# Norrix Students Experience Holocaust Museum

**The Zachor is a Hebrew symbol for remberance.**

**Rebecca Kissinger**
Copy Editor

It has been almost 70 years since Adolf Hitler and the German Army killed six million Jewish people across the European continent during World War II. From ghettos to death camps, Hitler did what he could to rid the world of the Jewish people and other groups of people who he thought were less than human. Hitler's anti- Semitism (a prejudice of Jewish people based on religious, racial or ethnic beliefs) spread across the European continent leading to the invasion of Poland and the beginning of the Holocaust. The Holocaust was the largest mass killing of one group of people in the last century.

The students of English teachers Megan Burnley and Anne Bowser's classes recently read a famous memoir written by a Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, called "Night."

Burnley said, "I was moved by their [the students] interest in the subject matter."

The book is a memoir of Wiesel's journey as a young man in the Auschwitz concentration and extermination camp in Poland. Along with the reading of the book the students visited the Holocaust museum in Detroit on February 27.

> As students we can learn and remember so we can change the future.

"The most powerful part [of the museum] was the cattle car. It was crowded and there were only forty people," said Laura Karrer, a senior in Browser's College English class.

The students walked through the museum and a cattle car which looked almost exactly like the car that Wiesel rode in to Auschwitz.

"Night" is extremely powerful and Wiesel's descriptions are so vivid that when you go through the museum it is somewhat overwhelming to take in everything.

The students saw Hitler's rise to power and people who could have accomplished many great things if they had been able to live their lives to the fullest. The students also learned about Jewish people who have accomplished great things in science, literature and global issues, such as Albert Einstein and Barbra Streisand.

A ninth grader from Burnley's freshman English class named Kasey Meisheri said, "I'm kind of excited and it's also depressing to see pictures of people and things that they might have left behind, but it is a real good experience to go there."

The tour guide Howard Spinner talked about the Jewish timeline, WWII to the final solution on the tour. The most important thing is to remember the horrors that took place so that something like the Holocaust will never happen again. Unfortunately, we cannot say that these terrible things are not happening in our life time and will never happen again. For example mass genocides are being committed all over the world, for instance in Uganda and the Sudan.

"People should be aware of what's going on in the future. History gives us lessons," said Burnley.

As students we can learn and remember so we can change the future.

### *Students Reflect on Feelings Regarding Museum Experience*

**Xi'ange Shannon**
Staff Writer

| *Feelings Before* | *Feelings After* |
|---|---|
| **Senior Laura Karrer** | |
| "It's definitely going to be real emotional and sad, but I'm glad I get the opportunity." | "There's no words to express how I felt because it was really depressing." |
| **Senior Elizabeth Shorter** | |
| "I really don't know." | "It did not seem like it was real. All those things that happened to those people was disgusting, I don't see how people could be so sick and do that to other people." |
| **Freshman Elizabeth Luitje** | |
| "It will be different to see and experience what happened instead of just reading about it." | "I feel like I understand it a lot and I understand what happened." |
| **Senior Nelly Smith** | |
| "I'm kind of nervous but then again I got mixed emotions." | "I was touched and I learned a lot. It made me really value my life." |
| **Freshman Kasey Meisheri** | |
| "I'm kind of excited and it's also depressing to see pictures of people and things that they might have left behind, but it is a real good experience to go there." | "The day after the Holocaust Museum I was still mopey. It's still really sad to think about how this really happened and how it's still happening." |

# Increase of Security Aggravates Homeless Community in Kalamazoo

**Christina Pillsbury**
Opinion Editor

Accusations of a "war against the poor" were thrown around at the Kalamazoo City Commission meeting on Monday, March 3. The homeless community's complaints to the city of Kalamazoo have increased in intensity since the discovery of a homeless woman's body on the steps leading up to City Hall in early November, 2007. The woman died due to exposure to the cold.

The Kalamazoo Homeless Action Network (KHAN) has fought discrimination against the homeless in Kalamazoo during the past decade. Recently, their focus has turned toward the increase of security at Kalamazoo's downtown Transportation Center. The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety attributes the increase in security officers to the immense amount of emergency calls from downtown. However, members of KHAN claim that this is just another discriminatory restriction the city has placed on the poor.

"It's easy for police to target the homeless. If you look like you're a certain look or dress, the people are going to ask you if you're riding the bus, and that's profiling," said Wade Allen, former member of KHAN.

The Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS) denies these claims of profiling, and according to Sergeant Tim Kozal, the department has received no formal complaints of harassment at the downtown transportation center. Kozal has complete faith in the officers of the KDPS.

"We don't specifically target anyone. When people violate rules, we address it with them," said Kozal.

Officers patrolling the Transportation Center make sure that those loitering on the premises are indeed waiting for the bus or train. Officers will frequently ask to see a patron's bus token if they feel those patrons are not waiting. Without a token, officers ask people to leave the premises. To which, KHAN leaders are urging other members of the homeless community to have a token on their person when downtown.

Allen commented on the evolution of the token, from an item of trade to a safety device.

"Tokens go back to tribal Indian times as a unit of monetary exchange. [Now] you have to have a token of safety just to be there [at the bus depot]," said Allen.

Kozal explained that the increase of security was an offensive measure on the part of KDPS. With many recent 9-1-1 calls, officers were not able to arrive at the scene until it was too late. Subjects of these calls vary from teenage violence to panhandling to weapon possession. With an increased security force already present, many issues are prevented or solved quickly.

In contrast to KHAN's complaints, Kozal stated that most patrons of the downtown transportation depot have been quite cooperative with the change in security.

"I have had several people, the bus drivers, comment to us [KDPS officers] that they can walk around and don't have anyone asking them for money. They feel safe, and actually everyone's really cooperative," said Kozal.

Still, KHAN has made attempts to have their voice and complaints obvious to the city commission and to the public. Their recent protests have drawn public attention and their issues have been thrust into the spotlight.

One of the most visible recent actions taken by KHAN was their April 2005 demonstration at McDonald's downtown Kalamazoo location. Patrons protesting the 30 minute time limit for customers purposely held up lines in the fast food restaraunt.

Officer McFletcher, Loy Norrix security guard, and former KDPS officer commented on the relevance and significance of KHAN's complaints.

Said McFletcher, "There's one big side of the issue, with different facets. The overall view is the interests of the citizenry as a whole, the KHAN, and those who are not opposed, but see a different side. There's going to have to be a compromise, no side is going to be completely satisfied. We're one community with differing interests."

### Homelessness in the United States

- On average,homelessness lasts for **8** months
- Single men comprise **51%** of the homeless population
- Families with children account for **30%** of U.S. homeless people
- **17%** of the homeless are single women

Statistics courtesy of the National Coalition for the Homeless

# Tyres Sykes, Former Norrix Student, Dies at Age 19

Tyres Jamar Sykes died on October 12, 2007; a result of a gunshot wound fired on August 27, 2007. Born April 20, 1988, he was the son of Toni Bell Sykes and Franklin Jerome Williams.

Tyres was a student at Woodward Elementary School, Maple Street Magnet School and Millwood Middle School before attending Loy Norrix High School from 2004-2006.

While at Loy Norrix, Tyres enjoyed taking classes from coaches Chris Andrews and Ted Duckett as well as teachers Jennie Ko, and Katie Pennington.

"He was always very friendly and nice... He seemed to have a lot of friends, but he seemed to keep to himself the goings on of his life," said Pennington.

In his spare time, Tyres liked to play basketball, play video games, watch movies, eat his favorite foods and attend Allen Chapel AME Church, where he was member of the usher board.

"To Reecey [Tyres], a good night was having a good movie, his video games hooked up and his favorite foods. He was like a bear; he could go in there [in his room] and hibernate all weekend," said grandmother Sarah Sykes.

Gym teacher Duckett remembers his fun-loving, cooperative nature.

"He was a quiet kid in class, loved to play basketball and work out in the weight room; friendly kid, and basically was just trying to have fun," said Duckett.

Widely known as a quiet, friendly student, health teacher Andrews recalls his playful side.

"He was a quiet kid in the classroom. We often engaged in playful banter; we would joke occasionally," said Andrews.

To his family and friends, Tyres was a loyal, honest, generally nice friend, who will be missed greatly.

His grandmother said, "Integrity lasts, it doesn't crumble, and that's how I tried to raise Reecey; he had integrity… He made mistakes; he didn't make big mistakes, but he made mistakes. But when he was your friend, he was your friend."

Tyres is preceded in death by mother Toni Bell Sykes, Great Grandmother Ollie B. Skyes and Great Grandfather Joseph Woodard Sr.

Tyres is survived in life by Kalamazoo residents father Franklin J. Williams, brothers Michael Smith and Jermain Moore, sister Rakiya Sykes, grandmother Sarah Sykes, grandfather Tommie L. (Theresa) Sykes Jr, great grandfather Tommie L. (Cathryn) Sykes Sr, and great grandmother Ollie Woodard of Scott, Mississippi. He will also be remembered by special friends of the family pastor Jerry McNeely and Deloris Kelly, as well as a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, great aunts, great uncles, friends, and loved ones. Tyres will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved him.

Said grandmother Sarah Sykes, "He was my hero… he was a grandson any grandma would be proud of."

# A Matter of Security

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A number of the fights in school occur in the classrooms, and while putting security cameras in classrooms may protect students, it may also be considered unethical by a teacher.

"I don't think it is illegal to have security cameras in the classrooms, but I hope it never comes to that," Williamson said. "It would not just be the students who are being watched but the teachers too. Everybody would have to pay for the loss of privacy."

Putting security cameras in classrooms may seem unethical but putting security cameras in classrooms may certainly help deter the school's problems. We have cameras now, but to most people they really don't seem to be doing anything. In the classroom, security is also a problem.

"I've had my credit card stolen and my wallet a couple of times, but cameras don't seem like they would help. The hallways are usually where a lot of the fighting really happens. Unfortunately there are students breaking laws and disrespecting the school," Williamson also said.

The security camera money could be used for other things, some students may deem the usefulness unnecessary for the school funding. There are other things that the school could do instead of purchasing new cameras.

"I think that they [the officials who make the decision to spend the money on cameras] should spend the money on LNTV equipment because we need it more. The only thing that they could do with security is be more consistent with the rules. At my old school [Hillside] you couldn't get away with anything. If Norrix cracked down on the issues, the students would not be able to get away with as much," junior Christina Minar said.

"The students are used to getting away with stuff. The school is changing the rules to make it better. I think that if the students knew there were cameras then they would be effective," said Minar.

The school should be a safe place for everyone, but for some people it just isn't. Mainly the student body affects the school environment, and it is what the students do that represents our school. It will be proven in time whether this investment will be worth it.

# CORRECTIONS

- **Andrew Chapman** broke 40 seconds, not 30 seconds.
- **Leeann Peter's** name was misspelled.
- **Andrae Greer** was incorrectly labeled as a sophomore. He is a junior.
- **Anne Brown** was not credited in the staff list as photo editor.
- **Nikk Gillespie's** name was misspelled.