

## Trump completes first year; parties continue division

### Staff Editorial

For over a year now, President Donald Trump has been running the United States of America from the keypad of his Twitter account.

The day Trump set foot in the Oval Office, he defied and challenged what it meant to be President of the United States.

Since becoming the Commander in Chief, Trump has waged war on the press, battled with foreign leaders on Twitter, faced claims of sexual assault, brought Americans closer to nuclear war, rewritten the rules of presidency and raged against the investigation about his possible collusion with Russia.

Abandoning the old ways of diplomacy and discretion, Trump has shocked the world with his blunt and tactless ways of communicating.

Early into his presidency, Trump pulled out of several international deals.

This disregard of foreign affairs not only has caused global tension,

but it is also interfering with our reputation as a world leader.

By pulling out of global affairs, we are giving up the right to be a part of the decision-making process, while also damaging the authority and respect that we receive from other countries.

However, the stock market is skyrocketing, and the unemployment rate is below average.

As president, Trump looked to reform taxes and create a new tax plan that offered tax breaks to corporate America while also offering tax-cuts to individuals.

Trump is not the first president to attempt this policy of “trickle down economics” that has, historically, never succeeded.

No matter where they fall on the political spectrum, most Americans hope Trump will step away from his Twitter accounts and focus on his leadership skills.

Whether Americans agree with him or not, Trump is president, and they should hope he succeeds because if he fails, America fails.



How do you think Trump did his first year in office?



“Trump did great; he gave Americans their money back.”  
-Kamdyn Fairley, 9



“He’s progressive, but he’s done a lot of bad and is not presidential.”  
-Fransico Mills, 11



“In my opinion, he’s very childish and insulting.”  
-Justin Bridges, 10

## Staff Speaks

### Holiday sends mixed signals

Ashton Williams  
Staff Reporter

Candy hearts are coated with trademark slogans reading: “Be Mine,” “Sweetheart” and phrases meant to entice the receiver.

Chocolates are purchased with the intent of being consumed by significant others.

Roses are delivered to a multitude of doorsteps in efforts to surprise the ones we adore.

We spend countless hours preparing for a holiday that parades around a four letter word that is

damaging to many—love.

From an adolescent age, children are told to purchase Valentine’s Day cards and candies in an effort to celebrate this so-called “holiday.”

Subconsciously, these toddlers sort through a multitude of cards picking out the most fitting phrases for the ones they favor the most.

The idea of “love” is beginning to intoxicate the minds of children.

Through these taught habits, we also begin to flood children’s minds with the idea that they should discover love sooner versus later.

Young love is heavily harped on

throughout the month of February; the stains of this tainted love should be eliminated.

To battle against the idea of finding love at a young age, children should be encouraged to love themselves more and, above all, pushed to pursue an education.

As a society, we should shift our focus to more important areas.

In turn, English should be adorned with enriched vocabulary.

Novels should be purchased with the intent of exposing young minds to ideas; children should understand the world around them.

### Beauty standards harm teens

Anna Persons  
Staff Reporter

When little girls and boys tell any person what they want to be when they grow up, the first word from their lips should not be “thinner.” With societal standards and opinions, we push these unrealistic expectations of what people should look like everyday.

If someone is naturally thinner, often times they are told to gain weight. People with severe acne are given endless facial scrubs. Society tells short people to wear heels and it tells tall people to never dare to wear anything with a heel.

People are applauded for doing such unnatural things to their bodies that they have health issues of all types as a goal for today’s so-

ciety. Children are learning they need to be on an unhealthy end of the spectrum of bodies just to be accepted in the ever-changing world surrounding them.

Groups of people are missing from magazine covers and front-page news stories. In the past, a small amount of campaigns like the Dove campaign have been made trying to represent as many body types as they can, but the truth is not every single body type can be properly shown in just one campaign. Representation does not just happen with one or two somewhat known campaigns.

Instead of teaching a new generation to fear the numbers on a scale or flinch at their reflection in a dressing room mirror we should give them proper portrayal in the

media. People should feel comfortable to walk confidently knowing that society recognizes that every person is physically different.

From a young age, people are taught everyone is not the same and that people are special because of this. Society should follow through with their standards that it broadcasts. Being different from suffocating standards should be the norm instead of creating outcasts out of beautiful people.

Men and women alike experience difficulties trying to mold themselves to impossible norms instilled from a young age. Self acceptance will never truly happen if we keep the same backwards mind-set from years of conditioning. Cookie cutters are made for cookies and not for people; it is time to accept that.

### Men feel societal pressures, struggle with insecurities

There is a rare theory circulating the internet that many have not addressed. Men have feelings, too.

According to the BC Medical Journal, 76 percent of suicides are committed by men and suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50. There are many factors that contribute to this rate, but one overall factor is the fact that men have been taught to tune out their feelings and emotions since adolescence. They are limited to which emotions they are allowed to express and none of which even resemble sadness or insecurity.

“Man up, toughen up,” is a common phrase told to boys since the time they are able to walk. Instead of being taught to express themselves, they are taught to bundle it all up. Not only do they bundle up their emotions but they also bundle up all the insecurities they have.

It is emasculating for men, when people think they actually have feelings. Men having feelings is an unspoken secret that everyone knows, but no one acknowledges, and if anyone dares to mention their insecurities, they are bombarded with slurs. They are dubbed “too feminine” if they breathe a

Chloe Russell  
Sports Editor

word about emotions. For many the word emotion is not even in their usual vocabulary.

Society needs to normalize men expressing their feelings and insecurities and maybe then the staggering suicide rate could drop.

Just like there are unrealistic expectations and standards for women, there are for men also.

Men see models in magazines and trainers, and expect to be just like them, just like when women look in “Vogue.” Guys see themselves as too skinny and undesirable, or they see themselves as too big and not a real man. The perfect man is supposed to be over six feet tall and have a six-pack of sculpted abs.

They must have bulging muscles and beautiful blue eyes and tan skin. All of these traits are unrealistic and are only seen in famous actors, athletes and public figures.

The feeling of vulnerability is deep rooted in men but often pushed aside. It is O.K. to feel vulnerable, it is O.K. to be depressed, it is O.K. to cry. Remember, real men express themselves. Men have feelings, too.

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