



# TRITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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## Pink House Controversy

### Threat of Tearing Down Iconic Building Angers Locals

By Weston Murphy  
Staff Writer

Are you against the demolition of the Plum Island pink house? If so, you're not alone. Some groups are rebelling against the demolition and showing their support for what they call an iconic structure that represents the area. While one group is suggesting tearing down the building, another group is trying to save it.

The U.S Fish & Wildlife Department announced their intention to demolish the pink house late this fall, a building that was built back in 1925.

"It was built after a divorce between a husband and a wife because she wanted a replica of the house built during the marriage they had," according to the suppothepinkhouse.com website written by board member Sandy Tilton. Tilton is the head of a group trying to save the structure.

According to a statement made by the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, "The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has put forward a plan to demolish the structure after realizing the cost to repair the home was well beyond its means."

The house has become a staple of the Plum Island community and the surrounding towns. Later it was bought by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department and they were planning on demolishing it because the house would cost too much for all its repairs and they don't think it is worth it to keep repairing it.

The Parker River National Wildlife Refuge has been holding meetings because of the controversy to answer the supporters questions, but they are still looking at taking it down.

Triton student Brayden Lopes, said he is a big fan of the house but also states that he understands why they think they should take it down due to the money side of things.



A "Save the Pink House" sticker campaign has arisen since a threat to tear down the building arose last month (courtesy image).

"The house is a staple of Plum Island," said Lopes. "When you come over the bridge you can always see it there and it would look a lot different if it isn't there anymore."

Student Ryan Snow is a regular in the Plum Island area and he said one of the most eye-popping things is the pink house.

"Whenever I drive by it my eyes immediately go to it cause it pops out aside all the long grass," said Snow.

## AI on the Rise

### How Developing AI Technology Has and Will Affect Schools

By Liam Kneeland & Gavin Distaso  
Staff Writers

Cheating by using ChatGPT at Triton High has become considered a virus by some faculty. The artificial intelligence bot that seamlessly writes student essays and completes other school tasks at the push of a button has taken over the media and has flooded teen TikToks over the past several months.

ChatGPT has had a major impact on Triton. Multiple students have been caught using AI on their English assignments and various other classes that require written work. Students in the past have even gotten suspensions because of using the AI bot. The AI bots are scattered throughout the Internet and are being advertised to teens as a simple alternative to doing school work. Several social media are advertising to teens like TikTok to cheat on work.

Using ChatGPT for your school work at Triton is considered academic dishonesty and is punishable with up to a suspension, a zero on the assignment, or more. As the app has become more popular, it is being advertised on social media platforms to an older high school audience, ages thirteen to seventeen.

The Triton Voice interviewed an anonymous source who uses ChatGPT frequently in their school work. The source said that it's a very efficient way to get work done. "The only thing that ChatGPT is affecting is the teachers." In a lot of kids' eyes, the student said, ChatGPT is a great way to get hard-to-write essays and difficult math assignments done.

#### FUTURE IMPACTS

The future of this technology could have serious impacts on how we live our lives. It could make mundane tasks easier, assist users while writing, and even target advertising based on what a person watches.

At the same time, this technology has raised concerns, especially in school environments by teachers and professors, most notably a concern about the cutting-edge predictive text AI model developed by OpenAI called ChatGPT. This is a free-to-use (with paid, newer versions) AI model that has proven to have exceptional abilities to write very convincing and thorough responses. It can do anything from explaining very complex topics in simple ways to writing entire complete and grammatically correct essays with a simple prompt. The latter of which is [See ARTIFICIAL on page 2](#)

## Cash or Card?

### Are E-Payments Making Paper Money Obsolete?

By William Hight  
Staff Writer

Sixty-four percent of Americans believe all payments will become electronic at some point in their lifetimes, with the figure jumping to 70 percent for those under 50," according to a recent Gallop survey.

Debit and credit cards are on the rise in popularity in recent years and many Americans see it as their main form of payment. This can be seen from a Forbes Advisor survey showing that only 9 percent of Americans used cash or checks in 2023 and 81 percent of Americans used debit and credit cards.

"Ten years from now, we won't be using cash at all," said business teacher, Mr. Frank Torres.

Torres believes this about cash because of the way online purchasing is advancing. With the new form of pay being Apple Pay and online cards, making payments has never been easier and the way America is trending shows how a cashless society isn't too far away from us.

As our society becomes more technology-based almost every day, using cash anywhere is starting to feel like more of a task. You have to go through your wallet, count out your money, and when you get your change back it's a pain shoving it back into your wallet. Now with all the new technology, all you have to do is tap your card on the sensor or even easier just use the digital card on your phone. This doesn't seem like new stuff to the Millennial and Gen Z generations, however, older Americans are hopping on the trend of online and card purchases. Other data from the Gallup survey also showed that the amount of adults using no cash purchases almost doubled from what it was five years ago.

When senior, Talia Strauch, was asked what she preferred cash or card she said "Card, because you have to take into account all the online websites you're buying from." Strauch believes with all the online buying our generation makes, you need a card in our society and that card does make spending a lot easier. She also believes that it is hard to be in this society



VS.



Hight/Adobe Images

without a form of card, saying "it's just very convenient to the consumer and the business".

Investopedia, an investing, banking, and finance website, says, "Credit cards are often more convenient and secure than carrying cash. As long as you can pay your bill in full each month, using a credit card is typically more advantageous than using cash." But not all think cards are the way to go.

Junior, Bradyn Lopes, said, "I don't really like cards because some places have stopped accepting cash and that is what I mostly pay in." Lopes thinks cash is a lot more reliable and has become used to paying in cash more. But, Lopes isn't alone in thinking this way. Investopedia also states that using a credit card isn't always the best choice of payment and to avoid it when the business has a transaction fee.

With more businesses going online since the pandemic, people have realized how much quicker and [See CASH on page 2](#)

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB PRESENTS...

# SWAP, DON'T SHOP!

Bring all clean and wearable clothing donations to Mr. Horsley!

\*No swimsuits, underwear or used socks\*

**LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS: JAN. 24**

Buying new clothes takes a lot of resources, thrift instead!

**DATE OF THE EVENT: JAN. 26, In the Library**



# Debating the Cell Phone Ban

## Could Massachusetts follow Florida's lead in Restricting Devices?

By Taryn Lebreck  
Staff Writer

Enforcement of a recent cell phone policy at Triton has some students wondering if bigger changes are in the works.

On the first day of school, students walked into classrooms which featured a drastic change from the classrooms they had left last school year. The new phone holders on the back of some doors in classrooms greeted them and were soon some students' worst nightmares. When speaking with art teacher, Mrs. Toni Fein, she had an interesting take on this new phone policy.

"Sometimes you need your phone to take a picture like in the art classes," said Fein. "Although, art classes have use of a few iPads, it is useful to have phones in the classroom."

In May of this year, Florida passed a law requiring public school districts to enforce rules prohibiting student cell phone use during class time. This fall, Orange County, Florida Public Schools, which includes Timber Creek High, went even further, prohibiting students from using cellphones during the entire school day.

Many teachers at Triton view this new policy similarly to Fein. If students can keep their cell phones away in backpacks during class time, there is no use for the "cell phone parking lots," which were placed in many classrooms.

Banning cell phones completely would be a drastic change for the district. To touch on the students' side of this idea, senior Molly Porter-Crean explained that, "It's a hard habit to break so it's understandable that we as students have our phones on us or are checking them all the time but I get that it is a distraction."



Hunter Barrington is looking troubled when he is told to put his phone in the "phone parking lot." Photo by Taryn Lebreck.

# RIGHT (on red) or WRONG

## Change in Traffic Policy May be Headed to Massachusetts

By Reagan DeLisi  
Staff Writer

In a rush to get to wherever you need to go, you come to a right on red traffic light... but not for long.

Right on red turns are looking to be banned in many cities. Many pedestrians and cyclists have been injured or killed due to right on red turns – that is, when an automobile approaches a stop sign or red light, but is permitted to turn after a complete stop. Right on red went into effect when the U.S. was concerned about compounding an energy crisis. It was reported that right on red didn't make much of a difference for gas consumption and instantly affected roadway safety. The U.S. is one of the only major countries that allows right turns on red.

Students in Triton who don't have their license will often bike to places they need or want to go to. Banning right turns on red would allow them to cross the street more safely and relieve stress of getting injured while biking on main roads that have these kinds of policies.

On the other side of this, upperclassmen at Triton drive all over Massachusetts every week. If right on red gets banned it will impact the lights they hit that allow them to turn right on red. This policy is convenient for drivers but not so much for cyclists and pedestrians.

When asked if there were any protocols or rules that

he had to teach student drivers to follow, when he worked in a driving school about safely turning right on red, Mr. Ed Suprin said there were. "My method was to tell them that the principle at the light is to stop, look

left first because that's where the traffic is coming from, step two: you then look straight ahead, make sure no one is coming from that direction, then step 3, before you make the turn is to look for a pedestrian at the corner trying to cross, and then from that point you make the procedure to go through."

This topic has not been very popular but has been an ongoing issue all over the world for decades. Some people believe cyclists and motorists are not the same therefore they should not be treated as the same, but banning right on red will inconvenience motorists and slow down commutes for buses and deliveries.

Triton senior Reese Renda said, "Right on red turns are stressful. If you go through the right on red stop and don't pay attention to both sides of the road and you get hit or you hit someone else, it will be all your fault."

In Cambridge, Massachusetts, right on red turns have officially been banned. Half of Cambridge's intersections have already been prohibited for motorists to turn right on red. This will eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries while increasing safety on the road, officials say.



A local street sign indicates to drivers that a "right on red" is not permitted. Signs such as these may soon appear at all stop signs and red lights (DeLisi photo).

# Black Friday: A History

By Ashley Sabino  
Staff Writer

It all started in November 1951 when one of the biggest shopping days in the world took place. This event, taking place on the Friday after Thanksgiving, encouraged people to shop in stores at the time, and it is still getting people to shop online today as well as in stores, to get the best deals

"It is very beneficial for some people who maybe don't normally shop that much or spend that much money," said junior Ava Kiricoples

Black Friday has been something people look forward to in the winter season to shop for Christmas gifts and maybe shop for themselves too.

Black Friday, "gets you excited for Christmas," said another junior from Triton, Rowan Cole.

Going shopping gets people out of the house and into buying gifts for family and friends, according to retailers. But some people would much rather stay in and shop online because Black Friday gets too chaotic and stressful. That is where Cyber Monday first appeared on November 28, 2005.

Cyber Monday which starts the Monday following Thanksgiving is the second biggest shopping day and the biggest day for online sales, and it now happens in other countries as well. Younger people would even online shop during school to get their deals and adults would do the same at work.

"I like online shopping way better because I have an easier time finding what I want instead of searching the whole store," said cheer coach Molly Willmont.

Cyber Monday is far easier to find what you want but isn't the best if you struggle to find clothes that fit you and have to try it on when shopping, students said.

Since these shopping events are increasing, donations for Giving Tuesday (which follows Thanksgiving as well) have been decreasing.

Over 200 million Americans have been shopping



Business Insider Image

online or in person during the five days after Thanksgiving but people are now less willing to donate money on Giving Tuesday. And there has been a ten percent decline since 2022 on donations. This donation they are talking about helps the communities and organizations across the globe that are struggling. Giving Tuesday was started in 2012 by the United Nations Foundation.

**CASH from page 1** easier it is to just click on your phone a couple of times instead of driving to the store and being in the supermarket for an hour. Strauch doesn't think cash is useless though, saying, "I always keep emergency money with me just in case some business has a card minimum and won't let you use the card for cheap items"

With the rate the world is evolving, cash doesn't seem like it's going to last for too long and our generation will probably see a major decrease in our lifetime. "Two-fifth of Americans used no cash in 2022." states Tech.co. This statistic was probably a result of the pandemic with cash-based transactions falling to 19 percent after the first year.

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raising the most concern.

Albeit the effectiveness of ChatGPT is not yet perfect. There are tools developed such as GPTzero which is (ironically enough) an AI model that was trained to detect ChatGPT written text. This tool is used by websites such as TurnItIn.co., a plagiarism and AI detector used by teachers to catch cheating students. There are even more tools that are specifically designed to make text undetectable by the aforementioned tools. It's a vicious, never ending cycle of detector improvements followed by anti-detector improvements.

## TEACHER VIEWPOINT

The Triton Voice interviewed Triton English teacher Margaret Flaherty about her view and experiences with students using AI.

When asked if students have ever been caught using AI, Ms. Flaherty said "Yes. Do you have me down as saying yes? Because yes."

Students using AI for assignments are described by Ms. Flaherty as being "academically dishonest." She explains that her job is to evaluate student skills and knowledge, but work that is not made by the student (i.e. AI) makes it so she can't do her job. Yet there's more to this for teachers then just dishonest work, Ms. Flaherty exclaims that catching students using AI is a massive time suck. Adding to this, Ms. Flaherty, who calls herself a late adopter to nearly everything tech, said "Gotta say, between the hours, the SPED demands, the parents who would prefer schools be the parents, the infringement of politics on education, and now AI? It is very hard to be a teacher."

"My job is to evaluate your skills and knowledge, but if you pass in work that is not your own then I can't do my job," said Flaherty. "In terms of prominence it is hard to say; I don't think there is an ELA teacher who hasn't caught kids using it. I can say that the problem has grown and that it is extremely annoying, disheartening, and frustrating."

Flaherty had a lot to say about the negative impact of AI on both learning and society. She also feared for the future of the teaching profession as AI develops.

"I don't know what the next few years will bring," said Flaherty, "but I fear that AI will be one more reason why teaching preparation programs can't recruit enough participants."

## Gingerbread Ithaca

Students (such as Voice staff writer Hunter Barrington, at right) in Ms. Cournoyer's English class created Odysseus's home during a recent period. Students job was to incorporate accurate renderings of the hero's revenge against the invading suitors as part of their study of the classic epic (Cournoyer photos).

