



Varsity Basketball Captain Puts the Team First



Anthony Foti / Knight Life News

Robinson crashes the boards to get a rebound against the Battle Creek Central Bearcats on February 8th, 2013. Despite being ill, Bishop put his best effort into the game. The Knights fell short to BCC with a score of 43 to 57.



Anthony Foti / Knight Life News

Senior guard Darrion Mullen observes Robinson at the line for a free throw. Robinson scored a total of 11 points.



Anthony Foti / Knight Life News

The Loy Norrix Mens basketball team gathers to hear the pre game national anthem. The Knights come together as a family both on and off the court.

Ben Dunham
Knight Life News

If you've been to a Loy Norrix Men's basketball game in the last 4 years, you probably know who Bishop Rocco-Robinson is. But do you really know him? Despite his big plays and impressive skills, he is a very different person than you might think.

Bishop has played varsity basketball since his sophomore year. He is the team's leading scorer and broke one thousand career points this year. Known for his ability to both play down low under the net and shoot from outside, he is truly a powerful weapon on the very successful Loy Norrix Men's team.

"This team is a family, you know? We play together all year long and everybody hangs out with everybody," said Bishop, as he waved and said goodbye to one of his teammates.

It's easy to tell that the players have a close bond. They all walked out of the locker room in groups of 3 or more, laughing and joking with one another. There is no question that they spend much more time together off of the court than they do on it.

"People work at their best when you know the guy next to you is working at the same thing. On this team, we definitely have that," Robinson said.

If you've been to a game,

you can tell that he is right. At every game, the players give it everything they've got.

One of the team's biggest successes was the big win against cross-town rivals Kalamazoo Central on January 26th. Prior to this year, Loy Norrix had not won a game against Kalamazoo Central in seven years.

"That was just another game on the schedule. We knew what we had to do, and we came in and got it done," said Bishop about the game.

He repeated over and over again that the team's hard work and professional attitude is what pulled them through.

He also gives credit to the fans off the court.

"[The crowd] makes us who we are. We feed off of their fire and they feed off of ours. Games just don't feel right if [the students] aren't there. We have to kind of get the fire from ourselves, and that's not easy," said Robinson.

The crowd he is referring to is this year's new student section. They all wear matching black shirts and have a huge array of chants and cheers that keep the team fired up. Bishop said that the secret to the team's success could not be placed in just one source. He thinks that the team is winning because of a combination of hard work by the players, the coaches, and the support of their fans.

Loy Norrix Men's Basketball Upcoming Events

Date	School	Previous
2/15	Marshall (A)	1/11: 58-56 (W)
2/19	Battle Creek Central (A)	
2/22	Richland Gull Lake (A)	1/18: 67-59 (W)
2/28	Lansing Sexton (A)	

Overall

10 wins
3 losses

MHSAA Districs vs. Portage Northern
March 4th, 2013

Loy Norrix Annual Blood Drive is Back in Business after Being Cancelled in 2012



Lauren McGlinn/Knight Life News

Jess Moshoginis holds Brenden Groggle's hand while getting his blood drawn. This photo was taken during the 2011 Blood Drive.

Cherell Langford

Knight Life News

The American Red Cross is one of the biggest blood donating agencies in America. It's a nationwide network of more than 650 chapters and 36 blood service regions dedicated to saving lives.

According to the Red Cross, one pint of blood can save up to three lives, so it is very important that people donate their blood due to less than 38 percent of the population not being able to donate blood.

Many are not able to give blood due to religious background, disease, unclean piercings, pregnancy, recent childbirth, and age limit. Some are happy about not being able to donate their blood, but some get disappointed.

"When I found out that I couldn't give blood I felt useless, but even though I was not able to give blood, I still thought about the lives that could've been saved by others," said senior Trevor Greer.

Last year the Loy Norrix blood drive was cancelled due to Red Cross workers going on strike. There were a lot of students and people in the community who wanted to give blood last year here at Loy Norrix but couldn't.

"I was kind of scared at first because I was going to be giving blood for the first time. When I heard that the blood drive was cancelled, it kind of hurt me and made me want to give more because I knew that I was going to be saving lives if I would've had the chance to give blood," said senior Anajia Williams.

On Monday, April 29th, 2013 the Loy Norrix community will be donating blood in the back gym for the annual blood drive run by LNHS National Honor Society (NHS) along with the Red Cross.

There will be a lot more people who want to donate this year because of that fact that the blood drive was cancelled last year.

"I never thought about donating blood, but I saw how many people were affected from not being able to last year, so this year I will be signing up to save a life," said senior Nate Coleman.

Social Studies teacher and National Honors Society advisor Matt Porco, oversaw the blood drive. He still views the blood drive as the biggest event for the NHS. There are different committees when it comes to everyone in NHS being a part of the blood drive.

The publicity committee spreads the word about the blood drive and encourages people to donate. The entertainment committee performs different skits during the blood drive assembly in order to inform students about the blood drive.

At the assembly, students sign up to donate blood and the scheduling committee organizes the times. The canteen committee provides food for donors to eat after they give blood.

With a lot of help from the Red Cross, the Loy Norrix National Honor Society (NHS) has hosted the blood drive for over 30 years. Volunteers donated 84 Pints of blood in 2011 and (NHS) hopes that more will be donated this year.

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person, the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life, or even several if your blood is separated into its components. Donating only takes about ten minutes per person. There is no limit on saving lives so sign up and donate. Safe blood saves lives and improves health.

Right-To-Work Law Affects Loy Norrix High School Teachers

Rachel Reed

Knight Life News

The first Right-to-Work laws were passed in the 1940s and 1950s, mostly in the southern states. The Right-to-Work refers to a law that prohibits requiring workers to pay union dues. Union members pay these dues that go towards the cost of bargaining and paying officers. Unions help to unite workers of a similar job in order to have a stronger voice and to provide employment protection. In a union, your employer must also bargain with you over wages, hours and working conditions.

Currently, 24 states have approved Right-to-Work legislation that limits unions, Michigan being one of those 24 as of December 2013.

Proponents of the Right-To-Work believe that this legislation will increase wages, that it is morally right because it doesn't make people have to pay to support a cause that they don't believe in, and creates jobs by attracting businesses. It attracts businesses because it often lowers wages and benefits, by decreasing the likelihood that employers will be required to negotiate with their employees. Opponents believe that the Right-to-Work law will decrease wages, lower all employees' wages since there are few strong union shops to compete with.

This law will effect many, including Kalamazoo Public School teachers. Many teachers were against this law because it may reduce their hourly wage and it affected teacher tenure, which refers to a worker's seniority in their job and their right to not have their job terminated without justifiable cause.

Art teacher Cindy VanLieu and computer teacher Sue Mills are two of many Loy Norrix teachers who are upset about the new law.

VanLieu, who has been teaching at Loy Norrix for 13 years and has been a teacher for 43 years total finds herself distressed by the Right-to-Work law.

"It has caused a great deal of psychological stress," said VanLieu.

VanLieu opposes the law for several reasons, partially because it causes general workers to lose income and benefits and it destroys unions. Also because this law severely affects teachers, causing them to lose major parts of their contract that include loss of tenure, loss of the right to transfer and due process which is the legal requirement that that states must respect all legal rights of a person.



Allie Creamer/Knight Life News

Sue Mills, an opponent of the Right-To-Work laws, greets her students at the door. She always makes sure her students' ID badges are on and hats are off.

Mills, who has been teaching at Loy Norrix High school for 14 years and has been a teacher for 16 years total is also opposed to the Right-To-Work law. She had a hard time forming an opinion on the Right-To-Work based on how the law was passed. The law was signed against tremendous opposition and Mills feels disgusted with the way it was passed.

While the law was being debated upon by state lawmakers, thousands of union member rallied outside of the Michigan's state capital opposing the Right-To-Work law.

"I feel like it was shoved down our throats. It was very unethical," said Mills.

She feels as if not enough studies were done first on whether or not it will help our economy. "Proof will be in the pudding," said Mills.

Although many tend to see the negative side to the Right-to-Work law, there may be some benefits to it as well.

Ron Fuller, a retiring Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency chief, sees that the law creates a window of opportunities to Michigan school districts. He is a strong advocate of year around schools and sees the Right-to-Work law as an opportunity for school districts to make this happen.

Fuller also understands that there will be a downward pressure of the cost of union dues. He sees this as a positive, saying that if he were a teacher, he'd only want to pay for what impacts him.

Guess Who's Back, Back, Back? Flu Season! The Most Germ Infested Places in Norrix Revealed



Main
hallway
railing



C wing
computer lab
keyboard



tower
sign-in
pen

As the flu has been swiping through the state, Knight Life reporters thought it would be a good idea to investigate various locations on campus for bacteria.



Erin Romph / Knight Life News

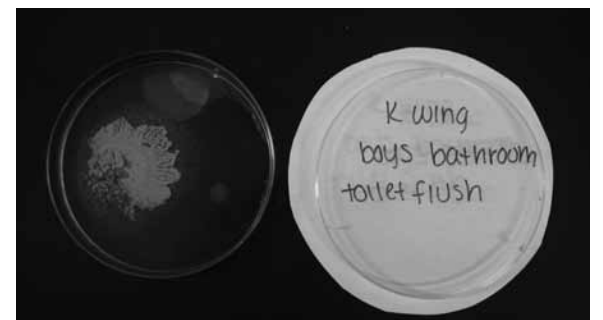
Senior basketball captain, Sierra James, tries her best to maintain good health during her final season at Loy Norrix. She does so by washing her hands frequently throughout her daily routines.



K wing
boys bathroom
door handle
(exit)



K wing
girls bathroom
door handle
(exit)



K wing
boys bathroom
toilet flush

Bacterial evidence appeared on the petri dishes after sitting in an incubator for about a week. Bathrooms and popular areas were revealed as the most germ infested locations in Loy Norrix.

Erin Romph
Knight Life News

Aa-chooo! Flu season is back and hitting harder than ever. The flu symptoms include fever, fatigue, body aches, congestion, headaches, and cough. These symptoms are highly contagious and are spreading rapidly, especially throughout schools. Student and faculty absences due to the flu have caused many problems for schools.

Michigan is one of states with some of the highest numbers of reported illnesses. In the first two weeks of January, the number of doctor visits was especially high. In southwest Michigan, the amount of doctor visits skyrocketed in comparison to the rest of the state, resulting in a total of 12 hospitalizations so far this season.

Since November 2012, there have been a total of 87 Loy Norrix students reported absent due to flu like symptoms. The week of January 7 was the worst week yet with a total of 36 student absences. And these are only the reported illnesses. There have also been many Loy Norrix faculty absences due to the flu; however, the exact number is unknown.

The number of absences will continue to grow if people do not take the time to simply wash their hands or cover their mouths after a sneeze or cough. Ironically, those are the two easiest ways bacteria

can be spread, through the hands and through the air. Because people use their hands for just about everything, I'm sure you can only imagine how many germs are on your hands. Then you give someone a high five in the hallway? Gross!

Hands are not the only way to transfer bacteria. Very commonly, viruses are spread through water droplets in the air. These infected droplets can travel from your mouth up to six feet almost instantly.

There are many ways in which you can avoid spreading the flu. First, cover your mouth! If you have to sneeze or cough, be sure to shield your germs from others. Second, keep your distance from people.

If someone tells you they are not feeling well, by all means, create some space. Lastly, wash your hands and disinfect surfaces frequently. This is also a great way to avoid catching the flu. Many people carry around the pocket hand sanitizers and use it often, which is an excellent habit. One of these people is senior Ciara Krimmel.

The mini hand sanitizer is "so convenient," said Krimmel, "I can put it in my purse, backpack, or pocket."

Krimmel believes that the disinfecting tactic is the best one to avoid catching the flu. "I took those little Lysol wipes and wiped down my entire backpack," said Krimmel. Because Krimmel does not get flu

shots, she keeps the flu away by maintaining healthy hygiene.

Doctor Stephanie Somers of Trestlewood Pediatrics gives some professional advice of how to avoid spreading the flu.

"If you have a fever, you just really should stay home," said Somers. However, just because you feel fine does not always mean that you are. "The tricky thing is you can still be contagious before showing symptoms," Somers continued.

The key to avoiding the flu? "Wash your hands frequently," said Somers. She also advises to keep your hands off your face and fingers out of your mouth. "Having good nutrition, eating lots of fruits and vegetables, helps support your immune system," Somers suggested.

Even though many people maintain their healthy hygiene by washing their hands and eating nutritious meals, the flu does not always stay away. For this reason, Somers recommends a flu vaccine.

This 2012-2013 flu season has been more intense than in past years. Somers said, "This year's flu epidemic is earlier than usual. It started in late November but definitely in December. [We have been] seeing more people who are really sick with it." The flu is "more severe this year," Somers concluded.

I want my, I want my MTV! MTV's Shift to Less Music Videos



Shakira Green
Knight Life News

Rushing home to make sure you didn't miss the music video, waiting to see your favorite artist appear, and wishing that you could have that sweet hair. The anticipation, anxiety and hope has slowly declined when it comes to music videos on MTV.

Music Television has been around since 1981 playing the top tracks in the music industry.

"MTV just played music videos all day. It was exciting, it created hope," said history teacher Matthew Porco.

When MTV started Porco was 8 years old. As the Jukebox hero of his time, he checked in on the videos and different artists appearing.

"I may have watched it more often than average," continued Porco. Like most people during the 80's he was a fan of MJ.

"I supposedly had a sign on my room door saying 'If you don't like MJ you can't come in my room,'" said Porco.

There were no additional shows of any kind. If you missed the music video at an earlier time there may have been a chance that you could catch it again later, but who wanted to wait for later? One of the first videos to air was "Video Killed the Radio Star by The Buggles." The video represented the new way to listen to music.

"If you take the most famous artist now and multiply them 50 times or more, you'll have Michael Jackson," said yearbook teacher Steve Griffin. Griffin was, and still is, a huge music fan of the 80's. Being on top of the newest hits and videos was his thing, but MJ was his favorite.

"In 7th grade I would try to dance and look like Michael Jackson," said Griffin.

One of the most anticipated videos was Michael Jackson's "Thriller." The fact that the video was 15 minutes long was mind blowing.

"I had the curly hair and the gloves. I even won a look-a-like contest in Grand Rapids," continued Griffin.

Of course, it would be hard to believe that musicians such as Michael Jackson had to push to get onto MTV. It was harder for black artists like MJ to get on MTV since his style of music wasn't what MTV was playing at the

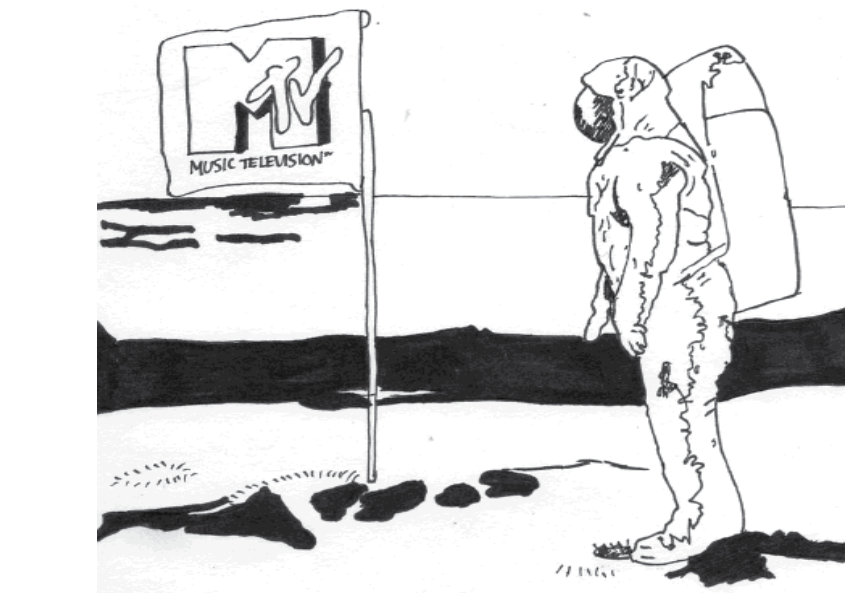


Photo Credited to Shakira Green

This was the original MTV opening screen shot. The shot featured the launch of Apollo 11 with the words "Ladies and Gentlemen, Let's Rock and Roll" plays in the background.

time. Majority of the music was pop, rock, and metal. Since people wanted more music videos and musicians, different genres were later added.

With the different genres of music being played there were the different trends and clothing style each genre had. Teens watched MTV to keep up with the trends. If you missed out on a video, you missed out on the latest trends. Some of the trends developed came from the genre you listened too.

"I watched MTV for the trends. I wanted the preppy look," said Brian Neel.

For guys the preppy look was usually a button-down shirt, boat shoes, and nice pants and of course, the popped up collars that Hall and Oates had. The genre associated with this was the new wave synth pop artists like Duran Duran, A-Ha and Human League. If you listened to hip-hop, you most likely wanted those Adidas and jumpsuits that Run DMC wore. Punk rockers had the spiky hair like Johnny Rotten, a pair of skinnies, a band t-shirt, and jackets that were either jean or leather since The Clash and The Ramones had them.

Let's not forget those tight leather jeans, long hair and tight t-shirts that Twisted Sister and Guns N' Roses wore. That was every glam-metal heads' dream.

Mostly every girl wanted to have the Madonna fingerless gloves, leg warmers, miniskirt, and earrings that came down to their shoulder with the possible leggings. Madonna, Cyndi Lauper, Joann Jett and Tina Turner were mostly idols for teenage girls.

All of this was figured out through music videos thanks to MTV. What they wore, how they danced, and everything in between played a part. The influence of the musician was determined by their music video.

Now, since not many music videos are played the only trends on MTV are getting pregnant, how to be "Buckwild" and finding out what a Guido is. The reduction of music videos has made many people wonder why MTV is called Music Television if most of the programs are not music related.

"MTV just mirrors the shift in entertainment," said Griffin.

MTV is now playing music videos from 6 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. After 8 a.m. television shows like "Teen Mom," "True Life," "Ridiculousness" and more non- music related shows come on.

In the early 2000's MTV only had a sprinkle of non-music related shows such as "Road Rules," "The Real World," and the animated show "Beavis and Butthead." Most music videos come on other branches of MTV like MTV II, MTV Jams, MTV Tres and more. With the certain cable systems those channels are not even available.

Most people only watch MTV to watch the shows that come on the channel. As a result, people do not watch MTV for music, they go to YouTube. With this being the case most musicians do not really have flashy music videos or pay as much to create them.

"This generation is missing out on the music," said Neel.

The lack of influential music videos could be the cause. There may also be fact that music videos aren't really played on MTV when you want to see them. The last music related show that most people want to see on MTV is the VMAs and maybe the Woodie Awards. These only come on once a year, while every other day is overrun by reality shows.

"I'll watch MTV when I want some brain junk food," said Porco. That is exactly what MTV has become.

Hollywood Flashes Back but can't Look Forward



Anthony Foti
Knight Life News

Remember those movies that got all the attention in the last decade? "Red Dawn," "Footloose," "The Great Gatsby," "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," "Planet of the Apes," "Friday the 13th," and "The Karate Kid," are all great classics that we know and love. All have been reproduced in the new millennium. Movies like these that the generation before us loved have been remade for a quick buck. The true creativity and originality of movies has been lost for the thirst of money.

Now who is the real culprit? Both Hollywood and the audience are to blame. The largest part of the movie industry is money. When producers want to make a new film, they need investors. But investors don't want to put a lot of money into a new movie idea that could turn into a bust. They are scared of possibly losing everything on an original movie that could be awful and something viewers hate.

Movie remakes can be good, but there is no sense making something new to replace something that is already great. The visual aspects are always better in remakes because technology has taken such a leap forward we can now play more with our opportunities, just like James Cameron's "Avatar" which is almost all computer generated but based on the faces of real actors. That is an original movie that has had huge success with the new technology.

Although new technology may seem great, acting is the critical component of a quality movie. Classic movies usually have incredible actors who are the real reason movies are good. A movie can have great special effects, but if there isn't a good actor we can connect with, it's a bust.

One of the saddest things I see in theaters today are re-releases, or when producers take a movie and make into 3-D or high definition and sell it back on the market. Disney has played this card recently with the re-release of "Finding Nemo" and "Monsters Inc."

Attend the Tale of Sweeney Todd

Nikia Jackson
Knight Life News

*"Attend the tale of Sweeney Todd.
His skin was pale his eye was odd.
He shaved the faces of gentlemen
who never thereafter were heard of
again. He trod a path that few have
trod did Sweeney Todd? The demon
barber of Fleet Street."*

Loy Norrix High School is doing "Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" as this school year's spring musical.

Sweeney Todd is a horror musical about a man named Benjamin Barker also known as Sweeney Todd who teams up with a pie shop owner by the name of Mrs. Lovett, to murder his customers and turn them into meat pies.

"He's very persevering, he knows what he wants and he's going to get what he wants whatever the cost," said junior Joe Santamaria, who is playing Sweeney Todd.

Joe spends about an hour depending on the day, going over his lines and music. When learning his lines, he breaks them up into smaller pieces.

"The music is easier to remember



Brian Wolfe / Guest Photographer

Loy Norrix students spent at least two hours every day rehearsing "Sweeney Todd" since auditions. They spent up to 25 hours a week rehearsing during tech week.

than the lines because I had heard the music before, and the music tells a story," Said Joe.

Grace Santamaria is also a junior at Loy Norrix High School and she is playing Mrs. Lovett. It takes her about a half an hour to go over lines and she

does it once or twice a day. She also looks over them after tests.

"I think my character is so deliciously complicated. She's full of contradictions, she's definitely the driving force of cannibalism and she's funny," said Santamaria.

Sweeney Todd opened on Broadway in 1979 and in the West end (mainstream professional theatre staged in the large theatres of London) in 1980.

There have been several revivals of "Sweeney Todd" and it has been presented in opera companies.

"Sweeney Todd" has won a Tony Award for Best Musical and an Oliver Award for Best new Musical.

Sophomore Jorjah Fleming plays Tobias Ragg. He is the voice of reason in the show. Toby is an orphan who is made a servant of Adolfo Pirelli, the rival of Sweeney Todd.

"I like how my character is innocent but not ignorant to what is going on around him. Aside from Mrs. Lovett, he is the only one who knows who Todd really is," said Fleming.

Junior Amyre Dennis is playing the beggar woman and Lucy Barker. She goes over her lines for thirty minutes everyday, and she always says her lines in character as a way to help her to remember them.

"I like that you always feel bad for the beggar women and Lucy Barker," said Dennis.

The Kalamazoo Promise[®]

10 Things You Should Know About The Promise

1. The Kalamazoo Promise is for ALL students of the Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS).
2. You must reside within the boundaries of KPS.
3. You must have at least all of the high school years (9-12) in KPS (enrollment & residency) and graduate from KPS (Central / Loy Norrix / Phoenix).
4. The Kalamazoo Promise will not end. It is set up to go on for many years to come.
5. The Kalamazoo Promise is a 4 year scholarship (a bachelor degree or 130 credits, whichever occurs first).
6. You have ten years from the time you graduate from high school to use your Promise and can start and stop any time.
7. The Kalamazoo Promise covers tuition and mandatory fees.
8. Students sign up for The Kalamazoo Promise at the beginning of their senior year. Meetings are held for all seniors each fall. There are two simple forms to fill out for The Kalamazoo Promise.
9. There is an appeal process for students during their senior year, especially for hardship cases (e.g., custody, death in the family, and foster care placement).
10. All students using the kalamazoo promise at KVCC may attend part-time.

The Kalamazoo Promise Eligible Colleges

Kalamazoo Valley Community College
Alpena Community College
Bay de Noc Community College
Delta College
Glen Oaks Community College
Gogebic Community College
Grand Rapids Community College
Henry Ford Community College
Jackson Community College
Kellogg Community College
Kirtland Community College
Lake Michigan College
Lansing Community College
Macomb Community College
Mid Michigan Community College
Monroe County Community College
Montcalm Community College
Mott Community College
Muskegon Community College
North Central Michigan College
Northwestern Michigan College
Great Lakes Maritime College
Oakland Community College
Schoolcraft College
Southwestern Michigan College
St. Clair County Community College
Washtenaw Community College
Wayne County Community College
West Shore Community College

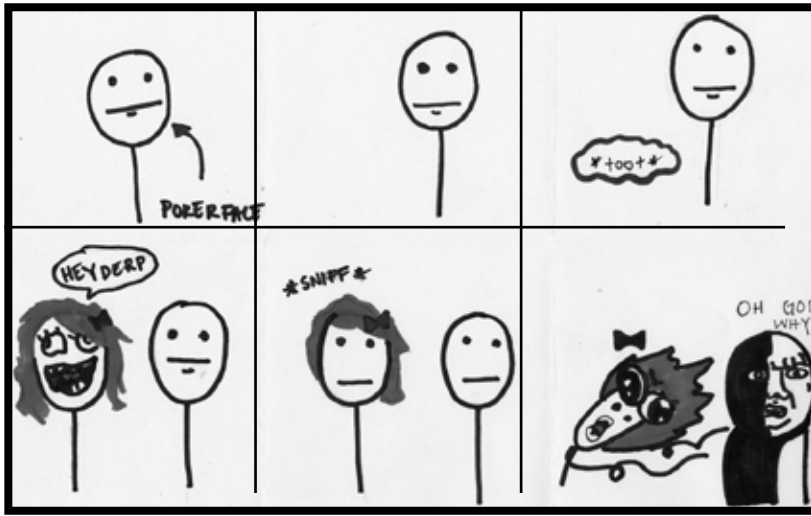
The Kalamazoo Promise Eligible Universities

Western Michigan University
Central Michigan University
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Kendall College of Art & Design
Grand Valley State University
Lake Superior State University
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Saginaw Valley State University
University of Michigan
Wayne State University

Bob Jorth is available in the Loy Norrix guidance office on Thursday mornings for appointments or can be reached at:

(269)337-0037
or
bjorth@kalamazoopromise.com





Shakira Green / Knight Life News

Frequent Farters Feel Unloved

Josh Johnson
Knight Life News

That chili-cheese bean burrito you ate last night, those eggs you had for breakfast and that fiber bar for your morning snack were a ghastly combination. You are sitting in English class about to explode. You don't know how much longer you can hold it: all of the sudden, out it comes. Loud as a trumpet, your fart catches the attention (and the noses) of your fellow classmates, disrupting the learning environment and the farter's reputation.

Farting is the act of passing intestinal gases through the anus. The average person will produce half a liter of fart gas per day, translating into an average of 14 farts a day. Although commonly referred to as a bodily function, the act of pooping should be accepted with open noses.

Loy Norrix senior Titus McKenzie is a frequent offender when it comes to passing the gas in class.

"I fart everyday in every class," said McKenzie. McKenzie also acknowledges the fact that when he releases his flatulence, the learning environment gets disrupted. "My farts are usually silent and smell horrible, kids will cover their faces, laugh and get off task for about 2 or 3 minutes."

Lia Camarillo, a student in McKenzie's fifth hour Basic Marketing class feels no remorse for farter's whose feelings may be hurt,

"I don't feel bad for making fun of somebody who farts because if you're openly farting you deserve to be laughed at. [The farter is] basically asking for attention,"

said Camarillo.

Why do we as humans find farting so very funny? Going all the way back to "The Miller's Tale" in "The Canterbury Tales," farting has been used as a humorous device for comedy instead of the actual bodily function that it is.

In "The Miller's Tale" while a man thinks he is kissing a girl's face, he is really kissing a man's butt. This is not all, once he begins to realize he isn't kissing his maiden's face, he is smacked in the face with a fart from the man's butt.

Keep in mind "The Caterbury Tales" is a required piece of literature for English 11 students. While "The Miller's Tale" is not specifically required, students will usually read it anyways. "Don't blame me if you choose poorly" (Chaucer 65) says the author referring to reading "The Miller's Tale." Through education we are practically teaching students that farting is funny, not normal.

Farting is displayed as an abnormal function in today's media too. If you have ever seen the terribly amusing show "Here Comes Honey Boo Boo," you know that in the opening of the show, the entire family is sitting down smiling at the camera lookin' cute.

Then Honey Boo Boo's mom cuts the cheese. The family showcased on this television show makes four thousand dollars an episode to fart, burp, and be gross because it is funny and entertaining to us.

We do not realize that farters are constantly put down in today's society. Nobody will break the fart barrier and

give them the hug they need because they smell too stinkin' bad.

Farting is going to be a part of us for the rest of our lives. If we embrace flatulence with open arms, gaseous people will no longer feel alienated. Farting contests with prizes, farting conventions, and the FFA (frequent farter's anonymous) are only steps to a society that no longer ridicules farting, but enjoys it for the nasty, smelly bodily function, that none of us can stop.

If you are a frequent farter and don't know what to do with yourself, here's tips to cover up that irritable bowel of yours:

1. **Don't eat.** If you don't put anything in, nothing can come out.
2. **Make noise.** If a fart is comin' and you cannot stop it, start singing really loud to cover up the sound of your gas.
3. **Keep it moving.** Get up right before you are about to fart and once you fart in one location, move to another. The smell may follow you for a bit, but sooner or later, the fart gas will not be able to keep up.
4. **Never relax.** It is a fact that as soon as a person relaxes and has been holding a fart in, they will let it slip. This is why many people fart in their sleep.
5. **Embrace your stank.** If you fart and have no care in the world what people think of you, fart it up loud and proud.

Online Relationships Sweep the Public

Brianna Leip
Knight Life News

"This is high school, it's not eHarmony.com," senior Jovaughn Carver said referring to the common phenomena that are romantic online relationships Carver as well as many other students at Loy Norrix will not advocate for such relationships.

A newly recent television show on MTV called "Catfish" was produced in order to allow people who are in an online relationship to meet one another on TV. It sounds like an easy concept; however, the meetings are not always as fairytale as it seems. Sometimes the people that are on the other side of the computer screen aren't the same as who they presented themselves to be.

On this popular TV show, people will be involved in a romantic online relationship but never get the chance to meet their mates. The host, Nev Schulman who was also the main character in the movie "Catfish", helps these internet daters meet their alleged soul mates.

It's very easy to disguise an identity over the internet. People can change their names, get different pictures and make up their own personalities. The internet is not a safe resource anymore because anything can be made up and posted.

Dana Brown, a senior at Loy Norrix, experienced an online relationship that ended quickly after they saw each other in public.

"I enjoyed talking to her online and stuff, but when we met her looks just changed all that for me. I was kind of scared when I saw her face," Brown said.

"I thought she was really cool and real when we talked," Brown said. "Pictures can be really deceiving."

catfish

THE TV SHOW

collider.com

The latest sports scandal in fact has been an issue with online dating. Notre Dame football player Manti Te'o claimed to have been talking to a girl, Lennay Kekua, online who he fell in love with. It was reported that they met, talked on the phone, communicated with each other's families and everything seemed legitimate. Te'o received a call that Kekua died from Leukemia last fall and that created a sense of suspicion.

All of this, however, turned out to be a hoax. The ABC news website interviewed Te'o's teammate who reported that he had spoken to Kekua on the phone before. However when he found out about her death, he assumed that Te'o was just embarrassed that he only talked to her online and made up many details.

Just like meeting someone on the street or in the store, all relationships have a chance of failing or succeeding. All matchmaking has its flaws and advantages. According to the ABC news website, online relationships however do show statistically more failures than successes.

Senior Travon Williams was also once involved in a romantic online relationship as well. He actively talked to her online, but they never met because she lived far away.

"You want to see them and spend time with them. It's not really a healthy thing in high school. Not being able to travel and see the other person kills the relationship," Williams said.

Online relationships are not all bad though. A lot of adults do find love online and may find their soul mate. The key to online dating is finding reliable sources and sites. If the person on the other side of the computer screen seems sketchy, investigate more and make sure you're really learning the truth.

Loy Norrix Teen Expresses himself with Tattoos



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Jorge Esparza striking a pose while showing off his tattoos. Esparza has 7 tattoos.

Mary Daly
Knight Life News

It seems like everyone has a tattoo these days. What used to be the property of sailors, outlaws and biker gangs is now a popular thing for many people. People have found ways to express themselves with their tattoos.

People of all ages get tattoos

and for different reasons. The most common reasons are to remember a loved one, express personal opinions and to represent a hobby. Most people, especially at a young age, don't think of the health risk and consequences of getting a tattoo.

Senior Jorge Esparza, loves the feeling of the vibrations of the tattoo machines. He believes tattoos help

him express how he is different from others. Getting tattoos doesn't really bother Esparza because his pain tolerance is really high.

"It feels like a thousand little pinches," said Esparza.

Esparza's tattoos mean different things to him. He has a unicorn on his ankle which means freedom to be what he wants to be. He has tattoos on his hands that reminds him to always work towards his goals. Also he has a diamond in tribute to his best friend.

"Honestly, I think it's cool, but I think some people only get tattoos to fit in with others," said Esparza.

Tattoos allow teenagers to feel free to make choices about their own body and have control of themselves. Most teenagers get tattoos rebelliously, from the peer pressure of friends and other close to them.

History teacher Arthur Williams has his opinions on tattoos. Williams is one of those people who has tattoos but thinks in today's world tattoos are becoming a trend and aren't having much thought when people get them.

"I think teenagers all over will be getting tattoos, but it will eventually die down and not be as common from years to come," said Williams.

HOLLYWOOD from page 4


in 3-D. Snow White and the Seven Dwarves has been re-released seven times since its creation in 1937.

Don't get me wrong, there are some good original movies still being made, like "Inception," but the number of them is decreasing. A true original movie is hard to find because so many movies are based off of books.

Now a movie based off a book isn't a bad thing, but the point of a book is that we can let our imagination run wild with how we want to see it. We have become so brainwashed at what Hollywood and the media produces that we can't think for ourselves and just pay attention to whatever comes off our TV screen.

As humans we need to let our curiosity lead us into something new and creative instead of the same story that has been remade. My solution: take more chances in the movie industry. Producers shouldn't be so scared to put money into an original movie because it could end up the new Star Wars.

My hope is that society grows attached to the things that are new instead of the things that used to be new.



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Top Young Adult Books

Danielle Kahler
Knight Life News

You would be hard-pressed to find someone that has not heard of the Harry Potter series or the Hunger Games trilogy. Because of their high popularity, these books occupy the first and second slots on National Public Radio's Top 100 Best Young Adult Novels. The Children/Young Adult category is the fastest growing publishing category as of last year, according to the Association of American Publishers.

The books selected in this category are based on the Best Ever Teen-Fiction poll from the summer of 2012. The roster was made from a panel of experienced judges. Keep in mind that if you don't see your favorite book on the list, the age group that it falls in may be too old or, more likely, too young to qualify in the Young Adult category, which is defined as the age group between 12 and 18.

Although if you're wondering where the Twilight series ranks, it is 27th on the list and didn't quite make the cut. If you're interested in seeing the whole list, go to www.knightlifeneeds.com where you can follow the link to the NPR website.

Michael Guidry, senior

"I like how the book ["To Kill a Mockingbird"] was written and the author's diction. It was a lot different than any other book I had read."

Hannah Roberts, sophomore

"My mom made me read "Anne of Green Gables" and it shows how one person can change your life."

Socrates Montero, senior

"You didn't have a childhood if you didn't read Harry Potter."



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SENIOR SECTION

Loy Norrix Alumni Advice

The atmosphere of a smaller college is really nice. The biggest class I am taking only has 40 students.

I plan to go to a university next year, but KVCC helped me out a lot to get started before that big step.

Since the classes are smaller, the professors get a chance to get personable with all the students.

Max Williams, Sophomore KVCC



Lucas Leibold, Freshman Michigan State University



I recommend rooming blind. It forces you to remove yourself from your comfort zone.

It can be hard to avoid distractions sometimes in the dorms. Try the library, it can provide a much better work environment when it comes down to crunch time.

There is a time for work, and a time for play. Do not be afraid to enjoy yourself, just realize that your future is on the line, so be smart.



Lucas Leibold shares his dorm room with a fellow student at Lyman Briggs (a residential college at MSU for natural science). Friend Linsey Erickson enjoys down time in their dorm room. There's co-ed floors in some dorms at Michigan State.



Preveiw of Allie Pines' dorm room at Columbia University. This preveiw can give a few examples of what future college students may need for their dorms.

Allie Pines, Freshman Columbia University



College Necessities!

- Fan
- Lamp
- Hard Drive
- Mini Fridge
- Pillow and Sheets

*Make sure to communicate with your roommate before you buy appliances or furniture, so you don't end up bringing the same things.

How to Get Extra Money For College
Summer job
Workstudy
FAFSA
CSS
Scholarships

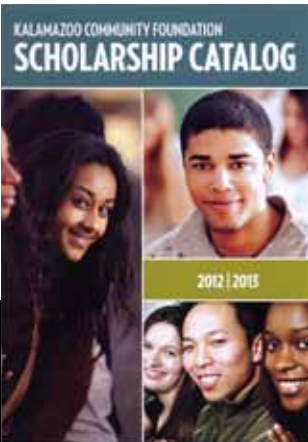
First week of school, try to get involved with anything available so you can meet new people.

Learn how to manage your time.

Keep a budget of where you spend your money on a daily to weekly basis.

Get out of the dorms and off campus to check out the community to get involved.

Look at what your college might offer for study abroad programs.



COLLEGES HAVE A PORTAL SITE WHERE STUDENTS CAN CHECK

THEIR DEADLINES AND OTHER INFORMATION.

LOY NORRIX COUNSELORS ARE IN THE LUNCH ROOM EVERY TUESDAY!

DEADLINES
FAFSA: MARCH 1
DECISION: MAY 1

Cool Whips

Senior Scout Rides High Up in her Wrangler



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Scout Krueger shows off her 2009 Jeep Wrangler. She listens to country music on Pandora when she drives.

Marcus Boyd
Knight Life News

As a teen, there are tons of great things about being in high school, but one of the best is driving. There's nothing better than driving in the car alone without your parents around to instruct you on every little thing. You can turn your music up a little louder, have a couple of friends ride along, and you have complete freedom to drive wherever you want to.

Loy Norrix has approximately 15 hundred students. Most of them depend on the school bus to get to school every day. However, there are plenty of students who drive themselves here.

When it comes to students' cars, there is a lot of diversity. There are all kinds of different makes, models, and years and some cars are better or worse than others.

Senior Scout Krueger was said to have one of the coolest student whips according to fellow students.

She drives a 2008 Jeep Wrangler that she got two years ago during summer vacation.

"We needed another car so I could drive my brother places and drive myself places," said Scout. Scout plays on the Lady Knights

soccer team while her brother is on the wrestling team and plays soccer too. Her parents have a tight schedule which leaves no time to drive Scout and her brother around, so that's how the Jeep came into her possession.

One of the cool features that Scout's jeep has is a removable roof.

"We take it to the beach a lot and the roof comes off and everything so it's fun," said Scout.

She likes to go to the beach with her friends and hang out and taking the roof off is perfect for a hot summer day. You could have some nice tunes blasting with the wind blowing through your hair and everyone's got their shades on. It just makes for a really good time. Another cool feature about Scout's car is its height.

"My dad put a lift kit on it and put on bigger tires," said Scout. Because it's so high up, it's more fun to drive.

"Inside, there's a touch screen. I don't know what it's called but it's for like, navigation and music and stuff," said Scout excitedly.

Scout's Jeep has a Uconnect entertainment system that does not come on the Basic models. Truly exclusive.

Shaquwan Saves at the Pump but Loses on Space



Marcus Boyd / Knight Life News

Senior Shaquwan Hughes shows off his old, but very efficient compact car. He calls his car "The Coupe."

Marcus Boyd
Knight Life News

Senior Shaquwan Hughes is said to have one of the worst student whips according to fellow students and he is aware of this.

He drives a 1992 Chevrolet Cavalier. His mother bought the car for him last year in March from a friend for \$650. There was no special occasion for getting the car; it was just for his first car.

"Yeah, I like it," said Shaquwan. He mentioned that the coolest features in his car are the CD player, the cup holders, and the subwoofers in his trunk. But that's pretty good because there are plenty of cars that don't have a CD player or cup holders. His cars also really good on gas. With its 4 cylinder engine, it's able to get 21 mpg in the city and 29 mpg on the highway.

"I had two in the front, three in the back, one on the floor and one in the trunk"
-Shaquwan

"Once a week, I get gas. I only have to put in ten dollars to get it on a half tank," said Shaquwan.

He then goes on to tell about a time when he fit seven people into his compact car.

"It was a house party on a Friday, and we only had one car to go to the

party with," said Shaquwan.

Shaquwan had 6 of his friends, Titus McKenzie, Socrates Montero, Davian Phillips, Jordan Taber, Adonios Lee, and Kody Gunn come over to his house to go to a house party and everyone chipped in on gas money.

"I had two in the front, three in the back, one on the floor and one in the trunk," said Shaquwan. Socrates rode in the trunk.

"He held the trunk closed a little to breathe and he stayed curled in a ball to fit in the trunk," said Shaquwan.

The whole ride, everyone nervously stayed ducked down in fear of getting pulled over by the cops, but luckily Shaquwan's house was only fifteen minutes away and they all made it back just fine.

Top Ten Recommended 2012 Teen Cars Courtesy of the USAA

1. 2012 Kia Forte
2. 2012 Honda CR-Z
3. 2012 Hyundai Elentra
4. 2012 Honda Civic
5. 2012 Toyota Yaris
6. 2012 Scion xB
7. 2012 Scion xD
8. 2012 Honda Fit
9. 2012 Nissan Cube
10. 2012 Scion tC

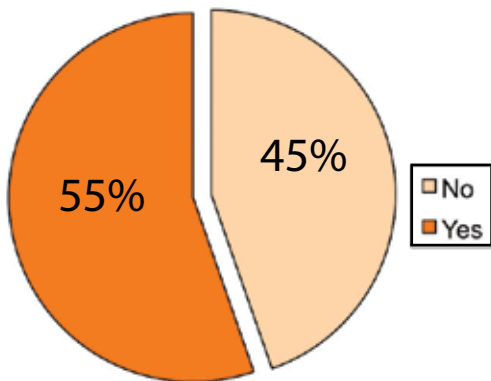
Does Age Matter?

According to Health & Wellbeing more and more people are starting to ignore societies stereotypes that you need to be with someone that is close to you in age.

People are beginning to date someone that is 10, 15 or even 20 years older or younger than them.

According to Chicago Tribune, "Women bear the brunt of the criticism whether they're on the younger or older side of the spectrum." If a woman is older than the man she is considered a cougar and if she is younger she is thought of as a gold digger. Some studies show that married couples are happiest when the husband is older than the wife.

Does age matter in a relationship?
Loy Norrix students say:

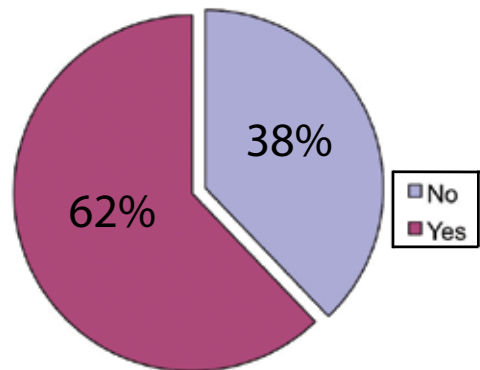


Love at First Sight

According to Hmolpedia, an encyclopedia of human thermodynamics, love at first sight is when two people fall in love immediately after looking at each other.

Statistically 20% of people fall in love at first sight and end up marrying their significant other.

Do you believe in love at first sight?
Loy Norrix students say:



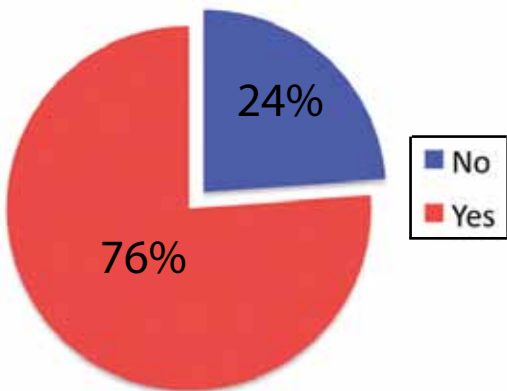
"Everyone has someone they're meant to be with." -*Brianna Day*

"People often forget about the human capacity for forgiveness. You tried it, it didn't work, okay; you don't have to hate each other." -*Grace Santamaria*

Soul Mates

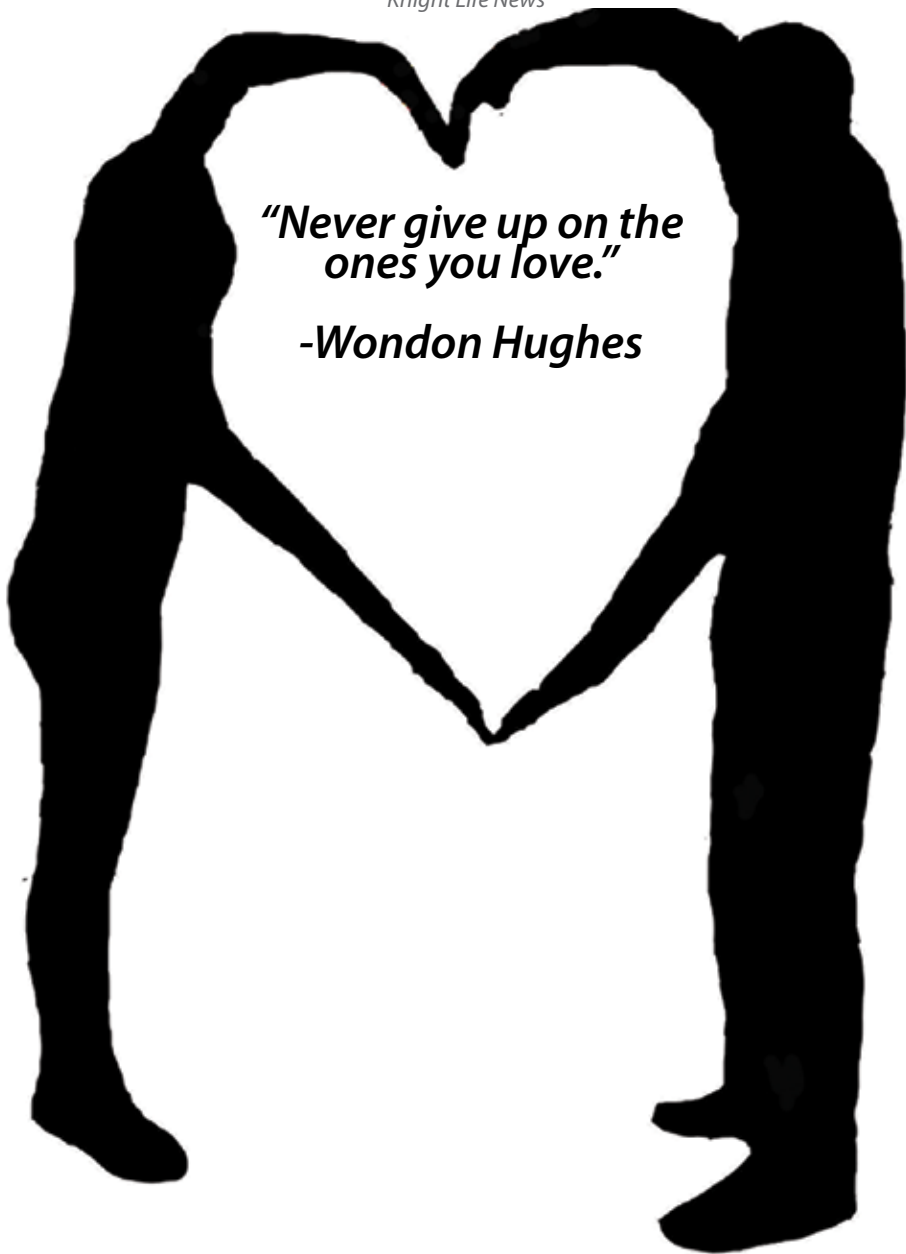
According to the website Solvedating, the concept of soul mates comes from Greek mythology. Our ancestors had two heads and four arms. They did something that made a God mad and God decided to punish them by splitting them down the middle. This ended up being the creation of humanity. We now are punished by having to search for our other half, our soul mate.

Do you believe in the concept of soul mates?
Loy Norrix students say:



Together Forever High School Relationships

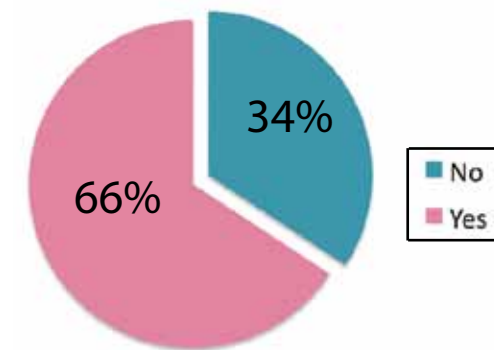
Sydnee Stannard
Knight Life News



Can Exes be Friends?

According to DivineCaroline, most people who try to stay friends with their ex either want to fix the relationship or are using their ex as a crutch until someone better comes along.

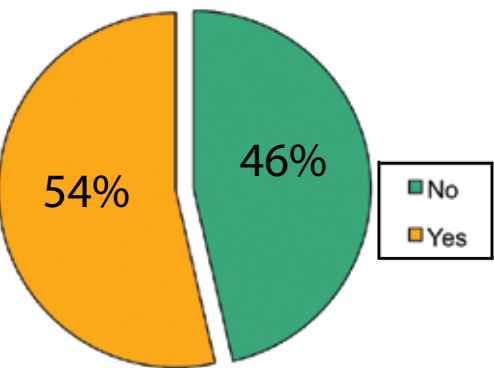
Can exes go back to being friends?
Loy Norrix students say:



Significant Others

According to Alternatives to Marriage Project, "There are 99.6 million unmarried people over the age of 18 in the United States." About 44% of adults in the United States are single.

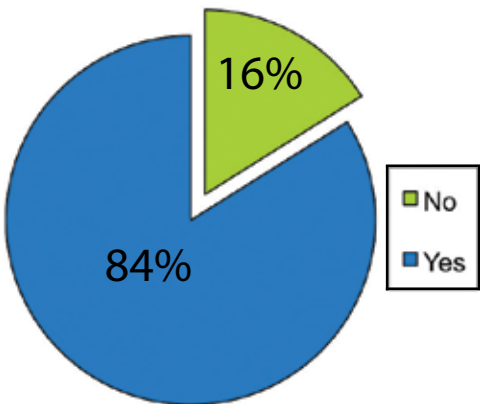
Do you have a significant other?
Loy Norrix students say:



High School Sweethearts

According to the website Professor's House, less than 2% of all marriages come from high school relationships.

Do you believe that high school relationships can last until marriage?
Loy Norrix students say:



"Don't worry as much about relationships. Stay focused on school and what you need to do in the future." -*Kasey Perry*

"If you have to hesitate when asked if you are happy, end it. Like poker your have to know when to bet and when to fold." -*Olivia lyzsyk*

Can you tell
which hair is
natural or
weave?



- ☐ Real
☐ Weave



- ☐ Real
☐ Weave



- ☐ Real
☐ Weave

It's UnbeWEAVEable



Transform Your Hair Instantly with Weave

Aerion Caldwell
Knight Life News

"Hey girl that's not fair. Give that horsey back its hair," is the theme song for weave.

Looking back in 2007 if you wore weave, you were automatically considered bald-headed. Today females confide in each other, gathering ideas and trading secrets.

Weave is a new and revived hot trend and is becoming the latest fashion. It can be glued or sewed into natural hair, and can make a girl's life much easier. White girls, black girls, Asian girls, you name it, they all have it.

"I love my weave and my colors. I'm a colorful person, but extremely picky about my hair," said senior Kiana Adewusi.

Weave is known to be a protective style for your hair. It retains the length, improves the quality, prevents breakage and gives your hair time to grow.

Getting your weave done is not all fun and games. The process can take up to five hours and it is not cheap either. Ever heard the saying "Beauty is pain"? When you get a sew-in, you'll fully understand what that means.

"It was my first time getting a sew-in, so I was excited, but it took forever and

my braids were tight," said Adewusi.

A sew-in is when your whole head is braided into French braids. You would need a needle and thread. There's curved, straight, V shaped, and boxed needles. When I say thread, I mean hair thread and not the thread people use to sew clothes with. It comes in all different colors depending on your choice of weave, all available at your local beauty supply store. Now it's time to sew it all in and watch your hair transform.

The lengths vary from eight inches to twenty-four. There's curly, wavy, straight, and kinky weave. You can choose from yaki, synthetic, synthetic blend and human hair. Choosing your type of weave is a critical moment. It's the decision of whether to choose the real or the fake.

Remi is the most popular type of weave and is what girls go crazy for. It is 100% human hair, high quality and the price varies from \$38 and up. Unlike Remy, synthetic and synthetic blend prices are way cheaper because of its lack of quality.

"I use remi hair because it lasts longer and is manageable. You're able to wash, curl, blow-dry, and straighten it. With synthetic hair you're

restricted and cannot do any of that," said junior Skylar Johnson.

Not exactly feeling the idea of a sew-in? Do the opposite and have it glued in. No braids, no needles, and no thread. It's your natural hair and the weave in-between. It's easier, emphasizes the volume, and makes it look like the hair is all yours.

Weave can create many illusions based on the different ethnicities of women. In a male's point of view, it creates the illusion that you have more hair.

"Everybody needs more hair once in a while," said Derrick Smith. "Just make sure it doesn't fall out because in a fight that's the first thing girls grab for."

"Oh, there go her weave!" said junior Chandler Thomas.

Walking through the hallways of Loy Norrix you will see the tumble weave. That's a ball of weave just randomly blowing in the air.

"So many girls don't have hair after a fight. It feels like a Clint Eastwood movie. There's enough to go around and keep for collectables," said Thomas.

When your hair is not getting pulled out in a fight, you might have the urge to pull it out yourself.

"You feel like ripping it out its so itchy. Sometimes I don't even care that I'm in front of people I just scratch it," said junior Ariyana Walker.

PAT. PAT. That's the sound of a girl scratching her weave. When you see a girl patting her head, you know she wears weave.

"I was in class and all of a sudden I hear this smacking sound. I look back and it's some girl patting her weave. When it itches you can't scratch it or else you'll be walking around with some extensions hanging out. Pat, don't scratch," said senior Bernell Campbell.

Often you'll see girls using pen tops, pencils, trying to get that scratch without messing up their new hairdo, trying to get and feel that "Ahh" sensation. But what really causes that itch? It is your hair being pulled so tightly by the braids and weave. Your natural hair is lacking moisture and fresh air, triggering that unsensational itch.

Want to put out the fire burning in your scalp? Try sleeping without your weave being wrapped, by doing so traps the air and makes the itch worse. Avoid scratching continuously, wash regularly, and most importantly moisturize the scalp.



Before



Step 1








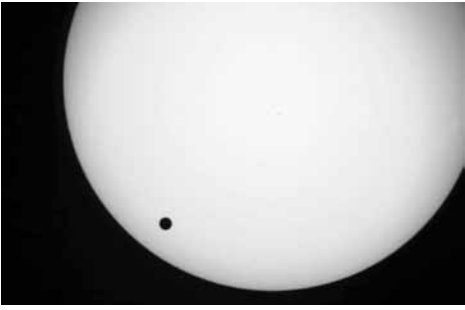





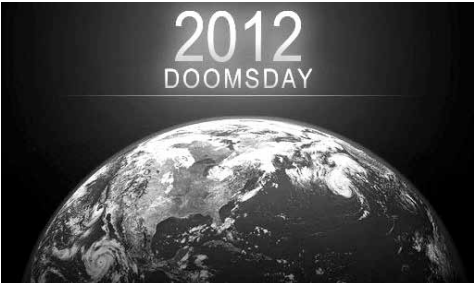
Step 2



After

Looking Back at 12 Events From 2012

Allie Creamer
Knight Life News

<div>22</div> <div>January</div> <div>The “Askin’ All Them Questions” video, by Emmanuel and Phillip Hudson, became an overnight sensation. It now has over forty two million views.</div> <div>“That was the video. Along with ‘She Ratchet,’” said senior Antonia Alexander, “That video had a bunch of views and everyone was going around singing it.”</div> <div></div>	<div>11</div> <div>Februrary</div> <div>Whitney Houston was an artist, actress, producer and model. She left this earth at forty-eight years old.</div> <div>“I was shocked when Whitney Houston died,” Said Senior Anajia Williams shaking her head, “She’s one of my inspirations I looked up to her, I loved her voice.”</div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div>March</div> <div>Canadian singer-songwriter Carly Rae Jepsen became a huge hit after her song “Call Me Maybe” came out. Although many people may not necessarily understand or like the meaning of the song, it was still a catchy tune.</div> <div>“I love that song!” senior Robbi Cook said sarcastically, “I didn’t like her singing it, but loved all the parodies of it.”</div> <div></div>
<div>20</div> <div>April</div> <div>Kony 2012 was an organization to help the child soldiers in Uganda. On April 20th the organization told everyone to “Cover The Night.” This is where everyone was supposed to plaster the world with Kony 2012 posters.</div> <div>“Before I thought it was a good organization,” said junior Magnificent Hanana, “Now I think they just wanted to get money.”</div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div>May</div> <div>President Obama announced that he supports same-sex marriage. He talked about the soldiers fighting for our freedom but can’t feel fully free because they cannot marry whom they want. Obama felt it was important to let people know how he felt about the topic.</div> <div>“I was overjoyed,” said senior Olivia Lyszyk, “I finally felt like all the work that so many have put in was realized.”</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div>June</div> <div>The century’s last transit of Venus occurred. This happens when Venus comes between the Earth and the Sun. You can see the planet as a little black dot on the Sun. The transit of Venus this year lasted six hours and forty minutes. The next one is predicted to occur in 2117.</div> <div></div>
<div>27</div> <div>July</div> <div>The 2012 Summer Olympics were held in London. The top four medalists were from the U.S. Michael Phelps ended with four gold and two silver medals.</div> <div>“It’s sad Michael Phelps isn’t in the Olympics anymore,” said Claire Mears, “It was his last year.”</div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div>August</div> <div>A rover by the name of Curiosity landed successfully on Mars. This rover has seventeen cameras, a laser to test rock, and tools that can analyze samples. Curiosity took over 2 billion dollars to make.</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div> <div>September</div> <div>The iPhone 5 was announced. Apple lovers waited in line all night for the new iPhone. The iPhone 5 features a bigger screen, lighter and thinner frame, a faster processor and, 4G LTE wireless connections.</div> <div></div>
<div>24</div> <div>October</div> <div>A tropical storm became Hurricane Sandy. The hurricane affected twenty four states and killed over two hundred people. It was the second costliest hurricane and ended up with over sixty-five billion dollars in damage.</div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div>November</div> <div>Barack Obama was re-elected as President of the United States. He was running against Republican Mitt Romney.</div> <div>“I’m glad he was re-elected,” said senior Tia Parker, “He is doing a good job running our country and gives black people a better name.”</div> <div></div>	<div>21</div> <div>December</div> <div>The Mayan calendar ended on this day. Many people took it as the world was going to end. Schools were closed due to kids’ threatening comments.</div> <div>“I thought there was going to be a black out,” said senior Jordan Taber, “I was sad when there wasn’t.”</div> <div></div>

Teen Parents Struggle to Juggle

Mataya Simmons
Knight Life News

"I go to KVCC because I am trying to get a head start on college because I already have a head start on making kids," said senior Breana Ortiz.

On March 4, 2012 Breana Ortiz had her son, Elston Jr. at 11:44 p.m. at Bronson hospital

For Breana Ortiz having a child at a young age was stressful and overwhelming. Now, being a year later, she is still struggling to handle the stress, but has learned how to manage her time wisely.

"I go to second, third and fourth blocks, then I go to KVCC at 2 o'clock p.m. until 3 o'clock p.m. and again 6 o'clock p.m. until 9 o'clock p.m. I also have a 10 month old son and have been working at Steak and Shake since June," said Breana Ortiz.

Even though Breana Ortiz thinks, "I live the life of a 30 year old," she still finds time for social activities while getting her education, taking care of her son, and working a job.

Brianna Hooper also Faces the Mommy Challenge

Junior Brianna Hooper lives a stressful life also. Brianna Hooper got pregnant going into her freshman year.

"When I found out I was pregnant I was mad because I never expected to get pregnant at such a young age," said Brianna Hooper.

Brianna Hooper's daily schedule is not nearly as full as Breana Ortiz's but is still much more stressful

than an average student's day.

"I wake up and make sure my son, Baby Mike, is okay. I then come to school. After school I go home, clean up and do my homework all while taking care of Mike," said Brianna Hooper.

Brianna Hooper finds herself stressed out a lot, but doesn't regret a thing.

"Don't get me wrong, it's very hard to learn how to take care of a baby at my age, but I wouldn't take it back, I love my son. I don't let stress get me down because I know it won't always be this hard," said Brianna Hooper.

Sophomore Mikquawn Crayton is Brianna Hooper's current boyfriend and also the father of her son. Mikquawn Crayton not only goes to school and helps take care of his son, he also plays basketball for our Loy Norrix JV team.

"When Brianna got pregnant I was worried. I didn't know what everyone would say or think. I was only in the eighth grade," said Mikquawn Crayton. Mikquawn Crayton says he gets very stressed with all the things he takes on.

"I come to school and then I go to practice. After practice I go home and help take care of my son and do my homework," said Mikquawn Crayton. Having a son has changed Mikquawn Crayton's life for the better, "It's made me make better decisions and live for him."

"It does get stressful at times but I love baby mike, I wouldn't take anything back," said Crayton.



Jini Brown / Guest Photographer

Brianna Hooper and her child, Baby Mike enjoy his first birthday. Brianna looks forward to watching him grow into a young man.

Students and Teachers Rely on Coffee to Stay Alert



Mia Leiblod / KnightLifeNews

Social Studies teacher and coffee fanatic, Ryan Allen, boosts his energy during his 3rd hour economics class with coffee. Allen drinks 6-8 cups per day during the work week.

Sarah Stevens
Knight Life News

As a society we run on caffeine. We would not be able to get through our busy lives without our Monsters, coffee and 5-Hour Energy Shots. Students and teachers work for 8 hours at school and then are overwhelmed with homework and social lives.

According to Life Science, three out of five people say that they need coffee to start their day. A survey was taken at Loy Norrix of 300 students about caffeinated products. Results showed 20 percent drink coffee.

Since the 1970's the number of teens that drink coffee has tripled.

Viktoria Pashby drinks two to three cups of coffee a day. Pashby stated, "I'm not addicted, I can restrain myself and go days and weeks without noticing and effects."

When younger, Pashby was sitting around the campfire with her father and asked for a cup of coffee. Her father said no, when she asked why, his reason was because she would put a lot of cream and sugar in it. The only way she could have a cup is if she would drink the coffee black. She drank it black and still drinks it black today.

Pashby usually brings coffee to school, but every once in awhile she needs another cup and goes to her

coffee sources at the school.

Ninety percent of adults in North America consume caffeine daily.

Teachers at Loy Norrix drink massive amounts of coffee. Art Williams drinks a pot of coffee before he leaves for work in the morning and another throughout the school day.

"Yes absolutely, I am addicted," Williams reported.

Williams started drinking coffee in the Marine Core and found it helps his ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). ADD is the abnormally function of your brain which obscures your ability to focus on tasks. Caffeine acts as a stimulant, which counter affects ADD.

Williams said the biggest coffee drinkers at the school are Mark Lowrie and himself. He all so stated that Ryan Allen is a coffee pretender.

"He is a coffee pretender because he doesn't drink 2 pots a day, and I heard he sometimes drinks instant coffee," Williams jokingly said.

Every time you walk into Ryan Allen's classroom, it's like you're walking into a coffee shop. Allen can be seen with his coffee cup at any time during his Economics and Government classes. Allen drinks 6-8 cups a day.

He started drinking coffee at his first job out as a maintenance worker mowing lawns, and delivery supplies. Allen was pressured to drink coffee and

drink it black by his bigger and more intimidating fellow workers. He has been drinking it the same ever since.

"I am not addicted because I do not drink coffee on the weekend," said Allen.

Students like drinking energy drinks more than teachers; energy drinks are more directed towards the younger generation.

Senior Troy Swodzinki drinks 6-7 a week during his soccer season. The energy drinks help him perform for his soccer games.

Some athletes like Swodzinki drink energy drinks before games. In 2000 Ross Cooney was 18 years old and collapsed during a basketball game because of drinking 3 Red Bulls before his game. Experts warn against drinking energy drinks because when running around, athletes' heart start pumping faster and can lead to irregular heartbeats.

MediResource Clinical Team say that caffeine is a psychoactive drug. A psychoactive drug is a drug that primarily acts upon the central nervous system and effects brain functions.

People can get addicted to the effects of caffeine and it's a hard habit to kick. When trying to stop drinking caffeine symptoms could consist of headaches, drowsiness, irritability, and difficulty concentrating.

ESL: Learning English Helps Students Communicate and Excel in Classes



Sophomore Irving Rivera is learning English for the first time this school year. He gets help from his ESL teacher Mr. Howell during his 4th hour.

Kiosha Miller
Knight Life News

When you look at Irving Rivera he looks like any other 16-year-old Loy Norrix sophomore student. What you don't know is that he has one of the hardest challenges ever. He has a language barrier. This language barrier is something most American natives never have to deal with.

Many teens come to America as foreign exchange students or move here from other countries. If the students have a language barrier it can be very hard to communicate.

Irving is from El Salvador. His mother moved here for work a few years ago, and he recently joined her and his younger sister in June. When he moved here he knew no English. Since his mother moved here for work she hasn't picked up English very well, leaving him knowing basically nothing about the language. He now had to make a life change for himself and his family. He knew he would be responsible for teaching his mother how to speak English and translating

for her. When he first entered Loy Norrix he was scared because he didn't know how to communicate with anyone. On top of that he was expected to do the work in his classes that everyone else was.

Irving said, "I remember when I first entered Ms. Riley's class, I didn't know what she was saying at all."

Irving has had a good support group, which is what has allowed him to be successful. His friends that speak English and Spanish have helped him. Most importantly the ESL program has helped him.

The ESL program stands for English as a second language. There are different levels of the program so that the students can continue to improve their skills and grow. There are about 1500 students at Loy Norrix and many are involved in ESL. The goal of the program is to teach students the ins and outs of American Standard English. For example the ESL students are taught how to define words by context not from a dictionary. They are taught how to interpret symbols and images. Then

the ESL student's job is to apply these skills into everyday use.

The ESL teacher that is in charge of all this is Steven Howell. Howell has been teaching at Loy Norrix for three years. He said "students come to Loy Norrix from all walks of life, with many different challenges." When teens arrive not knowing English it is a disadvantage but it isn't something negative. It is just one of the challenges.

Howell speaks English and French, but this job has allowed him to pick up bits and pieces of other languages. Most of his students come to him with a background in Spanish.

Kyseniya Baranova is a foreign exchange student from Russia. She studied English in Russia, but when she arrived here she could hardly understand anyone. She was constantly asking her host mom to repeat herself. Her host mom would ask the same of her. Kyseniya wanted friends and could tell Americans were friendly but she was scared to speak.

In Russia she was very talkative so not talking was unlike her. But, as the school year went on, Howell was able to help her. She now has fun at school

"Mr. Howell has improved my language, his class is nice because everyone is patient with you because they are dealing with the same issue."

- Kyseniya Baranova

and has, made friends. She is able to experience the American culture. All this has been due to the hard work she has done since the school year started. She has had to get over being self-conscious and just try.

Kyseniya said, "Mr. Howell has improved my language, his class is nice

because everyone is patient with you because they are dealing with same issue."

Chui Wei Wang is also a foreign exchange student from Taiwan. He arrived here in Kalamazoo August 31st. When Chui Wei moved he knew very little English. He said it was very hard making friends and getting to know people at first because he didn't really understand anyone. Working in the ESL program has allowed him understand the language and communicate.

Smiling Chui Wei expressed some of his favorite things.

"I love skiing and the sky at night here because you can see the stars. In my city in Taiwan I can't see the stars. I only see lights."

This is something he couldn't express when he first got to the U.S. Now he has made a lot of close friends and is able to speak without feeling self conscious about it. Wang also said he is able to listen and enjoy country and rock music. There is a big culture difference between Taiwan and America but he is very glad he came.

Howell said when he was hired in to teach at Loy Norrix he was given some very good advice. He said he was told, "Treat every student as if they were your own, the students will do whatever you allow them to."

With this advice he has been able to develop his own teaching and management style. He always wondered how one of his professors from college could tell stories from past students.

Now as a teacher he realizes that you have to get to know a student in order for them to trust you. After the students trust you, that's when you are able to get them open to learning. This is one of the reasons that the ESL program has been successful at Loy Norrix. Howell treats every student as an individual.

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Guidelines:

250 words or less, must contain author's name, third period, and ID number.

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

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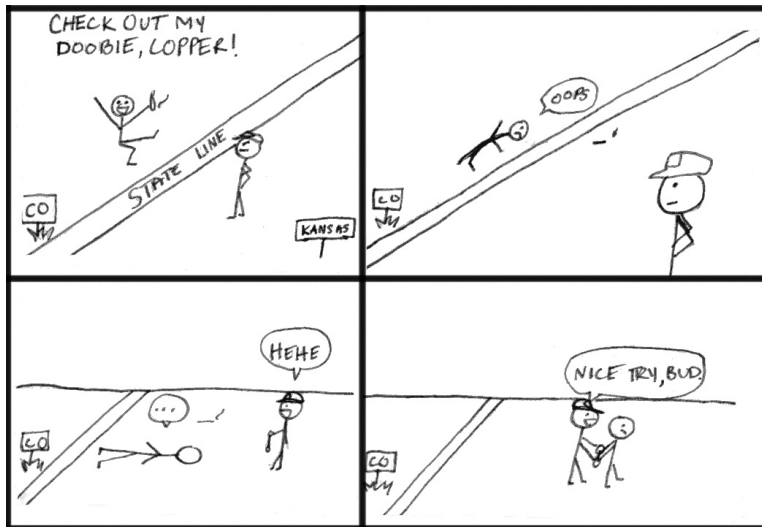
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STAFF EDITORIAL

Federal Laws Prohibiting Marijuana Should Be Revoked



Lori Umbanhower / Guest Artist

Amendment 64 in the Colorado constitution was passed on Tuesday November 6 2012, legalizing the recreational use of marijuana.

The voters of the state of Colorado had many reasons behind their legalization of marijuana, and most if not all, are legitimate. The people of Colorado "had an interest in more efficient use of law enforcement, enhancing revenue for public purposes,

and individual freedom" as stated in the amendment.

Colorado has taken a large step in legalizing marijuana for recreational usage but how legal is it? Federal law still states that the use of marijuana is illegal, making the actual legality of marijuana quite confusing. This is why the federal law of marijuana being illegal should be retracted and it should be the state's decision whether or not marijuana is

legal.

Currently in Michigan, only medical marijuana is legal. In December of 2012, Michigan's legislation tightened up the medical laws. Now, medical marijuana cards are only valid for two years and after that time a panel reviews whether or not the user is still in need of their prescription. It also requires medical marijuana users to carry marijuana in the trunk of their car if they have to transport it. Finally it said that employers are not required to reimburse their employees for medical marijuana purchases. Even with all of the precautions that Michigan legislation is taking, marijuana, even for medical purposes is still illegal under the eye of the federal government.

In Kalamazoo, the possession of under an ounce of marijuana has been decriminalized. This means that if you are caught with under one ounce (about 28 grams) of marijuana, it is a

misdemeanor for adults over 21 with a fine of up to 100 dollars.

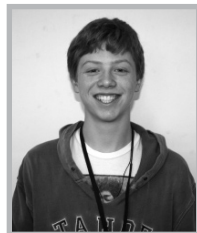
Before decriminalization, small time marijuana offenders were prosecuted under state law which resulted in a fine up to two thousand dollars, and no more than a year in jail.

If the federal government would retract their law saying that marijuana used for any purpose is illegal, each state could decide for themselves what to do, whether that's make it legal for recreational purposes like Colorado and Washington state, for medical purposes like Michigan, Washington DC, and 17 other states in the US, or ban the use of marijuana all together.

In Colorado, similar precautions that are used for selling alcohol will be used for selling marijuana, such as:
1. Individuals will have to show proof that they are at least 21 years old to purchase marijuana.

see MARIJUANA page 20

My Little Pony Fans Transcend Societal Gender Roles



Ben Miller
Knight Life News

From the beginning of our lives, men and women are separated by a not-so-fine line. As babies, boys are blue and girls are pink. As kids, boys like Spider Man and girls like Cinderella. Once we grow up, women are considered sensitive and men don't have emotions. Well what if that all changed? And what if the thing to change these gender roles was a show called "My Little Pony: Friendship is Magic?"

"My Little Pony" is a show recreated by Lauren Faust in 2010 (the original show was created in 1982) about six ponies learning the power of friendship through their adventures. This can be about Pinkie Pie finding out who ate the cake or even Twilight Sparkle arguing for atheism

and discovering the power of faith. The colors are bright, the theme song is bubbly, and the messages can sometimes be found cheesy. So why would any teenager or adult male watch this show and call themselves something as silly as a "Brony"? The answer can get complicated, so let's dive deep.

First of all, we're going to talk about the "My Little Pony" itself. Don't knock it 'til you try it because it's actually a solid show. The characters are hilarious, the dialogue is well thought out and the animation is award winning. The thing is, there is such a thick wall of social norms that we, as people, cannot see through to why anyone might enjoy the show. But we will get into that later.

When the show "My Little Pony" was first created, Faust did her best to present it so parents could watch with their kids and not leave the room gagging. She was successful in doing this. So much, in fact, that parents started watching it on their own. This eventually led to teenage and adult men

watching and loving the show. Eventually, they were given the name of "Bronies," a combination of the words bro and pony.

When I first heard about Bronies, I was skeptical. I could not see why anyone would watch this series. But after some convincing, a friend of mine got me to watch it. Stunned by the quality of the show, I wanted more. My friend then sent me several drawings and videos created by fans. I could not believe how incredible these pieces of art were. The Brony community is incredibly artistic. All across the Internet are songs, animations, products and most of all artwork, all based on "My Little Pony."

So what is our problem as a whole? Why is society so afraid and threatened by men watching a show created for young girls? Well, it's fairly simple. It isn't seen as normal. It defies the typical definition of masculine or mature. For example, we do not judge humor on the quality of the jokes themselves but on the group the joke is made for. The

television show "Family Guy" has humor that is supposedly appropriate for teenagers simply because all of the jokes are raunchy and "adult," but that doesn't mean that it is necessarily better for our age group.

Maybe I haven't convinced you by this point, but this type of generalization about teenage interests is a huge problem. These norms about age and gender roles have brought our culture to a point where we aren't allowed to enjoy things that we like (with "My Little Pony" being a prime example). So what do we do? Well, there is only one thing; toss these norms to the curb. Because by disregarding these roles in society, we could all enjoy the things we like without judgment.

And maybe Bronies are the beginning of this. For all we know, "normal dudes" that watch "My Little Pony" could be leading an entire cultural revolution where it doesn't matter if girls play with G.I. Joe's or boys are ravaging the Barbie market.

Teachers having guns Protect or Endanger



Danielle Kahler
Knight Life News

Throughout my high school years, I've discovered that I would like to become a teacher.

In light of the Sandy Hook Elementary shootings, I've recently found myself wondering what kind of training I'll be receiving. Will I be required to take classes in self defense and learn how to shoot a gun? And when I am an educator, will I be expected to fire at a person? Are teachers now expected to be unpaid police officers? Teachers should not be expected to carry guns in school.

Although politicians may imagine a scenario where a bad guy barges into a room, a teacher confidently whips out a gun, kills the criminal with one shot and becomes the hero, this is not the case.

Time magazine delves into the psychology behind what happens to the mind during a shoot out. Trained officers often experience tunnel vision or something like looking into a kaleidoscope when involved in a gun fight, according to the article "Your Brain in a Shootout: Fear and Flawed Instinct" by Amanda Ripley.

Due to this, officers usually hit their targets only 18 percent of the time and "when they fired 16 times at an armed man outside the Empire State Building last summer, they hit nine bystanders and left 10 bullet holes in the suspect—a better-than-average hit ratio."

So, if trained officers only hit their targets 18 percent of the time, how much training do we expect teachers to undergo?

Well, some states propose 1 to 3 days before handing over a firearm to a teacher. However, this is not sufficient training for average citizens. Even years of training does not make a perfect police officer.

Personally, I see more flaws with arming teachers than benefits. Teachers are humans also, and we all know that humans have a wide range

of emotions. A teacher who is having a bad day is nothing, but what about a teacher who is having a bad day, that is armed with a gun?

Teachers are put in stressful situations almost every day with children and teens who have not fully developed the areas of their brain that make them think rationally.

Imagine this scenario: two kids get in a fight and a teacher, who is armed with a gun, tries to break them up. Somehow, one of the kids gets a hold of the gun. To me, this is a scary situation, and much more likely to happen than some mass murderer walking into a school.

Statistically, schools are one of the safest places. Time magazine notes that the odds of a US student being shot are 1 in 3 million, which is less than being struck by lightning.

People are taking this issue too far. Sometimes horrible things happen and there is nothing we can do about it. People cannot have guns in airports or libraries, so why are we proposing to force teachers to carry guns, some of whom might be opposed to it? We should leave the gun handling to trained authorities who have signed up for the job.

KNIGHTS SPEAK

Should teachers be able to carry guns in school to ensure student safety?

Doungbagai Leo, Junior

"No, they shouldn't because everyone is human and if a teacher becomes emotionally unstable they could use it incorrectly."



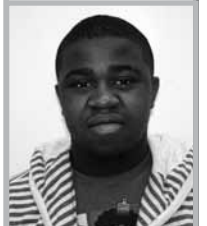
Julia Fiore, Junior

"No, teachers shouldn't be able to carry guns because students can't carry them either. If they both follow the rules there are no problems."



Jorjah Fleming, Sophomore

"They should be allowed if the guns are secure somewhere that only the teacher has access to. There would have to be a strict procedure on how the teacher goes about using them."



Alexis Caples, Senior

"I think teachers should not have guns in school because we can't prevent something we don't know will happen and students will steal them."



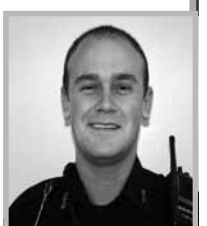
Hunter Machin, Freshman

"I think they should be able to carry guns if they are locked up. If there is an emergency they would come to use."



Officer Noble, Campus Safety Officer

"I do not believe teachers should carry guns. From my extensive training through school and my experiences on the street, there are several factors that come into play when using a gun in a situation involving a classroom or school. You have to determine...is the threat of deadly force? If the gun is used is another innocent student's life going to be in danger because of a missed shot? These are just some of the many scenarios that should be left to the trained law enforcement personnel. I am in favor of more school resource officers in American schools."



News media is at Fault for "Copycat" Shootings



Jacob Heasley
Knight Life News

It seems that everything you hear after a shooting is guns, guns, and more guns. News anchors debate over the second amendment, politicians try and pass bills to limit gun usage, and the NRA lobbies against these bills. There is, however, one guilty party that seems to get a free pass after every shooting; the media.

If you watch the news after any shooting, you will probably see 24 hour coverage of the event, debates about the shooter's motive, interviews from individuals who were present, and countless experts, each claiming that they are the only one who truly knows the reason the shooter went on a rampage.

Instead of trying to find out the shooter's legitimate motive, the media blames video games, movies, music, and countless other forms of entertainment.

People are led to believe that the

shooter was a violent antihero, driven to madness by any random violent video game. Once any form of entertainment is blamed, a figurative witch hunt is stirred up against it, and all questions about the shooter's mental health go out the window.

There are countless instances of this, comic books were blamed in the '80s, movies in the '90s, and now video games in the 2000s. News sources are forever in competition with any new form of entertainment that takes away their viewers or readers, and every person rallying against that entertainment is another person watching the news.

In 1996, a 14 year old boy named Barry Loukaitis of Moses Lake Washington went into his algebra classroom in Frontier Middle School and opened fire. In the shooting he killed two students, a teacher, and severely wounded another student. During the shooting Loukaitis said, "This sure beats the hell out of algebra, doesn't it."

The quote, from Stephen King's book, "Rage," became immensely popular among news sources.

Stephen King was interviewed about his book, and in the interview, King made it very clear that he didn't want anything to do with the book, later asking the publisher to stop

printing it.

"I took a look at "Rage" and said to myself, if this book is acting as any sort of accelerant, if it's having any effect on any of these kids at all, I don't want anything to do with it," said King.

Along with the interview, there was 24 hour news coverage, a detailed explanation about the killer's arsenal and how he hid the weapons from school security, and within a month, there were four other shootings in which the shooters blamed Rage.

If the media hadn't virtually created a guide showing people how to hide weapons from security and instead focused their coverage on the shooter's depression or the fact that Loukaitis had had to talk his own mother out of suicide a year before the shooting, the other four shootings might have been prevented.

The copy cat effect, as it was soon called, says that the more news attention that a shooting gets, the more likely that similar shootings will happen afterwards. It doesn't have to be school shootings either, suicides and other forms of murder are also affected by news sources. After the Aurora Colorado Dark



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New Players and Returning Stars Boost Women's Soccer

Jay McIntosh
Knight Life News

The Loy Norrix Women's Soccer team awaits this season with expectations of a better result than last year's. The 2012 season ended (6-8-2) for the Lady Knights.

Loy Norrix graduated five seniors last year, Lillian Jackson, Jessica Moshoginis, Morgan Steffler, Alexis Welsh, and Brandie Batten. This year marks a time for returning players to step up and new athletes to come in and make an impact.

Typically, whether it is men or women's soccer, ninth graders come in not knowing the game they are trying out for or are simply trying to play for fun. This year, there are many players coming in with high soccer IQ's from playing travel soccer and many others coming in looking to learn the game more than they do now.

Freshman, Megan Zabik said, "I have been playing soccer ever since I can remember, hopefully that shows this year when playing with the girls."

Megan Zabik, is one of the new players coming to the team along with twin sister Julie Zabik, and they are looking to make a big impact right away.

"I want to win bad," were the words said by both Zabik players when asked what they want out of their first season at Norrix.

Along with the Zabik twins, come two other well known incoming twin freshman, the Labadie powerhouse. The loss of senior defense and



Mia Leibold / Knight Life News

Women's varsity soccer coach John McKenzie has been coaching at Loy Norrix for 4 years. Small group training sessions like this one take place pre-season to ensure confidence in both returning and new players.

goalkeepers is now going to have to be counteracted by non-stop pressure from the double set of twins and the team as a whole.

Like every year, the Lady Knights start their pre-season training early. This year, the turnout for players has been especially high in comparison to previous years with trainings reaching over thirty-five players.

A typical pre-season training for the women's soccer team consists of Mondays playing Futsal. Futsal is a game of soccer played in many other countries with a slightly smaller but heavier ball, typically on a basketball

court. Tuesday and Thursday there is weight training and a running workout. Wednesday and Saturday there are group trainings. Each player has at least four days of training a week to prepare them for the tryouts on the 11th of March.

Three year varsity player Madison McBarnes has been a key attribute to the Loy Norrix women's soccer team since she came in as a freshman. This year the Lady Knights will be without her on the field due to an injury.

Regardless of McBarnes not being able to be on the field this year, she will still play more of a teaching role with

the women.

McBarnes foresees her role as a chance to help players on a player to player mind set and a new job of being able to help the Lady Knights develop.

"I'm going to be able to give the incoming girls advice as to how they can 'fill' my position in a calmer and nicer way than a coach will be able to help them," said McBarnes.

McBarnes, once finished with high school, has plans of possibly attending Kalamazoo College and playing soccer for their team. Even though McBarnes' role has changed, she knows she must still contribute all she can to help make it a point that the team will live up to the high expectations compared to recent years.

With many important spots to fill, the Lady Knights are expecting to improve their record from last year's by utilizing all players. Junior, Mara Timmeny is a three year varsity player who thinks the new additions to the team will be essential, "Freshman are going to be able to bring lots of energy to the team and new perspectives," said Timmeny.

Did You Know?

On average soccer players run seven miles a game.

Soccer cleats have ranged anywhere from under \$100.00 to over \$400.00.

The game is known as 'soccer' only in North America, the rest of the world recognizes it as Futbol.

The highest paid soccer player makes over 80 thousand a day.

Knocking Down Unknown Pins: Varsity Bowlers at Loy Norrix Need Support

Mia Leibold
Knight Life News



Mia Leibold / KnightLife News

Junior Zach Brandt approaches the lane at Eastland Bowl on Saturday February 4th. Brandt had a total of 18 strikes against Kalamazoo Christian.

"When we win, we win big," said junior Zach Brandt. "It's not just me that pulls out the win," said Brandt, all 17 varsity bowlers at Loy Norrix play a huge part in the team's accomplishments.

Loy Norrix alone offers 27 total sports teams for both men and women. One of these highly competitive varsity sports is bowling.

Senior Daniel White has never attended a bowling meet.

"It is just something that I can't watch," said White. "Bowling isn't like football or basketball, those sports are interesting to watch and fast paced."

Like White, the majority of the Loy Norrix student body has never attended a meet.

However, White said, "If I was playing it might be a different story."

"I didn't know there was technique behind bowling, I thought it was all fun and games at first," said Raven Vanderbilt.

Raven Vanderbilt began bowling

her sophomore year as a Knight and is now a senior at Loy Norrix. When asked about how others react when she says that she's on the bowling team Vanderbilt replied, "A lot of people don't think it's a real sport."

The majority of bowlings fans are family members. Vanderbilt thinks that it would be nice to have more student fans come a support them. Like any sports team, the bowlers want others to encourage them at their meets.

"There is a lot of technique behind bowling, you don't just throw a ball down a lane," said Vanderbilt.

When approaching a lane, Vanderbilt said, "I shake, my heart races and I even start to sweat."

For many athletes, bowling is a way to release built up tension and anger.

Raven says that her teammate, Zach, bowls better when he is having a tough day. "It's almost like he shatters the pins," said Vanderbilt.

Junior Zach Brandt is a star on the men's bowling team and has been bowling for 14 years.

So far, Brandt is 6-2 on the 2013

season, having won many important games for the Knights.

"Bowling has given me confidence," said Brandt. "It helps me to succeed under pressure situations."

Brandt has aspirations to compete in bowling at the college level and eventually professionally.

"It's difficult at first, but once you get the hang of it, it gets more fun," said Brandt about beginner bowlers.

"Zach has inspired me to take bowling to the next level, he's like a mentor," said Vanderbilt about Brandt. "Even though I'm older than him, I still look up to him."

Like any sport, bowling takes a lot of effort and team support. The team practices for an hour and a half three times a week at three different lanes around Kalamazoo.

Vanderbilt said, "Bowling is really fun, but also very competitive." She enjoys this because it proves that bowling, like many other high school sports, can be taken seriously.

Skateboarding is a positive influence on teens



Branden VanZile / Knight Life News

Nils Miron doing a kickflip over the kicker at the Portage Skatepark. Kickflips are one of his favorite tricks, even though he is capable of doing a lot of tricks that are more advanced.

Branden VanZile
Knight Life News

“Alright, foot placement is important here, your front foot goes on the bolts, and your back foot in the middle of the tail. The key to doing an ollie is to push down with your back foot, and slide your front foot up at the same time.”

These words from an instructional “how-to-skate” youtube video had been playing in the back of senior Nils Miron’s head that entire day. He had been contemplating and working hard ever since he decided to teach himself to skateboard.

Nils Miron started skateboarding towards the end of his 8th grade year, and, like everyone else, had to start somewhere. He was able to obtain a traditional “Wal-Mart board” through the funding of his parents and began his skateboarding career with “hippy jumps,” “kick turns,” and “manuals.”

“When I started off skateboarding, naturally, I was awful. I started skating late, so everyone that skated who was my age was better than me, but I didn’t mind, what mattered was that I was enjoying myself,” said Nils.

When summer hit Nils wanted to skate every chance he got, he was teaching himself most of the time, and didn’t know very many people that shared his hobby, but if there was anyone he could get tips from he would take them.

With the start of high school, Nils had his work cut out for him. He attended the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC) in the morning and Loy Norrix in the afternoon. He was prepared for the rigour of KAMSC courses, but he didn’t necessarily expect several hours of homework a night.

“While I was still in KAMSC the homework just kept piling up, I didn’t have as much time for skating, but I felt like it was important to skate everyday, if only for a little bit,” said Nils.

School slowed his skate life down, but it wasn’t able to bring it to a grinding halt. Nils was able to learn how to “kickflip” within the first few months of his freshman year. He saw this as the first stepping stone to becoming a good skateboarder. The kickflip, being a beginner trick, is still extremely useful, and he felt it was quite an accomplishment. To this

day kickflips are one of his favorite tricks. He pops them high, lands them clean, and applies them to an endless variety of obstacles.

“Nils is the best! He is so steezy, and he won’t be happy with a kickflip until he gets it bolts. He always makes me feel like my kickflips suck, and that’s why I love skating with him,” said freshman Joshua Trudgeon-Pollock.

Josh and Nils frequently skate together, and, along with many other members of their “crew,” push each other to skate as hard as they can and try new things.

Nils skated purely for fun. It didn’t upset him to see people better than him; it simply inspired him. He loved the feeling of success when he did a sweet trick or learned a new one. He just wanted to practice, to become better, and to experience the feeling of accomplishment that came with it.

“Each time I learn a new trick I just feel so accomplished. The feeling is hard to capture with words, but it’s similar to working hard on something and finally completing it,” said Nils.

Nils has a passion for skateboarding because it’s something he loves, not because he feels a need to be competitive.

“I don’t really skate to go professional or be the best by any means, I skate because I really enjoy it. I like the idea that it’s something that I can do in my free time and make progress in,” said Nils.

Nils went on to his sophomore and junior year with skateboarding and school in mind. He maintained an outstanding GPA, joined several extra-curricular activities and still managed to continue skateboarding in his free time. Nils plans to continue skateboarding into his adult life and says that his passion won’t die easy.

“I can’t see myself giving up skating anytime soon, I love it, and it probably will never stop being fun for me,” said Nils.

As a senior Nils is still devoted to skateboarding. He keeps true to his routine of skateboarding every single day, and he works hard to perfect every trick before he moves on to the next.

Nils encourages other high schoolers to take up skating as a positive hobby in their lives. He says that skateboarding is a great way to set goals for yourself, make friends, be competitive, and maintain a healthy body.

from SHOOTINGS page 17

Knight Rises theater shooting, a copycat named Neil Prescott, calling himself “The Joker,” was arrested in his house after calling the police and saying, “I’m going to load all of my guns and blow people up.” Prescott was arrested in his house where 25 guns were found along with over 1000 rounds of ammunition.

With all of the speculation about motive, the main motive for shooters is to get attention. These days, if you want to do something that will draw attention, you do something horrific. It doesn’t matter what kind of act, if it is bad enough all news outlets will eventually cover it. The shooters know that the news will cover the event in explicit detail. For six months, the shooter’s name will be seen on every TV screen or newspaper, and they will have gotten exactly what they wanted, attention.

When covering a shooting, don’t turn it into a spectacle, don’t start with sirens blaring and children screaming. Simply state the facts and don’t turn the shooter into an antihero. With hope, this attitude should deter other people willing to do anything to get noticed.

Public shootings are, unfortunately, becoming more common and you can choose who to blame for yourself. There is never one thing to blame, but increased coverage of a public shooting will increase the chance of another shooting.

You can’t abolish the freedom of the press, but you also can’t shout “fire” in a movie theatre. Don’t glorify a horrible act of violence, simply state the facts and respect the deceased. If you give shooters the attention they don’t deserve, then more shootings will happen. But, if you discuss the mental health issues of a shooter, then maybe public shootings will become less common.

from MARIJUANA page 16

2. Selling, distributing, or transferring marijuana to minors is still a crime.
3. Driving under the influence of marijuana will remain illegal.
4. Marijuana will only be sold in legitimate stores that acquire a state license to sell. Individuals selling marijuana on their own behalf will be prosecuted.
5. Individuals that are legally able to consume marijuana will not do it in any public place, but in a closed environment.
6. It will be labeled and subject to additional regulations to ensure that consumers are informed and protected.

By legalizing marijuana, a study done by the Colorado Center on Law and Policy projects that 46 million dollars from both state and local taxes will be brought in yearly and nearly 12 million dollars will be saved in law enforcement from marijuana related offences. Illegal sale of marijuana happens every single day, why not make money off of that and save money with our law enforcement?

Finally, every American citizen has the right to the pursuit of happiness. Most of us know that our pursuit of happiness ends when it infringes on the happiness of another living person. Smoking marijuana does not, in any way, contribute to damaging another persons pursuit of happiness. By revoking the federal law, Americans can decide the legality of marijuana state by state.