Moldovan vs. American Fashion

See how fashion in Moldova compares to fashion trends in the United States.

PAGE 13

Youth Violence in Kalamazoo

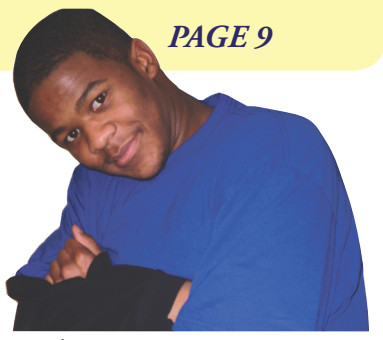
Become informed about the widespread affects of youth violence in our community and how this problem can be addressed.

PAGES 10 - 11

Is That a Celebrity Roaming our Halls?

Check out these LN students and staff who could be a clone of some of the top celebrities.

PAGE 9



Knight Life

The Voice of Loy Norrix High School

Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo MI 49001 | Volume 48 / Issue 3 / February, 2008

NEWS BRIEFS

Effort to End Violence in Kenya

An effort to end weeks of bloodshed in Kenya since the December 27 presidential election of Mwai Kibaki has surfaced. The ruling party and opposition of Kenya agreed on February 8, 2008 to form a joint government to end the violence in Kenya which has killed more than 1,000 and has driven more than 300,000 from their homes. Details of the government formation and how the government power will be shared are still under discussion.

The ruling party and opposition are in discussion to decide who will lead the government and what roles that each party will play in the government, but nothing has been determined.

Secret Text Messages from Detroit Mayor Kept from Public

On February 8, 2008 Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick agreed to an $8.4 million settlement to withold intimate and on occasion sexually explicit text messages between him and his Chief of Staff Christine Beatty. Beatty and Kilpatrick signed a confidential agreement to conceal the text messages as part of the city's settlement of the lawsuit.

The text messages contain details of an intimate relationship between Beatty and Kilpatrick from 2002-03 which both had denied under oath during the lawsuit.

Beatty announced her resignation January 28, two days prior to Kilpatrick's televised statement of apology to his friends and constituents. Kilpatrick has refrained from directly mentioning the allegations.

Romney Drops Out

Former Massachussetts Governor Mitt Romney announced on Thursday, February 7, 2008 that he would be dropping out of the race just two days after a disappointing Super Tuesday. Romney, former Republican presidential candidate, spent millions of dollars of his own fortune on his campaign but only gained approximately 175 delegates on Super Tuesday with Republican Mike Huckabee coming in a close third with about 141 delegates gaining ground in the race according to CNN estimates.

Romney came in first in the states of Alaska, Colorado, Massachussetts, Minnesota, and Utah on Super Tuesday. Prior to Super Tuesday he won Nevada, Maine, Wyoming, and Michigan.

Romney announced Feb. 7 that if he continued in the race, he believed that it would make it easier for Democrats Barack Obama or Hillary Clinton to win.

Students Speak Out

Students Offer Their Insight and Opinions About Violence Among Youth in Kalamazoo

ANGELO MURRAY / KNIGHT LIFE

Demetreon Allen, Anthony Stuckey, Louis Rolland and Darrell Hobson joke around together as they walk down the hall. The guys had much to share concerning their opinions about violence among youth in the community.

Emily Rooney
Editor-in-Chief

"Bullets ain't got no names on them," junior Louis Rolland expressed in a subdued tone.

In the course of the past year, bullets without names have been the reason for the tragic deaths of four teenagers in our community. Violence among youth in Kalamazoo has escalated in recent years, reaching the point where it has become an accepted part of life for some people. In 2007 alone, almost half of the 11 homicide victims were younger than the age of 20.

Many students at Loy Norrix have been and are still affected by the violence. Yet we seldom hear anything from these young people who are directly affected by the violence when their opinions and ideas should be among those that matter most. These students can offer valuable insight regarding the violence occuring among young people and what can be done about it.

Many adults have tried to assess the causes of violence among youth in Kalamazoo and have attempted to come up with solutions. However, sophomore Xi'ange Shannon asserts that the adults do not know what is actually happening.

"They [adults] don't know what's really going on. They are looking in from the outside and making all these assumptions, all these guesses," said Shannon.

It is assumed by many in the community that much of the violence occuring among youth results from the conflict between the north and south sides of town. Although rivaling sides of town play some part in the violence, some students believe that the main reason for conflict is between the individuals, not necessarily sides of town.

"It ain't no Southside, Northside thing, it's who you be around. People get messed with and they're going to retaliate," said senior Demetreon Allen.

Shannon also believes that the conflict does not completely revolve around the sides of town.

"It's not the Southside or the Northside, it's within the people who just happen to live on different sides of town and it evolved into it [the Northside, Southside conflict]," said Shannon.

Additionally, the term "gang" is commonly used to describe the organized groups of people in Kalamazoo wrapped up in the violence. However, some students believe that this term inaccurately

See **STUDENTS** page 6

Those Left Behind

Loy Norrix Students Suffer in Friends' Absences

Christina Pillsbury
Opinion Editor

It was early in the morning, all Loy Norrix junior Ashley Davis remembers is her mother shaking her, waking her from her slumber; she was crying. "Jasmine's dead," she whispered through her sobs. "Big Blood is dead."

It took Ashley's half asleep mind a few minutes to process what her mom was telling her before reality hit. Her childhood friend, her school mate, the girl that she sang with at church, Jasmine Bloodworth, nicknamed Big Blood, was dead. Later that day, September 9, Ashley would come to find that Jasmine had been stabbed by another of her close friends on North Westnedge.

Thus, the story of street violence in our community continues. The damage doesn't end when someone dies. Nor does it end when the killer is sentenced. This is just the beginning of the story. For so many members of our community, for students at our school, violence has taken a friend or family member, either sending them into a casket, or to jail. Both the victim and the offender have their sentences laid out; what is to become of the people they leave behind?

Davis, months after the fact, is still emotional about that night.

"I didn't miss school, but I came to school all that week crying… I wrote about it, being in the choir with both of them," said Davis.

Davis chose to use a positive outlet for her grief, writing poetry about the two girls. She has, however, seen many LN students turn to drugs, alcohol, or revenge to soothe their anger and grief.

The evening after Davis learned of her friend's death, Clarissa Whitmore, Bloodworth's mother, organized a candlelight vigil to take place at the tree where her daughter had been stabbed the night before.

Minister Jamie Tucker led a prayer in front of Bloodworth's grandma's house, the group marched and stood in a circle around the tree and prayed again. Police officers

See **GRIEF** page 2

ANGELO MURRAY/ KNIGHT LIFE

Amber Butler, Tamara Palmer, Oneshia Dade and Taylor Vaughn made their own t-shirts in remembrance of Timothy Palmer and wore them on his birthday on January 22. The girls also made posters that they put around the school and had a party during fourth block.

INDEX

News.....1-3
Opinion.....4-7
Feature.....9-13
A & E.....14-17
Comics.....18
Sports.....19-20

WHAT'S HAPPENING

"Little Shop of Horrors"

The LN choir's production of this musical opens March 7th, 2008 in Kasdorf Auditorium

Midwinter Break

February 25th- School Closed!

"1964 The Tribute"

This tribute to the Beatles plays at the State Theater Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008 at 8 p.m.

State Presidential Primaries

On February 19th, Hawaii, Washington, and Wisconsin vote for Presidential candidates