

They Are More Than Just “Shoes” The Life of a Sneakerhead at Loy Norrix

Jared Graves
Sports Editor

The alarm goes off and the clock reads 2:00 a.m. You get dressed and head out towards the mall, ready to purchase the pair of shoes you’ve waited for all year. At the mall there is already a line of 30 plus people, and you think, “Will I be able to get my size?”

Hours later the mall finally opens and you run towards your favorite shoe store only to hear those dreadful words, “We’re out of that size.” These words are what no sneakerhead wants to hear.

A sneakerhead is someone who collects, admires or trades sneakers for a hobby. The sneaker collecting community has grown over the past five years. Norrix students have grown accustomed to the sneaker collecting culture over the past few years.

Every sneakerhead has a love for shoes, but some of them collect for their self-recongnition, while others only collect to fit in or be popular, also known as hypebeast.

Senior Aaron Davis said, “I started getting into shoes around the summer of my sophomore year, I just loved the way certain shoes looked.” Davis has collected around 13 pairs so far and his favorite pair is the Air Jordan Raptor 7s.

“I started to getting into collecting shoes last year. I’m an artist so I have a good eye of how colors and things should look together and shoes just caught my eye,” said sophomore Luis Morales. Morales’ favorite pair is his Air Jordan Cav 4s which is one of his 11 pair of sneakers.

Just like any other collecting hobby, acquiring the item is the hardest task. How a sneakerhead buys their shoes can tell you how important the shoe is to them. Either they can try and buy the shoes online or spend hours waiting in line for hours for the mall to open.

Morales said, “I have never camped out for shoes, I have connections in the stores so I don’t have to wait.”

Being a sneakerhead comes with a great deal of judgement from other people, especially parents. Teens struggle convincing their parents of many things, now imagine asking parents to spend a hundred or more dollars for shoes.

Morales said, “My parents don’t like it, they think its a waste of money, so I have to use my own money.” For a sneakerhead who spends hundreds on shoes, it only makes sense that they have a urge almost even craze to clean their shoes daily.

“I usually wait a few weeks before I clean a pair of shoes, unless they get dirty that day then you have to treat the problem quickly or it will ruin the shoe,” said Morales.

Many people that are outsiders to the sneaker community find it hard to comprehend that some sneakerheads clean their shoes daily. Nobody wants dirty clothes, so why is cleaning shoes so different. Sneakerheads spend a high price for shoes and will do anything to keep them from getting dirty.

“*Being a sneakerhead is becoming more of a lifestyle and less of a hobby.*”
-Luis Morales

“I use Jason Markk and a toothbrush,” said Morales. Many sneakerheads clean their shoes daily, others wait for them to get dingy before taking care of the problems. If people think that cleaning shoes daily is madness, imagine the number of time a sneakerheads were to clean their Holy Grails.

Holy Grails and no, not the song by Jay-Z. Someone’s Holy Grail is a pair of shoes that they have an insane desire to own but low chances of obtaining.

“I really want the Air Jordan Golden Moments pack or the Air Jordan Hare 7s,” said Morales. Aaron Davis is looking forward to purchasing the Air Jordan Carmine 6s or Air Jordan Hare 7s.

Being a sneakerhead is more than just a hobby, it’s a way of life.



Sophomore Luis Morales is wearing his Air Jordan Fire Red 4s. The Fire Red 4s were Morales’ first pair of sneakers, he usually wears them when he dresses in sweats. Photo Credit/ Jared Graves



Luis Morales favorite pair of sneakers in his collection are the Air Jordan Cav 4s , which is shown in the picture above. Morales wears these shoes whenever he wants to reignite his passion for shoes. Photo Credit/ Jared Graves

	Air Jordan				
<i>THE HOLY GRAILS</i>	<i>Nike Air Mag</i>	<i>Air Jordan Carmine 6</i>	<i>Golden Moment Pack 6/7</i>	<i>Air Jordan Hare 7</i>	<i>Air Jordan Dorenbecher 9</i>
<i>Shoes</i>					
<i>Retail Price</i>	N/A	\$125	\$350	\$125	\$175
<i>Ebay Price*</i>	\$7,990	\$600	\$1,120	\$270	\$999
<i>Year Released</i>	2011**/2015***	1991	2012	1992	2012

* Highest price
** Year auctioned off for charity
*** Expected release year

Peace Jammers Help Improve Reading Skills of Edison's Fourth Graders

Jessica Rodriguez
Staff Writer

The Literacy Project is an event where Peace Jammers help improve the reading skills of fourth grade students. Peace Jam is an organization that helps their community by doing various activities held by advisor, Sveri May.

Before the project started in 2009, May and students noticed a lot of the younger classmates didn't understand what they were reading and most of them came from Edison Elementary.

At first, the principal from Edison didn't want Loy Norrix students to be there, but in the end May was able to convince the principal of Edison.

When Peace Jammers meet with their students, the child usually chooses a book and they begin to read, sometimes even taking turns. If the student has trouble pronouncing a word or knowing what it means, a Peace Jammer helps them figure it out.

Throughout the process, the Peace Jammers gather up books for kindergarten through fifth grade to have a book fair.

Some people buy the books at a cheap price or donate used books so the elementary students can choose to have any book for free.

Peace Jammers leave 10 minutes before school ends on Fridays to avoid the

buses and so they have enough time to read with the students. They go six times in total and on the last day they take a field trip to the Binder Park Zoo, excluding last year when the students went to Shedd Aquarium instead.

With the books collected, Peace Jammers finally have a book fair after the field trip.

Current senior, Brianna Day started the Literacy Project her sophomore year and has enjoyed helping kids improve their reading.

"I like knowing I can help them," said Day.

It's something anyone can do and still enjoy.

"I liked it but I don't think we did it enough times to fully help with their reading," said senior Lian Wardrop.

Even though the Literacy Project is short, most students have fun and join again.

After the Literacy Project, Peace Jammers meet up with fifth graders and go to Western Michigan University. They take a tour and then do activities in the engineering building. Jammers continue this every year to see their former Literacy Project elementary students.

Anyone can join. All they need to do is go to Claudia Witt's classroom, room C19, on Thursday mornings and you're part of the team. This year, the Literacy Project will be starting after spring break.



Senior Sarah Stevens works with two Edison students at the Literacy Project. They read in the classroom where other students chose to read in the hallway or the library. Photo Credit / Sveri May

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Black Days of Ukraine

Revolution that Took the Lives of the Residents of Ukraine



On January 22nd, an unknown woman asks soldiers to stop protecting a government that kills people. Hundreds of women were doing that during protests in Kiev. Photo Credit / Gleb Garanich

Anna Yudina
Web Copy Editor

War always scares people. But how scary could it be when the government shoots citizens of its own country? Ukrainians experienced exactly that this winter.

Ukraine had a number of protests that began on November 21st. They took place because the Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, refused to let Ukraine enter The European Union. This provoked disagreement and people started to go into the streets. These protests were called "Euro Maidan."

The center of the protests was located on the main square of the country in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. Bigger masses of people started to come there from all over Ukraine after the government used force to oust people from the square on November 30th. After this event, people started to want to change the Ukrainian government.

Protests became very powerful. A majority of the politicians joined in. People started to protest all over Ukraine. On the other side of political parties, Partiya Regioniv and the Communist Party of Ukraine were trying to stop the protestors. These parties paid people to come to their side. They were sponsors of creating Anti Maidan (protests against Euro Maidan).

During the protests, on the 16th of January, ten laws decimating democratic rights were created. Some of them were restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly, restrictions on freedom of expression in the media and the internet, prohibition of gathering information about the financial position of judges, law enforcement officers and their families (they didn't want uncorrupted journalists finding information about them).

After that, people became more intense in their actions. On the 19th of January, tens of thousands of people combined their power. Gradually, a peaceful event turned into strong opposition from the police and Interior Ministry troops. On the 22nd of January, named "Bloody Sunday," three people were killed in Kiev and two more

were killed outside of the capital. That event made government cancel the ten laws.

Protests dispersed widely. All the regions were trying to stop the Ukrainian president and parties that were on his side. Beginning on the 22nd of January, protesters started to capture local and regional administration buildings all over Ukraine.

The government has been acting out towards people since that time. Promises had been given. Protesters believed and left all of the administrations on February 16th. On the 17th of February, protesters made public statements about "general mobilization" because of the "Peace Offensive."

Around 8:30 a.m. on February 18th, protesters gathered on the main street of Kiev, and a column, headed by deputy opposition groups and members of national self-defense detachments, marched to the building of the Verkhovna Rada (main administration of Ukraine). Their goal was to return to the Constitution of 2004 and to ensure the punishment of guilty people of bullying activists on the Euro Maidan.

As a reaction to the Peace Offensive, special unit "Berkut" used grenades, rifles and shotguns against demonstrators.

From February 18th to 20th civil war raged in the capital. The government, special unit "Berkut" and corrupted people were fighting against protestors and everyone who shared their aim. Firearms, water cannons and grenades were used by the "governmental" side. Snipers were killing people. Both of the sides were suffering. Fireworks and Molotov's fire bottles were used by protestors for setting fires. Main buildings of the country were captured again. Everything was on fire. Blood was everywhere.

People from all over Ukraine were shocked by the situation in Kiev. They started to protest in their cities and towns. Regional administrations were surrounded by protestors. Monuments of Lenin were destroyed all over the country as a symbol of destroying tyrannical, Russian-directed government.

During these days, 94 people were killed

all over Ukraine (88 of them in Kiev.) The oldest person was 73 years old, the youngest, 17. There were 780 injured people. Among them were famous Ukrainian people: singers, actors, journalists, doctors, nurses and volunteers. More than 300 people can't be found. We can't be sure that they are not dead.

Governments of countries of the European Union and the United States started to react to the situation, while Ukrainian president, Viktor Yanukovich, was hiding in his residence and didn't act towards the peace at all.

On the evening of February 20th, the government called a second truce.

On February 22nd, all of the government officials met to decide the most important issues. Victor Yanukovich was removed from the post of the president of Ukraine and the Constitution of Ukraine from 2004 was returned. The following days were declared as days of sorrow.

People had decided to convene the national assembly for approval of the new government. Chamber was held from the 23rd to 26th of February. A new parliament was elected. Alexander Turchinov was elected as a commander of the military forces of Ukraine and was appointed to perform the duties of the president of Ukraine until the presidential elections, which will be held in May.

Ex-president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, was searched. A criminal case was opened because of his connection with killing people. Yanukovich is still in hiding. It's very possible that he is in Russia.

A Ukrainian peninsula, Crimea, has a large population of Russian people there. After all of the change in Ukraine, a large amount of Russian people started to protest there. They required from Crimea's government to separate from Kiev's parliament and become part of Russia. As far as we know, government refused.

On February 26th, Russian president, Vladimir Putin, sent his troops to Ukraine.

As a result, troops surrounded mostly all of the military bases and borders of Ukraine on the 3rd of March. Police of Crimea preferred the Russian side. Fortunately, the military of Ukraine was updated every day.

All of the countries from the European Union along with the United States asked the Russian government to stop. They are putting sanctions on the country to prevent the war.

"We thought that after changing our government, war would stop, and it stopped," said a Ukrainian that wished to remain anonymous. "But then Russian troops came, and we don't know what to expect."

Information is current as of March 3rd.



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Humans Stand at the Helm of a New Mass Extinction

Sam Bower
Chief Copy Editor

Throughout history, the Earth has stood witness to five mass extinctions, the causes of which are still not fully explained. Some theories include collisions with extraterrestrial bodies, global climate change or reduction in sea levels leading to the extinction of many ocean species.

In modern times, global climate change is significant in many scientific circles as the newest risk to global life and a major component of a sixth extinction. This extinction is caused not by an asteroid or flooding, but by humans, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

NASA reported, “Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are very likely due to human activities, and most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.”

Increased output of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide, are raising the amount of heat being trapped within the ozone layer above the earth. All this extra heat is continually heating the earth. The earth cannot keep up with the surplus of gases being produced through deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels. However, deforestation is leading to the possible extinction of multiple species in another way as the environment these species need is being destroyed for commercial purposes.

Tasmanian Tiger (Thylacinus cynocephalus)

A native to Australia, the Tasmanian Tiger was reported to be extinct by 1982. It was a marsupial

carnivore that was hunted due the risk it imposed upon the livestock of farmers in Australia. The introduction of dogs and cats into its habitat is also cited as a reason for its extinction. However, there are people who believe that the Tasmanian Tiger still exists and some have even admitted to seeing the animal. Yet, no evidence exists.

Passenger Pigeon (Ectopistes migratorius)

The passenger pigeon was regarded as the most plentiful bird on the planet until its extinction in 1914. It was said that their flocks could stretch up to 300 miles long and were one mile wide. The birds were so numerous that hunting them became commonplace in the society. People would shoot them out of the sky whenever a flock passed overhead.

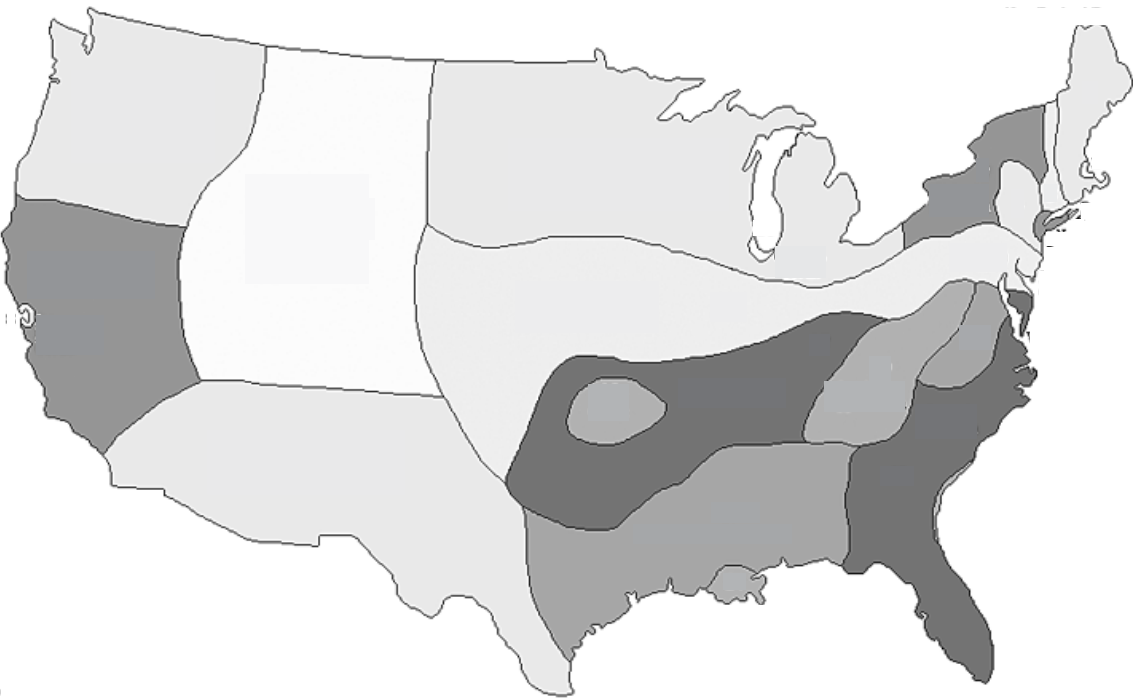
J. J. Audubon described the pigeon while they were still alive: “When an individual is seen gliding through the woods and close to the observer, it passes like a thought, and on trying to see it again, the eye searches in vain; the bird is gone.”

Great Auk (Pinguinus impennis)

A large seabird, the great auk went extinct in the middle of the 19th century. It was about 33 inches tall, and weighed about 11 pounds. This bird swam in the oceans with great skill, although it stumbled around on land. Its extinction was caused by European explorers who used it as food or fishing bait. Its down (feathers closest to the skin) was highly prized as well.

See **EXTINCT** on page 19

Language Varies in US and All Over the World



In this picture we can see the different areas in which the U.S. is divided, depending on the dialects and accents that are used. Every single colored region shows the different accent and dialects which are used in U.S. and they all have differences between them. Photo Credit / Jeff McNeill

Alba Tizon Quinteiro
Staff Writer

The ability of speaking a language is one of the most amazing things that humans can do. There are an estimated 67 hundred different languages all over the world, but we can also find variations in any language itself. Not all people who speak a language speak it the same way. A person in the state of Texas doesn't speak the same way as a person from Michigan. A language can be subdivided into any number of dialects which each vary in some way from the parent language.

One good example of how our language changes depending on the area is found in the word that people use to ask for a beverage. In most of the northern part of the country, people use the word 'pop' whereas in the Northeast people call it 'soda'. Moreover, in some states in the South they use the word 'coke' for every single soft drink. Even if they are asking for a root beer they will always use the word 'coke'.

People also use different expressions when they call more than one person. In most of the

country, people use the term 'you guys' but 'you all,' 'you,' and 'y'all' are also used in different parts of the country.

These are differences that affect big areas but there are also cases of small areas who use a different word than the rest of the country. If you ask for a long sandwich in any part of the U.S. you will call it a 'sub' except in a small part of Pennsylvania, where they call it 'hoagie'.

Words also change between countries that speak the same language: British English and American English, Spain Spanish and Mexico Spanish, Brazil Portuguese and Portugal Portuguese. Here we use the words elevators, soccer and french fries, while in Britain they call them lifts, football and chips.

Dialects aren't found only in the U.S., most of the world languages have their own dialects. In the South of Spain, for example, people pronounce 'c' like 's' which is also used in most areas in South America. Some people also talk without pronouncing the last 'd' on words that finish in '-ado' or '-ido.' In most of the countries of South America people use the word 'ustedes' when

they are talking about more than one person, although in Spain that word is used only in formal occasions. In Brazil they also find a big difference between the north and the south like in U.S.

“They use different words for objects and one word at one place can mean a totally different thing in another.” said senior Laissa Reis, an exchange student from Brazil.

In Slovakia dialects are also common. “Every region has their own dialect, for example I am from south part and I don't have a dialect but people from west part have totally strong accent,” said senior Kate Bolova, our exchange student from Slovakia.

Languages change, they aren't only different between countries, they change in any country itself. People and situations change them and make a big variety. Which is not bad after all, it makes languages stronger and more diverse and despite the small differences, we keep understanding each other and learning new things about our cultures.

Language Fun Facts

- According to the Huffington Post, there are 50 thousand characters in the Chinese language.
- There are 22 hundred languages in Asia.
- The largest alphabet has 74 letters (Cambodian)
- South Africa has 11 official languages.
- Polyglot is the name for a person who can speak or write in different languages
- Latin is used in cash machines in Vatican City.
- Studies have shown that if babies hear foreign languages, they will have an easier time learning languages.
- French and German have been determined as the two best languages for job-seeking graduates to learn.
- Accents can also be found in sign language.
- Basque is the only language that is not related to any other language and is spoken in Spain.
- There are 830 languages in Papua New Guinea.
- Frisian is the easiest foreign language for native English speakers to learn.
- The smallest alphabet has 11 letters (Rotokas).
- The oldest written language dates back to 4500 B.C.



The Tasmanian Tiger was a marsupial carnivore which lived on the continent of Australia until its extinction in 1936. Its extinction was caused by settlers who believed it posed a threat to their livestock. Photo Credit / Wikipedia

Interpretations of the Most Common Dreams



Junior Katie Srodes dreams about tornadoes chasing her and her dog. Photo Illustration / Jordan Liddle

Jordan Liddle
Photo Editor

Dreams are the images and thoughts going on in a person's head while they are sleeping. There are many theories on dreams and what they mean. Some theories suggest that there is no purpose to them.

Some researchers believe dreaming is essential to mental, emotional and physical well-being. Dreams can be interpreted in many ways.

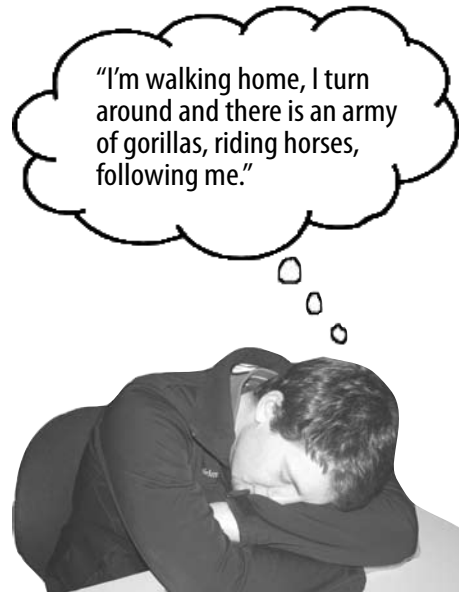
According to Dream Moods, "to dream that you are in an accident signifies pent-up guilt in which you are subconsciously punishing yourself over," or it can be "your fears of being

in an actual, physical accident."

The dreamer can take the accident in their dream as a sign or purpose or just take it as the mind running free while sleeping.

According to Katie Couric, of ABC News, the 7 most common dreams are, one, your mate is cheating, which can mean there is a third wheel in the relationship, a third person or thing. Second is being chased, which can mean there is something you are trying to avoid in reality. Chasing dreams can be a representation of coping with situations like fear and stress.

Third is dreaming about being back at school, which means a person is feeling



Carlos Escamilla

pressured by time management, what peers think and trying to reach a goal.

The fourth most common dream is about teeth falling out, which typically means a person should not have communicated something and should have kept it to him or herself.

The fifth regular dream is tornadoes. Tornadoes show worries, anxiety and the feeling that a person is spinning out of control.

Dreaming about cars is the sixth most common dream. This signifies a person who is thinking about maneuvering to get to a goal.

The seventh most common dream is about dogs, the reasoning behind this dream is because



Havier Hill-Roller

dogs are loyal. Dreaming about a dog could be a person thinking about the people in their life and if they are loyal or not.

"I've literally woken myself up out of the dream by jumping up so fast in my bed, but I've also had it where the falling doesn't ever seem to stop and that's pretty scary," said junior Katie Srodes.

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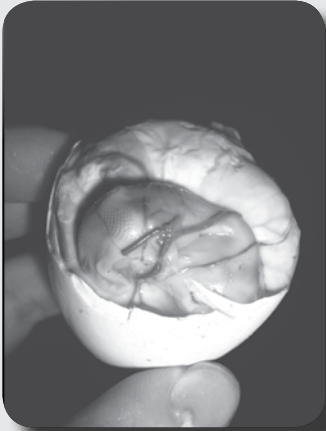
Students Taste-Test Bizarre Foods

Loy Norrix Students Leave Comfort Zones for Foreign Foods

Lian Wardrop
Feature Editor

Kids may eat bugs, but Loy Norrix High School students have by far eaten a wider variety of bizarre foods than many of us may guess. Despite Norrix being located in a midwestern, medium sized town, there are many students going out of their comfort zones and sampling things Americans might not deem “edible.” Here are some of the foods that Norrix students have sampled:

Balut (bah-loot)



Balut is an egg that has been fertilized and then boiled to reveal a little bird embryo that people eat.

Senior Daniel Michael said it tastes “like sulfur and satan.”

Michael was told by his mother that “it is healthy,” so he ate it. Michael later lamented, “I stopped trusting my mother after that.”

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Shark Fin Soup



Shark is often served as shark fin soup. Sophomore Zhi Nee Wee tried this when she was really young and visited her family in Malaysia at a local restaurant.

Wee said, “It’s the best thing ever because it tastes really good and it was spicy.”

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Steak Tartare



Steak tartare consists of raw cow or horse meat, which is minced or ground. It is often seasoned with onion, capers and spices.

Senior Meaghan Newhouse has eaten this dish since her dad had done the same when he was growing up. He continues to make it for the family.

Newhouse said, “It’s actually really good. You just have to get used to it because it’s raw steak.”

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Ceviche (seh-bee-chay)



Ceviche is made with fresh seafood that is cured with citrus juice and then spiced. There is raw seafood in this dish, so it is served very fresh to reduce the chance of food poisoning.

Senior Elijah Merritt said, “It was just really tiny crustaceans, but you eat them whole and all.” Merritt said it tasted like crustaceans.

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Bumble Bee Larvae



Bumble bee larvae is served fried. Senior Dounbagai Leo tasted the bumble bee larvae at her grandparents’ house. They had gotten the larvae as a gift from friends in Laos.

Leo said, “It wasn’t bad, but I don’t like it.” Leo described the taste as “grainy and nutty and slimy.”

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Chicken Bones



Chicken bones are served as soups or main dishes. The bone is cut horizontally in order to expose the bone marrow. Then it is cooked.

Senior Helayna Barrett said, “I was in Sicily at Martina’s friends house and he had learned how to cook it in Mexico.” Barrett admitted, “it was really intense” and “it was kinda weird to eat bones.”

<http://upload.wikimedia.org>

Lizards and Pigs and Spiders Oh My!

Loy Norrix Students Reveal their Unique Critters

Reed Zapf

Web Copy Editor

There are some animals that we would normally call pets such as a dog, cat or goldfish. There are other animals that people might not consider a pet because of either societal norms or even evolutionary fears (fears of snakes or spiders) that was essential to our ancestors survival.

These strange and exotic animals need love too. From lizards to pigs, many people find comfort in animals that might not have much hair or can't regulate their body temperature, yet these owners still feel the same pride from owning that "exotic" animal.

Though some animals might be outside of our societal norms there are students within our school that love them as much as other people might love their cats and dogs.

Cynthia Diaz's bearded dragon, Chanell



Is she hard to take care of?

She's not very hard to take care of. She just needs to be let out for space and watched over. They can grow big.

Where did you get Chanell?

I got her from an old friend.

Any interesting stories?

She poops every time you let her out because she doesn't like doing it in her cage and licks everything and everyone.

Why this animal instead of a more common animal like a cat or dog?

A bearded dragon because my family doesn't like cats and to them, a dog is too much work and money, but I love both cats and dogs a lot. If it's a sunny day, she will lay next to the window for hours or next to the heater in the winter. She hates bananas and likes to sleep with people.

Photo Credit / Cynthia Diaz

Scout Richardson's turtle, Olive



Is she hard to take care of?

No, all I have to do is change the water frequently and give her a lot of lettuce.

Where did you get Olive?

My friend knows a guy that collects lots of things that he finds at Woods Lake, and she was brought to me in school in a Tupperware container that I had to carry around all day.

Any interesting stories?

The first day I got her I let her run around my living room, and she climbed my curtains. I lost her at first but then was surprised to see her in my curtains.

Why this animal instead of a more common animal like a cat or dog?

They are more interesting to keep and not high maintenance.

Photo Credit / Scout Richardson

Maddie Olech's micro-mini pig, Joy



Is she hard to take care of?

Yes, she's a drama queen! She wants a lot of attention and always wants to eat.

Where did you get Joy?

Somebody's house in parchment and then we went and picked her up.

Any interesting stories?

Pigs squeal when you pick them up. Joy ran into my neighbor's yard, and she scared them when we picked her up.

Why this animal instead of a more common animal like a cat or dog?

Well, I have two dogs but I really want a pig, like I always wanted one.

Can you walk her like a dog?

She walks like a dog with a harness on her and she trots down the street.

Yes people stop and ask if will it bite me.

Photo Credit / Maddie Olech

John Gettys' tarantula, Chili



Is it hard to take care of?

No he just eats crickets and you don't have to clean the cage. All he needs is a heating pad in the winter.

Where did you get it?

As a gift from the petstore.

Any interesting stories?

When she molts her skin, it freaks people out because they think there is two of them in there.

Why this animal instead of a more common animal like a cat or dog?

I like having my spider because it's a good conversation starter.

Photo Credit / John Gettys

LN Grad Goes From Local to Global

Lori Umbanhowar
Comic and Graphic Editor

In the long list of Loy Norrix graduates there are a great number of people that have made something of themselves. One of the people who have turned out to be very successful is Paul Sizer, who graduated in 1982. Sizer is a self-published author and comic artist who has designed many logos, including the Loy Norrix Knight Head and the Kalamazoo College Hornet.

While in high school, Sizer drew a few small comics for the Loy Norrix newspaper,



Sizer's first published series of comics [Little White Mouse] were printed as individual comics before being compiled in the Little White Mouse Omnibus. Photo Credit / Paul Sizer

“Knight Life”. Though it is not anything that pushed his career later in life, it was a good start to be getting into the public eye. This was a way for him to wet his feet in the art industry.

Sizer said, “It was an opportunity. I think comic artists have to be self-motivated because you have to make your own opportunities because a lot of universities don’t have, say, comic art unless you are at a place like Savannah College... You gotta kinda make your own curriculum, which is what I did at Norrix.”

By taking this initiative, Sizer was able to do the same thing in college. While at Western Michigan University earning his B.F.A. (Bachelors in Fine Art) he drew a series of comics for the “Western Herald.” His series “Bill the Rabbit” won him a few awards. While these awards did not get him great recognition, he pursued jobs that allowed him to continue to do his art.

“Well, right out of college I worked at the Sign Shop for a year, then I worked at a banner company, in the art department of all of these places and, again, learned these skills for how I was going to survive. But in my spare time I still did comics,” Sizer said.

Sizer is currently the production manager in the Frostic Design Center at Western Michigan University. He has worked there since 1992. Here he gets to share how he creates comics and teaches graphic design to students.

While talking about Paul’s teaching at WMU, it came up that his father, Jack Sizer, was also a teacher, but taught at Loy Norrix High School. As well as an English teacher, Jack Sizer had been both the head of the Yearbook and the “Knight Life” advisor at Norrix.

“I’ve gone to him a couple of times. Like every once in a while I’ll ask him how to handle something. Back when I was starting out at Western for example, I’d ask ‘how do I handle this class that is rowdy or doesn’t want to learn?’ What I really took away from talking to him was just seeing how dedicated he was and how passionate he was.”



Paul Sizer does all of his comic art digitally, in programs like Adobe Photoshop, which gives his art its unique flair. Photo Credit / Paul Sizer

As well as creating his own comics, Sizer owns his own printing brand. Café Digital Press is what he uses to print his comics like “Little White Mouse,” which was his first series, along with his other two comics “Moped Army” and “B.P.M.” Sizer is in the process of writing and developing his next comic series, though there is no release date.

Sizer’s comics may be more popular, not only for their diverse storylines, but because each comic has a strong female lead character. This is what could appeal to a wider group of readers. All of his printed works are available on his website Paulsizer.com for purchase or at your local comic book store.

Because of his work in the graphic community and his comics’ popularity, Sizer has brought diversity to the list of Loy Norrix graduates. Sizer is one of the many people who is making a global impact from the local community.



Poster design / Paul Sizer

Comics

Comprehension



Constance Williams

What's Your Story, Parker Fields?

Claire Domanick
Copy Editor

The star athletes, the “oh so popular” kids, the class clowns: these are the students usually featured in the newspaper. This time around, it’s a little different. The series “What’s your Story?” will focus on one student per issue who is randomly selected to be featured in Knight Life’s print edition. The first student to be featured is Loy Norrix High School sophomore, Parker Fields.

Parker Fields was born in the quaint town of Marshall, Michigan in 1998. Through the years, he moved many times and attended countless elementary schools in Michigan and Indiana, although he will always consider Marshall to be his hometown.

With the exception of a short time in prison, his mother, Brenda Ojeda, has been vital in his life. His parents divorced shortly after he was born, and he had little contact with his father. Fields mainly relied on his mother and grandparents to raise him until a welcomed addition came to his family.

Fields’ mother married Lupe Ojeda. Fields, along with his younger sister, Stacia, and mother, moved to Indiana where his stepdad part-owned Sophia’s House of Pancakes. A couple years after the wedding, while living in Indiana, his family decided to move to Kalamazoo, MI and open a Sophia’s on Stadium Dr.

Luckily for Parker, it didn’t take much to get a job there. Working with close family may seem like the dream job, but Fields sees it a little differently.

“When my boss is demanding, my mom tries to stick up for me, but I tell her not to because I won’t have her with me for every job I have,” said Fields.

Still undetermined about his future plans, Fields notes he wants to eventually own his own business and follow in the footsteps of his parents.

What obstacles have you overcome?

“Starting to actually care about school has been hard because I used to not come a lot but then I realized that I really need to so I’ve been working on it.”



Parker Fields leaves Sophia’s after a long day of work on Saturday, March 22nd. His shift started at 7 a.m. and lasted until 4:30 p.m. Photo Credit / Breonna Burnside

What events have changed or shaped your life?

“My mom going to prison was a hard adjustment for me but I had my grandparents who I lived with and they helped a lot. Especially my Grandpa Dukeman, who passed away in 2012. He was my father figure and when I was little he would take me hunting and fishing.”

Parker notes some of the great memories he had with his grandpa, including a time when a bird flew right onto the dashboard of their car and just sat there looking at the two. Parker and his grandpa kept quiet until the bird flew out and then all of a sudden his grandpa started screaming and letting out a few choice words. Fields looks back on that memory and smiles as he remembers the great times they had together.

What’s something most people don’t know about you?

“About 40% of my family is Jewish. I don’t see them often but I like learning about some of their traditions when I can.”

What does The Kalamazoo Promise mean to you?

“I’m happy that I get The Promise, but at the same time I don’t know if I want to go to college yet or even stay in Michigan, but still, it’s a great opportunity to have.”



Aaliyah Barns-Fogle

High School Students Pop the “Big Question” for Prom

Jay McIntosh
Web Sports Editor

Asking someone to prom seems like it would be not that big of a deal, but to couples across the nation it means everything. The typical question, “Will you go to prom with me” used to be either assumed or asked privately has now taken a public approach.

Suddenly it almost seems like asking someone to prom has turned into a 100m dash. Who looks the best, who goes to the best restaurant, or even what group you attend the festivities with is being planned months ahead and students want to know who their date is as soon as possible. Asking your future prom date to go to prom with you, in the best way you can think of, to make them feel special is important to set the big night right.

Junior Taylor Wade asked her prom date Angel Moore even with the doubt in her mind that things may not go how she wanted.

Wade said, “She told me the only way that she would go to prom with me is if I asked her in a cute way, and that’s what I took time to come up with to do. I asked her in front of the fans at the basketball game even though the principal told me I wasn’t allowed to, I wanted to do it for Angel.”

Other prom dates in the past have also taken a public approach with the big question. Last year, Tinashe Chaponda now a college freshman took a more modern approach by going to prom with someone he wasn’t dating. Chaponda organized the school drum line to play a song outside the doors at the four corners exit at the end of the day in his way of asking Audrey Meyers (also a college freshman) to prom. Spelled out on the front of the drums was, “P-R-O-M?”



Senior Peter Kettner filled Senior Mara Timmeney’s room with balloons to show how much he wanted her to attend prom with him. Kettner spent over four hours making sure the room was set up perfect for when Timmeney came home from her vacation. Photo Credit / Peter Kettner

The nervous alum Tinashe Chaponda said, “I didn’t care what other people thought. I just didn’t want to disappoint my date and that’s why I was doubting myself.”

Senior Peter Kettner took another approach by asking privately. Kettner filled senior Mara Timmeney’s bedroom with balloons and streamers while she was on vacation and had PROM? posted as a question in her room.

“She called me and said it was the best thing she could have ever come home to in her room, which made me feel like all the work I did was 100% worth it,” said Kettner.

New ways to impress a girl on a prom night comes with a much higher price. These days kids are renting luxury cars and spending upwards of \$500 on the night just to impress their date with a nice dinner, an eye popping

tuxedo and a ticket to the dance. Prom is taken as some sort of competition, who can spend more, who look better and who impress more people?

Freshman Biology teacher Chris Komar said, “Back in my time he would’ve gotten lucky to borrow his parents’ car and drive to prom.”

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



The Fight for the Right to Practice

Rachel Wheat
Assistant Web Editor

This winter has had extremely harsh conditions, with an abundance of snow days, icy roads, and mounds of endless snow, winter seems never ending. Spring sports have started and are in full gear, but the weather has a big impact on the teams and their playing fields.

"We cannot practice outside yet because of the snow, and it is really hard to find time in the gym because of the other spring sports," said lacrosse player, Autumn Ackerson.

Because of the amount of snow and the frigid temperatures, the indoor space is extremely valuable to every spring sport team fighting for practice space.

Spring sports at Loy Norrix consist of women's soccer, men's and women's lacrosse, softball, baseball, men's golf, track and field, and women's tennis. All of these team members have to share two gyms if weather is not permitting.

Loss of practice time could lead to a rough start to the spring sport season, training, conditioning, and pre-season is a crucial factor in the success of the team, and without these, Loy Norrix sports could be hit hard.

With the lack of practice space and practice time, sports will get a late start really affecting the way that they play and their ending statistics. Loy Norrix won't be the only school affected by this weather; Kalamazoo Central, Portage Public Schools and the surrounding schools have all been negatively affected by this crazy Michigan Winter.

"We are going to have to cancel our first couple games because we can't just shovel the field."

-Lauren Dougherty

Many athletes are expecting practices to be cancelled. Games will also have to be canceled and then rescheduled, creating a big mess for the athletic director, players and coaches.

"This weather not only affects our preparation, but is also affects us financially," said Athletic Director Andrew Laboe.

According to Current Results the average Michigan temperature this January was 19 degrees. It has been a brutal winter which will possibly affect our spring and summer.

The golf team does not necessarily condition, and it's pretty hard to play with two feet of snow on the ground.

Indoor space is constantly in demand and renting tennis courts three times a week is extremely expensive. The track team cannot shovel the track so they are stuck indoors, and the lacrosse team practices in the back parking lot.

"We won't be on the course until early April at the earliest," said golf player Andrew Blinkiewicz.

Michigan weather changes every day, snow, rain, ice, sun. This winter has been especially icy, cold and snowy and it looks as if it is going to carry into the spring, affecting spring sports.



The track team has to stretch inside the school due to the cold and snowy weather. The team runs through the hallways because of the snow covering the track.
Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat



Catchers Griffin Conley, freshman, and Leif Schenimann, freshman, practice in the big gym because the baseball field is not yet ready.
Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat



Freshman Lin Guo Drizek is practicing at the YMCA due to the snow on the courts. Practicing indoors limits the team to only two courts. Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat



Senior attackman Henry Cousino shovels off the lacrosse field so that the men's team is able to practice outside. Photo Credit / Reed Zapf

From Rags To Riches then Back Again



Louis Mitchell
Layout Editor

He is flat out broke. Where does six seasons in the NFL take you? Vince Young and many other pro athletes are finding out the hard way.

It's hard to believe that 78 percent of NFL players become bankrupt or encounter financial hardship within only two years of retirement. Vince Young made about \$34 million in his six year career. He has now filed for bankruptcy, less than a year after being released by the Green Bay Packers and two years after starting three games with the Philadelphia Eagles. As unreal as it may seem, bankruptcy is a common epidemic with all major professional athletes.

According to Yahoo! Sports, the average

players' salary in the NFL is \$1.9 million per year. With an average career length around six years, a player could make a total of at least \$12 million dollars. If invested and spent wisely, this amount of money could sustain someone for the rest of their lives. However, retiring athletes aren't being wise with their money. Pro athletes are their own victims of overspending. They spend money on luxurious cars, oversized jewelry, and fancy clothes, all of which are highly unnecessary.

"It is hard, when you are making a lot of money and you are a young guy, not to buy an expensive, nice car. It is hard not to pick up all the meals for your family and friends. It is hard not to give expensive gifts," said Doug Dawson. Dawson spent eight years in the NFL and is now a wealth management advisor.

Most professional athletes are too young and uneducated to make wise monetary decisions. A young 22 year old rookie is going to spend his money once he sees that first paycheck worth thousands of dollars. He doesn't know any better.

The NFL has taken steps to try and educate rookies about good financial decision making. The National Football League Financial Education Program tries to educate players so they can maintain long term financial stability. They hold seminars for players to learn about cash management, insurance, taxes, investments, retirement funds and many other financial topics.

Even though there are educational programs to keep players informed on how to use their money wisely, the stats show that they aren't working. Too many retired players are going broke. Why? Imagine sitting through a long, boring seminar, with topics that put you to sleep, and a



Vince Young tries to evade opposing defenders in the 2007 NFL Pro Bowl. Young spent six seasons in the NFL, playing for the Tennessee Titans and the Philadelphia Eagles. He was then cut from the Buffalo Bills in 2012 and the Green Bay Packers in 2013. Photo Courtesy of Wikipedia

monotonous speaker. Young players either don't listen to the advice they are given, or are too ignorant to believe they will go broke.

Once retired, many pro athletes continue their spending frenzy even though they don't have an income anymore. This lavish lifestyle is unsustainable. The bank account dries up quickly when you have a mortgage on a million dollar house and payments on four different cars.

NFL players only have a short span of time to make their money. With such a small window to make their lifetime earnings, it

is hard for them to live the next 40 years of their lives after retirement. Even someone who is responsible with his money would have a tough time doing this.

The Entertainment and Sports Management Network (ESPN) has a sports documentary series called "30 for 30". One of the episodes looks at how pro athletes lose their money so easily. "Broke" shows some of the less obvious ways great sports stars wind up in big money trouble. These include high tax rates, paying for their lawyers and agents and having to continuously start over in new cities upon being traded.

Requiem for Your Team: Why the Heat are Killing Fanhood



Maxwell Evans
A & E Editor

Sports Opinion

"Not one, not two, not three, not four, not five, not six, not seven..." - LeBron James

Someone who hasn't heard this phrase in the three years since it was uttered probably has a rabid dedication to not following sports. LeBron's 2011 rant about the number of NBA championships his Miami Heat would win has been overplayed more than Robin Thicke's song "Blurred Lines" was last summer.

There's some background to the quote, in case one hasn't heard. In 2011, the Miami Heat made global headlines by bringing in the best basketball player in this lifetime, LeBron James from the Cleveland Cavaliers. This signing came two days before the Heat signed superstar Chris Bosh from my beloved Toronto Raptors. A team with two stars would have excited NBA fans enough.

However, the hype was brought to another level due to the fact that the Heat already had Dwayne Wade, a future Hall-of-Famer and 2006 NBA Finals MVP.

Three superstars on one team? It was a bandwagon fan's dream. This is why I won't be making many friends when I say that the Miami Heat are the worst thing that could possibly happen to the sport of basketball.

Before continuing, let me clarify that in no way are the Heat bad for the National Basketball Association. Love them or hate them, Miami gets fans talking, and fans tend to put money where their mouth is. Because of this, the NBA is raking in record amounts of revenue. According to Forbes Magazine, during the 1989-90 season, the 27-team league as a whole brought in \$1 billion. Fast forward 23 years, and the NBA is doing so well that a single team can top that number. The New York Knicks had an estimated 2013 value of \$1.1B.

No, the Heat aren't damaging the league at all. They're damaging the fun of watching the sport. Fans are abandoning their local teams in favor of the almost-guaranteed victories of the Heat, who have reached the NBA Finals every year since the superstar signings. To show how much the Miami Heat have damaged fanhood, one only needs to look at LeBron's former team, the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Cleveland is a sad city. Unemployment, poverty and awful sports teams paint an accurate picture of the once-prominent

manufacturing town. The last Cleveland team to win a major sports title was the 1964 Cleveland Browns. However, on May 22, 2003, a game-changing event seemed to put the city in line for sports success and provide relief from real life for fans.

On that date, the Cavaliers won the Draft Lottery, which meant they would have the first choice in the upcoming 2003 NBA Draft. While the #1 pick is always ideal, this year was special. The Class of 2003 was one of the greatest draft classes of all time, including Knicks star Carmelo Anthony and two other familiar names, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade. Not only that, the projected top pick was being touted as the next Michael Jordan. The icing on the cake? The heir to "His Airness" was a local kid, 18-year-old LeBron James. His hometown, of all places, was nearby Akron, Ohio.

Flash forward to 2011, and the dream was swiftly crushed. LeBron abandoned his promising team, which had reached the Finals in 2007, as he was about to enter his prime. As of April 15, the Cavaliers are 32-49 on the season. They have not been able to win 50 percent of their games since James left, let alone go on a title run. Fans have abandoned their once-loved Cavs; nearly one-quarter of the team's tickets to home games went unsold in 2012.

The Heat haven't just burned Cleveland, they've been a problem for nearly every team from a less relevant NBA city. Phoenix, Minneapolis, and dear Toronto, all "small

markets" in the basketball world, are having above-average seasons and may likely make the playoffs. Yet on any given night, nearly one in six seats in these cities will be empty. The Suns, Timberwolves and Raptors average a crowd equivalent to 84 percent of their arenas' capacity.

Where are all the small market fans, you ask? Check Miami's American Airlines Arena, which draws more than 100 percent of its capacity nightly. Yes, that means more people pack in to watch a Heat game than the stadium is built to seat.

It's sometimes hard for me to dislike the Heat. When you look on SportsCenter and see LeBron dunking all over some poor sap, guard Ray Allen hitting a buzzer-beating shot, or center Chris Andersen flaunting his rainbow-colored neck tattoos, it is incredibly exciting. What isn't exciting is seeing the Heat completely dominate media coverage when 31 other teams are working just as hard (or harder, without the benefit of three superstars) to put on a fun show for their quickly-shrinking fanbases.

Write me off as a bitter, biased fan of a team nobody cares about, and you've done nothing but prove my point even further. You would be completely right: nobody cares about my star-less, boring, above-average Toronto Raptors.

And it's because the Miami Heat, in all their star-studded, exhilarating, championship winning glory, are taking the fun out of being a true fan.

Kalamazoo Growlers General Manager Recruits Students to Sell Tickets

Emily Feenstra
Web Photo Editor

Shane Stout is the assistant general manager for the Kalamazoo Growlers. The team is the newest member of the Northwood's Baseball League. Kalamazoo has been without baseball at Homer Stryker Field since the semi-pro Kalamazoo Kings left after the 2010 season. The Growlers have a five-year agreement with the city of Kalamazoo.

This winter he visited Atiba Ward's Sports Management class to talk to students about what he does and to encourage them to come to a Growler's game this summer.

Stout is in charge of making the team's dreams a reality. The players do not get paid because they are still under NCAA regulations.

Ward said, "I think it's really nice that professionals will take their time out of their busy day to come talk to us."

The Growlers also own the Battle Creek team. The Battle Creek team turned down one thousand players that tried out this year.

The Growlers season is from May until August. Their league makes it so the players can play year round. They play for their school the rest of the time. Both of the teams have a full

roster this year.

Stout said, "We want to be Kalamazoo's only source of entertainment this summer."

Stout's job is to make the team's dreams come true. He strives to put fans in the seats. There are no free tickets.

Stout said, "This makes it so there is value to our tickets."

The Growlers have a program for high school students to sell tickets. This helps students gain professional experience. The tickets are 15 dollars and include a hot dog, chips, and a drink. Five dollars go back to the school.

Ward said, "Selling these tickets is a great opportunity for us."


Ward is starting a group at Norrix called the BPA (business professionals of America.) The group will travel to different cities like Lansing and Detroit and the profits from selling these tickets will fund that.

Opening day for the Growlers is May 30th. They will play 72 games in 75 days.

Stout said, "We want to slowly making press releases to build up the momentum to opening day so there will be a lot of excitement."



Shane Stout speaks to Atiba Ward's sports management class. He is the assistant manager to The Growler's. Photo Credit / Emily Feenstra




NATIONAL POETRY MONTH

April 2014

I wrote some of the worst poetry west from the Mississippi River, but I wrote. And I finally sometimes got it right.

Maya Angelou



**Kalamazoo
Education
Association**

Norrix Athletes Sign for a Bright Future



Jay McIntosh signs contracts for Indiana University during his signing party while his mother Melinda McIntosh and sister Brooke Davvis, watch with admiration. Photo Credit / Emily Feenstra

Tatiana Berquist
Feature Editor

While some of us may be undecided about our plans for college, other students are going to universities to pursue their athletic dreams. Seniors Jay McIntosh and Amanda McGrail, along with Davis Crocker, who has already graduated and is now going to his chosen school, have signed to play for universities know for their athletic programs.

Signing to play for a school means that said school is giving you money as a result of you playing on one of their teams. This can be in the form of receiving a tuition break.

McGrail will be playing women's softball for Jackson College next year. Being asked to play by a school is an incredible accomplishment for student athletes.

"It felt really good to sign because playing in college was always a goal I wanted to reach but didn't think I was going to have the chance to", explained McGrail.

To congratulate students that accomplish this, Norrix organizes a signing party where friends, family and close faculty gather to

watch the student officially sign the necessary forms followed by a delicious cake.

McIntosh had his signing party on February 5th. With teammates, peers, and all those who supported him watching, the excitement in the room was incredible. Seeing McIntosh sign to play was like watching someone take a literal step towards success.

Although McGrail has not had a signing party, it is being scheduled to take place after spring break.

"Even though I know where I'm playing, I can't wait to celebrate it with the traditional signing party," said McGrail.

McIntosh will be attending Indiana University in the fall to play men's soccer.

"When I got signed it felt like I was taking my life to the next level", said McIntosh.

Both McIntosh and McGrail are eager to get to their respective schools and start playing. Although Norrix will certainly miss these two dedicated players, they'll be sure to thrive in their future endeavors.

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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Staff Editorial

College Going Culture Ignores Individual Needs

The push to go to college has always been present in teenagers' lives. Parents say that they expect the most from their children and so the kids deserve the best education that they can get. There is no denying a mom or dad's desire for their child to persevere, but now a "college-going culture" is promoted by Loy Norrix, along with other schools and institutions.

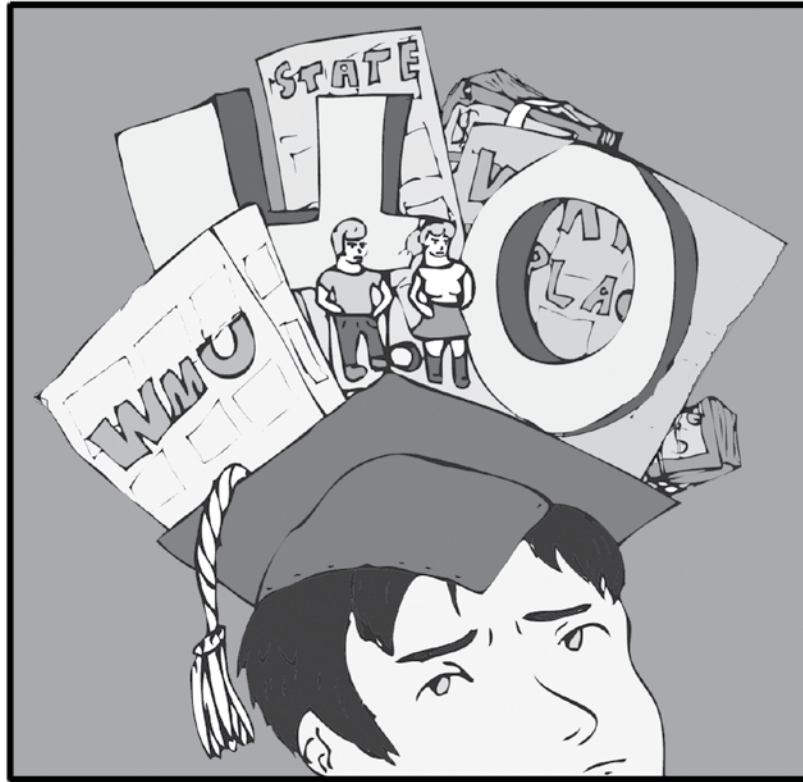
College-going culture is the idea that all kids should have the mindset of achieving a higher education. This implies that anyone with a head between their shoulders is cut out for universities or otherwise.

Education can impact us to do significantly important things with our lives, ranging from the credentials for a good job to lifelong, fulfilling careers. However, these are not always the careers that hold the foundation of society together.

Working class laborers like janitors and farmers allow us to keep things running smoothly. These are jobs that do not typically require a college-level education. By promoting a culture where everyone gets the education necessary to do the work of an architect, we are saying that we don't need people to construct the actual building.

However, this is not to say that we are in short supply of blue-collar workers. Our country's undervalued laborers may be numerous enough to keep things afloat, but that doesn't mean their jobs are properly respected or are at all lucrative. According to MSNBC, a single person needs about 14 dollars an hour to sustain themselves. However, Michigan's minimum wage is 7.50 an hour. It is worth noting that half of minimum wage workers are over 24. This wage complication shows us how little our essential workers are valued.

To say that everyone should



Lori Umbanhowar

go to college is a sweeping generalization, which is the last thing teenagers who are deciding what to do with their lives need. If we tell everyone to do the same thing, we are enforcing the importance of assimilation and having a one-track life.

Some students know that they don't want to go to college or are intimidated by the thought of going to school for another two to eight years after graduating. This is why we should put more emphasis on figuring out what will work best for a particular student's future, therefore encouraging students to properly manage their goals. Also, the advantage of making a personal plan is the prospect of doing something you enjoy or are cut out for.

An important thing that plays into this is where our focus goes when planning for the future. Many young people will jump straight into deciding which college they want to go to. With all this concentrated effort on ACTs and grade point average, it's obvious that the prestige of the college attended is what people care most about. Why is this, though?

College is where you spend two to eight years of your life getting an education, whereas a career is what you channel all of your passion into for your whole life. The quality of a person's education is important, but there are other things to consider. Fifty percent of college students who declare their major will change it. This shows the lack of thought put into career choice before college.

The lack of focus "college-going culture" shows on students' individual needs is embarrassing. Our most important laborers are underpaid, our students are pushed to do things they don't care about, and most of us can't even decide what to do with our lives.

Part of solving these deeply embedded cultural problems is raising the minimum wage and part of it is getting students to think about their futures. Above all else though, the key to helping teenagers prepare in order to live happy lives is offering information about alternatives to going to college.

Given that at least a high school degree is necessary for most jobs that make decent money, we ought to show teenagers how important a high school diploma is. The best way to do this is by providing facts about high school graduates. Scaring students with facts like the 60 percent of dropouts that spend time in prison may provoke a reaction, but it does nothing to get them on track to create a plan for their future.

According to CNN, a nine month computerized numerical control certification program (a type of trade school) had a 100 percent job placement rate for one of their recent graduating classes. This highlights the incredible rates at which students who undergo vocational training are typically employed at. Doesn't this seem like a more effective thing to tell students?

We should be encouraging students to find options that will be most suitable and beneficial to them as an individual. Telling everyone to go to college is like saying we should all have sports cars; what if someone needs to haul something?

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I liked the article on page 7 where it showed what teachers of the school have done job wise when they were in high school. It gives more input on their lives than just asking them on your own.
Dagnija Tomsons, Freshman

Dear Editor,

I read your feature on The Knight Life called "Loy Norrix Remembers Programs of the Past. It was very interesting to read about what Loy Norrix used to be like a long time ago. Hearing about things that Loy Norrix used to be from older people that used to go here is fun to listen to. This article is very nice to read

because it has a good amount of information of this subject.

Not many students know how much better Loy Norrix use to be. Students will probably be influenced to make changes after reading this article. Hopefully many good things will come out of this article for students of Loy Norrix.

Mason Sonnevill, Junior

Dear Editor,

I have read your article "Cuisine in Class." I agree that we should be able to eat when we are hungry. No matter if we are in class or the cafeteria. I also agree that a clean school is better than a dirty school, but I'd like

to bring attention to more important things for Boggan than keeping crumbs off the floor. Why can he limit our eating but does nothing about does nothing about bullying? Eating is the least of our problems, and yes, eating is necessary for life. He should focus on more important things than a wrapper on the floor that takes three seconds to throw away. What about the emotional damage from other students? The leaders of our school have better things to focus on.
Rayna Myers, Senior

A Critique of IDs: Education Versus Enforcement



Leslie Hemenway
Web Feature Editor

A Critique of IDs: Education Versus Enforcement

Loy Norrix, like any other high school, has many rules which most of the student body questions. Based on the arguments I've witnessed between students and security guards/teachers, I think it's safe to say the most universally hated rule is the requirement of ID badges. According to the Loy Norrix Handbook, students must wear their ID around their neck, above the waist, and it must remain clearly visible throughout the day.

When a student forgets their ID, they have two options. If they happen to have five dollars with them, they can purchase a new ID in the guidance office. If they don't, they must remain in what the LNHS handbook refers to as the "Reclaiming Center." While this "center" may have

existed in the past, it's now just a nice way of saying the students will serve an in-school detention. This outdated terminology is proof that the ID procedure needs some revisions.

Junior Connor Zook, who dislikes the requirement of student ID badges, expressed the same sentiments and said, "Most teachers don't even enforce the rule."

Teachers are supposed to regularly check for IDs and send out any student who refuses to cooperate but as Zook stated above, that rarely happens.

English teacher Anne Lewis only asks her students to wear their IDs when they leave her classroom. She understands the purpose of the rule is to keep students safe and believes it positively affects some parts of the school, but Lewis also said, "I will not let a plastic card dictate whether or not I teach a student."

More teachers should follow Lewis' lead. Students shouldn't miss out on a day's worth of education simply because they forgot their ID; their education should be more important than whether or not they have a tiny piece of plastic with them.

While it's really not a hassle to put on an ID badge every day before school, it's difficult to obey a rule when most of the teachers neither follow nor enforce said rule.

Most teachers that do check for IDs do so on random days throughout a trimester. This sporadic schedule is, to put it nicely, annoying and illogical. Enforcing IDs one

day and then not for the next two weeks confuses students and makes a joke out of the rule. Teachers that do attempt to enforce the rule typically get frustrated. For instance, the ID machine was down during the last two weeks of March, making it a little difficult for students to get a new ID.

Of course, there's a difference between accidentally forgetting your ID one day and constantly refusing to comply with the rule. Students should only be penalized when they've forgotten their ID multiple times in a row. Even then their punishment shouldn't interfere with their classes.

History teacher Matt Porco, who enforces the rule in all of his classes, said, "When we don't enforce IDs, we send the message that rules are optional."

This is completely accurate. However, while IDs are potentially a good way to improve behavior and ensure the safety of students through the display of one's name, the lack of enforcement renders the rule pointless and ineffective. Also, students shouldn't miss an entire day of school for forgetting their ID one day. If a student forgets their ID four or five days in a row, they should receive an after-school detention. That way the rule is enforced but doesn't interfere with a student's learning.

IDs are a good idea and I believe Loy Norrix should mandate them, but IDs need to be enforced without getting in the way of a student's education.

KNIGHTS SPEAK

HOW DO YOU THINK
LOY NORRIX BENEFITS
FROM THE ID
PROCEDURE?

CHASE WATKINS
Freshman

"It doesn't benefit because no one uses their ID."



LASHENIK WEBB
Junior

"It lets people know who everyone is and keeps bad things from happening because everyone could come and cause problems."



LAMYA TIPTON
Freshman

"It keeps everyone safe, provides security and makes us more identifiable."



RICO TAKAHASHI
Senior

"The first time I heard about it I thought it was a cool system, but now it's bothering me because I can just forget it at home and it's hard to get into school. I understand that it's very important, but it really bothers me."



DANNY MAILOUX
Freshman

"If you don't have an ID, they'll assume you are not from this school. So they'll ask you to leave."



MARIE PORTEI
Junior

"I don't think it benefits us because many people don't follow procedure anyway. Even when teachers enforce it, students don't really care."



JUAN PAZ
Senior

"There is no benefit. It's just a waste of time and money."



Steroids Should Be Mandatory in the Major League



Daniel Michael
Guest Writer

The crowd sits in awe, and players sweat it out in the field. Every move becomes a struggle to keep going, but there is a solution. Anabolic steroids are the answer!

The athlete's job is to entertain, and steroids can help with just that. On steroids, athletes feel less exhaustion and muscle fatigue, due to the opiate-like effect. Anaerobic exercise becomes effortless, so the game becomes less focused on physicality and more on skill. The sport becomes expressed in its truest form.

Major league games become much more entertaining and marketable for everybody, not just fans. Steroids can mess with hormones, and hormonal anomalies are what show business is all about. These "anomalies" can cause breast development in males, and this would make sports appeal to many more viewers. Crowds go to the circus to see just one bearded "lady," so imagine how many people that would fill the empty

seats to see a stadium full of them.

Also the hormonal imbalance causes aggression called "roid rage." Aggression means fights and confrontations. Viewers love to watch fights. The major league would become reality television or a long-standing drama show. Or even better a real life action movie. Imagine the entertainment value of "roid rage," the number of viewers would be through the roof. This is show business, not morality. All that matters is money. Logically speaking, the athlete's health is secondary here. Here in America, money can heal these wounds. How many celebrities get off scott free from crimes, how many business just pay fines for reparations from terrible damages caused instead of actually helping? This is the American mantra, just throw money at the problem.

Dear Editor,

I read "Miley Cyrus is a Genius." When I first saw the title I disagreed, but once I started reading the article, I realized that she isn't as bad as I thought she was. I realized that she is just trying to break out of the name "Hannah Montana." She had to do something drastic to get people's attention as Miley, not Hannah. I still wouldn't call her a genius, but she knows what she's doing with her life, and her plan worked to get people to notice her as Miley Cyrus, NOT Hannah Montana anymore.
Alaina Cook, Freshman

Dear Editor,

"Power Walkways Provide Clean Energy." The title (and picture) caught my eye. The opening sentence was great, and it kept my interest in the article.

I would suggest mentioning the negatives of piezoelectricity (along with the benefits/positives!). I was interested in the negative aspects too, and they weren't mentioned. But other than that, great job on this interesting article!
Emma Greschak, Freshman

Dear Editor,

Applause goes to the author of the "Sex in Youth Culture" article. It brought up statistics, good points, and the social effects (such as girls being 'attacked' for their own choices regarding sex). Overall, it was a well written article and I'm glad to have read it.
Jennica Stanley, Senior

Justin Bieber's Dumb Moments may get him Deported



Breonna Burnside
Photo Editor Assistant

Scooter Braun and Usher discovered Justin Bieber, a young Canadian boy whose dreams were to become a famous singer/songwriter in 2008. Little did they know that soon after signing him to Raymond Braun Media Group then to Island Records, he would become just another celebrity to hit rock bottom.

On October 2011, 18-year-old Mariah

Yeater filed a lawsuit against Bieber for getting her pregnant after having sex with him when she met him backstage at one of Bieber's concerts. After finding out that Yeater made all of it up, Bieber wanted to sue her. Instead, Bieber wrote a song about her explaining his side of the rumor:

"Now she's in the magazines/ on TV, making a scene /oh she's crazy, crazy in love/And she's all over the news/ Saying everything but the truth/ She's faking, faking it all." He released it in his album "Believe."

On January 23, 2014 Justin Bieber got arrested for a DUI. He was charged with driving under the influence, resisting arrest, and having an invalid license from Georgia. During his arrest Bieber had to do a drug test. The police released the video of Bieber's drug test. Now police are saying they will take the shot out where Bieber's genitals are showing.

With all these convictions that Bieber

is making, he could get deported to Canada.

Based on all the events Bieber has been accused of participating in, the debate is

*"Now she's in the magazines
on TV, making a scene
oh she's crazy, crazy in love
and she's all over the news
Saying everything but the truth
She's faking, faking it all."*

-Justin Bieber

still on for whether or not this should be deported. If he does stay in the U.S he will continue making music, but the sound of his music will continue to change to more of a rap sound instead of pop. He has already done this new sound of music with Maejor Ali, Juicy J and Chance The Rapper.

If Bieber has made all these mistakes

over and over again, he is obviously feeling that because he is famous there isn't going to be any real consequences. There needs to be a huge consequence, like being faced with deportation, that will make him notice that he can't get away with everything.

According to latest YouGov polls, 52 percent of Americans want Justin Bieber deported.

Prom is not worth Smashing your Piggy Bank



Audra Penny
Business Manager

As dress shops prepare to open their doors to an endless sea of fancy dresses, one can only presume that it is finally that season again, prom.

Ah, prom, the one night where high schools all over the country host a dance for their upperclassmen. The students attend the dance but not before spending the whole day getting ready for this supposed "night of their high school career."

So why is prom considered the "night of the year" for high schoolers? Is it based off of the excessive money spent?

Senior Abbi Danek said, "Between my date and I, we spent around \$500."

In a survey conducted by USA today on the spending of prom, "Midwest families will spend an average of \$696 and up to \$744."

Spending nearly \$1000 isn't necessary to have one unforgettable night.

The first part of prom is actually being asked to the dance. All girls want to be asked to prom by their crush, but let's think realistically here. Some of the girls won't be asked.

Being asked to prom is usually the most exciting part because it's the very beginning of the process of prom, but what happens to those lonesome souls that don't get asked? Some are able to create a group with other girls or mix a group of guys and girls together and go as friends, but others have to decide if they even want to go. However, let's not forget about the guys in this "lovely" beginning part either.

"Between my date and I, we spent around \$500."

-Abbi Danek

The guys have to go through planning on how they are going to ask their special girl, and they try and make sure it is perfect in the eyes of their girl. Many guys spend hours trying to find the right idea, and once they have it, they have to put it into action. This means making arrangements to surprise the girl, and planning to make the way they ask her perfect. That's not even the stressful part. The stressful part is seeing if the girl will actually go with him or not.

Some guys plan a perfect way to ask, and the girls reject them. Just like girls, some guys will be able to find a group and attend that way, while others don't even attend.

The next part of prom is the "perfect prom night." Most girls, being fantasy driven people, of course want the night to be perfect. That means girls have to be perfect. Girls spend their whole day before the evening of prom getting their nails, hair, make up, EVERYTHING done.

Then there's finding the perfect dress. We spend a lot of time searching online, going back and forth between stores, squeezing into a variety of different dresses, just to find the perfect one for that one night.

In a "New York Times" article written by Merri Rosenberg, manager of White House/Black Market, Elizabeth Fragale said, "Fifty percent of our business right now is prom."

Girls aren't the only ones going through everything to make prom perfect; we still need the guys.

Since they are gentlemen, they're usually the ones that have to spend the money on everything. They have to make sure the transportation, dinner, corsage, and all other expenses are fully paid. Usually the girls don't have to pay for anything except for their attire and a boutonniere for their date.

Last but certainly not least, the

crowning moment of the King & Queen.

The popularity contest truly comes into play in this part of prom. Since students get to vote for who they want to be their king and queen, you usually know that it will be the popular kids of the school. Since when have you ever heard of a nerd or unpopular kid winning a prom except for in those feel-good movies? Rarely, if ever, in real life.

Prom can be a fun night, but it can also be a night of staying at home watching Netflix and eating junk food. Prom is meant to be a great night and one of the most meaningful high school experiences, but how great will it really be if you blow a ton of money just for a few hours of fun?



Photo Illustration / Lori Umbanhowar

Dear Editor,

I think there should have been more about freshman in the newspaper. When sophomores, juniors, and seniors see themselves in the school newspaper it doesn't really matter, but when someone on their first year in high school (freshman) see themselves in the school newspaper for something good matters to them, it makes them feel more welcome and it represents all freshman at Loy Norrix.

I'm not just saying this because I'm a freshman, I'm pretty sure sophomores, juniors, and most seniors would agree too. Nazir Rogers, Freshman

Dear Editor,

I liked the article called "Regrets of the Past School Years." It was well thought out and relatable. It's very true how we make decisions that we later regret. I would've liked it better though if more people were questioned. It would've been more interesting.

Kendra Curtis, Sophomore

Dear Editor,

I read the article about safe sex and I agree with it. I think that if teenagers are being taught so much about safe sex, then why do they ban it from websites? Students will never know how to make the right decision if they block all ways to get good information on the topic. I think the school should realize by now how many students have sex. So students should be able to go online if they want to receive information about it. So if somebody gets pregnant, the school could be somewhat at fault for that.

Claudia Ely, Freshmen

Dear Editor,

I really did enjoy reading about the past of Loy Norrix High School and how much better of a school that it once was and I also did enjoy reading about the freshman to senior year article. It's pretty obvious that things will change for the good or bad but this article could be a wake up call to a lot of people who may need it. Keep up the good work!

Mark Peterson, Freshman

Suicide is Not a Joke

Insensitive Humor Has Inintended Consequences



Emily Jackson
Co-Editor-in-Chief

"Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle."
-T.H. Thompson and John Watson

Over the past few years, every story about suicide, simply the mention of the word has struck a chord in me. In my sophomore year of high school a family member of mine committed suicide. When I got back to school, every time the topic was brought up in class (like with "Hamlet"), every joke a classmate made, even the word suicide itself became

overwhelming.

All of my teachers knew about what had happened and I could tell through every interaction that they were trying to be very sensitive. As I continued through my high school experience, I knew that I'd still be affected, but in truth I never realized how frequently the word would be tossed about.

You may think that you and the people around you have never been affected, that suicide is an issue that hasn't reached your sphere yet. In reality, you never know. Most people who have been affected in some way or another are not comfortable letting other people know. They may not say something for fear of being judged, or treated differently.

They may be afraid about how other people will react to finding out. They may even be afraid of their own reaction to the situation. Suicide is not an easy topic to discuss, thus it shouldn't be something that people try to make funny through their jokes.

It's true that suicide isn't just talked about in a joking way. Anyone who has ever

played a sport knows what a "suicide" is. It's a common term used in workout routines that has absolutely nothing to do with the actual word itself. However by the end people think the name of the workout makes sense, simply because of how much pain the athletes are in.

"Even the word suicide itself became overwhelming."

-Emily Jackson

Unfortunately, students who have been affected by suicide have to go to practice and hear the word just thrown about, like it doesn't matter.

Phrases dealing with suicide are also a big part of today's culture. The most common phrase I hear is when a person is in a bad position and they're making it worse, they are said to be "digging themselves a grave." According to The Free Dictionary, the phrase means "to do something stupid that will cause problems for you in the future." However, to

some people this could bring up unpleasant memories.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention over 38 thousand people die of suicide yearly. This number doesn't include all of the people that have attempted suicide. This number doesn't include the friends and families left behind. This number doesn't include the teachers and peers that are affected. This number doesn't even get close to the number of people that are affected each year by suicide.

Suicide isn't the only issue that people are beginning to take lightly. How can we as a society prevent offending people when we don't know their situation? As a society we need to start acting like everyone is going through or has gone through something drastic in their lives.

This means that we need to be more sensitive towards each person we come across. No more jokes about issues in our society, no more tossing about phrases that could hurt the people you are around.

Investment in Renewable Energy is Key in the Modern World



Jake Heasley
Web Opinion Editor

This winter has been one of the harshest winters in the last decade. With 113.5 inches of snow since October it is very easy to forget that some places around the world are experiencing the direct opposite. During the Winter Olympics, the snow in Russia was melting, and Australia just experienced one of the hottest summers on record. While many people use the cold as a point against the existence of Global climate change, one must look at the entire world to get an accurate measure of the climate, not just Michigan or the United States.

While climate change is one of the most heavily debated topics in politics, in the scientific community the debate is one-sided. According to NASA, as many as 97 percent of climate scientists believe that climate change (and the general warming of the earth) can be attributed to human activity, specifically the output of greenhouse gases like exhaust from cars and fumes from factories into the

atmosphere.

While the earth naturally goes through cycles of heating and cooling, the post-Industrial-Revolution world has seen warming that far exceeds the previous cycles. climate change is often attributed to the heating of the earth, but that is only a part of what it means. The surge of natural disasters that have happened in the past years can also be linked to climate change.

Many people like to joke about climate change by pointing out harsh winters, but it does not do the issue justice when only a single part of the overlying problem is considered. Deliberately ignoring part of the issue will only create ignorance and will do nothing to help the problem.

There may be a consensus on climate change in the scientific community, but that consensus is almost non-existent in the political arena. Oil and gas companies spend around 140 million dollars per year on lobbying in congress, while environmental lobbying expenses peaked at 24 million in 2009. The fact is, oil and gas companies have more money and people to lobby the government than environmental agencies do.

Renewable energy is one of the most important aspects of fighting climate change. While installing solar panels and other appliances can be costly, rooftop solar panels can cost 12 thousand dollars, they are vitally important when considering that in the next 50 to 100 years, the world will run out of

natural gas and oil according to the Society for Mechanical Engineers. While this time may seem very far away, consider the economic and social ramifications of completely running out of our main source of energy. Catastrophic would be putting it lightly.

When the majority of appliances in the United States run on coal or fossil fuels, running out of those resources would be disastrous. However, with investment in renewable energy, an economic catastrophe could be averted and the world would not have to build an infrastructure based around renewable energy while at the same time, experiencing a major energy crisis.

It should also be noted that oil isn't just used for fuel. Plastic is a byproduct of petroleum, a fossil fuel. Petroleum is also used in chapstick and other products. When we run out of oil, we will also run out of petroleum, which means we can have extreme difficulty making plastics and other petroleum based substances.

Oil companies stand to directly gain from not investing into renewable energy and that is why they lobby so hard in congress. Environmental lobbying can do nothing to fight back from the massive amount of money poured into lobbying from oil companies, and this monetary gap directly hurts the people who are not told the facts about renewable energy.

A 2011 poll from Rasmussen Reports stated that 69 percent of adults in the USA believed that it was at least "somewhat likely"

that climate scientists falsified climate change statistics. While it is always possible, it seems highly unlikely that there is a massive scientific conspiracy to push the agenda of global warming. This general disbelief of scientists in America can be attributed to the fact that news media does not show climate scientists nearly as often as it shows climate change skeptics.

Even if climate change is a myth and there happened to be a massive conspiracy throughout the scientific community, there is no point in fighting renewable energy. As I have said before, climate change or not, it is a fact that we will run out of fossil fuels in the next 50-100 years. There is nothing that will prevent that and the only thing that can be done to help prevent international disasters is to invest in renewable energy. At best, climate change deniers can be happy that they were right and then will face an economic catastrophe. And at worst they will experience the predicted effects of climate change as well as an economic catastrophe.

While short term gain can be lucrative for businesses considering the expense of some renewable energy sources, surely when considering the long-term consequences of not investing in renewable energy, the comparatively minor cost of resources like wind turbines and solar panels seem like a better scenario.

Dear Editor,

I just want to express my appreciation to Maxwell Evans, the editor of the article entitled "Diamonds in the Rough." Specifically the portion about Mac Miller's album Watching Movies with the Sound Off. I felt as if people slept on this album way too much. Honestly I didn't like Mac Miller very much, but that album gave me second thoughts about his range of talent. He broke away from the mainstream spotlights of hip hop and did what he wanted to do. This album was never about the money or sells, it was about the art. Yes, it's nice to be rich and have great assets, but don't forget the reason you started in the first place. This album was simply made to

bring the art back to the mainstream society. And the features were mad crazy also. Jalil Johnson, Sophomore

Dear Editor,

I do understand where Alexis Meinert is coming from. I do feel as though many people run because they believe it's a popularity contest, they would feel better about themselves. But I have also been nominated for the 2014 Winterfest court. No I did not do it for popularity or because "I just know" I'm going to win. I did it just to have fun! It's me and my boyfriend's last year why not just run and try to win.

People that do get nominated they just

usually want to be on court. Why? I don't know. I heard so many people say "I don't care if I don't win I just want to be on court or get the free ticket to the dance." In my eyes I think they really do care. If they don't win I'm sure there would be some bashing here and there but never a congratulations. I do feel like it should be more fun than competitive. But many people don't think like we do. Alexis Word, Senior

Dear Editor,

I fell in love with the article by Lian Wardrop "Miley Cyrus is a Genius." The side of someone who loves her and doesn't call her a dirty slut every five minutes was a good

change to call the young popstar a smart person for income and attention. Thank you for approving it, even though no one else wants to hear any more on her and twerking.

Reading the article written by Joe Santamaria, "Cuisine in Class: Students Bellyache over Food Policy" made me realize how irresponsible some LNHS students really are and how they were raised lazy. That if the entire student body knew how dirty the school can get when you throw your trash wherever, we could make a difference. The article stayed on topic, was very well written, and had much evidence to convince. Laura Martin, Freshman

TV Shows that Nobody Will Miss

“Breaking Bad” Sets the Standard for Good Television

Ben Dunham
Web Editor-in-Chief



With AMC’s “Breaking Bad” coming to an end last year and the final season recently becoming available for Netflix instant streaming, we are reminded of what a truly incredible show “Breaking Bad” was.

The plot became more and more interesting from season to season. The stakes were getting so much higher that we couldn’t help but come back for more. As the show gained popularity, the plot became more complex. What started off as a small, clumsy operation ended up with an organized meth empire.

The characters were all interesting and complicated, and everyone who watched the show had a favorite who they rooted for.

Finally, “Breaking Bad” came to an end that seemed too soon, but at the same time was so satisfying that it was okay. Our favorite characters were left in a good place, and all of our questions had been answered.

Looking back, it’s easy to tell that “Breaking Bad” ended at a perfect time; the action had come to a climax but had not gone on so long that it felt forced. Other shows, however, are not following this example. Let’s take a look at some shows that could benefit from taking a page or two from the book of “Breaking Bad.”



“Lost” seemed to start off as such a great show. The first episode left viewers with so many questions that they couldn’t help but come back. As the show went on, however, Lost started to become like an argument with the worst kind of person: all of our questions were answered with more questions. Things started to get so confusing that it appeared as if the writers gave up at some point and just started to make things up as they went along. The show got so complicated that it was almost impossible to keep up with everything that was going on. If you don’t believe me, just go to the Wikipedia page for “Lost” and read through the synopsis. If that makes any sense to you, you deserve a cookie.

What started off as a show about survivors on a spooky island ended up with a mess of confusing events that included flashforwards, devices that move islands and travel through time, and a light that represents all goodness in humanity. I had to re-watch the last season in order to truly understand how it all fit together, and even now I still don’t feel satisfied with the answers I was given to all the questions I had.

All in all, “Lost” started off as a great show with lots of interesting questions but ended up leaving the viewers with one big question: What?

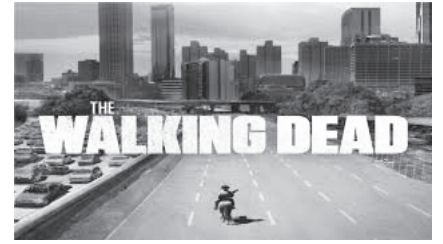


Seasons 1-3 of “Arrested Development” were incredible, and way ahead of their time. The show was witty, fresh, and had so many long-running jokes that watching episodes over again just made them funnier. The characters were so over the top that it was impossible NOT to fall in love with them. Each character had hilarious quirks about them, like a magician who hardly knew magic and the son of a billionaire who couldn’t afford to live in anything better than a model home.

It was a very sad day when the cancellation of “Arrested Development” was announced, but even in what was supposed to be the show’s last episode, there were still hilarious jokes being told at the show’s expense.

Then Netflix came along and brought it back to life by adding a fourth season last year. I was ecstatic about this at first. I wanted to fall back in love with “Arrested Development,” and be brought back to the days when I started watching it... But in the end, the Netflix reboot just falls short.

Yes, the new season has its moments of hilarity, especially when everything comes together in the last few episodes, but as a whole it’s just not the same. A combination of the aged actors and a plot that was hard to follow made me wish that “Arrested Development” could have just rested in peace, remaining in my head as it was in the first 3 seasons.



As a genuine fan of the show, it pains me to add “The Walking Dead” to this list. The first season of “The Walking Dead” was awesome. I mean, who wouldn’t want to watch a TV show about the zombie apocalypse? Admit it, you have a plan in your head in the case of a zombie breakout. “The Walking Dead” gave us exactly what we wanted -- a show where we could live out our zombie apocalypse fantasies.

However, after the first season, the show really seems to go downhill. I don’t remember a single thing that happened in season 2. Something about a farm? Season 3 picked up the action and really drew me back in, but along with that action came a deep-seated hatred for Lori, who made me want to throw something at the screen every time she made an appearance. Her character didn’t add anything interesting to the plot, and took all the excitement out of anything that was going on by adding in a useless, uninteresting story that had nothing to do with what was actually going on.

Finally, we arrive at the current fourth season. Although I have to admit that this is the most fun season to watch yet, the only thing that is really driving the plot is heartbreak. There is a ton of action, but in a show like “The Walking Dead,” action means death. Countless main characters are being killed off or otherwise taken from us, and I can’t help but think that eventually we are just going to run out of people to lose. Hopefully, I’ll be proven wrong and the series will really take a turn for the better, but as of right now I would be happy if things were brought to an end soon.

Make Believe vs. Reality

What the Movies Have Compared to What We Don’t



Alexis Meinert
Copy Editor

You reach out and slam your hand down on the snooze button to silence the buzzing. With a groan, you push yourself out of bed already dreading the day. The jocks will most likely spend the day shoving you into lockers or walls and throwing the contents of your backpack on the floor. Of course, you’re right and the torture

begins almost immediately.

Once their obnoxious laughter fades down the hallway, you break into a song that conveys the hurt you feel. That is until you wake up in bed, with the thought that maybe you’ve watched one too many high school movies. You push yourself up, chuckling, and prepare for a day of crowded hallways, annoying classmates and never-ending classes.

Real life is never the same as our favorite movies or TV shows seem to portray. No matter how hard we wish for it, our lives won’t be one giant party or an endless musical. Even with that thought in mind, we continue to love these movies and watch them as if they were on repeat. High school based movies, like “The Craft,” “Clueless,” or “Mean Girls” usually have musical numbers, giant parties or huge revelations in which the protagonist has a

moment of unadulterated clarity to solve their problems.

One main difference between these fictional high schools and the ones in reality is the “bad boy” illusion. Yes, we all know that one person that seems to get into constant trouble but that number seems to double once you become a sophomore.

A good, “bad boy” movie based in high school would be “Heathers,” starring Christian Slater and Winona Ryder. Slater plays the rebellious bad boy who tricks Ryder’s character, Veronica, into killing off the popular students.

In fictional high schools, such as Westerburg High from Heathers, there only seems to be a single bad boy. Sometimes they rule the school, and sometimes they’re at the bottom of the heap. However, that doesn’t seem to be the situation in reality.

Now, when thinking about these unreal schools, one thing comes to mind: cliques. Jocks, nerds, skaters, preps, the list goes on. Cliques were big in movies like “Mean Girls,” “The Breakfast Club,” and even “High School Musical.”

Sticking to the status quo was huge and treading the water outside of one’s safety zone would result in a complete social downfall within these lines. But in reality, we all mingle with one another. The group or groups we associate ourselves with tend to not only include all types of people, but also accept them. We appear to be more diverse than “High School Musical’s” own East High.

Speaking of “High School Musical,” there’s an example of one thing freshmen

see **REALITY** page 19

Caravan Palace Ushers in a New Genre of Electrtronica



Zo  Colotis of Caravan Palace singing “Jolie Coquine” at their concert in Pontiac, MI Photo Credit / Joe Santamaria

Joe Santamaria
Web A&E Editor

Combine the smooth, fluid flow of early twentieth-century swing with the hype, energizing beats of the modern “house music” and let the product bounce and hypnotize. One of the leading players in this hot new genre of electroswing is a group by the name of Caravan Palace.

The songs of this Parisian “Gypsy Jazz” group, at first, sound like a new house music, sampling the nostalgic, lucid tones from the roaring twenties to create some rockin’ hits. It’s not until an utter auditory dissection or a miraculous epiphany that the realization strikes; these are people actually playing instruments. Every melody is being played by either Charles Delaporte on double bass, Arnaud Vial on the guitar, or Hugues Payen on violin, with an added percussive, modern flavor.

Delaporte, Vial, and Payen are the three original members of Caravan Palace, who got their beginnings with “The Succiona Pichulas-Lagarto,” a small entertainment agency that provided the soundtrack to silent pornographic films. The trio recruited Antoine Toustou on trombone, Zo  Colotis on additional vocals (backup to Delaporte and Vial), Camille Barbier on vibraphone, and brushes.

With these newest members, the

group had all instruments covered for a good ol’ fashioned swing band. There were endless directions the sound could go, considering most members of the group also do some amount of programming (digital editing) or machine work.

From 2006 to 2007, they spent a year touring around France and secured their first festival appearance at the Django Reinhardt Jazz Festival in 2007. As the bibliologist for <www.f-cat.de> put it, “they start touring long before they even think about releasing an album.” After this appearance, the group was signed to the Wagram Music record label, of Paris.

In 2008, the Caravan Palace released their carefully crafted, self-titled debut album, “Caravan Palace,” following the release of their single “Jolie Coquine.” In their native France, this album reached a peak position of #11 on the French albums chart for 68 consecutive weeks.

This first album was composed of percussive head-banging beats, flawless arpeggios, smooth strings, and Chapi’s bright reed flare. The songs are some one might hear waiting in an elevator at one of J Gatsby’s lavish parties, as the soundtrack to Luigi’s Haunted Speakeasy, or something heard blasting out of a basement in the student ghetto.

With the additional use of fifteen vintage keyboards, the group’s second

album was released in 2012, titled “Panic,” as well as another album “Panic in the USA,” with a few bonus tracks, aimed at picking up more of an American audience. This long-awaited release followed the release of their singles “Rock it For Me” and “Dramophone.”

As they anxiously wait for the next album, fans speculate why it takes four years to drop. Every member of the band works in his own musical lab before exchanging files at night. Every song is excruciatingly edited down to a beat, and although it may not sound precise, the way it sounds is exactly the way it’s supposed to sound: foggy, flowing, fast.

On April 1 of this year, Caravan Palace embarked on their first US tour, with shows in Boston, and New York, then Chicago, but not before stopping in Pontiac, MI. That’s right, Pontiac. Just two hours away. Tickets were eighteen dollars, so i recruited some friends, and took my chance to feel the energized sound of this revolutionary group as a recording cannot replicate.

About three or four songs into the set, a friend of mine at the concert remarked “[I]t’s like I’m hearing music again for the first time.” These artists have the musicianship and the ability to create an astounding, pure, original flow, and a sound that characterizes one of the newest, most intriguing, and catchy genres.

REALITY from page 18

don’t experience walking through the doors of their new school. Nobody spontaneously bursts into song. Movies such as “High School Musical” or even “Grease” will be nothing but dialogue one moment, then they’re dancing around the cafeteria or a car the next. The people around them either join in or act like it’s nothing new, but let’s be honest. In real life we’d be getting some pretty weird looks.

Despite all these differences, there is one thing that fictional high schools have in common with the ones in real life: finding out who we really are and growing up. Growing up isn’t easy. Some of us have to do it quickly while others take their time and some do it without noticing. “Clueless” is a sweet, romantic comedy in which protagonist Cher, played by Alicia Silverstone, has a sudden epiphany that she’s spent too much time acting like a child. In “Sixteen Candles,” everyone forgets that it’s Samantha Baker’s, played by Molly Ringwald, sweet sixteen. She spends her day acting younger than she really is and has an idea of who she wants to be, only to realize that’s not what she wants at all. In reality, it’s easy to become lost in what we want to be rather than who we are. With all the comparisons one could make, growing up seems to be the most relatable.

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IDEALIZED



REALITY

EXTINCT from page 7

Black Rhinoceros (Diceros bicornis)

The black rhinoceros is not extinct yet, although its status according to the World Wildlife Fund is critically endangered. The horns are prized in North Africa and the Middle East for uses in medicines or as ornamental dagger handles. The animal’s horns are cut off, while the body is left to rot. There are an estimated 5,055 black rhinoceroses left in the wild.

North Atlantic Right Whale (Eubalaena glacialis)

The north Atlantic right whale’s habitat lies along the coasts of North America and Europe in the northern hemisphere. Its population used to be large until whaling for its oil increased. Current climate change has resulted in the dwindling populations of plankton—a major source of its diet—further reducing northern right whale numbers. Its status is critically endangered according to the New England Aquarium with a population estimated to be between 300 and 350.

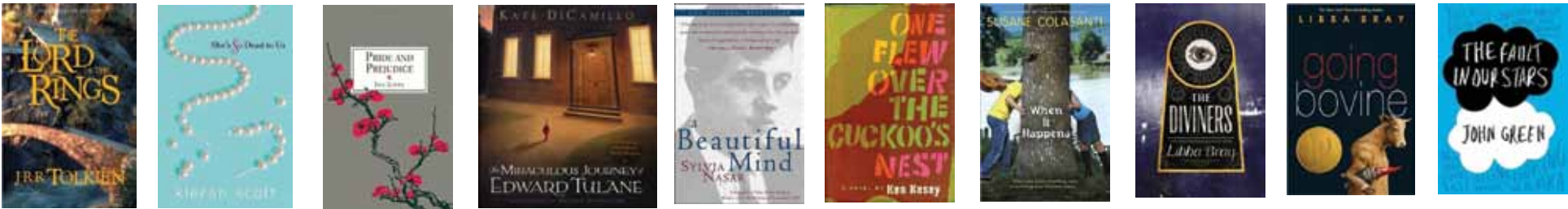
Koalas (Phascolarctos cinereus)

Koalas are iconic to the world for being the cute, fuzzy marsupials from Australia. Although the koala is not officially endangered, the species’ habitat is slowly being demolished, and climate change is affecting the health of its only food source, the eucalyptus tree. Rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere lead to the eucalyptus trees producing fewer

leaves. This means less food for the marsupial.

The Australian government said, “... koala populations in some parts of coastal Queensland and New South Wales face an increasing threat from urban expansion, disease, habitat loss, vehicle strike, and predation by dogs.” Steps are being taken in Australia to prevent the koala from becoming endangered.

The National Wildlife Federation lists five ways in which the protection of endangered animals is being achieved in the United States. They are, “defending and strengthening the Endangered Species Act, holding federal agencies and others accountable, advocating for increased funding for private landowner incentives, protecting and restoring habitats, and reducing threats to wildlife.” In our community, recycling remains an important aspect of keeping waste out of landfills, as well as reducing the amount of land that needs to be taken up to accommodate a greater amount of waste.



Loy Norrix Picks Favorites

Esteemed Books, Movies and TV Shows Among LN Students and Faculty

Jillian Ko
News Editor



English teacher Steve Griffin follows the yellow brick road with Dorothy and the gang. Photo Illustration / Jillian Ko

Movies

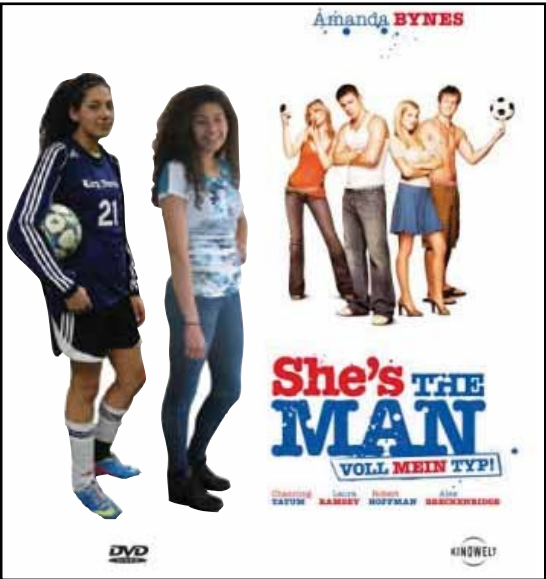
- The King's Speech
Inception
The Proposal
21 Jump Street
Catching Fire
I am Legend
We're the Millers
The Heat
This is the End
Ride Along
She's the Man
The Lorax
Spirited Away
Where the Wild Things Are
The Wizard of Oz
Memento
Finding Nemo
- The Wolf on Wall Street
Ender's Game
I Love You, Man
Cool Runnings
300
Friday
Divergent
The Hangover
Pulp Fiction
Fight Club
The Sandlot
Into the Wild
Up
The Notebook
Bad Grandpa
Schindler's List
The Grand Budapest Hotel



Alongside Dory and his turtle friends, Senior Tom Rupp listens intently to Marlin's tale. Photo Illustration / Jillian Ko

Books

- The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling
Divergent by Veronica Roth
The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien
1984 by George Orwell
The Guardian by Nicholas Sparks
Digital Fortress by Dan Brown
A Dog's Purpose by Bryce Cameron
Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
The Traveler's Gift by Andy Andrews
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
The Singularity is Near by Ray Kurzweil
Going Bovine by Libba Bray



Senior Kayla Dekoekkoek is the man. Photo Illustration / Jillian Ko

TV Shows

- Downton Abbey
The Walking Dead
Breaking Bad
Sherlock
New Girl
Pretty Little Liars
Modern Family
The Office
Gossip Girl
Avatar: The Last Airbender
Community
Game of Thrones
Parks and Recreation
- Scandal
Grey's Anatomy
SportsCenter
American Pickers
Pawn Stars
The Vampire Diaries
Lost
Spongebob Squarepants
Phineas and Ferb
Revenge
American Horror Story
Bates Motel
Orange Is the New Black

