

The Warrensburg High School

# SPIRIT

Volume 70 Issue 3

■ @TheWHSspirit

## School Drug Use By Bobbi Gums & Sam Brooks

Recently our school participated in SADD week in order to raise awareness of drug and alcohol use at Warrensburg High School. It raised a question about the types of drugs our student body uses and in what amounts. When looking at Safe Schools polling data, a quiz administered to students every other year, you can see that 70% of students in our district say that they have never used drugs or alcohol. Unfortunately, there is no way to determine how truthful this information is. A question at the end of the poll asked if people lied or not and 21% said they had.

In order to figure out exactly what was going on at WHS, five classes participated in a poll to find out what Warrensburg teens do in their spare time. In total, 163 anonymous stories were submitted. Overall, it seemed as if most students understood the damage drugs and alcohol could do to your body. A handful of students responded saying, “No, I have never used drugs or alcohol.”

Some of the reasons for never using them are: *“I have never had alcohol chiefly because I like to have full reign over my mind.”*

*“No, I feel like those things lead to more trouble no matter how small it starts off.”*

**K2 or Spice:** K2 is a synthetic form of marijuana, and is called things like “bath salts” or potpourri” when sold. Can cause hallucinations and seizures.

**CCC or DXM:** Dextromethorphan and Coriciden Cold and Cough are over-the-counter cough suppressants, and are abused by being taken in large doses.

**Skittles Party:** A Skittles Party is usually at someone’s house where they mix different prescription pills and take them.

**Silly Pills:** Silly Pills are short for psilocybin pills, which are the chemicals found in some mushrooms that cause hallucinations. It is said to affect how you feel time is passing and can make you paranoid and scared.

*“No, I think drugs do no good for your body unless they’re prescription.”*

While there was a small amount of students that came out and said they’ve never tried either substance, a larger amount admitted to trying them.

*“Yes, I was going through a tough time and went to a party to drink a little bit.”*

*“Yes, I have had alcohol. It was shared at a friend’s house and I drank too much. My best friend had to strip me down and put me in the shower.”*

*“I had pot because my friend bet me I wouldn’t try it.”*

*“I tried marijuana while in a foreign country. I would never try it again.”*

*“I had alcohol when I was a freshman at a party due to peer pressure. I regret it. It led to events I never wanted.”*

*“I had alcohol. My family members wanted to see what I would be like drunk.”*

*“I drink to make it through my 13-hour shifts.”*

Unfortunately, accurate numbers may not be possible. Perhaps the only thing we can do is continue to be vigilant and aware of the culture of the youth in the Warrensburg school district.



Emily Henson, ‘15, performs at the first “Penny for Your Thoughts” poetry slam to benefit charity.



Derrek Cox, ‘16, portrays Leaf Coneybear in *The 25th Annual Putman Spelling Bee*. More about the musical on page 7.

# Movies You May Have Missed

By Conor Tenbus



## *The Kings of Summer: B-*

If you love Joseph Gordon-Levitt, you'll love Nick Robinson, star of *The Kings of Summer*. Despite casting Gordon-Levitt's look-a-like, director Jordan Vogt-Roberts fails to capitalize on beautiful scenery and a talented cast.

Nick Robinson plays Joe, the 15-year old son of a single father (Nick Offerman). Joe has a falling out with his father and convinces two friends to run away from home and build their own house in the secluded woods. After a month with little-to-no female interaction, tensions rise and tempers flare, leading to the demise of a friendship and a life-threatening situation in which no one is present to help Joe.

*The Kings of Summer* is appealing, but presents many unreal scenarios. In the real world, three 15-year olds cannot build an entire house in one week. In the real world, three 15-year olds cannot grow full lumberjack beards in one month.

While the story is completely predictable, *The Kings of Summer* is just entertaining enough to spend an evening at home on the couch.

## Playstation 4

By Alex Burson



On Thursday, November 14th, two brave souls set out for the experience of a lifetime: camping out for the new Playstation 4 at the back of Wal-Mart.

Supplies included sandwiches, chips, candy, lawn chairs, and energy drinks. After gathering everything up, Trent Classen, '15, and I set out on our quest.

Arriving six hours before the release seemed like it would be enough; however, when we arrived at 6:15, eleven people occupied the waiting line. One girl even showed up at noon to save a place in line for her boyfriend (awww true love).

Rumors started to swirl that Wal-Mart only stocked ten consoles. Nerves set in, as the idea of walking away empty handed after waiting six hours crept in.

While setting up our lawn chairs, an employee walked by the line, counting us. He gave a nod of his head, a thumbs up, and mumbled something under his breath as he left the area.

Shortly after arriving, Ethan Holland, '14, joined us for several hours as we waited. Several quick games of Risk later (that I won), Nick Forsythe, '14, decided to join us as well. Even Warrensburg High School teacher Steve Marr showed up for a

quick drop in. He almost grabbed a lawn chair and joined us in line to purchase his own.

Finally, our last visitor, Max Burson, '14, joined us around nine o'clock for the rest of the night. A quick trip to the candy aisle and a five-pound bag of Swedish fish later, we settled in for the night. After a couple games of Risk, two pounds of Swedish fish, and another hour, Nick and Ethan had to go home.

After losing two members of our group, it was time to break out the 3DSs. Embarrassment would have set in had it not been for the several other campers in line playing their own.

With exhaustion setting in, the group spotted something. A palette full of PS4 controllers being rolled out and placed in the next aisle. With thirty minutes until the release, the store manager came by and handed everyone their numbers, PS4 bags, and PS4 key chains. Trent got number twelve. Finally, they rolled out the consoles.

Despite the rumors, Wal-Mart had eighteen consoles in stock: almost enough for everyone in line. We conquered the wait and retreated back to the depths of Trent's abode; looking forward to the hours of playing time ahead of us.

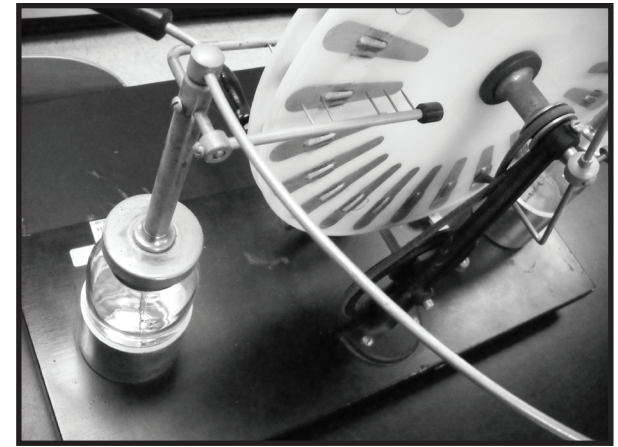
## Science Olympiad By Loan Tran

By day, they are students. By night, they are scientists. Science Olympiad is not only a learning opportunity but also a way that students can engage in something that they love.

“Science Olympiad is a team-based competition where individuals compete in a variety of events, ranging from building to test-based events,” said Lynn Miller, WMS and WHS Science Olympiad coach. “Everyone can find

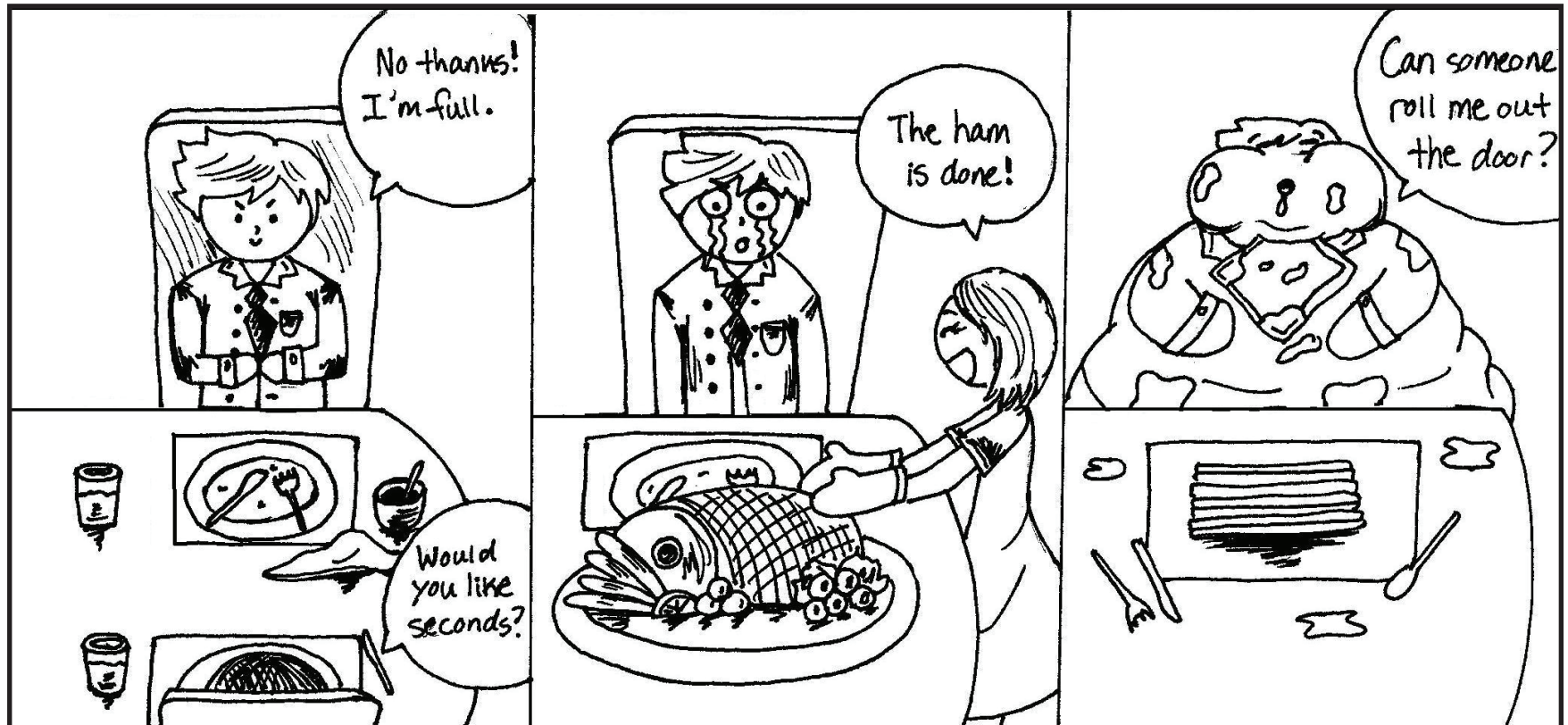
something they enjoy.”

Besides keeping up with schoolwork, Olympians take time out of their day to become more knowledgeable in their events. “Over the years I have made tough decisions regarding the regional and state teams, but I like the people who are willing to go the extra mile,” said Miller. “Science Olympiad is a beneficial experience to remember, all while meeting new people.



whimshurst generator

## Thanks in Calories By Loan tran



## WHS Welcomes Exchange Student By Yusr Ghozzi

Foreign Exchange student Neveen Malaty recently moved to Warrensburg from her hometown, Aswan, Egypt. “Before I came, I tried not to have many expectations. I knew that if I didn’t find what I expected, I would be very shocked,” she said. Still, the culture shock was inevitable and she found herself in a world very different from her home.

Malaty’s permanent home is the city of Aswan in southern Egypt. “Aswan is small compared to Cairo, but it has a population of more than 200,000, so it is very big compared to Warrensburg,” she said. She really misses her city and its nightlife. “We stayed up later in Aswan because there were always people out in the town visiting each other, even at midnight,” she said. However, she misses Egyptian food and her twin sister the most.

She has visited the iconic monuments that American children learn about in the Ancient Egypt Unit in history class. She has seen inside one of the Great Pyramids and has been on

the famous Nile River many times. “In our free time, we take boat trips on the Nile,” she said. She strongly encourages a trip to the country.

Malaty experienced The Egyptian Revolution and the overthrow of President Morsi. On January 25, 2011, the Egyptian people succeeded in ousting longtime dictator, President Hosni Mubarak. “I wasn’t sure the revolution would work because Mubarak was in office for 30 years. But it did, and it was the biggest revolution the world has seen,” she said. More recently, the Egyptians overthrew their first freely-elected president, Mohamed Morsi. “After the first revolution, I believed the people could have another rebellion because the people did it before.”

Life in America is a huge departure from what she is familiar with in Egypt. Even though she began learning English in first grade, her biggest challenge has been the language. “I had trouble understanding English when I first came here, and I was asking a lot of questions,” she said.

She is also adjusting to the new educational system. “In Egypt, we go home for lunch, we can’t choose classes, we don’t change classes, and weekends are Friday and Saturday,” she said.

She is very excited to see snow for the first time before she leaves in May, although she is apprehensive about Missouri weather. “It only rains once a year in Egypt and I’m afraid of getting sick because I’m not used to cold weather,” she said.

Clearly there are many differences between Egypt and America, but Malaty has noticed a few similarities. “In Egypt we celebrate Christmas the 7<sup>th</sup> of January, but we go to Church and we have a Christmas tree like in America,” she said. Possibly the biggest similarity she has found is one on a human level. “People here are really nice, just like people are in Egypt,” said Malaty.

## True Holiday Spirit? By Paige Purvis

Holidays with my family are spent down in Branson with my grandparents every year. When my family was living in Ireland, they were with us through Skype and long conversations on the phone. As a child I have fond memories of cooking with my grandmother in the kitchen, gathering around the table, and saying what we were all thankful for. Later, we would all retire to the living room and watch movies with my grandpa, a movie fanatic. I want my future family to have experiences like this, but with the way society is headed, these holidays won’t be the same as they were when I was a child.

Commercials and holiday shopping took over Christmas years ago. But now Thanksgiving has become commercialized, too. Some stores are opening as early as 6 o’clock on Thanksgiving night for Black Friday sales. These holidays have become all about wanting more and essentially how many materialistic goods a person has.

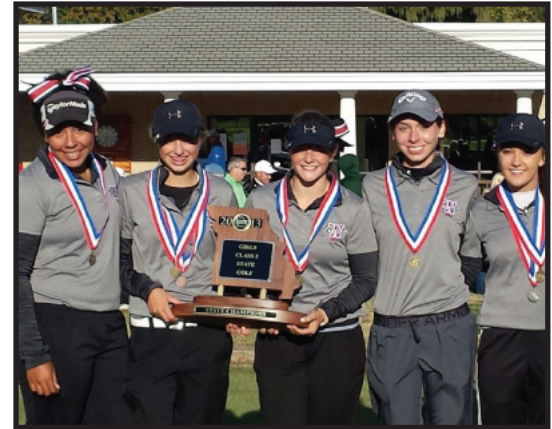
We need to think about the real meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. With religion aside, these holidays are all about spending time

with your family and loved ones. What are we doing on a day to celebrate how thankful we are? We go out and fight with people to the point where innocent shoppers are being trampled to death. That’s not what Black Friday and the holiday season should be about.

We are so fortunate to live in a country where we can celebrate these holidays with our families. Most of us will receive many presents and be stuffed on Thanksgiving. Others of us will be less fortunate. But it’s not about the amount or the price, and as cliché as this is, it really is the thought that counts. For me, a \$5 gift that has meaning and shows how well you know me is much more valuable than a \$100 gift. For many people that is not the case. It’s just money, money, money and who has the latest and greatest things.

So let’s all think about what these holidays mean and get back to what it all started as, family and giving. I don’t know about you, but I will be spending Thanksgiving evening with my family watching a movie or playing board games, not waiting in line to go Black Friday shopping.

# Fall Sports Whip-Around



**The Cross Country** team's season ended with both the boy's and girl's team placing in the top ten teams at state. The girls placed seventh overall and the boys placed third. The entire boys team received all conference recognition and Trent Classen, '15, and Alex Burson, '14, received all state recognition. Senior Ethan Holland said, "It was a good season and a lot of people stepped it up. I think we did really well as a team."

**The Lady Tigers golf team** has the most successful season at the state level of competition for all of the fall sports at WHS. The team played their hearts out and came home with the state title. The entire team received all conference. Taylor Black, '17, and Bailey Yost, '15, received all conference, all district, and all state recognition. "It was so great to be able to play with such a wonderful team" Senior Cierra Collins said. "I will miss it greatly. We truly became a family."

**The Tiger's soccer team** finished a winning 2013 season with a record of 18-5-1. The team finished as district runner up and received third in conference. During season play the team was able to add winner of the Bolivar tournament and Excelsior Springs tournaments to their list of accomplishments. "It was a fine culmination of four years of fun and hard work," said senior and three year varsity member Spencer Tauchen.

**Though the volleyball team** finished their 2013 season with a losing record (9-21-3), it was a turnaround season for the program. The varsity team was able to pull away with more wins than they have for the past two seasons. This can be partly accredited to head Coach Nick Wagenknecht, who has begun to institute a higher level of play in the program. "It has been a great four years with the program," said Alyssa Slana, '14, "I am proud of the development we made as a team. We worked hard and had fun."

**The boys swimming team** showed amazing talent for their first year as a team. The team was able to send sophomore Hagen Zinecker to state in the 50 free and the 100 fly, where he placed 22nd and 25th respectively. The team won conference and received fourth place at ILCs. "I love my teammates. It was a great first season for the program," said Michael Nimmer, '16,

**The softball team** finished with a record of 15-7. The team made it to the gold bracket at the UCM tournament and to the championship game at the Pleasant Hope tournament. There were many exciting games for the Tigers including the last regular season home game when Mataya Lowry, '14, hit a game winning double in the last inning, defeating the Clinton Cardinals. "It was a really fun season. We had lots of young players so it was a good learning experience as well as a very successful season," said Bridget Cavuoti, '14.

**The Lady Tiger Tennis** team finished with a record of 11-3. They were district champions and had two qualifying state players, McKayla Wells, '15, and Hally Piontek, '17. Throughout the season, a rivalry grew between the WHS and the St. Pius X tennis teams when the Warriors defeated the Tigers at home. The team worked hard in practice and was able to defeat St. Pius X the next time they faced them. "Having a young team gave everyone a lot of experience and room to grow for next year," said McKayla Wells, '15.

**The Fighting Tigers football** season ended with a 0-10 record, continuing their 20 game losing streak. Despite the unfortunate results, the returning players will continue to work hard and prepare for next season. "No one in this town believes in us. They never expect us to win and they think we suck," said Aaron Sanders, '15. "We know we are better than that, so we won't give up. We will keep working hard so someday we can prove them wrong." Halfway through his football career with the Fighting Tigers, Sheldon Blose, '16, commented "It's hard to give up something you have been working hard at your entire life, even though it might not turn out the way we want it to. We play for the love of the game" For graduating seniors the feeling is bittersweet. "If you love the sport, it shouldn't matter whether you are winning or losing," said Ty Larsen, '14. "You are just thankful for the opportunity to play."

## Claps & Slaps

#whsclaps #whsslaps

Claps to our state sports. Well done.  
Slaps to Macs. They cost an arm and a leg.

Claps to Daylight Savings Time. Thanks Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Slaps to people singing Christmas music. You're feliz navi-dead to me.

Claps to Thanksgiving break. For this, I am thankful.  
Slaps to people who chew with their mouth open. STAHP

Claps to hand sanitizer. It's that time of year again...  
Slaps to germs. I'm too stressed to be sick.

Claps to Jennifer Lawrence. Brains, beauty, and archery.  
Slaps to Black Friday shoppers. I don't want to be trampled; I just want to save money.

Claps to peacoats. Now I'm classy and warm.  
Slaps to the Chiefs. Flags for everyone.

## Heard in the Halls

#whsheardinthehalls

- Is it love or is it a Big Mac?
- Let's get to twerkin'!
- Do you know how much Taco Bell I could buy with that?
- There is just too much body odor in the world.
- My waiter didn't understand American.
- Every time I pick them up, I have to turn the phalanges around.
- Stop fanning yourself with your sandwich.
- I wonder if they have highly casual Fridays in Colorado.
- I speak Espanola.
- And she was like, nacho cheese and I lost it!
- I'm gonna start wearing a fanny pack on the daily.
- Growing a beard is like running a marathon.
- Ahh, those silly Founding Fathers.
- I don't care what the sugar looks like as long as it's in my Kool-Aid.
- Long ago, the peacock discovered...fireworks.
- What? She's Chewbacca and a Catholic?
- It's cool because the rabbits just drive the carts.
- I hate subtweets. Like, who are you even talking to?
- Move, Peasants!!

## What Are You Thankful For?

Man on the Street



“Afternoon naps and Texas potatoes”  
Austin Doyle, '14



“Friends. They are always there for me when I need them.”  
Julia Rankin, '15

## WHS Presents:

# *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Inflation. Stinks doesn't it? Five dollars doesn't buy much anymore...except a ticket to Warrensburg High School's fall play: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*.

In this lovable musical comedy, a group of middle schoolers compete for a chance to attend the National Spelling Bee. Each contestant has a special quirkiness, however, which leads to hilarious situations.

Mason Barry and Aubrey Hicks star as William Barfée and Olive Ostrovsky, respectively.

## Club Updates

**FCCLA:** Angel tree, Food Pantry Turkey Nov.18-22, & Pie social Nov. 25

**FBLA:** Chocolate bar sale, FBLA store in Mrs. Meyers room 81

**Debate:** Season under way, busy winter ahead

**DECA:** Still recruiting, Districts February 12, Mini competition November 22 at UCM, blanket drive for United Way

**FFA:** Ag. is selling Poinsettias and Norfolk Island Pines

**Spanish Club:** Movie Night on Nov. 21



“My dad coming back from deployment.”

Naomi Trueblood, '16



“A good education and a bright future.”

Tyler Norton, '17

# The Case For/Against Humanity

## For By Rachel Scott

•**We snort when we laugh.** The fact that we are still laughing is a beautiful thing. Despite everything that has gone wrong and all that seems bad in the world, I walk down the halls of Warrensburg and hear people's laugh snorts. The tests cannot bring us down, the stress from the ACT will not stunt our glee. We laugh and we snort and we're still making jokes about life. We don't even let ourselves get embarrassed by the fact that we sound like horses when we chortle!

•**We still hold hands.** Even though boys have cooties and girls have cooties also, we have found it in ourselves to ignore Germ-X and grab the hand of our Friend and proudly declare that we are in a freaking relationship. The fear that we might be rejected does not prevent us from dating and sharing our pizza with our partner. "I think we all have a deep yearning to be loved," Austin Doyle, '14, said. That yearning forces us to extend our arm and then our hands and then maybe even our fingers, and hold on to somebody else's fingers, hand, and arm.

•**We light candles** despite the fact that 3% of all house fires are started by candles, (which is a huge number, by the way, even if it is not a huge percentage.) There are so many things that could hurt us, but we do them anyway. We could be petrified by fear, cowering under our beds, but instead, we have found it in ourselves to keep moving around. I truly believe that nothing will ever bring us to a stop, and that thing that keeps us going is called hope. Like, I *hope* my house won't burn down. We are still lighting birthday cakes, even though there is the possibility that our house will burn down

Good job, humanity. Keep doing what you are doing. Keep laughing like an asthmatic goat, and keep holding cootie-hands, and keep lighting sixteen candles while sitting on a table in a pink tulle dress or while wearing a tie. Four for you, humanity. You go, humanity.

## Against By Zoe Yandell

•**Destruction.** We do it simply because we can. And our main motivation is, of course, greed. We destroy everything from the Amazon rain forests to the gulf waters invested with oil to the air we pump our pollutants into. All with the hope of raking in a couple bucks. We even go as far as destroying cultures, our own kind, because they have something we want. From the colonial land we slaughtered the Indians for the gold we took from their bodies of South American natives. We are a greedy species and, as a whole, corrupt with money on the brain.

•**Idols.** If there was any indication our species is doomed, it is probably most prevalent by what we think is worthy of our appreciation. With our ideas of greatness shifting from individuals like Dr. King and Ghandi to the pitiful display that are the Kardashians and the train wreck of the legendary Marilyn Monroe, it makes us wonder if we have lost the ability to see people that truly deserve praise. We have become a species that decides to praise "beauty" and sex over real contributions to the world.

•**Respect.** Aretha Franklin taught it, but no one is singing it. Respect is a quality that has almost disappeared and is bordering on extinction. This is because we have become self-righteous and therefore view others as less worthy of our attention and respect. Students see it all the time in classrooms when a teenager talks back to a teacher. Or when a child mouths off to a parent. We are now in the times of the know-it-alls, where I am right and everyone else is wrong. If we disagree with someone, we view them unworthy of our respect. It will not be long before we all lose respect for each other and what happens to humanity then?

# The Spirit.

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