

# 2016 Presidential campaigns pulling in big bucks

By HANNAH SHAW

STAFF WRITER

With the 2016 Presidential Election less than a year away, the presidential candidates and their respective campaigns have dominated major media outlets. In the political world, a large part of discussions have focused on Political Action Committees (PACs), Super PACs, and how much money candidates and outside groups have poured into their campaigns.

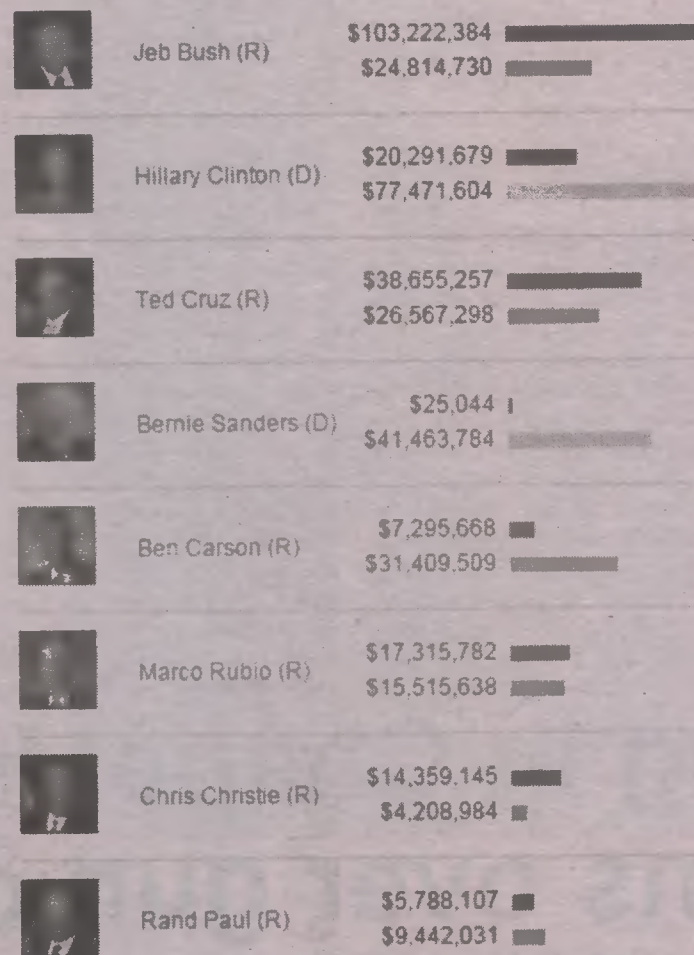
But exactly how much is that money, really? Lots of large numbers have been thrown around and misleading infographics have inundated popular websites, but it's hard to keep track of all those millions and billions, especially when most of us rarely handle more than \$50 a day.

For one thing, it helps to have all of the numbers organized in one helpful, simple chart.

It is easy to see that a lot of money is being spent here. However, there is so much money that it is hard to imagine having that much money at once, never mind spending it all on presidential campaigns.

A better way to understand the massive budgets of these campaigns is to see what else one could buy with all that money.

With the \$24,814,730 that Jeb Bush (R) has spent on his own campaign, you could buy 150 medium-sized houses in Durham, or rent a two-bedroom apartment in New



York City for over 500 years.

The amount of money outside groups have spent on Bush could pay off the student loans for over 3,600 college students in America. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton's \$77,471,604 in campaign funds could buy over 258,000 iPads, or 2,300 new cars.

Even the \$5,828,922 Trump has spent on his own campaign, almost a paltry sum in comparison, could buy over 12,000 personal computers -

enough to give every student at NCSSM 19 laptops.

As Nov. 8, 2016 draws near, consider where these massive sums of money are coming from, and more importantly what exactly they're being spent on.

Campaign finance reform is a constantly contested issue, and hopefully this election season helps to educate a new generation of voters on the tumultuous relationship between money and political power.



photos courtesy of [opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)

*Comparison of 2016 presidential campaign funds as of Oct. 16, 2015. The first bar represents outside money, and the second bar represents candidate committee money.*

## Gram-O-Rama to perform on February 12

By AJ GOREN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A cast of 17 students, a script, and a stage. It may sound like your typical NCSSM drama performance, but Gram-O-Rama is anything but.

Students in the Gram-O-Rama class, which is offered only once a year as a core elective, spent their second trimester churning out comedy based on a most unlikely source material: grammar.

Featuring nounless advertisements, sentence-type monologues, and a whole lot of puns, this year's Gram-O-Rama show is entitled *Malpractice & Malapropisms*, and will run in the ETC Lecture Hall at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12.

Seating is limited and demand is high, so make sure to swing by early to secure a spot in the audience.

Over the course of the trimester, the Gram-O-Rama students wrote over 100 sketches for 16 different exercises under the direction of instructor Ross White.

However, fewer than 30 sketches have made the final cut to be featured in the show.

Among those sketches not chosen to see the glamorous lights of the Lecture Hall stage are "IE13: Intro to Lying with Topics," a Types of Sentences monologue by senior Mack Harrison which begins with the simple sentence, "I love physics," and "Bad Husband," an exploration of Homonyms by junior Cailyn Kirkaldy in which a wife angrily remarks to her husband, "I asked for rolls. And you brought back a script for Romeo and Juliet with all the Tybalt lines highlighted!" To which her husband retorts, "Well what do you expect? You'd make a horrid Juliet."

The script for the show represents a diverse mixture of grammatical exercises, mostly taken from the course textbook written by Daphne Athas, the creator of the course and its original instructor at UNC Chapel Hill, where it has continued to be popular.

For their midterm assignment, students also created their own exercises



photo courtesy of AJ Goren

to explore other facets of grammar not covered in the book.

Junior Darwin Heo devised an exercise to look at the important role of punctuation, while senior Jules Amosah created one to demonstrate the unique qualities of autoantonyms - words which have multiple meanings that are the opposite of each other.

Senior Seth Hollandsworth investigated the psychology of different vowel sounds, and senior Sarah Morrow played with the use of narrative point

of view.

Students frequently wrote sketches in pairs or groups as well. The show is ultimately a team effort, and includes contributions from each student toward directing, rehearsal, revision, publicity, and more.

Members of the class debuted a Christmastime teaser video - the Passive Switch version of a Mariah classic, written by Heo and senior AJ Goren - in December.

The Gram-o-rama cast flexed their passive voice

muscle once more with a teaser performance of "Riptide" by seniors Gabriella Williams and Seth Hollandsworth at the January Koffeehaus.

Students can also be on the lookout for a new Jargon Melody teaser video on the way soon from the creative mind of senior Camille Griffith and featuring Goren and seniors Maison O'Neil and Kevin Jarman.

For more information about the event, contact instructor Ross White or any of the performers listed above.

Members of NCSSM's Gram-O-Rama class pose for a photo after a snow day rehearsal.