

Is equality truly for everyone?

THE OHS PRESS

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What does the word equality mean to you?

As of May 20, the Equality Act has been referred to the committee of the Judiciary by the Senate.

Although the House Of Representatives has passed this act, it must be passed by the Senate and signed by the President for it to become enacted. This act was introduced in the House by Rep. David Cicilline,

D-R.I., in March.

The purpose of the Equality Act is "to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation, and for other purposes" as stated by the 116th Congress.

Currently, in 39 states, including Michigan, it is still legal to discriminate against a person.

A person could be fired for identifying as a certain gender when their sex is different. A person could be denied service for holding hands with their partner who is of the same gender. A person could be forced out of a restaurant due to them breastfeeding their child. There are many more examples to list.

"My brother worked as a waiter in a small town and never talked about his personal life ... and he was scared he'd be fired if she found out [about his sexuality]," Lily Stoor (12) said.

"I guess some employers could be angry about it? That they don't have that kind of power anymore, and they could take it out on their LGBTQ employees," Stoor said.

Some reasons people and companies may be against this act are due to the fact that the government may be putting many restrictions and regulations to follow. People may feel that the government has too much power, and businesses deserve the right to decide who and who not

to serve or employ.

"I personally don't have any negative opinions on it, but I know that other people do and I think that's the problem with it, that we just need to get more people to understand that it's supposed to help people, and it's not supposed to affect people in a negative sense," Abby Frank (10) said.

Many people want all states to adopt this act so that everyone can truly be equal.

"Well I definitely agree with the bill, and I think Michigan should adopt it," Stoor said. "For too long, the LGBTQ community has been discriminated against. It gives people more reassurance and security

with things like applying for jobs and stuff, and also, you can be open with your sexuality/identity without fearing lose your job because of it."

"I think it empowers people. It gives them a better reason to speak up and helps them feel more confident in themselves," Frank said.

However, this act still has a long way to go before it becomes a law.

"I know that there are always going to be people that are going to play devil's advocate for whatever law or any situation ever. So part of me hopes that we get it in the next year or two but I know that's not going to happen, so probably around 2025 is the latest I would hope, but not any time soon," Frank said.

Pros and cons of being a student athlete

Pavan Kannan

Staff Reporter

Sports have completely engulfed modern American culture. They're a physical, social, and even political phenomenon that affect our lives. Considering the growing role of sports in modern society, it's important to look at just how they affect the students of OHS.

There are 28 different sports programs at OHS, and there are numerous students involved in one or more of these sports. According to the National Federation of State High School Associations,

there are almost 8 million student athletes nation-wide. That accounts for just over 51 percent of the total student body.

Okemos High School is home to many prestigious sports programs. High school athletics affect the lives of students in numerous ways, and not all of them are positive. In fact, many students are beginning to feel the negative impact that the commitment of a school sport can have on their lives.

"Sports have definitely been a huge time commitment for me, especially this fall," said Ian Buckwalter (11). Buckwalter, a soccer player, said that his biggest issue

with school soccer has been time management.

"Soccer practices are everyday after school, so I need to plan out my homework based off of that. Game days are also tough because they take up an entire evening, so I usually have to plan out all of my stuff a couple days beforehand."

Many student athletes also find themselves taxed physically as well as mentally.

"I have definitely woken up the day after a game very sore. I think almost every soccer player has at some point. Saying that it hurts is kind of an understatement."

Even though Buckwalter makes

considerable sacrifices in order to play soccer, he said that he doesn't regret his decision to play.

"Going out onto the field with the rest of the boys is probably one of the best feelings ever, and I wouldn't trade it for anything," he said.

Many other student athletes also believe that the sacrifices are truly worth it. Max Wakefield (10), a water polo player, believes that the friends and mentors that he has acquired make all of the hard work and sacrifice worth it.

"It's definitely a grind being a part of the water polo team, but it is just so much fun," Wakefield said.

"I've met so many great upper-

classmen who really helped me adjust to the high school and learn how it works. Upperclassmen are great for advice, friendship, or if you just need somebody to talk to."

Joey Donahue (11), another member of the soccer program, believes that school sports are great learning opportunities.

"Sports teach you how to be a positive member of a team, which is something that school really lacks," said Donahue. "Soccer has taught me how to become a better communicator and a more empathetic person, and I definitely wouldn't be the person that I am today without it."

The idea of self-driving cars has been around for nearly a century

Jack Hertafeld

Managing Editor

Many drivers eagerly await the day they will be able to hop in their cars and be taken wherever they please while they sit back and relax.

People have been trying to build self-driving cars since the early 20th century. True self-driving cars have been around since the '80s, but it has only been in the past 10 years or so that the technology has come to the public's attention with Google's self-driving car research and development program. The Google program, now the independent subsidiary company Waymo, showed people that this tech could potentially become a consumer product in the near future, as has been long foretold by science fiction for many decades.

Waymo's success has caused automakers like Ford and Tesla to begin their own autonomous car research, bringing them closer to consumer markets than ever before.

However, when self-driving cars arrive, it will not be a result of a new innovation that suddenly makes them possible. They will come as a culmination of close to 100 years of research.

Since shortly after cars have existed, inventors and scientists

have come up with numerous ways to make cars more "self-driving".

The way a driver interacts with the controls of their car to get around has drastically changed in the past decades due to the gradual onset of features that make driving a little easier. Automatic transmissions, power steering and anti-lock brakes are all examples of self-driving features that have been implemented into cars long ago and have since become staple features of almost all modern automobiles.

These older examples were developed on vehicles with minimal electronics systems that use mechanical processes to do things for the driver. However, with the integration of complex computer and electrical systems into virtually every facet of modern cars' designs, features like this are able to go further than ever before in their level of involvement in their vehicle's driving process. Computer systems are performing tasks that most drivers are woefully unaware of while they are on the road.

For example, the electronic stability control and traction control features which have become mandatory in all new cars are the new age response to a device known as a limited-slip differential. A limited-slip differential is an entirely mechanical part that allows the car's engine to deliver variable amounts of torque to the wheels on either side of the differential. When slippage occurs,

the differential reduces the torque being delivered to that wheel that is sliding allowing for better control over the vehicle as it loses traction. It does this using fitted gears that allow the output shafts on either side to spin at different rates.

Electronic stability control and traction control are highly complex electrical systems that perform a very similar task by different means. Wheel speed sensors are used to detect wheel slippage, and selective ABS braking is used to maximize the amount of traction the car has on the road at all times.

Recently, these types of features have been ramping up and getting much closer to what most people would consider self-driving. All modern cars come with electronic stability control and traction control as standard features. Newer features such as automatic lane assist and adaptive cruise control that came about only a few years ago have already inundated the consumer market, and become competitive selling points for manufacturers due to high demand.

Unknown to most drivers, car manufacturers have been slowly wresting control from humans and passing the responsibility over to computers. I suspect that the self-driving nature of future cars will creep slowly in with various computerized systems that make minor adjustments until one day there will be nothing more for us to do.

Editorial: We stand with Greta Thunberg

Editorial Staff

Before you start considering your future plans, you might want to consider suing a country to make sure you have your future. You didn't know you could do that? That's OK. Neither did we!

Now admittedly, a teenager suing an entire country sounds unbelievable, but Greta Thunberg, a rising climate activist from Iceland, and her fellow "Climate Kids" have made it a reality.

The group, which consists of young people from all over the world and is led by Thunberg, has sued the five leading carbon polluters: Argentina, Brazil, France, Germany and Turkey. They are suing with the reasoning that these emissions are harmful to the future lives of our generation and are violating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, making it a child rights issue.

"You are failing us. We will not let you get away with this. Right here, right now is where we draw the line," said Thunberg, according to Quartz.com.

As a part of the generation they're advocating for, we editors of the OHS Press would like to say we are all for it.

Between the four of us, two are seniors about to set out into the world and two are juniors, getting ready to do the same. We are excited and nervous and so much more as we try to pencil in plans for our future, but that planning becomes harder as the future of our Earth becomes more uncertain.

It's become less and less easy for teenagers like us to ignore the sense of impending doom which is only worsened by scary Instagram statistics and radical-sounding ideas like climate change being brought about by our president.

It's starting to become so mainstream to talk about these issues that it seems like there is a new discovery of irreversible damage to our planet on our feeds every day. For every problem that's solved, there are 10 more unsolved issues waiting in line. Sure, Starbucks made a strawless lid, but what about the ice caps melting or the Amazon rainforest being destroyed?

The adult world isn't changing fast enough, so it's on the young people of the world to do something about it.

As the four of us look forward to living our lives, finding careers and eventually forming families, we hope that there will be a world where we can do so. We stand behind the Climate Kids because while we try to make an impact locally, we need other brave teens to fight for our future where we can't--on a global scale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Those seeking to express their own opinion are strongly encouraged to submit a letter to the editor. Letters may be edited for libel, irresponsibility, and obscenity. Letters cannot be over 300 words, but may be edited for length. Any letters are subject to being printed or turned down. Letters must be signed, but may or may not carry a signature depending on the situation. To submit a letter, please visit Jessica Geyer in room B215.

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Factual errors will be corrected on the opinion page or news briefs upon written request and verification.

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Stories are timely, relevant to the audience and do not interrupt the greater educational mission.

Stories cannot contain libel, slander, obscenity, profanity, cannot disrupt the school, cannot invade the privacy of others, cannot demean race, religion, gender, ethnicity and cannot advocate the violation of law.

Plagiarism is never tolerated; any article that includes plagiarism will not be printed.

All stories, with the exception of editorials or opinion pieces, should present both opposing viewpoints to create a balanced and unbiased article, no matter the reporter's opinion of the subject.

Illustrations and photos will be indicated as such--illustrations are staged or posed, photos are not. No altered photos of human subjects will be printed unless indicated for an illustration.

A leditor from the editors



Happy back to school season, folks. As I write this leditor, I am in the newsroom, where I have been for the past six hours, surrounded by edited stories, pizza crusts and countless bits of newspaper.

It's been a crazy journey, but after a couple of extra hours of work fuelled by pizza and brownies, this work of art has been painstakingly written and laid out, even though it will most likely end up crumpled on the floor of OHS' lunchroom.

With a whopping staff of 23 journalists, 12 of them brand new to the newspaper, this month has involved a lot more chaos than anyone could have predicted, especially because we attempted what has been previously deemed impossible: publishing a "September" issue.

We had our fair share of issues along the way: abandoned stories,

ignored interviews and deleted files all threatened to postpone our deadline. Even a schoolwide flu epidemic couldn't stop us.

Our new mascots, Spongebob the piñata and Mochi the service dog, are probably the biggest reason we did as well as we did. Spongebob's kind smile and Mochi's pets were both therapeutic to the staff, ensuring our success.

This issue's focus is all about the environment, climate change and eco-friendliness. We realize this might be a bit hypocritical, as we print upwards of 400 issues of this newspaper every month, so in order to minimize our damage we urge our readers to please recycle this when finished reading.

For a bit of comic relief after reading the mild seriousness that is our focus page, we have not one

but two comic strips this month. Our resident class clowns, Mulan Ma and Christen Chappelle deserve all the praise for these pieces of comedy gold.

As we work out the kinks in our process and become more organized with our cycle, we look forward to producing better and better issues for our dear readers.

Until next month,

Jack *Christen Chappelle*