

The Raptor Review

Spring Term 2017 Edition

"Memories... Do Not Open"- The Review

By: Stephen Freedman

Alex Pall and Drew Taggart, better known as The Chainsmokers, released their debut album, "Memories...Do Not Open," on April 7, 2017. This came about five months after their 2nd EP was released, called "Collage." Compared to all of their previous songs, fans were expecting a DJ heavy album with some vocals from Drew. He had previously sung on "All We Know" and "Closer." Before the album was released they released three singles "Paris", "The One" featuring some uncredited female singer. People speculated whether or not this could be French Singer, Louane, after it was announced that she would be on the album. The final song was "Something Just Like This" featuring Coldplay. This song had a nice beat drawing similarities to the beat of "Roses." This annoyed critics and even some fans as they had growing concerns of whether or not each track would sound similar to a previous one. Although "Something Just Like This" received criticism, it is one of the most popular songs off of the album. "Paris" was the first song released to feature Drew's voice without another featured singer. Once the album was

released, "Young" and "Bloodstream" became immediate fan favorites.

"Young" is about falling in love at too young of an age and how the age created more mistakes. This song was vocals from Drew and no supporting artist. "Bloodstream" is popular because it starts with nice calm piano and vocals and then it picks up with a more DJ-esque beat, becoming a fan favorite due to different kinds of singing for Drew.

Emily Warren. Friend and frequent collaborator of the Chainsmokers is also the female vocals on "The One." Her other two songs "Don't Say" and "My Type" both display her singing capabilities and the Chainsmokers' ability to create original beats. Also, all songs without Drew's vocals except for "Last Day Alive" featuring Florida Georgia Line, showcase a more traditional EDM beat.

My two favorite songs with EDM-esque beats are "Wake Up Alone" featuring Jhene Aiko and "It Won't Kill Ya" featuring Louane. These two songs display two incredible vocals paired up with the kind of music that the fans were initially anticipating.

The wide variety of types of music is further seen in "Honest" and "Break Up Every Night."

"Honest" consists of being a song in the middle of pop and EDM. This is appealing to fans because on songs where The Chainsmokers skills

as DJs appear, most look forward to Drew's vocals. "Break Up Every Night" is an interesting song due to its transitions of beats and its ironically uplifting tune given its name.

Overall, The Chainsmokers album is very good, despite poor reviews from critics. Most seem to forget that this is only their debut album. Hopefully, The Chainsmokers have years more to come. Currently they are on tour and have a concert at Merriweather Post Pavillion on May 26th.

Abe Pollin AZAA Basketball Season Recap

By: Eli Bloom

Final Score vs Oseh A: Lost 59-28

We put up a surprisingly good fight. We were neck and neck at the beginning, at one point even winning 12-10. Then, we started playing like ourselves. Their size and strength were way too much for us to handle, and it quickly turned into a blowout. However, Oseh A is usually the best team in the entire league, and scoring 28 points against them was an accomplishment.

Final Score vs Lantos: Lost 49-20

It wasn't our best game. They immediately jumped out to a huge lead, effortlessly driving past our defense. Meanwhile, we couldn't get any shots to fall. At the half, they were leading 28-3. However, we did not hang our heads. As Keith Davis once said, it's all about the second half. This motivated us, and we remarkably scored 17 points in the second half. However, that was not enough to get the win. We only had 5 players, and we gave it our all.

Final Score vs Max Cowan AZA: Won 25-23

That was a first. With a bit of help, we pulled off a huge upset. The game was very low scoring, as we were losing 9-6 at the half.

However, we started heating up at the beginning of the second half, and we jumped out to a 7 point lead. They didn't give up though, and after a missed 3 pointer that could have won the game, we celebrated our first win in about two years.

Final Score vs Melech: Won 45-34

We originally thought that we had forfeited the game. However, as many people forgot, we were technically still on a team with SDJ. They showed up for the first time vs. Melech, and they fielded a team. Nobody in our

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chapter was aware of this, and they surprisingly beat Melech. This counted as a win for our chapter.

Scheinberg as he led Lantos to victory over SDJ.

Final Score vs Brandeis: Lost 36-16

This game, SDJ showed up again. It was a low scoring first half, and while we couldn't get our shots to fall, we managed to only be losing 16-10 at half. Things did not change in the second half. We still couldn't get our shots to fall, and SDJ called for subs after every possession. All of SDJ also didn't know "Up You Men."

We finished the regular season with a 2-3 record, which is the best record we've had in a long time. We finished the season as the 6th seed out of 8 teams. We were scheduled to play our brother chapter, Lantos, in the first round.

Final Score of Playoff Game vs Lantos: Lost 30-27

Nobody in the chapter was able to attend this game, but SDJ was there once again. They stayed close with Lantos the whole game, but no one was able to guard Evan

Thupan: Not Just a Game, but a Brotherhood

By: David Golding

Thupan is an obscure net sport not for the faint of heart. What it lacks in competition, it makes up for in gentlemanly behavior. Thupan can be played in three manners, each with unique characteristics: Thupan (best suited for courts), Table Thupan (best suited for tables), and Hand Thupan (best suited for hands).

Regular Thupan was invented by Jack McCallister, Gabe Sarecky, Vinod Siberry, Blake Munshell, Yuvaraj Sharma, and myself. It is played three to a team, short-court. It is played with rackets. A drop-and-hit serve begins the rally; the server is limited to three faults before forfeiting the rally to the other team. After the serve, the ball must bounce before the other team can hit it. Then, the team must have three hits before it can be hit over to the other side, but the ball can only bounce once before being hit over. Of course, the gentlemanly behavior must be upheld on each hit. The recommended technique is to utilize

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the angles. There is an opportunity to block, but during the process of the block, one must maintain their arm position and the block must have some arc for friendliness. This game cannot be witnessed by Conch.

Thupan was originally brought to the table by Matthew Levine, Joshua Averbach and myself. It is played two to a team, on a table tennis court. It is played with paddles and a small plastic hollow ball. The majority of the rules are maintained, however for blocks one is permitted wrist movement but no arm movement is permitted. In addition, Table Thupan has an opportunity for victory. After an allotted amount of time, there is a point to determine the server of the final point, also known as the Purgatory Point. Then the final point commences, and the victor of the point is the victor of the match.

Thupan was brought to hands by Jeremy Bloom, Eric Schwartz, Seth Garelick, Evan Tarloff, Jonas Buckberg, Sam Margol and myself. Hand Thupan follows many of the same rules as regular Thupan, however in place of the net, a bench is used. Hand Thupan has extra emphasis on gentlemanly behavior, even imposing required substitutions for poor behavior. 1 Rally ejections are for poor choices of words. 3 Rally ejections are for restrained aggression. 5 Rally ejections are for unrestrained acts of aggression. If

any information is exchanged amongst a team, all players must gather center court while chanting, "Secrets, secrets are no fun, unless you share with everyone." Once disputes have been settled in a gentlemanly manner, the game is resumed. In addition, Hand Thupan has an opening and closing ceremony, which must occur. This game is played on an approximately 10'x10' court, each team having three players. The ball is allowed to bounce on the bench once per rally, but it cannot be intentional and not on the serve.

Thupan, frankly, is not a game, but it is a lifestyle. The continuous gentlemanly behavior must be maintained even when not involved in a game. For as a player, you represent the jolly game itself. One must always remember that, in the wise words of our fallen comrade Blake Munshell, "Thupan is a gentlemen's sport!"

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

By: Eli Marshall

This report will explore the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and violations of human rights. On May, 14, 1948, Israel declared independence from the British Empire with the help of the World Zionist

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Organization. Over the decades there has been a shift in the global war. Terrorism is on the rise and the international community is fighting to stop it. Israel has been on the front line of this new conflict from the beginning.

In 2004, the United Nation told Israel to stop the West Bank occupation and finally in 2005, Israel gave the Palestinians the Gaza Strip. There are two aspects to this conflict's threats to humans rights; the use of military force and tactics on a civilian population and the support of illegal settlements on the West Bank. 15,000 missiles have been launched from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in attacks on the civilian population. Currently, Israel is the United States' closest ally in the Middle East and the fourth strongest military in the world, therefore making it important that we maintain this relationship with them. At the same time, the laws that have been put in place must be respected. This includes limiting the use of military force on civilians and following the declaration of human rights. To clearly understand the issue, it is important to fully understand the governmental powers of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the religious importance of the country to each religion, and events that have transpired over the last few years.

The country of Israel has great significance to a variety of religions. Jews, Muslims, and Christians all have holy sites in Jerusalem. The holiest site for Jews is the Kotel or Western Wall. The wall is the last part of the second temple that is still standing today. The Muslims have Dome of the Rock, a shrine that is the third most holy spot in the Muslim faith. This spot is the place where all three faiths believe that "Abraham was prepared to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God" (Got Questions Ministries). The Christians have Golgotha, the sight that is believed to be where Jesus was crucified (Stump). Throughout history, this land has been attacked and taken over for the religious value that it holds. When Israel became a state, it obtained control over all the holy sights, an action that enraged many Muslims and Christians. To try to ease tension, Israel gave the Gaza Strip and West Bank to the Palestinian authority. The governing body of the Gaza Strip and West Bank is the terrorist organization Hamas, a group that has launched 15,200 missiles into Israel since 2005 (Idfonline). All the missile attacks have been in hopes of expanding the Gaza Strip and taking back Israel. The borders of the Palestinian authority are being disputed today by the United Nation, Hamas, and Israeli government. The only way an agreement will work is if

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two governing bodies, one from each country, agree to the terms.

Some believe the Israeli government is supporting illegal settlement. The government is supplying housing for immigrants into private Palestinian land in the West Bank. They are taking land that does not belong to them and not paying or reimbursing the owners for the land that they have stolen. Under UN international law, Israel is violating the borders setup that is stated in many treaties (Al Jazeera). When they are building settlements, police are present to remove the Palestinian from their land. "Israel enforces severe and discriminatory restrictions on Palestinians' human rights, and it builds and supports unlawful settlements in the occupied West Bank. Its security forces appear to use excessive force against Palestinian" (Bashi.) The police engage in racial profiling and the people of Palestine have not done anything to deserve the cruel treatment that they are receiving from the police. Some believe the violation of human rights by the Israeli government needs to be addressed and stopped.

The first year the US provided Israel financial aid was in 1949. It was also right after Israel established itself as a superpower in the Seven Day War, a war in which all seven Arab nations surrounding Israel attacked, all at once. Israel defeated

them swiftly after just seven days. Shortly after the war, the United States and Israel realized the usefulness a mutual partnership could be to each nation. A partnership grew over the years into an alliance. Israel is the United States' eyes in the Middle East; they go where the US cannot, providing support and intel we do not have access to. The US provides funds, military technology, and advisement. Our relationship with Israel is both special and essential to the continuation of keeping the US safe. In the world we live in, cutting-edge technology is essential to keeping the world we live in safe (Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy). Israel has developed an anti-missile system called the Iron Dome. The Iron Dome has a 90 percent hit rate, which is 30 percent better than the United States'. This is one of many examples of Israel having technology that is vital to keeping America safe (The Jerusalem Post). The Iron Dome has had the most success protecting Israel from the missile launched by Hamas, the terrorist organization, and governing bodies of the West Bank and Gaza. Hamas has been responsible for many bombings, attacks, and threats against Israeli citizen. Israel has been occupying the Gaza Strip and West Bank in an effort to limit these acts. Israel treats terrorists much like prisoners of war, and therefore is subjected to the Geneva Connection

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protecting them from cruel or unusual punishment. This treatment is fairer than most countries give terrorists Israel is showing sympathy to their prisoners and don't wish to harm them only keep Israel safe. (Fletcher)

The Middle East is suffering from civil war, use of chemical weapons, change of power, and destabilization of the region. Israel is in the middle of the territory, it is the only democratic nation in the region. They are the only true allies of America in the Asia-Africa continents and without them we would have no reliable allies in the eastern hemisphere. Israel and US relation is vital to keeping that region as safe as possible and resolving the many violations of human rights.

After many hours of research, it was concluded that Israel is in clear violation of human rights, illegal settlement, and racial profiling. These are issues we face on US soil too. Work should be put towards creating a two state solution, Israel and Palestine. No punishment or harm should occur along as a two state solution occurs.

Israeli-American relations are essential to keeping the American people safe. All countries have issues but the answer isn't to stop helping. Staying involved will allow us to regulate the issue personally and directly. Most of the issues stated in

the article above can be solved with a two state solution.

BBYO's Got a New Initiative

By: Josh Averbach

BBYO has come up with yet another initiative. The new initiative, called "Initiative Insanity" aims to reward chapters for coming up with names of creative-sounding initiatives.

"I think this is a very smart move by BBYO. I just hope my chapter can take the initiative to come up with lots of initiatives!" said prominent advisor Rob Tarloff while wearing an Initiative Insanity t-shirt.

Initiative Insanity is structured as a contest. Chapters earn one point for every initiative name they come up with. The score is doubled with the addition of alliteration or a rhyme. If the initiative is recruitment-based, the chapter receives a huge boost, which the council calls a "50 point initiative."

"I wasn't gonna join BBYO before. I hated it. But once my recruitment was given a catchy name, I couldn't help but join!" said AIT Zachary Goldschmidt.

The Sherwood High School Spring Concert

By: Michael Boden

If you haven't heard of it, I wouldn't be surprised since it is not as popular as Rock and Roll Revival but it still has great music. It is the Spring Concert at Sherwood High School! This year it was on May 4th at 7:30 pm. The singers are very talented and it is fun to listen to great music. All the performers are students who are enrolled in choral music groups. You will also hear special performances by the Sweet Adeline's and Barbershop performers. If you haven't seen this amazing free concert, this is a must see. Put this on your bucket list for next year and get ready to have a music-filled night!

The Ballad of the Highest Five

(The untold true story of the
greatest high five ever
between Seth Garelick and
Jeremy Bloom)

Men and women, young and old.

gather round for a story of the
highest of fives ever told.

Two men blurred the line between
friend and brother.
When they strolled through the hall
and spotted each other.

Their eyes met with a single thought
in their minds.
They took a break from their long
daily grinds.

They each raised a hand and held it
high.
As their happiness soared up to the
sky.

Their hands met in the middle with a
thunderous clap.
Which woke a nearby slacker from his
hallway nap.

The men looked at each other with
faces of surprise.
Knowing they had just tightened their
friendship ties.

The hands were high and the sound
was intense.
It was an overwhelming experience to
the sense.

As we look back on this moment of
friendship gold.
We conclude the story of the
greatest high five ever told.

Written by: Seth Garelick

Does Violence Create Power Or Control?

By: Josh Bloomberg

Violence creates power and control over a group of people. It is seen in history, T.V., and modern society. In World War II Hitler and his army of Nazis terrorized the countries of Europe. He blamed Germany's problems on the Jewish people. As a result, Jews were taken away from family and friends to be murdered or enslaved. Nazis beat down and shot anyone on sight who disobeyed. This violence gave Hitler so much power, which he used to control neighboring countries. Fearing they would be killed, nobody would stand up to the Nazis. Also in the world of shows and movies, violence too equals power. In the show *The Walking Dead*, a dictator, known as Neagan, murders two members of another group in order for them to "work" for him. This violence created fear amongst the second leader, Rick. With Rick being afraid of Neagan's violence, Neagan had power over Rick and his friends. Another example of violence creating power can be found in

gangs. In Baltimore or Chicago, two of the deadliest cities in America, are filled with violence. The gangs that cause violence can control the people within those cities. Violence causes fear, and then fear causes power and control. Even with the spread of fear, people continue to use violence over and over again to maintain their power.

Top Tens!

Jewish Holidays Ranked

By: Jared Schwartz

8. **Yom Kippur:** Fasting is a massive L and everyone knows it
 7. **Hanukkah:** Hanukkah is just a knock-off Christmas and it might as well not even be a holiday
 6. **Shabbat:** Quality beats quantity every time
 5. **Rosh Hashanah:** Rosh Hashanah is a pretty irrelevant holiday, but apples and honey are pretty good
 4. **Passover:** Matzah ball soup is more delicious than matzah is disgusting.
 3. **Sukkot:** Who doesn't love boolin' in an outdoors shack with the ghost of your ancestors
 2. **Purim:** Jewish Halloween is pretty dank.
 1. **Tu BiShvat:** There is no argument; Tu BiShvad is hands-down the litttest Jewish holiday.
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Top 10 U.S. Cities

By Matt Levine

- Honorable Mentions
New York, NY
Los Angeles, CA
New Orleans, LA
10. **Atlantis, Atlantic Ocean**
 9. **San Francisco, CA**
 8. **Miami, FL**
 7. **Santa Fe, NM**
 6. **Austin, TX**
 5. **Houstatlantavegas, Unknown**
 4. **Nawf Atlanta, GA**
 3. **East Atlanta, GA**
 2. **Chiraq, IL**
 1. **Brookeville, MD**
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Top Tens, continued

Top 10 Bands Based on Their Name

By: Eric Schwartz

10. Arctic Monkeys
 9. The Velvet Underground
 8. The Monkees
 7. Herman's Hermits
 6. The Beatles
 5. The Strokes
 4. The Killers
 3. The Who
 2. Cream
 1. Korn
-

Top "Net" Sports

By: Adam Levine

10. Tennis?
 9. Newcomb
 8. Pickleball
 7. Table Tennis
 6. Volleyball
 5. Badminton
 4. Hand Thupan
 3. Table Thupan
 2. Sinnet
 1. Thupan
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