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TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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Getting Credit for Life

How Role-Play Fair Can Help Students Succeed

By Madi Landry, *Staff Writer*



Triton Students pose during last year's Credit For Life student fair, organized by the Institution for Savings bank (courtesy Institution for Savings).

"I don't feel prepared for my future because I don't know how to manage my finances or prepare for job interviews..." said junior Izzie Reiniger. Reiniger is not alone. Many students find themselves feeling this way, especially as their future is approaching quickly.

However, the goal of Credit for Life is to help students feel more prepared for their futures, and provide them with skills they'll need in the future. The program gives them a better idea on how the real world actually is.

When talking about the goal for Credit for Life, representatives from the Institution for Savings Bank, which runs the program, said the simulation is supposed to be seven years in the future. It should help students develop skills in managing their finances, and their money, and give them skills that they can take away from the fair and utilize them for the rest of their lives.

"I think Credit for Life will be a beneficial experience but it won't make up for the lack of preparation for our futures," said Reiniger.

The fair does give students an idea of how their future is going to be based on their finances, it is impossible to provide students with an adequate amount of advice for their future in a three hour period. Many schools do not provide classes on life skills, such as doing taxes, budgeting, and other important life skills students will soon need to know. Some students are not well trained in saving their money, and some do not even have a job yet. Credit for Life helps students to realize how things are going to work for them.

Credit for Life brings together 12 schools from our region at Masconomet Regional High School, where they begin the simulation. The program requires students to dress as their desired occupation, and go through the day with the salary their occupation yields. It helps to put things into perspective, especially for students who know what they want to be, because it shows them a general idea of what their finances are going to be like, and how much extra money they will have.

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Bernie v. Biden

Despite Big Sanders Rally, Former VP Wins Mass.

By Nick Pagliarulo, *Staff Writer*

"Tonight, we are going to turn on the TV, and they are going to find out that over 10,000 people turned out to the Boston Common for this rally, and they are going to become even more nervous," said Bernie Sanders, Senator of Vermont, and 2020 presidential candidate.

Just days before Super Tuesday, when he won California, Utah, Vermont, and Colorado, presidential candidate Bernie Sanders held a successful rally starting at 12:00 PM, on the Boston Common that had a large turnout. After Super Tuesday, however, Sanders' campaign appears to be slipping against fellow frontrunner and former Vice President Joe Biden.

People at the rally were told to start meeting at 10:00 AM, and by 10, a long, 45-minute line had already wrapped around the Common. People were eager to get into the rally, and after what had seemed like forever waiting in line, and getting berated by the Sanders campaign workers to keep tidy, people were finally all let in.

Passing the metal detectors added to the suspense on what was on the other side. People attending the rally had been reminded they were in Bernie land by the large



The scene when a Triton Voice reporter traveled last Saturday to Boston Common for a Bernie Sanders Campaign Rally (Pagliarulo photo).

amounts of socialist propaganda and the large amounts of Bernie signs being held amongst the crowd. Pins were being sold, signs were being given out, and pamphlets were being distributed, the suspense was palpable.

Many had attended this rally due to the ease of access within the city. "I have been meaning to get into actually supporting the campaign more, and I attend Tufts

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OPINION: The Importance of Voting

By Alexander Sharpe
Special to the *Triton Voice*

With the upcoming presidential election, it is ever-important to recognize one of America's most important freedoms, your ability to have a say in the matter of politics. As a citizen it is our duty to vote, yet many young people are failing to complete their duty, which could eventually result in the destruction of democratic principles as we know it.

In the age of the internet one can find many young people who are apathetic or unappreciative of their right to vote. In the 2016 election only around 55% of the voting age population (VAP) turned out to vote. While this is not the lowest percentage of a presidential election, it is part of a downward trend in turnout compared to percentages ranging from 71-82 during the mid-late 1800's. I believe this is at least partly due to the internet, which has



Voters during the 2016 election (courtesy Next Avenue).

consumed the minds of those on the younger side of the VAP and led them to become lazy in terms of political knowledge and awareness. The anonymity of communicating through a screen allows these people to take part in conversations about politics that they believe are mean-

ingful, but are never required to express their opinion on the place that truly allows them to have a say, the ballot.

One reason to take advantage of voting is to appreciate the hardships so many Americans had to go through in order to let you vote. It started with the American Revolution and the Founding Fathers' fight to gain the first political freedoms in the U.S, although they were originally limited to wealthy white men. The hard work of women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Alice Paul gained women suffrage in 1920. And it was not until thousands of lives were lost and thousands more had been oppressed that African-Americans officially gained the right to vote in 1965. To ignore the sacrifices these people made over the course of our country's history is to ignore the very idea of America. Those freedom fighters knew that they would not reap the

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Triton Combine is Tuesday

Think you're an athlete?

That's the question being posed by the Triton Spring Track and Field Team as it seeks to attract students to take part in its Second Annual Triton Combine.

The Combine is a contest of student strength, speed, and agility and will be held Tuesday, March 10 at 2:30 in the Triton gym. There will be categories for boys and girls, and an award will be given to the winners. The contest includes: a 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, standing broad jump, and cone drill.

"We do this to test the students' athletic abilities," said Track Coach Mr. Joe Colbert. "Last year it went really well. The boys did very well, as well as the girls, but we could definitely use more girls this year."

Those interested should see Colbert for details.

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Remembering Kobe Bean Bryant

Students Reflect on Legacy after Death of an NBA Legend

By Ethan Tremblay & Matt O’Neil, *Staff Writers*

A month after the death of NBA legend, Kobe Bryant and his 13-year old daughter, Gianna, it is clear his legacy will live on forever.

Kobe Bryant, 41, who tragically died in a helicopter accident, was known as a Laker legend who brought five NBA titles to Los Angeles. His 20-year career was filled with highlights, and he received tremendous respect for his one-of-a-kind work ethic.

On January 26, 2020, Byrant and his daughter were both unfortunately two of nine victims in a helicopter accident in Calabasas, California. The group was headed to the Mamba Sports Academy to take part in a basketball game.

Kobe’s death was sudden and due to his legacy and his legendary status a lot of people just couldn’t believe it. Triton staff and students mostly shared the same reaction to Kobe’s death.

“I was sort of dumb-founded thinking that he was a relatively young guy with a lot left to give back to the basketball world,” said math teacher and assistant Triton basketball coach Mr. Rich Dube. “You felt especially bad because of his daughter, who probably would have been a WNBA star, I think we overlook that.”

“I thought it was a hoax. I Googled it and realized he was actually dead,” said Joseph Galante, math teacher.

As a basketball coach, Galante said he wasn’t really a fan of the way Kobe played. His style may have been a little too self-centered for Galante. But Galante did not take away from the good things Kobe brought to the table. “His competitive edge was probably the best thing about him,” said Galante. This might very well be the popular opinion. Kobe was known for being fearless and didn’t back down from any challenge.

One iconic Kobe moment Galante mentioned was when he did not flinch when an opposing player (Matt Barnes) fake passed the ball towards his face. Although this moment may seem minor, it made Kobe seem even more like a superhero.

Kobe influenced a whole generation of athletes,

but not just through his basketball platform. He inspired many off the court as well.

One thing Kobe was known for was his trademarked “Mamba Mentality.” Bryant described this: “..That's "mamba mentality" we don't quit, we don't cower, we don't run. We endure and conquer. Stop feeling sorry for yourself, find the silver lining, and get to work with the same belief, same drive, and same conviction as ever.”

This mentality helped Bryant eventually be considered one of the greatest basketball players of his era, and millions of people saw his work pay off.

“Mamba mentality baby, having that strive,” explained Triton student Jayden Penrose about



Father and daughter, Kobe and Gianna Bryant were tragically killed Jan. 26 when the helicopter they were riding in crashed in California (Image courtesy *New York Post*).

Kobe’s impact on him as an athlete. Bryant’s work ethic was second-to-none and can probably never be quite replicated, but it serves as an outline and inspiration for generations to come.

“My granddaughter, who is 8, the other day said that Kobe was a legend, and I think that legends last forever,” said Joanne Antico, a frequent substitute teacher at Triton. This really shows the impact Kobe had: someone who is 8 years old who has never seen him hit the court knows how great of a player, father, and human Kobe Bryant really was.

Drugs After Sports

Post-Retirement, Drugs are Ruining Athletes’ Lives

By TJ Overbaugh
Staff Writer

Being a professional athlete is something few are lucky enough to achieve. The dedication and work it requires takes extreme commitment. Despite their love for their sport, some athletes turn to drugs and alcohol.

Being in the spotlight, athletes’ mistakes can ruin their career. This is what happened when Allen Iverson, one of the best guards in NBA history fell from the top. The money he earned in his fame disappeared after he became an alcoholic, and he lost \$200 million. Sports commentator Stephen A. Smith from *ESPN* explained him as someone who would, “...either drink himself into oblivion or gamble his life away.” Even though people think they have so much money, this can all go down the drain after suffering from addiction. Both Detroit and Atlantic City casinos have banned him after his problems became so severe. Surprisingly, substance use is not uncommon in the Professional Sports Industry, according to Biology Reference. “About 30 percent of college and professional athletes use anabolic steroids.”

In a recent case, Delonte West is yet another professional athlete impacted by the harsh effects of substances. Once a first-round NBA pick and former Boston Celtics point guard, West lost his \$14 million salary to drugs. West had battled mental illness, and once introduced to substances, he lost everything. He eventually became homeless, then videos surfaced of the former star being beaten on the side of the road and showing obvious signs of drug use. Triton senior Jesse Wilkinson reflected, “Many athletes weren’t taught to use their money correctly, and were brought up in a rough area” which may contribute to their troubles. West described his early life as “Happy poor.” Growing up his family constantly struggled.

Money and fame can change one's life for better or worse. While some strive, others find themselves spiraling out of control. Athletes, when granted so much money, sometimes find it impossible to remain the same person they had been before fame and fortune.



Former Celtics player, Delonte West, has reportedly suffered from drug abuse since leaving the NBA (*Courtesy Larry Brown Sports*).

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University, so the proximity was very nice,” said Rob Pitkin, from Weston, Connecticut.

As well as ease of access, due to the rally being right in the heart of Boston, many came for the sole purpose to support who they believe is their viable candidate. “Bernie seems like he fits my beliefs the most, and I am a student,” said Ryan Mcgilvray, from Kingston, Massachusetts.

Right at the strike of 12:00 PM, the suspense amongst the crowd was finally ready to boil over. The 2020 Bernie Sanders field organizer had kicked off the rally, with the intent of building suspense. For the next 20 minutes, endorsers to the Bernie campaign pumped up the crowd such as Mike Connolly, member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, the Director and Cofounder of the Sunrise Movement, Varshini Prakash, the Massachusetts Senate Co-chair, Paul Feeney, Peter Knowlton, president of the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America Union, and representative Nika Elugardo.

After 20 minutes of endorsers talking, Bernie Sanders had finally made an appearance. “Woah, Boston, there's a lot of people here today,” said Sanders, gazing left and right into the shoulder-to-shoulder crowds. As well as Sanders, more people had been standing in the crowd than what his fans thought also. “The line was way past out on the street and I was in line for 40 minutes, just to get into the rally,” said Pitkin.

Once Sanders had started talking, everything that had left his mouth had gained support among the crowd, along with cheering and his signs being held in the air. Sanders’ plans for controversial issues

had been brought up, and touched upon quickly, moving in an organized manner to keep audience attention. Topics touched upon were Sanders’ plans for healthcare, college, climate change, criminal justice system reforms, national rent control, fighting the NRA, and taxing the wealthy.

“If we stand together and become involved in the political process, and if we change the political culture within America, and understand that men and woman have fought and died for democracy in America, we all have to become involved and think about the issues of the country together,” said Sanders, formally wrapping up over a half hour of talking. This was not only a way to motivate the crowd, but a way to make his young supporters feel wanted, leaving his rally with a feeling like their voice was heard.

Leaving the rally and pushing through the crowd of thousands of people, it was apparent his rallies, such as the one on the Boston Common, had worked in order to keep his supporters’ votes for November. Fans were all over Boston taking pictures with his signs, and people all over the city were wearing Bernie Sanders badges, as a way of commemorating this rally after it had ended.

It was clear that those at this event had known that they were different, due to their support of Sanders, and they sure were not backing down. “There is no other candidate who is more consistent, and who cares about every man, woman, and child in the country,” said Pitkin.

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“It did lay out a lot of things you’d have to think about paying for after you get out of college, and once it was right in front of me, it was another reminder,” said senior Julia Boyle, who attended the fair last year.

It gives real life situations, such as a car crash, buying a dog, or even winning the lottery, and the costs that coincide with these incidents. There are 15 booths set up, and the students have a three-hour period where they are given situations, and learn to handle them with the budget their future job yields. There is also a Credit Counseling Booth, where students can check their credit and receive help and advice on the best decisions for their circumstances. This helps to provide some insight on the real world, and how things will work for them in a few years.

Senior Mason Ferrick attended the Credit for Life fair last year, and found it to be a beneficial experience. “... It gives you a really good opportunity to look at the tasks you’ll need to complete after college which is something everyone should know.”

After college, it is the real world. Students today will come to realize they’re not always going to have someone there to help. They will need to (in most cases) buy a house or apartment, get a job, save money for their future, be able to afford necessities, be able to do their taxes, pay their bills, etc. That is a lot to even just think about, let alone actually do with little to no preparation.

Credit for Life is essentially an eye opener for students, and it helps to put into perspective that their future is closer than it seems. Seven years is not a long time, and many students do not realize their futures are closer than they think, and that there are a lot of things they need to prepare themselves for.

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benefits of their hard work, but they did it in order to better the lives of future Americans like us. So, it is important to vote to prove their efforts were not in vain.

Not only must we be cognizant of the United States’ history, but we must also recognize the vast number of people across the world who do not even have the choice to vote or not. In places like North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Russia voting is rare and often meaningless. Nearly 100% of people turnout on election days in North Korea, but it may seem odd that out of four national parties the votes go solely to one party, the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland. This occurs mainly due to the intense pressure to vote in favor of the current regime, which puts in place neighborhood watches to find no-shows. In addition, the ballot consists of nothing but a singular candidate, which one can either put into the ballot box as is or cross off the name, which would result in certain persecution. Saudi Arabia did not grant women the right to vote until 2015, and only held seven elections in the eighty years prior to 2015. Electoral commissions in Russia have the power to reject undesirable candidates from registering for an election, and the ruling party’s role in elections consists of removing any strong opposition. During a number of elections on September 8, 2019, only 21% of people in Russia voted, as the Russian government purposely hid information about them from voters, and gave that 21% ballots with fake candidates.

These are only three of the more well known countries with large scale voter suppression; this occurs across the globe in many different ways, all of which deny people the human right to vote. By not voting you show a blatant lack of compassion for these people who have no say in how their country is run. Showing up to vote represents an acknowledgment of the privilege you hold as an American citizen, and as a symbol of support for the oppressed. Make sure to take advantage of your right to vote, it means a lot more than you think.