# Hoopty

ELIZABETH SZAKACS /KNIGHT LIFE

**Tyler McGrail sits on the hood of his 1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass, right ablove the damage created by a rear-ending accident at a stoplight. Regardless of the damage McGrail is proud to call his car his baby.**

**Elizabeth Szakacs**
Beats Editor

Seeing senior Tyler McGrail drive into school with headphones on because of the lack of radio in his car and bundled up in a huge winter coat from the lack of heat is not uncommon from day to day. Tyler drives a 1993 Oldsmobile Cutlass that he received from his Grandma last winter at about this time.

When McGrail received the car, it was in somewhat better shape than it is now. The car is now missing the front grill from an accident where he rear-ended someone at a stoplight. The damage caused by the accident makes it impossible for the hood to open. The back tires also have taken a beating from hitting curbs so often. The Cutlass now comes with many dents.

McGrail's car gets only 14 miles to the gallon. This may be caused by the fuel line being clogged, making the car bog out from exhaust. A couple times a month the car doesn't always like to start in the morning and it's a lot worse in the winter.

Along with all of the mechanical and body problems, the Cutlass comes with a few inside as well. These problems include a glove box held shut by duct tape at all times, extreme messiness which becomes hazardous at times, and a trunk that can only be accessed from the outside with a screw driver because his key broke off in the lock.

Despite all the Hoopty qualities McGrail faces with his car, he still refers to his car as "my baby." McGrail plans on getting a new car in the future, but for right now he says it gets him from point A to point B.

# G-Wagon

ELIZABETH SZAKACS/ KNIGHT LIFE

**Claire Dandois strikes a pose showcasing her 2002 Honda Accord, proud of it being named an offical G-Wagon. Along with being excited about the upgrade from her previous car.**

**Elizabeth Szakacs**
Beats Editor

Waking up in a horrible mood three days after her seventeenth birthday, junior Claire Dandois called her dad to see when he would be home so she could leave for a friend's house. Dandois' dad told her to stay put and hinted to her about something that was going to cheer her up.

Dandois was overly excited thinking of the possibilities of what her dad was bringing home. She saw her dad pull into the driveway in a 2002 Honda Accord, bright shiny silver. It was a late birthday present from both of her parents.

Leather seats, power everything, sunroof, six disk CD changer and ABS, are all of the many features that Dandois says are her favorites.

"ABS in the winter is really nice. That's definitely something that my other car didn't have," said Dandois.

Dandois did not have the pleasure of experiencing these features in her previous car, a much older Mitsubishi that slowly started to break down until it was not drivable at all.

Dandois' new car is a complete upgrade from her old one. Dandois and her friends are now riding in style, from the sleek look and the incredible way it drives. A close friend of Dandois', junior Hannah Labadie agrees that Dandois' new car is a complete upgrade,

"I like it way better, it's a lot nicer to drive in, especially in the winter over all the potholes we have now. It's way better than her last car," said Labadie.

Part of the reason Claire's parents got her the car was so she would have a steady, nice car that was dependable. She doesn't plan on getting another car any time soon. Why would she want to anyway, she owns an official G-Wagon.

# Relay For Life Inspires All Participants

**Carly Wheaton**
Copy Editor

Candle-lit silence fills a grassy field next to Kalamazoo's Air Zoo as a screen scrolls name after name. Groups of people walk together while glow sticks illuminate tears of both sadness and joy as the participants of Relay For Life honor the lives of those who have died from cancer and celebrate the lives of those who have survived.

The Relay For Life is the main event held by the American Cancer Society every year and its participants raise money for cancer research and awareness in their community. This summer marks Kalamazoo's 13th Relay, but the event has been around since Dr. Gordy Klatt raised $27,000 as the first to walk for 24 hours by himself in 1985 in Tacoma, Washington.

Kalamazoo's Relay For Life chairperson, Ken Popp, first got involved in 2004 when friends simply asked him to join their team. He has since been inspired to be a team captain then a member of the planning committee and now chairperson.

"After that first year, my eyes were opened and I saw for the first time how cancer has really impacted our community. It made me sad to see how many people have suffered. It made me mad to see that cancer has taken so much from so many," said Popp.

Many teams participated in the 2007 event in June, filling the new venue, the Kalamazoo Air Zoo and the American Cancer Society is hoping for an even greater turnout this year.

Last year's event raised a total of $154,000 making the 2008 goal of $165,000 a realistic possibility and Popp has a personal goal for Kalamazoo's event to reach the $200,000 mark during the 2010 Relay. Teams represent everyone from businesses and schools to small families celebrating a loved one.

The event is held overnight to represent the fact that cancer never sleeps and walkers remain on the track throughout the night. Most who are inspired to join do so because of a personal experience and find hope in the Relay's slogan: "Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back!"

For many, it is the personal gratification that is rewarded for service that keeps them coming back time and time again.

"Every time I hear on the news that new breakthroughs have been made in cancer research and prevention, I feel so much pride. I know I'm helping to make that happen," said Ken Popp.

DAWN WHEATON/ GUEST PHOTOGRAPHER

**Members of the "Team 2008" Relay for Life team prepare for the Mardi Gras lap around the track during the 2006 Relay for life held at Loy Norrix. The Relay for Life is a 24 hour event to raise money for the American Cancer Society.**

Senior Ben Kozlowski has decided to start a team of his peers for the 2008 Relay For Life that will be held on May 31- June 1 at the Air Zoo. When a close friend confided that her father had been diagnosed with cancer, he began to investigate the event. This will be his first year participating in the event and his first year as a team captain for his new team, "Knights For a Cure", which will be made up of Loy Norrix students who have been inspired to help the cause. Kozlowski said his competitive spirit will drive him to want to be a top competitor.

"I am doing it for the fun, but I'm obviously going to try to raise a lot of money and I'm nervous about how well the other teams will do," said Kozlowski.

His grandfather passed away from lung cancer and his uncle is currently struggling with blood cancer, or leukemia. He encourages everyone to donate, join or even start a team of their own.

"It will be an awesome experience, something to top off my senior year," said Kozlowski.

Although the event primarily honors those who have died from cancer, much of Relay's atmosphere is about having fun and simply celebrating life while remaining hopeful for the future.

At midnight, after the candle-lit remembrance lap, an event called the Mr. Relay competition begins. At this time, guys from each of the teams dress in drag and participate in a pageant-like competition while seeking to raise money from the rest of people there. Strutting their stuff around the track, the participants usher in a fun and light-hearted atmosphere to the Relay after a solemn time of remembrance during the silent candle-lit laps at twilight.

Senior T.J. Carter is the reigning champion for the Mr. Relay crown from the 2007 event as a part of the Loy Norrix senior class' team, "Team 2008" and hopes to defend his title again at this summer's event with the help of his "Team 2008" teammates.

"Last year's competition was really tough and it'll surely be close again this year," said Carter.

The 2008 Relay will mark his third year of participation in Relay For Life as he prepares for his second win of the Mr. Relay crown. Carter's hour-long role as the southern belle, Betty Jo, earned him over $300 from the crowd as well as a $100 bill for having the highest stilettos (approximately 2") of all the "girls." Carter cites these good times that he and his teammates have with each other as a major reason for his participation but the deeper meaning of the event is what keeps him coming back.

He said, "Cancer is a debilitating disease that affects millions of lives every year, and it is amazing and inspiring to see the courage of those fighting the disease, those who have beaten it, and the stories of those who have lost loved ones to cancer."

Ben Kozlowski feels the same inspiration and said, "Everyone knows someone [with cancer], so it's motivation."

# Storytime with Sihji

**Sihji Hicks**
Staff Writer

Sometime last week, I was sick as heck and I brought some Thera-flu to school, like a three pack. So I have Advanced Journalism first block causes I'm ballin' like that with "Knight Life." I asked Ms. Pankop, "Can I get your World's Best Boss mug to make my thera-flu in?"

She all like, "No it's my mug."

Well, we were going to have a sub that day, so as soon as she left I was going to get the mug anyway. I guess she knew that, so she tricked me and took the mug with her.

Then, Pankop was like, "You gotta get the A+ teacher mug."

I was all mad cause I'm thinking I'm not even a teacher, so why is Pankop giving me the cup? She then gives me this long speech on how her sister gave her that cup when she got out of college, (that she's had since her very first day at Loy Norrix) and all that malarkey, so I am taking good care of this cup.

Later that day I get down to the A wing and guess who I see? Miss Bowser. She like, "Siji and Sushi," just sayin' my name all wrong, Miss Bowser asked me talkin' bout how I stole her cup, "Where did you get it from?"

I'm like, "My name is Sihji and I got this from Ms. Pankop. I've never even had your class, so how you going to come at me in all the wrong ways, sayin' I stole your cup? If I was to steal your cup, why would I steal a cup that says A+ teacher?"

She started laughing and said, "Pankop stole my cup!"

I'm like, "No way, Pankop doesn't steal!"

She was like, "Yeah she does. That's my cup."

So I walk back to the B-wing and I'm like, "Pankop, why you play me man?"

She asked, "What you talking bout Willis?"

I'm like, "You said some sob story how your sister gave you that cup and come to find out you stole it."

She like, "Naw, I didn't steal, I will call my sister in Indiana. She will tell you, she got me that cup herself."

Pankop then was all in my face like she wanna bust a move. I felt like Michael Jackson in that "Beat It" video. I thought she was just about to move all the tables and get to break dancing, but I guess Ms. Pankop didn't steal it.

The world may never know who really is the A+ teacher.

SEAN STOTO/KNIGHT LIFE

**Anne Bowser and Sihji Hicks dispute the ownership of the A+ teacher mug. Bowser suggests pulling a Solomon, but Sihji will have nothing of it.**