KnightLife

The Voice of Loy Norrix High

October 2006, Volume 48, / Issue 1 Loy Norrix High School 606 E. Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, MI

FEATURE: See how Norrix fashion in the hallways compares to the hottest runway styles.
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[[News Briefs]]

On November 6th, students in the D house of the Freshmen Academy will be moved to new classes in the A,B and C houses. 5 teacher currently in he academy (one in each subject) will as of November 6th be assigned new classes to help reduce the number of students in the larger 10th, 11th and 12th grade classes.

Barack Obama, Democratic senator of Illinois has acknowledged that he has considered running for US president in 2008. If elected, he would be the first African American president and he is currently the US's only African American senator.

Two men accused of stealing Coca-Cola's secret recipe to sell to rival PepsiCola pleaded guilty in a US federal court. A former Coca-Cola secretary is accused to stealing samples and giving them to the two men to sell. The men could face up to 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

The government of Niger in Africa has ordered around 150,000 Arabs who live in the east of the country to leave. Most of the Arabs are nomads who have fled from conflict in the neighboring country Chad, many have lived in Niger for decades. There has been no reason given for this expulsion.

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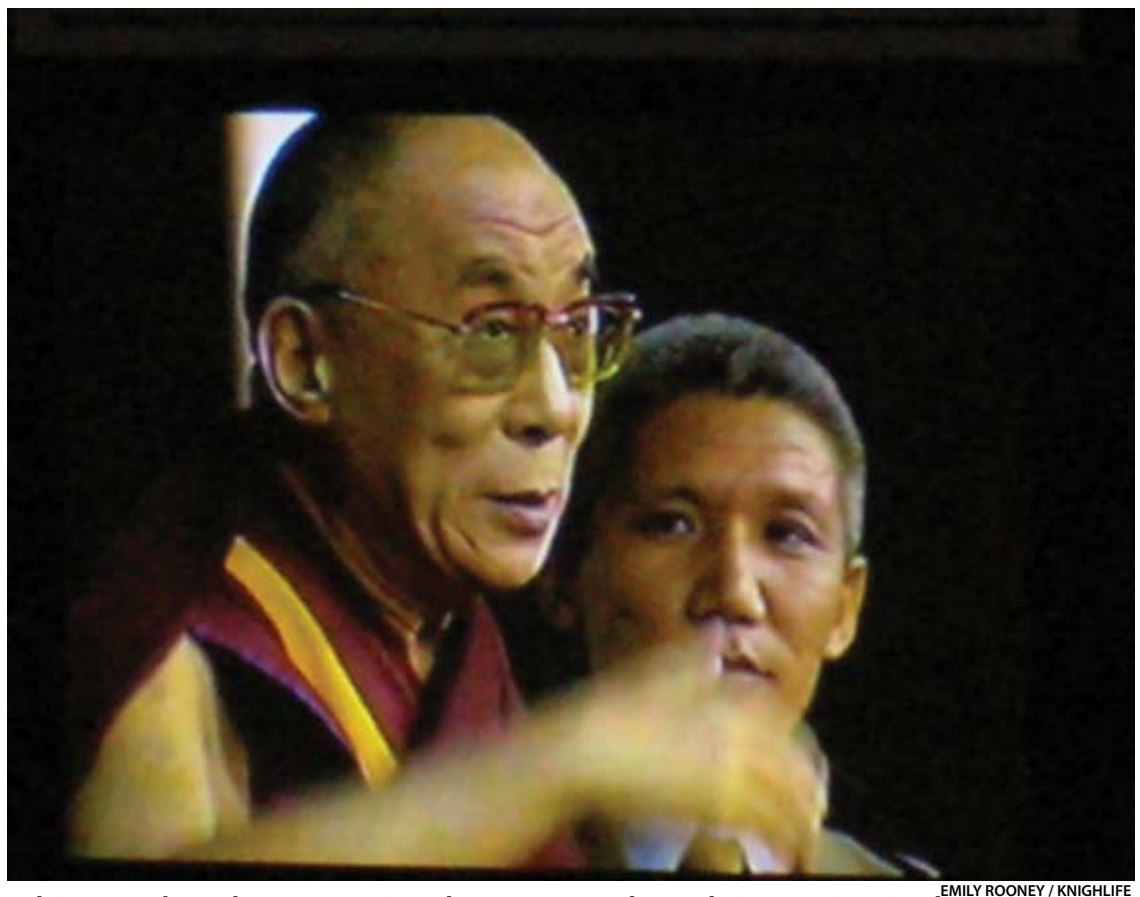
PeaceJam Goes International

Teens from around the world gathered at the International Peace Jam Conference to hear 10 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates share their visions for peace and change



EMILY ROONEY / KNIGHLIFE

In his speech at the International Peace Jam, the Dalai Lama inspired teens to go out and make a difference. The Dalai Lama is known around the world as an advocate for nonviolence and the environment.

Emily Rooney
Design Consultant

The air was thick with excitement as 3,000 teens from around the world awaited the moment when the renowned Dalai Lama would appear. Suddenly the curtains parted, and everyone in the stadium leaped to their feet and cheered loudly as the living legend stepped on the stage to share his thoughts and ideas on peace.

This sort of enthusiasm and energy was typical at the International Peace Jam Conference, which was held at the University of Denver from September 15th-17th. The conference brought together teens from 31 countries who share a goal of working towards making this world a better place to live. The conference featured ten Nobel Peace Prize recipients who spent the weekend sharing with the thousands of teens in attendance their experiences and visions for peace.

Ten members of the Loy Norrix Peace Jam club, along with advisors Sveri May and Elizabeth Washington were fortunate enough to attend this once in a lifetime event. It was the first time that such a large number of Nobel Laureates have assembled in the U.S. and also the largest Peace Jam conference held in the U.S. thus far. Some of the laureates who attended the conference include; Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Betty Williams, President Oscar Arias, and Jose Ramos-Horta.

To senior Qi Zhang, the most memorable part of the conference was hearing the laureates speak, particularly the Dalai Lama.

"It was very enlightening and refreshing to hear the Dalai Lama's views on peace. It was amazing to see him in person because I have admired him my whole life. He was very generous, and not as serious as I expected him to be," Zhang said.

The Dalai Lama is the head of state and the spiritual leader of Tibet. He is known and respected worldwide as a man of peace and an advocate for the environment. In his speech he urged teens to practice peace and nonviolence in their everyday lives. He shared his belief that everyone has the ability to make a difference in the world.

"At this moment in 2006 the major part of the century is in your hands," the Dalai Lama told the thousands of teens in attendance at his speech.

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4 One World Benefits Children

Allison Alessi
Copy Editor

Walking through the door of the loading dock of the Park Trades Center, the first thing seen is a long hallway with tables covered in colorful art pieces. Some pieces come from Africa, others are donated by local artists. The folk bluegrass band, Greensky Bluegrass, fills the large room with music. Orange globes hang from the ceiling, surrounding a big sign that proclaims: "Educate, Inspire, Empower." This is the 4oneworld fundraiser. People of all ages come to eat, drink, listen to live bands, bid on art by silent auction and learn about the mission of this non-profit organization.

"Our mission is to raise awareness and provide aid to disadvantaged children in the developing world," reads a poster close to the door. 4oneworld first received federal recognition as a non-profit organization in December 2005. However the group was started long before that by Tara and Wade McKinney.

When Tara McKinney and her husband Wade McKinney first went to Africa they were not expecting to start a non-profit organization. While in Uganda, they met an orphan who asked them if they could pay for some of his tuition at St. Kizito Secondary School, located in southern Uganda. The couple decided to contact the head mistress, Elizabeth Odyek, to see how they could help the school. Odyek told them that there were 600 students but only eight computers. This motivated Tara and her husband to start the organization 4oneworld; to raise money to buy computers for students at St. Kizito.

About two thirds of the student body are extremely disadvantaged. Some are former child soldiers who escaped after being abducted in war-torn northern Uganda and forced to fight. Some are children orphaned by AIDS, while others are impoverished local children.

See 4ONE WORLD page 7

And the Academy goes to... THE FRESHMEN

Elizabeth Stier
Staff Writer

If someone were to tell me that by the time I was a senior, I wouldn't be allowed in the B and C-wings and that I would only see the freshman for one block of the day, I wouldn't believe them. However that's just what has happened. The class of 2010 is the first class in the history of Loy Norrix High School to experience The Freshmen Academy. is a program aimed at helping incoming freshman get on the right path to success, by catering to their individual needs. Freshmen academics have become increasingly popular across the country within the last few years. As a result, the incoming freshman have been placed in the B wing classrooms of LNHS, and have five blocks instead of the usual four. These wings are to act as small learning communities designed to meet the needs of all different types of students. The students are placed in these environments with teachers whom they will be in class with all year and will have the opportunity to build better relationships

In these wings the students experience all of their core classes with teachers who work as a team. Jeff Boggan, the administrator for the Freshman Academy, hopes that in the long run the academy can help increase graduation rates.

"It's about culture, about environment. The hope is that there is a cultural change that happens to help fewer behavior problems, to have a higher graduation rate, and give students a place where they can talk about their problems," said Boggan.

While the academy is highly popular with the administration, the students at LN have mixed feelings about it all. Allison Biljom, freshman, does not see any point in having the Freshman Academy, and feels that the social experience of high school is being lost.

"I think if we weren't put in the academy, we would meet more people. othe people that are in it [Freshmen Academy] we all know anyways from

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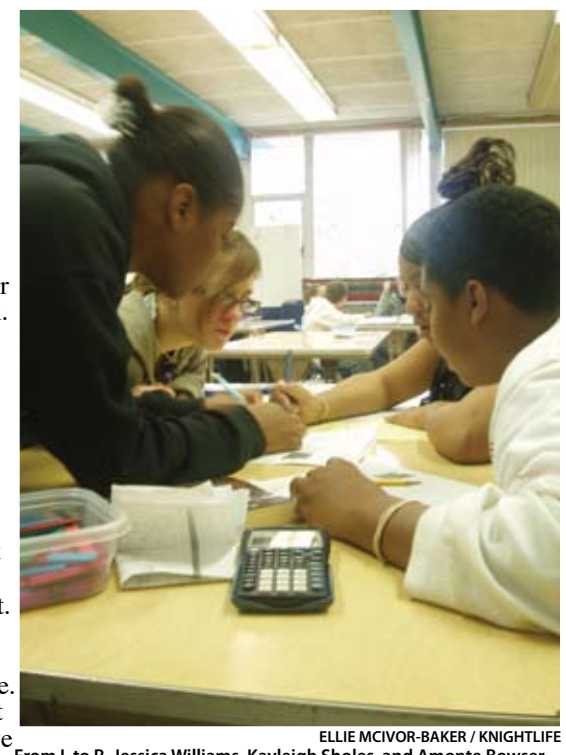

ELLIE MCIVOR-BAKER / KNIGHTLIFE

From L to R, Jessica Williams, Kayleigh Sholes, and Amonte Bowser work together on a math project in Mr. Webb's Algebra 1 class. Mr. Webb is a new teacher in the Freshman academy, who taught summer school for KPS in the past

Whats Happening

Fall 2006

IMPROV SHOW
ROOM J12
NOVEMBER !0
7:30PM

RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
VAN ANDEL ARENA
8:00PM NOVEMBER 2nd

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
DISTRICTS
NOVEMBER 13th, 15th,17th