

STAFF EDITORIAL

High achieving students discouraged

High school is not a place of learning. It is a place of enlightenment.

Elementary school is a place of learning where parents feel obligated to assist in learning the fundamentals of math, science, English and history; by the time a child reaches high school, parents no longer feel that need.

This is because students stop learning fundamentals in order to pursue their interests. This in-depth learning is an enlightenment that must be sought out and supported in order to reach its full potential.

Parents in this area often do not have a high school education and, therefore, believe that their child will do fine without one. Aspirations that should be encouraged at home go unrecognized because they are "excessive" or "out of reach."

Too often parents leave their child to make all of the important decisions figuring the student is independent, when in reality he or she is still dependent. Most teens do not look far enough in the future to grasp that their beloved guardians will not always be there to save them.

Parents usually want the best for their children. They want

their son or daughter to achieve the dream of going to college and getting a good paying job that the young person is passionate about, but the parents do not put effort and motivation behind those wants.

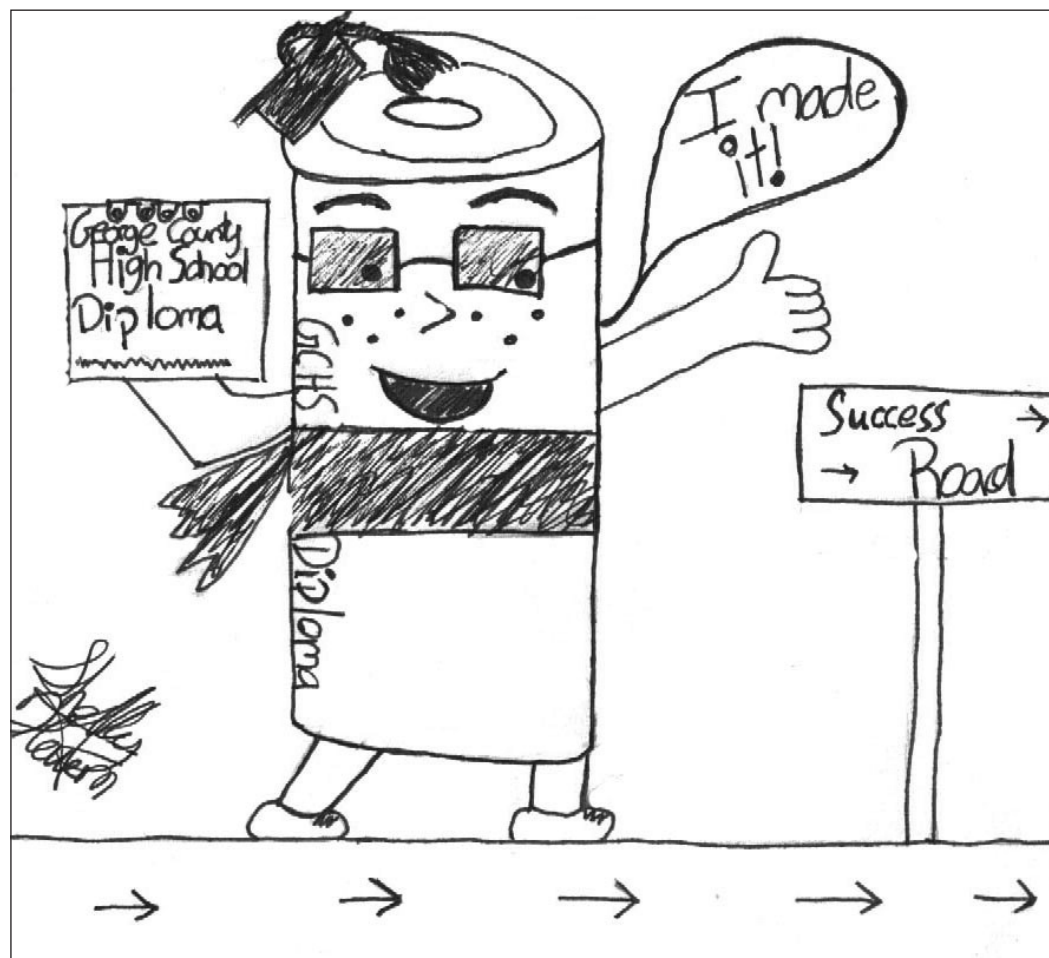
Parents give far too many excuses as to why putting in the effort will never be enough.

Parents argue that school is too expensive and they will never be able to afford it without major debt, so their dreams can never come true. This is a lie. Students can work for scholarships or grants, which dramatically decrease the cost of education.

Still some parents say that geography plays a role in their children's lives. They see an education from George County High School as inferior due to a recent "D" school rating. They believe that if their child went to a school with more funding and better academics the student would have a better chance at reaching his or her dreams.

This leaves the student to believe that their education or goals are not important to his or her parents, crushing the teen's self-motivation.

The students who do achieve their dreams, like the 83 percent



of the Class of 2015 who graduated, leave in search of a more academically accepting place. They look for a place known for intellectual activity instead of coming back home where they

were once told they would never reach their dreams.

Parents should stand behind their student's decisions and encourage them in life. Their reality does not have to become the

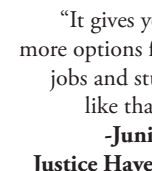
reality of their children.

Crushing a dream not yet followed is equally as foolish as ending a book before reading it; the entire story goes unknown and soon gets lost to time.

How important is education to you?



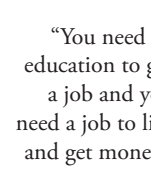
"It's important because without learning we wouldn't be who we are today."
-Sophomore
Jaden Scott



"It gives you more options for jobs and stuff like that."
-Junior
Justice Havens



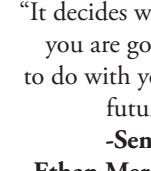
"I think it is very important to you, because it pushes you forward."
-Freshman
Grant Dement



"You need an education to get a job and you need a job to live and get money."
-Junior
Lily Butler



"Very important. Top priority."
-Sophomore
Slayton Hancock



"It decides what you are going to do with your future."
-Senior
Ethan Merritt

STAFF SPEAKS

Juniors look on to next year

Courtney Carver
Features Editor

Senior year is the year many high schoolers look forward to the most. Going from being the underdogs to being at the top of the food chain, upcoming seniors feel that this is their year.

Being that senior year is the year to remember, the students should strive to make it the best.

Attending pep rallies is one way the future seniors can make their lasting memories. At pep rallies, the senior class should show how to have school spirit and participate as much as possible. This could be exemplified by cheering on the players of the mini games or screaming to the top of their lungs in the battle cry. Making the most of their senior year at pep rallies could set the standards for the next class.

Upcoming seniors could also make next year the best year by participating in spirit week. Sadly, this would be the last one for them. The class as a whole should come together to decorate the class wall and float for the Homecoming parade. Also, they should each try to dress up for each day no matter what the theme is. Spirit week is all about school spirit, and in years past, the seniors have proven to be most spirited. The upcoming seniors should try to leave that impression while making the most out of it.

Prom is the second most memorable night of senior year. From being able to ride with friends in a limo or party bus to dancing to the music at the prom, many look forward to making this night the greatest. For prom, the seniors should plan before and after activities to enjoy with their closest friends.

To have the most amazing senior year possible, one should make sure their name is called at graduation. This will mark the end of a chapter of the seniors' lives.

The future senior class should prepare themselves both physically and mentally. The final road to graduation is only a few short months away.

Words cut through like knife

Makayla Steede
Staff Reporter

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me."

Almost everyone has heard this phrase at least once in his or her life.

When children and teens are bullied by words instead of fists, this is what they are usually told.

The phrase sends the message that while people can be hurt physically, words can never hurt them.

This, however, is ultimately nothing but a beautiful lie.

From a young age people are wrongly taught that they cannot be wounded by hurtful words.

The truth is that words have power. They have the power to start wars and revolutions, to save lives and take them and to inspire love and inspire hate.

Words are powerful and compelling, which makes it difficult to forget them.

Slut, freak, loser, stupid, ugly and worthless are words that stay with people.

These are the words that make people change the way they see themselves. These are the words that people have spilled their own blood and taken their own lives for.

The more someone is called "stupid" or "worthless," the more they will start to believe that they are.

Instead of believing they are beautiful, they will believe they are ugly. Instead of thinking they mean something, they will think they are worthless.

People use words everyday. They use them when they write, text, sing, talk and post on social media.

Words are used so often that people do not think words can hurt other people.

This is the reason people forget that the words can hurt.

People believe that as long as no one is being physically abused, they cannot be hurt.

They forget that there are more types of pain than physical pain. People can feel pain emotionally.

Being physically hurt will cause pain, but eventually that pain will fade and be forgotten. However, when used with the intention of hurting someone, words can cut like a knife.

When words are used as weapons against someone, those memories can remain with them forever.

People will try to say that words can never hurt, but that is far from the truth.

Words can hurt more than anything because once said, they can never be unsaid. Words have the power to destroy people.

Pain inflicted on the body will fade and be forgotten, but the wounds of words can forever remain like scars upon the heart and mind of a victim of words.

Words are weapons, and should be wielded wisely.

All stories on this page are opinion in nature and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Student Press newspaper staff, the adviser or school officials of George County High School or the George County School District.

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Discrimination present in law

Myah Oswalt
Sports Editor

No shoes, no pets, no gays, no trans genders, no service.

Starting July 1, Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Government Discrimination Act or HB1523 goes into effect.

Certain businesses and individuals will be protected from legal consequence if they believe in one of three religious beliefs: that marriage only consists of the union of one man and one woman, that sexual relations are only for married individuals, or that gender is determined by

anatomy and genetics at birth.

In other words, if one is gay, transgender or sexually active before marriage, a business could refuse service without legal consequence from the government. This is supposed to protect religious beliefs, but it is a mask for legal discrimination.

If one is truly a Christian, sexual relations should not matter as long as the business profits off the paying customer to put food on one's own table. It is not our right to judge or condemn; only God holds that job.

This is just one of the many setbacks put into place in Mississippi. Instead of moving for-

ward with the rest of the world's innovation, we are continuously going back in time. This bill is a mid-20th century idea where the South enjoys segregation and the laws to enforce it.

This bill could be nicknamed "Gay Crow Laws" due to its likeness to the Jim Crow Laws made in the Southern states after the Civil War ended.

America may be the greatest country in the world, but Mississippi has shown us that it is not the greatest state inside it when they allow religious freedom to be an excuse to turn away customers that do not fit into the "Mississippi religion."

Teens fall prey to judgements

Alyssa Dean
Staff Reporter

In today's society, people are judged for everything.

Many people miss out on great opportunities and cannot enjoy doing the things they love to do because they are terrified of being judged by others.

People should have the ability to do whatever they want without being afraid.

In high school, most teenagers are pressured into making sure every single aspect of their lives is perfect. They do not want to be judged, and that affects every

decision they make. The truth, though, is that everyone judges. Judging is a human being's natural instinct. Everyone has their opinions, so whatever people do there will always be someone who does not like their choices.

Teens can become miserable because they are scared to do the things they like to do. They want to do what they think is cool and what other students are doing, even if it is at the expense of their own happiness.

Students should not worry about what other people think of them and, instead, focus on their own happiness.

For example, a lot of people

get bullied and no one stands up for them, because they are scared they will become the victim of bullying. They do not realize that standing up for the person being bullied can give that person reassurance that there is someone who cares about them.

If teens are like everyone else, there would be no individuality. No one would be different if he or she followed the crowd, and being different is what makes the world interesting. Rather than buying a \$300 pair of shoes or playing a sport they do not like just to be cool, teens should focus on what they like to do and just be happy.

Black Lives demands equality

Nijah Echols
News Editor

"This is a movement, not a moment."

The shooting death in Sanford, Florida triggered the beginning of the movement, Black Lives Matter, in 2012. In this well-known case, Trayvon Martin, a black 17 year old high school student, died at the hands of neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman. No justice for Martin's case was established.

The innocent lives of African Americans in the hands of the

majority is not an exhaustive list. Each victim was unarmed, yet at an alarming rate, the officers involved were found innocent by the state.

Some may argue that Black Lives Matter is "a joke" or "it's stupid" but it is the right of citizens to defend themselves and others. If one congregation is being "attacked" it is natural to strive to put an end to it.

Statistics show that if black men in America were murdered at the same rate as everyone else, the overall homicide rate would drop to 1.9 out of 100,000.

Our Constitution states that

all men are equal. The manner that blacks are treated, in some cases, does not exercise that belief. In the past rights of individuals were not upheld and today that racism is present in most all systems in America.

Blacks are systematically targeted and being deprived of their rights. This is the movement.

There is an outcry in the black communities and among those who care to bring about a needed end to discrimination.

Black Lives Matter does not imply that the lives of other ethnicities do not matter but that the lives of blacks also matter.