



Asia Davis / Knight Life News

Drumline performs at home game against Portage Northern. Angel Banuelos and Matt Rodriguez lead the drumline with the snare drum.

Loy Norrix Drumline Rolls Out Success

Parker Grey
Knight Life News

The roll of the snare drum captivates the audience of the rivalry football game. The extraordinary performance gets an array of claps and an honorable ovation. The attendants are intrigued by the display but many fail to realize the wholehearted effort and skill that each member puts into their performance.

As any athlete works extremely hard for a successful team, the same goes for a band of drummers.

Nick Ranger is a sophomore bass drum player who is optimistic in the future of the drumline this year. "Compared to last year we

are struggling, but we show potential as we get older," Ranger said.

In the previous season, the drumline had an accomplished year. After performing at the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA) at the state level, they were a mere .1 points short of progressing to national competition.

It was an outstanding achievement although they came short of nationals. The drumline realizes that losing four great senior players this year that graduated means that a lot of desire is required to continue their success.

Although the drumline has had a hard run for their

money this year, their ambition is an outstanding factor in improvement. The drummers hold a productive practice every Tuesday and Thursday after school. In fact, Ranger said the single best part of being in the drumline is "the chance to go around and show our hard work."

Senior Ben Schreck is another hard-working player in the drumline. More importantly to him than how well the drumline does in competition or how much praise they get from people who come to watch is the person he has become because of his experience.

see DRUMLINE page 14

A Blast From The Past Teachers Learn From Working with Students at Loy Norrix



1999



2012

Science Mark Lowrie

Sydnee Stannard
Knight Life News

Vroom, vroom, vroom; the overhead projector raced back and fourth across the screen as Tommy drove it like a racecar. The class giggled and science teacher Mark Lowrie had to turn around to see what all the commotion was about. Little did he know that one student with a learning disability would completely change him as a teacher forever

Lowrie has worked at Loy Norrix for fifteen years and enjoys having complete control over his classroom. Lowrie likes to be in charge and makes sure his students know this.

When Tommy, a student with Down Syndrome, stepped into his class, Lowrie learned that he had to be patient and that all students learn differently. After teaching Tommy that in high school, he needs to become a man and give handshakes rather than hugs, Lowrie realized how much he loved Tommy and had finally grown used to his big bear hugs.

Lowrie's best memory at Norrix was being able to host the People's Choice Award and recognize Tommy.

Lowrie said, "I got to acknowledge the kid that had

the greatest impact on me."

The wide smile that spread across Lowrie's face as he talked about his experiences with Tommy really showed how much of an impact Tommy had on him. On the other hand, Lowrie's smile turned into a frown as he discussed the meeting with Dean Boggan about possibly not teaching in the Freshmen Academy anymore.

"Administrators would come to each classroom, knock on the doors and tell the teachers they were moving classrooms," Lowrie said.

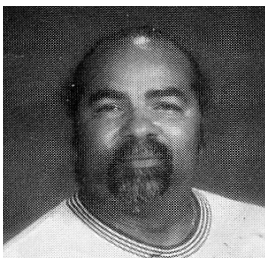
At the end of the 2010-2011 school year the administrators decided to cut down the four freshman academy teams to three, which was tough for Lowrie. He really enjoyed his team teachers ahead of the change and specifically chose them to work with.

Lowrie and his co-workers all worked very well together. When he was told he had to leave the Freshman Academy he knew that he wouldn't be working with the same staff members and would no longer have them right next door when he needed them. Although it was hard for Lowrie to leave his close

see PAST page 2

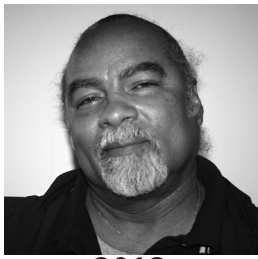
A Blast From the Past Continued...

Teachers Reflect on Working with Students at Loy Norrix



1999

Physical Ed. teacher Ted Duckett



2012

Sydnee Stannard
Knight Life News

Throughout the 43 years that Ted Duckett has worked at Loy Norrix, his appearance has not changed, but his students and teaching style has.

Back in the spring of '69 Kalamazoo Public Schools were ordered to desegregate thanks to the Brown v. Board of Education court case. The schools had to integrate and encourage students to work together as a whole. There were only seven African American students at Loy Norrix in 1969.

According to Duckett, by the time Norrix was desegregated, 30 percent of the student body were African American. The students had difficulties learning to live with each other and mixing their cultures.

Coach Duckett said that peering into the cafeteria was like looking at a yin and yang sign; black on one side and white on the other. Although the meaning of the yin and yang sign is shadow and light, two polar opposites coming together, this was not the case at Loy Norrix.

"Today, your color doesn't mean that much, your behavior does," said Duckett.

After the tough year of desegregation and many years later, Duckett began to notice that today students don't care about race. Students now don't choose their friends based on race; they now base it on the attitude and behavior of their classmates.

Although a lot of students didn't know what to make of Duckett's big afro and wild beard, they learned that he is in charge of the gym. Students respect Duckett and his hard work ethic. He strives every day to help students further their education and succeed in life.

Over the years Duckett has learned that, "Norrix is just the home away from home."

Many kids spend more time at Norrix than they do at home. Duckett has without a doubt made Loy Norrix his second home for 43 years.



2000

Business teacher Sue Mills



2012

After working fourteen years as a computer teacher at Loy Norrix, Sue Mills has learned that the greatest reward of all is knowing you have made a difference. She smiled as she thought about the day that a quiet student returned to Norrix and let her know that she had made an impact on him. He told her that he wouldn't have stayed in school if it weren't for her.

Even though there are teachers like Mills to encourage students to attend college, "The Promise has brought a renewed hope," said Mills.

Now that there is the opportunity for Kalamazoo Public School students to attend a public Michigan college of their choice with free tuition, more KPS students are deciding to further their education by going to college. Mills believes that The Kalamazoo Promise has opened so many doors for students. Students need to appreciate this tremendous gift and embrace it.

Mills' worst experience at Norrix is having to attend student funerals. Mills feels that it is never acceptable for someone that is so young to have their life shortened by murder, suicide or an accident.

"At such a young age these kids haven't even started life," said Mills.

It's sad that Mills has attended a couple of funerals since being a teacher at Norrix. It hurts her deeply to see such young students lose their lives and not get the chance to make something of themselves.

Even though Mills has experienced losing students, she has also watched many students grow throughout their four years at Loy Norrix. It is rewarding to Mills to get the chance to watch young teenagers develop into mature young adults at Loy Norrix.

time furthering the education of many high school students. The curriculum might be a serious matter, but Lowrie always adds a good sense of humor to his assignments and teaching.

co-workers in the B-Wing, Lowrie knew it was an honor to be asked to teach another forensic science class.

Although there are more strict rules on teachers and teaching in general, Lowrie enjoys spending his

Organic Food Helps Students Feel Healthier

Rachel Reed
Knight Life News

When people hear the word "organic" they are usually quick to judge. "Gross", "healthy", and "expensive" are typically three of the first words that will come to mind. But what does organic really mean? Is it really just a type of food that runs up the bill, tastes gross and is good for your health?

Organic doesn't necessarily refer to a category of food, but a method of farming. Organic farming involves soil and water conservation as well as reducing pollution. It also requires treating the produce with natural fertilizers and pesticides and feeding the animals organic feed while allowing the animals access to the outdoors.

Although it is not true, people commonly believe that chemicals are not used in organic farming. In organic farming, the chemicals that are used must be derived from natural sources.



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

Layla Marvin in first lunch while talking to her friend Claire Mears. She enjoys an organic orange while conversing.

Junior Layla Marvin has been eating organically ever since she was a kid.

"Knowing about all the nasty things they put in food makes me want to eat better," said Marvin.

Some respond to Marvin's organic eating by saying she's picky. However, they usually tend to mock it or ask if everything she eats is organic. Although other students mock it, they never respond to her organic choice as being gross.

"It's always delicious," said Marvin.

Some (usually younger generations) think of organic food as being gross because they associate organic with healthy which is not always seen as being delicious as Marvin believes it is.

Making sure that you are eating organic food has been made easy by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any food that is labeled as being organic must be USDA certified and will bear a USDA symbol or sticker on the product. For products to be able to use the term organic, they must be made with at least 95% organic products.

Often times, people assume that the words natural and organic can be used interchangeably. However, this is not the case. Foods do not have to be USDA approved to be called natural, while there are specific standards for organic foods that must be approved.

from PAST page 1

"Glee" Sheds Light On Teenage Issues

Asia Davis
Knight Life News

I'm convinced there's a song for every moment in life, every high, every low, and everything in between. Life should be a musical, like "Glee."

"Glee" is a comedy drama musical television show that over the past 3 years has taken a strong stance on teenage issues. With it's strong messages addressing sexual orientation, bullying, gay rights, and teen pregnancy "Glee" has become a force.

The show revolves around a high school glee club called The New Directions who compete in the show choir circuit. While competing to win show choir competitions viewers also watch the struggles the singers face as teenagers in high school

like sexuality, teen pregnancy, depression, and bullying. Things that actual teenagers face in real life.

Laura Kieda who is a student at Western Michigan University was given the strength by "Glee" to come out to her friends and family as a lesbian. She related to the character Santana in the show who was stereotyped as a snobby cheerleader, but had a real secret of being lesbian. When she came out she was ostracized and bullied, but found acceptance in the New Directions glee club.

"When I saw Santana first admit to loving Brittany.... It was like a light bulb clicked fully on. Lightning struck. The clouds parted,"

"I actively sought those people out because I knew if I was going

to come out, I didn't want to be alone," said Kieda

Laura watched Santana struggle and figured if she could face the challenges of coming out then so can she. She sought out support from her local LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual Transgendered support group) and made a solid group of friends who would back her up. She says she knew all along, but she was afraid.

Until the fateful "Rumours" episode where Santana admits her feelings to Brittany, putting her insecurities and emotions out there for the first time.

"When I saw Santana first admit to loving Brittany.... It was like a light bulb clicked fully on. Lightning struck. The clouds parted," Kieda said.



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

"Child-Friendly" Card Games Played by Students

Branden Vanzile
Knight Life News

She thought hard and swallowed, her head straining as she thought about her next move. Making a mistake now would cost her the game, along with any hope of placing well. The prizes for placing in the top eight of this tournament included a trading card worth over \$1000 dollars, a Galaxy SIII Tablet, an Xbox 360, invites to the World Championship Qualifiers and various other prizes. This made winning the first thing on her mind.

Many people see Pokémon, Yu-Gi-Oh!, and Magic: The Gathering as silly games played by middle schoolers, 30 year old men who live in their parent's basement, and high school nerds who still have a little bit of maturing to do, however, these games can be enjoyed by everybody.

A Loy Norrix sophomore, Jessica Thomas, recently participated in a regional Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament called a Yu-Gi-Oh! Championship Series. She was a little surprised by the diversity and number of people entering.

"There were thousands of people there, a few old ladies were competing, people my age, a girl who came all the way from Germany, and even an eight year old who made it to one of the top rounds," said Thomas.

Thomas commented that the tournament was exciting. So many people in one place can be a little frightening, but the overall vibe was pretty laid back. She said that almost everyone there were good sports if she beat them.



Branden Vanzile / Knight Life News

Jessica Thomas and Devin Dunn engage in a friendly game of Yu-Gi-Oh in the Loy Norrix library. The two enjoy having a location to express their hobby.

There was also a lot of trading going on and she boosted her card collection quite significantly. Thomas placed in the top 100 in a tournament with over 1,100 entries and considers herself a very good player even though she started playing Yu-Gi-Oh! competitively less than a year ago.

Trading card games are a little bit of an unpopular hobby but are still played in significant numbers. Just like every other hobby, it takes a lot of practice to become even an adequate card game player. It doesn't only take practice, but you need to have the right cards, which can cost a suitcase full of money.

The main thing that sets trading card games apart from traditional card games is the deck with which you

play. In games like Euchre or Go Fish, you can pick up a deck of cards at the dollar store and start playing. But in Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh! certain decks can cost more than \$5 thousand.

The main way for card game players to interact is tournaments. In Kalamazoo, there is a local Yu-Gi-Oh! tournament every Thursday from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and a Magic: The Gathering tournament on Fridays from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Fanfare Sports and Entertainment on South Westnedge.

These tournaments each cost \$5 to enter and have prizes ranging from \$40 to \$80 store credit depending on the number of entries. The tournaments held at Fanfare are relatively small,

but card game tournaments can range from locals, all the way to regionals, nationals, or world championships. These larger tournaments, like the Yu-Gi-Oh!

Championship Series have enormous cash and card prizes and thousands of people entering as well as spectating.

Jessica Thomas consistently goes to Fanfare to play Yu-Gi-Oh! on Thursdays. She is the only girl who regularly shows up to the tournament. Thomas says that the tournament is \$5 well spent, and it's great way to win store credit, or even sell that store credit to other players for cash.

"Each time I place in the top eight I can make some money, or I can buy cards to really increase my collection and my chance of winning next week," said Thomas.

She knows that when she gets her deck perfect she can actually start making a lot of money.

Another student that plays Yu-Gi-Oh! is junior Devin Dunn. Dunn plays Yu-Gi-Oh! recreationally, so he doesn't usually attend any kind of tournaments. Dunn says that Yu-Gi-Oh! is a fun hobby, but he doesn't have much money to spend on cards, so he usually plays Yu-Gi-Oh! online on a website called duelingnetwork.com

"I prefer DN to actual cards because it's all the fun of Yu-Gi-Oh, except for free," said Dunn.

He says that dueling network is a good alternative for anyone who wants to start playing Yu-Gi-Oh! but doesn't have the money.

TV Time with Loy Norrix Students

Worst Voted TV Show:

"Jersey Shore"

"It's a show about lucky, ignorant people who are paid to be filmed partying."
-Brian Bartely, junior.

"They party the whole day and don't clean their house. They don't keep a good environment in their house so it could reflect on their viewers."
-Jorge Soto, senior.



Photo credited to www.dailybleach.com

"All they do is make fools of themselves and they make people from America and Jersey look like idiots."
-Electra Brown, sophomore.

"It is just trash basically. No one should be watching it because it's people getting drunk and getting into fights."
-Megan Youngs, freshman.

Erin Romph
Knight Life News

Best Voted TV Show:

"Bad Girls Club"

"BGC". What's not to love about it? The girls are sneaky and also demand respect."
-Shontice Reid, senior.

"I watch 'BGC' because it's entertaining. There's a lot of drama but it is funny."
-Kalila Blackeagle, junior.



Photo credited to www.glistsociety.com

"I watch 'BGC' because it's very interesting. I find it hilarious how the girls fight. It's funny how the girls find out at the end all the stuff the other girls did to them."
-Kasey Perry, sophomore.

"I watch 'Bad Girls Club' because it's funny, kind of exciting, and when the girls fight it is really funny."
-Ja'shala Wilson, freshman.

The Bathroom Experience



Lori Umbanhowar / Guest Illustrator

ORGANIC from page 2

Grocery manager Ken Kulifay has been working at an organic grocery store by the name of Sawall Health Foods for about thirteen years. He would personally recommend eating organically because of the higher quality of organic foods.

"Organic is about the quality of the product and what you're doing to the earth," said Kulifay.

He is a true believer in organics along with his customers.

To clear up the nutritional aspect of organic foods, the truth is that the answer is not yet clear if organic food is more nutritional than that of regular (or conventional) foods. A study that examined organic foods and conventional foods for the last 50 years concluded that both are comparable in their nutritional content.

Organic foods also tend to be a bit pricier than conventional foods. This is because of several reasons. One of which is because not using chemicals in the food means more labor, and because of the high cost of fertilizers that must be used on the crops. Other

reasons include the price of organic certification and the price for better living conditions for livestock. Eventually, prices of organics should fall when more people begin to shop and demand for organic food. As it is, organic sales are growing about 20% every year.

When comparing common conventional foods to common organic foods, the organic foods are almost always more expensive and you can tell by comparing the price per ounce. For example, conventional Cheerios cost \$0.21/ oz while organic Cheerios cost \$0.58/ oz. Conventional Red Delicious apples cost \$1.10 each and organic Red Delicious apples cost \$1.25 each.

As for the taste of organic food, that is all solely based on opinion. Organic foods may have a bit of a different taste than conventional foods since they (in a sense) come straight from the earth. The organic fruits and vegetables may be shaped slightly differently than conventional, but it should not affect the taste or quality.

PAW PAW VILLAGE PHARMACY

322 East Michigan
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Mon-Fri: 8am — 6pm
Sat: 8am — 1pm

Phone: 269-657-6073
Fax: 269-657-3936



Brian Marks R.Ph.
Joe Romph R.Ph.

Acapulco Gold
Tanning

Mon - Fri: 9 - 9
Sat: 10 - 7
Sun: 12 - 6

6749 S. Westnedge Ave Ste. C
Portage, MI 49002
(269) 324-5200
acapulcogoldtanning.com

Mat & Michelle
Owners

TEENS LOVE ANGST



Hannah Reinhold / Knight Life News

Junior Connor Addison is an AP Art student. Addison looks to art and drawing as one option to relieve his stress and convey a message to people.

High School English Curriculum Literature Featuring Tragic Scenarios:

Romeo and Juliet
Star crossed lovers ending with dual suicide
Hamlet
Overwhelming grief to seething rage,
treachery, revenge, incest, and moral
corruption
Native Son
Rape, murder, deceit, and vulgarity
Brave New World
Distortion of reality, resolution of suicide
1984
Torture, feigning loyalty, tyrannical
government, contemplation of suicide

Hannah Reinhold
Knight Life News

As teenagers settle into the curriculum of high school education, there will be a presentation of intriguing and curious emotions toward depression, angst, overwhelming passion, and the fascinating aspect of suicide. Teenagers may have a revelation towards the reality of life; it's not all what it's been cracked up to be, life is more difficult than adults have led them to believe.

Teenagers are left with a lingering sense of dissatisfaction, which may lead many to question the motives of humanity: why is there war, why is there death, why is there an excess of dissension?

Along comes a literary fascination with suicide, which appeals to society because suicide is one thing that we can't quite personally experience, as there are the unanswered questions of what happens in the afterlife. Drawn to stories that feature scenarios with suicide, readers can draw out an ideological experience that they

wouldn't otherwise get.

A tragic flaw is one that really appeals to the modernly developed society in and out of literature. Humanity processes tragedy in an odd way, viewing or reading a tragedy can reveal pain and render pleasure in doing so. The curiosity that society possesses drives the attraction to those experiences we have yet to develop a familiarity with.

"The greater the suffering depicted, the more terrible the events, the more intense our pleasure..." according to the bookteacher.org website.

In an English teacher's, Tisha Pankop's, fourth period Honors English 11 course, the students situate themselves around the classroom in a circle to present and digest personally written tales, an assignment that followed reading "The Canterbury Tales" written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

"The Canterbury Tales" is a collection of stories written in Middle English near the end of the 14th century. Chaucer uses the tales and the descriptions of its characters to paint an ironic and critical portrait of English society at the time, particularly of the corruption of the Catholic Church.

As one student in particular, Connor Addison, cleared his throat to begin reading his original tale, the class's attention was dramatically drawn as Addison reeled them in with his words. Addison's tale was unique in the fact that it presented a tragically realistic plot written in a stream of conscious style...he wrote of a misunderstood man who interpreted the world through a small account of things.

THE ARTIST'S TALE: A SHORT STORY WRITTEN BY CONNOR ADDISON

As a man sat in a coffee shop he looked at the world around him. He didn't see objects, people, the trees or the sky; he saw beyond all of that. No, he did not see the greater meaning behind things; the "complexity of life"...but what he did see were things in their simplest form. He looked deeply at his surroundings and admired the details rather than a larger picture that had often become the focal point of people's perceptions. Many times, people did not pay enough attention to the details; they did not give the simple elements enough credit. After all, without detail, could any grand scheme exist?

The man, named Ethan, sat in the coffee shop and zoned out, immersed in a contemplative, hypnotic daydream.

His waiter rushed up to his table and hastily asked, "More coffee, sir?"

Confused, Ethan asked, "What?"

It was not that Ethan misunderstood what the waiter had asked, but he was occupied with his analysis of the simpler details of the world that he had not comprehended the question of whether to refill his coffee or not as another person might understand it. His analytical mind had taken over control so that objects did not exist as separate parts of the world labeled with names such as "coffee" or "chair" or "table." His cup of coffee and whether he might want it refilled was part of the bigger picture of a world that his mind had turned it's back on. Instead, he focused on the most fundamental details of perception: texture, lines, and lighting.

The waiter soon became irrationally irritated while Ethan was caught up in silent contemplation and an unresponsive manner to the question that had been asked. The other customers, waiting for the waiter to serve them, began to get irate. They could not see a reason for the prolonged delay. Why couldn't the man just tell the waiter whether he wanted more coffee or not? But Ethan was beyond answering this question. He had tuned his attention in on the simpler and yet more fundamental aspects of his surroundings.

Ethan looked around, vaguely aware of the anger rising around him. He abruptly stood, looking at the lines of the floor tiles beneath him. He followed the lines out the doors of the coffee shop. Outside, two people greeted him, saying hello, however he did not respond. In his mind, he was not looking upon the faces of those passing him by: those faces were simply a collection of details, of aesthetic elements. And he moved on.

He walked and walked. He followed lines, mostly the lines along the road. He observed the shadows on the clouds and the fluttering leaves

dancing in the sunlight. Although Ethan could never muster enough effort to form a friendly relationship with the people around him, he was drawn to the interesting aspect of animals and their unconcerned place in the modern world. And one lonely day, as Ethan sat musing in the patterns of the sky, a somewhat disheveled dog sauntered up to him, placing his paws on Ethan's lap, panting eagerly, looking for a companion. Ethan vacantly stared at the animal, virtually unaware that it was a dog, for he saw only the gradients of light shimmering on its fur. Ethan struggled against his perceptions, knowing that they were keeping him isolated, but he was helpless, he was caught in a prison of abstract thinking...he entertained the idea that he might never be able to escape.

Then through a quite sudden revelation, he thought that maybe he did not want to escape, that he was not cursed, but rather blessed with a gift of greater discernment. Everything was texture and lines. He was texture and lines. Realizing that this narrow-minded world would never accept his way of thinking, and that he would never just be left in peace to study the textures and lines of the world surrounding him, he pulled out a knife from his coat pocket...and as he drew it to his chest he looked down, his hand moved, carving his body, still visualizing line after line. The thing he last saw was the texture of his face, reflected in the blade of the knife.

Students Treat Textbooks with Disrespect



Allie Creamer / Knight Life News

Junior Ross Bechtel and junior Lian Wardrop are sharing a book due to limited supplies. Some students have to share books during their classes.

Jena Burkey
Knight Life News

Glancing up at the board for the agenda, sophomore Hannah Muscara notes that her assignment in her Precalculus book begins on page 97. She opens a book to see that the pages jump from page 1 to 105 and that is one of the pages missing.

Many students have been through this at Loy Norrix High School and yet nothing seems to change. Year after

year students tear up textbooks and show little to no respect for the school and its property.

The limited number of books in the classroom of Travis Smith one of the precalculus classes, is very hard to work with in a class of 35 students and about 25 books. Students know Loy Norrix High School doesn't have the best quality of books because they are not taken care of.

As some students continue to

vandalize the books, the number of books continue to decrease over the years, which causes the school to buy more books than it should have to. Students lose them, tear them, write in them and destroy them before most have reached 5 years of age.

"The books are in terrible condition," said Muscara. "The other day I went to do an assignment and it didn't even have that page."

Other schools like Mattawan High School do not have the same problem as Loy Norrix does when it comes to handling school supplies. Mattawan has a different system for school books and issuing them to students.

"Students at our high school are allowed to come in at scheduled times a week before school and pick up their schedule and textbooks," said Patrick Bird, superintendent of Mattawan Consolidated schools.

The number enrolled in their class determines the number of books issued. Almost every student at Mattawan gets their own book for each class.

Bird claims there are times when there are not enough books for students to have their own and they have to share a class set.

"The students don't consider them [books] theirs. If students had their

own, they would be held accountable for that book and be fined for the damage," said Muscara.

Mattawan does just this, "Students are charged a fee for a lost or damaged book," said Bird. Mattawan does their best to keep up with books and money people owe.

"Enforcing fee collections is time consuming and sometimes we aren't able to collect what is owed," said Bird.

Vandalizing the books at Loy Norrix is pointless and irresponsible. Students are disrespecting what Loy Norrix provides its students for their education.

Not only is it disrespectful to the school and its supplies, but also to other students who will need to use these books in the future. People may argue that this isn't a big deal because teachers can just order more books, but it is time consuming and unnecessary to spend extra money.

Eventually the school is buying books more frequently because students are getting lazy by not returning them, by treating them poorly, and writing all over them as a joke.

see TEXTBOOKS page 7

Foreign Exchange Students Adapt to American Culture

Nikia Jackson
Knight Life News

Being a foreign exchange student can be difficult, you are going to a new place, living with people you do not know, and learning customs you may not be one hundred percent comfortable with.

Lena Bubenheim is from Germany and is a senior at Loy Norrix High School. Bubenheim had never been to America before.

"I was happy and totally excited," said Bubenheim when asked how she felt when she found out she was coming to the U.S.

Bubenheim likes that everyone is open and friendly and she loves the school spirit at Norrix. When Bubenheim first came to Norrix she was very confused about the school system.

"Days are really long. It's hard because it's so loud and there is so many people," said Bubenheim.

In Germany school begins somewhere between 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m., and can last up to noon. In higher grades school could last until 6:00 p.m. depending on the school.

Each period is forty-five minutes long with a five-minute break in between.

German schools are strictly for academic learning. They do not offer extracurricular activities associated with the institution. German schools do not have sports teams like basketball, or soccer, and they don't have school dances. In Germany students have to go outside of the school to be on sports teams.

"I would love to have school spirit in schools and have sports teams," said Bubenheim.

When Bubenheim found out that she was accepted to be a foreign exchange student in the U.S. she automatically thought about how things were going to be.

"I did not know how I was going to act around my host family, I also wondered if I would understand them," said Bubenheim.

Bubenheim had to go through a really long process to become a foreign exchange student. First she had to choose an organization to go through.

Bubenheim went through a company called Partnership International and they then partnered with F.L.A.G. Applicants have to order information and fill out the paper work. Then that company could accept her or not.

"The process of becoming a



Sydnee Stannard / Knight Life News

In Drama class, Amara Fink (left) and foreign exchange student senior Lena Bubenheim (right) play slapstick. Slapstick is a comedy game you play with a partner that usually contains either little speaking with lots of movement, or lots of speaking with lots of movement.

foreign exchange student is a lot," said Bubenheim.

The company talks to applicants in English and tells them about the U.S. Government. Applicants are given situations and has to report what they would do in each one.

That's when the company tells the applicant if they're actually going to take them on or not. After that

applicants have to take a test to see what herr skills are.

The company then sends the chosen applicant to an organization in the U.S then they apply. Bubenheim applied in August of last year.

The application was forty pages for Bubenheim and it asked her about her medical history, hobbies, and she also

see EXCHANGE page 7

Holiday Stories From Loy Norrix Community

Shakira Green
Knight Life News

With the snow starting to appear and the chill in the air, the underlying buzz about the holidays is everywhere. Students as well as teachers are antsy for Winter Break hoping to go buy themselves an Eggnog shake. This year's holiday brings in more cheer.

Art Intern Paige Reesor

"For Christmas my parents got my sister and I a dog for Christmas. It was a Maltese puppy and they put it in the box with little holes in it and everything. I think I was in the 4th grade and my sister was in the 2nd, but we go to the tree and I hear like barking. Then my sister comes and picks up the box and she's like, 'YOU GOT US A BUNNY!'"



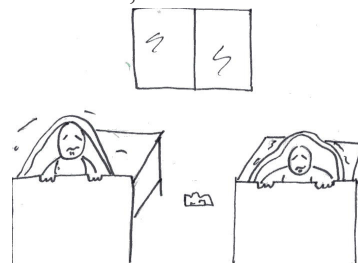
Senior Tinashe Chaponda

"Sixth grade Christmas was when everyone was getting a Nintendo DS and what I did was two to three weeks prior to Christmas one night I snuck into the living room and opened my present up, but I made it seem like I never opened it. So, for those two to three weeks I brought it to school everyday and played it at school with my friends. Every other night, to be safe, I would put it back into the box and wrap it up. My parents sort of found out so on Christmas Eve I ended up opening my presents early anyway."



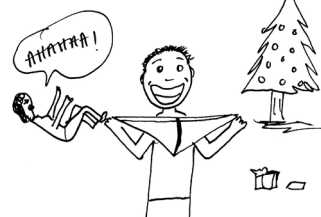
Math Teacher Adam Hosler

"My grandparents were down and they bought us these blow up baseball guys and they blew them up and put them around our Christmas tree. We got up really early that morning and went out to see our gifts and it scared us to death. We thought that it was actually someone around the Christmas tree so we ran back into our bedrooms, my brothers and I, and hid."



Junior Claire Meares

"A couple of years ago we got my brother a thong for Christmas as a gag gift. He thought it was really funny and he put it on over his underwear."



Sophomore Sara Barnes

"Okay, so the day before Christmas me and my brother, we took all of our Christmas presents that were under the tree for us and we unwrapped them. We got iPods so, we hooked them up with iTunes and stuff and we were so excited, but we couldn't let my mom know. So, when she got home all the wrappers were everywhere. We ran and just did the worst job wrapping them back up. We had all of our music on it and everything and all our apps downloaded. The next day was Christmas so we had to pretend like we were surprised and we told her about it a couple of years ago and she's just mad and like, 'Oh my God!'"



Top 10 Wintertime Date Ideas

Mia Leibold
Knight Life News

As Christmas break approaches and the holiday season is underway, many students struggle to find fun activities to do. Instead of sitting at home and wasting the day away making plans, here are some fun, romantic, and casual dates that are perfect for cold winter nights.

200 student lunch surveys provided the following results:



EXCHANGE from page 6

had to attach a photo. She then applied for her visa.

Osasu Ehirheme is from Finland and is also a senior at Loy Norrix High School. When Ehirheme found out that he was coming to the United States, he was really happy.

"The best day of my life is when I found out I could play hockey," said Ehirheme.

Ehirheme has been playing hockey for five years and loves the sport. Before Ehirheme came to the U.S. he thought everything was going to be big and out there and he also thought that everyone was going to be fat. Now that Ehirheme is here he thinks things are big and out there, but the people are not all fat.

Ehirheme was in school and a girl came, talking to them about being an exchange student. and he got her information, contacted her and she gave him the information.

The Finnish school system is very different from the U.S. school system. In Finland the basic comprehensive school starts students at age seven and ends at age fifteen.

After the basic compulsory school there is post-compulsory secondary general academic and vocational education which starts at age sixteen and ends at age nineteen. Then they move on to higher education (college).

"In Finland High School is more like

college," said Ehirheme.

In Finland the students are on their own to do their work, their teachers are not on them about doing their homework and turning in their work like in the U.S.

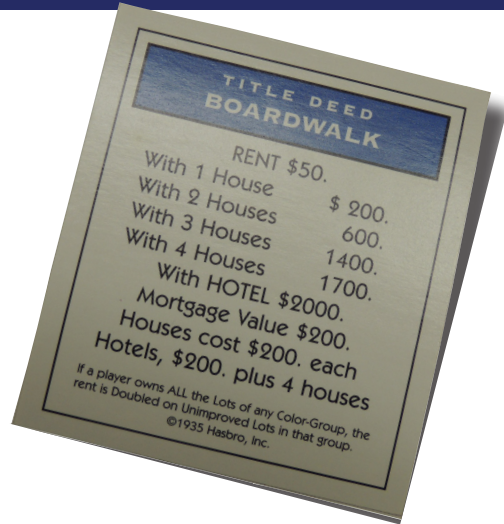
TEXTBOOKS from page 6

"The school sets aside around 50 thousand dollars for this very issue," said Principal Edwards, of Loy Norrix High School. "We are looking into a more efficient way of issuing books, similar to libraries and at the end of a course we would give the reports of missing books to the guidance office."

By doing this, it would put more responsibility on the students and what books they are checking out electronically.

That extra money not being used to reorder textbooks could be put into something other than replacing books such as other supplies or funding for various activities and sports.

If Loy Norrix could hold the students accountable for their actions, less damage would be done to the books. If there was a certain fine if the book was destroyed after a student was done using it, that student would be held responsible for the damage and therefore would have to pay a fine. This would not only help control spending, but it would save students the headache of trying to find an acceptable book to use in the classroom that isn't completely destroyed.



Boardwalk to B-Wing

Loy Norrix Teachers Play Classroom Monopoly

It's not just about the classroom, it's also about the teacher.

"My favorite class room is Art with Mrs. Vanlieu, Mrs. Vanlieu makes it a very good environment it's fun. I really like the class," said freshman Jasmin Brooks.

"I'm going to say forensics Mr. Lowrie's class he's just a funny dude, cool teacher," said junior Jonathan Salazar.

"Mrs. Pringle keeps her kids under control even when she has a sub, we never get called to her room," said Officer Sneil.

"Art ceramics with Mrs. Riley. It's fun and you can work with your hands and you use clay," said sophomore Julian Borst.

"Mr. Bradford because he's easy fun and relaxed," said senior Davian Phillips.

Ben Miller and Anthony Foti
Knight Life News

Lets face it, Loy Norrix has many different types of classrooms; some better than others. Some classrooms have windows, while others have a wall stacked with books. There's always a little jealousy between teachers over who gets a nice room and who gets stuck in the Middle Ages in the K wing.

Obviously a larger classroom is better because you can fit more kids, but English teacher Joe Kitzman says it's also for the students' benefit. In a larger classroom, teachers are able to do more group work because they are able to separate and have better group discussions. Some classes have things that get in the way and make the room cramped. Senior Elizabeth Rojas especially dislikes the Chemistry room in C19.

"That board in the middle makes it extremely cramped. You can't really move without smacking someone in the face with your backpack," said Liz.

Having technology is helpful to kids because work can be done more efficiently. For example, it is easier to type fast and read others' work when typing on a computer. Technology is also helpful to the teachers because it improves

the way students learn. An example of this is the classrooms with better sound systems and projectors. These things help teachers get points across to students without them getting bored as easily as when teachers just lecture for an hour.

"I feel very fortunate to have all of this ambient light," said Spanish teacher Chris Holmes.

Windows can be a distraction, but if they let in light they serve a good purpose. And classrooms in the B and A wing who look out at the forest and nature are peaceful and yet not too distracting. On the other hand, rooms with little or no windows tend to have dull lighting and are downright depressing. This makes it easier for students to fall asleep or zone out.

Of all of the classes in the school, the best ones seem to have certain characteristics. Typically, these classrooms have lots of space, large windows and good technology. The less fortunate teachers tend to get rooms with dull lighting, few to no windows, and have a very "old school" setting. Teachers are ill-tempered when it comes to the class that they have to spend 5 days a week.



K-3
Good space
Good for groups
Good storage
No windows

KSW
Good windows
Good size
Bad insulation
Thin walls

K5C
Bad carpet
Good tech
Good storage
Good windows

K-14
Ac
No windows
Low ceiling

A-18
Love the size
wall of windows
walls of white
board
In the best wing

A-19
Good windows
Cool patio
Brick wall with
drinking fountain

A-21
Great windows
2 boards
Projector
Bad Lights

A-20
Big windows
Lots of storage

K-15
Small
Bad storage
Uncomfortable
No windows
Humming noise
Dull lights



Oops, You Did It Again Embarrassing Moments

Aerion Caldwell
Knight Life News

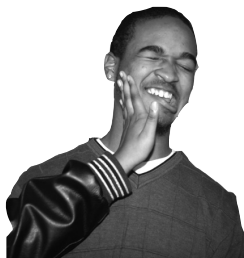
You're running down the court at full speed when you see a basketball flying your way. Thinking you can dodge it with some cool footwork, it hits you right in the face. SMACK!

Then you start to feel like you were on Looney Tunes because you swore you saw stars. The rising laughter of your peers brings you back to reality; you have just embarrassed yourself in front of the whole school at the Winter Fest pep assembly.

Everybody has an embarrassing moment, whether its slipping on ice or farting in front of that cute guy you like. Either its messing up your first kiss or spilling water on yourself that makes it look like you peed.

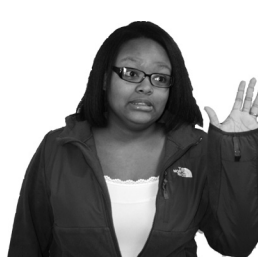
We all have our stories; some worse or some a little like this. After fighting my way through the hallways of Loy Norrix like a video game, I began to wonder what embarrassing truths were left untold.

Junior Greg Davis



"One time in second grade my mom walked in my class while I was messing around, and she came up and slapped me in the front the whole class then everyone started laughing and I started crying."

Senior Raven Vanderbilt



"My teacher was asking if there were any 10th graders and I forgot I was a junior and said I was, then everybody looked at me, and I said just kidding."

Junior Rikki Garrison



"One time I was playing basketball and this guy I liked was playing too, and I tripped because my shorts were too big and they came down."

Senior Marquitta Smith



"Well, every year I do tug a war at the pep rallies. Last year we were going up against the sophomores and just before they pulled us over the line (I had on sandals) I fell, and when I got up, I flashed all of the lower class my butt. I didn't know I did until I got on the bus and this guy explained what underwear I was wearing. I didn't come to school the next day."

Senior Tyrrell Wilks



"Well, I was in the B-wing and I was doing an activity with eggs, and I tried to walk across the eggs and the eggs broke as soon as I stepped on them. Then I slipped and fell on my butt, and when I got up I had egg goop all on my butt."

Senior Dasan Mitchell



"I woke up and put on my Michael Jackson pants. They were a little tight and I couldn't take a full stride. The bus was coming and I had to run and my pants ripped and I didn't notice until I got to school. Then my mom didn't come until second block."

TEEN ANGST From Page 5

Ethan, the main character of Addison's tale, is intrigued by the miniscule details that life presents. Ethan is relatively slow at developing perceptions as a whole because he digests objects and scenarios individually through an artists' point of view, as through lines, textures, and shades. The society that he lives in misunderstands his intentions and objectives in life. Through a final revelation, which he ultimately acts upon, the tale commences tragically.

Back to the continuation of Tisha Pankop's 4th hour Honors English 11 class discussion and dissection of the awe inspiring tale written by, let's say for the sake of discussion a teenager, Addison, struggling with emotions of angst, morality, and curiosity (as most teenagers stereotypically do).

Across the room sits the logical yet frank junior, Charles Nobles, who earnestly leans forward in his chair throughout the duration of the tale, almost as if Addison were literally drawing Nobles in with his words.

"...Through an artist's perspective, he [Addison] literally drew the words through imagery...it ended quite intriguingly," confoundedly remarked Nobles.

Unique and artistically gifted, yet profoundly quiet, junior Ci'anna Gray relays her input from a corner of the room.

"It really leaves the reader with something deep to think about and critically process," said Gray as multiple classmates nodded their heads in unanimous assent.

"It views the absurdity of life...it is the little parts in our lives that are not generally dissected for a whole by this modern society," interjected Pankop.

"Once you hear about Ethan's story, you feel sympathy for the guy...but in real life you wouldn't really care about someone as introverted as him," concluded Addison quietly.

For many people, there's an exceptionally great piece of literature that will move them. An author can render enough

emotion to metaphorically force the reader onto their knees, hanging on every last written word, yearning for the resolution of conflict, an end for the characters to leave the reader satisfied and feeling complete with that final last sentence.

The most intriguing element that those pieces of literature may have in common is the descriptive features to offer the tragic flaw presented. Appealing to those less experienced with tragic events in their lives most of all; the curiosity of the unknown overcomes the adolescent desire for a fairytale ending.

With the profound piece written by Connor Addison, a high school student, reclusive artist, and amateur writer, Addison captivated a class of a high school junior class, very possibly alone, with the addition of the appalling resolution.



Since 1993

Gourmet Coffee

Espresso

Cappuccino

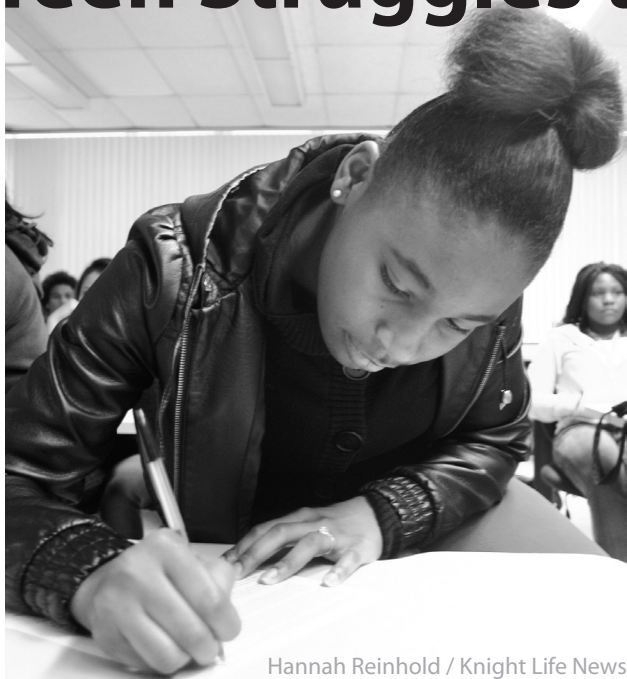
816 S. WESTNEDGE
(269) 383-0202

Buy One
Specialty Espresso Drink
-----&-----
Get One of Equal
or Lesser Value
FREE!

Expires August 31, 2013

Open 24 Hours!

Teen Struggles to Cope with Loss of Loved One



Hannah Reinhold / Knight Life News

Tierra Colter works hard in class and strives to get good grades, despite struggles at home. Many students must learn how to balance busy lives and grief during the loss of a loved one.

Shelby Esman
Guest Writer

She wakes up every morning knowing that she will never get to see her mother again and cannot help but wonder if she could have done anything to prevent her mother's death. Her heart

aches as she realizes that her family will never be whole again.

Loy Norrix junior Tierra Colter often thinks about what it would be like to have her mother back and even though Tierra and her mother did not have the closest relationship,

she will always love her mother and think about the precious but few moments they did have.

Tierra's mother passed away about three years ago when Tierra was 13 years old. Her mother had been abusing drugs throughout her life.

During a visit to the hospital, she was diagnosed with kidney failure. She was released from the hospital and decided to stay with Tierra's aunt, Wendy, while Tierra stayed with her godmother Dawn.

Tierra's mother eventually passed away while at Tierra's aunt's house due to complications with her kidney failure. Tierra's older brother was the one to tell her that her mom had died. She rushed to her Aunt Wendy's house and saw her mother lying on the floor with breathing tubes in her mouth, but her chest was no longer moving.

"When I first found out that my mom had died, I didn't cry, I was just numb. But once I saw her on the ground, I broke down," said Tierra.

Tierra had a rough life growing up. Tierra's older brother and sister got to experience what it was like to have an involved parent but Tierra's mother was on and off drugs throughout Tierra's life. Tierra ended up spending most of her life with other relatives because she couldn't handle living with her mother.

"I felt like she chose drugs over me," said Tierra, when talking about her relationship with her mother.

After her mother's death, Tierra's life was never the same. She began pushing people away and experiencing depression. She blamed herself for what happened which is very typical for a teenager to do when faced with a situation like this. Tierra attended counseling to help her express her emotions about the death of her mother, which helped tremendously in the healing process.

Another thing that Tierra used to help her cope with the loss of her mom was writing poetry. She created a poetry book that she would write in

when she needed to let her emotions out because she knew that letting her feelings get bottled up inside would only hurt herself more.

"When I feel something, I might start writing in it, but then not write in it for a couple of months," said Tierra.

This poetry book helped her come to terms with how she felt and let her express the pain she was going through.

Today, Tierra is still coping with the loss of her mother. She finds comfort talking with her Aunt Anita about her mom and knows that she can always count on her. Tierra has lived with her aunt after her mother passed away and often leans on her for support.

This experience has made Tierra stronger and realize how important it is to spend time with her family. She values the relationships she has with her loved ones because she won't have them forever.

"You should never take what you have in life for granted because it could be taken away from you at any time," said Tierra, offering a piece of advice.



REGISTER NOW.

Talk with your counselor about taking classes at Kalamazoo Valley.

Watch the videos!



Kalamazoo**VALLEY**™
community college
www.kvcc.edu/register

James J. GENERAL

ACT CODE
2016

STAFF EDITORIAL

Online Schools Detract From Student's Social and Life Skills

She rolls out of bed slowly, her cell phone alarm ringing next to her, playing "Call Me Maybe" at the highest volume, and reading in big digital letters 12:03. She trudges down her abnormally steep hardwood stairs, still half asleep, and goes to the cupboard to grab a bowl of Rice Krispies.

Her mother is at work, so she won't get yelled at for bringing food into her room. She is more awake now, so she walks briskly up the steps, almost tripping twice, and then catching herself on the handrail. She walks into her room just to plop down on the red velvet armchair in front of her computer, and her school day begins, alone.

The internet makes the world go round. It is used for everything from shopping to research to gaming. The internet is beginning to replace everything; books, magazines, mail, the radio,



Ben Dunham / Knight Life News

CDs, television, and now even schools are starting to be replaced by the internet.

School is beginning to make a shift towards the world of the internet, standard classroom materials are being replaced with a simple keyboard and mouse, and students have the privilege of

sitting at home in front of a computer in order to get their high school diploma.

Currently, in Michigan, no more than 2 percent of the student population are allowed to enroll in cyber charter schools, which are schools in which students take all of their coursework online.

Roughly 2,500 students are currently enrolled in Michigan cyber schools, which is very insignificant in proportion to the number of students enrolled in public school.

This relatively low number contributes to online schools being a positive alternative to public school for those with certain conditions making them unable to attend, rather than a dominant form of school detracting from the social skills of the masses.

Online schools are open to students who have shown signs of not being able to work well in a public school environment, and are not simply open to anyone. These can be students who have failed or dropped out, students who would like to switch to online schools due to bullying, or introverted students who simply do not feel comfortable at school.

See ONLINE SCHOOLS Page 14

A New Kind Of Booty Media Piracy Drives the Digital Age

Ben Dunham
Knight Life News

He stared intently at the screen which illuminated his face in the pitch-black room. Ever so carefully, he moved his mouse cursor to the button which read "download". There would be no turning back after he made the click. Before he could talk himself out of it, his finger pressed down on the mouse. There was no denying it; he was a criminal.

Piracy is incredibly controversial and for good reason. It is a broad topic that supports many opinions. And the worst part of the issue?

Nobody is right.

To clarify, I'm not talking about the gun-waving, booty-loving, seven sea sailing piracy that we dramatize in all kinds of media; I'm talking about the

significantly less exciting kind which involves sitting in front of a computer.

Modern day piracy is the use of the internet to "share" media with one another with no charge. The media that people pirate ranges from ninety-nine cent songs to software worth hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

I'd go so far as to say that nearly every person who reads this article is guilty of piracy, whether they know it or not. Before you start covering your tracks and ducking when a police car drives by, I'd like to point out that this piracy isn't necessarily a bad thing.

First off, piracy is so easy that it's almost impossible to resist. Who in their right mind would prefer to pay money for a song when they can get it for free? It's a simple choice many people make every day.

The goal of nearly every producer of media, from movies, to video games, and even this paper, is to get into as many hands and heads as possible. Some artists such as Markus Persson, or

Notch, developer of the hit game "Minecraft" have even encouraged people to pirate their game when they can't afford it.

When a person told Notch that they couldn't afford "Minecraft," Notch tweeted at him, "Just pirate it. If you still like it when you can afford it in the future, buy it then. Also don't forget to feel bad. :)"

The way media works in our society right now is backwards and corporatized. The people who put their heart and soul into their work are left with the scraps, while middlemen corporate parasites take up all of the earnings. For example, the 99 cents made on an iTunes sale is first cut back 34 cents by Apple, and then the remaining funds are split between record labels, producers, and so on, until the actual artist is left with an average ten cents.

Like all issues, however, piracy has two sides. First and foremost, piracy is illegal. There is no dancing around it. Nothing about taking something that you should

have paid for is legal. We should all be honest with ourselves and just accept that our greed is leading us to do the wrong thing.

The second biggest issue is the sense of entitlement people have. Many people believe that they are supposed to be able to see every movie, hear every song, and play every game that comes out. The thing about this is, they can, as long as they are willing to pay a price. Media, just like everything else we consume, has a value, and we need to pay for it.

So how do we fix this problem?

Thankfully, there are two major new movements that work out for both parties. The first is the rise of independent artists. An artist is considered independent if they fund their work without a corporate publisher.

Services like the Humble Bundle for video games and Soundcloud for music allow profits to go more directly to artists, which then allows these artists to be able to afford to

see PIRACY page 14

KNIGHT LIFE PUBLICATION POLICY

Guidelines for Letters to Editor: 250 words or less, must contain author's name, third period, and ID number.

Right to Withhold:

If space permits, guest columns, personal opinions, contains libel or obscenities, disrupts school environment, invades privacy of others.

Notes to reader:

Any photography that has been manipulated will be labeled as a photo illustration. Knight Life will publish a formal correction of any factual error made in a previous issue.

KNIGHT LIFE EDITORIAL BOARD

Asia Davis
Editor-in-Chief

Ben Dunham
Rachel Reed
Kiosha Miller
Web Editors

Anthony Foti
Layout and Design Editor

Brianna Leip
Layout and Design Assistant

Sarah Stevens
Business Manager

Jay McIntosh
Business Assistant

Allie Creamer
Sydney Stannard
Photo Editors

Danielle Kahler
Hannah Reinhold
Feature Editors

Mataya Simmons
News Editor

Erin Romph
Mia Leibold
Sports Editors

Nikia Jackson
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Aerion Caldwell
Shakira Green
Jena Burkey
Marcus Boyd
Mary Daly
Copy Editors

Josh Johnson
Branden VanZile
Opinion Editors

Shakira Green
Comics Editor

Cherell Langford
Ben Miller
Jacob Heasley
Staff Writers

Tisha Pankop
Advisor

Volunteers: Changing Families one Animal at a Time



Allie Creamer
Knight Life News

You walk into the shelter greeted by yips of joy, tails wagging, and all four paws off the floor trying to jump through the cage. You can't take one step without being noticed. They all want the love and attention they deserve. This is the The Animal Rescue Project.

Volunteering at the Animal Rescue Project is an amazing experience. They are a no-kill shelter so the organization needs a ton of help because they have so many animals. Other shelters and pounds have to euthanize their dogs when the dogs have been at the shelter too long or there is no more room for all of the animals.

Volunteer Andrea Pluta started volunteering with animals in 2005. She saw all of the animals on the television from Hurricane Katrina

without a home and had to help.

"So many animals are in need," said Pulta shaking her head, "The Animal Rescue Project is basically all volunteers."

Animals need walks, play time and my favorite time of all, cuddle time. The biggest job the rescue needs help with is the animals.

The dogs at the shelter need to be socialized with humans as much as they can before being adopted out. This happens to be one of the most rewarding parts of volunteering. You get to know about the animals really well and then talk to potential adopters about them.

Rhonda Delong started with the SPCA and moved over to the Animal Rescue Project when they started two years ago.

"The animal human bond is amazing," said Delong, "you can give them something they didn't have [before]."

Rhonda loves getting to know the dogs and then seeing them get adopted out. She told a story about an elderly couple adopting a cocker spaniel. The couple had just lost their cocker spaniel and came in looking for a new dog.

They saw the one we had at the Animal Rescue Project and fell in love immediately. The two left crying and saying thank you over and over again. That is what gets you every time.

Sometimes the rescue get dogs like Julia and Jeremiah who were found out in the open running around and taken to the Animal Rescue in May of 2012. The dogs are scared to death of people because they haven't been socialized at all. Julia and Jeremiah crawl as fast as they can to the back of the cage to get away when volunteer Courtney James opens their pen.

"You just have to show them some love," said James as she went over to try and pet them. "You have to get them used to you."

All these animals need to be socialized and helped somehow or another. They all need attention and the love. If you are over sixteen you can volunteer for the Animal Rescue Project. All you need to is come in and love on the animals at The Animal Rescue Project.

Contact the Animal Rescue Project:
219 Peekstock Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 492-1010

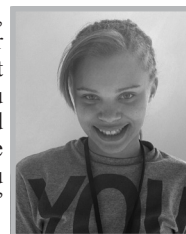
KNIGHTS SPEAK

Should secondary education students be able to take online classes instead of traditional school?

Terrehl Kelley, Junior
"Yes because it gives you more flexibility. It allows you more time to focus if you need it."



Tamara Irby, Junior
"No, you can't get all the help and you can't stay focused because you don't have a teacher telling you what to do."



Chris Jones, Senior
"No, in person so you can get the help you actually need. And the teacher can't help a problem with a student if they aren't there."



Christian Diaz, Senior
"No, it's boring and it's easier with teachers. Computers can't explain it to you."



Audrey Myers, Senior
"Yeah, some kids could benefit from it if they have to watch their siblings or something."



Mr. Edwards, Principal
"I'm not against online classes for H.S. students. Students who choose that route must be organized and have great time management."



Breakfast is the Most Important Meal of the Day



Brianna Leip
Knight Life News

Sitting in first block staring at the clock, you realize you forgot the most important meal of the day. Now you are forced to wait up to four or more hours until you will be able to dig into your next meal.

Some think breakfast is a meal that can easily be skipped and then be made up later. However, that is not the case. On average, teens (ages 15-18) are growing and changing during these vital times. When teenagers skip breakfast, they hold less energy than they would if they had eaten breakfast. This period of semi starvation creates physical, mental and emotional problems. Next time your lab partner starts crying in 1st hour, you know why.

Senior Sarah Townsend is one of the lucky few that receives

breakfast on the table every morning made by her mom.

"I never make breakfast, my mother always makes it for me. Breakfast is just something that I can always expect to have when I wake up," Townsend said.

"Breakfast is just the most important meal of the day, I can't survive mentally or physically without it."

-Sarah Townsend

Townsend is a tall and skinny female who works out on occasion unless she is in her swimming season. When she does not eat breakfast it makes her feel drained, empty and weak. Townsend said, "Breakfast is just the most important meal of the day, I can't survive mentally or physically without it."

Senior Zachary Julian and junior Joe Boggan are complete opposites from Townsend. Ironically these two boys do not eat breakfast every morning. They are big, bulky and buff football

players. The big reason these two males don't eat breakfast is because they just simply don't have time.

"Usually, it depends on how much time I have that day and that week and when I wake up," Boggan explained.

According to WedMD, eating breakfast in the morning speeds up your metabolism. When you skip breakfast, there is a higher chance that you will eat more during the day to make up for the meal that you skipped.

Boggan is so used to skipping breakfast every morning that he has become prone to it. However, both Townsend and Julian both feel a lot different when they don't receive their morning pick up. Julian said, "I just feel different, almost like I'm in a slump and can't get out."

One thing all three of these three can agree on is that breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

PROPS
AND
STOPS

PROPS

-New Trimester
“Everybody starts this class with an A.” I bet you’ve never heard that one before.

-Winter Break
See ya in two weeks Norrix!

-Acceptance Letters to Colleges
All that hard work is finally paying off.

-Winter Holidays
Tis the season to be jolly!

-No More Political Ads
Until next time

-New Years Resolution
“I’m going to eat healthy!” Two weeks later, “its just a dozen donuts...”



STOPS

-School Temperature
Can we get some consistency from room to room?

-Short Daylight
It feels like bed-time at 6...

-Ugly Christmas Sweaters
Are you really wearing that right now...?

-Driving Conditions
Drivers education never taught me how to drift...

-Tardy Pass Scanner
They’re actually keeping track of this?

-The World Ending
Whether it’s happening or not, you might as well get scared!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,
I read “School Lunch Redetermined Yet Again.” I thought the beginning was really good. It really grabbed my attention the way you started it. It all really grasped my attention through the whole thing. None of it bored me. I agreed with the stereotype and how kids only say things just because that’s what they saw and learned growing up. I think school lunches taste amazing! It may look gross sometimes but it tastes good. I also agree that the meals are too pricey for the portion they give you. I am always hungry again when it comes to 5th hour. Maybe it’s because I have first lunch and I work it off running from class to class but I still feel they should add a little more to our lunches or at least lower the prices.

Krysten Granger
Freshman

From PIRACY page 12

make more content. Cutting out the middlemen is the best thing we can do for media, and if these movements continue to rise on the paths they’re following, we could see a new era which--ironically enough--goes back to direct purchases from the people making the content we want. Instead of technology getting in the way, we can use it to create a perfect system where those doing hard work get paid for it.

The second movement to solve piracy is simply making things free for the user. The biggest internet phenomena right now are Facebook, Twitter, Google, and Youtube.

What do these services all have in common? They are all completely free for anyone with internet access. The best part about Facebook, Google, and Twitter is that they are still making money, and lots of it.

Advertising is a great way to provide a revenue stream for an artist and free content to the users. Companies pay money to place their advertising some place within the media where people can see or hear it. Ads can support an artist well enough to be able to afford to make their content free to consume.

Google, a free web browser is a mega-corporation that has a hand in nearly every aspect of technology. This success is not only seen in browsing, though.

League of Legends is the most played game in the world by a huge margin, and it is completely free to play. There are countless services, such as Pandora, Spotify, Jango, and Grooveshark that provide free music to people, and are all thriving.

The point is, the best way to fight piracy is to accept it and shift how business works to combat it. Some of the most successful companies in the world got to their level of success by offering their service for free. If more artists take advantage of advertising, free-to-play models, and direct-to-developer payment methods, we will finally reach a point where both the people creating and purchasing content are satisfied and happy to work with one another.

Dear Editor,
I read “Varsity Soccer Team Develops a Culture of Success.” I feel that this article was very well written. It not only talks about the importance of education before sports but it also talks about how working together as one outworking the opponents is important. Also being one of the kids who played soccer this year and plans on playing throughout the rest of my high school career, it is important to show how it’s not just a pastime, it is a lifestyle.

Sincerely, Keegan Keck
Freshman

Dear Editor,
I read “Administrators Take Dress Code ‘Below the Belt’” I don’t think it’s fair they say girls wearing leggings is distracting, when guys go around sagging their pants. Why should guys be able to sag their pants but girls can’t wear leggings? I don’t think it’s really fair.

Justice Penn
Freshman

From ONLINE SCHOOLS page 12

The 2 percent cap in Michigan is strictly enforced. It causes cyber schools to not become abused, or be used in place of public schools, but allows them to be used as a useful resource and another of the many alternative schooling choices for parents who are opposed to public schools.

The most important part of school is the social experiences and social understanding. In a school environment students are not merely learning a curriculum, but they are learning about the world as a whole. School is a student’s first glimpse into the hardships of the real world, they learn to interact with other human beings in an efficient way and learn certain skills from being social with their peers that can’t be taught in an online environment.

The ages that a student attends school is when their personalities begin to develop, students learn from each other and start to find the hobbies, sports, and extra-curricular activities they are interested in. Students learn about pop-culture, music, and style from their peers. Their brains begin to shape, as well as their personalities, and they finally start to become an individual. In a school environment where every student is online a students only influence will be from the media they are subjected to, and their families.

Students learn many core values in a traditional schooling experience, such as how to be on time, how to be nice, and how to follow rules, as well as several other necessary values. Traditional schools are modeled after the workplace, which is what readies students for adulthood. Life lessons, discipline and values are all completely missed in an online school environment. The result is students who are uncomfortable communicating with others, who don’t fully understand wrong from right, and don’t come fully prepared for life.

Dear Editor,
I read the article “School Lunches Redetermined Yet Again.” I agree with what you are saying and I know a lot of people who agree also. I’m also a student that brings in their own lunch due to the appeal of it and the cost. I’m a Freshman, and new to Loy Norrix’s school lunch and compared to the lunch at Milwood this lunch is like prison food. If I had free reduced lunch I would be thankful for it, but paying \$2.20 for school lunch that can’t even fill me up and is “supposedly” healthy is ridiculous. The fact that McDonald’s food is less and more fulfilling than school lunch is embarrassing. I also can’t tell it’s healthier. It doesn’t look healthy to me in any other way of the years I’ve ate school lunch. Changing lunch to the way it was before, being affordable and eatable is how it should be again. I’m glad that you made this article so that not only students notice the problem.

Jazemine Hairston
Freshman

From DRUMLINE page 1

“It changed me throughout high school and made me who I am today,” Schreck said. He explained that now he has proficient teamwork skills because of the variety of people he has had to work with throughout being part of the drumline.

The drumline deserves much more credit than they have ever received. The humble members are able to use their talents all for the enjoyment of their peers. Even more admirable is the fact of how far the individuals of the drumline come through the years. Schreck realizes this in his own drumline career.

“My leadership skills,” he said, “have improved so much since I have to deal with a lot of immature underclassmen coming into the drumline.”

All things considered, the Loy Norrix drumline program consists of honorable students who strive to achieve excellence and more importantly, a strong character. Many people are excited to see how far the talents and ambition of this year’s drumline will get them in competition. Regardless of what happens with the drumline this season, they rightfully deserve for our students to pay a simple tribute of thankfulness for the great enjoyment they have provided.

Want to have your voice heard by the whole school in Knight Life?
Send your letters to one of the following.

Drop Off:
Room K6

Postal Address:
Knight Life Loy Norrix
606 E Kilgore
Kalamazoo, MI

Email:
pankoptl@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

Norrix Student Wins Derbyshire

Guest Writer
Audra Penny

She hears the loud thud as her horse lands hard after a jump. The cool, brisk wind falls behind her, as her horse gallops through the sand. As her horse continues to move swiftly thorough the sand, she hears the creek of the saddle as you continue to slide back and fourth. She feel completely content and happy because it's just you Hailey and her horse.

Horse rider Hailey Blinkiewicz feels this everyday as she rides her horses. Hailey lives on a farm near Mattawan with her grandparents, parents and siblings. She has two horses named Pinky and Cherry. Cherry is an 18 year old brown pony and Pinky is a 10 year old white horse.

Hailey shows both her horses at horse shows almost every weekend during show season, which takes place April through October. Blinkiewicz describes Cherry as a smart, bossy and troublesome horse, whereas Pinky is very sweet, but can be a chicken at times.

There are two ways that you can ride horses. You can either ride Western or English. Western is what some call the "cowboy" way; the saddle that is made for long rides on tough terrain. Also, most western riders, will tend to lean back more when they are riding and have looser contact with a horse. English is more for dressage and jumping. They tend to have a closer feel to the horse when they are riding compared to the Western way of horse back riding. Hailey rides English, considering that she competes in many shows.

Hailey does face challenges in her

career as a horseback rider. Her horses sometimes get a little clumsy, and they might be a little frightened to jumping hurdles. She continues to practice with her horses daily. In her practices, Hailey tries to keep them on a schedule. She goes through different movements with her horses to get them prepared for the arena when they go into a show. She also practices jumping hurdles

In 2010, Hailey won the Derbyshire horse competition. This is a state wide competition. By winning the Derbyshire, she proved that she was the #1 horseback rider in Michigan.

Entering the Stadium, Hailey was nervous because she had just received a low score on her dressage, which made the situation more nerve racking. She had to jump clear, meaning nothing wrong, when she went up to jump the hurdle.

"I was nervous, but I jumped clear and I was so happy," said Hailey.

Her sister, Paige Blinkiewicz, has also won a giant competition. Paige won the Area 8 Novice Championship. In order for Paige to qualify in this competition, she had to have a good score from another competition. The Area 8 Novice Championship includes Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia.

"Out of all those people, I came in first, so I was just so happy," said Paige Blinkiewicz.

The girls have both had their winnings in competitions, and they have their downs in horseback riding, but they both love their horses, and want to continue riding.



Hailey Blinkiewicz rides her 10 year old horse. Hailey rides Pinky everyday and is her competition horse.

Audra Penny / Guest Photographer

Students Should Be Supportive by Joining the Student Section



Cherell Langford
Knight Life News Opinion

When I was younger I played soccer, basketball, baseball, and volleyball. I loved seeing my friends and family in the stands cheering for my team and I. It motivated us to play harder, have fun and win the game. We felt unstoppable and supported and came out with a positive attitude because we knew we were not alone.

As high school students here at Loy Norrix we only seem to attend the basketball and football games because they are the most popular sports in high school.

"Mainly all student sections focus around basketball and football," Athletic Director Andrew Laboe said. A student section or student cheering section is a group of student fans that supports its school's athletic teams at sporting events; they are known for being one of the most visible and vocal sections of a sports crowd as well as for their occasionally raucous behavior. Before, during, and after the game, the section performs a number of different, chants, songs, gestures and dances, using props.

During basketball season here at Loy Norrix the games are more intimate than the football games because the enclosed venue allows the students to be seen and heard more clearly than in football, but our football and basketball games have not been as exciting as they could be due to lack of support from not only the parents but the students.

"When no one is in our student section during our home and away football games it shows that our school as a whole has no school spirit and the team has no support," senior Alex Bridges said.

The cheerleaders are also a part of the team. They pump the crowd up and the players with their cheers and dancing.

There's a sign in the hallway stating that the Loy Norrix and Kalamazoo Central game is tonight, everyone stops and looks, tells all of their friends, goes to the mall to get matching outfits, and paints their faces blue and white before the game starts and when they get there they go to the student section cheering "Go Knights" the entire game.

In case you haven't noticed this is the only game that gets a lot of support from almost every school in town.

They're either sitting on Norrix's side or Centrals.

"It's our rivalry game, everyone in the city tries to go," senior Damien Coleman-West said.

Why isn't every game our rivalry game? We should attend all of the games.

"Every game doesn't have to have a lot of people there like the Norrix and Central game but it should be supported no matter what," said senior Anajia Williams.

The purpose of a student section is twofold: to energize the home team and crowd and to frustrate the visiting team. We have to show that we care and show the other schools that although we are in the bleachers cheering, our players are not alone on the court. We are all part of the team.

It gets cold outside pretty quickly during football season so that prevents students from wanting to attend the games, but we do during Homecoming, it's our biggest time. Many football programs directly involve the student section as a part of the game day experience, where they are integrated into the team's pregame and postgame and can be considerably larger than in basketball.

Some football stands are larger than bleachers inside gyms so there are often more students in the student section during football games. Although we are not heard as clearly as we should be due to it being an outside event we still come together to make the best of the game.

"When I look at the stands during my football game and see all my friends watching me it makes me feel important and gives me a reason to play 110% harder," junior Juan Paz continued.

"When they don't I feel that nobody really cares about what happens to the team. You can tell by the way we play that we feel unsupported when the student section is empty."

It costs \$5 for the football and basketball games. Some people may think it's too much or just can't afford it. Some students say that the fee should be lower and others say the fee is no problem.

"If you buy a ticket the day of the game it's only \$3. Student section t-shirts are being sold for \$10. If you wear it to the games you get in for free," said Laboe.

Now that's a great deal so that everyone can attend the games. When there is a section full of students during the game, it makes it more exciting. Even the parents want to join in because they see how supportive the students are and it shows that our school has great school spirit.



Danielle Kahler / Knight Life

Loy Norrix junior, Robert LaCroix during K-United's game against Grand Rapids. Kalamazoo won the game 9-0.

Hockey Players Pay Big

Danielle Kahler
Knight Life News

Most athletes know what it is like to work hard at a sport. They put in hours of training, practicing, and playing. However, Loy Norrix freshman George Mason knows what it's like to work hard just to be financially able to play a sport.

The Kalamazoo United Hockey Team, which consists of team members from Loy Norrix, Kalamazoo Central, and Hackett. Each player pays roughly \$16 hundred each season just to play.

Most high school sports are free, besides purchasing basic equipment. The hockey team, however, pays \$295 per hour for their practice time at Wings West, which occurs twice a week for one hour and fifteen minutes. This adds up to roughly \$740. Also, per game, that's \$590.

Mason has been playing hockey since he was 5 years old. He explained that he mows lawns to help pay for the cost of playing hockey.

"I also pay for some of the equipment so it's a little easier on them [his parents]," said Mason.

Although it is expensive, Mason has never felt the urge to play another winter sport. His parents asked him if he wanted to play hockey, so he said yes and he stuck with it.

"I just kind of fell in love with it," said Mason, a feeling athletes can relate to.

K-United players do not have the luxury of being able to practice right at their school, either. Junior Robert LaCroix, one of 4 captains on the team, has been playing hockey for 9 years. He thinks it would be more convenient if they were able to practice at school but understands that this is not possible because of the combined team and lack of ice at Loy Norrix.

"It would be nice to have my hockey bag in my car and be able to just go to practice," said LaCroix.

This obstacle goes to show how

much these athletes love their sport.

Loy Norrix security guard, Officer Andrie, still plays hockey on what can be called an "Old Man's League." Andrie started playing hockey in 5th grade because one of his friends played and he thought it looked cool. He learned how to skate and has been playing hockey ever since.

Now, his son James, or Jimmy, Andrie, a Loy Norrix junior is on the Kalamazoo United Hockey Team.

"I coached him his first 9 years," said Officer Andrie. He is qualified to coach hockey up until the collegiate level. "It doesn't mean I have the experience, but I'm certified," he joked.

Although Andrie agrees that hockey has to be one of the most expensive high school sports, he has felt a financial relief this year because his son has paid the whole \$16 hundred for this season. Jimmy sold hockey ads in order to pay his way.

Most athletes might have to pay for equipment for their sports.

Shoes for basketball cost \$65 this year. Tennis rackets can cost a few hundred dollars, and the cheer team pays between \$200 and \$300 for sweats, shoes and other equipment.

Hockey players have to pay for the equipment also, on top of the \$16 hundred that they already pay just to play on the team, and it adds up.

A hockey stick can cost about \$100 to \$250. Skates can cost anywhere from two hundred to three hundred dollars, plus their padding that the players must wear. For example, shoulder padding can cost from \$15 to \$90, gloves from \$30 to \$150, and \$50 to \$80 for elbow pads.

According to Andrew Laboe, Loy Norrix athletic director, the school pays \$60 thousand for the football team compared to \$20 thousand for the hockey team.

On top of this \$20 thousand that the school pays, each player must pay their \$16 hundred.

Loy Norrix Basketball Player to Be Taken Seriously

Trenton Beamon
Guest Writer



Alex Santiago / Guest Photographer

A'viance Alexander is a sophomore on Loy Norrix's basketball team. She lives for the game and plans to take her skills to the next level in college.

Young girls growing up are usually playing with their Barbies, participating in beauty contests or worrying about staying clean but not young A'viance Alexander. She was too busy getting down and dirty with the boys on the basketball court. Cuts and bruises she didn't care about, all she cared about was the game.

A'viance Alexander fell in love with Spalding at the age of five. Their love has been growing ever since. Her brothers, Lance Clark and Deonte Alexander, introduced her to the game of basketball. She watched them play and admired how fun it looked. Alexander grew up playing with boys in elementary school at Lacrone Park to improve her skills at a faster pace.

"Playing boys made me better, playing with girls would've kept me at an average level. I didn't want to be average," said Alexander.

Alexander didn't see basketball as just a game. Even at a young age she was very serious about her sport. She wrapped her life around the game of basketball. If someone saw A'viance they saw her basketball in hand, pounding against the pavement. Basketball was Alexander's way of "blowing up" and getting noticed.

Even though Alexander spent two hours everyday working on her skills, she still couldn't make her parents believers of her love for the game. She explained to her parents, Veronica and

Byron Brown, over and over again how much she adored the game and they just wouldn't take her seriously.

"When I was in elementary school my parents didn't believe I was serious about basketball. They thought I was just some girl who thought I could play basketball and that it was only a phase," said Alexander.

Alexander knew she had to make her parents believe that she was serious about basketball and show them that she had serious talent to consider. She felt if she couldn't make her parents believers, no one else would believe in her.

So Alexander tried out for the Milwood Elementary basketball team. She made the team. The team's first game against Arcadia was approaching and she knew this was her chance to prove her parents wrong.

Days before the game, Alexander stepped up her practice schedule by going to the YMCA everyday so she could be ready. She attended the YMCA every day to shoot around. Alexander performed intense dribbling drills and ran some games with guys who were playing at the Y. She went home in a soaked t-shirt, arms aching from shooting so much and legs barely moving from all the running she did.

Game day approached and Alexander was anxious to finally play a game in front of her parents. She didn't take long to show her parents she was serious.

The first play of the game, Alexander stole the ball from Arcadia's point guard and drove the ball hard towards the basket as quickly as possible. Moments later, Alexander was already back at the basket putting in her second score. She went on to score 28 of the team's 30 points. Milwood won the game 30 to 28.

After the game Alexander knew she had finally made her parents believers. She said she will always recall her parents telling her if she was really serious about this she needed to start working harder because it was going to be a long road.

With the support of her parents and her dad pressuring her to strive harder, Alexander was able to constantly improve. Alexander made the women's varsity basketball team her freshman year at Loy Norrix. She averaged 13 points and 9 rebounds a game.

"A'viance came on the team as a freshman and was very skilled. I knew she would be a great addition to the team," said teammate, senior Sierra James.