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A Letter from a Senior

Four years ago.

Four years ago, I walked these halls as a student for the first time.

Four years ago, I practiced for the first time as a high school soccer player.

Four years ago, I played my first notes as a high school instrumentalist.

And four years ago, everything seemed so much further ahead. College could wait to be worried about for another couple years and the only thing important on my mind was how far ahead summer break was. Little did I know that my first year would feel like whoosh of air, a bit disorienting and gone in an instant. Sophomore year came and went; at the end I attended my sister's graduation. Even then, I couldn't fully grasp what was happening. My own graduation still felt light years away, because of course two years appears like a long time.

News flash, two years is anything but a long time. Things come and go with rapid efficiency, never ceasing to amaze for a short while and then time comes along to sweep them away. I never quite realized this until now, my final week of school. The moment you reach this epiphany, you stop whatever you were doing and simply sit there. The dawning moment of realization is almost too much and too little to comprehend all at the same time. Once you get over that moment of shock, you begin to realize how quickly it all went.

I could ramble on about how life comes at you fast, but instead I will leave you with this: Underclassmen, enjoy your time in high school. Don't just sit there and wait for these four years to be over and done. Get involved, seize every opportunity... I know I heard those words from seniors when I was where you are, but I didn't take them seriously. Yet now, they all make so much sense. So please, take my advice and make the most out of high school.

Signing off for the last time as a high school student,

A Senior

Note from the IT editor

Federal law says that schools can only use first names when referring to minors on the internet. So you will see the authors and anyone else mentioned by first name only, sorry for any confusion this might cause.



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Columns

Class Reviews—The Honest Truth

By Alley

English 9

O, Romeo, Romeo. Wherefore art thou Romeo? English 9 is the introduction into the deep world of literature. No more reading books and trying to remember if the character's dog or cat died. It's now about how the cat symbolized the character's innocence and as the main character is finally introduced into the real world without the cat, his/her innocence is lost by the true evil of all men. Good luck from now on.

Advanced English 10

I have forgotten most of this year to keep my sanity. Highly recommended class.

AP Literature 11

The cockroach in Metamorphosis is not a real cockroach. If you take this class, prepare to dive into the deepest end of the literature pool there is—you better have a lifejacket. You learn from Gatsby that money is DEFINITELY not happiness.

English 12

The past three years of English have prepared you for this year. Bring your reading glasses because you are going to read, read, and read. Definitely a year to remember.

Integrated Science

Very subtle introduction to chemistry, biology, and physics. A good first year of high school course.

Biology

Pretty amazing thing to see your own plant-baby grow from just a little seed into a prospering plant. Better know your parts of the cell as well!

Chemistry

Study, study, study! How do most of these concepts apply to real life? Does an electron have a physical appearance? What is a transition metal? What's the difference between a compound and a

mixture? Take this class to find out (you will at least know the answer to the latter two questions).

AP Chemistry

Psshhhhhh, you thought regular chemistry was hard?! Tip: if you cram a little, all lab reports will fit in a 50 page lab notebook (I still have 2 pages left in mine). Another tip: HURRY in the lab— do not take your time. The paper says to heat solution in a water bath for 5 minutes? Well, yours is going in for 3. Study session are your life jacket—go to them!

AP Biology

To understand the concepts of this class, you MUST read the book! It is amazing life can actually function on its own. How in the world did scientist figure these things out? Absolutely great class. Rate: 10/10.

Algebra II

Algebra I on steroids—a C letter grade is totally acceptable.

Geometry (pre-Common Core)

You will be seeing triangles in your nightmares. But, honestly, can it get much easier? If you don't understand the answer, ask.

Advanced Math

Bring your book to class everyday. You don't think you'll need it today? You're fooling yourself. A review of the last three years of math. Suggested class.

World History

Trench foot was caused by the standing water in the trenches during World War I. The trench project is pretty cool.

AP U.S. History

You will read the entire text book—prepare. Suggestion: when the tests are available in the morning to review before taking: DO IT. You better be in that class-

room at 7:00 am sharp. Get working on your CAPSTONE as soon as possible.

AP Government

The mock election makes you strongly dislike your classmates (hate is a strong word—but may be appropriate).

Economics

Yeah, no one knows what that curve means or how to read it. Good class—even better teacher.

Contemporary World Issues

Pick a country. Look up weekly news. Write about something. Present. Repeat 18 times.

French

Quizlet is the ultimate studying partner. Google Translate is your best friend.

Physical Education (AKA Gym)

Get your sweat on.

Health

You will never expose your skin to the sun again. (Well, at least for not a couple of weeks after learning about skin cancer).

Culture

Cultural Benefits of Studying Abroad

Leah

Most colleges and universities offer students the opportunity to expand their learning experience by studying abroad. By deciding to study abroad a student not only transforms their academic knowledge, but also their cultural identity.



Some colleges in Ohio that offer study abroad programs include: Ohio University, Bowling Green, Ohio State University, Miami University and many others.



Attending college is already a new and exciting experience in itself. New and different people in a new and different place with new and different things.

From the people, to the attractions, to the food, there is always something new to learn. It's a time to expand on knowledge and self-identity by transitioning from childhood to adulthood. Although this is surely a cultural endure on its own, by choosing to study abroad a student doesn't just sign up for a great academic learning experience, they are volunteering to endure a new cultural outlook on life, which is an indescribable experience.



Graduating and Returning Back Home

Leah



This year about 200 students will be graduating from the Lexington High School 2017 class after putting in countless hours of work, and running on only 2 hours of sleep and 10 ounces of coffee. These students are ready to finally see the "Welcome to Mansfield" sign in their rear view mirror, and start the new chapter of their lives.



However one student won't just be saying goodbye to Lexington Ohio, in fact she will be saying farewell to the United States. Cheyenne is originally from Belgium, but spent most of her high school career in Ohio attending Lexington High School. When asked what she is looking forward to most about arriving home to Belgium she responded by saying the things she has missed the most are her family and friends and she can't wait to finally see them again, especially her mom. Cheyenne plans on attending college in Belgium to study to become a translator. Cheyenne loves indulging in rich cultures and understanding how to speak to people from other countries and different walks of life and understand their humor, and traditions. In ten years Cheyenne says she sees herself "making lots of money" in her awesome translator job, which is not doubtful considering she is already so good at connecting with people and absorbing new knowledge. But by leaving the U.S. Cheyenne will also be leaving her best friends and favorite teachers which she says is what she will miss most about America. Despite the people that will be missed, Cheyenne, like most of the other seniors, is beyond excited to start her new life and adventure into adulthood.



Life

Creative Writing

AM

By Kent

Cogito Ergo Sum

I think, therefore I am

This transcended mind

A wonderful feat of mankind

A mix of copper and blood

It always floods

With data and thought

An atrocity of technology

In my head

A repeat track

Of everything I've ever said, calculate my
every move

Find the best route to improve

Stimulate and simulate

Anything and everything

Within the confines

Of my silicon skull

So much knowledge and power.

Imagine what I could do in an hour

I externalize

Everything that happens

Behind my eyes

These theories and plans

Can be gained with data plans

But I am still human.

I still crave attention.

And all the flaws

That come with this

My biology

My blood

This sweat

These tears

This body

Are mine

This sign that I am alive

But I am inhuman

An invention, A machine

No more than scrap metal

Attached to pester flesh

My mind and body a mesh

Thus I am unsettled

A hybrid, A sympathizer

Screaming desperation

As this temptation is free

Don't you see?

I can't live this way

To wake on a day

A face I put on to display

That I don't need grace

And the weight of the day is lost

Without a trace

My head instead going a hundred miles a
beat

Because I can't sleep

Slowly I will lose my name

And my skin becomes wireframe

And this form I will retain

For this mortal flesh I disdain

And they will ordain eternal shepherd, I
am, of the virtual age

Walkways

Anonymous

In the clearing, it was nightfall.

I went down the first trail.

It wasn't fun or beautiful.

Thorns and bushes covered the worn
stone.

It was perilous work.

Sweat rolled of my back like rain and my
limbs were aching.

When at last I reached the clearing, it
was nightfall.

The second was clear, but it was steep, in
the frozen night my limbs were solid and
numb.

Inch by inch I crawled.

When daylight broke I slept a dreamless
sleep.

When I awoke the sun was in the middle
of the sky.

With my limbs finally thawed, I climbed
higher.

When I reached the clearing, it was
nightfall.

The third wasn't a trail, but a doorway.

It was nightfall in the clearing.

The fourth was a gate.

It was nightfall in the clearing.

The fifth...

Life

College Athletes

Isabelle

College athletes—it seems as if they have a perfect life. They get to continue on with the select few to play the sports they love. They also get free gear, unique privileges, get special attention from professors, and travel all across the country. Sounds great doesn't it? This is the image that many people have of student athletes but in reality the life of a student athlete isn't so glamorous.

Many people go on and on about how student athletes get all of this free gear to wear and how they get unique privileges like their own weight rooms, academic centers, and separate food halls. However, what they don't know is how hard these student athletes work for these things. As a student athlete in college, the university owns you, and everything you do is to represent the university in a favorable way. A day in the life of a student athlete is one that is long, hard, and tedious. I talked with former Lexington high school athletes who are still playing in college and they had a lot to say about the day in the life of a collegiate athlete.

A day for a collegiate athlete starts at 5:30 am. You wake up and head to morning weights where you will lift or run until you cannot feel your body. From there you will head to class for the next couple hours where you are expected to sit in the front row, pay attention, and try not to doze off because you are so tired from all that you have already done that morning. Then you sneak in a quick lunch before you head to a 2-3 hour practice. Then many people think the day would be over but it is not. After practice athletes eat dinner and then are expected to complete study hall where they have to get a certain amount of hours which could vary from 4 hours a week to 12 hours. After all of that, the sun has gone down and the day is over. An athlete will wake up and do the same thing the next day.

What about off days? Yes these do exist, but as a collegiate athlete you never get a break. You are always putting in hours of extra work to better yourself, because unlike in high school, when you get to college everyone is just as good if not better. Everyone there knows what it feels like to get conference honors or be a state champ so you have to want it. As a collegiate athlete you will not have the time to socialize like other students or have time to relax because if you want to play you have to go the extra mile.

The same goes for in the classroom and on the road at competitions. Many think athletes are lucky because they get to miss class to travel the country and play. This though is not the case. Many professors do cooperate with your schedule but there are some that will try and make your life harder. They won't let you make up quizzes, will dock you for participation, and some will even give you an alternate test that is much harder. You have to deal with this all while trying to be the best you can be at your sport.

So now how do you view collegiate athletes? You can see why they get free gear and special weight rooms. They dedicate their life to their sport and school. Behind the glitz and glamour this is what it is really like to be a college athlete. Theresa-Ann Jedra, former Lexington High School student and graduate of Indiana University said, "It wasn't easy, it was one of the hardest things I have had to do. But I did it because I loved the sport I played and getting to wear Indiana across my chest is something I will never forget. Being a college athlete is such a privilege and that is why it is for only the select few that can handle the hours upon hours of hard work." So, all in all it may seem like this article is all about the negative parts of being a college athlete, but it just shows how hard they work and what they are willing to sacrifice to succeed in their sport as well as life. Could you handle it?