Stay Classy, Douglas Freeman
A farewell from the editors of The Commentator

May 2017
Douglas Southall Freeman High School

The Commentator Editors:
Front: Jack Neary, Second row (left to right): Thomas Best, Nick Newton, William Omberg, Kyle Adams, KeAnna Anglin, Emily Finto, Mackenzie King, Third row: Max Stone, Anna Lyle Collett, Sarah Farney, Ross Metcalf, Jack Bernhardt, Page Ryland, Elena Rogers, Tree: Meredith Given, Gabby Cox, Sarah Lim

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Wrestling Insecurity
Rise Again

Kyle Adams
Editor-in-Chief

Authenticity is sparse in high school. Since middle school, an idealized con-ception of teenage life has consumed millions of adoles-cents. The urge to participate in the adrenaline-inducing activities that produce temporary bursts and an au-

tority of irrelevancy leaves everyone in at some point.

But you are the painter of your life’s canvas. You should always be the one who controls each brush stroke. Contrary to pop-

ular belief, I firmly believe you do not need yourself. You own yourself. If you do not feel like the most authen-
tic version of yourself with your actions and decisions, it is up to you to regain the grip over your brush. To everyone, let both children and adults stand complete without advis-ing a “self-discovery.” In middle school, I at-

tempted to prove my social worth daily and be friends with everyone. Besides being exhausted from that lifeline, I also left an un-

fulfilled saying and doing everything with a status qua

viso, rather than

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nets of life in order to no

desire to break my core te-

formity, and solitude. I

to write introspective jour-

assigned my English class

my controversial column-

year, I am staunch in artic-

sage forever changed my

confidence in my personal

philosophy. She will never be

able to grasp how many

times those words con-

sulted me and prevented

from dipping my toes in

the murky water of cul-

australian.

For anyone that truly

knows me, force stubborn-

ness, and I spent nearly every

weekend with my parents. The

Iphone that rested in

and I spent nearly every

summer, street signs were

many exquisite aspects, I

and listening to the sounds

myself meandering off

nics or casual hikes, but

I trudged my dirt speckled,

myself at Deep Run Park

was a sight most resplen-

lucid beauty. Looking up,

graced the landscape with

highways to the stars, they

Tall and resolute, like

the true es-

and firm. Other times my

edges, but I know the shed-

branches break sometimes.

memories to last a lifetime.

ings, I hold lessons and

this is not about

what I didn’t, what I succeeded at

learned that it is not about

what worked out and what

didn’t, what I succeeded at

What matters is learning to love

yourself during each step of

your journey. High school isn’t easy. Change isn’t.

The things most val-

able in life will never be

easy, and this is the way

should be. However, just

for ourselves and our fu

most memorable event of my

I am not the most

true friend (we have some

things worked out and things

be so discouraged with myself

and my high school experi-

ce was standing there

because achieving what you

want will require you to

overcome a lot of adver-

tity, that doesn’t mean you

become discouraged. Re-

sease to make mistakes,

in, find a way to love your

self. But most importantly,

find your strength. Remind

yourself of the hickories.

In this small fragment, I

haven’t exactly found who

am, or what I want to do,

but I have found my

strength, and when the go-

ing gets tough, I want you

to all find yours—not be

cause it will help you now,

but because it will sustain

you through it all.

...
I was hoping to be able to meet her and start off on the right foot. I had enlisted in her Strings and Technic Theatre Class. Since middle school, I had worked on either lighting or sound during the school productions.

"I want to travel the world and learn different ways of thinking, and just meet different people. I want to look at the differences of different states and just have fun traveling," Lyle said.

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Emily Finto
News Editor

High school was rough, but it was a nothing music class would not be. However, while most turn to the latest breakout star or the next ocean band, I found comfort in a little known, but fantastic Disney romance.

Amongst my other Disney favorites were "Mulan" and "Hanna Montana," the High School Musical from Disney. I was a key part of the school's orchestra and the drama teams.

"Painted with every true romantic Comedy, the Clue se- ries, and Mean Girls, my vision of what school should be was that of a true every- day, quirky, and all-day free fun world," Lyle said. 

Despite the falsely advertised world of AP classes and work, we all have the freedom to stop and focus on what's important, she said. I’ve also expanded my horizons to the point of finding a job and I’ve worked on it for eight years. It’s been a great journey, she said.

"I really want to travel to Japan next year. I’ll think I’ll spend some time in China and then maybe I want to travel to some place, just a dream of mine to be Ma- ture student in the third grade.

"Not even one percent of the world’s population can say they are Marine[s], I’m going to be a part of the few and proud. That’s why I’m going to the UK fine."

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Work This Out: Sophomore year. Finally, I decided to get my first driver's license. Thanks to a fortunate com- bination of sickly sentiment and interesting classes, I began to explore the high school almost as well as the East High student body-- the Lava Springs kitchen and po- ol. A brand new driver's license gave me a newfound freedom to venture further away from the house, and the knowledge that I could drive has become a major accomplishment that I hold dear.

"Get'cha Head In: The Game: DJ's for all ages, such as mine, are overflowing with a vast, huge game of music. I love it!"

---

Anna Lyle Collett
News Editor

When I was in ninth grade, I switched from orchestra to choir, because of my love for it. I found that instead of orchestra, I could be more passionate and more passionate about it. I found that instead of hating what I’ve been doing, I could be more passionate about it. I found that I could be more passionate about the world and the things that I was doing.

"I can say with complete con- fidence that coming an active member of the theatre depart- ment was the best choice I made."

---

Emerson Standridge
News Editor

"When it comes to my favorite Disney movie, I would say "Ballin' Around the Future." It was a movie about a dream of mine to be a Marine, and I just really want to forget about school, and just have some fun."

---

Andrew Elliot
Traveling the World

In my life as it relates to the Disney franchise, I have been a lifelong fan of Disney. I was born and raised in a family that loved to watch Disney movies. As a child, I would watch films like "The Lion King," "Aladdin," and "Frozen," and I was immediately drawn to the music and the stories.

"What does it mean to make a difference?" Lyle said. "We’ve got to figure out what we want to do, and then do it."

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Paige Nance
News Editor

In hindsight, these are the weeks that will define your life. You define for yourself what it means to be a Marine. I was distinctly different from any other class. Finally, thank you to the senior class, those who made the highlights of my time here, you.

---

Guadalupe Garcia
Traveling the World

"The key to my life is Disney. I have been a Disney fan my whole life. Disney has always been a part of my life, and it always will be."

---

James Bearer
News Editor

When I was in ninth grade, I was the team captain for the high school basketball team. I’ve been playing basketball for the past five years, and I’ve always been a big fan of the sport. I was always excited when we played our biggest rivals, like West High or East High. It was always a thrill to be able to play against them and show the world just how good we were.

"And we got to see Meredith Gray, "Do it. Decide. Is this the best you can be? Can you be more passionate? Decide. Breathe in and focus. Is this the best you can be?""

---

Breathe In. Breathe Out. And Decide.
Early morning classes, grueling exams associated with graduation and the bittersweet feelings that will stick with me for the rest of my life. The average class size was 20, and you could have counted on the teachers to help me get through each day of the four."
Christopher Newport
Jared Adkins
Jordan Tipton

Auburn University
Christopher Harnish
Luis Rios

Bowdoin College
George Walker

College of William and Mary
Bethany DeVinney

Colorado College
Joseph Berman

Cornell University
Christian Bowers

Davidson College
Ryan Bowers

Christopher Newport
Elena Hernandez

Duke University
Alexis Roberts

ECSU
Samantha Johnson

Elon University
Marcos Rodriguez

Hampton University
Benjamin Davis

Huntingdon College
Sarah Adams

Illinois State
Alexandra Taylor

Iowa State
Morgan Watson

John Hopkins University
Emily Lee

Kennesaw State University
Alexandra McHenry

Le Moyne College
Thomas Johnson

Long Island University
Evan Smith

Loyola University
Emily Martinez

Maryville College
William Jackson

Missouri State
Emma Johnson

Ohio State University
Jacob Brown

Ole Miss
Charlotte Johnson

Purdue University
Ryan Brown

Rutgers University
Elena Martinez

San Diego State University
Alex Johnson

Santa Clara University
Emily Rodriguez

Stetson University
Ethan Johnson

South Dakota State University
Will Johnson

UCLA
Evan Martinez

University of Alabama
Emily Johnson

University of California
Elena Martinez

University of Colorado
Emily Johnson

University of Connecticut
Evan Martinez

University of Florida
Emily Johnson

University of Georgia
Evan Martinez

University of Hawaii
Elena Martinez

University of Illinois
Emily Johnson

University of Iowa
Evan Martinez

University of Kentucky
Elena Martinez

University of Maryland
Emily Johnson

University of Michigan
Evan Martinez

University of Minnesota
Elena Martinez

University of Missouri
Emily Johnson

University of Nebraska
Evan Martinez

University of Nevada
Elena Martinez

University of North Carolina
Emily Johnson

University of Oregon
Evan Martinez

University of Pennsylvania
Elena Martinez

University of Pittsburgh
Emily Johnson

University of Rochester
Evan Martinez

University of Southern California
Elena Martinez

Virginia Commonwealth University
Evan Martinez

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Elena Martinez

Washington University
Evan Martinez

West Virginia University
Evan Martinez

Wingate University
Elena Martinez

Wake Forest University
Evan Martinez

Wheaton College
Elena Martinez
A Surprising Lesson Learned

By Nathan Winter

Sarah Lim // Opinion Editor

In each issue of the Rebel, the, "Opinion Editor" is the one whose column is included in the page you are currently reading. In this case, it's me. So I'll use this opportunity to talk about a lesson I learned during my time at Freeman. It's a lesson that I think could be relevant to any student, but particularly to those in the final stretch of their senior year.

The lesson is about the importance of perspective. When you're a teenager, it's easy to get caught up in the stress of school, sports, extracurricular activities, and everything else that comes with being in high school. It's easy to forget that these things are just a small part of your life, and that there's so much more out there.

I think this lesson is particularly important for seniors, because it's easy to get caught up in the idea that you have to do everything perfectly. You have to get into a good college, you have to get a good job, you have to make all the right decisions. But the truth is, none of that is really important in the grand scheme of things.

What is important is the people you surround yourself with, the experiences you have, and the memories you create. Those are the things that will stick with you long after you've graduated, and that will define who you are.

So my advice to all of you seniors is to slow down, take a step back, and think about what's really important. Don't get so caught up in the stress of the present that you forget about the future.

And most importantly, don't forget to have fun. Life is short, and you only get one chance to live it. So make the most of it. Enjoy your senior year, but also remember that there's so much more out there waiting for you.
Madison Brown describes her senior year as “interesting” and the senior class as “class-y.” The best lesson Madison has learned at Freeman is “to not take things for granted.” Advice that Madison has for underclassmen is to “spend time with your friends and family because they are what makes you who you are.” Madison’s favorite teacher from freshman to junior year, Mrs. Hruska, has had the greatest impact on her life because “she was a great teacher who made learning fun and easy.” Madison said. An obstacle Madison has had to overcome is losing a friend this past November. In 10 years, “I see myself graduating with my masters in Social Work, hopefully with a good job and maybe starting a family,” Madison said.

Gentry Dyson characterizes his senior year with “senioritis” and his senior class as “unique.” The best lesson he has learned in high school is that “nothing is free in life” and Gentry advises underclassmen to “use your teachers.” The teacher who has had the biggest impact on Gentry has been “Mrs. Weber because she makes learning fun and engaging.” As far as obstacles go, “I had no obstacles because I live life happily,” Gentry said. In 10 years Gentry will like to be “making a lot of money.”

Fatima Elgaali is glad that senior year is finally here, but will miss her senior class. The best lesson Fatima has learned at Freeman and advises she has for underclassmen is to “always do your homework and pay attention in class.” Fatima says that “Mrs. Weber and Mrs. Striker have had the most influence on my decisions and life choices.” The greatest obstacle Fatima has faced has been “the fact that I am Muslim and had to deal with racial slurs and rude comments.” For Fatima, “living as a minority is not to “try too hard to fit in, you’ll find your people.” The best lesson she has learned in high school is to “procrastinate. Josalin advises underclassmen to not “worry about the future” and “to shut up” and he advises underclassmen not to transfer schools. “I’m not here to say that high school is not worthwhile; it has been an Apollo Creed/Rocky Balboa split decision.” His greatest obstacle at Freeman was “to not take things for granted.” Advice that Madison will give is “to not take things for granted.” Madison will give is “to not take things for granted.”

Josalin Martinez describes her senior year as “spectacular” and her senior class as “crazy.” As her biggest obstacle while at Freeman was “trying to figure out who you are. Just get through high school and end up with a completely different person on your hands.” High school is special because you get to feel change as it happens, whether you fight it or ignore it. High school is special because you get to feel change as it happens, whether you fight it or ignore it. It is the same way with kids. Stuck in the middle with my two older siblings, I have been “annoying people” and in 10 years Tanner would like to own a salon with his own line of hair products.

Tanner McClure describes his senior year as “brutal,” and his senior class as “crazy.” His favorite teacher while at Freeman was Professor Boles and he says he has not procrastinated. Josalin advises underclassmen to not “worry about trying to figure out who you are. Just get through high school and you will figure it out in college.” The teacher who has had the biggest impact on Josalin is her vet science tech teacher at Hermitage, Karen Bowles, because “she was really supportive for me throughout the entire high school center.” Josalin said. In 10 years Tanner will “probably be a licensed veterinarian for exotic animals.”

Maryanne Nasen describes her senior year as “firsts,” and the senior class as “supportive.” The best lesson she has learned in high school is “to live for fun and be yourself.” Advice she wants to give to underclassmen is not “to try too hard to fit in, you’ll find your people.” The greatest obstacle Marian faced in High School was her transfer to Freeman, and in 10 years Marian says “I’ll have graduated from Mary Washington and graduate school and will have become a successful psychologist for troubled youth.”

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**Senior Superlatives**

**Most Granola**
Nick Baudle and Caroline Campbell

**Most Likely to be a Billionaire**
Kyle Adams and Kerry Rausmann

**Most Likely to be on Broadway**
Reyn Moraff and Claire Gardner

**Soccer Mom and Dad**
Trey Laugher and Elizabeth Roundtree

**Friendliest**
Max Levenson and Jeanne Rockwell

**Most Likely to Break the Curve**
Nitish Vaidyanathan and Malavi Ravindran

**Most Artistic**
Gray Gibson and Clancy Oleniacz

**Most Athletic**
Jack Neary and Emma Phelps

**Most Unforgettable**
Charlie Holloway and Max Levenson

**Best Laugh**
Ryan Jod and Anna Friend

**Biggest Rebel**
Brett Patterson and Tim MCnally

**Most Likely to be President**
Thomas Ross and Zoe Geiger

**Best Friends Boys**
Luke Murphy and Sam Murphy

**Best Friends Girls**
Myles Casey and Odalis Brown

**Biggest Gamer**
Moe Razimow and Jade Riesmussen

**Class Clown**
Adam Lowry and Rebecca Housen

**High School Sweethearts**
Luis Barrios and Claire Nicholson

**Mr. and Mrs. DSF**
Steve Bazianos and Dana Wagenhauser

**Best Dressed**
Brett Reid and Trudie Grattan

**Jack of All Trades**
Luke Murphy and Sam Murphy

**Most Likely to be an Olympic Athlete**
Myles Casey and Odalis Brown

**Friendliest**
Max Levenson and Jeanne Rockwell