

# SoothSayre

*The Upper School's Newsmagazine*



**November 2013**

# SoothSayre



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## The Truth About Kentucky

By Ayesha Tanweer

No shoes, no teeth, no hair cut... nine times out ten if you ask anyone from California to Maine about Kentucky, at least one of these generalizations would be voiced. To be frank, there are some god-awful epitomes of Kentucky culture that fit right in with this stereotype, and the media has a way of digging out these weeds from our otherwise flourishing garden, portraying Kentucky as nothing more than one gigantic group of gambling, drinking, hunting, poor illiterates. Recent TV shows have added ten gallons of fuel to the fire by highlighting some of our residents' redneckery, as can be observed by the Discovery Channel's *Call of the Wildman* (aka the Turtleman) or FX's new show *Justified*.

On the other hand, while it's true that specimen of this caliber can be found in our regions, we also have our fair share of contributors, famous for more than reality TV: pioneers, scientists, inventors, artists, architects, authors, journalists, entertainers, sports personalities, and military, social, and political leaders. Basically, you name it, Kentucky's got it. Let me name drop some people that you should all be familiar with: Muhammad Ali, Johnny Depp, George Clooney, Billy Ray Cyrus, Zachary Taylor, James Bowie, and Daniel Boone. These are just a few of the countless examples of how the spawn of this state actually contribute to America as more than just another hillbilly from Kentucky.

But it is the following men who have provided the most significance to our nation as a whole: Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis. Born less than a hundred miles and a year apart, one grew up to be the defender and one the opposer of slavery. This little tidbit is all the more interesting when you throw in the fact that Kentucky was also a border state. Our state held quite a bit of sway in the Civil War. There is Lincoln on one side who is trying to preserve the Union and eliminate slavery altogether, and Davis on the other, calling for a separation from the Nation in the form of the Confederacy, where slavery shall continue to prosper. So while these men were essentially fighting each other over this issue, their home state was literally the border that divided these two realms. Kentucky essentially represented both sides of the nation in the greatest internal conflict to date.

This was not the last time that Kentucky played a hand in shaping the country, albeit in a less significant way. Without the ingeniousness of two sisters from Louisville, we wouldn't have the ever-popular song, "Happy Birthday to You." Mothers everywhere would never get the appreciation they deserve if native born Kentucky teacher Mary S. Wilson hadn't created Mother's Day. Nor would people ever get to own Chevrolet Corvettes if not for the hardworking people in Bowling Green.

Not only have we molded America through individuals, but also through organizations and in the musical domain. We created the Boy Scouts of America to model young boys into young men. And it is not just the kids that we have helped impact; we also held the first performance of a Beethoven symphony right here in Lexington.

We have helped bring music to America in a recent, more abstract way. Pikeville leads the nation with the largest per capita consumption of Pepsi-Cola, who happens to sponsor the show "The X Factor." So, cut out the middleman and, essentially, we make

the viewing of this show possible all over the world. Not only this, but Kentucky also helped to contribute to country music with things like the Kentucky Bluegrass Festival and the Country Music Highway Museum.

On the other hand, while we have bestowed on this country a great number of glorious people and innovations, we have also provided it with some pretty impressive landmarks. We are the proud home of Mammoth Cave, the world's longest cave and the nation's second oldest tourist attraction. Another cave in Bowling Green, The Lost River Cave and Valley, holds the record for the shortest and deepest underground river in the world. We have Corbin, which is not only the home of the first KFC, but it is also occupied by Cumberland, the only waterfall in the world where you can always see a Moonbow.

Along with all of this, we are full of charming contradictions (not including the people) for those clever enough to cherish it. For instance, we have a Bourbon County, which does not produce any of the millions of gallons of Bourbon Whiskey produced annually in Kentucky. We also have Barren County, a wet county that serves alcohol, and happens to have the most fertile land around. Lastly, the entire state is known as the Bluegrass State, though our grass is as green as anyone

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else's.

While Kentucky may be associated nationally with the backwoods culture, we are also responsible for people and innovations that have made this country what it is today. Therefore, I think it is safe to say that there is a whole lot more to Kentucky than horses, tobacco, and bourbon.

## Kentucky's Signature Product

By Mason Schweder

When Bourbon is on your mind the place to get it has to be Kentucky. From the get-go Kentucky has been the leader in bourbon production. Using natural resources and our ingenuity, we have created a signature product. As of 2013, 95% of all bourbon is produced here in Kentucky, and we currently have 4.9 million barrels aging. That means Kentucky has more barrels of bourbon than people.

Bourbon's name comes from the French House of Bourbon, and started in an area known as Old Bourbon near what is now Bourbon County, Kentucky. There is no definitive answer to who invented bourbon. There are many different names and tales that get passed around. One is a Baptist minister named Elijah Craig. He is said to be the first to distill whiskey in charred oak casks which gives it the reddish color. Another and more credited story is the one of Jacob Spears, who was the first man to label his product "Bourbon Whiskey." The most likely story though is that there was no single inventor. Most agree it happened simply through a process of Scottish immigrants changing the whiskey recipe they brought with them, to become what is now bourbon.

What makes bourbon unique is that it is the only liquor to have legal requirements. Bourbon must be made from a grain mixture containing at least 51% corn, and it must be aged in a new, charred white oak barrel. Bourbon made in Kentucky also uses iron-free water filtered through limestone, a signature part of our process. Straight bourbon must meet all the above requirements and has to have been aged for a minimum

of two years. Now you may be wondering, isn't whiskey and bourbon the same thing? Well, it is, except bourbon is and can only be produced in the United States.

Economically speaking, bourbon has helped Kentucky in many ways. The distilling industry has created over 10,000 jobs and an annual payroll of \$442 million. Another study shows that bourbon is one of Kentucky's largest tourism attractions. Since 2007 bourbon has brought in \$18.4 million from tourists visiting distilleries, and 11,157 out of state visitors completed the Kentucky Bourbon Trail last year. Growing demand for the beverage has led to a huge expansion in distilleries across the state, totaling \$170 million in 2011.

Bourbon is more than a drink to most Kentuckians. It's a way of living, a tradition, a legacy we want to keep. The most accredited distillers of bourbon can be found in Kentucky. These include Four Roses, Jim Beam, Wild Turkey, Woodford Reserve, and Makers Mark. Each distiller has its own unique traditions such as Makers Mark's famous use of wax on every bottle. Each bottle is hand dipped, thus making every bottle unique.

Woodford Reserve is a smaller distiller, famous for being such an attractable tourist spot. Like Charley and the Chocolate Factory, touring the Woodford Reserve Distillery is a magical experience. Yet it has a more homey feel than most big business distilleries.

Now some may think it's a cause for concern when Kentucky's largest industry is alcohol.

But most of us are happy to have something we can call ours and say we have the best of it. As a Kentuckian whose father works in the bourbon business, I know how crucial it is to Kentucky. Our state's legacy with the drink is spurred by our desire to be top of the heap. When Kentucky is known for something, it hangs on to that expertise, whether it's basketball, horses, or bourbon. We know quality when we see it, and when it comes to Bourbon, Kentuckians know how to make it go down smooth.

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## A Fashion Dilemma

Brigid Pittman

Fashion has become one particular way in which people are able to express their individuality and style. Now, more than ever, teenagers and adults are discovering their sense of style and the types of clothes they prefer to wear, and there is always a new trend or an accessory one must own. People are constantly trying to find the coolest clothes and some regions have more to offer than others. Kentucky is one state that doesn't have much variety or high-end clothing stores. We live in a state with very limited shopping and the majority of Kentuckians tend to do their shopping elsewhere.

Stores like Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdales, H&M, Nordstroms, and Neiman-Marcus have one thing in common: the best quality of clothing with a relatively large range of prices. These are the shops that define high-end fashion. It isn't that Kentucky doesn't have actual shops; it's that there are only a handful of places to go where one can find nice clothing. We have the basic shopping malls with smelly stores like Abercrombie where the clothes are two sizes too small and are meant for size triple zero girls.

Big cities offer a bigger selection and better quality of stores than what Kentucky has to offer. When people think of high end fashion, they immediately think of New York City or Chicago where there are more people who can afford to buy higher brands, and want to present themselves nicely. In order to be competitive, businesses have to meet higher standards just to survive in that fashion world. This includes having a good location where people can have easy access to the shop and a variety of clothing that works for everyone. Unfortunately, neither Louisville or Lexington meet those standards when it comes to fashion.

The malls and boutiques in Kentucky are weak compared to ones in other cities. The St. Mathews Mall in Louisville and the Fayette Mall in Lexington both have shops that lack variety of clothing, and what is available is only mediocre. People who are interested

in finding a unique accessory or piece of clothing won't find anything. The shops have tee shirts, and some cute blouses and dresses, but they lack a distinct sense of style. You tend to see the same types of clothing in all of the shops.

This is not the case in big cities. Malls in big cities have an abundance of different styles and shops that fit everyone. They also offer the best quality of clothing. In Kentucky, the only place you can find trendy and inexpensive clothing is in downtown Louisville or Lexington. There are small shops all over the down-

town area, but not everyone knows about them. These are the places you can find the best fashion. However, each store has one specific style and not everyone may like what these stores have.

Kentuckians have found online shopping to be one of the easiest ways to shop. When girls ask each other where they found their clothes, the answer is almost always online or out of town. Tech savvy teenagers have found that online shopping websites are easier with more variety than shops downtown.

Zappos, an online shoe store, offers all types of shoes. There are popular brands, seasonal shoes, fancy heels and dress shoes for a special occasion and even running shoes. People can select the price, the type of shoe, the color, or brand, and the site gives you a variety of shoes that

fit your search.

Modcloth is another store similar to Zappos, but it is centered on clothes. Here you can find some designer clothes or discover a new and unique brand. You can find fancy party dresses to casual sweaters and shirts. People like the fact that you only have to go to one website to find everything you need.

Even though it may be easier to find what you are looking for, there are some disadvantages of online shopping. People can't try on clothing, and therefore may order something that doesn't fit correctly. You also can't guarantee if the clothing meets all of your expectations. For example, a dress or shirt you ordered may not be the right color. The next problem would be returning that piece of clothing. There are several tiring steps you have to take in order to return it, instead of just going to the shop and showing your



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receipt. You have to print out the return policy and then ship it back in its original form. Although there are these downsides, people in Kentucky still prefer shopping online than in their own town.

In addition to using the Internet, shoppers will often drive to a bigger city in order to find their favorite brands of clothing. Weeks before school starts, girls and boys rush to Cincinnati to shop for school clothes. Teenagers want to show off their new style or a cool piece of clothing they bought over the summer, and everyone wants to look nice on the first day of school. Cincinnati is not only the closest big city, but it is also the one with the most upscale variety. The Kenwood Mall has Nordstroms that carries a huge selection of the best lines in fashion.

The dress code at our school makes it more challenging to shop. When I look around Sayre, so many kids have such different styles. Individuality is a main focus at our school, and the dress code allows students to have a style, although shopping online and out of town is often times the only way to find a variety of things that work.

When I look in shops around the malls nearby, I see many things that are not appropriate and clothes that don't quite fit the dress code. The nit picky dress code ensures that students wear clothes that are not suggestive or offensive. However, there are too many details to pay attention to while shopping. It is impossible to sum up the dress code rules in three sentences. There are seasonal changes that make it complicated to know when a student is allowed to wear something or not, and there are also rules against blue denim, leggings, non-leather flip flops, and tee shirts with pictures or words.

These are the hardest rules to shop for because it is all most teenagers can find in Kentucky's malls. There are hardly any shops that carry a wide variety of suitable clothes. At times, it can be frustrating when there are pieces of clothing that look nice, but don't match the dress code.

In terms of fashion, Kentucky is at a slight disadvantage. There aren't major malls that carry top quality stores like Kate Spade, Neiman-Marcus, or Brooks Brothers, nor is there a big variety of styles like there are at Bloomingdales. Shopping should be a fun activity, but in Kentucky it can be a chore.

## Keeneland Memories

By Christina James

When I tell people I am from Lexington, Kentucky, I usually mention Keeneland. Some people know that I'm talking about horseracing, but others are clueless. I mention Keeneland, because it might be one of my favorite things about Lexington. In particular, I love the fall meet at Keeneland. There is nothing better than putting on a nice outfit, a pair of boots, seeing the colorful leaves slowly fall off the trees, and watching horses race. That is one of the first things I think about when anyone mentions the fall.



But Keeneland is also great during the spring, because it is the point when the weather is starting to warm up. It is a great time to just be outside and remember what the sunshine feels like. Keeneland is a tradition in Lexington, fall or spring, because it celebrates the horse racing industry and Lexington

families.

Because horseracing is so special to Kentucky, the "Horse Capital of the World," many visitors to the track are knowledgeable about the industry. Some people know a lot about the horses including where they were raised, who trained them, and their bloodlines. Other people go to Keeneland to see a competitive sport and have fun betting on the horses just like others have fun betting on the outcome of other sports.

Lots of people who have grown up in Lexington have been going to Keeneland for most of their lives. Their view of Keeneland slowly changes as they grow up, but it isn't just about horseracing. Sunday usually is the day that most families spend time together at Keeneland. Younger ages tend to see this racetrack as a family event, eating the good food and picking out the horses they want to win based on the color of its silks or name.

Of course, at any age Keeneland can be a family event, but as one grows up it also becomes more of a social event. Beginning in middle and high school, teenagers begin to go to Keeneland with their friends. No longer is it just a place for family traditions, but it becomes a place to make memories with friends. I know I will always remember going with mine. It's a fun place to go and socialize.

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I'm sure everyone has their own reasons why they find the track so special, but I'm not sure that they could put their finger on why exactly it is such a special place. Maybe it's special because their horse won a race, or they get to see old friends. I bet that if you asked one hundred people at Keeneland, you would get almost one hundred different answers.

For me, Keeneland is so special because it's a family tradition. My great-grandparents and grandparents stood where I now stand and watched the races, and my parents got engaged there. I've become a part of that tradition, too, with my own memories and experiences. It's easy to forget which horses won all the races that one has watched, but it's hard to forget the trumpet blaring, the announcer yelling, "They are at the post", and all of the memories that have been made at Lexington's proudest tradition, Keeneland.

## The Slaughter of Appalachia

By Sana Aslam

If you visit Kentucky one of the first things you'll witness will be the breathtaking view of thousands of miles of Appalachian Mountains. From the highway or airplane, these mountains look at peace and healthy, but upon arriving in Eastern Kentucky, you'll soon learn that these beautiful mountains are not being preserved, nor are they being respected. This can be credited to the importance of energy in our nation, and the increasing demand of coal as energy.

The coal industry is specifically active in the Appalachian region of the country, which includes the states of Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Mountaintop removal, a form of surface coal mining, predominant in the region, has been damaging and destroying the environment and local communities since the 1970s through its brutal procedures.

The process of mountaintop removal starts with clear cutting forests prior to the commencement of the mining. This scrapes away the topsoil, lumber, herbs and all other forms of life residing there. This, in itself, destroys wildlife, and immense amounts of vegetation

loss later leads to floods and landslides.

Once the area is cleared, miners use mass explosives to blast away the overburden or the rock and subsoil, in order to expose the coal seams beneath. These explosives blow off the top of a mountain, destroying habitats as well as creating fly rock, which can cause damage to home foundations. The overburden is then moved by mechanical means to nearby valleys to be dumped and buried. Finally, giant machines scoop out layers of coal and it is then transported to a processing plant. The last step is technically for the mountaintop removal companies to reclaim and replenish the land. If not replenished as woodlands, the land is often used for recreational uses such as creating a golf course, but it is often left bare.

Mountaintop removal is stripping a beautiful mountain landscape, a home to many organisms, only to transform it into acres of bare, destroyed land. Once you blow off the top of a mountain, you cannot put it back. You cannot restore it to the way you found it. The energy that we need, we can easily get it from solar and wind power. Just because coal is right there and easy to mine, doesn't mean it's the most sustainable way.

In fact, it's not sustainable at all. The soil and rock is thrown into valleys and streams, which buries the streams and all the organisms within it. It also pollutes the water with chemicals and metals causing deformities in aquatic life. If we keep up mountaintop removal, soon enough our fisheries will collapse.

Coal mining also releases a lot of carbon into the atmosphere as does the fossil fuels via the big machines that transport and extract the coal. Not only are we releasing pollutants into our air, but also at the same time, we are cutting down and burying one of the most effective forests in the world; the

very one that has the ability to capture the carbon and purify our air.

If you think this is bad, wait until you read about the various health and life effects on humans like you and me. Mountaintop removal is not only polluting the atmosphere and destroying organisms in the forest, but it is also affecting the Appalachian citizens' quality of life. Mountaintop removal pollutes the water and because of this, many Appalachian locals, even with water filtration, are more prone to diseases because of

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the water contamination. The explosives that are used to extract coal affect the health of miners and locals just because of the amount of toxins that pollute the air.

Coal itself is very toxic as it contains arsenic, fluorine, selenium and mercury—all of which can cause damaging health problems when exposed to for long periods of time. Balkan Endemic Nephropathy is very common in the Appalachian region, as it has been related to leaching of toxic organic compounds in the ground water.

Scientists have also found that children in Letcher County, Kentucky suffer from many symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, all which correlate to Blue Babe Syndrome. The reasons for these high rates of symptoms have been traced to sedimentation and dissolved minerals in water. There are also high rates of Coal Worker's Pneumoconiosis, or Black Lung Disease in Kentucky, which are direct effects from inhalation of particulate matter during the mining process.

Beyond the health effects, the environmental effects of mountaintop removal are also affecting the quality of life for Appalachian citizens. Flash floods and mudslides have caused numerous deaths as well as damaged homes. The citizens of Appalachia are desperate for a different source of energy. Actually, whether we realize it or not—the world and all its life forms are desperate for a different source of energy.

So when you are driving into Kentucky and looking out on the beautiful landscape formed by the Appalachian Mountains, take a moment to realize that one day, because of human effects, we might not be able to appreciate that landscape. Now that doesn't mean we leave it at that. We have got to push for a more sustainable form of energy so that we can see that landscape in many years, so that our kids and our grandkids can appreciate that very same landscape.

Mountaintop removal may create many jobs and pump much money into our economy, but do the owners and managers of coal companies really care about their workers? Coal miners often don't know the numerous hazards they are exposed to and how many diseases they are prone to from engaging in their work, but if that's their only way of income, then they'll do it. While coal miners are risking their lives in this prac-

tice, the owners and managers of coal companies are growing off of their labor. The owners and managers of coal companies do not care about their workers, the locals, or the environment; all they see is money.

If mountaintop removal is stopped, then the coal miners do not necessarily have to be deprived of their jobs. Alternate forms of energy could create as many or more jobs. Mountaintop removal deprives future generations of Appalachia and the rest of the nation from a lifestyle that has taken generations to make.

We cannot assume that the world is just made for us because it's not. There are thousands of generations of humans and other life forms to come after us, and they will all have to use resources from this very earth. There's only one earth, so we can't use it up and at the same time, destroy it. There are more sustainable forms of energy rather than coal, and they are right here in front of us. Sure, they may be more costly, but if the citizens push for it, and it becomes more popular, then it can replace this detrimental process of mountaintop removal. We cannot continue to think of solar and wind energy as an alternative to coal because that places them as a second option. We have to change our mindsets and realize that if we don't think of them as our only forms of energy, then we can say goodbye to our earth.

## Decisions, Decisions

By Ayesha Tanweer

The smell of fall is synonymous with the smell of department stores and Wal-Mart, because, fall is just a shorter name for back to school. It's the time when students start, some optimistically some disparagingly, counting down to the first day of school. Days by the pool become days in the classroom. No longer are you spending hours in front of your television; now, it's hours in front of your textbooks. That's the problem with summer; one minute you've got oodles of time on your hands; then you blink and it's September. It's a fickle season that keeps you guessing.

Fall, on the other hand, is a different story. With its multi-colored arms, it invites you into the familiar. You've spent every year doing the exact same thing; the only indication of time passing being that as you advance through grades, the incoming freshman seem to be regressing, creating the illusion of an age gap the size of the Grand Canyon. It reminds you that with another new year comes another new class,



and that soon enough you will be the new class all over again when you sojourn to college. Usually with each senior class, you lament the passing of your older friends into adulthood, as well as long for the day when you make the transition.

Well, for me and many other seniors, that day has come. Gone are the days of wishful thinking and here are the days of campus tours, recommendation forms, and application essays. This, my friends, is what senior year is. It is that awkward year of limbo where you try to make a plethora of decisions that affect the rest of your life, while trying to grasp what 'the rest of your life' actually looks like.

Now students can choose one of two ways to go: they can use this year to take the hardest classes they possibly can to beef up their transcripts, or they can use this year as a one hundred and sixty five day study hall. Either way, whether front and center, or a nagging concept that hangs in the foreground, college is on our minds.

If you're like me and worrying comes as easy as breathing, then you will find an endless supply of vexation over this subject. Should I go out of state or stay close to home? What ACT score will impress the colleges of my choice? How do I decide where to go to college when I can't make up my mind about where I should go for lunch? What major should I choose if my favorite class is study hall? Would colleges rather read a two hundred and fifty or six hundred and fifty word essay? What if my only academic achievement is passing my classes? Will colleges care that I got a B in gym freshman year? Is it bad that I want to base my decision not on prestige, class size, or specialized programs, but instead on the weather, attractiveness of the people on campus, and hours away from home?

I'm sure these are the questions on everyone's mind (okay, well maybe not everyone's), but I'm here to offer some condolence. Some people have known exactly what they've wanted to do since the time they could say 'common app'; if, however, this is not you, and you have no idea what you want to do with your life, this does not mean that you will not eventually find your calling. And you will find yourself in good company as well: Martha Stewart started on Wall Street, Mark Cuban started out as a bartender, Ralph Lauren was a sales-assistant, JK Rowling was a secretary, and Tina Fey was a childcare registrar. So that's,

hopefully, one worry put to rest. Because even if you spend all of college drifting from major to major, no doubt the information you learned from those seemingly irrelevant classes will provide you with some valuable intel to use later in life.

As for where you should go to college, you'll find that decision a little more difficult to make. With so many schools in every part of the country with brochures that look and tell you the exact same things, it can be a bit overwhelming. My advice is to think about what you want college to be. If that's somewhere bright and sunny, or in the middle of a big city, or on a campus that could fit into the palm of your hand, I would say you're already one step closer to choosing a school that's right for you.

While I can't tell you that there's a sure fire way to get into a school you want, or pick the perfect college, or find the best fit major, I can say that you need not stress yourself out too much. If worse comes to worst, you should just close your eyes and pick one; because the great thing about college is that you can change your mind as many times as you need to. So even if you end up transferring schools or switching majors, you can be sure that you will be getting a top notch education no matter what. Above all else, the only mistakes you will regret will be the ones you didn't make. In the words of Henry Ford, "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

## The College vs. the College Degree

By Soraya Sartipi

In lieu of applying to colleges, I've been gathering information about certain colleges and the majors they offer, such as finance, or pre-law, in hopes of getting accepted into my dream school and then landing a respectable job that pays big bucks. But will I go under in the process?

In all fairness I won't be paying for my college tuition. My parents will, for which I am very grateful. Yet I feel bad even looking at a college six hours away that will cost them \$45,000 a year. It makes my head want to spin. The staggering price tag for one year at college has made me think about one question: is it the degree from a certain college that earns people a great job, or is it that the reputation of the school doesn't matter as



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much in comparison to the major and how in demand that field of study is?

On average, Harvard University graduates will make \$60,000 a year at their entry level jobs. That statement is black and white, but I'm questioning the gray area: would a graduate from Harvard who has a degree, for example, in Medieval Studies, earn the same? The most logical answer is no. In one article I read they compared Black Hills State University, the school with the lowest median pay, to Dartmouth College. The 75th percentile mid-career (after 10 years) pay of a B.H.S.U grad is the same as the 10th percentile mid-career pay of Dartmouth grads. In other words B.H.S.U grads were earning the same or more than some Dartmouth grads. In the world we live in today where jobs are hard to find, a degree from an ivy league school might be as valuable as a degree from a less elite school whose field of study is in high demand.

To sum it up, I've decided, when looking at colleges, I should keep in mind what kind of major I want to earn, because a degree from a state school might be just as valuable as one from Harvard.

## A Strategic State Title Run

By Chris Cole

I have played in the Kentucky Chess State Championship Tournament since 5th grade, and after a long wait, on March 2, 2013, we won the state championship.

For those of you who don't know, the format for a chess tournament is that four players ranked from highest to lowest play boards one through four respectively, and when your school plays another school the 1's play each other, as do two thru four. The goal in each match is to get 2.5 or more points for your team in order to get a point, and if each team gets 2 points then it's a draw and half a point is awarded.

Before this year's tournament, my brother and I wanted to switch rankings so that I would have a higher ranking than him. Initially, he was ranked number one, and I was ranked second. So had we gone about

our business than he would have been the first board and I would have been the second board.

There are a few reasons we wanted to change our rankings: I am less consistent than him (mainly due to pressure against lower ranked players), and I'm better at beating stronger players than he is. So putting me up against higher ranked people, I don't feel the pressure to win as much as I would if I didn't play that high position. For the last few tournaments of the year, he sacrificed his rating, and he let me win our matches.

So going into the state tournament, I was ranked one, my brother two, Eric Shockley was three, and Chauncey Hill played the fourth spot. In the first round of the state tournament, we played a relatively weak team from Eastern Kentucky. We swept them 4-0. Our fourth board was ranked higher than their first board; so we probably could have put our players in any order and still come out with the same outcome.

In the second round, we played a team that had a lower average than us, but their top player was over 200 points higher than me. These are the teams that are the reason why Joey and I switched our spots. These teams typically have one really good player who can get a perfect score, and then someone who's pretty decent, that I would find a way to trip myself up playing against. I ended up losing my game in an embarrassing fashion; however, my other teammates had my back and won their games, so we won the round.

The third round was against a team with three not so good players, and the player I had to play was a familiar face--a Facebook friend who used to be at my

level but dropped since. He is a good player, don't get me wrong, but he wasn't as good as me. We ended up agreeing to a draw, because the other three games had been decided so the outcome of my game didn't matter at that point. Since I didn't feel like playing the game

out and neither did he, we both took the draw.

The final round was against the best team there. Joey's idea was to draw his game, expected me to draw my game, and Eric and Chauncey would win their games. What he didn't figure was that Eric would be losing half way through, and realizing his position



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wasn't great caused him to play more aggressively and he ended up getting the win.

The team had players that were each about 100-200 points higher than each respective player on our team. I played a very drawish opening from the beginning, because my brother told me to go for a draw. It ended up paying off, since Eric made a comeback and won a game that looked lost. Joey won a game that looked lost, and the opening I played had a reputation for being drawish and that was what happened. No matter what result Chauncey had, we won the state championship. (He won his game).

Everyone ended up getting a perfect score for the tournament but me, meaning that I could have lost all of my games, and we still would have won the title. This made me feel useless, yet useful. Someone with no chess experience could have been in the same position as me, and the same outcome would have occurred, but sometimes you have to take one for the team.

## Hashtag Success

By Brigid Pittman

Starbucks, food, duck faces, "selfies," and pets can all be found on the popular social network, Instagram. A basic Instagram post includes a photo with a filter and often a witty caption. Its success has led to over 150 million monthly active users and the trend is still growing.

With cameras and smart phones focusing on developing high quality photos, and with average social networks such as Facebook being used less often, Instagram's popularity is growing. People want to share their lives through pictures. They love when that little orange box pops up and notifies them that "someone wants to follow you" or that "11 others liked your photo." Many people started to use Instagram as a way to connect on a more personal level with their favorite celebrities. Others use Instagram to keep up with the latest news from their friends. These reasons have helped Instagram become one of the most frequently used social medias since 2010.

One year after Instagram was launched, Apple named it the iPhone app of the year. Since then, it has developed into a highly sophisticated app, while maintaining its simplicity. Most of the time, a social

network adds more things to do in order to keep it interesting to its users. Sometimes adding more can make it complicated to use. Instagram is one network that people like because it has remained simple to use. There aren't the options to group message, you can't post anything except pictures, and it doesn't take half an hour to set up your privacy settings like other networks and apps. You simply post photos and watch if people like them or not. People have created accounts dedicated to tutorials, art, animals and fan pages.

Issues involving social networks also tend to focus on the safety of each user, because the internet has become more dangerous. However, Instagram has many young users because it appears to be safer. You can follow someone's profile without really communicating with them and vice versa. Even though it is still considered a social network, parents may feel safer knowing that their kids have more control over who gets to see what they post.



Nowadays, teenagers are known to be more tech savvy than their parents. When we use lingo like "hashtag", "selfie", "number of likes" and "ootd" adults don't always understand. Hash tagging on Instagram is basically labeling your picture. It is usually a phrase or word after the symbol #. It's a way to be funny or witty. For example, people might post a picture of food and hash tag it like this, #devoured. A common hash tag

is ootd, which is an acronym for Outfit Of The Day. Many people will show off an outfit they like, or just what they like to wear. Another word used in the world of Instagram is a selfie. This is a picture of yourself, taken by yourself. On an iPhone, one can switch the camera view to resemble a mirror. So, people use this tool to take a selfie.

The pictures and posts are new and different each day. Many people take part in posting a particular type of photo on certain days. The most common one would be on Sundays where teenagers take a picture of themselves and label it selfie Sunday. While some teens do it to be goofy, others do it to feel good about themselves. In fact, in some ways it is a beauty contest to see who gets the most likes for being pretty. Obviously "selfie Sunday" can help boost self-esteem or confidence, but it can also be tiring seeing so many similar type pictures of people who are fishing for compliments.

Another day that Instagrammers love is throw-

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back Thursday. The idea is that on Thursdays, people should post an old photo. Most people post a cute picture of when they were little. On Mondays, people post a “man crush” and the hash tag is man-crush Monday. This means that teens post a picture of their favorite male celebrity idol. They also get a chance to post about their favorite female celebrity idol on Wednesdays. This is called “woman-crush Wednesday”. Among some famous instagrammed stars, Jennifer Lawrence and Channing Tatum appear the most.

There is also one for Tuesday. Instagrammers call it transformation Tuesday where you post a picture of yourself at a younger age and then a picture of your current self. It is supposed to show a change. The last Instagram day is Friday. Friday’s post is similar to Thursday’s, but it is titled “flashback Friday” where you post another picture from a while ago. These types of days act as Instagram rules, but not everyone follows them. Some people like to post their own types of photos.

Despite the strange rules and lingo used, Instagram is genius. The idea of creating a social network that focuses on using the camera is brilliant. People like that it’s a visual network, rather than a verbal one like Facebook. It’s focus on photography allows people to see something they may not see everyday in a more creative form.

## Heisman Hopes

### Mason Schweder

The classic pose for a classic trophy, the Heisman is given each year to the best player in college football. Although the winner usually comes from a big name school, this Heisman race might end with an upset winner.

At the beginning of the year the two biggest names in college football were Johnny Manziel and Jadeveon Clowney. We’re just about finished with the regular season and Jadeveon has really fallen out of the race for the Heisman.

Among quarterbacks, although Manziel is having a good year, the leader has to be Bryce Petty from Baylor. His outstanding passer rating of 206.2 is the best in the country. His 12.8 yards per throw also leads the nation, giving him the best numbers from a team that usually hovers under the radar.

Many other likely contenders for the Heisman come from the players at the big name schools including Marcus Mariota out of Oregon who ranks 6th in passer rating while also dominating the field with his legs. Mariota has an incredible 25 touchdowns without an interception.

Teddy Bridgewater from Louisville is 4th in passer rating and 11th in total yards, coming from a team that likes to balance run and pass. The biggest surprise, though, comes from Jameis Winston from Florida State, whose passer rating is 2nd best and has put up some exceptional numbers, having thrown 28 touchdowns to 7 interceptions. Although stats are impressive, his effect on the team as a whole is what really puts him at the top

Running backs are slim pickings this year as no player stands out in the crowd. If anyone has been a standout it’s Lache Seastrunk from Baylor. It’s rare for a team to put up top passing stats while also dominating on the ground. Seastrunk has run the ball over a hundred times and averages 8.7 yards a carry, which is best among runners with over 100 carries.

For wide receivers no one has looked good this year, either. The only noticeable receiver out there is Brandin Cooks from Oregon State. His 1443 receiving yards and a high average of 14.4 yards per catch put him at number one for receivers. There was much talk about Marquise Lee and Sammy Watkins at the start of the year, yet neither have shown their true skills this season.

On defense the name Jadeveon Clowney always sticks in the back of my mind, however he only has 2 sacks on the season, and no one else has put up dominating numbers. If he wants to be in the hunt, JC needs to step his game up big time.

This year is definitely the year of the quarterback. A great class runs wild throwing lasers down the field. Although their eyes are on a national championship, they can’t ignore the potential of being named best college athlete of the year. This year, I give the Heisman to Bryce Petty from Baylor. I hope he beats Oklahoma with style and proves himself as a top tier quarterback.

