

School Policy Fails to Address New Technologies

*Asia Davis
Editor-in-Chief*

"I smoke a vape pen because I don't want to smoke cigarettes," said Joe Santamaria.

Often called a "vape pen" or "E-Cig" a vaporizer is advertised as a healthier alternative to smoking cigarettes. Instead of burning tobacco, there is an oil heated that creates a vapor to be inhaled by the buyer. The vapor cigarette has invaded the halls of Norrix, causing conflict between administrators and some students due to the fact that there is no specific rule regarding vapor pens in the handbook.

The lack of specific procedure makes it so that they teeter on a blurred line between the electronic policy and the tobacco policy. This is also conflicting because vapor pens don't contain tobacco and not all of them contain nicotine either. The ones that don't contain nicotine are usually a fruity flavored substance such as "Mango Tango" or "Baja Joe."

Kalamazoo Vapor Shop is a local vapor shop that specializes in vapor pens and related products. Even though there's no state law regarding vapor pens and minors or adults for that matter, the Kalamazoo Vapor Shop requires customers to be 18 or older to purchase their products, because of the nicotine in specific oils.

"We get a lot of high school students in here looking for an alternative to smoking," said Jason Mischen, employee at Kalamazoo Vapor Shop.

This is a new trend not just in Loy Norrix, but around the world. According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention report the percentage of middle and high school students who smoke vapor pens with nicotine and other additives in them more than doubled from 2011 to 2012. This is partially because there are no laws regarding vaporizers in Michigan, and it's up to vendors discretion.

There are currently bills on the table in Senate, but none have been passed regarding the laws in Michigan.

Jeffrey Boggan, freshmen disciplinary principal, said because there isn't a specific rule regarding vapor pens, administrators use the related rules within the Code of Conduct developed by the school board. POSSESSING a vapor pen with or without nicotine is a Category One offense by using an electronic device during school and tobacco possession is a punishable offense that results in a referral and possible confiscation. The only way to get the vapor pen back is parent involvement. SMOKING a vapor pen on school grounds is a Category Two offense under the "Using Tobacco" infraction which would result in suspension.



Suicide Prevention Walk Away From The Dark Cliff

Jordan Liddle and Jacob Mays
Photo Editor and Comic Editor

Names have been changed due to sensitivity of the subject

“The feeling of my stomach felt like an acidic slushy liquid. I couldn’t help but stare at the empty bottle of pills wondering if I’m going to die,” said Jessica Sago

According to SAVE (Suicide Awareness Voices of Education), suicide claims the lives of 30 thousand Americans every year. The United States has the highest suicide rates in the world. Suicide doesn’t just affect the people who have suicidal thoughts, but the people around them as well, especially their friends and family. Specialists say that the best way to prevent suicide is early detection, but a lot of times suicidal thoughts are like a dream; you never know when you are going to wake up.

“I needed someone to notice I was going through this.”

-Mia Patrikson

As each teenager is trying to figure out their own life, it can be hard to notice when one of their peers is going through a hard time. The symptoms of depression affect the interactions between friends, family and peers with these thoughts. Teens tend to hide and distance themselves from the ones closest to them.

See **SUICIDE PREVENTION** on 16



Photo Illustration by Jordan Liddle

Students Who Skip School Reveal their Reasons

Rachel Wheat
Web Opinion Editor

“First hour we go out to breakfast, then second hour we are like we don’t even need to go to school for second hour, but we will go back to third hour. But then ten minutes before third hour, we just decide to skip the whole day,” said junior Nathan Jaworowski.

Skipping school is a constant problem in many high schools. It’s a problem that is almost impossible to manage because it is up to students if they want to attend class or not. It might be hard for a school to have a policy that will wipe out skipping as a whole, by finding out the reason people skip could help administrators understand why student choose not to come to class.

According to CNN, a recent survey shows that as many as 7 million students miss school for at least eighteen days out of the school year. That is missing about 3 weeks which can have a profound impact on the students’ grades and performance in school.

Kalamazoo Public School students can have seven unexcused absences per trimester before they receive no credit in their classes. In order to be excused from missing a day of school, you must have a doctor’s note or a very reasonable excuse.

“Sometimes we are sick, but not sick enough to go to the doctors,” said senior Juan Paz.

This puts students in the predicament of either getting an unexcused absence or coming to school contagious. Many students agree with Paz and believe that it is necessary to stay home when feeling too under the weather.

There are different types of skipping school: the staying at home with a “fever” that might actually not exist, or the quietly slipping out the door before your 3rd hour test or the hanging out in the bathroom all day.

Loy Norrix has hundreds of students, so there are people with conflicting views on the ideas of skipping school.

Some people are not into skipping because it creates a lot of extra work in the long run.

“If you skip one day in an AP class, it’s like missing a week.”

-Junior Molly Gritter

Gritter among with many other people have experienced the profound impact missing school can do to a student. As a student who has five classes to stay on top of, plus homework and tests, there is a lot of work to do.

According to Indiana University’s website and newsroom, 2 out of 3 students are bored in at least one class a day. This could have some possible implications on the number of students who skip school. If students are bored, they are more likely to skip class.

When a student has a project due in two days that is worth half of their grade, they often find themselves dealing with the choice to stay home and work or to go to school and get a low grade.

As a society we tend to look negatively at people who skip school, but often skipping



Loy Norrix students Nathan Jaworowski and AJ Rodgers head out of the building to the parking lot to take the rest of the school day off. They plan to go out to eat and then head home. Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat

school in not just to skip, the student often has a legitimate reason. Some students fake being sick, they take a “personal day,” or just don’t show up because they don’t want to.

Absenteeism is a persistence or regular pattern of not going to school. And many

students suffer academically from this. Schools sometimes have trouble being able to control the problem of skipping. School is a gift and it is purely up to the student to decide what is best for themselves.

The Clock is Ticking: Loy Norrixs’ Bucket List

Stokely Eller
Staff Writer

“ A Bucket List is a list of all the crazy things you want to do before you die. ”

-Nathan Jaworowski

Most people have a few certain things that they wish they could do before they die. It usually involves an exotic trip, meeting somebody famous or an exhilarating experience. This list is called a Bucket List. Knight Life decided to ask teachers and students what is on their Bucket List.

What would you like to do before you die?

Teachers

Science Teacher Mark Lowrie : I have always really wanted to go skydiving.

Principal Prewitt: I would really like to be on the show “The Iron Chef” on the food channel.

Athletic Director Andrew Laboe: To be on a game show like “The Amazing Race” or “The Price is Right”.

Science teacher Claudia Witt: I want to travel outside of the US or Canada, go on a cruise, and have kids.

English teacher Angela Laginess: To go spend more time in eastern Europe, mainly Romania and Bulgaria.

Social Studies teacher Art Williams: To go on a hot air balloon ride across the Grand Canyon.

Social Studies teacher Rob Bradford: I don’t have a bucket list because if you live your life according to goals, you will live with regret if you don’t accomplish those goals.

Students

Freshman Lizzie Ko: I want to go to a fashion show in Milan.

Freshman Rachel Thompson: Scuba diving in the Bahamas would be really cool.

Senior Juan Paz: Deep Sea fishing in Jamacia.

Senior Rychard Kozminske: I’m going to party with Juicy J before I die.

Senior Brett Warner: Going to the World Cup final would be a crazy experience.

Loy Norrix Seniors Apply to College



Senior Peter Kettner works hard in Pre-Calculus. He plans on attending Michigan State University next year. Photo Credit / Emily Feenstra

Tatiana Bernquist
Feature Editor

During this time of year many seniors are receiving or waiting to receive acceptance letter from universities. But before this happens students must go

through the process of applying to these universities. Applications for different schools vary; for example Western Michigan doesn’t require a written essay, but for the University of Michigan you have to write three essays. To start the application process, official

transcripts must be sent to colleges through Parchment.com. ACT scores must also be sent, and again, different schools require different ways of sending those scores.

The early admission due date was November 1st, so some students are finished with the stress of applying. However, since regular admission is February 1st many students are still working on applications.

Senior Iyana Smith plans to go to Central Michigan University and although she decided not to apply early, she is happy with her choice.

“I like the suspense and it’ll be nice to have a memory of opening my decision letter with my mom and older brother,” said Smith.

In contrast, senior Peter Kettner, who plans to go to Michigan State University, finished his multiple applications early in the school year.

“I hate waiting for things, I just wanted to get it out of the way,” said Kettner.

It’s important to get organized during this stressful time of year. With all the things that need to be put together, waiting till last minute while still having to keep up with schoolwork makes it even more hectic.

Both Smith and Kettner agree that the best advice is to just start applying sooner rather than later.

“Start as early as possible so you’re

not rushed into submitting anything of poor quality,” said Kettner.

Completing applications also gives more time to focus on possible scholarships. Although many students receive the Kalamazoo Promise, that only covers tuition, so it’s smart to try and get scholarships to help pay for things like books or room and board. There are many different types of scholarships available that students can find by simply going to the guidance office where there’s an entire binder specifically for that purpose, or by looking online. But be wary of scams promising to help if you pay first, or those asking for a social security number.

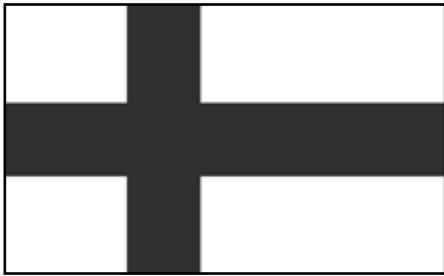
It’s essential to have a good relationship with a counselor because they know the most about the entire application process and the steps to take while finishing high school. A counselor can also write recommendation letters, which are required for many universities and offer helpful advice.

Once a student has received their decision letters from universities, they’ll still need to make a choice on what school to attend. Although, assuming you received an acceptance letter from your first choice, this should be the easiest part of the process.

Foreign Exchange Students Analyze their New Lives: Cont.

Emily Feenstra
Web Photo Editor

Herman Vahakangas



Herman Vahakangas is an exchange student from Finland that is spending this school year at Norrix. He goes to a school where it is like college. It is open campus and you choose all of your classes. You can have days where you start your day at 10 o'clock.

Herman said, "You don't have to be in school all the time. You can just walk out when you want."

Herman prefers his school's food compared to Loy Norrix's. The food in his school is more like a buffet.

Herman attends a Swedish school. His parents chose to put him in this school because it is easier to get into a good university. The classes are harder than a normal.

At his school, they all speak Swedish. He also knows Finnish fluently as well as English.

He has been learning how to speak English for eight years. He also knows some Russian and takes Spanish class here at Norrix.

The process for applying to colleges in Michigan is different compared to where Herman is from.

Herman said, "At the end of high school, we get to choose certain subjects that we write a final test on." The universities will give you a test. Herman describes this as "the hardest part."

Lali Campos Reis



Lali Campos Reis is a senior from Brazil and is spending her school year at Loy Norrix.

Lali explained how at her home school, they never change what class they are in. They have the same classes all year.

Lali said, "I think the people in Brazil are friendlier." She is having a hard time making friends at Loy Norrix since there are many cliques that are not willing to branch out of their circle.

At Lali's school in Brazil, there are a few major differences compared to here at Loy Norrix.

Lali said, "There are no fights, no pregnant girls. Seeing that stuff happen here is just weird." If a girl gets pregnant in her hometown, they have to quit school right away.

There are also no cops walking around at Lali's home school. This was another thing she was surprised to see when she first came

to Norrix. There is never any violence at her school in Brazil.

Lali's school in Brazil starts in February and ends in November. The students have vacations from November to February. This is another major difference.

To avoid being homesick, Lali keeps herself as busy as possible. She is participating in the musical and is also in choir.

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 to go on for many years to come.
5. The Kalamazoo Promise is a 4 year scholarship (a bachelor's 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 at 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 Kalamazoo Valley Community College 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
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 for appointments or can be reached at:

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



Loy Norrix Students Define Fashion and Style

By Ronniqua Phillips, Copy Editor



*"Beauty comes from within.
When you got it, you got it!"*
-Christian Diaz

"I don't believe fashion exists. There are trends, but fashion is now when one expresses themselves with clothes," said senior Christian Diaz.

Christian Diaz has a casual outfit with a flannel and cardigan from American Eagle, with the Hollister super skinny jeans and classic beige Toms. He's got the college teen look that everyone's going for, prepped for the test and ready to go. Clear the halls everyone, Diaz is pumped up for some school learning! On other days, he also brings out Abercrombie, Pac Sun, Urban Outfitters, Aldo, and ZI Men brands. Go Diaz, go!



*"People are most beautiful at
their ugliest moments. It shows
you what you are truly made of."*
-Electra Brown

"The difference between fashion and style is that style never changes," said junior Electra Brown

Electra Brown has on the cardigan from Forever 21, H&M blue jean fitted skinnies, and black high top boots. She's bold and bringing home the 80's poodle curl hairstyle, all in for the 80's look! You dig it or you don't dig it, what's it going to be? Brown also gets the looks from Nordstrom, Goodwill and the Salvation Army. Kicking it old school Brown.



"Don't dream it, be it."
- Zoe Burdick

"Style really defines who you are, you can tell a lot from someone by their style," said sophomore Zoe Burdick

Ms. Zoe Burdick goes wild with the leopard print pencil skirt, the black band shirt, black cardigan and black slip-on vans taking the style of Femme punk. Burdick's ready to scream your ears out on some loud punk rock. Drums banging, guitars playing, she's rocking the Mic, the crowds going wild. Rock on Burdick.

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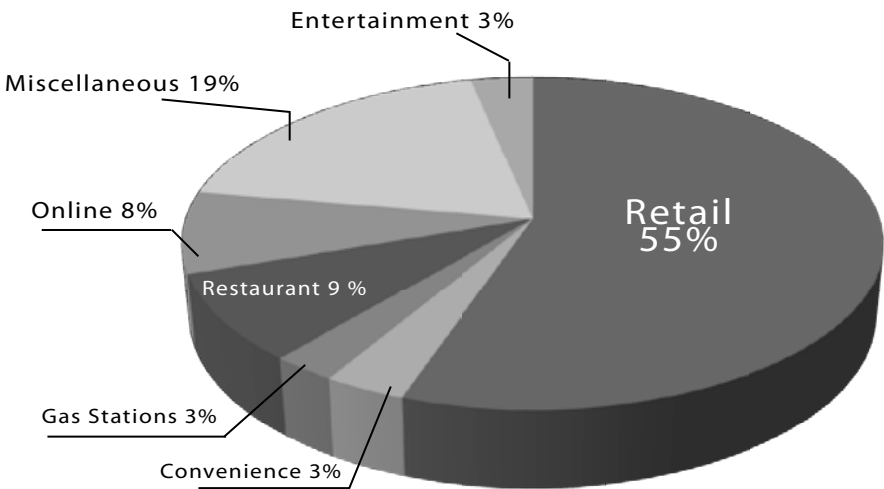
Lori Umbanhowar
Comics and Graphics Editor

In a recent survey 127 Loy Norrix students were selected in a convenience sample. Students were asked a few questions about their spending habits. The survey contained 5 questions which asked about things like weekly cash flow and favorite purchases.

The purpose of collecting and presenting this data is to raise some attention to just how much money students have access to. Between that trip to the mall and that walk to the convenience store some students seem to burn through money faster than the parents can get it out of their wallets.

Oddly enough the list of answers for future buys was the most extensive. Some of the more unique items on this wish list included horse blankets, scissor doors, cosplay, and a 1987 Fiaro GT.

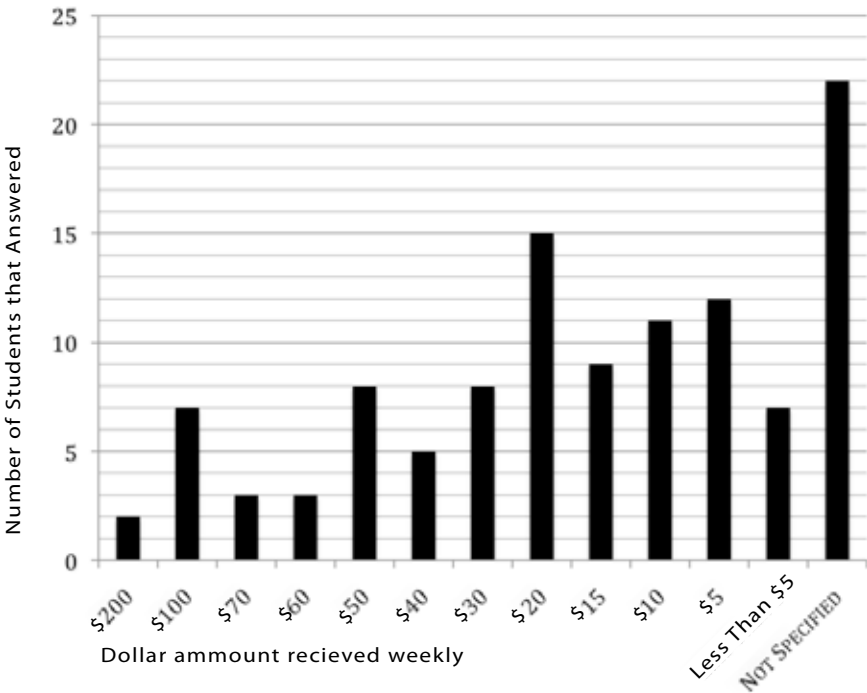
Where students spend their money:



Not everything is as easy as pie, but figuring out where the average student spends their money can be. When a student wrote in their answers the question “Where do you typically spend your money?” There were few that were uncommon or surprising.

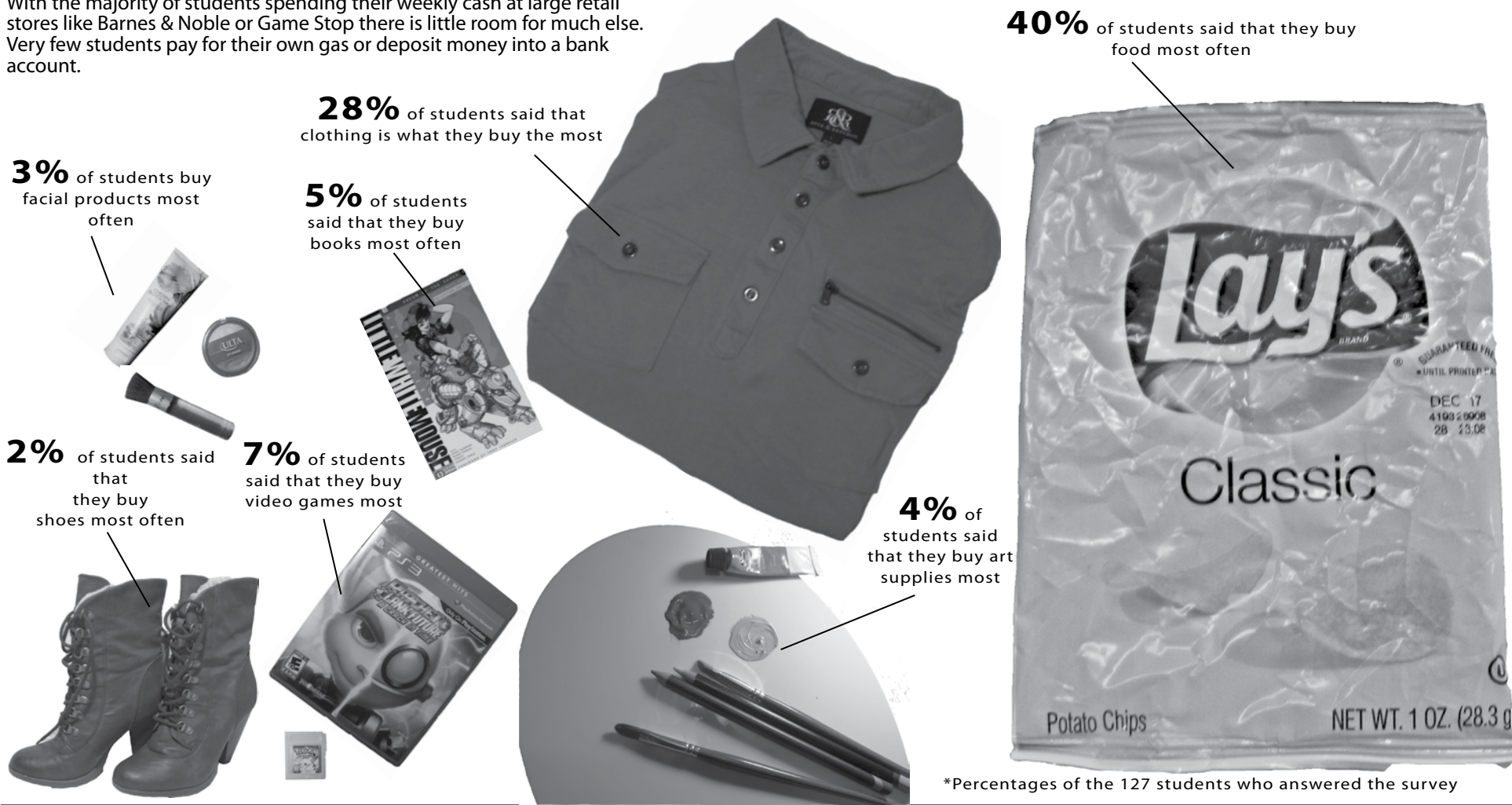
With the majority of students spending their weekly cash at large retail stores like Barnes & Noble or Game Stop there is little room for much else. Very few students pay for their own gas or deposit money into a bank account.

Student Weekly “Income”:



Inheritances, allowances, and jobs, oh my! Students have multiple sources of cash on just about any given day. So how much is a student getting weekly? To answer this a handy graph (above) was created. Please note that this is a medley of allowances and other income sources.

What Products are Most Often Bought by Students:



*Percentages of the 127 students who answered the survey

Started from The Zoo, Now We In The Woods

The Life of a Kalamazoo Rapper

Jared Graves
Sports Editor

"I said a hip hop, the hippie, the hippie to the hip-hip-hop and you don't stop" words made famous by The Sugarhill Gang from the song "Rapper's Delight."

Hip Hop wasn't supposed to last, let alone become popular in countries like Asia and the United Kingdom.

With the hard knocks flow of the East Coast versus the lyrical and meaningful flow of the West Coast, Michigan falls dead in the center, obviously geographically but also to where a rapper might venture.

When it comes to hip hop within Michigan, names like Eminem, Kid Rock, Big Sean, Royce Da 5'9", and maybe even Doughboyz Cashout come to mind. But all those rappers are from the Detroit area. Where is the representation for Kalamazoo? As a town that founded Gibson Guitar Corporation, one would believe the town would be heavy on Rock n Roll.

"All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward."

-Ellen Glasgow

The rap scene in Kalamazoo, with a lot of up and comers like DeLaZoo, JB, Tay Rhodes, Andy Santamaria, and The Central Collective, shows great potential for the city to "be put on the map."

Andy Santamaria is a senior from Loy Norrix and his favorite rapper is Kanye West. His musical influence comes from Hit Boy, Kanye West, and Chance The Rapper.

Devin Harrison, a.k.a DeLaZoo, graduated from Portage Northern. His favorite rapper is Andre 3000.

With venues like Miller Auditorium or The State theater, the venues are available. There just has to be the mindset that Kalamazoo isn't too small, with motivation anything is possible.

"The right crew or the right mobilization

of the town could make something awesome," said DeLaZoo.

Whether you know it or not, our musical taste comes earlier. When you're in the womb you begin to hear your parents and what they listen to. The only thing is you won't remember it.

"When I was younger my parents listened to a bunch of corny music that I actually grew a soft spot on, like Billy Joel," said DeLaZoo.

As you get older your taste begins to match your parents; most rappers say they grew up on Motown and Marvin Gaye which DeLaZoo says he's jealous of. But for the rappers in Kalamazoo, like Andy Santamaria, it was more classic rock that they grew up on.

"I started first with producing at 13 or 14 years old, obviously it wasn't very good, I started actually trying to put cohesive stuff with raps on top of it when I was 15," said DeLaZoo.

In the words of Arthur Ashe, "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Nothing is perfect from the start, but with time and effort the best you have to offer will come.

A rap career starts off with the simple goofy raps when you're young, then progressively it starts to have more meaning with some beats and producing to go along. Around this time you are gaining confidence, and you're thinking to yourself what's next? Ahh the infamous rapper name.

"I know I went through some other crappy rap names at some point, and I know I was like 'lil something' because it was 2007 and it was popular," said DeLaZoo.

Names are essential, it is what your fans see or hear first. If its wack like "Vanilla Ice" people are not going to listen to your music. This is why many rappers go through many name changes.

A rapper's name has to be catchy but not corny. Andy Santamaria avoided this dilemma by using his birth name. Others have meaning behind them, like DeLaZoo. De La in translation (Spanish) means "from the" and then Zoo a.k.a Kalamazoo.

After the name is decided, you continue to improve your craft like all greats, and your fan base grows you begin to look for that deal with a major label.

Rapper Macklemore mentions in "Jimmie



High school rapper Andy Santamaria's dream album cover would resemble Drake's recent album, "Nothing Was The Same." Andy Santamaria has been rapping since sophomore year. Photo Illustration By Jared Graves.

Iovine," "Thought this is what I wanted, rather be a starving artist, than succeed at being screwed."

Many artists are turned away by going "mainstream," because they are taken advantage of and not given proper royalties.

"I just do this because it is fun! So no, I don't plan on going mainstream," said Andy Santamaria.

Others feel that "California is overrated" which is mentioned in "Letter To My Ex" by DeLaZoo.

"California isn't for everyone, you have to be a certain person to fit in there," said DeLaZoo.

Now the decision is made whether you want to be signed to a record label or remain independent. Working on your dream album, is the next step, every artist has a different vision for it.

For Andy Santamaria, his dream album would have a cover similar to "Nothing Was The Same," Kanye West would be the Executive producer, Pusha T would have a feature and he would produce most of the beats.

DeLaZoo said, "The cover would be a crazy painting because I don't like the idea of my face on the cover. I would love to have Lauryn Hill

do a feature, and with the beats, I would throw the most instruments I could at it."

Now with a few albums under your belt you can see the change in your music.

"All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward," said Ellen Glasgow. Not all change is positive but change is always necessary to succeed.

"My music has gotten better, hopefully!" said Andy Santamaria.

"I wouldn't be happy if my music didn't change," said DeLaZoo.

If it wasn't for the fans, none of these rappers would be where they are now.

"It always takes a long time to produce stuff, so many fans should look to my old work for now," said Andy Santamaria.

For DeLaZoo's fans, he has big things in store. Right now he's working on his debut album called "The Waiting Place."

DeLaZoo said, "It's an honest attempt at an album, it's not a mixtape, it's not a free release. It's my dream album on my budget."

Kalamazoo is a volcano ready to explode onto the rap scene. The question now, is who will be the first to place "The Zoo" on the map?

The Monster Has Risen Loy Norrix Brings the Genius of Mel Brooks to Kasdorf Auditorium



In the photo we see (from left to right) Grace Santamaria playing Frau B., Hannah Stempky playing Inga, Joe Santamaria playing Frederick Frankenstein, Felipe Santos playing Igor, Sidney Ellis playing the Monster, and Hannah Muscara playing Elizabeth. Photo Credit Genna Creamer.

Sidney Ellis
Staff Writer

Mel Brooks has done it again, after such Broadway musicals like "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles" and "Spaceballs."

With his hilarious writing and musical ability, he created a story about the death of Victor Von Frankenstein, whose grandson Frederick comes back to their hometown in Transylvania only to find out that he is the last of the Frankenstein family. Frederick is the only one that can uphold the family tradition, continue the business, and create another monster.

We know this to be the plot of the Mel Brooks musical "Young Frankenstein."

This year the Loy Norrix drama department is putting on this musical, "Young Frankenstein." This very risqué show consists of huge musical numbers, magical or shall we say "monstrous" sets, and very very sexual jokes.

Most of the songs themselves are primarily made to put the audience's mind in the gutter. But even with these crude lyrics and sensual content the musical itself is made to amaze anyone who understands the jokes.

"Anyone who knows the name Mel Brooks

already knows what to expect from this production," drama teacher Cece Weeks said. "But we're hoping for those who don't know to prepare them, so when they do come to see the show they are ready to see PG-13 content on our stage."

Weeks said that the reason she and the new choir teacher Julie Pellegrino chose this show is because the drama students at Loy Norrix are gifted enough to pull it off.

"The talent at Loy Norrix is incredible," Weeks said. "These students are good enough and ready to take on a musical like this. That's why we do these musicals, to prepare students for bigger and better shows and they'll know how to handle them."

Students believe they are more ready for this performance than they could ever be, and they still have a little under three months to go until the first performance.

See **FRANKENSTIEN** on page 16



Leslie Hemenway
Feature Web Editor

Lori Umbanhowar

You're on Twitter, mindlessly scrolling through your timeline over and over, bored out of your mind. Suddenly, an all-caps tweet quickly captures your attention. Someone is clearly upset and using Twitter as a sort of outlet to cope with their overwhelming emotions.

You continue scrolling, only to come across someone who has posted a rather provocative picture of themselves. Posts such as these come a dime a dozen. They may seem harmless at the time, but they can lead to many consequences, such as job loss and violations of the law.

As reported by Erik Sherman, a contributor at AOL Jobs, "1 in 10 young job seekers have lost a job opportunity because of their social media profiles."

The biggest and most common issues employers witness include inappropriate pictures, evidence of drug use, and not-so-great communication skills. Although it may be difficult to believe, employers do in fact take the time to research their applicants to ensure they won't make a mistake by hiring them.

Job loss isn't the only ramification social media users can face due to the content of their profiles and pages. Legal action has been taken against such offences as well, especially when it involves cyberbullying.

Senior Genna Perry recalls being severely bullied, both online and in person, in sixth grade when she moved to New York. Classmates would anonymously send her hateful comments through an instant messaging system offered by Hotmail.

"It was probably the worst time of my life and it's branded into my brain," said Perry.

Eventually, she deleted her instant messaging account and tried reaching out to people, but because of rumours that had been spread, her efforts were greeted with judgments and cruelty. The ordeal ended when Perry and her family returned to Kalamazoo at the end of sixth grade. Despite the terrible experience she had endured, she wasn't hindered socially at all when she entered middle school.

"Somehow I was actually less awkward. I wasn't as much of a

pushover, and I had more confidence. It was a terrible thing, but it taught me that I didn't need to be treated like that and I should stick up for myself," said Perry.

Although Perry and her family never took legal action against the bullies, she wishes they had.

Lawsuits are rapidly becoming a popular response to online harassment. This comes as no shock considering that victims of such bullying are up to 9 times more likely to kill themselves, according to the organization Do Something. Consequences of harassing someone online vary greatly. House arrest, limited internet access, and even juvenile detention are all possible penalties for violators under the age of 18, as reported by the website Ask the Judge.

It seems the easy solution when your actions come back to haunt you is to delete all evidence and deny it ever existed. However, technology has advanced to the point of where this is hardly a possible option. Most smart phones, for example, have the ability to "screenshot," that is, take a picture of what's displayed on the screen. This makes it easy to ensure incriminating evidence doesn't really get deleted.

Furthermore, government agencies such as the FBI are overseeing posts made on social media sites. They've been keeping an especially keen eye on posts that include keywords such as "attack" or even "exercise," according to Michael Snyder of the website End of the American Dream.

Senior Ian Stoops is one of the few teenagers who has chosen not to participate in social networking.

"I personally choose to abstain from such activities because it can ruin lives," Stoops said.

When used safely and properly, social media sites can be an effective and easy way of keeping in touch with friends and family. Problems start to arise, however, when there's clear evidence of questionable activities, such as drug use, or when it begins to harm another person. It's never a bad idea to think twice before posting something that could be taken in a negative way.

Senior Kayley Harnish said, "I feel that people should be responsible enough to know what to post and what not to post."

Kill Streaks to Killers

Irving Quintero
Public Relations

He takes his place and waits to see the enemy. The wait is short. The enemy shows up and one by one he takes out the enemy to give the team a head start on the game.

The goal of the games is to win, the main idea is to be fun and entertaining. The way to achieve this goal can vary, but killing is usually involved, at least that's what most shooter games are like.

Events like the Alaska High School shooting, the Columbine shooting, the Sandy Hook shooting on December 14, 2012, and many other shootings have been connected to violent video games like "Doom," "Counterstrike," and "Call of Duty," according to Mike Jaccarino's 2013 article "Mass Killers Often Share obsession With Violent Video Games" on the Fox news website.

However the First Amendment of the United States constitution protects video games under the freedom of speech, therefore making it difficult to control how much violence goes into a video game. The computer and video game sales industry made 10.5 billion dollars in 2009 according to National Purchase Diary group. Sixty-seven percent of United States households play video games, according to the Entertainment Software Rating Board.

" There are many people that play video games, but they don't shoot places up. "

-Sophomore Alex Esquivel

Many students and teachers at Loy Norrix High School play video games that are violent. Sophomore Alex Esquivel enjoys playing popular video games like "Grand Theft Auto 5" and "Call of Duty Ghosts" when he has a break from school.

Algebra teacher Patrick Greeley also likes to play at least thirty minutes of video games per day like "Defense Of The Ancients," which is an online multiplayer where the goal is to protect your infrastructures while destroying your enemies. Greeley also enjoys first-person shooter video games like "Grand Theft Auto" and "CounterStrike."

Esquivel understands that the games he plays are violent. "I think the rating system is all right, people don't pay attention to it, but it warns parents," Esquivel said.

The blood and gore of violent video games aren't much of a problem for Esquivel.

"In 'Mortal Kombat,' there's tons of blood involved, but there's the option to toggle it off or make it less gory," he said.

When it comes to the people that get mad at video games Esquivel said, "If you suck at the game you'll get mad, that's not the game's fault. It'd be your own. Whenever I play a game and lose, I'll get mad or rage quit, but it doesn't affect anyone else. I just get frustrated and stop."

Even after playing shooting games, Esquivel doesn't know how to use a real gun and said, "The closest I've gotten to a gun is a paint gun."

"There are many people that play video games, but they don't shoot places up," Esquivel said when relating video games and shootings.

Greeley plays fantasy violence video games, but played realistic violent video games throughout college. The non-violent games Greeley remembers playing were "Rockband" and "Guitar Hero."

"The rating system is not very well-constructed. Some games are not very well rated," said Greeley referencing to the rating system for video games. Greeley also feels that some video games are too violent for the rating given.

"My uncle showed me how to use a gun, and sometimes I go to the shooting range when I visit my brother, but I don't need a gun," Greeley said. "Violence in video games can desensitize and contribute to a person doing a shooting, but I would only give games some attributes when a person makes that decision."

Movies like "Rambo," and TV shows like "The Walking Dead" are very graphically violent and could also be to blame for the tragic events, yet movies aren't talked about as much as video games. Esquivel said, "It's entertainment for adults, adults can do whatever they want pretty much."

See **VIDEO GAMES** on page 9

VIDEO GAMES from pg.8

President Barack Obama asked Congress for ten million dollars January 16 to give to the Centers for Disease Control, to research the effects of video game violence.

“If you’re not mature enough, don’t play violent video games or be more strict with the rating,” Esquivel said. It may not be the violence in the video games that makes people act the way they do, but rather human competition. Greeley has gotten mad before while playing Candy Crush, a non-violent game.

Greeley even suggests video games can do good. “Video games get my mind out of my job, a way of taking a rest. I’m able to play with my hometown friends, whom I usually don’t get to see,” Esquivel said. “For most games you have to strategize and have a plan, even for simple games like ‘Tetris,’ you have to find a way to fit all the pieces together or you can’t continue. In other genres, like shooters, you have to make a plan with your team to win. If you go reckless you might lose. Most games are for fun and entertainment.”

Video games have been shown

to be good for eye-hand coordination, problem solving, social comfort, becoming a more creative person, stress relief, entertainment and as a social activity.

Greeley does a perfect job summarising the role that video games play in society.

“Video games don’t make me violent rather the people that I play with do. They trash talk and say horrible things to new gamers. In some ways video games have changed me, but I never finished a game of “Black Ops” and said I’m going to shoot anyone,” Greeley said.



Irving Quintero

Comics

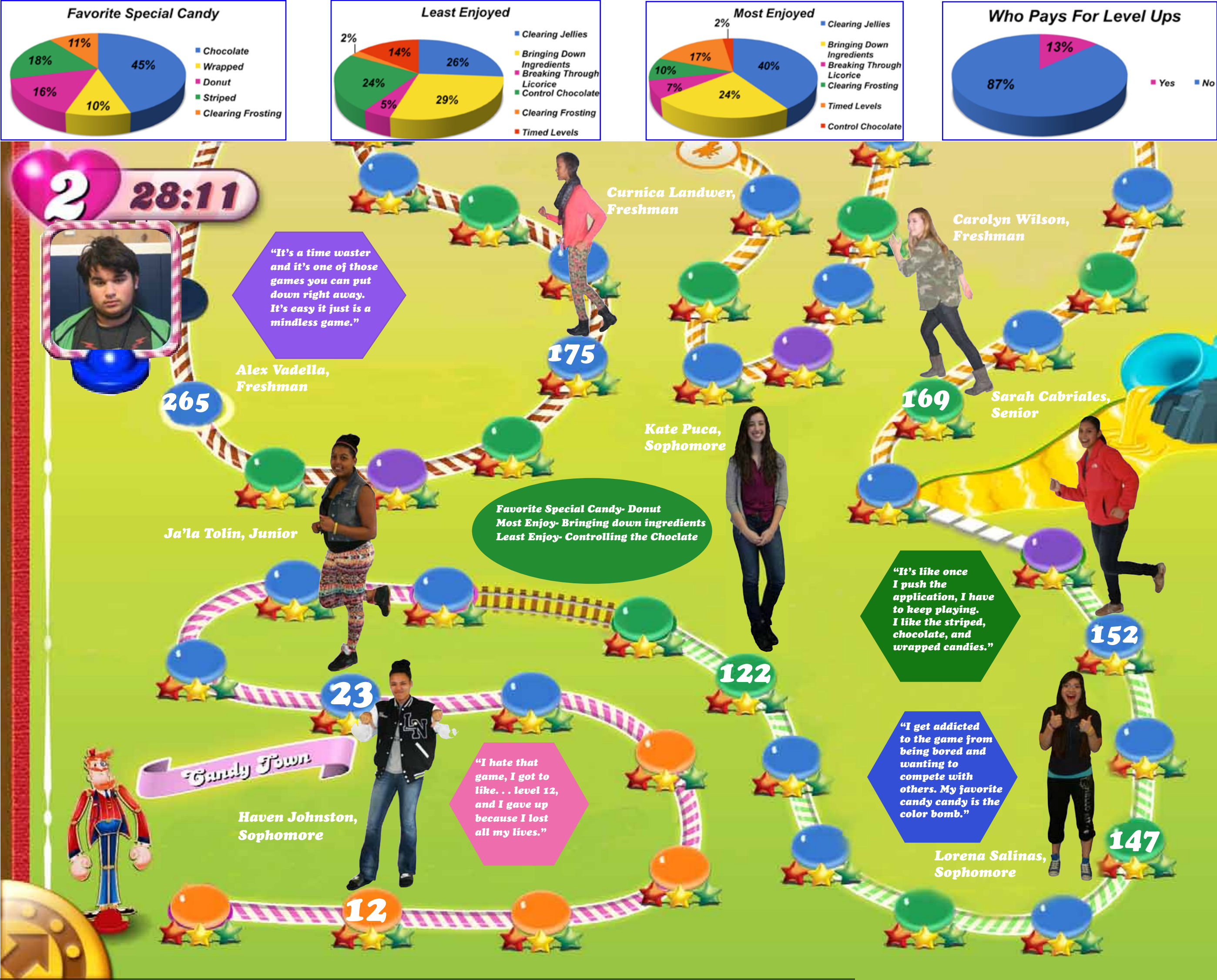


Shane Harreleson



Alexander Neal

Crushed Out on Candy Crush



Loy Norrix Slang Dictionary

Teacher Definitions | Student Definitions

<p>Bread (bred) n. "I got money baby," Paul Mahar Swimming Coach.</p> <p>Cop (kah-puh) v. "I'm going to quit, I'm going to drop out," Ryan Allen Government Teacher.</p> <p>Hashtag (Hash-tag) n. "When do that little twitter thing, the pound sign," Angie Laginess 10th grade English Teacher.</p> <p>I'm Dead (I'm ded) v. "I'm tired," Matt Porco Ap History Teacher.</p> <p>Oooh kill em (ooo kil-em) v. "Let's beat them up, destroy them," Ryan Allen Goverment Teacher.</p> <p>#oomf (oo-m-fuh) n. "To add an extra push to something," Matt Porco AP History Teacher.</p> <p>Rachet (ra-ch-et) adj. "Loser," Art William Government Teacher.</p> <p>Salty (solt-y) adj. "Pretzel," Paul Mahar Swimming Coach.</p> <p>Selfie (cel-fee) n. "Self portrait of yourself," Niambi Pringle Law Teacher.</p> <p>She Goin (she go-in) v. "Girls making me crazy," Paul Mahar Swimming Coach.</p> <p>Swerve (swerv) v. "Feels like a dance move," Ryan Allen Goverment Teacher.</p> <p>The/My Whip (hwip) n. "Being Disaplined," Paul Marhar Swimming Coach.</p> <p>Turn Up (tern up) v. "Like a turn up from the ground, undesirable," Angie Laginess 10th grade English Teacher.</p> <p>Twatching (t-wach-ing) v. "Talking over someone," Paul Mahar Swimming Coach.</p>	<p>Bread (bred) n. "Making money, Money in general," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Cop (kah-puh) v. "People that run things," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Hashtag (He-shh-tag) n. "Mainly twitter," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Im Dead (im ded) v. "Die laughing," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Oooh kill em (ooo kil-em) v. "When someone says something funny, so then they say oooh kill em," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>#oomf (oo-m-fuh) n. "One of my followers," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Rachet (ra-ch-et) adj. "Really ugly and not cute at all," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Salty (solt-y) adj. "Feeling guilty after they say something wrong," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Selfie (cel-fee) n. "You take a picture of your self," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>She Goin (she go-in) v. "She doin the most," Scott May</p> <p>Swerve (swerv) v. "Basically telling someone to leave you alone, leave, exclude someone from the group," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>The/My Whip (hwip) n. "Some-one has a car," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Turn Up (tern up) v. "Partying all night," Demonte Raven.</p> <p>Twatching (t-wach-ing) v. "Keep watching people on twitter," Demonte Raven.</p>
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KNIGHT LIFE
PUBLICATION
POLICY

Got opinions?
Disagree with something we've
said? Just want to get your say in
the paper? Write us!

Direct Letters to the Editor to:
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606 E Kilgore
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Submit to Room K6
pankoptl@kalamazoo.k12.mi.us

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

Right to Withhold:
If space permits, guest columns,
personal opinions, contains libel
or obscenities, disrupts school
environment, invades privacy of
others

Notes to reader:
Any photography that has been
manipulated will be labeled as a
photo illustration.

Knight Life will publish a formal
correction of any factual error made
in a previous issue.

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and an archive of your favorite print
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Staff Editorial

Standardized Testing is an Unreliable Attempt at Measuring Potential

Numbers, numbers, numbers. They
determine your education, career, friends,
spouses, your first and last paycheck, your best
and worst day: the entire spectrum of your life.
One of these many numbers, possibly one of the
most important, is assigned to you at the age of
16.

There's no doubt about the importance of
the ACTs. If they didn't mean anything, students
wouldn't be signing up for prep classes, study
groups, or retakes. Colleges rely on standardized
testing scores for a level playing field.

But how level is it?
Content of these tests is skipped over so
we can learn all of the nifty tips and tricks to
test taking. Instead of learning how to use a
semicolon or the quadratic formula, students are
taught how to regulate breathing and slow down
(seems like better advice for a yoga class). What
this shows is the true nature of tests like the
ACT; they aren't reliable.

*Needless to say, things that
work efficiently typically yield
their results without having to
be done over and over again.*

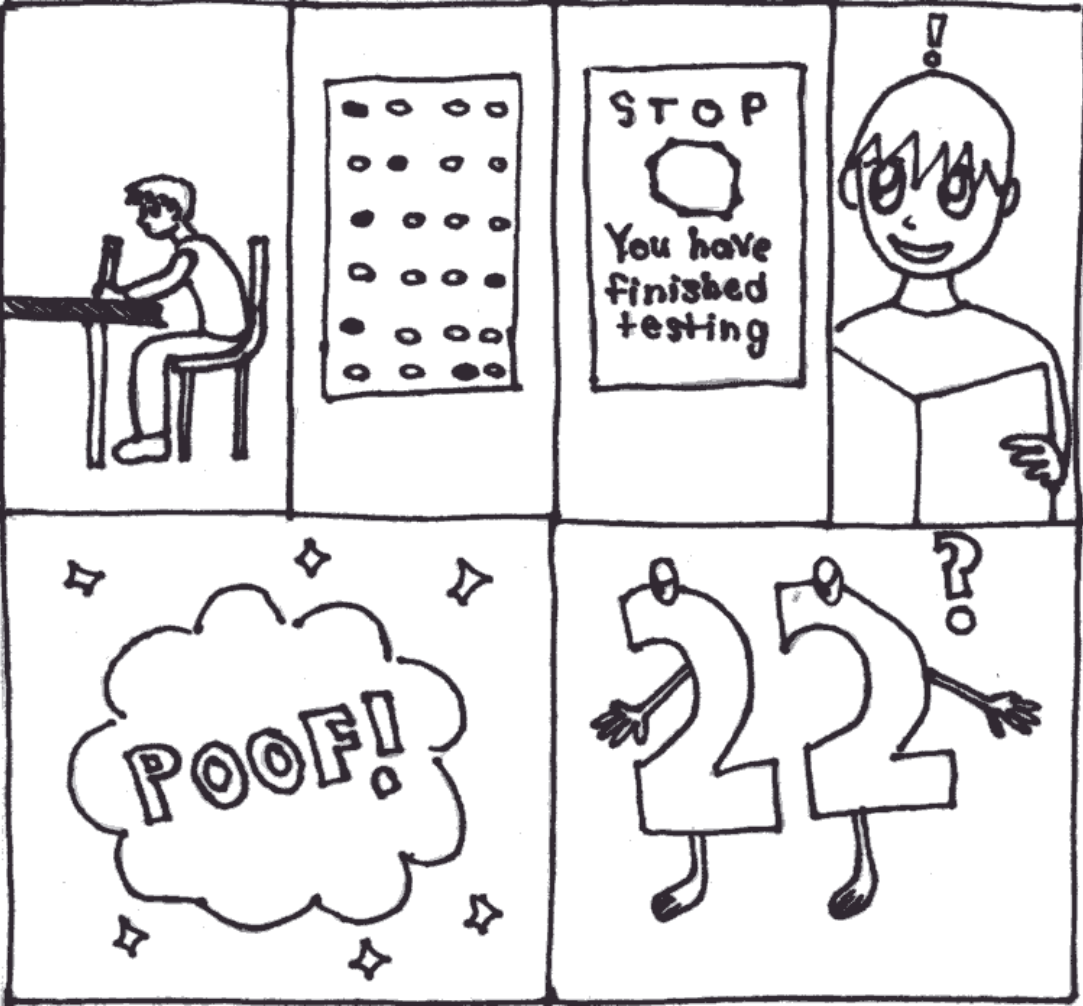
To get a complete picture, students have
to take the test multiple times because the score
will almost always be different. This can be the
result of anything from nervousness to cheating.

Does it take a few tries to start up a
Corvette? Do you have to go to the same
restaurant over and over for one good
burger? Will your new computer crash the
first three times you try to check your email?
Needless to say, things that work efficiently
typically yield their results without having to be
done over and over again.

With any standardized test, it's easy to say
that it's an unbiased way of getting information.
What people don't see is that this type of testing
correctly gauges only a few types of people.

A high school student who intends to go
to a culinary school should not be denied entry
simply because of their inability to bubble
the right circle in. When researching what to
do with a low ACT score, the following four
options were found: retake the exam, take the
SAT instead, compensate with extracurriculars
and an incredible GPA, or just settle for a
college where low scores don't matter. This
small amount of wiggle room will leave that
aspiring chef flipping burgers at a McDonald's.

Relevancy of school subjects has been



Sam Bower

a problem ever since, well, school subjects.
American Author Ray Bradbury once said, "I
spent three days a week for ten years educating
myself in the public library, and it's better than
college. People should educate themselves-- you
can get a complete education for no money. At
the end of ten years, I had read every book in
the library and I'd written a thousand stories."

This goes to show the true nature of all
students being judged by the same thing as one
another. Bradbury decided what books to read
and, therefore, tested himself on the knowledge
that was important to him. Because of this, he
became one of the greatest authors of the 20th
century.

It would be interesting to find a job where
employees are required to complete algebraic

equations, understand the anatomy of a cell,
write a persuasive essay, and play Where's
Waldo with a misused comma. Until this job
is created or found, it's within reason to doubt
the expectations of mastery over these four
irrelevant things.

Because the educational worth of students
is shown by the four subjects, it is assumed that
said subjects shouldn't be in such a gray area.
It's a scary thought that your goals being carried
out might be determined by things that have
nothing to do with these goals, or even your life
at all.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

My favorite article from the October issue
of Knight Life was titled "High Expectations
Lead to High Levels of Stress" by Rachel Wheat.
Not only is it well-written and factual, but it
is relevant to the lives of students. Students
today have a much harder time getting into
colleges due to the competitive nature of
modern college application processes.

Students are expected to have a good
GPA and be in sports or extracurricular
activities. Between working to maintain grades
and practicing for sports, students have a full-
time job.

I thought the article was very insightful
and well-written and I love that more Knight
Life articles will be this good in the future.
Gabe Wikle, Junior

Dear Editor,

I read the "Strict Teachers Offer Some
Insight on Their Reasoning" article. I know
how strict the librarian can be so it would
have been more interesting if they provided
extra details. It was a really short section for a
topic everyone knows about. My only concern
with him being strict is when my class is in
the library, he yells constantly and is very
distracting.
Kate Kay, Freshman

Dear Editor,

While reading "Norrix and KC Have a
'Wife Swap,'" I was thoroughly confused and
thought the article was poorly written. The
structure and flow of this article was less
than acceptable for a high school paper. I felt
cheated out of an article that could have been
very interesting. It felt rushed, and almost as if
there was no true effort or time put into it.

The idea itself was clever, however it
lacked any finesse. These are my opinions
on this particular article. I don't discredit the
attempt, but I expected more.
Lexxie Hurley, Senior

Americans can Speak, but Ukrainians are not so lucky

KNIGHTS SPEAK

HOW IS YOUR INTELLIGENCE REFLECTED BY STANDARDIZED TESTS?



Anna Judina
Staff

I hear that some of LNHS's rules are too strict more than five times every day, and each time I get mad. There are a lot of people all over the world that are not even allowed to say that.

As an exchange student from Ukraine I can compare laws, rights and rules of the U.S. and my motherland, and I can say confidently that Americans have freedoms!

The First Amendment gives you rights to choose your religion, speak freely, print your own thoughts, assemble and petition. If you don't like something, you can voice your opinion. For example, in the last issue of "Knight Life," the staff editorial criticized the new law about putting an American flag in each classroom. If I wrote something like that

article in Ukraine, I would be punished or even expelled from school.

An independent organization, "Freedom House," determines my country as partially free. Studying in the U.S. shows me how small that freedom is. According to the "Freedom House," Ukraine takes the 133rd place on the list where countries were ranked for press freedom. Countries without any freedom of speech take places on this list right after it.

Assaults, beatings, threats and physical aggression against journalists take place in my country. International organization Reporters without Borders said "Physical violence against journalists is almost always unpunished in Ukraine." The government tries to silence journalists through legal, economical and political pressures.

The head of the European Bureau organization Johan Beer said "This year was the worst year for Ukraine in the field of freedom of expression, since days of the Orange Revolution." The Orange Revolution occurred in 2004-2005 when the presidential election was corrupt. Acts of civil disobedience, sit-ins, protests and strikes made the original run-off results null and a revote was ordered. Beer said "Sharply increased the number of physical attacks, and there is evidence of political censorship."

In 2012 there were 332 reported cases of various disorders and lawsuits against journalists. 186 violations and 35 cases of physical aggression were reported in the first six months in 2013. It's very hard to believe

in these numbers, but it's nearly impossible to understand how serious and unfunny these restrictions are.

According to Wikipedia, "In Ukraine, a lot of news are financed by wealthy investors and reflect the political and economic interests of their respective owners."

One case in the city Zaporozhye is a great example of that. Court banned the journalist of a local newspaper, Bogdan Vasilenko, not to just carry out his professional responsibilities, but also to express his personal thoughts about local company "Vodocanal" in private conversations. That happened because Vasilenko found and published truthful information about financial violations of that company. The owner didn't like it, the article was censored, and the lawsuit was won by the company. Vasilenko was banned to tell his thoughts about that deal. Most surprising is that in our Ukrainian Constitution there are no words about injunction to speak.

Of course, Ukrainians try to fight for their rights. There are many pictures of Ukrainian girls in national costumes with beautiful flowers and colorful stripes in their hair. They are very attractive and beautiful, but pieces of paper with the word CENSORSHIP written on them to cover their mouths. There were a lot of protests and meetings against censorship all over Ukraine, but the situation becomes worse...

So, is it a big deal to wear an ID badge or remove your hat indoors?

JULIAN BORST
Junior

"I did well in the MEAP. It reflects my intelligence well."



NOAH MACHIN
Freshman

"I feel like my test scores are pretty good, because my teachers teach me well."



EMILY BERNHARDT
Senior

"Pretty well. I mean, I'm not at the top of the thing and neither are my test scores. It's pretty reflective."



DREW PAWLOSKI
Junior

"My intelligence is wonderful, my test scores are awful."



JORAH FLEMING
Junior

"It isn't, it represents my study habits, but it does not represent me as an intelligent person."



CARSTEN STRAND
Sophomore

"It seems a little inefficient to quiz everybody's individual strengths at where the state thinks we should be."



SAM GULLIVER
Junior

"I think standardized tests are there to do exactly that, and while some people aren't as good test takers as others, I think it's pretty accurate."



Facts About Ukraine

For the past several weeks, Ukraine has been the site of massive protests.

Basically, Ukraine right now has a choice of whether to ally itself with the European Union or with Russia. The people want to join the European Union. This

would mean upsetting Russia.

On November 21, the protests started after people heard that the Ukrainian government was suspending preparations for signing an Association Agreement with the European Union.

The protests became much larger after Berkut special police units attacked protesters on November 30. After the attack, people began calling for a change in government. Since then, more and more people have been attending the protests.

November		December	
21	Ukrainian government stops preparing to sign an agreement with the European Union.	1	Kiev's District Administrative Court bans further protests until January 7, 2014. It does not stop protests.
29	It becomes clear that Ukraine did not sign the Association Agreement at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius.	8	The statue of Lenin in Kiev is dismantled by protestors.
30	Berkut special police attack protestors. 79 people are reported injured.	11	Thousands of coordinated Internal Troops (VV) and Berkut surround the Maidan Nezalezhnosti (square) in order to clear out all remaining protestors, barricades, and encampments.
		12	It is announced that Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovich intends to sign an association agreement with the European Union.

Dear Editor,

The Norrix and KC "Wife Swap" is a good idea. I believe trying to bring the schools closer would actually be better and it would work. The Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School should get together and do things together. The schools students both have problems with each other, because of being different high schools they think to talk about Norrix, or to talk about KC is cool, But really they're really both just really good schools trying to help students get their education. Evalecia Ramirez, Freshman

Dear Editor,

I really enjoyed the Kanye West segment. Not so much for Kanye, I don't really care for him of his music. But something that caught my eye by complete surprise is the album list down of the bottom. The fact that you mentioned bits and pieces of the illuminati and the 9/11 conspiracy was quite interesting to me and you've earned my respect. Hats off to you guys keep up the good work. Jonathan Wilson, Freshman

Dear Knight Life,

The article there's a new knight in town I would have liked to hear more about Mr. Prewitt's personality. Like how his experience has made him a stronger leader. How all other jobs where when he first started out. Just a little more information about him. It did have some great stuff in it.

How he was principal for other schools. It would be nice to have what he plans for Norrix. How he is planning to change things. Taylor Krupianite, Sophomore

The Invisible Children: Invisible Again



Jillian Ko
News Editor

Ah, 2012. Eventful year, right? Obama was reelected, Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey, the U.S. won the most medals at the London Olympics, the iPhone 5 came out...oh, and a huge charity erupted in hopes of bringing down the African warlord Joseph Kony.

The world has been informed of the establishment of Kony's "Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)" since 1986. Kony couldn't maintain regional support or the number of "soldiers", so he started stealing food and abducting children to fill the ranks of his army in Uganda. Kony's LRA has kidnapped an estimated 20,000 children for use as fighters or sex slaves.

The Kony 2012 campaign began as an experiment to raise awareness about the children abducted for Kony's rebellion. Could an online

video make an obscure war criminal famous? After the Kony 2012 campaign produced and published the "Invisible Children" video, it went viral, gaining millions of supporters for the cause.

Jason Russell, the creator of the video, seemed to have good intentions from the beginning. He claimed that he produced the informatory film for the sake of his son, so that he would know about the atrocities associated with Kony and his army of child soldiers. So when this kind-hearted activist erupted in San Diego in March of 2012, running down his street nude and shouting incoherently, Invisible Children supporters were confused. Especially when Russell claimed it was an "out-of-body experience." Well, there goes the campaign's integrity.

"The thing about Americans and fad causes is everybody just dropped it once it became unpopular, especially after that guy was naked, it just lost all credibility," said Thomas Rupp, a senior well-versed in the realm of politics.

There's no doubt the Kony 2012 campaign had its heart in the right place. Joseph Kony and his top commanders absolutely need to be captured by regional forces and tried by the International Criminal Court, like the Invisible Children organization claims. But such a serious cause needs leaders

behind it that don't break under pressure.

Thankfully, on March 21, 2012, a resolution "condemning Joseph Kony and his ruthless guerrilla group for a 26-year campaign of terror" received support from 37 senators. The resolution stated that it would reinforce the effort of Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and South Sudan to stop Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army. However, we have yet to employ troops in the necessary areas of Africa.

"Obviously what Kony is doing is wrong, but it's not like he's the exception," Rupp added. "When America considers intrusions into other countries as police actions, if you're going to do that for one country, then you have to do that to every single country. I feel like it'd be impossible to get people behind it enough to do something about it. No organization made by non-military or non-government personnel is going to accomplish anything because the only way to really stop that is to crack down on it."

If Americans are willing to support the cease of illegal use of child soldiers in various African countries, we shouldn't allow any wavering activists to take charge if they can't handle the fame. We need the government to prove their dedication to the cause via the implementation of American soldiers

Facta, non verba. Actions, not words.

"Thanks Obama": Modern Criticisms of our President



Jake Heasley
Copy Editor

President Barack Obama is possibly one of the most controversial presidents in American History. Admired by some and detested by others, it seems like there can be no middle ground with your opinion about the president. The Affordable Care Act (ACA), dubbed "Obamacare" by the Republican Party and its constituents, is the latest situation where Republicans will do anything in their power to repeal the law, even if it means shutting down the government.

The phrase "Obamacare" is used by conservatives against President Obama for one reason: confusion. The term implies that the president created the idea behind the law, which is not true. The idea of mandatory insurance

for individuals was first proposed by the Republican Party during the presidency of Bill Clinton according to the "New York Times" as well as "Forbes Magazine". This bill required individuals to buy insurance and was created as an alternative to Bill Clinton's proposal that would require employers to offer insurance policies to all employees.

Politics shouldn't be about catchy phrases and slogans; instead, politicians should explain the merits and problems of a bill or law.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton proposed an idea for healthcare reform in a speech to the National Governors Association. To counter this reform, a group of Republican senators, including the minority leader at the time, Bob Dole, proposed an alternative reform that would "mandate all households to obtain adequate insurance".

However, Democrats opposed the idea and stuck with the proposal from President Clinton. In recent years, the positions from both parties regarding mandated insurance seems to have flipped, despite the similarities between

the ACA and the proposed bill, the Republican party is still adamantly against the ACA, and the Democrats are largely for it.

The Republican Party has now dubbed the ACA "Obamacare," and has created such an aura of negativity around the phrase that people immediately think negatively of it, despite not even knowing what the law may be.

A poll conducted by CNN shows that when asked to choose between the two "different" laws, people would often choose the Affordable Care Act and not Obamacare. Despite that there are two different names for the same law, people still will choose the ACA instead of Obamacare. This shows that what the Republicans are trying to do is working. People will instinctively disapprove of Obamacare without even knowing what the law is, just because there is so much negativity surrounding the phrase.

This is exactly what should not happen in politics. Politics shouldn't be about catchy phrases and slogans; instead, politicians should explain the merits and the problems of a bill or law. People in positions of power have an obligation to tell the people that voted them into office facts, and creating the phrase "Obamacare" is misleading the people that trust politicians.

The debacle with the Affordable Care Act was worsened with the government shutdown in October. In September there was a decision on whether or not to continue funding the government which eventually led to the government shutdown. The shutdown was caused by members of the House of Representatives refusing to come to a consensus about government funding.

According to Senator John McCain, defunding the ACA was not worth the government shutdown,

"We started this on a fool's errand, convincing so many millions of Americans and our supporters that we could defund Obamacare," McCain said.

The government shutdown resulted in roughly 800 thousand federal employees losing their jobs for almost 20 days and with all national monuments and parks shutting down. This course of action even caused Republican approval ratings to go down, but Republicans still held out with house Republican leader John Boehner calling it "the good fight". John Boehner seems to think that the loss of 800 thousand jobs for almost a month is "the good fight."

See **OBAMA** on page 16

Dear Editor of the article about Syria,

I thought your article was dumb. My reasoning is that the people of Syria got chemical weapons fired at them and they need someone to help them. We need to send someone to get the chemical weapons out of there and destroy them so no one has to get fired at by their own people.

Anonymous

Dear Editor,

I like the article on bullying. It really informs people about bullying. Some people don't know how bullying affects people. Students bully for the fun of it and to look cool in front of friends. They don't take others feelings into consideration. Reading this article makes you realize how big of a problem bullying is. Everyone has probably been bullied at least once, even if they didn't realize it. It's good people are finally starting to do something about it.

Evelyn Banks, Junior

Dear Editor,

I read the article on Ms. Hinga, the "Norrix and KC have a Wife Swap" article and I must say I was impressed by how good this was made. I like that you also went back and spoke of her childhood. Overall it was nicely detailed though. One thing though, I feel like you didn't give enough information on what she did around the school. That's all I feel like should have been [critiqued]. Keep up the good work.

Mark Peterson, Freshman

Dear Editor,

The Norrix and KC "Wife Swap" is a good idea. I believe trying to bring the schools closer would actually be better and it would work. The Kalamazoo Central High School and Loy Norrix High School should get together and do things together. The [schools'] students both have problems with each other. Because of being different high schools they think to talk about Norrix, or talk about KC is cool, but really [they're] both just really good schools trying to help students get their education.

Evalecia Ramirez, Freshman

OBAMA from page 14

The executive branch of our government should not be treated as the sole reason for economic and social unrest. The legislative branch (the senate and congress) of our government has been practically gridlocked since 2008. With neither party willing to cooperate with the other, the legislative branch has underperformed to say the least in these past years. With only 1 percent of introduced laws being passed, there is not much that our president can screw up because almost nothing is ever resolved.

However, President Barack Obama is not invulnerable to criticism. During his presidency, we have seen increased drone strikes and increased electronic surveillance of American citizens. During his campaign for presidency, the president specifically said that there would be no unwarranted surveillance, and there was. Criticizing the president for an increase of surveillance without a warrant is a perfectly valid complaint, but these legitimate problems with the president are overpowered by the criticisms that have no bases in reality.

During Obama's eight years of presidency, there has been a backlash against him that has not been seen before. For good or ill, the Republican party has opposed almost every single proposition from our president and only hindsight will tell us whether or not completely opposing the president was a good decision.

Our president has done some great things for this country, but he is not perfect. The Republican Party seems to believe that by creating catchy, non-descriptive phrases berating the president, they will rally the people to their cause, and it seems to be working.

YOUNG FRANKENSTIEN from page 7

Senior at Norrix Joe Santamaria, who is also playing the title character in the show, said, "This is gonna one of the best shows that [Norrix] has ever done. I'm really excited about how well placed everybody is. The characters are played by who they should be."

Even the newest additions to Norrix's talent such as this year's freshmen are ready to go. Freshman at Loy Norrix, and member of Master Singers, Duncan Wallis said,

"I expect it's gonna be really good based on the last couple show's [by Norrix], but just in general because of the talent that they're known for."

Wallis looks forward to being a part of the Norrix drama experience, he plans on joining the forensics team.

Being a freshman in her first show at Norrix, Meileen feels really welcome at Norrix because of the drama department.

"Everybody is really nice, we get along so well."

Loy Norrix needs to prepare for the fright and laughter being brought this year with mad scientists, ditzy blonde assistants, men with humps and monsters. Halloween may be over, but the monsters come out on January 24th through the 26th, and January 30th through February 1st.

SUICIDE PREVENTION from page 2

When somebody is on the edge of the cliff, it is hard to pull them back. One of the ways that suicide can be prevented is just by being that friend someone can come talk to and be open with. Some with suicidal thoughts might feel they need to put on a front and act like they are fine because they might feel like they will add drama or problems to somebody's life.

"I tried to tell them how many people it would effect if they were to end their life early," said Erin Delifeano.

It is hard for both sides, the person who has the suicidal thoughts and the people who don't want to lose their friends, but the suicidal person might not focus on the friends and family they are leaving behind, who will have to be survivors of a death. In the end they both are victims.

"The signs can be depression, if they start giving away personal things, if they have markings on their body. Also if they are withdrawn and not doing school work, quitting and not participating," said KPS student psychologist Rachel Parker.

Suicide is often put into a stereotype or a group fad these days associated with dark clothes or sad and hardcore music often referred to as "emo." This is not the case though. Suicidal thoughts can occur in anybody and anybody, can get the call that somebody they know is about to commit the act themselves.

Students who have suicidal thoughts might call somebody about the thoughts and the person on the receiving end of the call could be you.

"As a teenager in this situation, I would say that they need to get the help of an adult," said Parker.

"Tell them you will go with them to talk to an adult," said Parker.

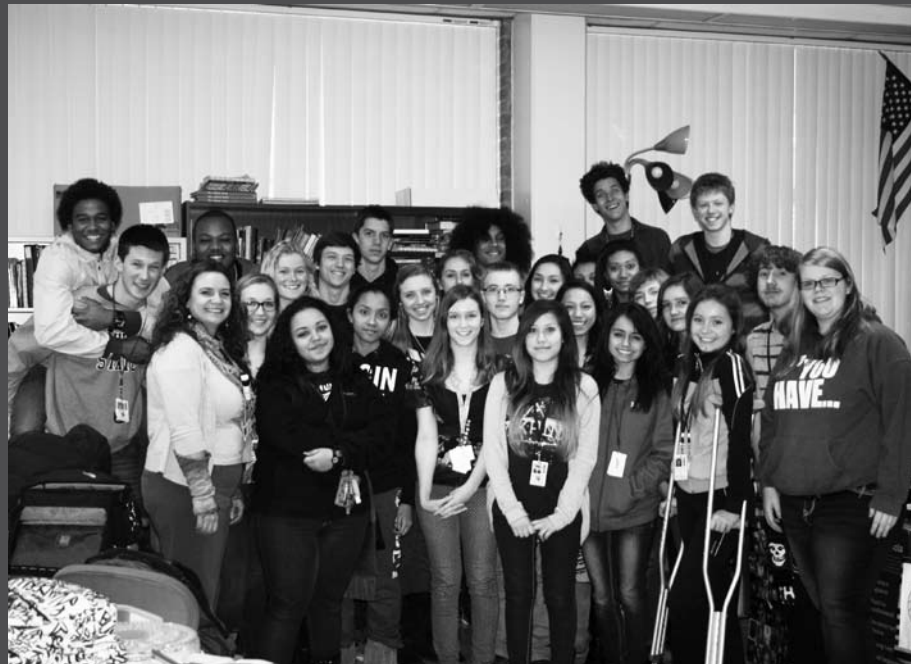
Even though it might be a tough conversation to try and start, it is better to try to reach out to the suicidal person while they are on the edge of the cliff.

According to helpguide.org, there are multiple ways to engage in a conversation about suicide including

I have been feeling concerned about you.

Recently, I have noticed some differences in you and wondered how you are doing.

I wanted to check in with you because you haven't seemed yourself lately.



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

From the Coach's Desk: Peering into Winter Sports

Claire Domanick
Copy Editor

Men's Basketball

Coach: Matthew Covault

Season Outlook: "The coaching staff and I are very optimistic about our season. We will be young and inexperienced; however, our players will be very anxious and willing to learn and will work extremely hard in order to continue our program's success," said Coach Covault.

Key Returning Players:

Coach Covault notes that the key returning players from our 2012-2013 team are Jimmie Reed-Russell (12th), Spencer Welsh (11th), Marcus Torres (12th), and Eddie Gillion (11th). These young men were a part of a very successful season last year and will help to carry that momentum into this season.



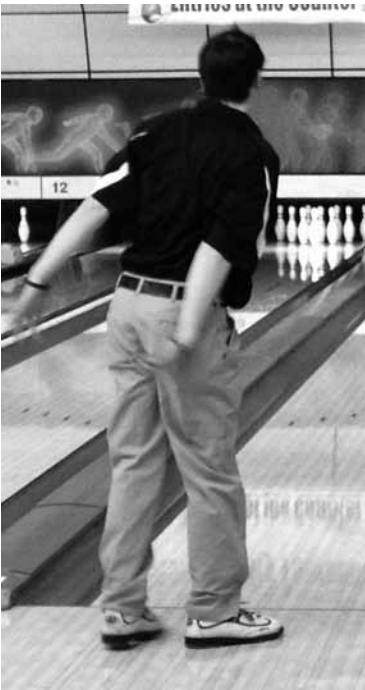
Louis Mitchell warms up before a game against Portage Northern.
Photo Credit / Claire Domanick

Players Who Have Progressed:

During our summer league, last June, they had multiple players step up and improve including Jake Link (10th), Grant Mitchell (10th), Prentiss Joseph (11th), and Demarko Williams (11th).

The Inside Scoop:

"Last season we lost 8 seniors to graduation, including the school's all-time leading scorer, Bishop Robinson [who is a red-shirt freshman playing for Western Michigan University]. Altogether, these 8 seniors accounted for 50 points per game in scoring and 20+ rebounds per game. Although this may seem like a lot to replace, I am very confident that this year's team will embrace the challenge and work tirelessly to continue building a winning basketball tradition at Loy Norrix," said Coach Covault.



Team member Zach Brandt watches his bowling ball anxiously.
Photo Credit / Knight Life

Bowling

Coach: Myke Brandt

Season Outlook: "I have heard a lot of rumors of some good players asking about the team. If rumors turn into reality, we should have a good strong team. I have not heard a lot about the girls team, but I do believe we have some returning players," said Coach Brandt.

Key Returning Players: The coach notes Zachary Brandt has been the backbone of the team for the last couple seasons. Ashley London held the high average for the girls and was the key player when needed.

Players Who Have Progressed:

"Zariah Molina has improved and has a genuine desire to learn and improve. I look for that fight from him this year," said Coach Brandt.

"We have a great program [team] and it keeps getting better each year"
-Coach Myke Brandt

The Inside Scoop: "We have a great program (team) and it keeps getting better each year, largely due to the support of the sthletic department and the coaches. When I took over the program in the 09-10 season there were no coaches, no drills, no structure. Now thanks to my coaches and parents, we have coaching, drills, and a solid structure. That is why we keep improving, and that is why we are going to State this year," said Coach Brandt.



Senior Joe Boggan after winning his match. Photo Credit / Valerie Boggan

Wrestling

Coaches: Alex Hill and Darrick Parker

Season Outlook: "As new coaches coming into the program, they are looking to change the culture of the wrestling program," said Coach Hill.

Key Returning Players: Joe Boggan (12th), Nick May (10th) and Jerrell Lipsey (10th)

The Inside Scoop: "We will strive to not only be an elite program in the conference, but in the state as well. We have several underclassman [freshmen and sophomores] coming out for the team this year and we are excited to grow and create a dominant program together," said Coach Hill.



Kole Raab prepares for his dive.
Photo Credit / Claire Domanick

Men's Swimming and Diving

Coach: Paul Mahar

Season Outlook: Looking to finish strong in the SMAC conference and at the state level

Key Players: Peter Rossi (12th), Lucas Erway (12th), Milo Velkoff (12th), Sam Bower (11th)
Returning Prospects: Lucas Sprinkle (10th), Noah Taplin (10th), Thad Pollard (10th), Steven Finley (10th)

Inside Scoop: This is Coach Mahar's 10th anniversary as a coach and is looking for a solid year with the number of swimmers on the roster considerably higher than the state average.



Kayla Dekoekkoek sprints down the court. Photo Credit / Knight Life

Women's Basketball

Coach: Clinton Taylor

Season Outlook: "This year will be very exciting for us as a program. We have almost all of our returning players from last year," said Coach Taylor.

Key Players: Aviance Alexander (11th) Haven Johnston (10th) Grace Labadie (10th) & Arieonna Yarborough (10th).

"With discipline, sacrifice and work ethic, I believe the sky's the limit for this years basketball team"
-Coach Clinton Taylor

Players Who have Progressed: "During the off-season returning players such as Champagne Bennett (11th), Jenessa Boggan (10th), Kayla Dekoekkoek (12th) & Hannah Roberts (11th) showed development within their skill sets that will be a valuable addition to our team this year," said Coach Taylor.

The Inside Scoop: "With discipline, sacrifice and work ethic, I believe the sky's the limit for this years basketball team. As a whole we will be very athletic, fast and most importantly, a year wiser. Our team will primarily be comprised of juniors and sophomores. We are fortunate to have our team in a position to have played together for multiple years. The support and familiarity they have with one another will be a great team asset," said Coach Taylor.



Desha Alexander recites a cheer for the Knights. Photo Credit / Gwendolyn Brook De Young

Competitive Cheer

Coach: Sharondra Moore

Most Improved Player: Christya Reynolds

Season Outlook: Striving to improve in the SMAC Division

The Inside Scoop: "It's a tough season but the girls really bond while traveling and it helps make us a stronger team," said Coach Moore.



Jake Atkins watches his teammates warm up before the game.
Photo Credit / Leslie Hemingway

Hockey

Coach: Wayne Pushie

Season Outlook: "I think the team will show some good improvement. There are a couple of young players that have chosen to play for United and they will help, plus we have 3 exchange students that will be good additions to the team," said Coach Pushie.

The Inside Scoop: "I think the team is going to surprise people this year and will win some games. We did do a team bonding weekend and it was a lot of fun and worked really well. The team is eager to learn and listening very well. A bit of a funny note, as part of the bonding weekend we ate at the cafeteria at WMU and we found out many of our players can put away some food - some of them had 4 or 5 plates in front of them," said Coach Pushie.

Bishop Robinson

Western Michigan University

Basketball

Status: Redshirt (only practice, no games)

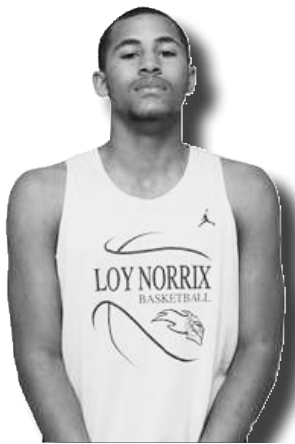
Position: Point Guard

Recruiting Process: "The recruiting process was crazy. There were a lot of schools in the state and out of state that contacted me. I found out Western was going to be the best fit for me based on location and great coach."

Advice: "I want to tell everyone that no matter how good you are, the one thing that matters the most is grades. Make sure you are a student before an athlete."

Worst Experience: "Practicing until our coach thought it was enough, sometimes even five hours."

Encouraging words: "It's so important to learn how to manage your time and with the amount of people at Norrix and friends you have, it gives you the opportunity to practice that. Keep on working, everyday is a new day to be better than the guy playing your position that wants your spot just as bad as you do."



Erin Romph

Albion College

Volleyball

Position:
Setter

Status: Playing

Recruiting Process: "Coach Slamer contacted me and wanted me to get on campus for a visit to see how I liked the school. Since I liked it, I came back for an overnight with two volleyball players. Then in late fall she said she needed an answer pretty soon, so in the winter I committed."

Advice: "I know it sounds cliché but just work your butt off because nothing bites it harder than regret. Get on campuses and talk to faculty, students, athletes and coaches. Get their opinions and then formulate your own. There was nothing more rewarding than realizing my hard work paid off when I stepped onto the court for our first game as the starting setter, that is a feeling you just can't beat."

Worst Experience: "The drama that the upperclassmen started dealing with playtime."

Encouraging words: "Find what you love and what motivates you and pursue it. Stick with your sports no matter what. Don't ever take being on the court/field for granted because you never know when that opportunity could be taken away from you."



Less Than
1 of high school athletes go on to play Division 1 sports.



Albion's number five Erin Romph meets with her team to find a way to win the game. Erin Romph's college coach is the former Loy Norrix Volleyball coach.

David Mann

Ferris State University

Football

Status: Redshirt (practice, no games)

Position: Offensive Tackle

Recruiting Process: "I wasn't highly recruited coming out of high school because I got injured my junior year and didn't have a great season. I got a call in November from Ferris State saying they wanted to see me workout one final time on December 9th, and so I came up here and had the best combine style workout ever for me. A combine style workout is like what you see at the NFL combine. I then went to lunch with the coaches and once I walked in, the head coach (Tony Aneese) shook my hand and said, 'Congratulations, we would love to have you become a Ferris State Bulldog. I then hugged my mom and said I DID IT!'"

Advice: "For those aspiring to become a college athlete is to work your butt off in the weight room and have a mindset that no one will outwork you. Do not ever let go of your dreams."

Worst Experience: "Pre-season training camp was a terrible experience. We move in a month before school starts, and all we do is football. Our schedule was full from 7 a.m. until 9:30/10 p.m. Monday through Friday and even most Saturdays and Sundays for the month of August. It's the biggest grind on the body that I have ever been through. However it made me a lot better of an athlete and person."

Encouraging words: "Loy Norrix is a great high school and everyone there has huge potential. Always remember 'BEAT KC' in everything!"



Loy Norrix collegiate athlete David Mann makes the tackle on oppositions running back. Mann is now a freshman at Ferris State.

Mia Leibold

Oakland University

Womens Soccer

Status: First year redshirt after illness in pre-season (Only practice, no games)

Position: Forward/ Left back

Recruiting Process: "When I started getting looked at by schools, I had three goals in mind. Find a school that caters to my academic needs, has a thriving soccer program that will help me develop and grow as a player and is committed to getting their student athletes to where they want to go in the future."

Advice: "The most important advice that I can give is to not rush anything. Coaches have one job when it comes to recruiting: get you on their roster. As student-athletes there is a lot that we must consider before making a decision, and you should really take your time. Playing at the collegiate level is not easy, but if you do all the right things then it can be an amazing experience. Once you have secured a spot at the next level it should be more of a motivator to work harder and push yourself more than ever."

Worst Experience: "Losing in conference finals and having to say goodbye to the seniors who have taught our team so much."
Encouraging words: "Just last year, as a senior at LN, I was still deciding on where I wanted to go and play. I was very sure about one thing and that was that I wasn't done playing the game that I loved, the game that made me who I was I wouldn't trade this experience for the world. I'm doing what I love."



Kalamazoo Kingdom/Crew Juniors W20 2013 National Champions in Bradenton Florida at the IMG Academy. This Championship win took place in the summer of 2013.

Davian Philips

Ohio Northwestern College
(Transferring to Northern Mich.)
Basketball

Status: Starter before making decision to transfer

Position: Point Guard

Recruiting Process: “I was able to get the opportunity to play AAU basketball and that got the attention of a lot of coaches. Another way I was able to get coaches to notice me was by sending out my film to coaches that were farther away.”

Advice: “Everyone, make sure you never stop working hard, go for what you want and never let anyone tell you that you can’t do something.”

Worst Experience: “As a freshman, the team makes you do stuff that other people don’t want to do, like maintenance on all of our equipment. Another bad experience I had was that the coach always wants to yell at the younger players.”

Encouraging words: “Follow your dreams, before you know it you could have everything you ever wanted if you just have the right mentality. Strive for greatness.”



Only one in
25
college athletes go pro.

Titus McKenzie

Ohio Northwestern College
Men’s Basketball

Status: Playing freshman year

Position: Small Forward/Power Forward

Recruiting Process: “I sent some of my film to the coach got his phone number, then went on a visit and signed [to Ohio Northwestern] right away.”

Advice: “Don’t let anyone that is a bad influence bring you down with them. Don’t stoop to their level, be the best you can be.”

Worst Experience: “Adapting to the speed of the game.”

Encouraging words: “Norrix will help you get to where you need to be as long as you apply yourself.”



Youth Movement

Knights Basketball Looks for Leadership from the Junior Class



Spencer Welsh defends in a game against Battle Creek Central. The Knights lost 94-63, despite shooting 50% from 3-point range and grabbing 22 offensive rebounds. Photo Credit / Maxwell Evans

Maxwell Evans
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The word “junior” sometimes has a negative feel to it. The word by definition means younger, lower-level and smaller. However, while Eddie Gillon and Spencer Welsh are juniors on this year’s Loy Norrix basketball team, they are far from low-level players.

Gillon and Welsh are the only Norrix juniors who played Knights varsity basketball last year. This year, these two 11th graders will have to be iron men like Robert Downey Jr. and guide their team to victory like Ken Griffey Jr. if they hope to build on last year’s championship-level success.

The 2012-13 season was a crossroads for Loy Norrix basketball. After a 13-7 regular season, they became first Knights team to win a district title since 2003 with a 75-67 win over Portage Central. A well-played but heartbreaking loss to Holt in regional action showed endless potential for the new season.

But this year, there is a missing piece on the Knights’ chessboard: the Bishop. Western Michigan’s freshman guard Bishop Robinson, Loy Norrix’s all-time leading scorer and last year’s team captain, graduated in June. Former team leaders such as Darrion Mullen, JoVaughn Carver and Davian Phillips, among others, also graduated with the Class of 2013.

Because of the loss of multiple seniors, questions abound as to where this year’s leadership will come from. This year’s incoming varsity players, a group mostly made up of guys on last year’s 2-18 junior varsity team, will have talent, but some, like junior and former JV guard Parker Gray, have worries about the newcomers’ leadership abilities.

“There wasn’t much teamwork [on JV] last year, and leadership was rocky,” Gray said. “There were a few people who tried to step up and be leaders, but whether or not they were successful is a big question.”

Welsh and Gillon want nothing more than to be the answers to this leadership question.

Spencer Welsh knows something about being “junior.” He is younger than many of his 11th grade classmates; a late-September birthday means he started this school year at the age of 15. At 5’7”, he is also much smaller than some of his teammates, such as the 6-foot-tall Gillon. However, he doesn’t let these off-court circumstances affect his hard work on the hardwood.

“I’ve still been putting in extra hours in the weight room, putting up those shots at the gym, stuff like that,” Welsh said. “I want to keep my focus on the court and improve on last year’s success.”

Welsh wants to carve out his own legacy at Loy Norrix. He continuously works to improve his already accurate jumpshot. A personal goal he only half-jokingly wants to accomplish this year is to break the all-time record for three-pointers in a game, which stands at eight. However, he feels that his personal goals mean much less than team success.

“We won’t be successful if we’re selfish. We have to play hard and play together each and every day,” Welsh said. “[Eddie and I] work in practice, mentoring other players and building chemistry together on the court.”

Eddie Gillon plans to handle his own new-found “mentor” role through leading by example. He knows that there will be newcomers, or “rookies” as he calls them, but this is nothing new in the basketball world. He doesn’t want to brag about his unique experience as a sophomore varsity player, but rather let this experience make a positive impact on the rest of the team.

“I want to show the rookies what to do in certain situations and teach them more by showing, not telling,” Gillon said.

He intends to guide this year’s team, but even as a leader, Gillon still takes time to respect those who came before him. Gillon calls controversial Miami Heat star LeBron James his basketball role model, because to him, LeBron is a shining example of how practice makes perfect.

“Of course it’s LeBron,” Gillon said, referring to who he models his game after. “He shows that anything’s possible if you work hard enough.”

Gillon plans on taking the lessons he takes from those like James and working them into this year’s success. However, he doesn’t want to give out any specific information on team goals. As is the case with many other things, he wants his effort on the court this season to show Knights fans more than any words possibly could.

This duo understands their roles, and they have been building the foundation for success since last year. They’ve already created a bond with their returning teammates, who affectionately give the pair funny nicknames, like “Clip Team Gill” instead of Eddie and “Spence LaWrence” instead of Spencer. Gillon and Welsh have already proven their worth, as they were successful “sixth-men” on a district-championship team.

All that remains to be seen this year is if these juniors can lead, play well together, and most importantly, win.

And that would be nothing more than a senior achievement.

Student Cheer Sections Increase Home Field Advantage in High School Basketball

Louis Mitchell
Layout Editor

You can't focus. Paying attention to your 5th period teacher's voice is impossible. Tonight's game is the biggest of the season and the thought of it blocks out everything else in your mind. The bell rings and the nervous bus ride to the opponent's gym begins. Upon arrival to the gym, hundreds of students are there booing you. They are rooting for you miss every shot you take.

Every sports fan knows about home field advantage. But why does such an advantage exist? Every fan has their own idea, but there is one theory that seems to be the most common.

Most fans believe home field advantage is the result of home crowd support. Things like mascots and student sections provide extra support for their team. Supposedly, the rowdy crowd results in boosted player performance for the home team.

Can the crowd be distracting to the players from both teams? Students dressed in costumes while running and shouting on the sideline are an interesting sight. The dances and chants of the student section could interfere with the focus of the players and coaches. In extreme cases of bad fan behavior, a fan could get thrown out of a sporting event. This action causes a huge disruption, drawing the attention of fans and players away from the game.

The student section here at Loy Norrix High School kept disruptions to a minimum last year.

"Five years ago we might have had a problem, but not with the group of kids we have now," said Athletic Director Andrew Laboe.

A home team's student section seems intimidating to the visiting team. Seeing a large fan base that is focused and excited for the game makes players feel pressured. Certain players respond to pressure in different ways. Some players will fold under the pressure and have the worst game of their life while others seem to be fueled by it. They love having every eye in the crowd on them. The negative chants and remarks that are bound to be heard from the student section ignite the fire inside certain players.

Last year, the Loy Norrix student section stayed away from negative cheers.

"There was a good effort by the student section leaders to focus on positive cheers. This got more kids involved and created a fun environment for everyone," said Laboe.

The bigger the turnout, the more power the student section has to effect the game.

There is another person who can be just as easily influenced by fans as the players, except they hold the outcome of the game in their hands. Referees have a tremendous amount of pressure hanging over them. In a close game, one bad call can sway momentum and change the outcome of the game. Refs are battered with boos and insults by the home crowd upon making a bad call. Referees can also create a positive reaction from the crowd when they make a call favorable to their team.

Junior Drew Palowski feels the student section does have an effect on the refs.

"If you have positive cheers from student section, the refs will be on your side," said Palowski. "If we do negative cheers, they will make calls against us."

According to Tobias Moskowitz and Jon Werthem in their book "Scorecasting," official bias occurs unknowingly to the referees.

Positive cheers or not, fan reaction causes refs to have an unconscious bias. They tend to make calls favorable to the home team without even knowing it. A large and noisy student section would have the ability to influence the referees into making favorable calls and potentially alter the outcome of the game.



Photo Credit / Tisha Pankop



Photo Credit / Sidney Ellis



Photo Credit / Maxwell Evans



Photo Credit / Maxwell Evans

Top: The Loy Norrix Varsity Basketball team lines up for the national anthem at the first home game of the 2013 season. They are having a rough start, losing their first two games against Portage Northern and Battle Creek Central.

Middle: The Juniors cheer during a pep rally. Pep rallies get students and players fired up for big games.

Bottom Left: The Loy Norrix Drumline and Band play during a home basketball game. They contribute to the loud environment of the gym.

Bottom Right: Junior Josh Mills defends a Battle Creek Central guard in the back court as his teammates watch from the bench.