

KL

KNIGHT LIFE

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KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN

SUMMER OF SORROW

CITYWIDE RISE IN VIOLENCE LEAVES LOCALS RADICALLY CHANGED

MAXWELL EVANS

Michael Day, 13. Unnamed 16-year-old. 19-year-old Alex Guidry. 19-year-old Christopher Adams.

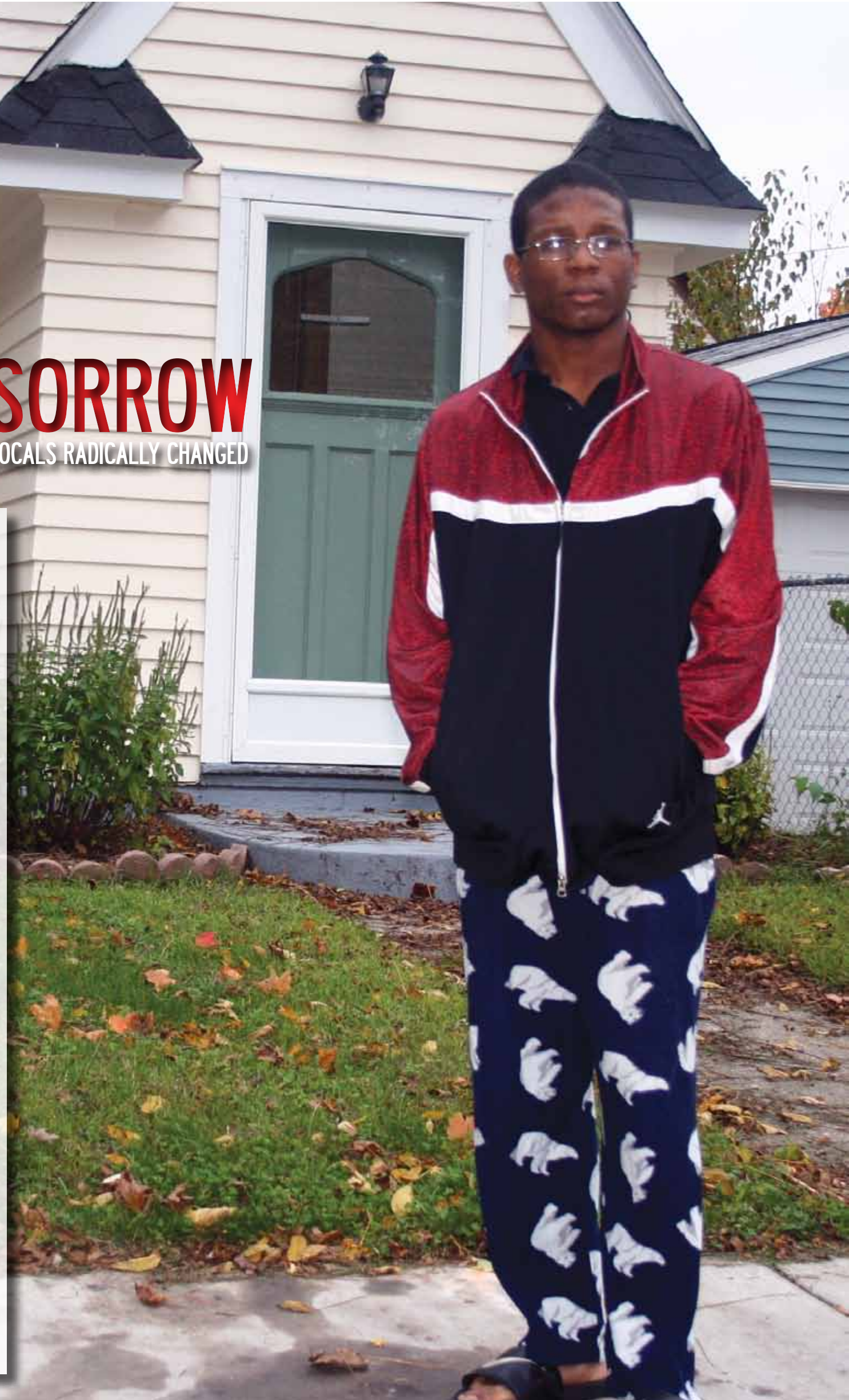
Based solely on the ages of these Kalamazoo residents, one might think that this list of names is a sampling of a school's honor roll. Possibly they represent four of the area's all-conference athletes. At the very least, maybe they are just randomly picked students from Loy Norrix or Kalamazoo Central.

Sadly, none of the above is true. The above-named teenagers are all shooting victims, and two of them, Day and Adams, suffered gunshot wounds which ended their lives at a far-too-early age.

The city of Kalamazoo suffered through a summer unlike many the city had ever seen. The killing of Michael Day on May 27th foreshadowed a summer in which gunshots became as routine as fireworks, 15-year-old kids were charged with open murder, and residents began to question the safety of the neighborhoods they lived in.

Summer 2014 began with the Michael Day murder fresh in mind, but Kalamazooans hoped to move on to brighter times. For Alex Guidry, this summer should have been a celebration of a major achievement: graduation. The Class of 2014 Norrix graduate was close to heading off to college in July, when she was at the Campus Habitat apartments near Western Michigan University.

SEE SORROW PAGE 4



U-KNIGHT AGAINST THE BLUES



The Loy Norrix marching band performs during halftime on senior night for football. They are dressed in their t-shirts featuring this year's show, Queen.
Photo Credit/ Jordan Liddle

Ashtyn Kenbeek

If we asked someone on the first day of school what they thought our school colors were, they might say teal, royal blue, or, hopefully, navy. One thing known about Loy Norrix High School is that we love the color blue. It

doesn't matter what shade it is, you will find it somewhere in the halls of LN.

So why doesn't everything at Loy Norrix have a specific shade of blue? We already have the blues spreading like a disease, always picking a new

shade, starting with the band.

As an extracurricular activity here at LNHS, the band performs for fellow students during the Homecoming and Winterfest pep assemblies, along with halftime at football games. They also participate in events in the Kalamazoo community including the Annual Holiday and Memorial Day Parade's. The band even performs for people from out of town. In March of 2013 they took a trip to Chicago to play in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Representing our school, the band's uniforms were *royal* blue.

This year, the band has been seen sporting black t-shirts with the halftime show theme on them, which is Queen, a British rock band. Now the band is getting new uniforms that will still be *royal* blue.

Page 18 of our student planner reads, "All Loy Norrix apparel/ spiritwear must be navy blue, white, gray, or black (or any combination thereof). This mandate includes athletic teams, school clubs and organizations, academies, and graduating classes."

"Personally I wasn't aware of the rule, and we've been having a new color and a new logo for a few years now," said drum major Marah Ranger.

It is apparent that all of the sports, clubs, and other organizations in our school like a different shade of blue from one another. With so many different shades of navy blue, it can be hard to pinpoint one single shade for every individual group to use.

When band director Rivets Drummer was asked what he thought about the rule he said, "It would have been a factor [when buying the new uniforms]. I would have pushed to get navy blue."

The unfortunate part of this story is not that the band is trying to be different than the whole school, but that they were not aware of the requirements when choosing the uniforms.

"What I try to get people away from is sometimes my teams like to get something like purple," Andrew Laboe said when asked the same question.

While walking through the halls of Loy Norrix, it is nice to think about all of the different shades of blue that we might see, almost like a scavenger hunt, but there comes a point where the school should eliminate the variations of blues so LN can be U-Knighted as one.

LEWIS UNWILLINGLY GIVES UP SENIORS TO FOCUS ON SOPHOMORES

Lindy Moored

The 2014-2015 academic year has brought new things to LN such as the new and improved tower, renovated lunch lines, and the smell of some new textbooks. Many of these changes are positive ones, there has been a major alteration at Loy Norrix that has left the Senior Class of 2015 disappointed.

As many at LN know English teacher Anne Lewis, the former Ms. Bowser, has for the last ten years taught College English, a college preparatory English course for seniors.

During the weeks in August when students went to orientation to pick up their schedules, Lewis was nowhere to be found on any senior's schedule next to College English. The well-known teacher was no longer the instructor of this class that she has fallen in love with and is known for.

Senior disappointment was strong when some members of the class of 2015 found out they couldn't get the Bowser/Lewis experience that former Loy Norrix students received.

"My brother said she [Bowser] was

a great teacher and he learned so much from her. I wanted to become a better writer in College English and I wanted a great teacher like Bowser," said senior Emily Cox.

For Anne Lewis, teaching College English was very near to her heart due to her passion for teaching and specifically, teaching seniors. So why does this Norrix-famous teacher not teach the course that she loves?

"I have no idea why I am not teaching the course. It was never explained to me," said Lewis.

This school year Lewis has a schedule focused on tenth graders and the reason behind this is to improve ACT and MME test scores according to Dean of Students Atiba Mckissack.

With freshmen getting a lot of attention because they are new to the building, juniors getting attention because they are getting closer to spring testing, and the seniors getting attention for all their college needs, the sophomores are the last in line to be tended to.

Sophomore year is the last full year to prepare before ACT and MME



Anne Lewis prepares her third period Honors English 10 class for the hour ahead. The class is about to take a survey before diving in to Lewis's lesson plan.

Photo Credit / Lindy Moored

testing during the spring of junior year.

"Bowser is one of the best teachers in regards to the John Collins writing system and she has the ability to sure up the younger group [tenth graders]

so they can have better ACT and MME scores," said Dean of Students Atiba Mckissack.

SEE SENIORS PAGE 5

STUDENT GOVERNMENT WORKS BEHIND THE SCENES

Carsten **Strand**

Class executive board elections always start out as a big deal. The elections are conducted; the president, treasurer, and secretary are selected. However, once the elections are over, the hype of the executive board suddenly disappears, never to be heard from again.

Some students claim that they didn't even know that there was such thing as school government. Whether you know about it or not, it is in fact making constant decisions for your class. Is it a lackadaisical, stress free position, where you attend one meeting a month and discuss pressing issues like, "should we allow the lights to be off at the upcoming dance?" Is the executive board helping to further the success of the student body?

Sophomores Madeline Skiles and Emma Greschak are part of the 2017 executive board, and have had a very positive experience with their board. The 2017 board was hard at work planning this past homecoming, and are in the final stages of planning for 2017 prom. The board has already reserved their prom site on Western's Campus for 2017.

"I've learned valuable lessons about leadership, organization, and compromise," said Skiles. These two say that the students make the majority, if not all of the decisions on these events, and the students are able to talk freely with their class advisor.

Then there are the students that

have had little to no contact with their executive board.

Senior Autumn Dietrich said "Last year's prom was wonderful, and the senior class executive board made that happen, but I don't really know who is on the board, or what other decisions they make, if any, other than the organized events." Dietrich continued that she doesn't know who is on the board. "If I had talked to anyone who was part of the executive board, I had no idea that they were a part of it," Dietrich said.

There are four executive boards in total, and all are responsible for different events throughout the year. Executive boards fundraise with things like spiritwear, car washes, and Little Caesars Pizza kits so that they can finance what seems to be the only thing they focus on; school dances and gatherings. Prom is by far the biggest; as it costs a few thousand dollars to simply reserve the sites. All of this has been lifted off the shoulders of students who didn't even know their class had an executive board. Thousands of dollars are poured into these events, but a large majority can't even point out a single executive board member.

So the next time you're dancing at winter formal, or stepping out of the car with your date to prom, just know that there was a group of students in your class that worked for yours, and the benefit of the entire student body.



Social Studies teacher Ryan Allen and the 2015 Executive Board discuss upcoming events. They are working on fundraising in preparation for Prom. **Photo Credit Carsten Strand**

FOCUS KEEPING KALAMAZOO IN ITS SIGHTS



FOCUS members plants a community garden. Members of FOCUS volunteer quite a bit of their time. **Photo Credit Drew Pawloski**

Drew **Pawloski**

If you like being involved within your community, then you might be interested in being a part of Focus Kalamazoo.

Focus Kalamazoo is a community service network founded at Western Michigan University. They help with multiple organizations and give people a chance to make Kalamazoo a better place. There are multiple

events and organizations within Focus Kalamazoo that you can be a part of. Focus Kalamazoo is creating community-based culture as hundreds of volunteers and organizations are prepared to assist with any community service events.

Loy Norrix alumni Tinashe Chaponda founded Focus Kalamazoo. Chaponda's goal is to have high school students stay more focused on school and keep their priorities straight rather than going out and partying.

"I just want to help kids stay on the right path and make the community a better place," Chaponda said.

After starting Focus over a year ago now, Chaponda is seeing his goals achieved because of participation by students like senior Lyric Kleber.

"After participating in some of the events with Focus Kalamazoo, I've realized that this organization can really make a big difference in the community," Kleber said.

Being involved in Focus can help make you feel better as a person. Doing things for Focus not only helps the community, but it helps you. This organization gives to the community by helping kids

stay on track, and not slack.

Focus Kalamazoo has many events happening all throughout the year, such as planting gardens, helping the homeless, supporting people in local 5K runs and building homes for the less fortunate.

Focus Kalamazoo really helps with kids in school. Helping your community can give you a more successful future within school because it guides you to stay focused.

"Doing something for the community has helped me stay on track with school. I love being able to continue to help with Focus," Worline said.

Just recently Focus Kalamazoo volunteered and helped out the Honors Society, with the support of Alpha Lambda Delta fraternity and many other volunteers in the local community. Focus also participates in the Bronco MOVE which assists incoming freshman move into the dorms and get situated. Focus Kalamazoo does multiple events and is waiting for you to help be involved.

If you are struggling in school and not being as successful as you would like, give Focus Kalamazoo a try and helping your community because you just might be helping yourself too.

SORROW FROM FRONT PAGE

The seemingly inescapable sound of gunshots found their way into her night.

The shooting was over an argument that occurred at the off-campus party. Words were exchanged, then a chair was thrown. As the fight spilled out into the parking lot, shots were fired and hit four college-age students, none of whom attend WMU.

Guidry was one of the four.

"I just looked down, and I was bleeding. I was shocked. It's really hard to know what to do in that moment," Guidry said.

A lone bright spot in the events at Campus Habitat that night was that no gunfire was returned. One of the biggest problems with violence is that it often causes more violence in retaliation. A 2003 report by sociologists Charis E. Kubrin and Ronald Weitzer states that 337 of 2,161 homicides they tracked over 10 years were "revenge killings."

There's no threat of retaliation from Guidry. She isn't the type to get even with her attacker. She just has anger. It's been difficult to direct that anger at someone, however. She still does not know the shooter's identity.

"Yeah, I've hated them, and I've gotten angry. I wasn't able to do what I love for a couple of weeks. That was really hard to get over," Guidry said.

Although she was born in Muskegon, Guidry considers Kalamazoo her home. She spent 15 years in the city before heading to college in Ypsilanti this summer, at Eastern Michigan



This house, on the corner of Reed & Race Streets in the Edison neighborhood, is steps from where Michael Day was gunned down. **Photo Credit / Maxwell Evans**

University. She was never previously concerned about safety in Kalamazoo, but after hearing about the recent violence, her opinion radically changed.

"I've heard about the shootings in Edison, and I know there was a party that got out of hand not long after I was shot," Guidry said. "This city has gotten a lot worse, mainly over this summer."

Her advice for anybody who feels that getting even or fighting back is the only way to resolve conflict is simple: don't do it.

"Violence is never the answer. I would say to just talk to somebody. A counselor, a police officer, anybody. Talking to somebody should be the way

to solve problems," Guidry said.

Hopefully, she can help change a growing climate of violence. Guidry is currently studying criminal justice at Eastern Michigan.

Despite her hope for change, Guidry isn't confident the city can turn things around. She finds it hard to believe that students will begin to talk out their problems instead of impulsively getting even.

"It's like little kids have guns now. People will shoot over anything nowadays, so I don't even know [what to expect]," Guidry said.

However, even as media coverage and fears about violence skyrocketed over the summer, the statistics suggest that the city as a whole does not appear to be getting any more violent. According to the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety, as of October 10, the 2014 murder count was four. This is on pace to be far less than the 2012 count of nine.

To some, like senior Ben Miller, the violence isn't any reason to be afraid of their neighborhood or city.

"A majority of the events that occurred were gang-related," Miller said. "Personally, I have no gang affiliation, so I'm not directly afraid of anything."

Edison resident and senior Briana Kent feels that violent tendencies have always been an issue, and that the summer's problems are nothing new.

"When you grow up in a neighborhood and [violence] happens continuously, it becomes normal," Kent said. "It's not going to run me out of where my home is."

"It happens everywhere."

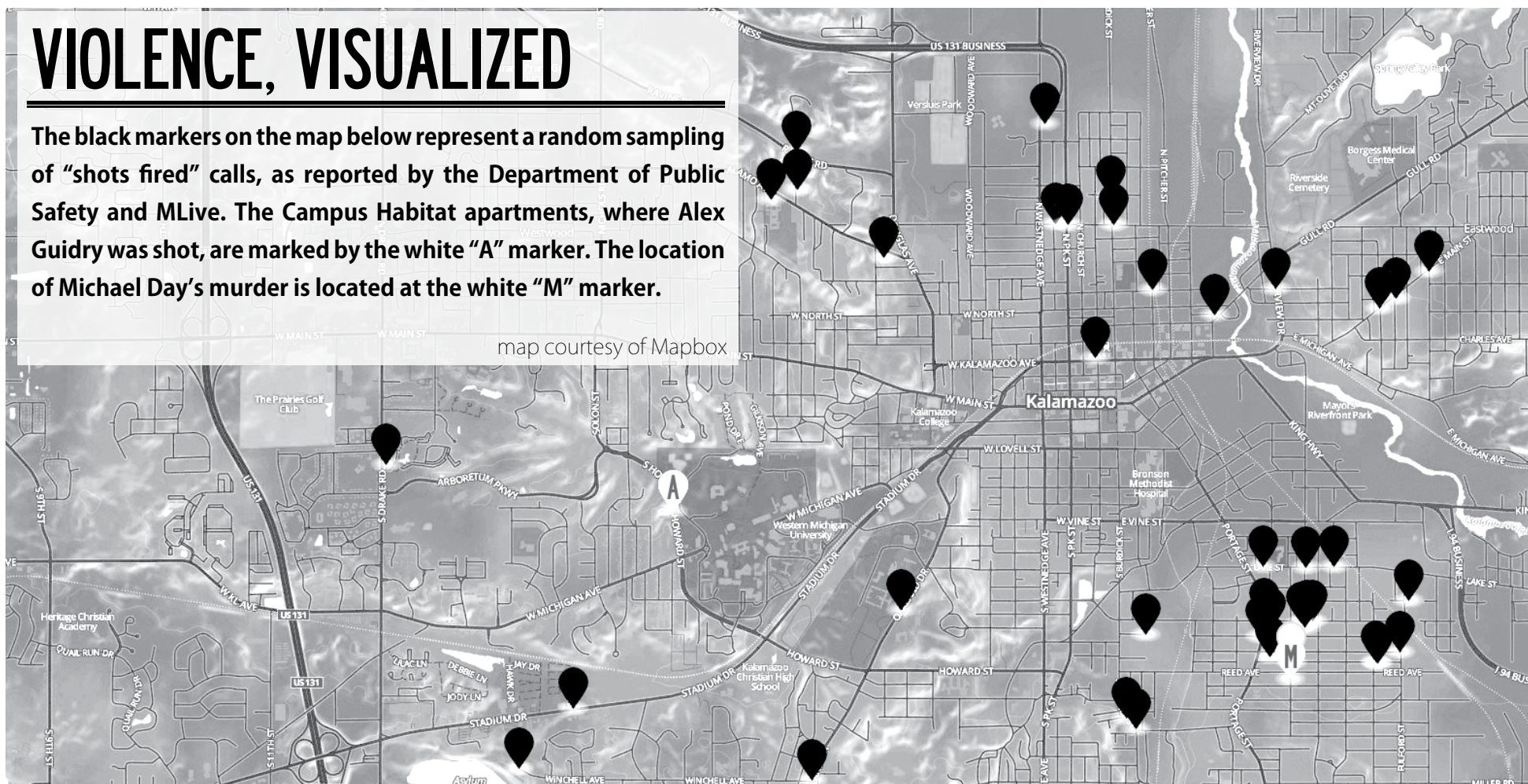
The problem with this summer wasn't violence in general, it was youth-on-youth violence. Residents are becoming shaken by the sheer juvenility of the victims. Although there have been only four murders in Kalamazoo this year, two of them were Adams and Day. That means that half of the city's homicide victims this year weren't even able to see their 20th birthday.

front page: Edison resident and Norrix senior Sentrelle Kelley stands on the spot where a memorial for Michael Day once stood. **Photo Credit / Maxwell Evans**

VIOLENCE, VISUALIZED

The black markers on the map below represent a random sampling of "shots fired" calls, as reported by the Department of Public Safety and MLive. The Campus Habitat apartments, where Alex Guidry was shot, are marked by the white "A" marker. The location of Michael Day's murder is located at the white "M" marker.

map courtesy of Mapbox



SENIORS FROM PAGE 2

Some LN seniors chose to take College English for the sake of receiving their English credit, but also to have the highly appreciated teacher.

“I would have liked to have Ms. Bowser as a teacher because she prepares her students for college,” said senior Kristen Fuller.

“Before I took College English with Ms. Bowser, I thought she would be cold, and I heard she was challenging. I soon found that I was able to warm up to her and she really makes you try,” said class of 2014 graduate Robert LaCroix.

The most valuable part to Lewis about teaching

this course is that she really loves the material she has chosen to teach the seniors.

“Bowser taught her College English classes how to properly use APA format, how to look for the important things in books like symbolism, and how to gather information on a researched topic,” said LaCroix. “All of these things are so useful as I dive into my first year of college.”

“I feel that what I taught to the seniors was exactly what they needed at the right time in their lives. It’s mature and they appreciate what they learn,” Lewis explained.

As a final English course for a senior before they went on their way to college, College English was very

near and dear to Mrs. Lewis’s heart.

“I loved being a portal through which they [her students] exited this phase of their life. I loved giving them that last piece of knowledge,” said Lewis.

This school year, Lewis finds the tenth-grade gig “way different” than running a class of seniors. She wants the seniors to “not be discouraged” that she cannot be your teacher.

“I would tell the students I would have had that I was really looking forward to having them more than they will ever realize. Teach yourself the same things I would have taught you by being aware of the world around you and your place in it.”



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STUDENTS BECOME RESOURCEFUL TO ESCAPE THE I.D. BIND

Lori Umbanhowar

Panic strikes and my hand shoots to my chest, feeling for the navy blue lanyard that hangs from my neck from the moment I get on the bus to the moment I leave the school. I dig through my bag and the security guard at the school door calls out, “You must have your ID visible and around your neck!” I need my ID, five dollars, anything. I find nothing.

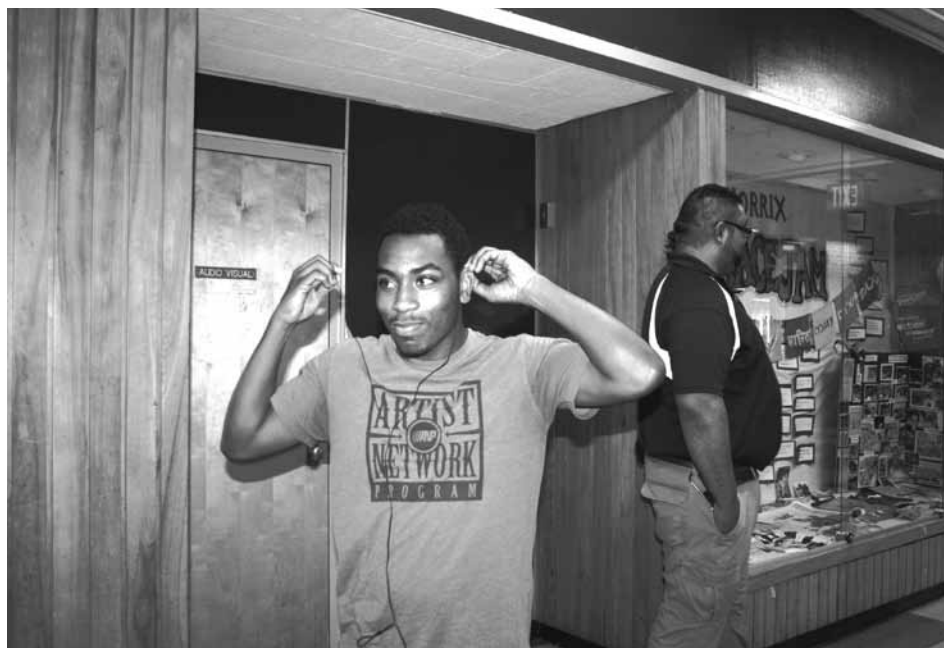
So what can a student do when they become stranded outside of those crowded double doors?

Not every student carries money every day, and not everyone anticipates forgetting their ID at home. Your friends are pretty unprepared as well, your mom and dad can not leave work, so you are left with the option of sitting in the “Reclaiming Center” all day or walking home.

Assistant Principal Kelly Hinga spoke in contrast to the handbook’s tone, she gave the ID system a more human or softer feel. She explained that the security team was more willing to meet students halfway and make sure they get to class, even if that means asking the student to bring in the money for a new ID badge the next morning.

“Where we wouldn’t do that would probably be for a student who’s, like I said, when it turns into it’s not an ID issue. It turns into a defiance or disrespect issue,” said Hinga.

Students often opt for the more



Senior Jamel Townes keeps his ID badge in his backpack and only wears it in English teacher Tisha Pankop’s class. Students do not encounter enforcement of the ID system in many areas of school. **Photo Credit / Lori Umbanhowar**

creative options outside of school policies. Among these are wearing old IDs, wearing a friend’s, claiming they are headed to the guidance office to buy one then just going to class, or, the most scandalous of all, walking into the school with a fake ID.

The last of these is the most dangerous because it shows that if our students can get into the school without a real ID then it is a very real possibility that outsiders can slip in as well. While this is a very scary possibility, it is still

interesting to see what student’s can get away with.

Senior Syri Runyan-Abanilla used a shrinkydisk (small piece of a plastic craft project) to enter the school for about three months during her sophomore year. Syri was then asked if a person who posed a possible security threat could get into the school the same way she does.

“Well yeah. I walk in every day without an ID,” Runyan-Abanilla said.

She later went on to say that she

has not worn her ID around her neck in the past two years of school.

This issue of people slipping in without IDs has reduced as of this year with the security at the front doors, but inside the school it is less formal. Observing the hallways one can pick out students who have decided to not even wear the ID.

On the matter of security, the idea of wearing ID to protect you might be a bit flimsy, but it is a system that may follow you throughout life. In college, in a career, and even on a driver’s license. Just because you do not wear all of these around your neck, you are required to always have them on your person.

If one is to take advantage of the imperfect ID badge system in school, now they will have less severe consequences than they would out in the “real world.”

Colleges like Ferris State University use student IDs to help students access their records and to get into certain areas of their campus, including the student housing. Getting into the habit of always maintaining your ID badge could help you avoid unfortunate late-night lockouts.

Until then take a deep breath. A forgotten ID happens to plenty of people, it does not mean it is the end of your day so soon. There are plenty of other possible ways to get into the school. Just exactly how is up to you.

GAP YEARS PRODUCE A NEGATIVE AURA, BUT OFTEN HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON STUDENTS



Ginny Creamer talks to Sam Siegel about plans after high school. Creamer plans on taking a gap year to focus on her art. **Photo Credit / Rachel Wheat**

Rachel Wheat

“Where are you going to college?” or “what college are you looking at?” is the dreaded question students are asked on a daily basis.

People don’t think about the fact that many students don’t want to go straight off to college right after high school. A gap year is certainly not the social norm and is often looked down on, but to many students a gap year is really important and necessary to their success and happiness later in life.

A gap year is when a high school graduate takes a year off school instead of going straight to college or a higher level of education. Taking a gap year after high school can help a young adult decide what they want to do in their life or where they want to go. Seventeen and eighteen year olds typically don’t all have their life put together, and chances are they have no idea what they want to do in the future.

“Wanting to do a gap year has nothing to do with not wanting to go to college, I look at them as two separate

things,” said senior Ginny Creamer who is planning on taking a gap year after graduating.

According to the “Huffington Post,” a gap year gives a young person more time to figure out what they want to do, this gives them time to mature and also time to figure out what they really want to accomplish in the future. Here at Loy Norrix, college is being pushed, through posters, teachers nagging, and college administrators selling their school to us. Five to ten emails come through each day. A message is being portrayed that if you don’t go to college right away, you will not succeed.

College is certainly not a person’s only option after high school; there are plenty of options such as working and making some money before starting college or even attending a trade or technical school. Eventually a higher education is a smart idea, but often it’s not critical right after you graduate. Creamer is considering doing Americorp, which is like Peace Corp

SEE GAP YEARS, PAGE 19

PROS AND CONS GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF SCHOOL



Students enter Loy Norrix at the Tower at 7:30 a.m. They are ready to tackle their fifth week of school.

Photo Credit / Evelyn Banks

Evelyn **Banks**

“Ant-ant-ant-ant!” It’s the first day of school and you’ve rolled over about six times to snooze your alarm clock. You’re lying there in the dark when you finally decide to crawl out of bed and get dressed. All you can think about is how excited you were last week to get back to school.

Then you remembered the part all students hate the most, getting up 6 a.m. in the morning and trying to function off of 3 hours of sleep.

Most students and staff are excited to get back to school until things start to get serious.

“Compared to four weeks ago I feel more stressed, and like I have no time to do anything,” senior Zacara Savage said.

No more all-nighters

taking selfies with your best friend or late night phone calls. Homework starts to come in from every direction and instead of going to see the new movie coming out this Friday, you spend your weekend doing that two page paper that’s due in English next week.

“The excitement is over and reality has kicked in,” Loy Norrix business teacher Atiba Ward said.

KPS recommends that high school students to have 90 to 120 minutes of homework and 30 minutes of reading a day.

School comes with a lot of responsibility and what seems to be never ending work.

“I am way too busy and stressed now,” senior Imara Bowers said. “I would rather be at KVCC all day.”

Despite all the work, lack of sleep and getting up at 6 AM, getting back into the swing of

school is not all bad.

“School helps you learn new things, try new things, and it keeps you busy,” said Savage.

“Now that school is in session, it gives me a chance to get out of the house during the day,” said Bowers.

Along with students learning new things, staff and teachers also have to adjust to new responsibilities, like the new grading system eSchool.

“I have had to learn how to use eSchool,” Ward said.

Getting back into the swing of school isn’t easy for everyone. Sometimes it’s tough to transition and change things you have gotten used to doing.

For example it is really hard for some students to be able to sleep in for 3 months and suddenly have to wake up at 6 a.m. It is also tough when you have to worry about doing homework for five different classes and you don’t even know where to start first.

“I had to learn time management. My time has to be divided between my chores, work and clubs at school,” Savage said.

Using data from a nationally representative sample of 10th-graders, a psychologist at Loyola University in Chicago found that students spend an average of five hours a week on extracurricular activities. Just seven percent of kids participate in 10 or more activities a week and three percent spend more than 20 hours a week in structured activities. Eighty percent of students have part-time jobs that take up to 18 hours a week.

“Homework, staying organized and time are the cons of getting back to school,” Bowers said.

Despite having to spend almost seven hours at school and have their lives revolve around an inconvenient schedule, education is very important to the students at Loy Norrix. They learn to manage time and make sacrifices in order to put their education first.

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SOPHOMORES LOVE NON-FRESHMAN LIFE

Sophia **Boismier**

Starting freshman year can be very overwhelming. You have to find your way through a school that's completely foreign, deal with six feet tall people that are 5 years older than you, and some of them have beards.

You are no longer at the top like you were in middle school and have dropped all the way to the bottom of the high school hierarchy. Your name disappears and you suddenly become "little freshmen." The stereotypes that come along with the freshman status don't help at all either. Freshmen are too immature, freshmen are annoying, they are too young, the list goes on.

"I call them 'fresh meat freshmen,'" said junior Sidney Ellis.

When asked if there was a visual difference between freshmen and sophomores, freshman math teacher John Larson didn't hesitate to share his opinion.

"Absolutely. It's a maturity thing. The big change happens later in the year, before Thanksgiving through the end of Spring Break," said Larson.

It's funny how one short year



Sophomores (left to right) Tony Dougherty, Lizzie Ko, Rease Hammel, and Alaina Cook enjoy conversation during third lunch. With all of the demands of high school, it's nice to have a break with friends. **Photo Credit / Sophia Boismier**

later, one word, will change your life, sophomore.

Once you step through those Loy Norrix tower doors starting your sophomore year, it feels like a tremendous weight has been lifted off your shoulders. You are no longer judged by your grade but by your personality.

"[I'm] not looked down on by everyone," said sophomore Lizzie Ko.

"It's nice not to have that [freshman] stigma over my head," sophomore Nora Hilgart-Griff said.

Sophomore year is the year that you're an experienced high schooler. You actually know where you're going.

"[I] don't feel stupid carrying

around a map," said sophomore Tony Dougherty.

Once you have some high school experience, you know how to manage your time better. Time management is key when the avalanche of homework starts tumbling over you, but as you start to climb up the grade tree, more responsibility and pressure is piled on you to get better grades and prepare yourself for college. The classes get harder and the expectations get higher.

Sophomores get the chance to take AP U.S. History, Honors Chemistry, EFes/EFAs and other advanced classes while adults expect them to be more responsible and mature.

"You don't get many opportunities [as a freshman]," said Hilgart-Griff, "People underestimate you."

With that freshman title removed from your name, you have more room to show your true colors and start living up to your full potential.

"Now I'm used to [high school]," said sophomore Alex Chervenak, "I know I can finish this."

AP CLASSES ARE WORTH THE EFFORT

Lars **Johnson**

There are few students who would truthfully say they enjoy battling through hours of homework every night for nine and a half months. Regardless of this, 486 Advanced Placement (AP) exams will be taken by Loy Norrix students in May.

Oftentimes, such work loads can strain students, particularly those who are not used to rigorous classes. This sort of duress can cause stress to build up and fester. While some students seem able to seamlessly adjust to immense quantities of work, there are just as many who require additional practice. So if you find yourself struggling in AP courses, take heart, you are not alone.

"One of the things I struggled with was studying and keeping up with the work," said senior Sean Cummings, a student in AP Statistics and AP Psychology.

Before you resign yourself to drowning under a mountain of textbooks, notes, essays, obscure formulae and flashcards, know that there are ways to survive difficult courses without too much torment.

If ever you find yourself in need



Ellie Epskamp-Hunt engages in a lively mock debate regarding the morality of sixteenth century papal indulgences in her AP European History class. Such complex activities are fairly common in AP courses. **Photo Credit / Lars Johnson**

of aid, teachers and other students are excellent resources for help. Senior Ellie Epskamp-Hunt has completed 11 AP courses without too much grief.

"Don't leave everything to the last minute," Epskamp-Hunt advised.

"Reread chapters if you have time; it helps."

Procrastination is a common affliction among high school students, but time management is critical to being successful in advanced classes.

Teachers understand that the transition to higher level courses can be difficult, and they are more than willing to offer support and advice. If you ever find yourself confused, it would behoove you to seek your instructor's assistance.

"The biggest struggle for students is getting used to the reading," said AP composition teacher Brianna English.

English said that that communicating with the teacher and keeping up with work is key to being successful in an AP course. Like Epskamp-Hunt, English also believes that good organizational and time management skills are very important attributes for AP students to possess.

Getting a good score on the end of the year AP exams is a major concern for many students. It is difficult to get a high score on an AP exam, but they are not necessarily few and far between.

Based on data collected from the 2013 AP score distributions on the College Board website, 59 percent of students passed AP exams with a score

of three or higher while 34 percent received a four or a five on the exams.

Many colleges only award credit to students who receive a four or five.

These statistics suggest that although it may be somewhat difficult to do, there is a fighting chance that your struggle through an AP course will not be in vain.

Loy Norrix was host to 21 AP exams last year, with 38 percent of students receiving a three or higher, and 17 percent receiving a four or a five. According to Loy Norrix's Dean of Students Atiba Mckissack, Loy Norrix aims to see 50 percent of its students receive a passing grade on their AP exams.

"The key to AP is discipline," Mckissack said, "Students should embrace the learning, and create a sacred time in their schedule to study."

AP classes are designed to challenge students and provoke a deep intellectual curiosity. Getting a five on the exam may seem like a far-fetched dream, but it's not as hard as you might think. A lot of growth can take place over a year, and careful adherence to coursework can glean fruitful results.

WORK, EDUCATION, MARTINIS NORRIX JUNIOR BALANCES EMPLOYMENT AND SCHOOL



Junior Saevon Ivy chases the action at one of his last home soccer games versus Hackett. **Photo Credit / Clayton Barker**

Clayton **Barker**

Juggling a job and getting an education is very difficult. The U.S. Census reports that 25 percent of high school students, 16 and older, have a part-time job. Many students at Loy Norrix High School experience this. The idea of having cash in your pocket is enticing. Whether you spend your money on clothes, food or even support your family it's a luxury to make your own money.

Junior Saevon Ivy is one of these hardworking students, not only at his local job but also in the classroom and on the soccer field. Saevon works at Martinis, a restaurant serving Italian food. When looking for a good part-time job, many students look for a job close to home.

Saevon said he applied because "It was right by my house, and one of my friends worked there."

Saevon admits it's hard work, as he mainly buses and washes dishes. Two endless tasks that take place in the kitchen. The hardest jobs said Ivy are, "Cleaning the pots and pans, and the slippery grease. You have to take scrubbers to clean them and there always a lot of them."

Homework is another major factor

in high school. Most students have up to 2-6 hours of homework a night, and that's not counting studying for tests. Saevon is also on the varsity soccer team that practices every day after school and games. Ivy hates when his work schedule interferes with soccer.

"Man, I'm really working hard, really long hours too, I wasn't sure I could do it," Saevon said informally as he expressed how tiring working with school can be.

As difficult as all this may seem for Saevon, he is not alone as other high schoolers live this life. Ivy likes to look to the bright side. Italian is his favorite food which is what Martinis mainly serves. Saevon raves on certain food and said, "They have really good garlic bread, it's amazing."

Some other perks Saevon uses as motivation for work is the other food Martinis puts out. "Sometimes they set out crew pie, or let you order for free," said Ivy.

Ivy also likes when Martinis whips up a crew pie, which is a pizza made specifically for the staff. As busy as Saevon seems to be, he manages school, work and a sport all at once.

"SUPER" SENIORS' FINAL YEAR MIGHT BE SUPER AFTER ALL

Katie **Srodes**

Wow, super?! Seniors being called "super" for staying back a year does not quite capture the feelings they experience themselves. From kids the same age graduating high school before them, to being behind another year, these students have more troubles to deal with than they might have thought just starting out freshman year in high school.

High school is the beginning of new things and so many more opportunities to have fun. But what happens when that fun is what gets too be too much to stay on track? Although high school can seem like all fun and games, staying focused to graduate in four years is the most important math any student should know.

Freshman year is the game changer and can lead to a grand four year experience, or a little more time in high school than some would have thought.

This year is a very pivotal moment in many students lives. Even though it may not seem like it, this year will

decide a student's future success in education.

"Freshman year I wasn't interested in anything but goofing around," said fifth year senior Jamel Townes.

Townes is an example of a student who let freshman year just get the best of him. However, as time had progressed, so has Townes' attitude. He still feels much of his learning comes outside of the classroom, but admitted to education growing on him.

According to a research project at the University of Chicago called the Consortium for Chicago School Research, "freshman who earn a B average or better in their freshman year graduate." This may seem to be an easy concept to grasp, however, the harder part is that, according to the Consortium "freshman with less than a C average are more likely to drop out than graduate." Every moment in high school matters.

Although freshman year may dictate the next years of high school, the most life-changing year



Super Senior Jamel Townes listens to a lecture in Mr. Labadie's health class. He is expected to graduate after the first trimester. **Photo Credit / Bre Burnside**

undoubtedly goes to the seniors. Decisions are made if college is in the future, or a job, travel, or staying home. These decisions take into account every

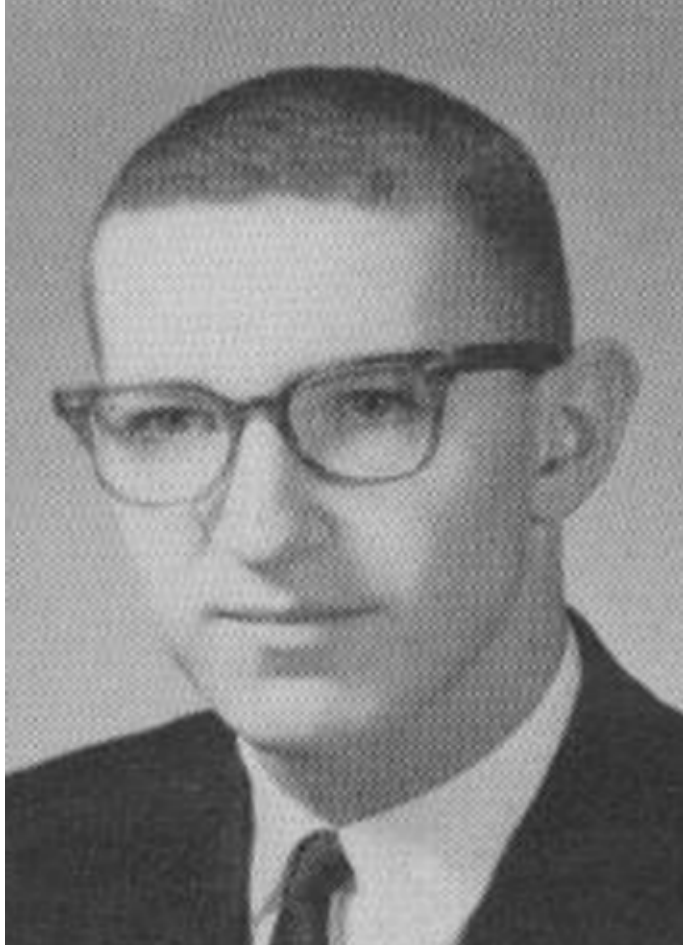
factor seen throughout high school, and retaking senior year is not always so rare.

SEE SUPER SENIORS PAGE 19

THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW ORIGINAL NORRIX GRADUATE REFLECTS ON THE SCHOOL’S PAST



Ron Commissaris leaps for the basketball. He soars above the other players. The team came in second place in the championships in 1961.



Ron Commissaris takes his senior picture in 1961. He is ready to start his life. The adventure has just begun.

Caitlin Commissaris

Imagine walking into Loy Norrix the first year it was open. The desks never used, lockers polished and bathrooms sparkling with cleanliness. The students used to call Loy Norrix “The Glass Palace” or “The Country Club” because it was built unlike any other school around and was even featured in architectural magazines at the time.

My grandfather, Ron Commissaris, was in the first graduating class at Norrix in 1961. He spent 10th and 11th grade at Kalamazoo Central, but when Norrix opened, his class got to decide whether they wanted to attend Norrix or Central. He chose to attend Norrix because it was closer to home and all of his childhood friends from his neighborhood were going to Norrix as well.

Since he was a senior, his class got to vote on the school mascot (the Knights) and the school colors, blue and white. Ron was on the football, basketball, and baseball teams his senior year. They didn’t win any football games that year, but they did come in second place in the basketball championship. He was the captain of the baseball team that won the championship for baseball that year as well.

More than 50 percent of students attended each game. There were no women sports at the time. There were also no security guards or officers at the school because there wasn’t any need for them.

“Drugs weren’t around at the time, so there weren’t any problems with them. If a student got caught

leaving school to go to Milham Park they were immediately suspended for three days,” Ron said.

My grandfather met my grandmother, Sue Commisaris, in art class at Norrix, although they didn’t really start talking until after he graduated. Sue rarely got into trouble but once she made an unfortunate mistake.

“Well, once in science class we were doing an experiment with raw eggs, and I threw one out the window. It ended up hitting someone in the head. I received a detention,” Sue said.

A lot has changed since Ron graduated. Now, we have multiple security guards and a police officer here during school hours. There is a visible problem with student behavior at Norrix today in some classrooms.

Since there were no cell phones in 1961, students had to pass notes or get together to communicate. Now, if a student is rude to a teacher, they can be sent out of class by security and get a referral, but they will still be back in class the next day.

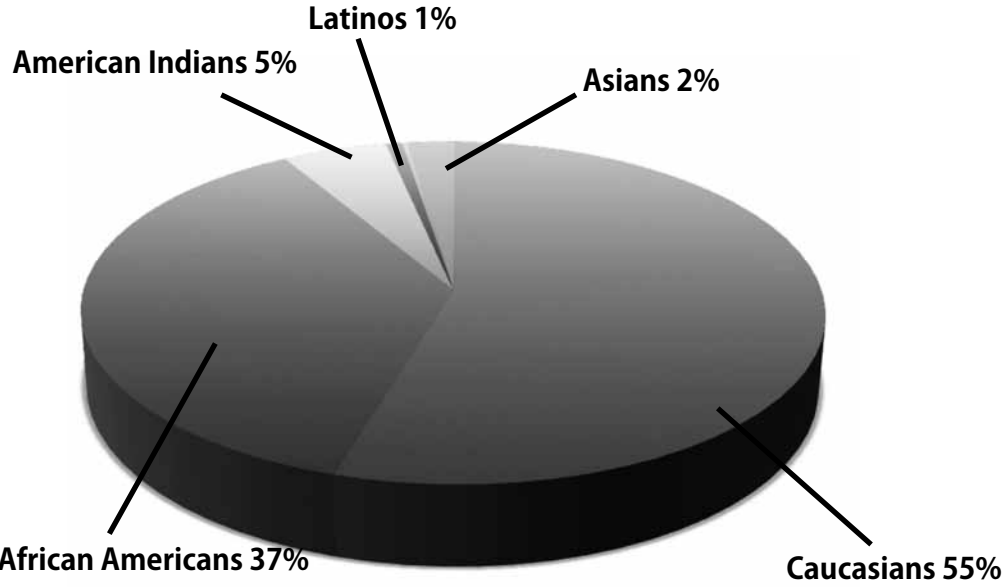
If a student spoke rudely to a teacher back then they would’ve been suspended and possibly expelled, according to Ron. He and his classmates usually wore very nice, fancy clothing to school. Today it’s hard to even get students to dress up for dances.

There is also a lot more diversity at Norrix today. In 1961 there were only 3 African American students Norrix. Today at Norrix there are 586 African Americans, 82 American Indians, 37 Asians, 13 Latinos, 4 Native Hawaiians, and 865 Caucasian students out of 1,587 total students. That means that only 1 percent of students were African American in 1961, and 37 percent of Norrix is African American today.

I wonder what my grandfather would say if he saw Norrix today.

“We wanted to leave a legacy,” Commissaris said. They most certainly did.

ETHNIC GROUPS IN LOY NORRIX 2014



KNIGHTS SPEAK AFTER 50 YEARS

On September 26, Loy Norrix’s graduating class of 1964 took a tour of LN as part of their 50th class reunion celebration. Guided by Link Crew leaders, the ‘64 graduates walked the halls to reminisce on their high school years and see the changes around the campus that have occurred since graduating 50 years ago.

“Do you remember me?” and “Did we date in high school?” were among the many phrases overheard on the day of this celebration.

SUZANNE SCHAUER



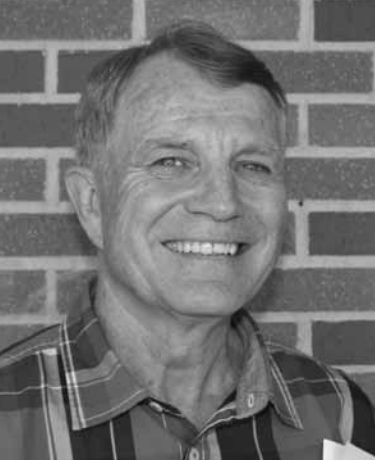
Suzanne Schauer discussed some of the changes that have occurred over the years. She said that segregation was a problem and there were very few African American students at Loy Norrix. She also described a gender gap, males working in factories and woman working at home or as a nurse or teacher.

STEVEN KESTERSON



Steven Kesterson said high school was a good time for him. “The 60s were the best times to be a teenager. There was always something to do. There was so much work, and if you got fired on a Friday, you could be hired by Monday,” said Kesterson.

TOM BOMMERSBAUCH



Tom Bommersbach was happy to be back at Norrix. “I really wanted to see the old hallways where I used to stand and talk to girls and friends I did sports with. It was very sentimental to see old friends and those I still keep in touch with,” Bommersbach said.

COMING TO AMERICA



Alma Grosjean
Sophomore
Belgium



Maria Pons Santamaria
Senior
Spain



Maria Redondo Martinez
Sophomore
Spain



Felipe Mazieiro
Senior
Brazil



Remi Comte-Offenbach
Senior
Belgium



Natasa Ilic
Senior
Serbia



Lena Blochle
Senior
Germany



Jon Schmitt
Senior
Germany



Julio Fernandez
Senior
Spain



Sofie Hauge
Senior
Norway



Nathan Carletto
Senior
France

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS ACCLIMATE TO AMERICAN CULTURE

Hannah **Stempky**

There is something quite fascinating about traveling abroad. The idea of submerging oneself into a new culture can consume one with wanderlust and keeps them daydreaming. For some students this dream won't be lived out until after high school, while other Loy Norrix students are living it right now.

This year Loy Norrix has welcomed foreign exchange students from Brazil, Belgium, Spain, France, Germany, Norway, and Serbia. Even though it's only about a month into school, students are beginning to see what life is like in America.

"It's pretty different here," said senior Remi Comte-Offenbach of Belgium. "In Belgium school is little. We know everyone, but here it looks like I'll never know everybody."

As school is the most important source of socialization for youth in most countries, these students are beginning to learn how to acclimate to the size and diversity of Loy Norrix as they factors in how we socialize in school. Comparing American school structure to the school structure found in Belgium, Comte-Offenbach reflects on a day-in-a-life of a Belgian student.

"We begin classes at 8:00 a.m, are given an hour to eat, and we finish school at 4:50," Comte-Offenbach said.

Considering Comte-Offenbach's longer days, longer breaks during the day, and smaller school population of his school back home, he is able to get to know to more people and socialize easier in his home country, compared to here at Loy Norrix with our large population and tightly packed schedules. Yet, these changes do differ in each country.

"In Germany we have ten classes [a day], no police or security, and school is much smaller," said senior Jon Schmitt of Germany.

Coming to Loy Norrix can be a complete atmosphere change for many of these new students. To acclimate to these changes, some foreign exchange students have decided to get involved with extracurriculars like sports or theatre.

Sports and theatre programs at school have helped exchange students grow to be more comfortable in an American school environment.

When exchange students participate in extracurricular activities, like Pons Santamaria joining the swim team or Schmitt playing for the soccer team, they are able to pursue hobbies from home, continue to learn American culture, and make new friends.

"I joined the swim team to meet more people and I swam at home," said senior Cristina Pons Santamaria, from Spain. "I get along with most of [the team]."

One important skill gained from being a foreign student is learning English and American dialect. A past exchange student from the 2013-2014 school year, Rico Takahashi, has now returned home to Japan with a better understanding of the English language and memories of the first day of school in America that she will never forget.

"When I had choir, I thought, 'finally there is some quiz that I can solve!'" Takahashi said.

"I knew all of the answers, but not in English. I didn't want the teacher to think I don't know any of them, so I wrote all in Japanese and started crying."

Although this experience can seem rather traumatizing, Takahashi went on to perform many times in the marching band and choir, and eventually became a featured dancer in the musical "Young Frankenstein" and played a principal role in the musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," reciting lines and singing songs in English.

"People helped me out in every single performance and I am so thankful for everyone who supported me," Takahashi said.

So much can be learned from the experience of living abroad. Regardless of the predisposed images of America or drastic differences in culture, these students will continue to grow and enrich the already diverse environment of Loy Norrix High School.

NEW TEACHERS TAKE ON LOY NORRIX

Audra Penny

Can you imagine being a freshman again? Trying to find your way through a 55-acre site, unable to figure out your routine, seeing new faces you've never encountered, and feeling as though you're full of anxiety and nerves?

That's what new teachers have to handle when they come to Loy Norrix.

They have to get adjusted to the unusual atmosphere that LN has to offer, just as freshmen, foreign exchange students, or transfer students would. Here are the five new people that are arriving at LN this year.

Stephanie Klumpp



Health Teacher

What she did before:

"I subbed for eight weeks at Maple Street for the P.E. teacher and then continued subbing at different KPS schools for the rest of the year last year. I got my master's in P.E. from Western."

Why she came to LN:

"I spent eight weeks at Maple Street last year as a long-term sub and I really enjoyed my time there. I like being in the KPS school district. You really have the opportunity to make an impact."

Likes about LN:

"I like the diversity, the variations of students. It's part of what Norrix is. I like the fact that there's varied differences in individuals that have their own story and background. You get to experience a lot of different things."

Looks forward to:

"Seeing progress, seeing students realize that health is important and appreciating what they have learned."

Carlotta Frazier



English Teacher

What she did before:

"I worked at Milwood Magnet for 9 years, as a 7th and 8th grade English and Literacy teacher. I graduated at WMU with my master's in Educational Leadership."

Why she came to LN:

"I was displaced from Milwood Magnet Center for Math, Science, and Technology, and saw an opportunity at Loy Norrix."

Likes about LN:

"I would say it is enjoyable to see the transition and maturity that the students have developed as they've grown."

Looks forward to:

"Impacting my students' lives but also experiencing the joy of seeing my former 8th grade students walking across the stage."

Chris Aguinaga



Assistant Principal

What he did before:

Graduated from Western with a master's degree in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor's degree in Social Studies & History. "Maple Street was my first job out of college, but it helped me open horizons from teaching a classroom, to wanting to be an administrator. I really liked working at Maple Street because it had a lot of opportunities to enrich students outside of school."

Why he came to LN: "I saw the opportunity and decided to take it."

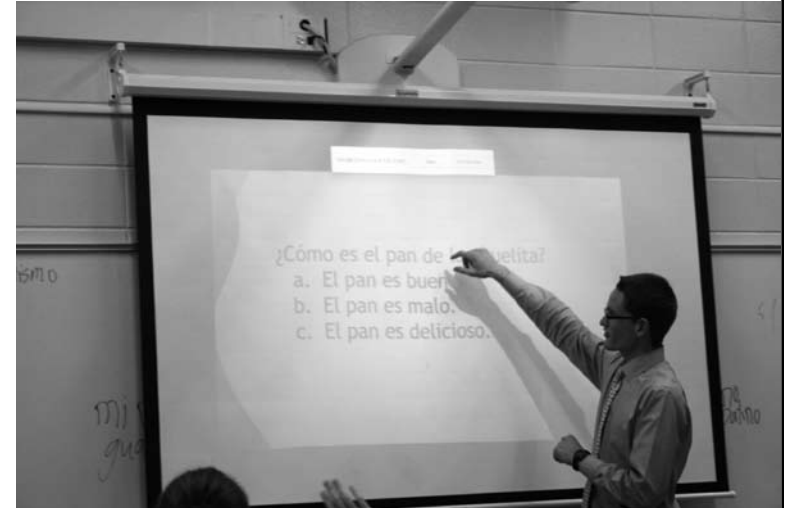
Likes about LN:

"I like the diversity from their backgrounds and ideas mixing in a pot. I also like how I already know a good portion of students because I worked at Maple Street Magnet for the Arts before becoming an administrator at Loy Norrix."

Looks forward to:

"Getting to know the students better and making good connections with them."

Tim Geerlings, Spanish Teacher



What he did before:

"I worked NGO (a charity) in Guatemala. There I taught English and I figured that if I could teach English in Guatemala, why couldn't I teach Spanish in the States?" Geerlings got his master's in Secondary Education, Spanish, and Social Studies at Grand Valley State University. Loy Norrix will be his first teaching job.

Why he came:

"I wanted to teach in a school that was ethnically and socially diverse. Also, I liked the fact that the foreign language

teachers are good teachers, and phenomenal co-workers."

Likes about LN:

"I like being in a place that has diversity, racially and ethnically. I also enjoy the staff, as they are very friendly and welcoming."

Looks forward to:

"I look forward to getting to know students and how they act outside of the classroom. I also look forward to seeing what they learned at the end of the trimester and being able to talk to them a little bit in Spanish."

Samantha Maxwell, Math Pre-Calc & Algebra 1



What she did before:

"I worked at Sprint for four years and got my Bachelors degree in meteorology and broadcasting."

Why she came to LN:

"I am in a program named The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, which essentially gives money to go

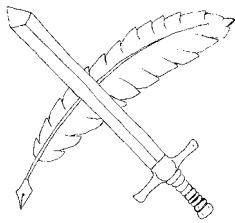
to school, get certified and work in high needs schools."

Likes about LN:

"I worked here as an intern and enjoyed it."

Looks forward to:

"Getting more involved in extracurricular activities, such as coaching track."



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STAFF EDITORIAL: ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Zero Tolerance: consistently enforced suspension and expulsion policies in response to weapons, drugs and violent acts in the school setting.

Every six months or so, we hear a story from a local or national newspaper about a child being suspended for some small misdeed that should have gotten a slap on the wrist and maybe some extra homework. Like clockwork, there is an uproar, and the school system eventually backs down, striking the suspension from the student's record.

This unfortunate cycle has become quite common in states that use a Zero Tolerance policy. School administrators seem unaware that the problem doesn't lie within the school district, but the policy itself.

Zero Tolerance is a law that was enacted by the federal government to fight a string of school shootings that happened in the late 1990s. Since then, schools have higher security, including some schools with metal detectors and even police officers. While school violence has generally declined since 2000, Zero Tolerance has made it incredibly easy for students to get suspended or even expelled for seemingly minor, non-violent infractions.

While Zero Tolerance could be seen as a good idea, it only breeds misuse and misunderstandings in practice.

Zero Tolerance was originally intended to prevent weapons and drugs being brought onto school property, but studies have increasingly shown suspensions for non-violent infractions like cell phone use and dress code violations. Suspensions, especially during junior and senior year, can potentially stop a student from attending college, and definitely lower their grades, or even make them lose credit.

Violent actions should not be tolerated and suspension is an appropriate punishment, but people must consider a revision to the current law when students are being suspended for non-violent actions.

The misuses of Zero Tolerance are innumerable. In 2010, an eight year

old boy in Providence, R.I. was sent home from school for putting plastic army men on his hat. Children making gun shapes with their fingers were suspended in Ohio, and in one particularly egregious case, a middle schooler was suspended for firing an

could be based on unclear teacher expectations or school policies, students have almost no voice to defend themselves. While this is not a problem exclusively because of Zero Tolerance, it give teachers and administrators more power to discriminate against students.

Zero Tolerance eliminates student action to prevent bullying. If a student is physically bullied and decides to defend him/herself, they will be suspended along with the bully. This wouldn't be a problem if school administrators helped to stop bullying.

Bully, a 2011 documentary, shows the daily lives of students who are repeatedly bullied with school administrators doing nothing about it. The documentary shows how incapable school systems seem on remedying the problem of bullying, with one school counselor asking the bullied child and the bully to shake hands, and then dropping the issue.

Students should not have to defend themselves against bullies. It is the administrators' job to make school a safe, healthy environment for students. This problem is magnified further by students getting suspended for defending themselves against bullies.

A system that does not help students and actively punishes those that have no other option but to defend themselves is a broken system that must be changed.

Fortunately, school systems are backing away from Zero Tolerance, with New York City, the largest school district in the U.S., planning on phasing out the law entirely.

Zero Tolerance is a policy that could theoretically work. A system that allows administrators to quickly punish students that threaten school safety actually sounds like a good idea. However, this falls apart when we look at how broad Zero Tolerance policies have become. These policies, while sometimes successful, inflict students who commit minor infractions with punishments that are way too harsh.

SEE ZERO TOLERANCE, PAGE 19



Illustration / Lori Umbanhowar

air-soft gun near a school bus stop before school. These cases show how misguided Zero Tolerance has become.

People have cited many instances of racism that accompany Zero Tolerance Policies. Studies show that minority students are suspended more often for non-violent disturbances, such as class disruption. Differences between minority students and predominantly white teachers coupled with a curriculum that ignores race, leads to minority students getting more referrals. When schools don't investigate whether the referrals

KS

KNIGHT SPEAK

What do you look for in a celebrity role model?



Rachel Cannon, Sophomore

"When they are good at their profession and are not terrible people"



Traver Parlato, Junior

"[I respect] Celebrities who are humble"

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL PLAYERS SET SOCIAL STANDARDS FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



BenMiller

You may not know it, but you have one of the most powerful social weapons with you right now. This is the weapon I use right now as I type. This weapon is one of change. This weapon is your voice.

Some voices, such as those of community leaders like actors, politicians, and professional athletes, are heard by a wider range of people. However, this does not diminish the strength of your voice.

Recently, media coverage has been exploding over the misconduct of Baltimore Ravens running back Ray Rice, who beat his then-fiancé (now wife) unconscious in the elevator of a New Jersey casino, which was caught on a security camera. This has been accompanied by several other cases of misconduct within the National Football League.

Greg Hardy, defensive end for the Carolina Panthers, was arrested in May for assaulting his ex-girlfriend. San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle

Ray McDonald, was arrested in August for felony domestic assault charges. Minnesota Vikings running back, Adrian Peterson, was indicted in September and later turned himself in after being accused of abusing his four year old son.

Many people are attributing how this is being handled by the NFL to the commissioner, Roger Goodell, for his lack of responsiveness to these issues. He has made multiple statements that he didn't know about the video of Ray Rice and shouldn't be held accountable for Rice being reinstated so soon after the beating. Regardless of the level of truth in how early he knew about the video, Goodell is doing the best that he can to get himself out of trouble. Instead, he should be addressing the issues that this brings up.

For example, someone like the successful, record breaking Adrian Peterson has a loud and important voice in America. Peterson stripped a branch of its leaves, whipped his son with the branch, creating visible lacerations, and then, according to the boy, stuffed leaves in his mouth.

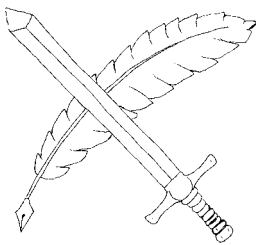
So when Peterson says in a statement about his indictment, "I am, without a doubt, not a child abuser" and "my goal is always to teach my son right from wrong and that's what I tried to do that day," Peterson is saying to

the public that it's okay to whip your child with a branch or to shove leaves in their mouth to teach them a lesson.

Hearing Peterson's statement could go two ways for people who care about the issue. Some people would see this as abuse and form a positive or negative opinion about Peterson. Others, however, would agree with him and decide that whipping your child isn't such a bad thing.

Of course, not everyone cares about the issue, which does offer the opportunity for people to ignore his influence. However, breezing by his socially destructive words also ignores the harm this community leader is doing to the child. Imagine if everyone had this ignorant mindset. How would we create change?

The reason news sources provide information about injustice to the public is because it is your business. Even if you are not a football fan, by saying Goodell needs to step down or that the NFL needs to change its misconduct policy, you are casting a vote on what kind of behavior our community leaders should or should not display and promote. It's not just an issue of what the commissioner or the NFL as a whole should do, but what you should do as an observer of their impact on society.



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QUEEN BEY AND HER INFLUENCES AT LOY NORRIX



MarshallMead

All hail Queen Bey! You can't go through entertainment news without hearing something about Beyonce. There will always be something about her relationship with Jay-Z, something about Blue Ivy, or a new hit single that's taking the radio by storm.

Most importantly is her image as being the biggest feminist role model in the music industry. From her songs

promoting independence and true beauty, it is no wonder that she is adored by so many, men and women alike.

Her influence on the community spreads all over the world, including Loy Norrix. Students across campus know too well about what Beyonce is all about.

"I think that Beyonce has a very positive influence on the community because you never see her in the news for something bad," said senior Danielle Landingham. "She makes songs about positive things, like girls being flawless, and if a guy breaks up with you, don't sweat it and keep your head up. I love the positive vibes in her song. She has a positive influence

towards feminists because she stands for women to be strong and themselves and that's female empowerment, which is a powerful message."

With all famous celebrities, there are the people who don't buy into the hype. Senior Tiara Blair said, "I feel like she is overrated. She's a wonderful singer and talent, but people take it too far."

Blair also commented on Beyonce's influences on the community and said that, "She makes people believe in themselves and their own beauty."

From "Single Ladies," to "Partition," and all the way to "Drunk in Love," Beyonce has given us some of this generations most inspiring and influential pieces of music, but does it

stop there?
The world idolizes her for her powerful messages of female empowerment and true beauty, and looking at the mindset of this generation, it is an amazing step forward. Just like her newest album, "Beyonce" which came out in 2013, nobody can predict what she will do next, but when it hits, the people of Loy Norrix can let go of their problems and let inspiration engulf their minds.



Damien Andrews, Freshman

"Genuine personality, and are loyal to their fans."



Melissa Commissaris, Junior

"If they are a nice and respectable person."



Syri Runyan Abanilla, Senior

"Celebrities who donate to respectable charities."

COMIC

Pump 'n Wurdz



Constance Williams

LOY NORRIX STUDENT DANCES IN BELGIUM

Taylor **Timmerman**

Twerking seems to be the only type of dance teens pay attention to. In the halls of Loy Norrix you can hear girls talk about how twerking is a beneficial workout. However, according to the website Fitday, twerking only works three muscles, while it takes 100 muscles in your feet alone to go on pointe (ballerina style).

Loy Norrix student Isabella Cowles uses those 100 muscles in her feet, plus hundreds of other muscles when she dances everyday in the studio. This fall she traveled to Antwerp, Belgium for a ballet competition.

Cowles started dance classes at the YMCA when she was four years old. Now she dances with The Ballet Academy in Kalamazoo.

"It's really nice dancing here because only three, sometimes four, girls are in my class. This lets the instructor focus on us helping to make us better dancers," Cowles said.

At Cowles' dance studio, each dancer is required to take The Royal Academy of Dance Exam.

"This program is really cool because the curriculum used in The Royal Academy of Dance is used throughout the whole world," Cowles said.

She often fantasizes about how great it would be to win a medal.

"If I won a medal that would be a great honor! Becoming a finalist gets you noticed by famous ballet dancers so you are basically guaranteed a contract to an academy," Cowles said.

If you get the highest score, known as distinction in the ballet world, then you are able to compete in this competition. There were fifty-seven dancers from all

around the world who attended the Royal Academy of Dance competition.

Each dancer performed a dance that they choreographed themselves and a memorized ballet dance that's well known, for instance, The Nutcracker.

The first three days were long four hour workshops where they practiced the required dances that

they brought with them. They were also taught a contemporary piece that was on pointe. Even with all of her AP, honors, and orchestra classes to juggle, Cowles considers dance the most difficult task out of all of them.

"Ballet is the hardest thing I've ever done in my life!" Cowles said.

On the fourth day, twelve out of the fifty-seven dancers were chosen to become a finalist. On the fifth day the judges chose the semifinalists.

Then on the last day, a girl named Vida from New Zealand won the gold medal prize. Multiple other dancers won silver and bronze medals, some of which were males.

As a result of being on wooden pointe shoes for four hours each day Cowles accumulated a plethora of blisters. On top of that, her big left toenail fell off. Cowles explained how even though she didn't win a medal, she thinks she got some excellent exposure to important people in the dance world.

In the future, Cowles hopes to get a contract to a dance academy. When she is much older and can't dance or perform anymore, she hopes to become a dance teacher at a very prestigious ballet studio so she can pass her knowledge on to others.

"I can't imagine doing anything else with my life other than dancing," Cowles said.



Isabella Cowles preforms a leap in the left picture. In the right she is standing on pointe in fourth position. These are two simple but refined forms that take time and practice to perfect. **Left photo / Brian Peterson**
Right photo / Julie Renner

U2 AND APPLE SHOW TOO MUCH GENEROSITY

ALBUM: SONGS OF INNOCENCE

ARTIST: U2

GENRE: ROCK, POST-PUNK, ALTERNATIVE ROCK

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2014

Kyron **Williams**

“Songs of Innocence” is the 13th studio album from the rock band U2 which consists of 11 songs. The album was released September 9th and received some mixed feelings. This is because Apple automatically put the album in the iTunes collection of 500 million users upon their announcement of the iPhone 6 and the iPhone 6 Plus.

Some people were upset because the album takes memory that they need for other things like apps or pictures. This album actually isn’t all that bad due to the differences in dynamics throughout the album, the different feelings the songs evoke, and Paul David Hewson’s voice.

The album opens up with a song called “The Miracle (Of Joey Ramone).” Right off the bat, the song seemed like a modernized, up-tempo, indie-rock version of “Tainted Love” by Soft Cell.

“Iris (Hold Me Close)” is the fifth song on the album. Hewson (Bono) wrote this song referencing his mother, Iris, and her death when he was a kid.

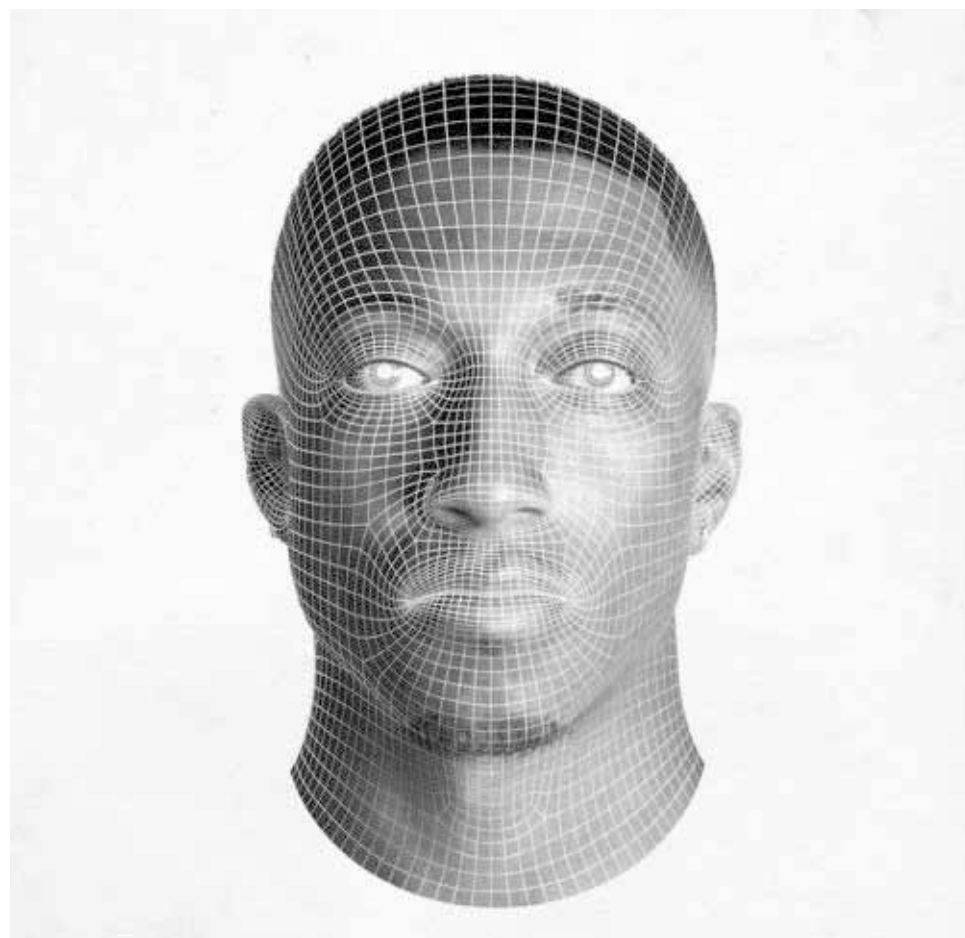
The song, perfectly featuring Bono’s large vocal range, is just beautiful.

The eighth song on the album, “Cedarwood Road,” is a reference to Bono growing up on Cedarwood Road in Dublin, Ireland during the time of the provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA). The song makes you think about how life was for Bono back when the IRA carried out acts of violence in the 1960s in the hopes of trying to unite Ireland and Northern Ireland. The song starts out very mellow, but when the drums come in, it starts to get more intense.

Bono understands that people are upset about having this album in their collection, but that doesn’t mean you shouldn’t give it a chance. The album will be free for iTunes users until October 13th, 2014. If you are one of the 500 million iTunes users that has received the album, but you want to delete it, Apple has set up a tool that will allow you to do so.



LECRAE DEVIATES FROM THE CROWD



ALBUM: ANOMALY

ARTIST: LECRAE

GENRE: CHRISTIAN HIP-HOP

RELEASE DATE: SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2014

Kyron **Williams**

The definition of the word “anomaly” is “something that deviates from what is standard, normal, or expected.” “Anomaly” is the seventh studio album released by Christian Hip-Hop artist Lecrae. The album was released September 9th and consists of 15 songs.

The album opens up with a song called “Outsiders” which is about taking pride in not fitting in. The song starts off very mellow, but quickly turns around when the first verse starts.

“Anomaly,” the sixth track on the album may be the shortest, but it is the most powerful. The song praises the fact that everyone is different in a way specific to them. Featuring an unaccredited singer with strong vocals,

heavy brass instruments, and what sounds like a speech about us being “The odd, the outcasts, the peculiar, [and] the strangers,” this is a song is one that everyone needs to hear.

The album closes with a compelling song called “Messengers” that features the Christian Pop singers Joel and Luke Smallbone from the band “For King & Country.”

There are definitely many ways to interpret this song. This is a motivational song about speaking out against what everybody else deems “normal.”

Most people can relate to the lyrics in Lecrae’s songs because feeling like you don’t fit in is something many people go through.

BEING AN ATHLETIC TEAM CAPTAIN IS AN ART



Traver Parlato directs his team during the game against Mattawan on October 3rd. The game was played on senior night, which was the last home game for the seniors.

Photo Credit / Jordan Liddle

Andrew Streitel

To be a captain you have to be a leader first it takes a lot of effort and time to become a successful captain. High schoolers all around the country struggle to be effective captains of their varsity teams.

All the pressure and time takes a toll on your body and mind. Some captains question if it is really worth it. Is all the glory you hear about real?

Being captain on varsity is a very hard thing to do. You will have ups and downs but it's how you deal with them that will effect how successful you will be.

Being named captain of your team is an honorable achievement. You are now the leader of the team and a lot of pressure is being added. Everybody looks up to you. You have to be the first one to practice and the last to leave. Media reporters will look for the captains to speak to. Even if you don't want to be you are now the face of your team.

Katryn Walsh, co-captain of the volleyball team said, "You have to be above the rest academically, as a person, and as an athlete."

You have to stand out and be a leader in these categories. So this adds more stress and pressure.

A captain should be someone you can look up to

for guidance.

"The team and coaches look up to me for help," said football co-captain Traver Parlato. "You have to be somewhat of a coach among your teammates. You have to be the middleman."

Your coaches tell you something and you have to relay it to your teammates. If not, you are the one that will get in trouble.

According to Larry Lauer, professor at Michigan State University, there are three C's to being a captain: Caring, Courage, and Consistency. To be these things you are going to have make sacrifices. Many student athletes struggle with time management.

Between free time, homework, sleep, and sports, your time is limited and you have to manage it and make sacrifices.

"I had to lay off my job for the soccer season," said Isaac Ruiz, co-captain of the soccer team. "I sacrificed my free time to practice."

Making sacrifices is difficult when you have competing priorities. Being captain changes your role on the team. You now are the focal point of the team. If your team receives news coverage they would want to talk to the "captains" of the team. You are carrying a lot of responsibility.

"More girls look up to me than they did before, and the

coaches rely on me a lot more," Walsh said.

You have to make the most of these changes and make them a blessing not a curse.

Most people think that being a captain will change friendships on the team, in a negative way. However, that is not the case. Relationships tend to grow stronger because you, "get to know your teammates weaknesses and their strengths," said Isaac Ruiz.

Captains spend more time with their teammates and get to know them more and more. You should get to know your teammates on a personal level. If you do, your relationships will improve and performance on the field will improve as well.

Being captain is supposed to be a learning experience. It's usually your first time leading an organization and there are going to be bumps in the road, but it's how you deal with its adversity that determines how successful you will be. It can be a very positive experience if you make it one.

However, if you crumble under the pressure your experience as being captain won't be as enjoyable. Being a captain is not a walk in the park, but you can really benefit from the experience in the future. You decide if being a captain is worth it.

DAVON MITCHELL



Sport
Football

Varsity
2nd year

Captain
1st year

EDDIE GILLON



Sport
Football

Varsity
2nd year

Captain
1st year

NICK MAY



Sport
Football

Varsity
2nd year

Captain
1st year

TRAVER PARLATO



Sport
Football

Varsity
3rd year

Captain
1st year

ISAAC RUIZ



Sport
Soccer

Varsity
3rd year

Captain
1st year

ANDREW STREITEL



Sport
Soccer

Varsity
3rd year

Captain
2nd year

LAUREN DOUGHERTY



Sport
Volleyball

Varsity
4th year

Captain
2nd year

KATRYN WALSH



Sport
Volleyball

Varsity
3rd year

Captain
2nd year

ANDREW BLINKIEWICZ



Sport
Tennis

Varsity
3rd year

Captain
1st year

DARVIOUS WALLACE



Sport
Cross
Country

Varsity
2nd year

Captain
1st year

FANTASY IS REALITY

FANTASY FOOTBALL TAKES HOLD IN LOY NORRIX

Scott May

It's the beginning of the NFL season, and that also means it's the beginning of another football season: Fantasy football. Fantasy football involves building a nine to ten man roster of NFL players. Then the players' statistics determine the amount of points they score for your team. The better the player's stats, the more points they score for you. There can be anywhere from 4-20 players within a fantasy league.

Every week you play a new opponent within your league. The opponent with the most points at the end of the week wins. There are different kinds of leagues you can play in such as points per reception (PPR), this when an offensive player who is involved in the passing game is more valuable.

"I like PPR because it adds an entire different aspect to the draft and waiver wire moves," senior and league coordinator Lyric Kleber said.

Half points per reception is more of a balance between passing and running players. Keeper leagues are when you get to keep four players from your last year's team if you want. You can

customize your league based on what you and your league members like.

Fantasy football isn't all fun and games, as it may seem.

"It's not as difficult as it once was because just learning everything about it, what I could and couldn't do was kind of hard," Kleber said. "After that it was easier."

With some leagues, you put money into a pot and the best team at the end of the season wins. The range of money can vary, so there can be some stress due to money being on the line or just bragging rights.

Fantasy football has been known to change the way people view football, by making them turn against their favorite teams too cheer on their fantasy football.

"Sometimes I go against my favorite football team and cheer for my fantasy players to do better. It's tough," said Social Studies teacher Brian Neel.

"I will bench my starting if he plays against my favorite team because you put your team before your fantasy team," Kleber said.

There are those people who may seem like they know everything about football and fantasy football that walk

the halls of Norrix. Then you can approach someone who is an outsider looking into the fantasy world, like senior Claire VanderVelden when asked about fantasy football said, "What's fantasy football?"

That's not the same for everyone. Others like senior Katy Renaldi who has a basic idea of both games, thanks to her father. Fantasy football can attract people no matter what age, gender or clique they are in.



Senior Lyric Kleber watches how his fantasy teams are doing while watching the Bears game on TV. He is frustrated by a perceived no-call for pass interference. **Photo Credit / Scott May**

ZERO TOLERANCE FROM PAGE 14

Kids that get arrested for seemingly no offense, such as a girl who was lead out of her school in handcuffs for writing on a table, are also subject to the U.S. justice system.

If a minor is arrested and sent to juvenile detention, his/her education could end, depending on the education services provided. If they miss a semester of school, these students will have to play catch-up for the rest of their school careers, and many will give up.

This policy directly feeds children into the prison industrial complex, a system that is very efficient at making prisoners repeat offenders and not successfully introducing them back into society. While the charges are dropped many times, the few charges that aren't make the entire system broken.

Zero Tolerance is a system that applies broad brush strokes to punishments that should be given on an individual level. Some teachers in the New York City district have complained that they are no longer able to give punishments that they deem appropriate because the school policy

on classroom disruptions can be an immediate suspension.

These policies, which were designed to help teachers, only restrict the punishments that many believe to be appropriate.

SUPER SENIORS FROM PAGE 9

Some students can't push through the last year in high school and either drop out to later get their GED or retake senior year.

"The worst part about being here is the stigma that I'm not smart," said Townes. With the bright future now much closer ahead of him, Townes focuses on what is up and coming. After starting out high school and coasting, Townes' attitude on education and his future changed. "I still don't like [school], but I appreciate it".

Making the most of his time here, Townes is not only taking the classes he needs to graduate, but also making sure he enjoys his time in school by taking classes he enjoys. Townes is currently retaking journalism because he enjoys the writing and knows he can do better than his first take at it.

Dean of Students Atiba McKissack said when it comes to these students, fifth year seniors is always a better title to hold this compared to "dropouts." He takes the view when speaking to students to stay focused and work hard throughout all of high school.

"Don't be discouraged, be encouraged," said McKissack.

Advice from Townes to students includes staying in class, doing homework and actually asking for help if you need it. Although graduating later than his class was not in his original plan, Townes feels like education is something that you need to be ready for in order to use it the correct way.

However tragic staying at Loy Norrix for an extra year may seem, the look on the faces of a second-year senior graduate doubles that of many. Decisions made everyday affect the life people live, and when it comes to school, education should come first.

GAP YEARS FROM PAGE 6

but within the boundaries of the United states. This may lead to many opportunities for her to even have college eventually paid for.

The Kalamazoo Promise can be used for up to ten years after graduation, meaning that if you don't go to college or a university right away you will not lose the scholarship.

"I love having the flexibility with The Promise and not having to go straight off to college to get it paid for, having the ten years is so nice," said senior Autumn Ackerson.

One problem with gap years is getting yourself to go back to school. People can find themselves in a decent job and not want to go to school because that involves money and time. Unfortunately, not going to college can restrict job opportunities.

A student's choice should be an attempt to make the best personal decision. Not everyone goes to go to college right away. A gap year is certainly not a bad thing, it is just a personal choice. Schools should not only emphasize college but also put an emphasis on doing what you love.

Q+A WITH CAITLYN MOON

Jordan Liddle

“I felt alone a lot of times. Then I got into reading and started going to a public school. That really helped because I was able to meet so many different people that were going through some of the same things I am. That taught me that no one is really alone,” Caitlyn Moon said.

Moon is a freshman at Loy Norrix High School. She went to Paramount Charter Academy from kindergarten until her seventh grade year and then attended Milwood Magnet for eighth grade. Moon works at Kalamazoo Speedway and loves to read and write. She hopes to be a novelist one day.

Moon’s favorite genre is fantasy. Her inspiration for writing comes from shows, movies and books that involve the supernatural.

“The hardest part is making the characters because each character has their own personality. I like being able to make a character that I can relate to, and other people could relate to,” Moon said.

When Moon is reading she loves the different worlds authors create for the readers. She also loves reading about Greek mythology. Her favorite Greek mythology story is how Aphrodite was created. According to legend she was created with the blood of Cronus in the ocean. Despite the fact that she is the goddess of love, blood is the symbol of war.

“For two or three years I read because it was my escape from reality. It made it so I didn’t feel alone. A lot of people do the same thing, but no one is really alone,” said Moon.

One thing about high school is that people can be judgmental, but high school doesn’t last forever. The interests and hobbies, like Moon learning how much reading and writing means to her, can go beyond the four years.

Being in school can be hard because of the unique differences that everyone has, it can be difficult for others to accept these differences in their peers.

“Seventh grade is when I came out as being a pansexual. I was shunned by a lot of my close friends,” Moon said.

Pansexuality, also known as omnisexuality, means she does not differentiate between male, female or transgender when it comes to attraction.

The benefit of public schools is that there are a lot of people. This can help with meeting people that have been through similar situations.

“Being in a charter school really limited my friend options because there are not very many students, and even some of the teachers treated me differently,” Moon said.

