

The Lexington  
Concord  
Vol. 2 No. 2



# Happy Thanksgiving



Since 1952, the day following Thanksgiving has been regarded as the start of the Christmas shopping season in the United States.

Most retailers open their doors early to offer the best promotional sales. Black Friday isn't an official holiday but many states do look

at it like it is. Many non-retail employees and schools have both Thanksgiving and the following Friday off, along with the weekend, making it a four-day weekend. This increases the number of potential shoppers. It has continuously been the busiest shopping day of the year since 2005. For many families across the U.S., going out that night and shopping for Christmas presents has quickly become a tradition.

## Black Friday

By: Courtney



Morgan says, "My parents go Black Friday shopping every year. Although, it's extremely busy. They love the idea of it because they seem to get almost everything they look for and at a decent price"

Hannah's family goes out every night after Thanksgiving to try to find the best deals on all their Christmas

needs.

For me, I love Black Friday because every year my sisters and I go out together to get our family's presents. Christmas is about giving, and being able to give at a decent price is definitely a win-win for me.



# The Decline of Black Friday

By Jo

As the indulged stuffed turkeys and cranberry sauce settles in, the crowds of graceful 'givers' await in the cool 3:00 A.M. November air in front of their demanding retail stores for the annual Christmas shopping spree. That is the supposed spirit of Black Friday but with the imminent takeover of the internet throughout the decades, the magic is slowly fading away. Commonly referred to as "The Day after Thanksgiving," the terminology of Black Friday varies throughout: tracing roots to the Panic of 1869 where two financier's broke gold in the financial market, Macy's famous Thanksgiving Day Parade during the roaring 20s, or workers from various retail stores calling in sick after Thanksgiving – in spite for a four-day weekend – with head starts on their Christmas shopping. Whatever the case may be, Black Friday has been a staple in American culture with its rich history.



Since its introduction to the masses, Black Friday kept the spirits of the holiday lively with its abundance of door-busting deals. All of such was well until the prominent usage of the global web in the early 2000s; of which granted many things such as socializing, news, and most importantly shopping. As human beings, we inherently desire and rationalize ourselves for easier methods to a simpler life: transportation, machinery, glasses, etc. Following

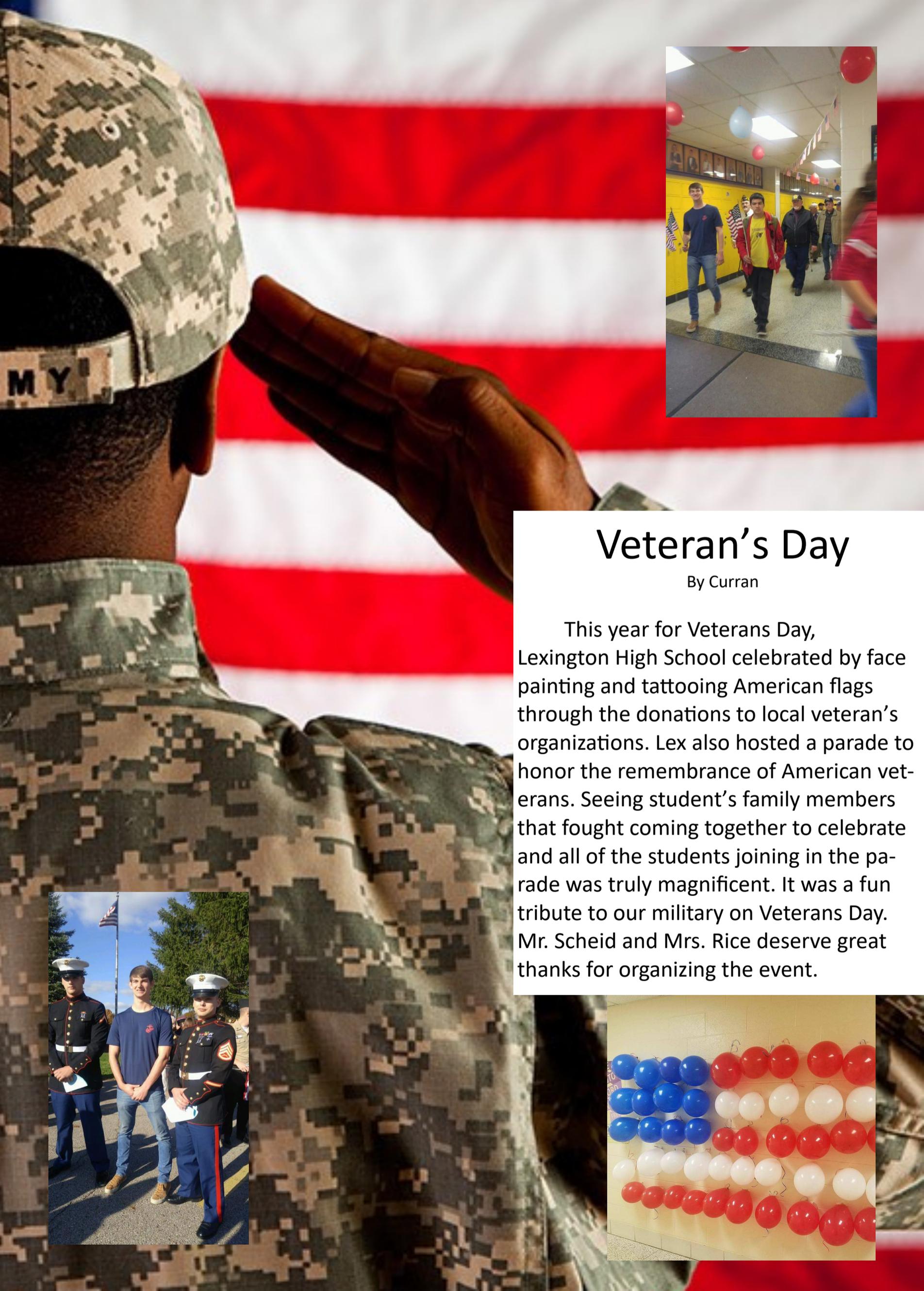
this tradition, the internet led shoppers to shop safely in the confine of their home without any dreading worries. This was first evident in 2005 where the average money spent decreased when compared the year prior. Since that time, Black Friday gradually declined in sales and shoppers with bits of recession between 2012~2013. What was once a joyful gathering for fellow shoppers has dwindled into an early morning internet stroll.



Despite the internet beginning the main downfall for Black Friday, much violence and chaos stirred the issue even more. The atmosphere of Black Friday ensured excitement over the shoppers and at times this excitement overtook them with irrational actions. Since its beginning, an estimated 10 people have died by being trampled, stabbed, and or shot to death. All these cases insinuated faster starting time on Thursday instead of early morning Friday. Being ridiculed as, "Black Thursday," this insidious change interrupted Thanksgiving entirely. In a comedic way, contradicting the true meaning of gratitude by brutally fighting your way to the newest TV sets.

A once graceful holiday of companionship has become a former shadow of itself due to unbeatable competition and insolence of some. Who knows how long this tradition will last with its decreasing line count and lack of shoppers. Like the forgotten Presidents Day before it, everything good must come to an end.





# Veteran's Day

By Curran

This year for Veterans Day, Lexington High School celebrated by face painting and tattooing American flags through the donations to local veteran's organizations. Lex also hosted a parade to honor the remembrance of American veterans. Seeing student's family members that fought coming together to celebrate and all of the students joining in the parade was truly magnificent. It was a fun tribute to our military on Veterans Day. Mr. Scheid and Mrs. Rice deserve great thanks for organizing the event.



## Christmas Coming Too Soon?

Lately, Christmas has been coming earlier and earlier. The music, the commercials, the decorations being sold. Christmas has over taken Thanksgiving. Christmas music starts before Halloween! On October 22nd, Best Buy started mixing in Christmas songs with their regular playlist. Sears, Kmart, Michael's, Lane Bryant, and Maurice's started playing favorite holiday hits on November 1st. From November 5th through the 9th, Ulta, Belk, and H&M were added to the list. Many other stores have also announced when they will start playing their Christmas favorites. On November 11th, Office Depot and Office Max will begin mixing in Yuletide tunes. Walmart and Dick's Sporting goods will begin playing on November 13th. In Mid-November, Verizon, Staples, Macy's, and AT&T are joining in on the Christmas mood. On Thanksgiving, J.C. Penney and Giant Eagle trample over the holiday at hand and push for Christmas to come with their music. Target will begin playing holiday music this year (in select stores) on Black Friday. Home Depot, Nordstrom, Whole Foods, Lowe's, Albertson's, Sprouts, Williams-Sonoma, Pottery Barn, and Foot Locker will also start on Black Friday.

There are also still many stores that their Christmas music release date is unknown. Franchises such as Sherwin Williams, True Value, Ace Hardware, Kroger, Dunkin Donuts, and Subway vary from store to store. Some companies haven't revealed when they will start spreading holiday cheer. Those companies are Starbucks, Apple, TJ Maxx, Ross, and Ikea. Some companies never play Christmas music in their stores, such as WinCo Foods, Costco, Autozone, Gamestop, and most Target stores.

Christmas is the biggest holiday of the year, but when is it too early to start celebrating and getting into the spirit? Companies need to figure out that line soon, and draw it. Is it before or after Thanksgiving? Is it too early before Halloween? If this doesn't get figured out soon, Christmas could become year-round. What would be special about it then?

Click on the picture to hear

Pentatonix



# Brian Kilmeade at the Renaissance Theater

By: Katie

Brian Kilmeade, a host with Fox and Friends, was at the Renaissance Theater in Mansfield on November 3, 2017. Kilmeade was at the Renaissance Theater as part of the Peter Schramm Memorial Lecture discussing his new book Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans. Despite your political ideology it was an event everyone could enjoy. On the sidewalk outside the theater were people protesting Fox News. Ignoring some of the historical inaccuracies, it was interesting to hear their protests and the reactions to them.



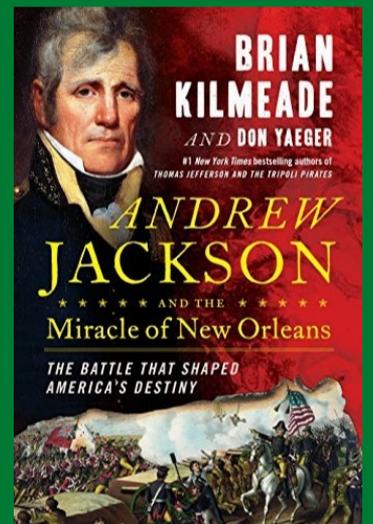
The Ashbrook Center was the host of the event and it started with the entire theater reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Director of the Ashbrook Center, Roger Beckett talked briefly and then introduced Kilmeade. From the moment that he began talking, a listener could tell that Kilmeade was a people person. Perhaps it was because he was always talking to them through his multiple shows or his comedic references to Jerry Seinfeld. The audience was quickly engaged in the lecture and a chorus of O-H-I-O broke out, twice!

One thing that would stick with the listener was when he stated that everything happens with a purpose. Kilmeade said, “you can control your efforts, you can’t control the outcomes.” This is an impactful state-

ment because so many people focus on the ends, and if those ends meet their expectations. When the end results to meet expectations that person gets upset. However, they need to focus on their efforts. Kilmeade believes that as Americans we come from people that have had patriotism from the beginning. In stating this, he draws parallels to George Washington’s spies who received no credit until decades after the war. He defined the Secret Six as the first real patriots of America. Patriotism has only grown in strength. There was a large increase following the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Mr. Kilmeade felt personally attacked when the planes were hijacked and American lives were lost. He believes in the most stringent of penalties and a limitation of rights of terrorists. Kilmeade, received a loud round of applause from the audience. He strongly believes in military power when it comes to fighting terrorists. He states, “if history is the judge and we want to take on terrorism then we have to be willing to fight”. The United States has never been a nation to hide from a fight. The display of military power and dominance has always been prevalent. Kilmeade suggested that it stay this way and Americans should keep patriotism alive.

Many Lexington students were in attendance to listen to Kilmeade discuss Andrew Jackson’s rise to fame after the Battle of New Orleans. Jackson recruited from all walks of life to take on the top military power of age, the British Army. Jackson used a mixture of Native Americans, marines, riflemen from Kentucky and Tennessee, and free blacks to form the defense of New Orleans. Remember the British Army just defeated Napoleon. Kilmeade didn’t elaborate too much, because he wanted the listeners to buy the book.



## Volleyball's Crowning Glory

This year, Lexington volleyball went on an impressive tournament run with four seniors leading the way to victory after victory. Julia says, “My favorite part about the season would have to be beating Norwalk to make it to regionals and having regionals at home with everyone supporting us.” Lexington went into the Norwalk game seeking revenge as they fell to Norwalk last year in district finals. When asked about her thoughts before the last game, Julia says, “I told myself to give it everything I possibly could since it could be the last time I’ll ever play the game I love at Lex.” She also adds that she wanted to be a good leader for the team and support everyone.

Another member of the team, Katie, says, “The team, this season, meshed really well especially towards the end because of all of the team bonding. I think that’s why we were able to have such a long run in the tournaments.” With any sport, seniors are always supposed to be the best leaders of the team, and that’s exactly how Katie describes the seniors on the volleyball team. “They’re a really talented class and good leaders, I definitely looked up to all of them.”

For anyone that was not there for both of the regional games missed a huge student section! From the countless chants to screaming until our lungs gave out, the team loved our support throughout both games.



# Miss Lexington

By Isabelle

On October 22, 2017, the new Miss Lexington was crowned. The Miss Lexington Pageant has been going on for 41 years. It is a scholarship program for young women that attend Lexington High School. The girls competing are judged in five different portions of competition. Interview, on stage question, casual/outfit of choice, physical fitness, and evening wear. These different portions of the competition help the judges decide who will be the next Miss Lexington.

The most heavily weighted portion of competition is the interview. The contestants met with the judges the morning of the pageant and were asked a variety of questions to show their personalities. This portion of the competition is important and was put in place to prepare the young women for real life situations. The interview portion sets them up for success from interviewing for a job, to interviewing for a college admissions board. Miss Lexington makes many appearances during her reign and has to interact with many different people, so being able to interview and relate to others is important. The girls also answered an onstage question that showed they can speak under pressure and articulate an answer in a matter of seconds.

The other phases of competition included a physical fitness routine, an outfit of choice/casual wear, and eveningwear. These parts of the competition are where the contestants show their personal style and personalities. This year the girls modeled outfits they picked out from Glam 356 in Mansfield. The contestants also tried something new this year during the casual wear competition. They each read the bios and descriptions of the outfits being worn by their competitors. This showed their speaking skills and more of their personalities to the judges and audience.

This format has been same for almost all 41 years the pageant has been going on. However, this year was a little different. The director of the pageant Drena McCurdy passed away this year in September, so the pageant had a special tribute to her. The past Miss Lexington's, current Miss Lexington, and contestants all put in hard work and time to make the pageant the best it has ever been. A new award was put in place named after the late Drena McCurdy. She will be missed deeply, but her memory and dedication to the pageant will live on.

The pageant also had many performers this year that made the show a hit. Lexington's Fire 'n' Ice sang, Ellie a student at Lexington and students from Pioneer sang and helped with lighting, sound, and stage.

The Miss Congeniality award was awarded to Autumn, where the girls vote that day on the girl that was the friendliest, helpful, and inspiring. Elana placed the third runner up, Shealyn second runner up, Olivia first runner up, and Grace is the new Miss Lexington 2017. Grace also won the casual wear, physical fitness, in stage question, and interview award. As the new Miss Lex she has already been making appearances at the haunted hallways trick or treat at Lexington High School, all Lexington school's veteran's day assemblies, and we are hoping to see her at more community events like Light up Lex and parades. Grace has done a great job already advocating and volunteering to make the village of Lexington a better place. Follow her on instagram @misslexingtonohio.



# Cultural phenomenon and Television

By Vipra

A cultural phenomenon, a.k.a., a giant bandwagon effect, occurs when something gains wide-spread popularity. This includes everything from singers, films and television. Throughout the years there were amazing television shows that stole the hearts of viewers. Some examples of phenomenal TV shows



Hollywood Boulevard. Even today you can see homages of the influential show everywhere you look.

The most recent phenomenon is Stranger Things created by the Duffer brothers. The show is part phenomenon, part homage, as

are X-Files, Game of Thrones, Firefly, Friends, Simpsons, The Office and most recently the Netflix original Stranger Things.

The X-files is one of those shows that bended through genres. The show spent nine years on the air tracing the lives of FBI agents Mulder and Scully as they fought aliens, and battled an ongoing government conspiracy. This show influenced so much of the programming of recent years, from Torchwood to Fringe and possibly more to come in the future.

Very few shows have influenced generations of television more than the Simpsons. 27 years ago, this animated family introduced themselves to our hearts and television screens. The Simpsons have virtually defined

comedy, satire, and a whole pop culture landscape. The show not only convinced the world that anima-

tion could be for adults but, it also proved to be highly lucrative. This epiphany geared directors and producers to lean heavily towards animated shows such as; South Park, Family Guy and countless more. The show has won 31 Primetime Emmys and even earned a star on the

well as a winning algorithm; it sits in the center of pop culture crossroads. The show gives fantastic homage to directors like Stephen Spielberg and John Carpenter as well as writer Stephen King. However, not of that explains why the show has become a massive hit. Nostalgia alone isn't strong enough for this big of an impact, nor is the borrowing of several genres. In truth, like magic, the process is unexplainable and the audience is left at the product to marvel at. Not only the nostalgia and nerd overload helped this show, but the amazing cast did their fair share. Online there are giant fan bases for the breakout cast of kids and characters. Fans everywhere tuned in on Oct. 27th for the second season of Stranger Things; it's not too late you can still catch up!



# The Not-So Shocking Reveal of a Different Assassination: A Follow-up on the Recently Released JFK Files

## By: Leah

October 26th of 2017 was the set release date for the secret JFK files kept locked up by the U.S. government. President Trump stated weeks before the release that he planned on revealing all secret files to the public in favor of full transparency. However, when October 26th finally came around, the President succumbed to the CIA's desire to keep certain files kept secret from the public and as a result, many files remained classified. Little by little files are still being released, some revealing more information than others.

It was predicted the files would not reveal any case-altering details. Despite these assumptions, many interesting discoveries were made. When rifling through the released files, documents were found regarding the price of Fidel Castro's head. A particular file was a documented FBI memo discussing the

price for assassinating Castro, along with Raul Castro and Ernesto "Che" Guevara. By the end they concluded group to be worth 140,000 dollars total, with Castro valuing at 100,000 dollars alone.

The FBI, however, was not the only U.S. government agency interested in the elimination of Cuba's "fearless" leader. The CIA supposedly had numerous plans set to assassinate Castro as well. Arguably, the most elaborate scheme was titled the "booby-trap spectacular seashell". Where a seemingly harmless "seashell" would be submerged under water in an area that Castro enjoyed diving in. the plan was to load the attractive seashell with explosives, that way when a curious Castro were to pick up the shell, the explosives would go off instantly killing the dictator. As astonishing as it sounds, the

plan could not be fulfilled due to the lack of Caribbean shells with enough space to house an explosive strong enough to kill.

While the U.S. found the murder of Castro to be quite valuable, another released document revealed Cuba to believe the assassination of President Kennedy to be worthless. A draft report done by the Select House Committee on Assassinations stated it to be improbable for Cuba to follow through with an assassination against the President because Cuba found the threat to be too great.

Although the U.S. plotting to kill the Cuban dictator comes to no surprise, it is interesting learning the details of the plots, as well as gaining assurance. These are only a fraction of the files released regarding JFK assassination and the timeline that led up to, and followed it – all equally intriguing.



# International Terror Against the U.S.

By Ajit

In the last ten years, nondomestic terror attacks have become much more common in America. Really, this phenomenon has been occurring since the attack by al-Qaida on 9/11. Here is a list of the major attacks in the U.S. since then:

July 4, 2002 LAX

Hesham Muhammed Hadayet who was an Egyptian national and a permanent resident in the U.S. attacked several people in Los Angeles International Airport. He didn't have any ties to any terror groups, so this act of terror was carried out alone by him. (2 killed, 4 wounded)

June 1, 2009

Abdulhakim Mujahid Muhammad fired on an army recruiting office in Little Rock, Arkansas. Despite being born in America, he had lived in Yemen for a time. He claimed to be a member of al-Qaida, but was later proved to be delusional in court. (1 killed, 1 wounded)

November 5, 2009

Nidal Hasan fired on the Soldier Readiness Processing Center in Fort Hood, Texas. Hasan was an Army Major, as well as American-born. He was acting alone, but had been exposed to jihadist websites which played a role. He was paralyzed in the attack and was later given the death sentence, but he is still alive and incarcerated in Kansas. (13 killed, 32 wounded)

April 15, 2013

Dzhokar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev set a bomb at the finish line of the 2013 Boston marathon. They were immigrants from Kyrgyz and had been self-radicalized. They copied the bomb style of al-Qaida. They were apprehended in a shootout with police in which Tamerlan died. Dzhokar was later sentenced to death. (3 killed, 264 wounded—2 officers killed, 16 injured)

July 16, 2015

Muhammad Abdulazez fired on a marine recruiting office and a Navy reserve center. He was a naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Kuwait. He was radicalized by online propaganda from multiple sources. (5 killed, 1 wounded)

December 15, 2015

Syed Farook and Tasheen Malik fired on a Christmas party for Farook's employers at the San Bernadino County Department of Public Health. They were killed in a shootout with the SBPD. Farook was American-born and Malik was an immigrant from Pakistan. They met online and got married in Saudi Arabia, but apparently they had already been radicalized before even meeting each other. San Bernadino is one of the most prominent examples of home-grown terrorism. (14 killed, 24 wounded)

June 12, 2016

Omar Matten assaulted a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida in mid-2016. This turned into a three-hour hostage situation which ended in police breaking in and killing Mateen in a shootout. During the time he was holding the hostages, he swore allegiance to ISIS multiple times. He was later found to have been radicalized over the internet. (49 killed, 58 wounded)

October 31, 2017

Several weeks ago, Sayfullo Saipov crashed a rented pickup truck down a bike path in Manhattan. The truck then went off the path and onto the road where it hit a small school bus. Saipov got out of the vehicle brandishing what appeared to be handguns (but weren't) and was shot by police. He pledged his allegiance to ISIS, but so far it doesn't seem like he was acting under instructions from the Islamic State. Saipov was born in Uzbek, but has been in the U.S. for six years and has lived in Florida and New Jersey. (8 killed, 11 injured)

## The Day after Thanksgiving: Black Friday or Buy Nothing Day?

We all know the day after Thanksgiving as Black Friday, but how many are aware that the same day is also Buy Nothing Day? Obviously, it is not publicized like Black Friday and fewer people celebrate this day. The day is exactly what it implies—buying

nothing. It's not exactly a holiday; it's a stand against consumerism. The protest was introduced by Adbusters in 1992. Adbusters is a relatively young nonprofit organization based in Canada. Today, it is observed by 60 different countries. Adbusters suggests other ways of celebrating the day is cutting up credit cards, going on a hike, or participating in a "Whirl-Mart" (forming a conga line of grocery carts in a store while not putting anything in them).

You may ask, how would one day of not buying anything affect anything? Adbusters made the day in theory that one day of awareness would lead to change in personal habits and consumerism.

How hard is it not to buy something for one day? It may seem simple, but consider everyday small purchases. A soda out of the vending machine, gas for the vehicle, milk from the store are all things we nonchalantly buy without much thought.

Maybe this Thanksgiving, we can truly show that our thankfulness goes deeper than a day, and we can say no to material wants for a little while. In a season that has grown to be based around material goods, maybe it would be good to take one day off from shopping and focus our attention on the important things in life.

-M