

Entertainers' endorsements affecting elections

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In the wake of the 2020 election, many celebrities are speaking out, using their large platform to endorse a candidate or party. This has led to a debate about whether celebrities, many of whom are famous for reasons other than politics, should share their opinion, especially since their fans can be influenced by what they say. According to a Patriot Post poll of 50 students, 68% of respondents know of a celebrity who has endorsed a candidate in 2020, while 88% say they are not affected by the celebrity's thoughts. A study done by the Journal of Political Marketing found a different result.

"Some celebrities are well-known and liked by only some people, and it is among these people we should expect them to have political influence," study author David Jackson said. In other words, celebrities that are well-liked by their fans have the potential to sway their opinion.

Celebrities can also affect other decisions, such as whether or not to vote. During the last few weeks of the election, singer Ariana Grande took to Twitter, urging her fellow Floridians to register to vote before the deadline. Not long after the tweet was posted, the voting registration website crashed due to an excess of users trying to access it. While it is not confirmed that Grande's actions were the reason for the crash, it is very likely that her viral tweet played a part in it according to CBS Miami reporter Jim Defede.

Students are divided on whether or not celebrities should promote a candidate. "[Endorsing a candidate] informs people who may not be educated about their options when it comes to voting. It also brings to light the impact of voting and sometimes even helps people find their voting centers or find out who they should vote for based on what they believe in," senior Olivia Malkin said.

Others disagree. "I think it is an abuse of [the celebrity's] status and they need to stick to what they're good at. It is also dangerous because there are people in this country that will believe anything celebrities say. People need to be free to form their own options without the help of celebrities," senior Matthew Newman said.

Ultimately, each voter has to decide for his or herself whether or not they trust celebrities to provide accurate information about politics.



Freshman Junyi Xiu watches one of her favorite YouTubers, the Try Guys, endorse Joe Biden for president in a recent video. Though the Try Guys have never officially endorsed a candidate before, they felt it was important to share their opinion for the 2020 election. "The Try Guys proudly endorse Joe Biden for president and we encourage everyone to get out and exercise their right to vote ahead of or on Nov. 3," the Try Guys said in a statement. (Photo/Junyi Xiu)



Zoom Curtain Call

How the Fine Arts Department Performs in the Age of COVID-19

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To comply with CDC guidelines, our Fine Arts department cannot perform in person; however, they are still coming up with other ways to perform.

In the theater department, for each show, Mr. Johnpaul Moccia and Mr. Brian Lovejoy are planning to record each actor's part individually and have a production company edit the production together for distribution at a price online. This led to tech students learning how to storyboard and plan logistics for filming. Senior John Eastep found himself merging his background in filmmaking with his work in theater tech.

"There's still a lot of learning going on, because we're not trying to make films, we're

still trying to make it theater, so it's not like cutting and changing angles. It's like one take one shot of the whole thing, but we're just trying to find the balance between," Eastep said.

Since the actors are each getting their portions filmed separately, they now act to themselves rather than to their typical large audience or partners.

"So when I'm performing, you can only see my eyes and the things that I do with my hands and things I do with my body," junior Julian Villegas said. "There's a lot of little things that place a limit on acting and in theater in general."

The band also adapted their curriculum to concurrent learning with fewer live

performances and a transition to watching online performances for honors credit. The fine arts department is continuing to come up with ways to allow expression concurrently.

PASSIONATELY PERFORMING:
With the fine arts department dealing with the stress of concurrent practice, some extracurriculars, such as Tri-M music honor society, are trying to create spaces for artists online to express themselves. Senior Daniela Prieto performs with her guitar at Tri-M's first virtual open mic night Oct. 23. (photo/Rebecca Chiet)



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