Improv Teams Face Off

See who came out on top after KC's "Mind Fracture" competed against LN's "IT" to find out who could get more laughs.

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Seniors! Seniors! Seniors!

Check out the articles, polls and games all dedicated to the wonderful class of 2008.

INSERT

Looking For Something To Do This Summer?

Downtown Kalamazoo is filled with fun options to occupy your school-free time.

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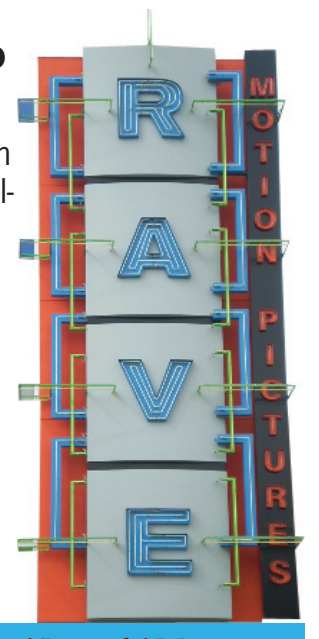

Knight Life

The Voice of Loy Norrix High School

Loy Norrix High School, 606 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo MI 49001 | Volume 48 / Issue 6 / May 2008

NEWS BRIEFS

New York Teen Youngest Professor in the World

New Yorker Alia Sabur, currently 19 years old, has recently been inducted in the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the youngest college professor in history. Sabur is currently working in the Department of Advanced Technology Fusion at Konkuk University in South Korea.

Sabur, who was 14 when she earned her bachelor's degree, and 18 when she was hired at the Konkuk University, feels that it is a great honor to be initiated in the "Guinness Book of World Records." Sabur will be teaching physics at the University starting next month.

Kalamazoo City Commissioners Rule for Stricter Curfew Rules

Curfew rules in Kalamazoo are being changed. Before, kids 16 years old and younger were not allowed out past midnight. However, as of Monday, May 5, Kalamazoo city commissioners have revised the law and moved the age up to 17.

Children caught breaking these rules must be picked up by their parents, but if a guardian cannot be contacted, the kids will be sent to the juvenile home.

Christian Groups Help After Cyclone Destruction

Tropical cyclone Nargis, a recent storm whose winds reached 120 mph, hit the primary farming zone of Burma, an impoverished Asian country of some 53 million.

The storm damaged an estimated 75% of the region's structures, and has taken 4,000 lives while injuring and displacing thousands more. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, a member of a worldwide group of (mostly) Christian churches, is rallying for aid. If you wish to help, visit http://www.pcusa.org/pda.

Backers Urge Clinton to Quit, Unite Democrats

Senator George McGovern, a long-time supporter of Hillary Clinton, has switched his endorsement to Obama. Seeing a Clinton victory as mathematically impossible, he hopes that Clinton will drop out of the race, allowing Democrats to join together in support of Obama, who many project as the victor in this race.

Nevertheless, Hillary presses on, feeling that the people of the remaining states should have their voices heard in their primaries.

Grinding Prevails at School Dances

MADISON KAY / KNIGHT LIFE

Junior Carise Johnson and Dominique Moore dance together at the 2008 prom held at Rose Street Market downtown, demonstrating a mild form of grinding. Grinding is a common sight at most LN dances.

Matt Evans
Copy Editor

The pounding of the bass from the speakers vibrates the room, creating an irresistible feeling that your body must answer to. You start to move to the center of the dance floor with adrenaline surging through your body, stimulating your senses. You can't hold it in any longer so you grab the nearest person and perform the dance which has captured the youth of the Western world: grinding, also known as twerking.

The dance floor is a place for relaxation and enjoying the time spent with your friends, but above all it is a place to have fun and express yourself.

"I love going to the dances. It is great to see everyone enjoying themselves. One of the difficulties faced with attending the dance is sending the message that this [dancing] is inappropriate but that they [students] can still have fun," said Valerie Boggan, the assistant principal at Loy Norrix, regarding the types of dancing seen at the school dances.

One of the most important things when approaching students about their dancing is remembering to keep it light. Boggan talks about how she deals with approaching students so they don't feel like they are in trouble, embarrassed, or like they are being judged.

"My approach is the same with every student," commented Boggan on how to ensure that no one gets upset. For the past two years Boggan has never had any problem with students getting upset or starting fights. School parties will almost always remain fight free because everyone is concentrating on dancing which brings people together, instead of making them upset.

"School dances are the one place where we do not have behavior problems," said Boggan with a smile. It is a place where everyone can enjoy themselves and have a great time, students and staff alike. One of the most amazing aspects of the school dances is that it is a school activity that creates unity among all groups of LN students.

"School parties are one of the activities that create unity and the event allows everyone the opportunity to have a great time," said Boggan.

The type of dancing that is seen on the Loy Norrix dance floor is labeled by the Hip-Hop culture as grinding. This dance is so popular because it can be performed to almost any type of music. The basic structure of the dance is very simple, therefore giving the dancers the opportunity to improvise and add their own style and moves.

Another reason this dance is so popular is because it doesn't demand space, allowing it to be expressed almost anywhere. All you need is a partner and a beat to follow.

Loy Norrix senior Chaquonta Derring spoke out about why she feels grinding is appropriate.

"They [administration] look at it [twerking] in a different way then we do. We look at it as it is: hot, hip and in style," stressed Derring.

Derring recollected a dance that she went to at Loy Norrix where her mom was a chaperone. "Me and this dude were dancing [grinding] and my mom saw and she didn't say anything, it is just another style. We don't think about sex when we do it; it is what it is" said Derring.

Boggan introduced a new perspective of why this dance could potentially cause a problem. With ease Boggan describes a likely scenario. Let's say that Sally [an imaginary student to help set the scenario] is grinding with a boy and Sally's mom walks into the dance and is upset by the dancing she sees her daughter doing. Sally, embarrassed, says it

See **GRINDING** page 2

Teens Not Receiving Adequate Sex Education

Amy Halpern
Jocelyn Hillard
Staff Writers

One in four teenage girls has been diagnosed with one or more sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). This startling statistic was recently released by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and it shocked the nation. These numbers do not leave out the teenagers in Kalamazoo, who are included in these STD statistics. Some blame the rise in STDs on bad parenting, while others blame it on the raunchy media. But one inarguable reason for the rise in STDs among teens is a lack of adequate sex education.

During high school, all students are required to take certain classes. These classes are called "core" classes because they are a necessity for a good education. One of these mandatory classes is health. All schools in Michigan must follow the mandatory state guidelines of what can and cannot be taught during sex education. Schools may add more restrictions to this curriculum, many times resulting in abstinence only sex education.

However, officials are now questioning if a few weeks of instructing students to "say no" is truly enough to fully educate and protect students.

Loy Norrix health teacher Chris Andrews believes that nine weeks of health, of which only two to three weeks are sex education, is not nearly enough to protect the students. He thinks that at a minimum, students should receive a second, more in depth health course again in eleventh and/or twelfth grade.

Andrea Anderson, director of The Center for Leadership of Sexuality Education at the Kalamazoo Planned Parenthood, agrees that students are not learning enough. She believes sex education should be part of every grade, beginning in kindergarten and incorporated into every class possible.

"We should look at our sexual health with the same lens we look at other pieces of our health care like brushing our teeth, putting on deodorant or those types of issues. We aren't giving it enough credence," said Anderson .

The time given to sex education is not the only issue. What is being taught is also a concern. Most public high schools have turned to safe sex or comprehensive sex education after a failed $1.5 billion was spent by the United States government on abstinence-only-until-marriage programs (AUM).

It was found that 56 percent of students in the AUM program remained abstinent for one year after the program, and 55 percent of control group, who had not received this curriculum, remained abstinent for one year after the program.

The AUM program was also found to have no effect on condom usage, the age at which teenagers begin having sex, or the number of sexual partners. On top of this, students in the AUM program were actually less likely to know that the risk of STDs can be reduced by condom usage.

The AUM programs have been described as incredibly intensive, including daily lessons for a year or more. Patti Zull, nurse practitioner and sex education lecturer in the Battle Creek schools, recognizes the fact that intensive education is not the only answer.

JOCELYN HILLARD / KNIGHT LIFE

Chris Andrews teaches students about STDs in his health class. The rise in teens with STDs has sparked questions about the education that students are receiving.

"There are kids that they educate the heck out of them, and they still go have sex with twenty-nine people," said Zull.

In Kalamazoo Public Schools, students begin receiving the basics of sex education in fifth grade, and continue through learning methods of birth control in eighth grade. However, once the students reach high school the educational requirement decreases to nine weeks total, which is typically taken in ninth or tenth grade. Students are taught comprehensive abstinence, birth control, how to make smart choices, and refusal skills. Loy Norrix health teacher Chris Andrews prefers this type of teaching method.

"The comprehensive program is going to help lower rates because kids are going to have sex whether they are taught it in school or not. Therefore we need to give them the correct information on how to protect themselves from STDs and protect themselves from unwanted pregnancies," said Andrews.

Loy Norrix senior Christina Pillsbury agrees that students need information about sex in high school.

"When you limit the conversation

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Graduation

Goodbye to the class of 2008! Ceremony at Wings Stadium on June 4 at 7 p.m.

Last Days of School

May 30 for seniors, June 12 for all other students.

Senior Trip

May 23 at Cedar Point. Tickets in athletic office. Cost: $40, the bus leaves at 6 am.

Relay for Life

May 31st to June 1st at the Air Zoo to raise money for the American Cancer Society.