

High School Basketball Players and the NBA

Antoine Alford, Senior

The NBA doesn't want students to play in the league right out of high school, so the commissioner has changed the age requirements to twenty years of age. The NBA wants the recruits to have at least two years in college or has to be twenty years or older. The league believes this should be so because they think students need their education before going to the pros.

What the NBA doesn't know is that the league needs the young talent on the NBA floors. NBA stars such as Tracy McGrady, Kobe Bryant, Amare Stoudemire, Jermain O'Neill, Kevin Garnett, and LeBron James all skipped college and went to the NBA right out of high school. Paul Harris from Niagara Falls could have gone to the NBA but was stopped by the new age requirement. Now he has to go to a prep school in New Hampshire.



Tracy McGrady is one of the All-Stars in the NBA that kids try to be like because he came right out of high school and went straight to the NBA. Student in high school dream to one day be like him. The NBA stops this from happening because of the new age limit.



Some fans of the NBA think they should have this age requirement, but most of them think it is a really dumb idea. Seventy percent of the NBA's players opposed this minimum age. The NBA really needs the fresh talent coming up to play because the NBA wouldn't be good at all if they didn't have younger players on the court to liven up the game.

Taken by Storm Or by Government?

The government fails to aid those in need

Lateishia Mason, Senior

Hurricane Katrina makes a powerful argument for not sacrificing disaster preparedness. Katrina killed and wiped out hundreds of people, flooded New Orleans, left more than a million people homeless, and did many billions of dollars worth of property damage.

There should have safe places already set up with increased amounts of food, blood, water, ice and supplies ready in the region while preparing for this disaster. There should have been doctors, Red Cross workers, officers and any type of law enforcers helping the survivors. These things should have been in place before or at least immediately after the disaster due to the fact that there were many women, men, and children who needed aid because of the storm or the violence that occurred after it. This violence included people being robbed, killed, and raped in addition to the many people who were dying due to sicknesses and injuries brought on by the hurricane.

In an *ABC News/Washington Post* poll, 67% of the people surveyed said the federal government should have been better prepared to deal with a storm the size of hurricane Katrina. Many Americans felt that if the government cannot be prepared for this type of catastrophe, then what will they do or

Show Me the Money

Isaiah Scott, Senior

Division I college athletes should not be paid because the athletes are receiving a free education which is worth around \$42,000 per year. Other students have to pay for an education, yet some boosters, former college athletes, and former coaches still think these athletes should be paid.

Do you think college athletes should be paid? At a Division I school, such as Syracuse, it costs somewhere around \$42,000 per year with the tuition, housing, meals, supplies, books, lab fees, etc. A Division I scholarship player gets to go to school and not pay anything, and people still think they should be paid!

College athletes are considered amateurs, and if the NCAA were to pay these athletes, then they would lose their amateur status. College sports would then turn into farm teams for the pros. In due time this would also eliminate the responsibilities of being a student because the main purpose would no longer be to get an education first. The main reason these athletes are not paid is because the NCAA feels that a long-term education is better than a short-term financial reward.

The boosters, former college athletes and former coaches that want these athletes to be paid don't realize that paying these athletes would result in a handful of schools receiving the best athletes. The boosters, former college athletes and coaches also brought up the proposal that the athletes should be allowed to make money off of endorsements, such as shoe, clothing and television contracts. The problem with this is that only the star athletes would make money. The athletes, whether the star or not, all have the same schedules and have to follow the same rules, so if one athlete is paid, then they all have to be paid.

The money that the universities make off of college sports should be used to benefit all the college sports not just individuals. The student athlete is a part of the university just like any other student is even if they don't play any sports. All students have needs that need to be fulfilled, and the only way to pay these students and athletes is to distribute the money evenly throughout the university. Overall, I think that getting scholarship and having a college experience is definitely compensation enough for these athletes.

how will they prepare if we were to experience another natural disaster, such as a hurricane, a blizzard or an earthquake? Will they respond poorly or will they be prepared ahead of time? Will they enforce evacuations? Will they have systems and precautions to follow?

It is clear that the government needs to make improvements because the death toll is continuing to rise and the damages are tremendous. More and more people are going to continue to die from storms, like Katrina, if we do not more efficiently prepare ahead of time.

Can Religion be a Guide to a Better Life?

Crystal Foster, Senior

Teens need to look into religion more today because it can become a positive force in their lives. Having a spiritual side can help you feel more at peace because having faith can see you through difficult times. It's a way to live that is better.

Not only do you learn how to respect and carry yourself in a morally right and proper way, but you can also create long lasting friendships. Churches

Steroids in High School

Ben Follette, Senior

With so many teen athletes throughout the United States deciding to take steroids, it has become the most widely used drug among teens. Because schools aren't testing their athletes for steroids, young athletes are misled into thinking that by taking steroids they will become better athletes without consequences.

Many people think that steroids are beneficial, but in fact, they can do more harm than good. A lot of you don't realize the health risks involved with taking steroids. Steroids can cause heart damage by causing an enlargement of the left ventricular,



is the part that pumps oxygenated blood throughout the body. Steroids can also cause confusion throughout the body because of the extra testosterone it gives off. The extra testosterone that comes from steroids can cause facial hair growth in girls and deepen their voices. In addition, steroids can cause severe mood swings, as well as, aggressive behavior, which is also known as "Roid Rage".

Teen boys will also see the harmful effects steroids give off. The use of steroids can cause shrinkage of testicles as well as breast enlargement. Steroids can also cause death, which was a reality for a high school student named Taylor Hooton. Hooton was a former steroid user who hung himself because of the depression caused by steroids. The good news is there are ways of preventing teens from using steroids.

A program called *ATLAS* (Athletes Training and Learning to Avoid Steroids) is set up to raise teen's awareness about steroids. *ATLAS* can be taught in schools, as well as, recreational centers. It also teaches teen's skills on how to refuse steroids if someone is pressuring them to use. A new program is being set up called "*Make the Right Choice*", which is set up to distribute brochures, posters and DVD's to teens and their parents. The program is set up to give medical information and make teens aware of the harmful effects that come from steroid use.

If you or anyone you know is using steroids and feel that there is a problem, be sure to contact the parents, school nurse, principal, or coaches. Steroids can kill!

and other places of worship are more upbeat for the younger generation. Having a combination of worship services and friends go hand in hand. When no one is there or you can't seem to find anyone to count on, your faith can become what you lean on.

The **Bible** is a really good example of that; it sets kids on the right path of life. Scriptures in the **Bible**, even though they are based back in Biblical times, can be used in current situations because most conditions that teens experience today aren't that different from tribulations and obstacles that people faced throughout time.

Having a set base faith is all up to you. Nobody can decide for you if you believe in religion or not. These are only some benefits you can get out of having a belief system. Our lives need guidance because guidance is a key to a prosperous future. Having a spiritual side to you can build a constructive and promising life because it gives you a better understanding of what to do in your lifetime. You are your own person. Religion is just one thing you should have because you can become a better and more well-round individual.

