How to Beat the Kilgore Train

EVAN MCGLINN / KNIGHT LIFE

Loy Norrix Librarian Joanne Roschmann and student William Perry are held up by the train at the Kilgore railroad crossing on their way to school. Not only student drivers are held up by the train trying to make it to school on time.

Evan McGlinn
Staff Writer

We all know what it feels like to be running late in the morning; the scramble out of bed, the quick breakfast consisting of a granola bar and juice box, the dead sprint to the bus stop or car.

The feeling of running late is not a good one and can be a very stressful start to a school day. However, in most cases we know that being late is our own fault. Whether we forgot to set the alarm, decided to sleep in, or could not find our ID badge, we know that something could have been done to prevent the tardy we know we will be receiving.

But what about those times that we can't point the finger at ourselves? When by some factor beyond our control we cannot get to class at the ridiculously early hour of 7:35 a.m. This scenario is a cause of anger and frustration. This is the feeling of being caught behind a train a block and a half away from your high school.

Many Loy Norrix students have experienced being caught in this situation.

Senior Amelia Yates said, "Whenever you get caught [by the train], in the tower the security guards still try to keep you from class. They don't believe there is a train even though they can probably hear the whistle."

> But what about those times that we can't point the finger at ourselves? When by some factor beyond our control we cannot get to class at the ridiculously early hour of 7:35 a.m. This scenaario is a cause of anger and frustration.

Some students are lucky enough to live in an area where being caught by a train is not a problem. The Milwood neighborhood is one safe zone where students don't have to worry about crossing the tracks.

Freshman Adam Johnson is one of these Milwood residents. Even though he doesn't have to cross the tracks he still said, "Trains shouldn't run after 7:00 a.m, until school starts or between when school gets out and like 3:00 p.m."

Although there is no rule at the moment that prevents trains from running right before or after school, there are some ways that you can avoid starting your day out by getting caught by the train.

According to city ordinance, any train that stops traffic for more than 5 minutes is subject to a fine of up to 500 dollars. So, if you leave from home five minutes earlier it is likely that you will be able to make it to school even if you are caught at the tracks.

If you are unlucky enough to still get caught by the train, just relax. It can take a freight train up to a mile to come to a complete stop, so don't try and cross the tracks when the train is getting close. It is better to get a tardy than get hit by a train. Essentially, there is pretty much nothing that you can do, so just sit back, turn up the radio and think happy thoughts. Don't let the train beat you by starting your day off wrong.

Story Time with Sihji

Sihji Hicks
Staff Writer

So we get to walkin right, and we had to hit like seven blocks just to get to Wendy's, like a country mile. So we finally get to Wendy's, and it's this big line, like 90 people waiting in line. People still waiting in line from the last Journalism conference thing, like three months ago. So we get there, and Evan was like, "I'm gonna be a white boy and stand in line." So me and Anthony walk in the side door and cut everybody to get to the front of the line. We didn't get to the front of the line, but we got like third in line. So then this lady gets to yellin' at her workers because they are behind the counter and stuff. They being' really slow like they on syrup turtle time.

Then, when we finally get up there, I ordered everything. I ordered a Baconator, a junior bacon cheeseburger, a milk shake, and more. I knew I wasn't gonna eat it all, I just felt like wasting some money, like throwing it up in the air in a crowd of people. So when me, Evan, and Anthony J got through getting our food I'm like, "Let's eat here" and they like, "I wanna eat with the other Knight Life students," which I thought was kind of dumb because it was like 80 degrees outside and my milkshake was going to get hot and my food was going to get cold. So it was a lose / lose situation for me, so I said, "Skip it, let's go eat with our Knight Life chums."

So I get to eating and while I am eating Xi'ange comes up to me and asks me why I left her and I am like, "I didn't leave you. You just wanted some healthy food from Pita Pit, and I wanted something fattening and greasy."

So I am eating and Xi'ange is like, "Let me get a piece of your burger."

And you know me I am not the stingy type, so I let her get a piece and while I am breaking her off a piece she is like, "I wanted a piece of bacon." So I give her a piece of bacon. Then like 2 minutes later she like, "I want another piece with bacon."

So I am like, "How are you gonna be picky when I am giving you something."

She like, "I want a piece with bacon," like she had a little bass in her voice.

So then me and Evan go to this peanut shop and I get these red licorice things. It's like thirty of them in a bag, so Evan and I leave when he gets his peanuts and I get my licorice and everyone's happy, right..... Wrong. I get back to the Lansing Center building, and before I even open the bag Xi'ange is like, "I want some licorice."

I am like, "I haven't even opened them yet."

She is like, "But I want some now."

So I am like, "Here man get some," and she don't even say thank you.

So then we are getting on the bus to go home and I pull this frozen water out of my bag, so when I got on the bus it would be melted and I would have something to drink on the way home. So Xi'ange knew that I got water and she like, "I want some."

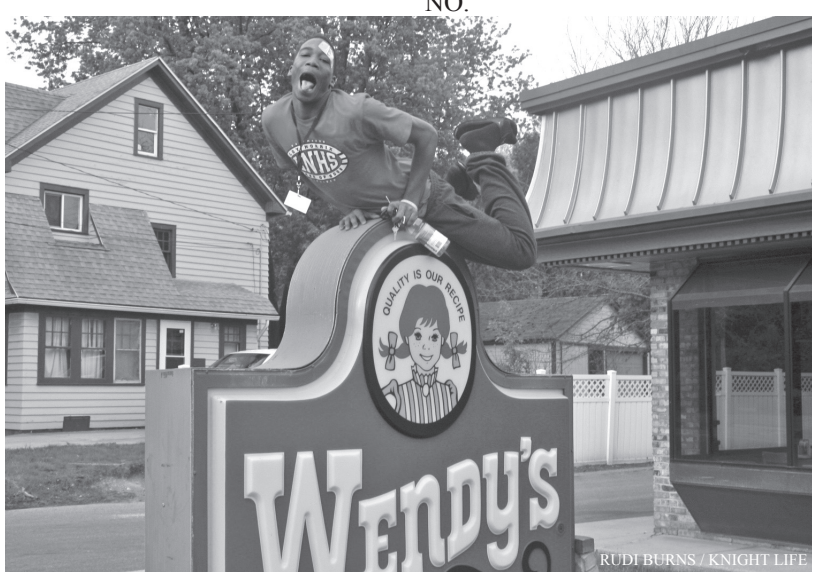
And I am like, "Naw, skip that. I am not tryin to be stingy but NO!!!"

And you know what is crazy is that she is to busy askin me for stuff, when she's got a pop and she tryin to drink up my water.

So I am like, "You have a pop."

She's like, "so I want some water."

And I am like, "You know what. I want Rick James to make a remix of Superfreak featuring Ms. Pankop, but is it going to happen? NO."



RUDI BURNS / KNIGHT LIFE

Sihji Hicks strikes a triumphant pose on top of the Wendy's sign after his most recent episode at a fast food restaurant.

Cesar Chavez and His Legacy Will Always Be Honored

Rocio Hernandez
Beat Editor

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican American labor activist and leader of the United Farm Workers. Chavez was born March 31st, 1927 in Yuma, Arizona.

To honor Cesar Chavez, Bilingual students from Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix and Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts marched this past March 31st from Western Michigan University to the Kalamazoo Public Library.

Chavez was very important because of the changes he accomplished during his lifetime, and after his death. Chavez worked hard for the rights of migrant farm workers and their living conditions. He founded and led the first successful farm workers union in U.S. history, and was also president of the United Farm Workers of America.

Eighth-grade bilingual student from Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts, Alfonso Hernandez, attended the march on March 31st, 2008 for the first time and expressed how important Cesar Chavez is to Hispanic Americans.

"Cesar Chavez was, and still is [important] because he changed the way the Hispanics live today," Hernandez said.

Chavez is a great example of courage and humility. He was from a poor family and he knew that the only way he could get out of the circle of poverty was to work his way up and send his kids to college.

Chavez was a person who thought that you could win in life by improving yourself and speaking out for the things in life you think are not fair. Chavez also thought that patience was one of the things that will help people win in life.

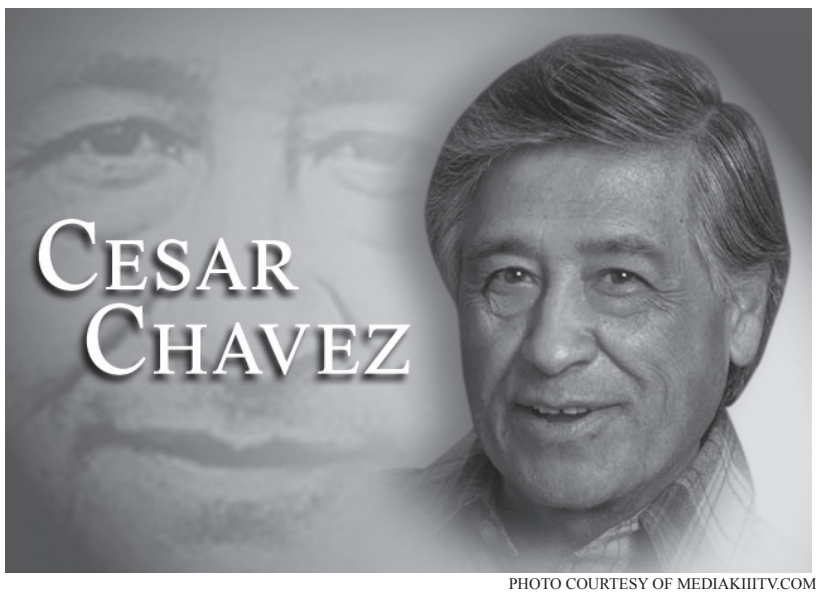


PHOTO COURTESY OF MEDIAKIIITV.COM

Cesar Chavez was a Mexican American labor activist and leader of the United Farm Workers. He led the movement for migrant farm workers and his tireless leadership focused national attention on laborers' terrible working conditions.

"Non-violence is not inaction. It is not discussion. It is not for the timid or weak... Non-violence is hard work. It is the willingness to sacrifice. It is the patience to win," Chavez said.

Chavez and his United Farm Workers battled California grape growers by holding nonviolent protests. Because of the peaceful protests and the public support of the union, Chavez and the U.F.W were able to negotiate contracts for better treatment of agricultural workers with California grape producers.

Adrian Vasquez, a former student from Kalamazoo Central, expresses how Chavez is still a hero today.

"Cesar Chavez is just another social justice hero just like Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks," Vasquez said.

Vasquez expressed his feelings about social issues that are affecting our society today and how the young people should get more involved in events like the marches to honor Chavez's hard work.

"Young people have the power to find a solution for issues that are affecting our community just like Chavez did," Vasquez said.

Chavez's idea was that people have the power to make a change in life. Chavez will always be remembered for his hard work and his legacy will always be honored.

El Legado De Cesar Chávez Siempre Será Honrado

Rocio Hernandez
Beat Editor

Cesar Chávez un activista Mexicano-Americano y líder de la unión de campesinos trabajadores (United Farm Workers).Chávez nació el 31 de Marzo de 1927 en Yuma, Arizona.

En honor a Cesar Chávez los estudiantes Bilingües Kalamazoo Central, Loy Norrix, y Maple Street Magnet School for the Arts marcharon el 31 de Marzo desde la Universidad Western Michigan hasta llegar a la librería pública de Kalamazoo.

Chávez fue muy importante por todos los cambios que realizo durante su vida y después de su muerte. Chávez trabajo duro por los derechos y condiciones de vida de los trabajadores inmigrantes. Chávez fundo y dirigió la primera unión exitosa de campesinos trabajadores en la historia de U.S

El estudiante bilingüe del octavo grado de la escuela Maple Street Magnet School fot the Arts, Alfonso Hernández asistió el pasado 31 de Marzo del 2008 por primera vez y expreso la importancia que tiene Cesar Chávez en los Hispanos.

"Cesar Chávez fue y sigue siendo [importante] por que cambio la manera que los Hispanos viven hoy," dijo Hernandez.

Chávez es un gran ejemplo de valentía y humildad. El fue de clase pobre y savia que la única manera de salir del círculo de la pobreza seria superándose y mandando a sus hijos a la universidad.

Chávez fue una persona quien pensaba que uno siempre puede ganar en esta vida siempre y cuando te lo propongas superarte y alzar la voz para expresar las cosas que no son justas en esta vida. Chávez también pensaba que la paciencia es una de las cosas que ayuda a las personas a ganar en esta vida.

"No-violencia no es una inacción. No es discusión. No es para el tímido o para el débil... No-violencia es trabajo duro. Es el deseo de sacrificarte. Es la paciencia de ganar," dijo Chávez.

Chávez y su unión de campesinos trabajadores pelearon contra los productores de uvas de California realizando protestas no violentas. Por las protestas pacificas y por el apoyo del público hacia la unión, Chávez y la unión de campesinos pudieron negociar contratos para mejorar el trato de los trabajadores agrícolas con los productores de uvas de California.

Adrian Vazquez, ex estudiante de la escuela Kalamazoo Central, expreso como es que Chávez sigue siendo un héroe.

"Cesar Chávez es otro héroe social así como Martín Luther King Jr. o Rosa Parks ," dijo Vazquez.

Vazquez expreso sus sentimientos acerca de los asuntos sociales que afectan nuestra sociedad hoy día y como los jóvenes deberían envolverse mas en eventos como las marchas para honorar el trabajo duro de Chávez.

"los jóvenes tienen el poder de encontrar soluciones para los problemas que afectan nuestra comunidad así como lo hizo Chávez," dijo Vazquez.

El idealismo de Chávez era que las personas tienen el poder de hacer un cambio en la vida. Chávez siempre será recordado por su duro trabajo y su legado siempre será honrado.