



# TRITON VOICE



TRITON HIGH SCHOOL

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

November 14, 2013

## Tragedy Hits Home with death of teacher

By Cedric Colbert  
Staff Writer

Sometime after school on October 22, popular math teacher Colleen Ritzer lost her life. A freshman at the school, Philip Chism, has been charged in connection with her death.

Chism, who was originally from Tennessee, was new to the school. According to news reports, students at Danvers High thought him to be an average kid. He was fairly quiet, but he had friends and was a star on the JV soccer team.

Ritzer was a beloved math teacher who focused on her students' well-being.

She often sent out inspiring Twitter tweets to her students. Since her death, the tweet that has received the most attention was originally sent in August. It states, "No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind."

Many believe those two sentences essentially sum up Ritzer's life. Junior Jess Stavropoulos, who lives in Danvers, said her sister had

Ritzer for a teacher last year. Stavropoulos explained that Ritzer "was known to be a very happy person. She always did as much as she could to help students."

Senior Samantha Chapman, also from Danvers, said her friends who knew the teacher described Ritzer "as the perfect teacher. No one had anything bad to say about her."

"She was known to be a very happy person. She always did as much as she could to help students."

— Junior Jess Stavropoulos, a Danvers resident whose sister had Ritzer as a teacher

Ritzer's apparent positivity and willingness to help has led many to wonder why she was targeted. Triton art teacher Mrs. Toni MacDonald-Fein said, "This really makes you wonder what would happen if it was here?"



Colleen Ritzer was a first-year teacher at Danvers High School (courtesy image).

The U.S. has seen numerous instances of school violence in the past several years. Fein says that, "We obviously are shocked when anyone is killed in a school, but now that this is so close to home, it really makes you think."

Monica Hurley, who graduated from Triton last spring, currently attends Assumption College, which is where Ritzer attended school. "It's so strange to think, this story is hitting me in both my homes- Salisbury so close to Danvers, and now Holden and going to school at Assumption," said Hurley.

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## Are you 8 or 18?

By Cedric Colbert  
Staff Writer

There are many new privileges and responsibilities that Americans experience when they turn 18. However, none of them follow you into Triton.

Eighteen-year-olds can sign up for the draft, register to vote, serve prison time, drop out of school, pay income taxes, and buy a home, lottery ticket, or a pack of cigarettes. Something eighteen-year-old students at Triton cannot do is sign themselves out of school.

It is a scenario many students will face at some point in their high school career. As a student, you may have a study last period and would rather spend your free time in the privacy of your own home rather than at school. You get the urge to hop in your car and leave, until you realize that would mean punishment by Saturday School.

Senior Mark Landry is outraged by the rule. He explains, "Even though I'm now a legal adult, I can't do something as simple as sign myself out of school during a study."

This issue is one that many seniors complain about. School administrators enforce the rule because, during school hours, they are legally responsible for the students. However, here at Triton, they do not even offer a waiver for eighteen-year-old students to sign, releasing themselves from the responsibility of the school.

Senior Erik Siebert believes eighteen-year-olds at Triton, like all American adults, should be presented with some form of a choice.

"I understand the school is responsible for us, but they don't even give us an option," said Siebert. "There should be some sort of a waiver for us to sign so we can leave without one of the principals chasing after us."

While many Triton students believe that seniors across the country are treated like children, they are wrong. At Masconomet High School, there is a section in their handbook, on page 29, called the "Eighteen Year Old Release". This states that eighteen year olds are able to request that all correspondence from the school be directed to them, not their parents. This means that report cards will not be sent to the student's parents, and any e-mails or phone calls that would usually be sent out to parents, will now be sent to the eighteen-year-old student.

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## Breaking down stereotypes

Students discuss inaccuracies of being from one Triton town or another

By Eric Nintala  
Staff Writer

When a bunch of teenage students from different towns are put into the same building, cliques and groups often start to form. Fingers will be pointed in judgment and sometimes stereotypes result.

At Triton, the rule is no different. Stereotypes sometimes arise among the three towns that make up the district.

"The biggest stereotype I've heard of a Triton town is definitely that the Salisbury kids are all on drugs and get bad grades," said senior Alessandra Greco.

Aside from that, the other towns have their fair share of labels. Byfield and Newbury are known as the preppy "try-hards" and the kids from Rowley are rednecks who do not want to associate with people outside their community, some say.

"I think the stereotypes are stupid," said Sophomore Jessica Greaney. "I don't think that it is right to judge someone on what they wear, where they live, or what they do."

Many students and teachers believe Greaney to be correct, including senior Patrick Meehan, a student from Salisbury who is vocal in his opposition to the stereotypes that too many students believe are true.

"Most of the judgment (by peers



Senior Pat Meehan, a Salisbury resident and an honors and AP student, discusses being labeled because of the town he hails from (Nintala photo).

of me) was a surprise," said Meehan, an all AP and honors student. "All the Rowley kids thought I was from either Byfield/Newbury and the Byfield/Newbury kids thought I was from Rowley. As an AP/honors student from Salisbury, I find it unfair to be judged on

intelligence based on my town. Sure there are a lot of bright kids from the other towns, but Salisbury has a lot of intelligent people too."

Rumors, judgments, or jokes, there are a lot of reasons that could have started these well-known rumors. Despite that, there were some students who believed that they possess their own town stereotypes.

"Most people from my town (Newbury) are stereotyped as a close knit group that sticks together, always," said senior Anna Gavel. "I think I possess (some of those traits), but not everything."

Senior Keenan Kealy said he feels it is not ok to generalize a whole town full of students based on a few students behavior, no matter which town they are from.

"Honestly, it is a very small select few who give (a town) the reputation," said senior Kealey "All my friends (including me) are from Salisbury and we joke about the kids who act (a stereotypical) way."

No matter what town we are from, the students, teachers, and faculty should be fully made aware that the stereotypes are not fully true.

## The Other Colbert Report

By Cedric Colbert

**Local:** Triton's production of *The Love of Three Oranges* will begin tonight and run shows on Friday and Saturday. See the high school web site for details.

**State:** State representative Marty Walsh was elected mayor of Boston on November 5<sup>th</sup>. He will replace long-time mayor Tom Menino. (*Boston.com*)

**National:** On November 11, the Atlanta Braves organization announced that starting in 2017, it will no longer play in Atlanta. The team will move from Turner Field to Cobb County, just outside city limits. (*CNN.com*)

**International:** On November 7<sup>th</sup>, the Philippines was struck by Typhoon Haiyan. The current death toll is around 2,000 people, while approximately 500,000 are displaced from their homes. (*nytimes.com*)



## Heard in the Halls

Random, funny and off-color conversations at Triton

By Jessica Macey

"Ms. Dawe took 'Worst Driver' out of the yearbook! Now I'm not gonna win!"

- Science Hallway

"Nothing. I'll have nothing! Supply and demand and the demand is nothing!"

- History Hallway

"They got the goats addicted to it."

- The Bridge

"... just immediately stop talking and begin yoyoing."

- Foreign Language Hallway

"It's a nice way of interrupting someone. You say 'actually this is a duet.' Then you just keep talking."

- Math Hallway

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This release form does not give Masco seniors who are eighteen permission to sign themselves out of school. In order to do that, they need to get the approval of the assistant principal. However, this is a much more lenient policy than Triton's.

Senior Dakota Allen also complained about the sign out rule.

"Even though I'm eighteen I still have to get dismissed by my Grandma. I'm treated the same way as a seventh grader," said Allen.

Many believe he has a point. For the most part, the same exact rules are applied to Triton students throughout their entire time at the school.

Senior Andrew Sheerin isn't even eighteen yet, but he's already thinking ahead. He says, "I am going to have to do things like register for the draft and register to vote. You'd think I'd be able to sign myself out of school."

Some believe that if teachers and administrators are supposed to prepare students for the real world of being an American adult, they should stop babying them.

Others believe that the administration is here to keep students safe, no matter what age. At a time when many students are turning eighteen, this is an important debate to have.

### TRAGEDY from page 1

While stories of murder are seen on the news every day, people hardly react for more than a minute or two. This has been different, many students say. Danvers is so close to Triton that it has many teachers and students still feeling uneasy.

It goes without saying that everyone in the Triton community wishes luck to the Danvers community as they continue to cope with the recent violence their town has experienced. We want to do whatever is possible to help them. Several students said the best way to honor Danvers and Mrs. Ritzer is to follow her advice, "No matter what happens in life, be good to people."

## Are students out of touch?

Editors Note: This story was originally written last spring

By Kelsie Ferris  
Staff Writer

A perceived problem in the past few years is students' failure to understand what is going on in the real world. Across the U.S., there is a feeling that students have become more focused on social media sites than more important news and history. How true is this feeling?

"I think that most kids—not all—but most are very concerned only with what's going on in their lives," said 2012 senior Becca McWeeny. "I have a lot of friends that have no idea what's going on in the world if they don't see it on Facebook or Twitter."

"The technology feeds into it," Mr. Tim Coyle, political science teacher, said. "It's all about 'MY facebook page, MY experience.' If everything is around the 'me' then your whole experience is only referential through yourself, and that's really not good."

So why is this a problem? There are an abundance of reasons why students do not feel the need to stay in touch with the real world. Coyle believes that fantasy movies and books play a big role in it.

"I think fantasy books feed into

it, and fantasy movies," said Coyle. "All the data says that students that read non-fiction, outperform students that read a lot of fiction, because they have an understanding of the world around them, because it's real. We get lost in fantasy, we get lost in the Internet, and we get lost in video games."

Another problem is that students don't look for information about the world themselves unless it is handed to them by a teacher.

"A lot of kids in America live very sheltered lives," said McWeeny. "Since it doesn't happen right in front of us, a lot of kids don't go looking for the information."

"We've told students for the last ten or twelve years that learning is only important to get a grade, and a grade is only important to get you from point A to point B," Coyle said. "Now a student says, 'I don't need to learn something because it's good to know, I only need to learn something because it's a means to an end.' It's good to know things, it's good to be skilled."

A big question that always

comes up from students is, "Why do I need to know algebra? I won't need it in the real world."

"Whether you're going to college, whether you're going into the service, whether you're going into technical school, knowing things is important," said Coyle.

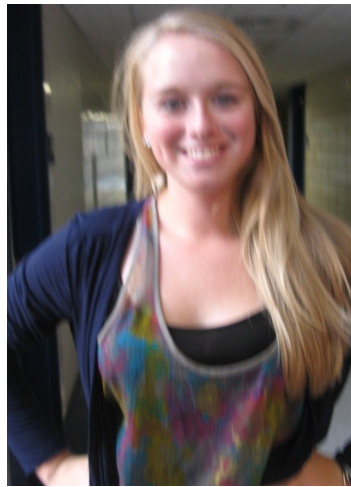
Now that the problem has been addressed, students, parents, and teachers need to figure out a way to fix the problem so that students can comprehend how the real world operates.

"It's really important for kids to watch the news or go online and become educated about the world around them," McWeeny said. "I think that adults should talk to their kids about different stories that are going on to make sure they have at least some idea."

"If we're going to send people out to participate in our democracy," Coyle said, "I think that we've got to be really careful as parents, as teachers, and then later as maturing young adults and students, that we don't just satisfy our own desire to be entertained."

## Ask a Viking

### What are you looking forward to?



**Michaela Dunn, senior**  
Is excited for what comes after high school, moving on to college and new beginnings.



**Kaylie Babine, freshman**  
Is looking forwards to absolutely nothing at all right now.



**Eric Thai, senior**  
Looks forward to going into the work force and the many responsibilities of life after high school.

## Halloween Parade Video is on Youtube



Check out this year's Senior Halloween Parade on Youtube by searching *Triton Voice* Halloween. Stay tuned to the Youtube *Triton Voice* channel for news and updates about upcoming additions as well (photos by *Triton Voice* staff).