

# YES OR X?

Apple's new iPhone 8 and iPhone X grab the attention of consumers

On Sept. 12, Apple announced the next generation of iPhones at their annual Keynote event, the iPhone 8 and iPhone X.

These two phones have been the talk of the smartphone community for months, with speculations about the iPhone X, specifically its design, taking center stage. Now that the phones have finally been revealed, consumers face a difficult choice—which one to buy.

Here is a rundown on the iPhone 8, iPhone 8+ and iPhone X to help make that choice a little easier.

## IPHONE 8/8+

Following the numerical order of past iPhone releases, the iPhone 8 was announced halfway through Apple's Keynote presentation with a video introducing all new features the phone comes equipped with.

The iPhone 8, released on Sept. 22, provides an overall better experience compared to the iPhone 7, with a faster GPU, powerful A11 processor, more in-depth camera and a brighter Retina HD Display. It has about the same amount of battery life as the iPhone 7. Both the iPhone 8 and 8+ feature innovative wireless charging. However, some features, such as Portrait Mode, are only available on the 8+. The iPhone 8 is priced at \$699 for the 64 GB

model, while the iPhone 8+'s 64 GB model starts at \$799.

## IPHONE X

The unofficial "10th Anniversary iPhone," the iPhone X (pronounced ten), was announced at the end of the Apple Keynote presentation, stealing the show and overshadowing the iPhone 8. The X introduces a 5.8 inch display that covers the entire phone, doing away with the home button. iPhone X users swipe up to wake the phone and reach the home screen.

They can also unlock their phones by using Apple's all-new facial identification feature. Additionally, Face ID has been integrated into Apple Pay as a security option using the iPhone X's "TrueDepth" camera. In addition to security purposes, the advanced camera allows users to create "Animojis," animated and voiced emojis that move according to the user's facial movements.

The iPhone X's battery is said to last up to two hours longer than the iPhone 8. The price of the most advanced iPhone yet starts at \$999 for the 64 GB model and \$1,149 for the 256 GB model. Preorders begin on Oct. 27, and the official release is scheduled for Nov. 3.

## THE VERDICT

From a consumer's perspective,

judging by the information available, the iPhone X is not a must-have item. Upgraded hardware is nice, but many consumers are perfectly fine keeping their current phones (for most, the iPhone 6 or 7) if newer versions do not introduce any game-changing features. While the new design drew considerable attention to the X, and the improved specs are impressive, the iPhone X feels more like a smartphone enthusiast's phone, not a phone for the average consumer.

The price is also extremely high, and for how little more the phone offers than the iPhone 8, it does not seem worth the \$999. While the iPhone X offers a fresh, unique design with a display guaranteed to impress, the lackluster "game-changing" features and sky-high price prevent it from becoming a must-buy smartphone.

As for the iPhone 8, it is the perfect phone to buy for anyone looking to upgrade their smartphone. The hardware upgrades are a substantial leap from the iPhone 7; the 8 is 25 percent faster.

The iPhone X and iPhone 8 also possess multiple similarities, such as the absence of a headphone jack and an all-glass design. Both phones also come with iOS 11 installed and have a battery life of over 12 hours with internet use.

At the same time, it does not trail too far behind from the iPhone X, with similar



processing capabilities. The only aspects the iPhone 8 lacks in comparison to the X are its display and camera quality. While Animoji and Face ID are exclusive to the iPhone X, they are not essential for an amazing smartphone experience. *Review by Nyan Clarke*

# POP-LITICAL CULTURE

Politics and pop culture collide with turbulent political scene

American popular culture often reflects the political situation in the country at the time. In the 1960s, there was a staggering amount of musical soundscapes to the Vietnam War from famous artists, including Bob Marley. In the 1940s, the gospel, "We Shall Overcome," was modernized to become a rallying cry for the U.S. Civil Rights Movement. For the past 42 seasons, Saturday Night Live has captivated audiences with comical commentary on important political events.

It is no secret nor surprise that these two aspects of American culture work in tandem. And yet, it seems as though within the past year, this relationship has become closer than ever.

With an extremely divisive and contentious election year (and election result), many television shows, artists and magazines have decided to use their platforms to protest or promote their own political rhetoric.

"Politics is dominating the conversation in a way we haven't seen for a long time," Bustle editor Kate Ward said in an interview Digiday magazine. "Pretty much everyone wants to talk about it on a daily basis."

Some pop culture hubs, such as Bustle, which is traditionally a women's fashion magazine, capitalized on public interest in President Donald Trump and the altered political landscape that has resulted

from his arrival. According to the Pew Research Center, three times more people read Cosmopolitan's political section now than one year ago, and over a third of Americans use a mixture of social media sources and traditional sources to get their news.

Many artists, award shows and television shows have become much more publicly politicized with their stances on certain issues, several of which include direct opposition or support of Trump.

The 2017 Emmy Awards' host Stephen Colbert used his monologue to launch a series of jokes about Trump and his history with the Emmys. He was even joined on stage by Trump's former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer. In Meryl Streep's acceptance speech at the 2017 Golden Globes, she took the opportunity to call out Trump's travel ban and poor relationship with the press.

Other fictional television shows, including "American Horror Story," "Scandal" and "Homeland," have dedicated episodes, even seasons, of their program to address the political upheaval and how it affects people in this country. Many find that this is a correct and proper use of creative artistry and freedom of speech.

"It is the artistic expression of any director or artist to discuss these kinds of politics or certain political opinions," senior Elijah Abraham said. "Anyone in this country has the civil liberty to

criticize our president, whether others like it or not."

Some people, however, believe that since these shows hold viewers of different values, they should not be so openly biased toward a certain side. Some also believe that political rhetoric does not belong in award shows and entertainment at all unless it was created and advertised for that purpose.

"There's definitely a place and time to talk about politics on television, like the night-time talk shows," junior Colton Haab said. "In all of those award shows, they are bad talking Trump, but we aren't here to watch that."

There are shows that share this sentiment and believe that using their program to contend a certain platform will only divide the country further. ABC Studios, for example, has made it clear that they attempt to depict all sides to such controversial issues.

"In years past, it would be very easy to let one side feel like the cartoon and have the show assume that the audience is siding with the other," ABC Studios Chief Patrick Moran said in an interview with the Hollywood Reporter.

Regardless of whether or not one believes this discourse belongs in television or music, it has greatly affected children and adults watching everywhere. The monster this season on American Horror Story is the miscommunication between people on both sides of the



Meryl Streep accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards at the Beverly Hotel Sunday on Jan. 8, 2017. Photo courtesy of HFPA/Zuma Press/TNS

political spectrum and their unwillingness to listen to each other. Many directors and artists hope that their work can facilitate a solution to that.

"I think that some people are scared about these major changes in our country," senior Isabelle Robinson said. "[These shows] create a conversation that really hasn't been going very well."

This country has gone through significant changes in leadership and changes in channels for pop culture, and the mixture of the two has created a multitude of diverging opinions. *Story by Rebecca Schneid*



# SILENCED

Recent allegations raise  
questions about rape culture  
in American society





SLUT

WHORE

SKIMPY

DID YOU REALLY SAY NO?

YOU WERE ASKING FOR IT

YOUR FAULT

PROVOCATIVE

LIAR

RAPE

WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?

ATTENTION WHORE

FAKE



When the New York Times came out with an explosive news story on Thursday, Oct. 5 describing multiple sexual harassment allegations against powerful Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, America went into a frenzy. This story, which was 10 months in the making, described eight settlements Weinstein made with women who he allegedly sexually harassed over his dignified years in the film business and as the leader of the influential Weinstein Company.

Soon after these allegations shook the foundation of Hollywood and the media, other women—and men—in Hollywood and around the country came forward with their own experiences with sexual harassment and assault at the hands of Weinstein, as well as other producers, actors, politicians and coworkers. In these references to their own experiences of assault and gender discrimination, several highly influential men were accused.

Some of these men, such as Ben Affleck and Louis C.K., have come forward and acknowledged or apologized for their acts of sexual misconduct. Others, including actor Ed Westwick and politician Roy Moore, have yet to confirm or deny the accuracy of these allegations.

Rallying around the campaign marked by the hashtag #MeToo, stars and politicians of all calibers, such as Lady Gaga, Viola Davis, Ellen DeGeneres and Elizabeth Warren, have come forward denouncing sexual harassment and misogynistic behavior. Men, like actor Terry Crews, have also come forward depicting their own experiences with harassment. On Nov. 12, the “#MeToo Survivors March” rallied protesters in Hollywood, demonstrating the influence of this movement on both social media and society.

“The fact that women are coming out and talking about their experiences is amazing, and it raises awareness of some pretty serious issues,” junior Sarah Chadwick said. “But, honestly our reaction to it shows something seriously wrong with us. To most women, this isn’t shocking. To most women, this is their life.”

These victim-turned-activists have garnered so much support and respect from the public that they were announced as TIME’s Person of the Year 2017. These “Silence Breakers” have “started a revolution of refusal, gathering strength by the day,” according to TIME.

In light of this quickly expanding movement, questions have been raised

about whether sexual harassment is normalized in today’s society, and whether this is indicative of a larger and more serious issue: rape culture.

In concurrence with the release of the film “Rape Culture” in the 1970s by a group of second-wave feminists, the term became defined as a culture that normalizes sexual violence in society, whether inadvertently or purposefully. Today, the term has become very ambiguous with many people defining it based on their own experiences with sexual misconduct.

“To me, rape culture means that society accepts the fact that sexual harassment, like catcalling and other kinds of stuff, is just a part of it,” sophomore Naomi Rosenberg said. “Boys can still be sexually assaulted, but usually they are the ones not being accountable for what they do to girls. People just say ‘boys will be boys’ and are done with it.”

According to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, in 2016 alone there were 12,860 reports filed of sex-based harassment in any work environment, 83.4 percent of which were filed by women. Not only that, but a study done in 1994 by the U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board showed that sexual harassment caused the federal government \$327 million because of sick leaves, job turnovers and productivity loss.

This and other more recent studies done demonstrate that it is not just those in Hollywood who have to deal with sexual harassment in the workplace.

But the question remains in the minds of many Americans: does this sexual harassment and the reactions to it indicate a culture in America that propels the ideas that this behavior is acceptable in society?

A 2014 study done by Society for Consumer Research found that 65 percent of women in the United States have experienced some sort of street harassment (catcalling, groping, flashing, etc.), and 47 percent of these women explained that after the harassment or harassments, they would often feel unsafe in an area unless they assess their surroundings beforehand.

In these cases of harassment and rape, the issue of victim-blaming has often come to the forefront. These debates are marked by arguments that some women “invited” the harassment or rape through their words or their clothing. Some women believe that this issue in America is evidence of a society that inherently objectifies women.

“I had a stepdad...who used to say to me that I shouldn’t wear certain things

because like people would take advantage of me or something like that,” junior Lauren Snow said. “I don’t feel like that should be the default mindset of people. I shouldn’t have to be afraid of wearing something because of what people might do or say to me. That isn’t right.”

Furthermore, in many of these cases, people’s confessions of sexual harassment are met with intense disbelief and support for the accused. Last year when Fox reporter Gretchen Carlson came out accusing and suing Fox CEO Roger Ailes for sexual harassment, many of Carlson’s own colleagues came out in support for Ailes, even when she won a \$20 million settlement from him.

“Honestly, people just don’t really believe women in the same way they believe men I think,” Chadwick said. “And that kind of sexism just so deeply rooted in our society, we don’t even realize we are doing it.”

A rising question amidst all these allegations at once is why these women or men never came forward previously to report their sexual assault. In fact, only 16 to 35 percent of all sexual assaults are reported according to the U.S. Bureau of Justice. This fear peer disbelief the shame of the confession itself and denial all play a large role in why people often do not report their sexual assault. Furthermore, the fear of consequences from their boss, the perpetrator themselves or those who stand behind them play a factor.

“In many cases, it all goes back to power and control,” Holly Carotenuto, Crisis Intervention Specialist of the Nancy J Cotterman Center said. “The individuals who are being accused of these crimes, indecent and inappropriate behaviors often held power over the victims.”

The long-term mental effects of rape or sexual assault also often lead victims to suppress their experience or choose to hide it from others. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, 33 percent of female rape or sexual assault victims contemplate suicide and 94 percent of female victims experience symptoms of PTSD within two weeks of the event. They are also 10 times more likely to experience substance abuse.

“A substantial portion of the people that come to us for help are suffering from PTSD,” sexual abuse attorney Stuart Mermelstein said. “Many of them come to us after years of living with the memory of what happened to them, thinking that if they just brush it aside they will forget about it. But, what they ultimately find, is that that makes it worse; what helps

the most is talking about it and being an activist for their own rights.”

With 105 public figures accused of sexual assault since the Harvey Weinstein allegations, though, it is evident that as people have come forward with their own stories, it has inspired so many more to do the same despite their fears and obstacles.

These societal characteristics are often cited as major instances of how rape culture pervades American society. Another argument, though, contends that those committing acts of rape, assault and harassment are the “bad seeds” of this society, not indicative of our society as a whole in which rape or sexual assault is condoned.

“If we look at Hollywood, yeah, rape culture and the casting couch has been a thing for a long time,” junior Em Jiminean said. “But, looking at America as a broad scope, that doesn’t describe our culture at all.”

Still, the issue of rape culture and sexual harassment have been increasingly put in the public eye. Because of this, experts have been working towards ways to reduce the prevalence sexual assault and harassment. Psychologists explain that the mentality young boys have on women and relationships trace back mainly to their childhood examples.

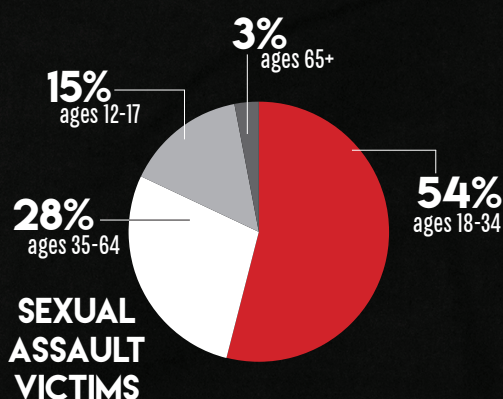
“The biggest influence on a boy’s view of women often comes from the relationships he witnesses including parents, friends and other family members,” Carotenuto said. “It is important for adults to demonstrate healthy relationships in front of children.”

In order to do fight sexual harassment, Carotenuto explains that people not only should teach youth about consent, but they also should call out their peers for sexist remarks and resist victim blaming when some tells their story of sexual assault.

“As children grow they should be taught to understand the changes in their bodies,” Carotenuto said. “Sexual assault can happen to females and males at any age by anyone. Education should be continual and open non-judging conversations need to take place in homes and schools.”

This issue, as controversial as it is, has penetrated the popular culture of our society, both in social media and in reality. Experts, psychologists and activists alike are looking towards a future in which sexual harassment, sexual assault, and rape are not seen as commonplace. *Story by Rebecca Schneid; additional reporting by Mackenzie Quinn*

## DEALING WITH THE DAMAGE



The food and service industry has the highest level of sexual harassment at



Source: Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network



# ALAINA PETTY

Alaina Joann Petty was known for having two distinct sides to her. One was tough, sassy, determined and able to hold her own against anyone. The other was bright, bubbly and silly. Both, though, were equally loved by her friends and family and continue to be what they remember her for.

Born on Aug. 22, 2003 in Redmond, Washington, Alaina immediately loved making friends. She grew up doing a variety of activities, such as gymnastics, piano and dance for about three years. Within each of these activities and beyond them, her trustworthy and non-judgemental attitude allowed her to make friends quickly with almost anybody she met, even through the difficult transition of moving to Florida.

“She immediately had friends over almost every day,” Alaina’s brother Patrick Petty said. “Not only was she good at keeping friends, but she was good at keeping friends. She even still had friends from Washington.”

Spending time with her friends in any capacity was one of her favorite things to do. From going to McDonalds to laughing in class, her friends meant the world to her. Her free spirited personality led her to spontaneously ask her friends to go on fun trips and adventures, using her sass and wit to cheer them up in any way she could.

“If I was in a bad mood, she would always just do whatever she could, some silly things, to cheer me up,” freshman Julia Brighton said. “She just loved helping people and her friends. Honestly, she put everyone else’s happiness over her own sometimes.”

This vivacious attitude came naturally to Alaina, and she possessed it from a young age. Everything she took on she did so with such enthusiasm that it was contagious to those around her. Known as a girl with a smile on her face at all times, it was hard not to be happy when touched by her unwavering optimism.

“Sometimes I would get angry or annoyed at something, and she would just tell me to go outside and breathe in the fresh air and see the beautiful things in the world,” Brighton said. “She used to always say to live every day like it was your last, and I think she did that.”

Her determination in school and in extracurriculars also pushed her friends to be better. Everything she attempted, she did with fervor. She took honors classes, excelling in school, especially Spanish classes, and in her JROTC program. That passion and perseverance encouraged her friends to work just as hard.

“Early in the school year, we had to do a 5K run. She was so winded, but after it she went right to the guy in charge and said ‘alright, what’s next?’ That’s the kind of person she was,” freshman Tomás Valdiviria said. “She pushed me to go that extra mile. And she wouldn’t just help me up when I fell, she taught me how to pick myself up next time.

From an early age, she looked up to her siblings, Patrick, Meghan and Ian Petty, immensely. From trying on Meghan’s clothes constantly to emulating Patrick’s sarcasm and his love for the United States to reflecting Ian’s unconditional love, each

of her siblings influenced her personality in unique yet equally visible ways.

“When she was younger, she was always copying me — wearing my old clothes and copying my mannerisms,” Meghan said. “And I used to think that it was annoying. But now, I think about it, and I’m just so honored because she was such a good person, and yet she still wanted to be like me.”

She especially bonded with her brother Patrick over their dedication to the JROTC program. From the moment she started JROTC camp this past summer, she was extremely committed to the program and all those within it. As a member of the Raiders team and the color guard, the class and club were her favorite place to be.

“She would always make sure her uniform was just perfect, not because she she had to, but because she wanted to, and she cared about it that much,” Brighton said. “She would drag me to all of the events because she always wanted to be there to help. There was nothing she loved more than that class.”

Not only was Alaina passionate about JROTC, but also she worked harder than almost anybody in the room to prove it. By spending hours practicing with the after school teams and presenting herself as a leader in the classroom, Alaina was recognized as a valuable asset within the club early on — someone who had a definite future in moving up the chain of command. In a class often dominated by male students, Alaina held her own and made a place for herself.

“She was a go-getter, no doubt about it,” JROTC teacher First Sgt. John Navarra said. “She was pleasantly aggressive I would say. She wasn’t afraid of expressing her determination, of thinking outside of the box, of beating to her own drum... But her drive wasn’t selfish, it was kind of like ‘let’s all be better together.’”

Alaina’s enduring devotion to the class did not go unnoticed, as she was promoted to sergeant, the highest rank a freshman could achieve, and was awarded the Cadet of the Month award during the second quarter, beating out competitors of all grade levels within the program. From then on, the whole class would joke that Alaina would most certainly end up as the battalion commander by her senior year, commanding over the entirety of the program as the highest rank a high schooler could achieve. The Raiders team captain would even reportedly say that if Alaina kept up the good work, she would put him out of a job.

“She came in with such professionalism, such curiosity... both in and out of uniform. From the moment she walked into this room, she was destined to be a leader in this program... She was more than a participating cadet, she wanted to do everything,” Major Peter Mahmood said.

Alaina showed a similar dedication to her faith. As a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, she took her duty to her faith seriously. She participated often at her church, going there after school on Tuesdays for youth group and frequently participating in trips with them. These trips were often community service-based, which was

something that Alaina found great pride in doing.

After Hurricane Irma devastated parts of the Keys and South Florida, Alaina worked through multiple weekends to improve the lives of those affected by it. She, along with her brother, dedicated their time not for the recognition, but for the knowledge of the difference they were making in the lives of others.

“She was happiest when she was helping others,” Meghan Petty said. “She would spend her weekends going to soup kitchens and just doing things that helped others’ lives, and she loved it more than anything. She felt the most comfortable I think when she was sweating, working hard and making a difference.”

Through her camping trips she often took with her church youth group, Alaina began to love nature and animals. In times of stress, nature became a place of solace for her — a place that demonstrated the beauty in the world. Her love for her two dogs, Diego and Leo, demonstrated this love. She would nonstop talk to her friends about her dogs, posting pictures on social media to prove it.

“Her Snapchat stories were just full of pictures of her dogs,” Valdiviria said. “She loved those things more than anything in the world. She just spent all the time in the world with them and would talk to me all the time in class about them.”

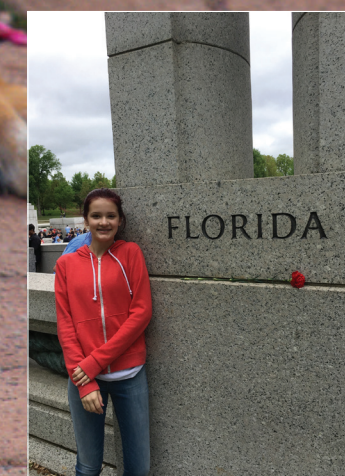
When she wasn’t selflessly devoting her time to others, Alaina loved to de-stress with a good crime show — “Psych” and “Bones” among her favorites. Her siblings and her would sit around after school and watch, just spending the time they could together.

Whether she was doing homework or driving, Alaina’s life never ceased to have a tune behind it. Shower time usually turned into a match between Meghan and Alaina over who could play their music the loudest on the portable speaker. Some of her favorites included songs by Camila Cabello and other variations of Hispanic pop music.

“She never didn’t have music on,” Meghan said. “She especially loved Spanish music — bachata music like I liked. She knew some songs that I didn’t even know, though; it was crazy... I don’t think she realized how good she actually was at speaking Spanish.”

Often, she was eating ramen whenever she could. Her parents even got her her own chopsticks for Christmas as a joke because she ate it so much. If it wasn’t ramen or a mid-day Chick-Fil-A run, Alaina loved to stay home and cook a family dinner with her mother. She was getting to be a better chef every day, according to Patrick.

In all aspects of Alaina’s life, she loved unconditionally and with her entire being. If she was passionate about something, which she was about many things, she would make it a priority to be the best at it, not for personal gain, but for the gain of those she could help in the process. Her selflessness and love touched those all around her, and she will be missed by the entirety of the Eagle community and many of those beyond it. *Story by Rebecca Schneid; photos courtesy of Meghan Petty and Hannah Beardall*



“She wasn’t afraid of expressing her determination, of thinking outside of the box, of beating to her own drum... But her drive wasn’t selfish.”



# FOLLOWING THEIR

**T**raditionally, activism refers to direct, determined campaigning for about social or political change. But, almost all of the words in that definition are vague enough to be stretched and pulled to fit a wide variety of types of action, ranging from writing a letter to a politician, to boycotting products to march demonstrations. Therefore, many people define activism in the ways that they have seen it or in ways they feel pertain to them.

“Before everything happened here, my view of activism was physical action... and actually physically appearing to make change,” senior Emma Gonzalez said. “But, now I see that activism can come in so many different forms. It’s working to change minds and change people in power for an issue they believe in.”

It is indisputable, though, that activism has a rich and deep history in American society. Since the days of rebellion by the Sons of Liberty and other revolutionaries working to break away from Great Britain, disobedience for the purpose of changing society is ingrained in the American persona, forever intertwined.

“One of the major traits of American history is individualism,” AP U.S. History teacher Lisa Hitchcock said. “We have seen activism since the beginning of our history... our fundamental beliefs in democracy and free speech fosters this. When the troops were being trained in the Revolutionary War, they did something that no one else ever did: they questioned orders. That’s the American way — to question why things are the way it is and to not blindly follow anyone.”

Traditional sociopolitics are often cited as the fight for equality from marginalized groups. Of course, “marginalized” is a broad term. Protests against “the man” have become a distinct part of American society.

“Our founding fathers knew how important activism and change was,” Hitchcock said. “That’s why our Constitution is built the way it was... because they knew that eventually change was necessary.”

Immediately after the Revolutionary War, rebellion and civil disobedience were still prominent factors in achieving that change. Bacon’s Rebellion was an uprising

of indentured servants who did not receive the land that they were promised; Shay’s Rebellion included veterans rising up against what they felt was economic and civil injustice. One can trace this kind of rebellion of oppressed groups throughout American history, each activism movement using different tactics to get their message across.

In the 1950s, African American civil rights activists participated in demonstrations, including marches, rallies, picketing and sit-ins to demonstrate their discontent with racial inequality and persistence for change. They also used literature in the form of persuasive letters, such as Martin Luther King Jr.’s “A Letter from Birmingham Jail,” to fight for their cause.

Anti-war activists in the 1960s during America’s involvement in the Vietnam War protested in many different ways. Many famous artists participated in these demonstrations, releasing songs like Bob Dylan’s “Blowin’ in the Wind,” Barry McGuire’s “Eve of Destruction” and Phil Ochs’ “What Are You Fighting For.” Combined with public demonstrations, this cultural revolution allowed the growth of the anti-war sentiment and eventually contributed to the government’s decision to leave the war.

More recently, LGBT activists advocated for acceptance through the gay rights movement. Activists fought for both political equality under the law through lobbying and marching and for social equality through placement of gay content in magazines, films, literature and other forms of media. As an extension of the LGBT rights movement, multiple organizations were created to combat the outbreak of AIDS in the 1980s, many of which were protesting insufficient healthcare for AIDS patients.

Each of these reform movements, as well as the hundreds more that have taken place throughout America’s history, are focused on different issues and yet still use very similar methods in order to get their messages across. Similarly to the tactics used with the women’s suffrage and the abolition movement, many of them have come to work together to fight for their goals in unison, pooling their resources in order to achieve a more effective outcome. Today, many activist movements follow in



**Standing up.** In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy at MSD, students, teachers and community leaders gathered outside a Fort Lauderdale courthouse to rally for gun control measures. Photo by Suzanna Barna

the footsteps of the past movements and mimic their actions.

“I think it’s important for groups to remain autonomous,” junior Sarah Chadwick said. “But, also, communication is important, and if you can work together to reach a goal, that’s a win-win.”

These movements also look back at other campaigns in the past throughout history for guidance on how to make their political action actually realize results. Through studying the plight of activists in the past, they are able to edit strategies to enact change in the future.

“In a way, I think past activism is kind

of a guidebook for us now in terms of what people did for public protests and things of that sort,” Chadwick said. “Where these movements lie, those are really the foundations of every movement. Beyond that, it’s just really important to see the significance of what change-makers did in history, which inspires us to do things today.”

The question, therefore, is how to get people to support an activist movement? What in the past has worked? And, what today can be done better?

“The purpose of a reform movement usually is to get the majority to support

## CHANGE OVER TIME

Activists spark change throughout history



**1776**

Revolutionaries in America create the Declaration of Independence to become a sovereign nation.



**1848**

Suffragettes, led by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, convene in Seneca Falls, New York to address women’s rights.



**1865**

Abolitionists celebrate a major victory as slavery is abolished with the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.



**1920**

White women are guaranteed the right to vote when the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution is ratified.



**1963**

Civil rights activists and followers of Martin Luther King Jr. join forces and march on Washington, D.C., to fight for equal rights.



# FOOTSTEPS

Activists today stand on the shoulders of legends of the past



**Hands up.** Demonstrators at the March For Our Lives in Washington D.C. raise their hands in solidarity with student activist Alex King to show unity in the face of adversity. *Photo by Emma Dowd*



**Talking it out.** MSD students, including senior Chris Grady meet with state legislators and national media outlets in the Florida Capital building in Tallahassee. *Photo by Suzanna Barna*



**Listen and Learn.** Juniors Ritika Kothur and Sindhu Kolla listen to Florida state legislators in an effort to lobby for change and more sensible state-level gun regulations. *Photo by Suzanna Barna*

the minority, which can be difficult,” AP Government teacher Jeffrey Foster said. “If you can get people to see your facts, if you have the right people in your movement to get people inspired to join the fight and see that your belief system is just, they are going to support it.”

In the age of technology, this method has been revolutionized, specifically by one thing: social media. Whether it be by Twitter, Instagram or Tumblr, social media has allowed for the galvanization of groups around the world for a cause that began with one singular moment.

The #MeToo movement, which fights

for the end of sexual assault and rape culture in America, was born out of a social media hashtag, and spread to become a significant movement after months of it spreading across Twitter. The reveal of multiple celebrities’ sexual misconduct on social media led to real world changes, including firing and lawsuits. Most significantly, though, it led to real accountability of abusers.

“[Technology] is a positive thing in the way that you can contact a student in China or Africa and share your ideas; you can video conference and get together so much more easily with social media,”

Hitchcock said. “But, you also have to be careful about misinformation and confirmation bias. It’s so easy to just find what you want to see on social media... but you have to look at all sides of an issue and make conscious decisions.”

With this new technology, an eclectic type of activism has arisen. Take the movement against gun violence: activists marched at the March For Our Lives, walked out of school, called out politicians in tweets, used songs like “This is America” by Childish Gambino and “Found/Tonight” and sat outside the offices of representatives — all things they learned

from previous campaigns for social change.

Both in early American history and now, it has often been the youth who begin the fight for social change. Whether it be through writing, tweeting or marching, grassroots activism by those who see ailments in their communities is what leads to actual change. It is a bottom-up process and one that could take decades to see results, but persistence, perseverance and proficiency in the facts allows for the society to eventually address and correct injustice, making for a better society as a whole. *Story by Rebecca Schneid*



**1969**

The Beatles release “Give Peace a Chance,” a song that encompasses the opposition to the war in Vietnam.



**1989**

The burning of an American flag was protected under the First Amendment in Texas v. Johnson, redefining free expression.



**1992**

Californians protest police brutality with riots following the acquittal of police officers involved in the arrest of Rodney King.



**2015**

The landmark Supreme Court case Obergefell v. Hodges establishes the legality of same-sex marriage in America.



**2018**

In the wake of the massacre at MSD, activists march in a student-led movement for gun control.



MSD STRONG, NEWS — March 7, 2018 at 7:48 am

# Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos visits MSD

by Rebecca Schneid

Tweet



Photo by Kevin Trejos

On Wed. March 7, Secretary of the Department of Education Betsy DeVos visited Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School to speak to survivors of the Feb. 14 shooting. She arrived at the school at 8:45 a.m. with a small SUV motorcade. She immediately went to the front office to meet with Principal Ty Thompson, Assistant Principal Denise Reed, guidance counselors and office staff.

She then moved to the media center, where she met with some of the district representatives, grief counselors and a

few students. She then answered a couple questions from student journalists in the room.

After senior Kyra Parrow asked DeVos about her agenda to prevent further school shootings, the secretary answered that her agenda was “to ensure that the students of our country are able to pursue their learning in a safe environment. I am going to make sure that we bring forward solutions that communities can put in place that will be appropriate for their surroundings and will ensure that they can care for their students.”

DeVos then walked with Thompson to the 1200 building, the site of the tragedy, and placed a wreath along the fence surrounding it. This was previously arranged with Thompson in order to honor the victims of the shooting.

DeVos then made her way to the auditorium. Instead of choosing to speak in front of all students, she slowly made her way around to different groups of students. She introduced herself to many of them, offering her condolences and comfort in this time of need and healing.

“I think she felt the need to actually come and see us all in person,” Thompson said. “She wanted to come around and thank our staff for all they have done. It was a hands on thing: she wanted to be here and feel the atmosphere and understand what was really going on on campus.”

After briefly speaking again with Thompson in his conference room, DeVos entered her car after an hour visit and left the campus. Thompson was extremely touched by DeVos’s and other government officials’ support throughout these past devastating few weeks.

“It’s unfortunate that this all has to occur under such terrible circumstances and that we are in this situation,” Thompson said. “But, the love and support from around the world has been unprecedented... They are all here to show love and support for our school, which is heartwarming for me.”

Though many were honored to have the secretary at our school, some were unimpressed with her lack of answers.

“She wasn’t informative or helpful at all. It’s nice that she came to give us condolences, but we are so done with thoughts and prayers. We want action,” Parrow said. “She didn’t come to inform us or talk about how we are going to fix this issue; she just came to say that she came. That disappoints me.”

Afterwards DeVos held a press conference at the Marriott, discussing her visit and experience at MSD.

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## Rebecca Schneid

Rebecca Schneid is a junior in high school. She is one of the Editors in Chief for the Eagle Eye. She enjoys reading, playing soccer, playing guitar, and going to the beach.

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## Tweet

Tags #MSDStrong Betsy DeVos education faculty federal guidance counselors Kyra Parrow Marjory Stoneman Douglas MSD national parkland Parkland Shooting parkland strong rebecca schneid safety school safety Secretary of Education service dogs shooting staff Stoneman Douglas therapy tragedy Ty Thompson

## 10 Comments



## Victoria LoSchiavo

March 7, 2018 at 8:33 am · Reply

I've been waiting to see how long it would take Sec. DeVos to arrange a photo op in Parkland. Sorry that MSD students have to contend with this sort of venal behavior on the part of administration opportunists; however, there seems to be a consensus in the press, both domestic and foreign, that DeVos's dog and pony show "wasn't informative or helpful at all." The EagleEyeMSD crew nailed it!

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## Rebecca Schneid Personal Statement

Throughout all of my struggles and stories I have written this school year as Editor-in-Chief of the Stoneman Douglas Eagle Eye, I have primarily strived to do one thing: find the truth. Beginning this year, the major issues that I wanted to explore was the way in which the ever-changing political climate has influenced the world around us. In finding this truth, I researched extensively and canvased the ways in which our culture has changed with the new presidential administration.

Then, as the #Me Too movement struck the Hollywood community and American society, completely revolutionizing the way sexual assaulters are held accountable for their actions, I became passionate about this issue. This passion turned to curiosity as I tried to find the truth again: what does this movement, its origins, and its results say about our society in the past and in the future. I interviewed experts on sexual assault, a lawyer in the Harvey Weinstein case, sexual assault victims, and politically engaged students of all ages and backgrounds to explore rape culture in America. This is the piece I am possibly most proud of because of the work I put into not only just the writing, but also the research, the design, and the photography that accompanied the story. It was something I felt very passionate about, and I was so extremely excited and proud to write and expose this issue to those at my school, and demonstrate how it also affects the lives of my classmates. In this piece, I also mentored a freshman newspaper classmate, teaching her how to improve their writing and properly research a sensitive topic such as this one. Simultaneously, I worked to put together this second quarter issue as the Editor in Chief, having to step into this large leadership role and lead the class to a timely and well-written magazine finish.

Then, suddenly, my life changed as a journalist and person forever. February 14, 2018 marked a complete shift in my life, and the Eagle Eye was thrust into the spotlight as the newspaper of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School where a tragedy had just occurred. So, while dealing with my own personal issues and trying to create change myself, I had to put my heart into this newspaper and work as the Editor-in-Chief to lead our publication in the most trying times of our life. I worked with my fellow editors to plan to cover the multitude of stories coming out of the tragedy and activism at our school, while simultaneously working to create a magazine that memorialized each victim. We made the decision to do these victims justice, and tell the world their story. I wrote two obituaries, Alaina Petty's and Joaquin Oliver's- and those are the two pieces of writing I am most proud of, and likely will always be most proud of. Here, I worked to tell *their* truth, even though they were no longer able to.

From there, the Eagle Eye worked to be the leading publication in the events going on as a result of our school. I did my part editing almost all of these online stories and writing some of my own, such as a story on Secretary Betsy DeVos's visit to the school, which was cited in many other major news websites' reporting of the event. Not only that, but also The Eagle Eye finished the year off strong, as we all worked to tell the truth about gun violence in our final magazine issue- not just gun violence in our lives, but in the lives of so many Americans around the country. My specific stories in this issue worked to find the truth in how past activism movements have influenced the active generation rising up today and of the NRA's history and its current power in our current political system. Through my work this year on all different topics, I have been able to truly see the power of journalism. Not only do true journalists strive to find the truth in their lives, but in the lives of those who often are not listened to. They do not discriminate someone's story because of their skin color, creed, orientation, or sex. They find a



story and they tell it to the world, hopefully therefore making it a better, more informed place as a result.