

THE EDGE

It could have been you

Zimmerman murder trial gets under way, spurrs public debate

BY LOGAN RINK
The Booster Redux

It's raining and you're on the phone with your girlfriend. You pull your hood up tighter around your head and glance over your shoulder. There's someone following you. Your girlfriend tells you to run. You've a bag of Skittles and an Arizona tea and you're headed back to your dad's girlfriend's house. You turn around and ask, "What are you following me for?" to which the man replies, "What are you doing here?"

What happens next may never be agreed upon, but there is one thing that is true: Trayvon Martin was shot and killed by George Zimmerman.

Regardless of whose side you take, 17-year-old Martin's or 28-year old Zimmerman's- or if you take a side at all- the point is that it could have been any high school student. It could have been you.

The more we learn about Martin, the more he sounds like a typical teenager, someone that could have been your friend or your little brother or your classmate or even you.

President Obama even commented on

the incident, sympathizing with Martin's parents and saying, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon."

This incident has received not only extensive media attention, but attention on social networks. Between support groups on Facebook for Martin's family and Zimmerman alike and Twitter users like Justice4Trayvon and Without Sanctuary, the information about this controversy- whether sensationalized or not- spread like wildfire. Most are aware that the controversy of this incident stems from the fact that, although Zimmerman admitted to shooting and killing Martin, he was not immediately charged with a crime on the basis of Florida's Stand Your Ground Law. Zimmerman claims that his shooting of Martin was in self defense; therefore, though homicide detective Chris Serino requested a warrant for Zimmerman's arrest, the warrant was not approved and Zimmerman was initially free of charges.

Most of us are now aware, too, that on April 11, Florida State Attorney Angela Corey announced that Zimmerman had been charged with second-degree murder in the killing of Martin. Zimmerman is now

in custody.

Now, we could discuss the facts of the case in more depth and could dispute the different witness testimonies and so on, but what I want to focus on is at the heart of the case: the hoodie.

Fox News host Geraldo Rivera said, "I think the hoodie is as much responsible for Trayvon Martin's death as much as George Zimmerman was."

The reaction to this outrageous statement sparked massive hoodie-wearing protests, anger on social networking sites, and even led to a congressman being kicked off the House floor.

On Mar. 28, Illinois representative Bobby Rush (D) addressed the House of Representatives on racial profiling and the Martin case. As he began addressing the House, he pulled off his suit jacket to reveal a grey hoodie, one not unlike Martin would have been wearing, pulled up his hood, and slid on a pair of sunglasses. As the presiding officer slammed his gavel and demanded that Rush was violating dress code, Rush spoke about racial profiling.

"Racial profiling has to stop. Just because someone wears a hoodie, [it] does not

make them a hoodlum," he said.

Rivera's statement is part of why this incident is so relatable to students. If wearing a hoodie is what makes a person suspicious, then PHS's parking lot is full of suspicious people on rainy days. Did Zimmerman find Martin to be suspicious simply because he was an African-American kid wearing a hooded jacket? That is where the real story lies.

The real story is that it could have been you.

You could have been walking back to see your family, talking on the phone to your girlfriend, carrying a canned tea and some Skittles, being followed by someone who thinks you're going to break into someone's house because of the color of your skin or the clothes on your back. You could have been shot and killed that day. You are Trayvon Martin.

So am I, which is why on Tuesday, April 24, I will be wearing my hoodie and I hope you will join me. Because we're all Trayvon Martin, and whatever your view on the situation, there's one thing that can't be argued: it could have been you.

Take a stand: support Cover The Night

BY ABBI EPPERSON AND LOGAN RINK
The Booster Redux

In the world that we live in, one of the best ways to reach out to the population as a whole is through the internet. With this in mind, the internet can be used by many organizations to help make people aware of its cause.

On March 5, an organization called Invisible Children released a video on YouTube titled Kony 2012. The purpose of the video was to promote the charity's movement to end the reign of terror caused by war criminal Joseph Kony in Uganda and have him arrested.

Joseph Kony is the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). He is accused of abducting children from their villages and forcing them to become his child sex slaves and child soldiers. The LRA is present in Uganda, the main country stressed in the video, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan.

Within just six days of the video's release, it had 100 million viewers on Youtube. That is 12 days more than it took Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance" to get her 100 million viewers, and 50 days faster than how long it took for Justin Bieber's "Baby" to get his.

Due to its rising popularity, this campaign has sparked debates all over the U.S. Some call it a revolution, while others just call it a scam. Journalists from CNN, ABC, and CBS have called the video nothing more than a very popular,

yet extremely over-exaggerated story.

Unfortunately, some recent actions by Kony 2012 filmmaker Jason Russel, have not helped assure the video's credibility. On March 17, Russel was detained in San Diego for an incident of public indecency. However, many followers refuse to show anything but loyalty for the organization itself.

"I think people think that it's a scam for money after what happened with the creator," freshman Reagan Rink said. "However, everyone makes mistakes and I guess he just made a big one."

Although Kony 2012 is the most popular video posted by the Invisible Children organization, that does not mean it is the only video. Invisible Children originally began its work in 2005. In 2009, the organization held a protest called "The Rescue" and Kansas City, Kan. was one of the 100 cities that participated in the event. Thousands of people set up camp in the park and were visited by the creators of the organizatio, itself.

Tonight, Invisible Children has an event that is hitting much closer to home called Cover The Night. The organization is challenging everybody to go around their own towns and cover them with signs and posters to spread the word about Kony 2012 and to make his name as public as possible. In the video, many influential celebrities and policy makers are listed and people are urged to contact

them on this day.

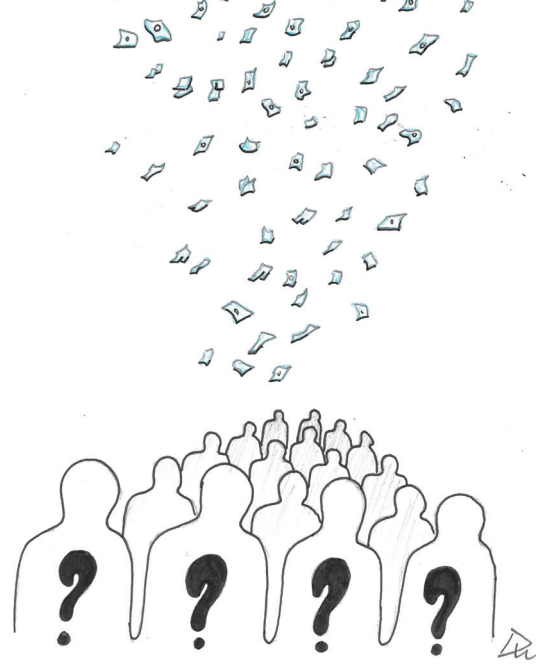
Branches of Invisible Children all over the U.S., including Pittsburgh's very own Invisible Children at PSU, are planning on participating in the event. Even some PHS students who are passionate about the organization are planning on participating in Cover The Night and encourage everyone to participate if they can.

"I'm so passionate about this because it involves harming young innocent children," junior Olivia Laidler said. "That may be the most cruel and sad thing that one can do. I believe that if everyone joins together we could put a stop to this, so by attending 'Cover the Night,' it will really help to spread the word and bring awareness."

While some of the facts used in the video are undefined, such as the fact that the "25,000 children abducted by the LRA" were abducted over the past 25 years, the video itself is credible. Members of the Ugandan and American branches of Invisible Children can attest to these facts. The only thing that Invisible Children is trying to accomplish with its KONY 2012 video is raising awareness.

You can choose to believe the video or not believe the video, but think about it this way. If you believe that this organization is not credible, or that the video is over-exaggerated or even a lie, then why did you read to the end of this article?

KONY 2012



Winter is coming

BY REECE BURNS
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For 16 years, the book series 'A Song of Ice and Fire' has been gracing a wide range of audiences, and last April, the first highly anticipated episode of 'Game of Thrones' (the title of the first book in the 'A Song of Ice and Fire' series) was introduced by HBO, and quickly gained popularity from critics and the public alike.

'Game of Thrones' takes place in a medieval fantasy land of the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, and in the Continent East of the Narrow Sea known as Essos. So what is this political-fantasy epic about? Let me break it down for you. The Seven Kingdoms, which are all governed by noble families, are all under the king of the Iron Throne's rule. Now if the name tells you anything then it should tell you that the noble families are literally playing political and potentially deadly 'games' to gain the favor or even take control of the throne. You will definitely see the darker side of a political system in this series, which is probably where author, George R.R. Martin got his inspiration.

'Game of Thrones' debuted on April 17, 2011, and due to audience response was picked up for a second season two days later, which aired April 1, 2012. Nine days after season two aired it was picked up for a third season. So what exactly is the big hype about this show? A political-epic series can't sound that great right? Wrong.

Along with its phenomenal storyline, viewers will also find that 'Game of Thrones' boasts a knack for humor, action, love, drama, and my personal favorite;

good acting. The show wouldn't be the same without some of the actors. Sean Bean (National Treasure) sets the stage for us in season one as the main character of the series and the major protagonist, Ned Stark. The Stark family of the northernmost kingdom in Westeros, is one of the main players in this game. Their rivals, however, the Lannisters also boast one of the best actors in the series; Peter Dinklage (Chronicles of Narnia, Elf, Death at a Funeral.) Dinklage sports one of the best roles in the entire series as Tyrion Lannister, the dwarf son of the most powerful lord in Westeros; Tywin Lannister. However, like his size,

Game of Thrones



his standing with his father also falls short to his twin brother and sister Jaime and Cersei. Tyrion not only supplies most of the humor in the show but also becomes a major character in the series and will win your hearts over.

There is a word of warning to those who wish to dwell into 'Game of Thrones.' Do not get too attached to any character of the series, or your hearts will most likely be crushed. The series is like a roller coaster, its subtle and laid back at times, then with a blink of an eye its spiraling out of control with many plot twists and surprises. The show could probably be classified

as a thriller. A word of advice, if you want to catch up with the first season, rent the entire season so you won't have to wait.

Onto the downsides of the series. Now as I mentioned earlier, this is a fantasy series and though the first season lacks magic and anything very fantasy-like, it does pick up towards the end of season one and into season two. Now there's only three episodes of season two out so far, so its hard to tell whether the magic will be a failure and make the series cheesy, or if it will contribute to the series nicely.

'Game of Thrones' doesn't have a very high budget, and as I've watched the three episodes of season two, it's really starting to show even though the series received a 15% increase in budget for season two. This is too great of a series to be lacking a proper budget for its necessary expenses.

All in all, 'Game of Thrones' is a great and highly addictive series. If you don't want to read the books, this is the first series where I could say that you aren't missing a whole lot. The series stays almost spot-on to the books which makes the immense books easier to read and follow. The first season started slowly, as the first few episodes really set the stage and the action fired up around episode four. Sadly, season two also seems to be following in season one's footsteps and has been really slow, although Tyrion has had some pretty great scenes and moments. He's probably the reason I can stay interested in the show. Personally I'm hoping it'll fire up with episode four's premiere this upcoming Sunday. Winter is coming.

From Edward vs. Jacob to Peeta vs. Gale

The Hunger Games comes to life

BY MALORY WHITE
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In present day North America, a common teenager's idea of a challenging event could range from that end-of-the-year test everyone is dreading to that huge concert you had to kill to get tickets for. Future North America, according to author Suzanne Collins, is a desolate empty shell of present-day North America, challenging its teenagers with events only today's teenagers could dream of; or read about in a novel. As I poured through the pages, the violence described resulted in intense and graphic mental imagery, though my thoughts were nothing compared to what the director, Gary Ross, brought to life on the big screen.

Instead of killing for concert tickets, the teenagers of future North America kill for glory, recognition and survival by fighting to the death at an annual competition held in a different environmentally

controlled arena each year. The event, conspicuously dubbed the Hunger Games, is the gruesome, annual rivalry reality show featuring one young boy and girl, ages 12 to 18, from each of the 12 remaining districts.

Ross didn't stop making magic there, however, and, with Collins and casting

director Debra Zane, hit the arrow on the bullseye by casting Jennifer Lawrence (Katniss Everdeen) and Josh Hutcherson (Peeta Mellark) as the "star-crossed lovers" of District 12. (For the record, I am team Peeta.) The way their somewhat forced relationship was described in the novel was more explanatory, as the reader knew Katniss' thoughts. However, in the movie it seemed rushed and not as convincing. I'll have to admit, packing the detailed events, minus

character thoughts, into a 142 minute movie could be a challenge, especially when I personally expected the movie to be exactly or almost identical to the book.

Despite the minor differences, I didn't blink once throughout the entire March 23 premiere of the movie, excluding when

I turned to my friend and asked, "What? This isn't right. That's so not what happened in the book."

Either way, I loved the movie almost as much as I loved reading the novels. It was a little more difficult though having to wait for the end of the movie compared to speed reading through the book turning pages as fast as I possibly could. I would recommend The Hunger Games to absolutely anyone, and after the movie received 86 percent

audience approval rating from Rotten Tomatoes and a 77 percent audience approval rating from IMDb, how could you resist seeing this favorable movie?

Katniss' story doesn't stop there, however, and Collins continues the series with Catching Fire and Mockingjay, the novels that follow the Hunger Games. Catching Fire will not be in theaters until an estimated November of 2013, though the novel is currently available and waiting for readers eager to learn more of Katniss' and Peeta's story.

Like the initial impression of Stephanie Meyer's Twilight, the Hunger Games series is boasting a beneficial turnout. Twilight, the every-teenage-girl's-dream flick, received a 82 audience approval rating according to Rotten Tomatoes. But let's face it; a courageous, feisty, bow-and-arrow aficionado versus a sparkling, pasty, vampire is more appealing any day.

The Hunger Games

