The Passing of the Candle

Rudi Burns
Staff Writer

With graduation creeping up on Norrix slower than a sleepy ninja, I can't help but fantasize about a summer filled with lazy days spent in a hot haze. Sitting in the "Knight Life" classroom with almost all seniors adds an edge to my feeling of restlessness. Everyday it is politely pointed out to me that while they are functioning on a normal calendar waiting for Independence Day, I'm waiting a millennium for the Chinese New Year.

But we juniors wait patiently as a monk for a delivery pizza, enjoying the last couple weeks we will spend with people that we have known (for better or worse) since our first days of high school. Already I'm hit with a mild nostalgia.

What happened to "mad" crazy parties, soccer season, and hanging out at Parkwood? Did we really win a football game, or was that a dream? And, when did kids just a year older than me become adults? Somewhere between school and weekends, the theatre of life happened, and now we have to step up on stage and accept our award for best supporting actor, although we know next year we will win an award for our leading roles.

Like Sam tagging behind Frodo, we juniors have stayed one step back on the steps to Mordor, waiting to accept the responsibilities that will inevitably fall to us. And like Frodo, the seniors paths were beset by rogues "doing magic" in the woods, the disbandment of fellowship's, and no lack of ancient wizards guiding them through their journey.

Once this thought has firmly been established in my head, I can put my mind to more important things. Seniors will spend the summer training in different ways, ruining many a good books, calculators, and ping pong tables in the process. And as a good friend, I will be preparing with them.

Like parents on the first days of kindergarten, juniors will watch nervously during Welcome Week, hoping that all our training has not come to naught, and wondering if all the others adults will be nice to our boys and girls. The seniors will in turn be concerned about their alma mater, wondering if the castle remains strong.

Class of '08, don't sweat, we'll hold down the fort. You can rest easy at your new college (or if you're going to State, not at all). When you do come back, it will be with the feeling of a conquered army returning to the battlefield.

When stepping up to accept your diplomas keep the words of the famous general Julius Caesar in mind, "Veni, Vedi, Vici." I came, I saw, I conquered. And those that watch should keep the words of the scholar Henri Dideon in mind "Citius, Altius, Fortius." Higher, faster, stronger.

Our time has come. Seniors of '09, it's time to shine.

2.5 Minutes with: **Antwon Fox**

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MADISON KAY / KNIGHT LIFE

If you know anything about senior Antwon "Twon" Fox, you know that he plays Varsity football and baseball for Loy Norrix. You also probably know that he drives a Honda Civic. But what most people don't know about Fox is when he was a little kid, he experienced a head injury that resulted in him receiving 11,000 dollars for the damage.

Although Fox doesn't remember anything specific about the injury, he knows what happened based on what he's been told. At the age of three or four, Fox incurred this traumatic injury while at his home in Chicago.

"I was leaning on a rail at our house and a nail came out of it and I just fell," described Fox.

As a result, Fox cracked his head open and had to be rushed to the hospital. Fox's family sued their (then) landlord for the damage and received 11,000 dollars by the judge's decision as compensation.

"I don't remember anything, but we sued our landlord and now I've got money in the bank," Fox said.

As surprising as the head injury is, it isn't the only injury Fox experienced as a child. When Fox was around six years old, a doctor found a hole in his heart through X-Rays. Thankfully, the doctors were able to patch the hole up not long after they discovered it.

"If they hadn't patched [the hole] up, I probably wouldn't be here today," said Fox.

Since his childhood, Fox hasn't been through any more injuries that were as traumatic or rewarding as those two. Most of 11,000 dollars still sits in his bank account; something he wishes he could change. Fox was only allowed to spend a little of the money when he initially received it. The rest is to go towards room and board for college.

2.5 Minutes with: KATIE SCOTT

KRISTEN WEHLING / KNIGHT LIFE

Matthew Evans
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Katie Scott, like most seniors, wants to stand out from the crowd. Some people do this by hairstyle, dress or extra curricular activities. Scott has invested her time in body modifications. She has six piercing and two tattoos.

At the age of five, Scott got both of her ears pierced. When Scott was fifteen she got her eyebrow pierced. When she was seventeen she wanted to get her tongue pierced, but her parents said that she had to take out her eyebrow ring if she wanted a tongue ring.

"I thought that it would look cute, and at the time not that many people had it. It was just different," said Scott.

That same year she got the Monroe piercing which is right above your lip. This resembles the beauty mark that Marilyn Monroe had.

"I really wanted to get this one [Monroe piercing] because I thought that it would look cute," said Scott.

"At eighteen I got my nose pierced because I promised my cousin that we would get it [piercing] done together," said Scott.

Scott also had her lip pierced at seventeen.

"Tattoos are permanent but piercings aren't," said Scott about why she has gotten more piercings than tattoos. Scott isn't going to get any more piercings because she doesn't want to look like a "freak."

Scott was fifteen years old when she got her first tattoo. Scott's dad did her first tattoo because he used to own a tattoo parlor.

"It was a spur of the moment thing, I didn't put much thought into it and I regret getting it," said Scott.

The tattoo is on her left chest and it is a picture of a heart and a moon with stars around it. Scott doesn't know why she picked it, it was just one of the designs that she saw.

Scott got her next tattoo on her neck.

"I got this one [tattoo on neck] with my siblings when my grandma died. We got it so we can remember her," said Scott.

Scott got another tattoo on her neck when she was eighteen and it is a Chinese symbol, which means family.

Scott wants to get her name tattooed on her ankle but she wants it to be really small. Scott thinks that piercing and tattoos are fine just as long as you can deal with having piercings and having them be in your way.

Scott would like to give advice about getting tattoos.

"Make sure that it is something that you really want and don't get too many. After a while it starts to look really tacky. It has to mean something important," said Scott.