

The multi-million dollar question

Are professional athletes overpaid or getting what they deserve?

p.maclemore
editor in chief

The average Major League Baseball player earns an annual salary of \$3.95 million. That's nearly 80 times the average salary of a high school teacher in Texas and still \$3 million more than the average doctor makes in Texas in a year. That's not to say they don't deserve it, though.

Professional athletes practice all the time, in and off season, so that they are able to play to the best of their ability. Because of this, they deserve to get paid for their work, just like anyone else. But as athletes' salaries increase, so do the negative news stories about arrests, drug charges and abuse. And that has some people asking themselves if athletes deserve what they are paid.

"I think [professional athletes] are paid way too much money," said Vanguard basketball coach Mamadou Diene. "Being an athlete, I respect all of the work they put in, but I don't think anyone deserves to make that much money."

The first pick of the 2015 NFL draft, for instance, Jameis Winston, signed a four-year, \$23.35 million deal with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. In addition to his contract deal, Winston earned \$16.7 million just from his signing bonus. That might seem like a lot of money for a 21 year old to handle.

"If you give any young person millions of dollars, there is a decent chance they won't do a very good job

"I think [professional athletes] are paid way too much money."

**-Mamadou Diene
Vanguard basketball coach**

handling it responsibly," said Dan Ingham, the morning anchor for KWTX. "But I don't think that problem is unique to young athletes."

Diene agrees.

"You get into the sport professionally at an age of 19 or 20 years old, and you don't know what to do with all of that money," said Diene. "They're just kids, they don't know how to spend it wisely."

Most sports fans can agree that Winston is an unbelievable athlete who works hard at his job, but is this too much money?

"I don't have a problem with athletes getting paid multi-million dollar salaries," Ingham said.

These athletes get their money from fans who pay for the tickets to go the games, merchandise sales, and endorsements from other companies. LeBron James makes nearly \$50 million a year just off of endorsements from companies like Nike, Coke, and McDonalds. This is on top of his \$47 million dollar deal with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

"The market dictates that they make that much," Ingham said. "These men and women work incredibly hard."

Teachers, by the same token, are paid as much as people are willing to pay for taxes and tuition. Like athletes — who are paid as much as people are willing to pay for tickets, merchandise and endorsements — teachers are paid what the market will bear.

Doctors are helping people in critical condition every day, but they still do not make as much as many professional athletes. Doctors only make as much as insurance companies and patients can afford to pay them. All of these professions, athletes, doctors, and teachers, are paid by what other people can and will pay to see them, or use their services.

"I see no problem with anyone getting paid as much as they do," said junior Douglas Harriman. "In the case of athletes, they work extremely hard for what they do. Baseball players play 162 games a year. It's their full time job. I see no issue with their salaries."

Some people say that these athletes do not work hard enough for the money they are earning. But most of them start playing their sport at a very young age. They work every day in hope of becoming the best at what they do. Others were simply born with a unique ability that most others could not learn if they tried.

Only a select few are drafted to play major league sports. Just 10.5 percent of all NCAA baseball players are drafted to the Big Leagues. And only .5 percent of all high school ball players will be drafted out of high school. These statistics show that athletes have a skill set that not everyone has.

People who have "regular" jobs usually are not paid anywhere close to as much money as professional athletes are paid. This is because they have a skill set that can be taught, and is usually done so later in life. As the skill for

a profession gets harder to find, the pay for those who do have that it rises drastically.

"These athletes have jobs and skills that only a small percentage of people could ever obtain," Ingham said.

But what about the "best" teachers? The highest paid teachers in America are well compensated for being the best at what they do. For example, David Silvers, Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Pathology at Columbia University, earns around \$4.33 million a year, according to a 2009 survey from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Like athletes, most highly paid teachers and professors obtain their money from other companies, who pay them to do research for them. Just as companies pay athletes (like LeBron is paid to be the "face" of Nike), companies will pay professors to do research for them. These companies are willing to pay the professors as much as they do because they have a certain skill set that not everyone has.

It cannot be overlooked that many professional athletes give back to the community. Kevin Durant, basketball player for the Oklahoma City Thunder, gave a \$1 million donation to the Red Cross after the Oklahoma tornado disaster in 2013. Durant also has his own charity, working to enrich the

lives of at-risk youth from low-income backgrounds through educational, athletic and social programs. Retired baseball superstar Derek Jeter established the Turn 2 Foundation in 1996. Turn 2 works to help people avoid drug and alcohol addiction. In 1999, Peyton Manning, quarterback for the Denver Broncos, established the PayBack Foundation, which seeks to provide leadership and growth opportunities to youth at risk in order to promote their future success.

"I definitely think that the fact that athletes are donating money justifies the fact that they are paid as much as they are," Harriman said.

"I don't have a problem with athletes getting paid multi-million dollar salaries."

**-Dan Ingham
Morning anchor for KWTX**

**Merrill Lynch
Wealth Management®**
Bank of America Corporation

James R. Holley
Holley-Hewlett Group
Senior Vice President-Wealth Management
Senior Resident Director

510 N Valley Mills Dr, Suite 700
Waco, TX 76710

james_holley@ml.com

Tel: 254.751.2701 • 800.333.9431 • Fax: 254.230.0456
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated

Lead Generation + Increase Awareness + Establish Trust

**What can marketing do
for your business?**

(254) 772-5909

ch Anderson
public relations

ehandersonpr.com

FULBRIGHT ■ WINNIFORD
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

P.O. Box 445 ■ Waco, Texas 76703-0445
776-6000

The Early Bird Doesn't Always Get the Worm



Philip MacLemore
editor-in-chief

Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. Or does it? Ben Franklin's quote is the exact opposite of what recent studies have shown.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that adolescents get 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep per night. However, 40 percent of Vanguard students are receiving less than six hours of sleep per night, according to a student poll (Jan. 2016). What did they say the main cause of this was? School. Seventy-one percent of the high school students who responded said that they lose sleep every night due to school related work.

The AAP also says that lack of sleep in adolescence causes poor academic performance and poses a serious public health concern. These include traffic accidents and depression. What can be done to help students get more sleep and avoid these life-threatening effects? Start school one hour later.

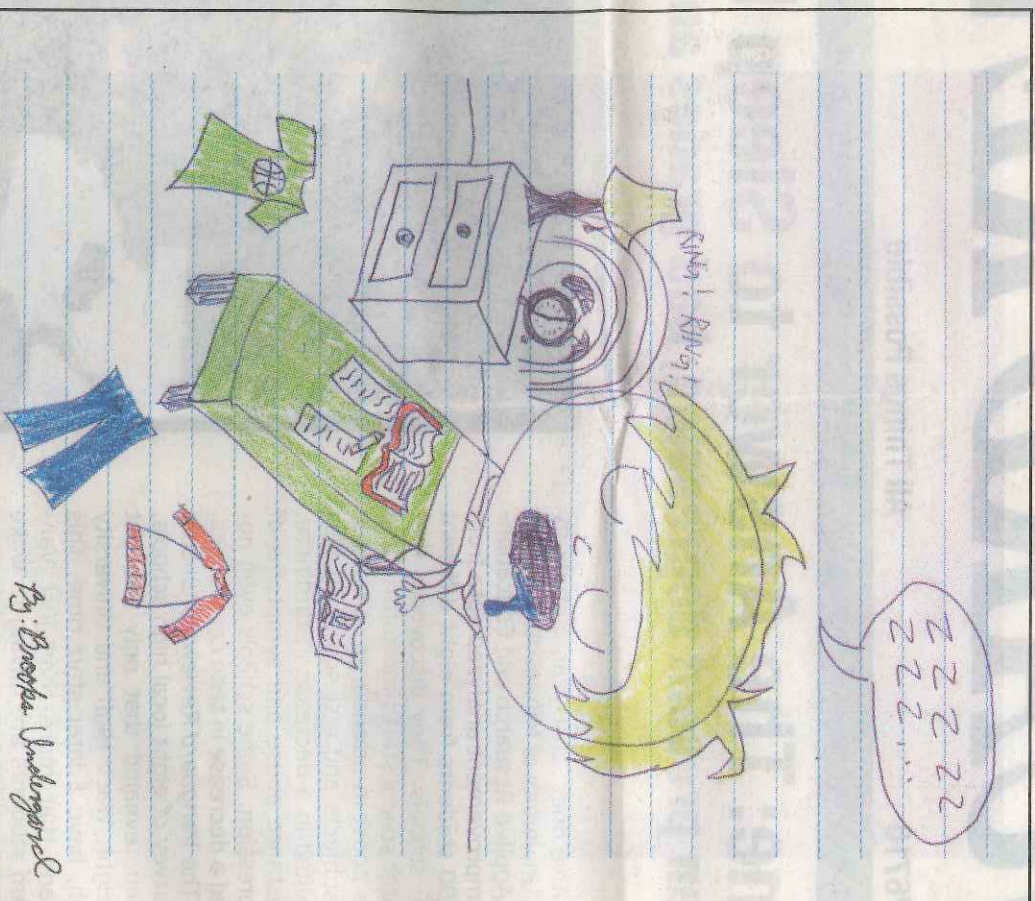
Daytime sleepiness makes it difficult to concentrate, leading to poor grades. With the rigorous academics that Vanguard imposes on its students, it is in the school's best interest to push the start time back. It would lead to more attentiveness in class, allowing the students to make better grades.

One way the Academy suggests to reduce these public health concerns, is for schools start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Only 14 percent of public high schools currently meet this, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

The fact that there is a direct correlation between sleep deprivation and traffic accidents cannot be disputed. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drowsiness and fatigue cause more than 100,000 traffic accidents each year. Sleepiness slows your reaction time, preventing you from stopping in times of danger.

With many of our students being able to drive, the early start time of school poses a risk to the student's safety.

The Vanguard administration should consider moving the start time of school from 8:10 to an hour later. Students would still get out of school before 4:30, providing plenty of time for after school activities and homework. This would not only be beneficial to our school work, but also to our safety.



By: Sophia Lindberg

What's keeping you from getting enough Zs

Top reasons students aren't getting enough sleep

School work:



71%

Technology (Video games, Netflix, Youtube, Phone):



25%

Insomnia or just can't sleep:



3%

Sports:



1%

Vanguard Review student poll,
January 2016 Students responding: 152

Question of the Month

Would a later start time be beneficial to you as a student, even if it meant a later release time?

58%

YES

42%

NO

Vanguard Review student poll,
January 2016
152 high school students responded

Write a letter to the editor!

Philip MacLemore
Editor-In-Chief
philip_maclemore@vanguard.org

Vanguard Review Staff

Philip MacLemore
Editor-in-Chief

Jacob Turnage
Photo Editor

George Eichenberg
Sports Editor

Carlyn Mattson
Features Editor
Business Manager

Ray Gao
Reporter

David Kim
Reporter

Tang Tang
Reporter

Gretchen Eichenberg
Adviser

editorial policy

The Vanguard Review is published six times per year by journalism students at Vanguard College Preparatory School. Opinion page items represent the views of the individual contributor and not the views of the faculty, administration, or school board.

The editorial board, comprised of newspaper staff members, determines by consensus the content of the unsigned staff editorial appearing regularly on the editorial page. Letters to the editor are accepted. If necessary, they will be edited for length or libelous content.

letters to the editor

The Vanguard Review staff welcomes all observations and comments in the form of letters to the editor. If necessary, letters will be edited based on space limitations or libelous content.

Send mail to:
philip_maclemore@vanguard.org
Letters are also accepted at:
Vanguard Review Office
112 Brown Academic Building
2517 Mt. Carmel Drive
Waco, Texas 76710

2 opinion

DECEMBER 2015

What's the big deal?



pmaclemore
editor-in-chief

If the most important issue facing some Christians is a Starbucks Coffee cup, I guess that we have solved all of our bigger problems. Hunger, homelessness, terrorism, education, economic issues are all solved, so now we can focus on a red coffee cup. Oh wait.

Some Christians are upset because Starbucks has removed the "symbols of the season" from their cups and the baristas are not saying "Merry Christmas." It's ironic that for years, Christians have complained about the commercialization of Christmas. Now that the commercialization is starting to be removed, people are complaining about the lack thereof.

There are roughly 350,000 Christian Churches in the United States. So, obviously the lack of seasonal symbols on a coffee cup is not affecting Christians or Christianity in any way whatsoever.

Starbucks is simply trying to remain neutral and be culturally sensitive to everyone by leaving the cups blank. People are offended that they don't say "Merry Christmas," but people are not thinking about how Jewish people might be offended if it only said that, not Happy Hanukkah or any other religious based saying.

Now, the question arises: Are snowflakes, snowmen and reindeer actually Christmas symbols?

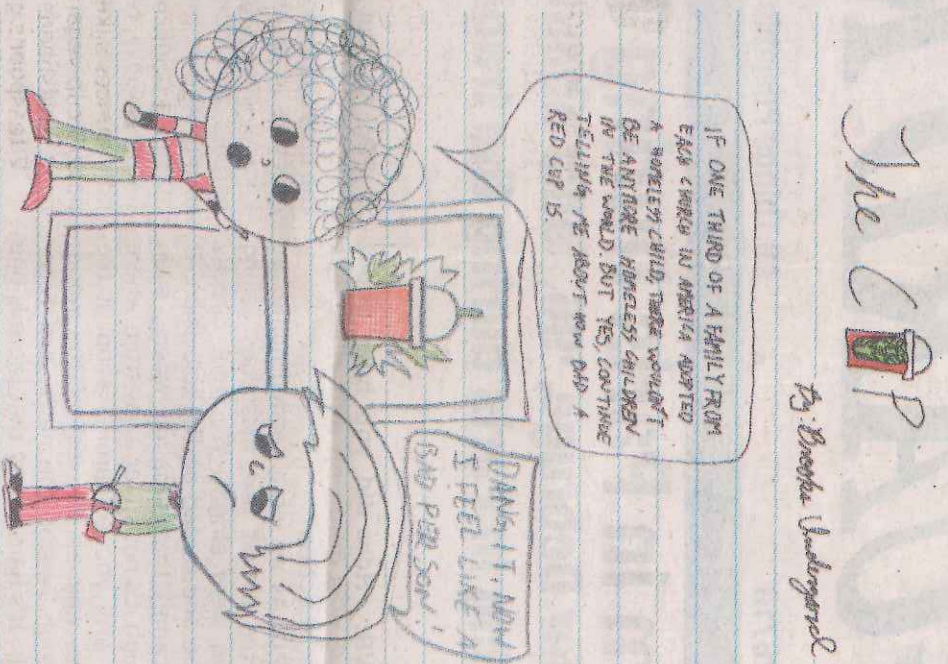
No. Absolutely not. These symbols are only associated with the season, not Christmas itself. So really, the fact that Starbucks removed them from their cups should not even bother Christians, as it is simply not even associated with their religion.

The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25 was in 336 AD. Santa Claus did

not make an appearance until 1804. Christmas shopping was not a thing until 1820. And Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer did not show up until 1939. So really, Christmas has only been celebrated like it is today for 76 years, or roughly 4.5 percent of the entire time Christmas has been celebrated on December 25. It didn't bother people 100 or 200 years ago? So why should it bother us now?

People would say that Christianity and celebrating Christmas goes back to our nation's roots and our forefathers built this nation upon Christian principles. But if we actually go back to our nation's roots when Puritans and other Christians migrated to America from England, we would see that Christmas celebrations were culturally taboo and illegal. So really, our country's roots go back to Christians who did not celebrate Christmas at all. Our country's original intentions were for people who were seeking religious refuge. So why should Starbucks prevent them from enjoying their own religion?

People have the right to celebrate Christmas how they want to, just like people who are not Christian are allowed to celebrate their religious holidays freely. If Starbucks does not want these symbols on their cups, then they do not need to have them on there. It affects no individual



The Cup

By Brooke Underwood

Question of the Month
Does the Starbucks red cup offend you in any way?

13% YES
87% NO

Vanguard Review student poll,
December 2015
207 students responded

Write a letter to the editor!

Philip MacLemore
Editor-In-Chief
philip_maclemore@vanguard.org