

TRUMPED: A reaction to a new president

by junior Caleb McCullough.

On November 8, 2016, the world was waiting with baited breath. At the end of a contentious, brutal campaign season, it was finally time for the American people to cast their ballots and choose their leader for the next four years.

I watched with nervous excitement, later and later into the night, and became more and more worried. As Trump was snatching electoral votes left and right, my brain frantically began to calculate possible ways that Clinton could win. And I was convinced, somehow, that she would pull it off. She had to pull it off. I drifted off to sleep around midnight, still under the belief that I would wake up to a second President Clinton.

I did not.

Instead my eyes opened to find Mike Pence giving a speech to a roaring crowd. I checked the time: 2 a.m. It was surreal and confusing. I still wasn't sure what was happening as Mr. Trump took the stage. My heart sank as I came to the stunning realization that, for the next four years, this man would be the head of my country.

Unlike many others that were "with her", I was not mourning this "tragedy". I completely understood the results. Donald Trump was adored by voters who felt they had been ignored for a long time. He appealed to predominantly white, working class people.

He appealed to people who saw Clinton as a manifestation of everything wrong with the political system. He appealed to the fear, anger, and helplessness of a demographic who feel their interests have been ignored in Washington. Director Michael Moore put it best in his documentary, *Michael Moore in Trumpland*: "He is... the human hand grenade that they can legally throw into the system that stole their lives from them".

So what does all this mean for the future? Make no mistake about it: A Donald Trump presidency is going to be worse for American progress than any other candidate on the ticket this November. Mitch

McConnell's conservative congress is going to wreak havoc on nearly everything Obama has achieved and then some. The Affordable Care Act will be first on the chopping block. Even worse, after all of President Obama's hard work on climate change and clean energy, the Republicans will continue to ignore facts and carry on with their irresponsible crusade to burn the earth as quickly as possible.

I still maintain Donald Trump was the wrong pick for the presidency. Any other populist, anti-establishment leader, any other year, would have been better than Hillary Clinton. But this ignorant megalomaniac is not the man we should have chosen. The next four years will be worse in the short term. Years of progress will be removed, and

Trump himself doesn't offer much hope for reform. From considering thoroughly "establishment" picks for his cabinet, to already going back on a number of campaign promises, he's very likely not very intent on "draining the swamp" and rooting out corruption. His rhetoric though, is more important to the big picture than his actual actions.

He is a shock, a brutal wake-up call, to two

equally corrupt parties that are bogged down by partisanship and self-serving Washington insiders. Billing himself as the president for every man, he gave life to a powerful, energetic movement- a radical belief that the government should work for its people. All its people.

Regardless of what the next four years might hold, we will recover. Millennials are, on both sides of the coin, wildly more progressive than their parents. They will shape the future of their parties, and they won't stand for the social injustices that prevail in the modern thought of the Republican party.

But perhaps president-elect Trump- this hand grenade, this wrench in the machine- will bring a new era to American politics, where anti-establishment is the new normal and the modern establishment fades away.



Exemption warranted for student athletes

by freshman Grace Schwenneker.

Sports can get hectic during the school year. Students have to juggle school, work, extra activities, and much more. Schools shouldn't force athletes to take a P.E. class. Why would we want to add more to a student that could affect the way they play in sports?

Making athletes go to a P.E. class every day is dangerous. According to Children's Health, the amount of students that have got hurt in a P.E. class has gone up by 150% from 1997-2007. With those chances, athletes are at a high risk of getting hurt and taken out of the sport they are playing.

Students are forced to go to a 42 minute class period where they play different games. The more games that athletes and students

play increases their chances of getting hurt. Athletes and students play different games that vary from just kicking a ball around, to dodging balls that other students are throwing from different points of the room. At any moment an athlete could be hit or trip and become hurt, which might cause them to be taken out of the next game they have.

In the 42 minute classes, when students and athletes aren't playing games, they are required to lift. Some would say that lifting during the day would help the athletes build muscle and improve in their sport. They would be right, but if an athlete has a game the same day, and they have to lift during a P.E. class, it could affect their muscles and make them feel tired. Having tired players at a game doesn't help representing Hudson Schools.

When asked if students think that a P.E. class should be enforced, 78.6% They all said that since at athletes already have practice, they are getting enough exercise.

Athletes have hours of extra time put into physical activity. Athletes are already exercising 60+ minutes from practice and extra activities they are in. There is no point to have them in another class that is providing the same things they do every day. The amount of exercise that each athlete gets every day is more than they have in one class.

Instead of taking a P.E. class, athletes could take academic classes. The more core classes they take, the more they will improve their education.

To conclude, Hudson Schools should reconsider their graduating policy and not enforce P.E. classes, for reasons like safety, health, and grades.

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