

Comedy:

Why Him? — Dec. 23

James Franco and Bryan Cranston star in this movie about an overprotective father who doesn't understand why his daughter chose a socially awkward billionaire to bring home for the holidays. This movie is perfect for people who like more crude humor and want to have a good laugh.

Action/Adventure:

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story — Dec. 16

Felicity Jones stars in this new movie in the Star Wars franchise is about a group of heroes who band together to steal the plans to the Death Star. This is perfect for fans of other Star Wars movies and people who just want to see some good action

Drama:

Gold — Dec. 25

Matthew McConaughey and Bryce Dallas Howard are the stars in this new movie, which is based on a true story about the finding of a huge amount of gold in the jungles of Indonesia in 1993. This movie would be perfect for history buffs and adventurers.

Children:

Sing — Dec. 23

Scarlett Johansson and Matthew McConaughey voice this new movie about a group of animals who want to save a once grand theatre by producing an amazing singing show. This movie includes songs by Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, Nicki Minaj. This is a perfect choice for lovers of fun and lighthearted films.

Romance:

Passengers — Dec. 21

Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt star in this movie about two people on a spaceship traveling to a remote destination. The hibernation pods mysteriously wake them up 90 years before everyone else. As they fall in love with each other, they realize that the ship is in danger, and that they are the ship's hope. This is perfect for romance and action lovers. Also, it's a great option if you're taking someone out on a date!

So go out and pop that popcorn and watch these poppin' movies over the two blissful weeks of winter break.