Point / Counter-Point

Metal Detectors Are Not Just For Airports

Extra Precautions Are Necessary for School Safety

Alison Alessi
Feature Editor

It's a parent's worst nightmare. A scene that no one wants to imagine, a student opening fire on their school and killing other students. Incidents resembling this have left a scar on communities such as Mount Morris Township in Michigan, who have had to face the fact that weapon related violence in school happens. The general agreement inside these communities is that these incidents could have been prevented.

Michigan has had many violent issues in its past including but not limited to school shootings, and bomb threats in many counties and of course the Bath Michigan tragedy in which an angry taxpayer set off explosives inside an elementary school. Installing metal detectors is just one precaution that could make Michigan schools safer.

When most people think of metal detectors, they think of the huge kind that they have to walk through, as seen at the airport. What most people don't consider about equipping schools with metal detectors is that they are not all alike. While the larger kind are expensive and require a lot of maintenance, there are smaller hand-held metal detectors that cost significantly less and require less maintenance.

Hand-held metal detectors can cost as little as 50 dollars, while walk through metal detectors can cost schools thousands of dollars. Schools don't need to spend an extravagant amount of money to decrease the risk of weapons in school.

LN teacher, Anne Bowser thinks that schools should use whatever they need to protect the school. "I am for whatever will make this school safe," said Bowser. "I am for whatever will engender the trust of the community and the parents...that will enable them to allow us to teach their children."

Bowser also thinks that installing metal detectors will not only help to eliminate weapons in the school, it will also help other students to feel safe.

"There are times I can't do my job because of fears of students," added Bowser.

There are fears that metal detectors will not be able to stop someone if they are determined to bring weapons into school, but Bowser believes that that is a specious argument.

You could say that any measure used to make schools safer would not stop a "determined" person. That doesn't mean schools shouldn't try.

"I guess we're lucky that no one has been 'determined' enough," said Bowser.

Metal detectors would not just be used for day-to-day school either. Metal detectors can be used at school functions such as sporting events. Violence has occured at LN sporting events in the past. This fact cannot be ignored when making the decision on whether or not to install metal detectors. Schools need to make sure that nothing like weapon related violence ever happens inside the school and a way to make sure that it never does would be to install metal detectors.

Metal detectors would be even more effective if they were hand-held. They could be easily moved from entrance to entrance without much hassle. This would allow security to monitor any door in the school, whether it be the main entrance or the J-wing doors frequently used for sporting events, plays and musicals.

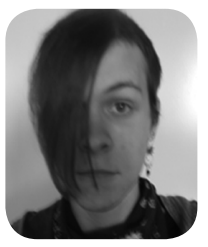
It is true that metal detectors cannot eliminate the threat of weapons in school but any way to reduce the risk of student safety should be explored by officials. You can see metal detectors at airports and even some churches so why not schools?

Bowser said, "We're willing to accept metal detectors in airports... What's the difference?"

Metal Detectors in High Schools Are Not Beneficial

Metal Detectors Would Be A Nuisance at LN

Sean Stoto
A&E Editor



Safety in schools is important. No student should be put in danger because of an indiscretion at the fault of a public institution. That being said, no public institution should limit the peaceful freedoms of any student that enters the building. This is the problem with metal detectors being used in the public school environment; they infringe on students' peace.

Popular media is a driving force of paranoia. News networks hype up public fear by focusing on stories such as the massacres at Virginia Tech and Columbine High School. This fear drives school officials to focus their worry on the possible tragedies that could befall their school, their students, and their funding.

While it is true that a violent outburst could happen in any school at any time, stepping up the security level to that of airports and government buildings is excessive and unnecessary. With the inclusion of metal detectors comes a detriment to schools' productivity. Not only would schools need to spend $3000 or more on each unit, we would also have to invest in hand-held metal detector-units, professionals who know how to use the equipment, training for the security guards who don't know how to use the equipment, and the remodeling that comes with setting up the checkpoints.

Not only would it use loads of tax dollars, but installing the systems would also cost a lot of time and energy. Said time and energy which is already dried up during the school year and summer.

Mornings at Loy Norrix usually consist of crowds of students piling into two lines to go through check points in the entry corridor, some pulling out their IDs to show to the attendants, some trying to slide by without an ID (or with an invalid card), which just holds the line up. The entrances are already unproductive messes that barely function as they are supposed to. What would happen if there was another obstacle to overcome before you are granted the privilege of an education? The line would be held up longer, there would be confusion, students would get impatient, fights would break out, and the ultimate purpose of the metal detectors would be defeated in a burst of fists and shame.

Metal detectors would be implemented primarily for the purpose of disarming students of guns, knives, and other weaponry. Those would not be the only things detected, though. Students would have to empty their backpacks and pockets of everything that could set it off, including their wallets, mp3 players, cell phones, calculators, pens, watches, etc. This leaves students exposing their belongings to the whole school, making them vulnerable to theft and non-weapon-related violence once inside the building.

Not only would the process of going through the detectors expose students to the whole school, it would expose them to the staff and administrators as well, who don't necessarily have a right to see everything a student carries with them. It restricts students' rights to privacy, which every human should have.

While the idea of installing metal detectors is good in theory, it doesn't make sense to implement such high-profile equipment in a high school, where mortality rates are far lower than the media would like to admit. If we want a peaceful learning environment, we need administrators who can trust the students and only intervene when necessary, not make preemptive strikes.

Props

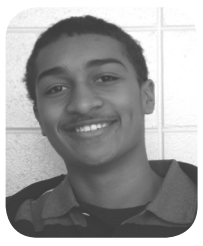
- **Student Voters**- Power to the youth!
- **Love-** In a world of hate and war, it's really all you need.
- **Blue-** The color, not the policy. It makes our jeans sparkle and our eyes twinkle.
- **Jones Soda-** Green Apple soda? FuFuBerry Soda? Yes, Please!
- **Books-** They've been popular for years and years, and these writers never go on strike!
- **Cafe Blue-** Caffeine Addicts Unite!

Stops

- **Global Warming-** A foot of snow one day, 60 degrees the next? Something's not right here....
- **Cutting in the Snack Line**- Are we in 2nd grade? The twixes will be there if you wait.
- **Celebrity Drama-** If we have to hear about baby-mama-drama or the Spears girls one more time, we're going to scream!
- **Hate Speech in School-** Don't Hate, Appreciate!

Modern Rap Doesn't Uphold Standards Of Original Artists

E Jacob Tanner
Guest Writer



R-A-P, these letters spell a word that some say has changed the world. A more formal definition, according to Dictionary.com is that rap is "a form of popular music developed especially in African-American urban communities and characterized by spoken or chanted rhyming lyrics with a strong rhythmic accompaniment."

Rap can also be defined as a combination of rhythm and poetry, and in the early 1980's, when rap first emerged onto the mainstream music scene, it was still poetry.

The MC's of the 80's rapped with a purpose. Whether their purpose was to get everyone and their mammas dancing or to describe a particular discrepancy they were going through, rappers poured their hearts and souls into their rhymes. In the 80's, rap songs were less about money, drugs and women, they were more about getting one's opinion heard.

Not many people will listen to the ideas of a financially troubled, poorly educated, young, and, more importantly, black youth from the ghettos of New York City. Through rap, millions of people hear the ideas of that same young man. The poor, downtrodden folk of the unforgiving and unfortunate streets of the United States can be heard and can be seen.

The poetic nature of rap two decades ago is what separates rap at its beginning and the style of rap that is popular now. In this millennium, rap has taken on a new goal. Rappers now are focused on having lots of sex, making lots of cash, and apparently selling lots of drugs. Very few of the current MC's rap with purpose other than becoming rich, popular and "makin' it out the hood." There is no emotion put into the bars of a rap song, there is no heart behind the rhymes, and there are no new ideas being argued in the lines of most new songs. Since many rappers speak about the same things in their songs, many songs that are produced today sound the same. Rap songs today sound the same because they use the same lyrics that are very derogatory and can be offensive to many.

Current rappers have become one dimensional and have limited the scope of variety in rap music. This is the scar that current rappers have left on hip-hop, and if something is not done soon, I fear that rap will slowly digress into a cesspool of scantily clad women dancing in a video while taking a shower with money, next to a rapper with three mink coats, the newest Jordan's and all his "goons" in the background.

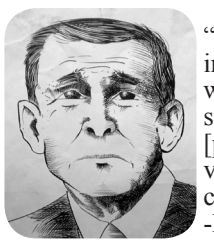
ACCORDING TO BILLBOARD.COM.....

- THE FIRST R&B/HIP HOP SONG TO APPEAR ON THE CHARTS WAS "LOVE'S THEME SONG " BY LOVE UNLIMITED ORCHESTRA IN 1974
- THE NUMBER ONE SONG SO FAR IN 2008 IS "LOW" BY FLO RIDA FEAT. T. PAIN
- THE WORD "RAP" COMES FROM THE POPULAR 1960'S WORD "TO HAVE A CONVERSATION"
- THE TWO FIRST RAPPERS HIT THE MAINSTREAM SCENE WERE DJ KOOL AND AFRIKA BAMBAATAA

#1 Stop: WAR

Loy Norrix students and staff don't like war. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing; here's what they have to say.

"The war is stupid, just like Bush."
-Allie Hogan, junior



"I can't believe in the modern world that we're still getting [physically violent]... I just can't believe it."
-Nancy Mollhagen, Art Teacher

Paul Williams, junior

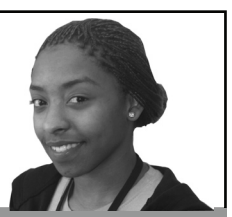
Paul Williams, junior

"When the Northside and Southside fight, it gives our school a bad reputation and it covers up all the good stuff we do."

Adrienne Dunigan, senior

Adrienne Dunigan, senior

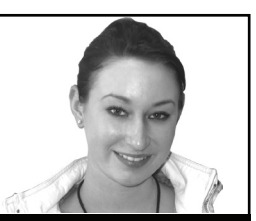
"It makes our image horrible. We are always broadcast in the news as bad."



Marla Bowser, senior

Marla Bowser, senior

"They [people involved in street violence] make our school look bad because they bring the street violence to our school."



Anya Dompier, senior

Anya Dompier, senior

"I think it [street violence] gives them a very bad image and a scary image. It doesn't make me very proud to go to this school."