# The Badger Pause

Volume 14, Issue 5 | 14510 N. Cheshire Street, Burton Ohio | March 2018

## The origins of St. Patrick's Day

by Nick Misconin, BP Staff Writer

St. Patrick's Day is an annual holiday commonly celebrated by those of Irish descent across North America. Does this mean that all Irish people celebrate the holiday? Well, not quite. St. Patrick's Day in the United States is very different from the St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.

It all started a long time ago in 17th century Ireland when the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the East Orthodox Church, and the Church of Ireland declared March 17th the feast day of St. Patrick. St. Patrick became the patron saint of Ireland, and March 17th was chosen because it was the day he died in the 5th century. Nowadays, however, the holiday is spectacularly different.

Today St. Patrick's Day is not exactly the same as it was centuries ago. You see, St. Patrick's Day has spread from the U.S. Originally, it was a feast day, but now it is commonly celebrated to commemorate those of Irish descent. Despite originally being St. Patrick's feast day, the actual day we celebrate today began in the 19th century in the USA. The new and improved version of this old holiday reached Ireland a century later.

The United States participates in some unique activities to celebrate the holiday. A famous annual activity in Chicago, Illinois includes dyeing the Chicago River green. The most popular of St. Patrick's Day activities would be most bigger cities having parades to celebrate the day. Another activity for the adults is drinking alcohol, while everyone consumes other Irish foods and drinks. Soda bread and corned beef&cabbage are probably the two most popular, both of which I can personally recommend.



*Photo coutesy of timeanddate.com*

**A group of people celebrating St. Patrick's day in the modern way in the good old U.S. of A., leprechauns and all.**

Considering the holiday has religious roots, the modern day version could be seen in this light. For one, some believe the day misrepresents Irish culture. This is because other people use the day as an excuse to celebrate, despite maybe not having any Irish blood. Not only that, but there are some negative stereotypes associated with the holiday including the Leprechaun. That iconic short-statured creature with the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. This is viewed in a negative context because not every Irish person is a little, bearded Irish man that conducts mischief. Others consider the holiday to be a simple day used to commercialize. This lies within the fact that maybe the holiday has strayed too far from its original purpose. I believe that St. Patrick's feast day was the original, clean-cut celebration for the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick's Day in the eyes of others is a big party to celebrate Irish heritage. All in all, the holiday has religious roots, but is celebrated outside of religious context. It has widely varying traditions and events between different places. Whether you celebrate the holiday or not, have a Happy St. Patty's Day!

## The dangers of mass hysteria

by Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Editor

Mostly everyone has heard of the Salem Witch Trials in 1700's, whether it be in passing or during a lecture in class. We all know the gist of the pattern. Town thought women were witches, town burned innocent people to kill the witches, 24 people died, over 200 were accused. This is the most commonly known case of mass hysteria. Mass hysteria is a phenomenon that transmits collective illusions of threats or ideals through a population as a result of rumors and fear. In Western settings, plausible fears of poisoning or exposure to toxic chemicals have been known to trigger classic stress-reactions such as fainting, nausea, weakness and hyperventilation.

Another odd but popular example of mass hysteria is the Dancing Plague of 1518. A woman named Mrs. Troffea started randomly dancing one day in Strasbourg, France. For a few days it was just her dancing, but within a week, 34 other had joined her. By the end of the month 400 people were dancing in the streets. They never rested, and as many as 15 people died per day due to exhaustion, heart attack, or stroke. The affliction was caused by "hot blood". Instead of bleeding the victims, the prescription was more dancing. Authorities even built a stage and paid musicians to encourage the afflicted to dance.



*Photo courtesy of historykey.com*

**People dance during the dancing plague of 1518.**

Most historians, such as Dr. John Waller, a History of Medicine Professor at Michigan State University, believe the real diagnosis for the Dancing Plague was mass hysteria. Waller states that, "In the decade before the dancing plague of 1518, famine, sickness and terrible cold caused widespread despair in Strasbourg and its environs." The people of Strasbourg we also superstitious. All prime conditions for some good ol' mass hysteria. Being superstitious makes people afraid of more things than if one weren't superstitious. And the condition of starvation and disease would make it seem as if an unknown affliction could easily pass through town and affect a large amount of people. This would just cause more people to become afraid of getting the dancing mania.

Mass hysteria is an assumed threat that causes physical symptoms among a large group of people. Mass hysteria is typically caused by rumors, though not always. In 1997, a Pokémon episode aired in Japan that caused seizures, dizziness, nausea, bad vision, and shortness of breath in as many as 12,000 kids, ages from six to 16. The flashing light sequence that caused this outbreak had been used numerous times before in the show and no prior cases had been reported. The company ran tests, but after finding no conclusive evidence that the flashing sequence caused the symptoms, Pokémon returned to the air four months later, and no such attack has happened since then.

Stressful situations can cause mass hysteria. Mass hysteria just proves that the mind can make the body sick. When this happens in a group setting, it can get out of control and spread at a rapid rate. It can go away as quickly as it started, because the physical symptoms only occur because the mind told it to.

# Beginners' guide to *Dungeons and Dragons*

by Sam Martinjako, Local Magic Man

In the time of TVs, games, love, and a distinct lack of Cholera, there's little reason to leave much of anything up to the imagination. Escapist fantasy is as popular a genre as ever, and there is plenty of ways to get your fix. One of the more popular ways is through music, another one is through film. Gaining in popularity is watching cartoons and anime as there are so many different options that you are certain to find something that suits you. However, above even those is playing video games. Titles such as *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim*, *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*, and *Persona 5* provide players with seemingly endless adventure and tons of side quests to keep them busy for literally hundreds of hours. Yet, some people don't feel that games such as these are free enough. In order to have fun, escape, or just experience something a bit different, people are now, possibly more than ever, turning to tabletop gaming, such as Dungeons & Dragons (DnD). In DnD, visuals are often limited, but the freedom is not.

The appeal to DnD is simple. It's a roleplaying game (RPG) where you have full customizability of everything. Your character, your quest, your items, your adventure; everything is up to you and the people you play with. This allows you to be whoever you want, and also to get into entirely unique situations. Fights aren't just settled by strength or magic, they're settled mostly by luck and wit. Your stats determine how well you can manipulate a situation to play more to your favor. For example, in a standard video game RPG, you usually have one way out of a battle, which is to attack and kill the monster you are combatting. However, in DnD, you have many more options. If you have a high charisma stat, you can use your charms to woo enemies or coerce them into giving up. It all just depends on you and how lucky you can get when rolling dice.

One of the most important aspects of DnD besides the freedom is something that most video game RPGs lack, which is the fact that you must play it with other people. It's not like an MMO where you have tons of people playing on the same server, you have to have a defined group of people that you choose to adventure with. You can even use certain computer programs and websites in order to play with people over the internet.



*Photo courtesy of deviantart.*
**Pictured above is a Druid - one of the many races within the game.**

Senior Aiden Burkley states that "it's important that you trust the people you play with so you know that they make good characters. Storytelling is a lot easier with well developed characters." She further elaborates by saying that "you're going to want to be pretty good friends with the people you play with. It's kind of nerdy, but it's basically like going on an adventure with them, so it's important that you trust them to have their characters and play along with your story."

Finding these trustworthy friends can be difficult at times, but Burkley has a way around it. "I try to avoid the restriction of finding nobody in person to play DnD, so I find them online," she states. "The website Roll20 makes this really easy. I can find people from all over the world that have the same interests that I do to play a campaign I've catered pretty personally. I've found people who are willing to live in the stories that I make, which is pretty chill."

Of course though, DnD is not without its flaws. After all, in order to even get into DnD, you need to defeat two of its hardest bosses: character creation and having friends that play it. Having friends that play it is the easier of the two, as if you don't know anyone in real life who plays, you can at least search for people online, as mentioned previously. Character creation, however, affords you no such luxury. Aside from the easy part of rolling dice for your stats, everything about your character is up to you to create. You have to give them a look, a story, a personality, and decide what their capabilities are. With so many premade races, classes, and equipment to choose from, it is difficult to settle for just one of each choice. Some people will even make custom versions of these things to make the game more interesting, which further adds to the overall complexity of the experience. Though, all of this stuff implies that you are simply a player in a part of another person's game.

Being the Game Master (GM), or Dungeon Master (DM), is a completely different experience. You don't make characters, you don't make decisions, and you don't even really play the game; you control the game. GMs make the story of the game the players are a part of and are responsible for world building, interactions, non-player characters, and everything behind the scenes. This prospect is an intimidating one, so it's better to jump in as a player before you try to run your own game.

The amount of freedom and fun you can have while playing has led to a boom in DnD's popularity. What used to be a game for perhaps only the nerdiest of nerds is now enjoyed by even the most basic geeks. Burkley, however, put it in a different light: "DnD is not as nerdy as people think it is," she said, before instantly turning it around and saying, "just kidding, it totally is."

Certain influential figures in pop culture, such as YouTuber Nathan Sharp and, more famously, Matthew Mercer and his group of fellow Voice Actors are also well known DnD players. Matt Mercer even livestreams his group's shenanigans and posts clips from them, along with guides on how to play, on YouTube under the title of Critical Role. With so much exposure and helpful resources, more people now are playing DnD than ever before. And there's nothing wrong with that, as it inspires creativity and communion among friends, along with just being a good time.

# Desperation...

by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer



# 10 affordable spring break getaways

by Heather Papp, BP Staff Writer



*Photo courtesy of mckinlsey.com.*

**The Space Needle against Seattle's skyline.**

**Myrtle Beach, South Carolina**

At this beach in South Carolina, you can get an up close view of the ocean while walking along the Myrtle Beach Oceanfront Boardwalk and promenade. Another option is visiting the Family Kingdom Amusement Park, which features more than 30 old fashioned rides, including a wooden roller coaster and the largest ferris wheel in the state. Myrtle Beach is also home to Ripley's Believe It or Not! Museum with human oddities and rare objects that will allow the whole family to have a blast. There is also Ripley's Aquarium, which is a family-friendly facility that offers drive tours and live shows.

**Washington, D.C.**

Taking a trip to the capital of the United States can help anyone learn about America's history while making sure the adventure doesn't feel like a high school history class. Some of the country's most famous landmarks lie in Washington, such as the White House, the Washington Monument, the National Mall, and many memorials remembering the most impactful people in American history. It is also home to many of the country's major museums, including the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Newseum, and many more.

**Cape Ann, Massachusetts**

With old fashioned streets and multiple lighthouses to see, Cape Ann is the perfect quiet beach getaway to relax and enjoy the scenery in Manchester-by the Sea, Massachusetts. The Singing beach is a popular attraction because it makes a distinct "creaking" sound when walked on. There are plenty of museums to visit in the surrounding cities, including the Manchester Historical Museum which is from the early 19th century and features fine art and Victorian dolls. The Essex Museum, is a common attraction because it helps people learn about the history and importance of wooden shipbuilding in Essex, a town not too far away from Manchester-by-the-Sea. The Powder House Hill Reservation is a view over the water that can be rented and hiked through with many natural sights to see.

**New York City, New York**

Taking a vacation to "the city that never sleeps" might not be relaxing, but it will definitely be exciting, as it's packed with over 8 million residents. New York is a very common place to live and visit because there are more than enough places to see and explore. Central Park is one of the most popular attractions because it has ballfields, a zoo, and boat rentals for the reservoir. The famous Statue of Liberty lies in the New York Harbor and represents freedom and new beginnings to many Americans and immigrants. New York City is also home to the Empire State Building which is an Art Deco building, has exhibits and observatories, and is big enough that it even has its own zip code (10118). Times Square, the heart of bright lights and shopping is in the middle of all the action in New York City, and the Rockefeller Center harbors TV studios, and is a very popular seasonal attraction around the holidays because of its ice rink and giant Christmas tree display.

**Seattle, Washington**

Although all the way on the west coast of America, Seattle is a very popular place and has many exciting places to see. The Pike Place Market has over 200 restaurants and shops. The star attraction of the city is the Space Needle, standing 6 floors (605 feet tall) with a rotating restaurant at the very top so visitors can observe the city from a bird's eye view. Seattle also harbors Pier 57, the Museum of Pop Culture, Museum of Flight, and Gas Works Park which used to be an old oil plant but has been transformed so the general public can enjoy.

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

A city known for jambalaya and jazz, New Orleans is a fun, party-all-night city. The Mardi Gras parade plays a big part in the city's nightly parties, but there are also many things to see during the daytime. The National WWII Museum is the second best ranked museum in the U.S., and by TripAdvisor, the second best ranked museum in the world. It helps people learn why and how the war was fought, and the effects on the country and people after it ended. At Jackson Square during the day, painters and musicians show off their talents, and there are sometimes jugglers who show off their abilities. RTA streetcars give beautiful views of all the sights to see and the historical lifestyles carried down the same streets since he city was established in 1718.

**Hershey, Pennsylvania**

With a name most recognized by the chocolate company, Hershey is a very family friendly vacation site. Hersheypark has over 70 rides and more than enough attractions for the whole group to enjoy, as does Hershey's Chocolate World, which is open all year long (and offers segway tours). The Hershey Story Museum lets visitors learn about the company's founder, Milton Hershey, and the development of the city itself. Although most will think of candy when they enter the city, Hershey Gardens has 23 acres and more than 500 butterflies that you can enjoy seeing plants with at the Butterfly Atrium. Hershey also holds the Indian Echo Caverns that have underground lakes and limestone formations, along with a gem mill.

**Nashville, Tennessee**

Commonly referred to as "Music City" because of its multiple famous recording studios, Nashville is away from the beaches and more of a point of interest for those interested in the musical side of life. There are plenty of museums for recognition of many famous musicians including Kid Rock, the Black Eyed Peas, Bon Jovi, and Michael Buble to name a few. There is also a full size replica of the Greek Parthenon, so Americans don't have to go halfway across the world to see the wonderful architectural Athenian temple that was dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena.

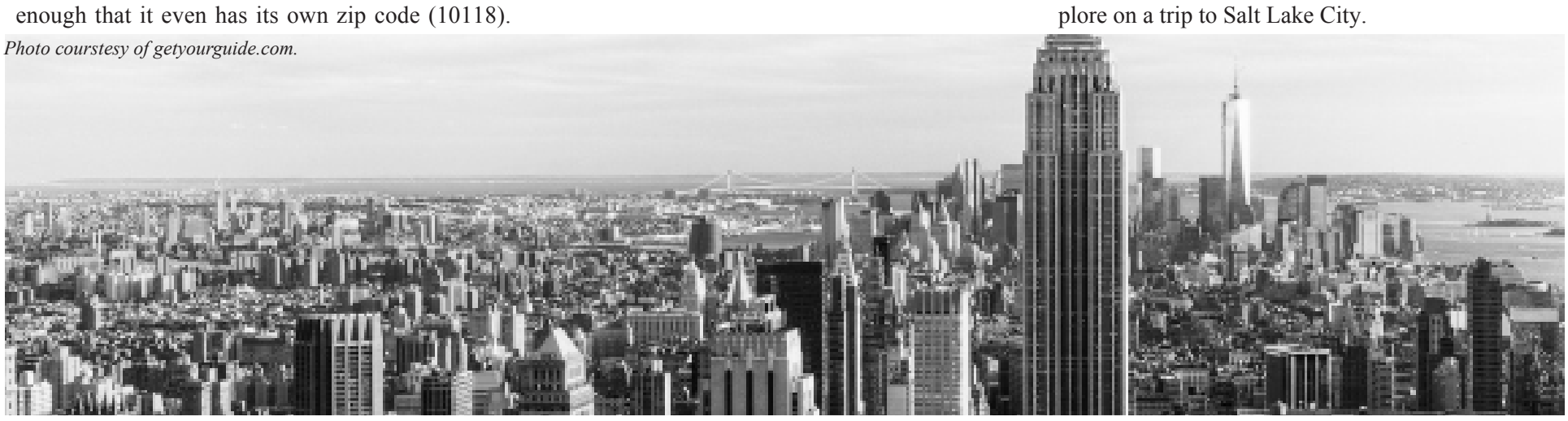
**Niagara Falls, New York**

People go to visit the great Niagara Falls because it contains three waterfalls that border both the United States and Canada. Attractions at these falls include Maid of the Mist, which takes visitors on a boat in the basin to get up close and personal with the bottom of these huge natural waterfalls, and Cave of the Winds is comprised of wooden boardwalks to see the Bridal Veil Falls (the smallest falls located on the American side).. The Observation Tower at Prospect Point reaches out over Niagara Gorge so viewers can see all three waterfalls at once. Although most popular for the falls, there are also plenty of museums and other attractions when visiting Niagara falls, such as the Aquarium of Niagara and the Niagara Gorge Discovery Center.

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

As the name of the city is pretty self explanatory, while in the capital of Utah, people are surrounded by Salt Lake on one side of them and mountains on the other. Known well for its Mormon population, the biggest attraction is Temple Square, a landscaped plaza and Mormon center. Another major attraction is Antelope Island Park because of its hiking and horseback riding trails, and free-roaming bison. There is a statue of Brigham Young's exclamation that Salt Lake Valley was the place the Mormons would settle; it is called the "This Is The Place Monument". Because of its numerous nearby mountains, there are plenty of natural sights to discover and explore on a trip to Salt Lake City.

*Photo courstesy of getyourguide.com.*



# Avengers Infinity War: A study guide

by Claire Milano, BP Staff Editor

If you've been a fan of Marvel for the past 10 years, you would know that *Avengers: Infinity War* is arguably the most anticipated superhero movie of the past three years. It'll have all the classics: Iron Man, Captain America, Black Widow, and the Hulk. With the addition of a few newbies (the awe-inspiring Black Panther, the young and naïve Spiderman, and the hilarious Doctor Strange), it's no wonder fans across the globe are squirming in their seats for a chance to buy opening night tickets. AND, with the exciting news of *Infinity War* coming out a week earlier than the initial date (April 27 instead of May 4), more and more people are joining the fandom. Below is a list of everything you should be doing in order to prepare for *Infinity War*, because it's gonna be a doozy.

## Step One: Brush up on your Marvel history.

The first movie to be made under the Marvel multiverse was *Iron Man*. The OG, classic superhero, Tony Stark, is an incredible scientist. But don't take my word for it, take his: The self-proclaimed "billionaire, playboy, philanthropist" has a knack for trouble-making. Yet, he's always there to clean it up in the end. There are three *Iron Man* movies to explore, and with each one we discover a new layer of Mr. Stark.

Then, you should rewatch *The Hulk*. Yes, the 2008 one with Edward Norton. Although Norton is not the actor portraying Bruce Banner throughout present day Marvel movies, it's still important to understand just how one scientist has the ability to turn into a raging, green monster. Now, Mark Ruffalo brings a somewhat sensitive, comical side to Bruce Banner we all enjoy.

Next is the glorious Captain America. Ol' Cap is known as the "first avenger" for a reason. In 1940's, World War II struck Brooklyn, New York, Steve Rogers is the lab-rat-turned-American Hero fighting the German organization "Hydra." Rogers explores himself as well as the beginning of S.H.I.E.L.D, America's secret organization sworn to protect the world against the evil plots derived from Hydra. There are, like Iron Man, three movies under Captain America's domain where we get to see him stay true to himself and always do the right thing, even in difficult situations.

Finally, before you delve into the Avengers movies, it's important that you also explore the Norse god Thor and all of the mythology that comes with him. Here, you'll learn more about the mysterious item called the "Tesseract" from the first Captain America movie. You'll also meet the chaotic neutral character, Loki, Thor's adoptive brother. Although Loki is a trickster, he's still a fan favorite with his comedy and difficulty in accepting himself, which is a problem many of us face. Thor also represents a naive side of superheros we don't see very often.

Doctor Stephen Strange's self entitled movie is visually amazing and hilarious with numerous puns and jokes that fans of all ages can appreciate. By the end of *Doctor Strange*, Strange becomes the master of the three portals that take him from Tibet to New York and China, which will prove useful in Infinity War, which will involve the entire planet.

## Step Two: Watch the first two Avengers movies.

Now we're getting somewhere. *The Avengers* (2012) was the true Big Bang to the Marvel franchise. Here, some of the most important heroes come together to fight a common evil: Loki (though sometimes he is good and sometimes he is bad, which is why we label him chaotic neutral), who is under the influence of Thanos, the ultimate bad-guy in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). In this movie, the Avengers attempt to stop an alien invasion into New York City, and avoid catastrophic world domination.

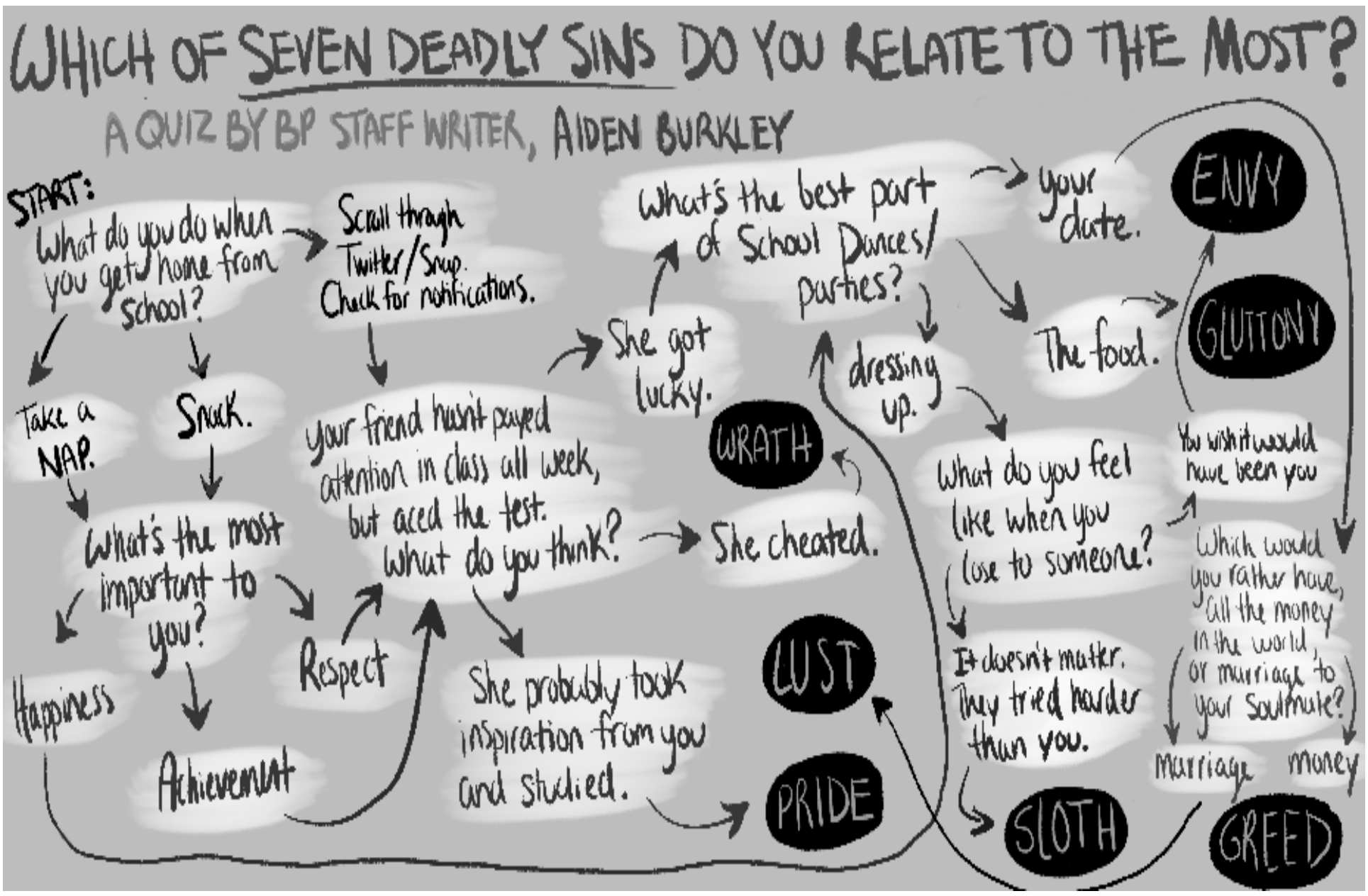
In the second Avengers movie, *Age of Ultron* (2015), we are introduced to two new characters who play an important role in the lives of the Avengers: Pietro and Wanda Maximoff. In the comics, both are mutants (yes, like those found in X-Men), but due to some licensing issues between Marvel and Sony, Marvel had to create a new identity for the twin brother and sister. These two underwent human experimentation in order to fight against Tony Stark, who destroyed their town with a missile demonstration back in 2008. Stark, along with Banner, accidentally creates an intelligent robot who becomes self-aware and takes the name Ultron. Ultron, originally designed to protect the world, decides to go on a journey to destroy the planet and all its inhabitants. With a change of heart and newfound purpose, the Maximoff twins join the Avengers in order to take down Ultron and save the world.

## Step Three: Infinity Stones

Called the "Infinity Gems" in the comics, the Infinity Stones are a set of six crystals (each colored differently for your convenience) that allow the owner to obtain special abilities. So far, we have only been introduced to five of the six stones in the movies. The blue one, called "The Space Stone," is discovered in *Captain America*, and the evil Red Skull uses the Tesseract to power his weapons. Later on, we learn that the Tesseract itself the "Space" Infinity Stone. It is also used to power the high tech space guns the aliens used in *The Avengers*. The red one, called Aether and discovered in *Thor: The Dark World*, is more of a liquid-mass, which allows wish fulfillment. Aether is also known as "The Reality Stone." The Orb, or the purple "Power Stone" is pretty self-explanatory: It gives the wielder incredible strength and contains so much energy that it's in an explosive state. We are introduced to this stone in *Guardians of the Galaxy*. The final one is yellow-ish, and was found inside Loki's scepter and eventually gave Vision life. It is called "The Mind Stone," and rightly so, as it gives the bearer the ability to control the minds of others. The green one is called "The Time Stone" and is Doctor Strange's amulet that he uses to turn back time in order to save Tibet. All of these stones combined together are what will cause the Apocalypse of not just Earth, but of the entire universe. These stones are what Thanos strives to obtain. If the Avengers can't keep them hidden and away from Thanos, everything is lost.

## Final Words

With this knowledge in mind, you're probably good to go for April 27, 2018. If you want, you can also watch *Spiderman: Homecoming*, to get a refreshing view of Peter Parker, and Black Panther (still in theaters) in order to understand what happened to Captain America at the end of *Captain America: Civil War*. Though, they only briefly explain it, and, if you're a seasoned Marvel fan and stay after the credits for the secret scene, Bucky Barnes makes a brief cameo. These final steps are optional, but in order to get the most out of Marvel movies, you should take the extra time to explore the entirety of the Marvel Universe.Good luck Marvel fans!



# The NBA MVP race

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

As the NBA regular season is coming to an end, the race for the league's Most Valuable Player is becoming an extremely competitive campaign. The current front-runner for the prestigious award is Houston Rockets guard, James Harden. Harden, before the start of the season last October, was the projected 2017-2018 MVP and has easily lived up to that expectation. He is putting up record-breaking numbers with each game averaging 31.0 points a game, along with 5.0 rebounds, and 8.9 assists. Not only is the projected league MVP having a great season, the Rockets currently have the best record in the league at 53-14. Harden's impeccable shot-making skills, ability to create his own shot, and perfect passing makes him arguably the best offensive player in the league. If Harden is able to keep up his stats, and the Rockets keep winning, the MVP award is rightfully, going to belong to him.

The next candidate for MVP is four-time MVP, three-time NBA Champ, and three-time Finals MVP, LeBron James. James is once again, putting up astonishing numbers again this season. James is averaging 26.0 points, 7.3 rebounds, and 7.1 assists. LBJ was currently named NBA Player of the Month for February. For the month of February, James easily averaged a consistent triple-double (10 points, 10 rebounds, and 10 assists), he averaged 27.0 points, 10.5 rebounds, and 10.5 assists a game for the month. As the season is winding down, each year, James only seems to get better and better as playoffs come around. This past week, LeBron became the only player in league history to reach 30,000 points, 8,000 rebounds, and 8,000 assists, and for being 33 years old, James has no intentions of ever slowing down. As the Cavs are now starting to show improvement since their blockbuster trade, which is making James push for his fifth (the most in NBA History), MVP.

The third candidate for MVP is one of the NBA's most skilled scorers and defenders, Golden State Warriors forward, Kevin Durant. Durant is the former MVP in 2014, current NBA Champ, and Finals MVP, is making a strong push for his second league MVP award. KD is averaging 25.9 points, 6.7 rebounds, and 5.4 assists a game. Since coming to Golden State, Durant has improved his passing game, and is now known to be a pesky defender averaging 2 steals a game. He has made himself to be one of the most complete players in the league. The Warriors are having another stellar season, they are currently the second seeded team in the Western Conference with a record of 51-16. Durant has had some fantastic games this year, and always seems to step up in big games. As Durant is continuing to shine, his push for MVP is not going unrecognized.

The fourth candidate is New Orleans Pelicans power forward, Anthony Davis. Davis has had to carry a significant load this season on a young team, with many talented, but inexperienced guards. His load became even greater when one of the league's best centers, his teammate, Demarcus Cousins, went down with a season-ending Achilles tendon tear. Davis has been one of the most consistent players in the league this year, putting up huge numbers nightly and leading the Pelicans to a 38-28 record. The Pelicans are currently fifth in the West, they are having one of their best seasons as an organization. With Davis leading the way, he's averaging 28.1 points, 11.1 rebounds, and 2.3 assists a game. Davis has proven to be almost unguardable by teams, he can score inside, as well as shoot the three. Another recent accolade for Davis was his record-breaking performance in last year's NBA All-Star game. He scored 52 points (an NBA record for points in an All-Star game), with that, his team got the victory and was awarded the All-Star MVP. His dynamic post moves and play making ability make him a front runner for MVP. If the Pelicans keep winning and Davis keeps up his demolishing stats, there may be a different player hoisting the MVP trophy instead of Harden…

The fifth and final candidate for this award is Golden State Warriors guard, Stephen Curry. Curry, after being sidelined for weeks with a significant ankle sprain, has come back and is putting up MVP caliber statistics. He's averaging 26.8 points, 5.2 rebounds, and 6.3 assists. Curry is a two-time NBA champ and back-to-back league MVP; so he is very familiar to the competitive race in winning the award, and the stats he needs to put up to win. Curry's silky smooth shooting, dynamic passing, and unstoppable ball handling will have him as a liable candidate for this award for years ahead. He is a significant part to the Warriors record this year of 51-16. As Curry continues to catch the attention of all who watch, he finds himself once again in the MVP race for the 2017-2018 season.

As this years MVP race proves to be one of the tightest on record, there are many other players that are beginning to make a late push for the award. The winner of the award will be announced before the playoffs begin in April. All eyes will be on these five players as they all make their final late-season push for the league's most coveted award.



*Photo courtesy of usatoday.com*


*Photo courtesy of slamonline.com*


*Photo courtesy of bluemanhoop.com*



*Photo courtesy of bleacherreport.com*



*Photo courtesy of sbnation.com*

# Nuclear disarmament in North Korea

by Cat Lillibridge, BP Staff Writer



North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un (left) and South Korean president Moon Jae-in (right).



*Photo courtesy of thestar.com.*

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or simply, North Korea is the communist nuclear force located north of the infamous 38th parallel. This country is recently notorious for having problems with our *glorious* country and more specifically, Donald Trump. The current leader of North Korea is Kim Jong-un, Kim Jong-il's son and successor. Since coming into power after his father's death in 2011, Kim Jong-un has rarely spoken with foreign officials and has never travelled abroad since then. In a shocking turn of events, however, Kim Jong-un has agreed to meet with South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in.

Since the meeting, it has been reported that he has agreed to stop testing nuclear weapons. North Korea is well-known for flexing its nuclear power by testing weapons in Punggye-ri, their North Korea test site.

President Donald Trump is recently infamous for his threats and name-calling toward North Korea as well as Kim Jong-un. One of Trump's most famous names toward Kim Jong-un is "Rocket Man." The name of Rocket Man first came to the media's light in 2015, during his presidential run when he said , "Rocket man is on a suicide mission." Trump said this about Kim's nuclear testing in early September of 2017. Coincidentally, Trump is a huge Elton John fan and Elton John sang the song also called "Rocket Man". Trump stated during his presidential campaign in 2015 that John is one of his best friends. Whether that's true or not, is unclear.

However, in the next month, Kim Jong-un has agreed to speak with Moon Jae-in in the demilitarized zone. Although Kim has expressed the stopping of nuclear weapons testing, Moon stated that "it's too early to be optimistic." As it is only one step toward nuclear disarmament in the communist superpower, no one knows if Kim is being sincere about his claim toward peace. Moon also stated that inter-Korean talks will not be enough to achieve peace. There have also been talks about bribing the North to which Moon denied any such rumors stating, "There will be no such thing as a gift to the North" (The Telegraph).

On Monday, March 5th, 2018, a ten-member delegation led by Seoul's National Security Chief, Chung Eui-yong traveled to North Korea for diplomatic talks. Upon his return to the South, the delegation confirmed the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea admitted to having no need for the weapons and that safety threats toward North Korea should cease. This is a huge step toward peace as North Korea has repeatedly stated that nuclear arms necessary to keep a US invasion at bay.

Chung Eui-Yong is reportedly visiting Washington D.C later the same week as visiting North Korea. He is to talk to US officials about the breakthrough with North Korea and the disarmament of the country. Kim has also stated that he wants to "write a new history of reunification" (Telesur). Whether this would require South Korea to become communist in order for the country to reunify itself again, it is unknown but is assumed. After 70 years of being two separate and vastly different countries, this revelation with Kim Jong-un could be revolutionary and the first step to nuclear disarmament in the world.

# The controversy of gun control

by Liz Ward, BP Staff Writer

Gun control is a controversy that has lasted for a very long time in America. However, this subject has been brought to light. With so many shootings occurring more often, people are starting to question if having a gun is necessary. There have been concerns surrounding how easy it is to buy a gun in America today. A teenager can easily go and purchase a gun in a store without question. And even if there are some restrictions in owning a gun, there are loopholes that citizens can get through in order to make their gun a little more lethal. In the US, according to The Washington Post, "you can buy [what is called a 'bump fire stock' online for $200 that makes your semi-automatic weapon fire more like an automatic weapon. One pull of the trigger can spray 30 rounds in a couple of seconds". With that in mind, American citizens are now starting to believe that there should be more control over buying a gun or a extension to that gun. Others, however, believe that the gun laws are fine and are blaming other things for the mass shootings. But is there really a need for an assault weapon?

Most people agree that it is very easy for a person to buy a gun in this country to an extent. You are able to walk into a store and buy a gun with no strings attached. There are even gun stands at fairs where you can go and purchase one. In about 30 states, there is no age-requirement in owning a gun. A child is able to own a rifle. A CHILD. Imagine seeing a toddler walking around with a rifle. You don't know if they have had any training with that weapon. Considering its a child, probably not. However, there are limitations to owning guns. According to the DW, "fugitives, people deemed a danger to society and patients involuntarily committed to mental institutions are among those who may not purchase firearms." Basically, if you get in trouble with the law, you are not able to own a gun. In about 30 states, there is no age-requirement in owning a gun. A child is able to own a rifle. A CHILD. Imagine seeing a toddler walking around with a rifle. You don't know if they have had any training with that weapon. Considering its a child, probably not.

*Photo courtesy of nytimes.com.*




The people march in Washington D.C. in support of gun control.

Now, there are some exceptions in having a gun, but very few. There are indeed some background checks to go through in order to purchase a gun. People will say that the gun they have is for protection. They keep it just in case there is an intruder in the house. Others keep them for hunting season. There is some understanding with keeping a handgun under your bed if you feel you live in an unsafe environment, but what about owning an assault rifle or a minigun, capable of killing lots of people in a matter of seconds. Is that a necessary weapon to own? In what situation do civilians need a semi-automatic weapon that is designed to kill people in such a short amount of time?

There has been a lot of debate on making more strict gun laws for the safety of the American people. Some want the ability to own guns abolished. Others want the laws to stay the same. But why is there still controversy over the gun laws in America? With so many shooting arising, shouldn't something be done to decrease the possibility of these mass shooting from happening? So the real questions is, should there be more strict gun laws in this country, or should we leave it the same as it always has been?

# VICTORY ROYALE

by Sam Roach, BP Staff Writer

Fortnite is a game that involves both strategic planning and skill. However, kids of all ages across the world have been literally taken by the storm of this game. In this online game you drop onto an island with 100 other players. You must land, find a weapon of some sort, and survive to be the last player, but there is a storm surrounding the island that gets smaller and smaller to make the gameplay even more intense. You can either play by yourself in a free-for-all, team up with another friend, or play with a squad of four people. There are many different ways to be victorious in this game, from getting a weapon and hiding in a bush until the end or landing in Tilted Towers and trying to eliminate other players.

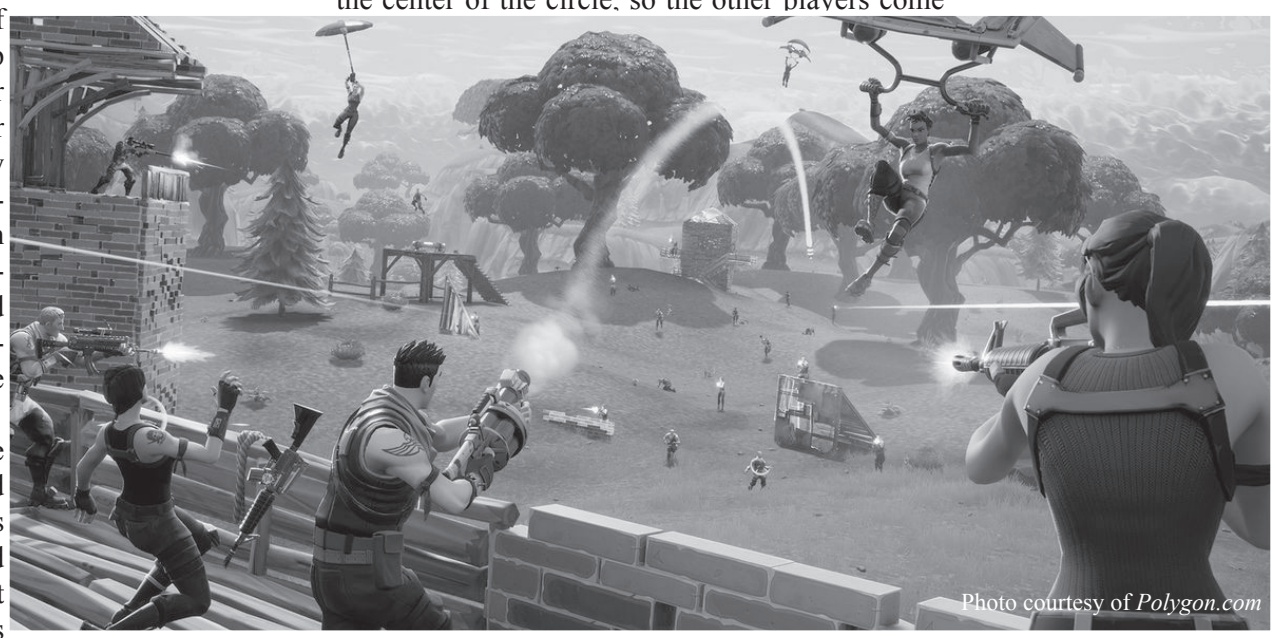


Photo courtesy of *Polygon.com*

The difference between this game and other first person shooters is that, you are in the third person point of view, but that's not the point. It is different because when being shot at by and opponent, you are able to build walls, stairs, floors, and roofs in order to cover yourself. This is critical in becoming a better player because you will survive longer.

When jumping out of the flying bus in the beginning of the game, it is not about how fast you land, but where you land. Where you land is critical because there needs to be a decent amount of loot in order to obtain shields, or other materials in order to succeed throughout the game. If you are just starting out in this game there needs to be a fewer enemy players there. When the storm starts to circle in, you need to decide on a strategy of either sitting by the edge of the storm and eliminating other players who are coming out of it, or staying within the center of the circle, so the other players come to you. Some of the best places to land would be Anarchy Acres, and Fatal Fields because it provides loot and not a ton of players land there. Similarly, if you are looking for loot then go for Tilted Towers. However, there will be a lot of other players along with you in that region.

The best weapons in this game would have to be the golden SCAR or the golden rocket launcher. The SCAR is accurate and deals a lot of damage to opponents. The gold rocket launcher speaks for itself. These guns will give you the highest possibility to win, however, there are many other guns that can win you games. In pretty much any situation you will need a shotgun because it deals the most damage in a couple shots. The purple or blue tactical shotguns are very good in close combat because they deal damage and can shoot a bunch of times in a couple of seconds. Other than the golden SCAR there is a purple one which is just under the golden one, but there is also a blue M-16 that is very accurate and deals a decent amount of damage. Snipers are also a crucial part to winning in this game because they deal the most damage when shooting at long ranges. There are blue, purple and gold bolt action sniper which deals the most damage but after every shot it takes a little bit of time to reload and shoot again. There is a semi-automatic sniper that you do not need to reload after every shot, but it does not deal as much damage as the bolt.

Fortnite has become one of the most loved video game throughout the world in recent months. The game used to cost money, but was recently put in stores for free. Once it was free everyone had to get their hands on it. EPIC games, the company that made Fortnite does indeed make money from this free game because many players will spend money on the "battle passes" that allow you to put different skins for your player and get different gliders and pickaxes. This game makes the players want more with every single game played because you only get one chance to get your Victory Royale.

# Toxicity of our city

by Robert O'Conke BP Staff Writer

It is I who wades through the muck and dirt. The phrase "gg ez" haunting me with every labored step. Few survive in this land, and those who do either become saviors and harbingers of the light, or become the dark they endured. Looking around I find the familiar words surrounding me, pounding against my shield valiantly named "Mute-all". They will not break me; I am strong.

If you've ever played any multiplayer games with voice chat or text chat, you have probably encountered toxicity. Toxicity is one of the most make-or-break it aspects of an online multiplayer game. It is a characteristic of a games community, but what does it mean to be toxic? The label of toxicity is gained through three stages: tilt, flaming, and lastly, inting.

Tilt is simply a strong feeling of frustration. However, this frustration begins to affect gameplay, decision making, and reaction time, all which leads to more tilt. Now that this individual wants to punch a wall, the next stage commences. Due to that blind rage, these players lose any sort of inhibition, or limitation, and begin throwing baseless insults into the faces of what should be his/her allies. Such heathenous action is referred to as flaming. This can come in many forms, using the many forms of the asterisk, using the phrase "gg" mid game in all-chat, or simply ranting about how much better they may or may not be.

**"Malphite you are a **** **** worthless braindead scum**** ***** pile of trash mental ****face that should be **** down in the street like the degenrate you are" -Videogamedunkey.**

The final stage is the most frustrating to deal with, -inting. Inting stands for "intentional feeding". This could be the player killing him or herself ingame, letting the other team kill the player, or even killing the player's own team. People who reach this stage have lost any remorse or feelings. They will do anything to ruin any fun anyone may have been having.

How does one deal with toxic teammates though? Well, the easiest way is just mute them, if one can't see/hear what they are writing/saying, then it should be simple to ignore them. The downfall being that it is a team game, so communication is key. So how would one evade this apparent problem? One could act as a calming force, counteracting the negativity with his/her's own positivity. This doesn't always work, but at least one would be the bigger/better person.

The most important rule to resisting toxic players or even becoming toxic, is to just take a deep breath. Simple as that. Tilt is built from frustration and anger, so by taking a second to calm down and assess, the level of tilt and possible toxicity reduces. What all players of online games need to remember is that unlike games with a campaign, allies aren't A.I (Artificial intelligence); they are people too, just behind a different screen. So when he/she decides to fly off the handle and become toxic, they ruins the game for those involved; it's selfish and frankly, quite annoying. Everyone gets angry, but toxicity is a poor way to alleviate any malicious feelings.



# The Slump: It may not be contagious, but it's fatal

by Hannah Keough, BP Staff Asst. Editor

This winter, while good for snow days, was horrible for the flu. Students and teachers were absent constantly with a fever, runny nose, headache, immense fatigue, muscle soreness, and a plethora of other undesirable physical conditions. But as warmth returns to Northeastern Ohio, and the flu melts away with the snow, there is another illness to which I must draw your attention - the Junior Slump.

The Slump hits most individuals around the middle of their third year in the experimental mouse maze we call a high school. To some, the Junior Slump may be a precursor to Senioritis - that sickness plaguing the school's eldest students, as their brains have checked out of high school, but their bodies are left meaninglessly meandering the building's hallways - because, similar to Senioritis, symptoms of the Junior Slump are decreased performance quality and the lack of motivation.

Junior Emily Dingman has been struggling with the Slump, which has become so crippling that "it becomes hard to breathe." Dingman has consistently been at the top of her class, enrolling in the school's most challenging courses, because she knows how an education can benefit her future, but "coming back from winter break," she claims, "the apathy hit as hard as winter hits Ohio."

Many crises affect the juniors, weakening their strength and allowing the Slump to take hold, including a feeling of in-betweenness. They are more formidable than the underclassmen who are still trying to figure out their role in the school - as opposed to their role in society - whose worries mostly consist of how many essays they all of a sudden have to write for English class. But the juniors are not quite the big kids of the building and still have to take orders from both seniors and (sometimes) teachers. They don't really know their place. They don't feel like they belong, and, consulting Maslow's Hierarchy of needs, if one does not have a sense of belonging, he or she cannot begin to hold esteem, much less reach self-actualization.

Naturally, nearly all high school students possess very little motivation and conscientiousness in high school. What makes the Slump so difficult to deal with, and so unlike the archetypal disinterested high-schooler, is that it occurs at the point when it seems you can take no more. Dingman testifies: "The frustration comes not, in my case, from a single class, but from juggling all of the courses. This maddening cycle of endless projects and tests has worn me down, and at this point it is amazing that I'm still making the due dates."

At this point, I can assume that anyone reading this article would brush off the Slump as a simple case of the high school cold - everyone gets it, and everyone gets over it. But such is not the case, because no amount of antibiotic or rest can lead to recovery.

As further prognoses, the junior class lies at the turning point between following the masses and making their own choices. They're beginning to doubt their obligation to conform. Up until this point in high school, most students are simply fish, swimming with the rest, oblivious to their surroundings and personal potential for individuality. Suddenly awakened with a new sense of awareness, juniors realize they may actually have the ability to decide what it is they want to do - to not follow but lead (at least their own lives). Understandably, what most 16-year-olds want to do does not include writing essays about transcendentalism and studying common ions (meaning no offense to the two amazing women who teach these iconic lessons).



*Photo couresy of garethjmsaunders.co.uk*

**A position classically indicative of The Slump.**

This leads directly to the next plaguing feeling associated with the Slump - a genuine questioning of the importance of high school. For instance, Does the history test I'm taking in one period actually matter in the grand scheme of my life? Who cares whether or not I get an A in AP Calculus or Math Analysis? It's just one grade.

At the same time, your junior year transcript is the one you send out to colleges. Colleges use your junior year as the ultimate assessment of your value as an individual, using it to begin to consider how much money they're going to offer you, making junior year arguably the most important of your high school career. So, that being said, no, that one history test may not matter, but if you begin to approach every test with the same defeated mentality, your grade plummets, and you begin to lose consideration for scholarships, you may want to reconsider how truly important that "one grade" is.

The virus really takes hold when you begin your mental ability to discern right from wrong. It is right to sacrifice an evening of studying in order to catch some much-needed shut eye? Or should you be toiling with the utmost conviction in order to ensure yourself a stable future in which you can afford to breathe? At this point, the mental immune system can no longer fight off the crippling conflict between boredom with the mundanity of high school and hopes for future prosperity - and the Junior Slump, like the flu, infiltrates your productivity: "All I want to do is crawl into bed and sleep until it passes, just as a flu does. But the flu doesn't last for four years," asserts Dingman.

If you're a junior and you are experiencing increased stress regarding thoughts of your future, you feel as though you have reached your youthful peak, you are questioning the importance of every assignment you stay up past midnight to complete, and your mentality is fading toward complete and utter carelessness, you likely have the Slump. Before it advances into hopelessness, and your motivation jumps entirely off the edge of the nearest cliff, please be reminded you are not alone. Support groups are held, albeit sparsely attended, Monday mornings before first period. In the meantime, find remedy in rest.

# The apparition of Easter

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Asst. Editor

Imagine this scenario: It's a cool spring night, and the moon is shining brightly, vaguely illuminating your otherwise dark room. Your window is cracked open, generating a low whistle as the gentle breeze finds its way into your home. On most nights, this setting would be a perfect image of serenity; the kind of scene you'd find in Goodnight Moon, along with various other children's bedtime stories. But on this night, you do not feel at ease - no - you're on guard, peering uneasily into the dark corners of your room, where even the moon's luminescence has no presence. On this night, the fabled Easter Bunny arrives. Though you've been reminded of this bipedal rabbit's benignity on numerous occasions, you don't trust him. Something in your gut tells you to be wary.

***It was telling the truth.***

If you're a human, I'm willing to bet that you've experienced a situation similar to the one depicted above. I, for one, can distinctly remember being horrified by the thought of various mythical beings and creatures entering my home at night, regardless of whether they were bringing me candy or presents. There's just something so uniquely uncanny about the implication of a mysterious semi-humanoid animal watching your adolescent self sleep.

And that's just it: the mystery of it all. Let's be honest here, what do we as a society actually know about the Easter Bunny? Aside from the fact that he is a large rabbit who hides eggs for children, we know very little, which is alarming considering that many parents seem more than willing to let the beast into their homes come spring every year. At some point we have to ask ourselves to whom are we entrusting our lives on the first Sunday of April?

What's alarming when researching the origins of the great Oryctolagus Cuniculus of Easter is the blatant lack of information that exists in regards to his origins. Where did he come from? What are his goals? Who does he work for? Researchers have no idea, and frankly, they don't care. The deepest any research goes into the Easter Bunny's roots is that he is probably linked to some form of Paganism. As to what sort of Paganism, nobody knows.

And so, what else could I do but delve into the topic further? With Easter being just around the corner, I feel that it's necessary to shed some light upon this pressing issue, and what I've found might shock you.

For starters, I've managed to come to the conclusion that the Easter Bunny isn't just an Easter Bunny, but rather a group of Easter Bunnies. Think about it, how could a single animal, regardless of its magical capabilities, traverse the globe so efficiently that it could visit every single home in one night? The answer is simple, the Easter Bunny is a collective of a large army of Bunnies. "Then why," you may ask, "...do we refer to the Easter Bunny as a singular entity?" That's easy; every Easter Bunny possesses a hive-mind of sorts. Similar to that of a honey bee, all rabbits are linked through their perfectly synced brains , allowing them to communicate efficiently without rousing the suspicion of bystanders. This very hive-mind is the reason that we so blindly refer to the Beast of Easter as a singular entity, and is one of many ways in which you have been deceived throughout the duration of your childhood.

Now let's address the elephant in the room. Why on Earth does the Easter Bunny hide eggs of all things every year? The last I checked, there are only two mammals in existence that lay eggs, and rabbits are not one of them. Though perhaps less appealing, it'd be more fitting for Easter's mascot to be a platypus, or an echidna. Obviously the Easter Bunnies do not produce these eggs themselves, so from where exactly are they acquiring them? The answer is as obvious as it seems: from chickens. Still, in order to obtain the number of eggs required an astronomical amount of chickens would be necessary. Owning such a large amount of poultry would surely come at the expense of space, so you can bet that these chickens aren't cage free either. This is why the Easter Bunnies paint their eggs before delivering them to the homes of children. They aim to distract the public from the dark origins of their seemingly innocent gifts.

Additionally, I have managed, through a great deal of effort, to unearth the Easter Bunnies' base of operations. Contrary to popular belief, and the propaganda contained in various films, Easter Island is not the Bunnies' place of residence, but rather, Australia.

Think about it, rabbits have existed in large numbers in Australia for many years, dating all the way back to 1859. They have since multiplied and infested the entire continent of Oceania, which now holds one of the highest population densities of the species in the entire world. Easter Island, which has captivated the imaginations of children everywhere, is a decoy - an elaborate facade, designed redirect the attention of the public.

But why? Why would this so-called friendly holiday spirit need to undergo such measures just to maintain anonymity from the world? Why don't they take after Santa Claus, and interact with children at the mall, or make their presence known with jolly sleigh bells, ringing loudly through the night? The only possible answer is that this concealment is a sign of malicious intent, and one of which we should be severely wary.

I can only hope that the public will take heed to this warning, as come April 1st this year, the people's lives may just be put on the line, and by then, it will be far to late for them to save themselves. So lock your doors, boys and girls, the Easter Bunny is coming to town.