

# FLINT WATER CRISIS: THOUSANDS DEVASTATED BY LEAD CONTAMINATED WATER

Clayton **Barker**

The city of Flint, Michigan, once home to a booming auto industry is now plagued with poisoned water. Unprecedented levels of lead in Flint's water have spread through the city.

Business Finance teacher Atiba Ward who was born and raised in Flint and still has family living there said, "They think it's pretty bad [Ward's family]. They're getting skin issues," Ward continued, "It's just a huge inconvenience to pay the bill and not have adequate water come out of the faucet."

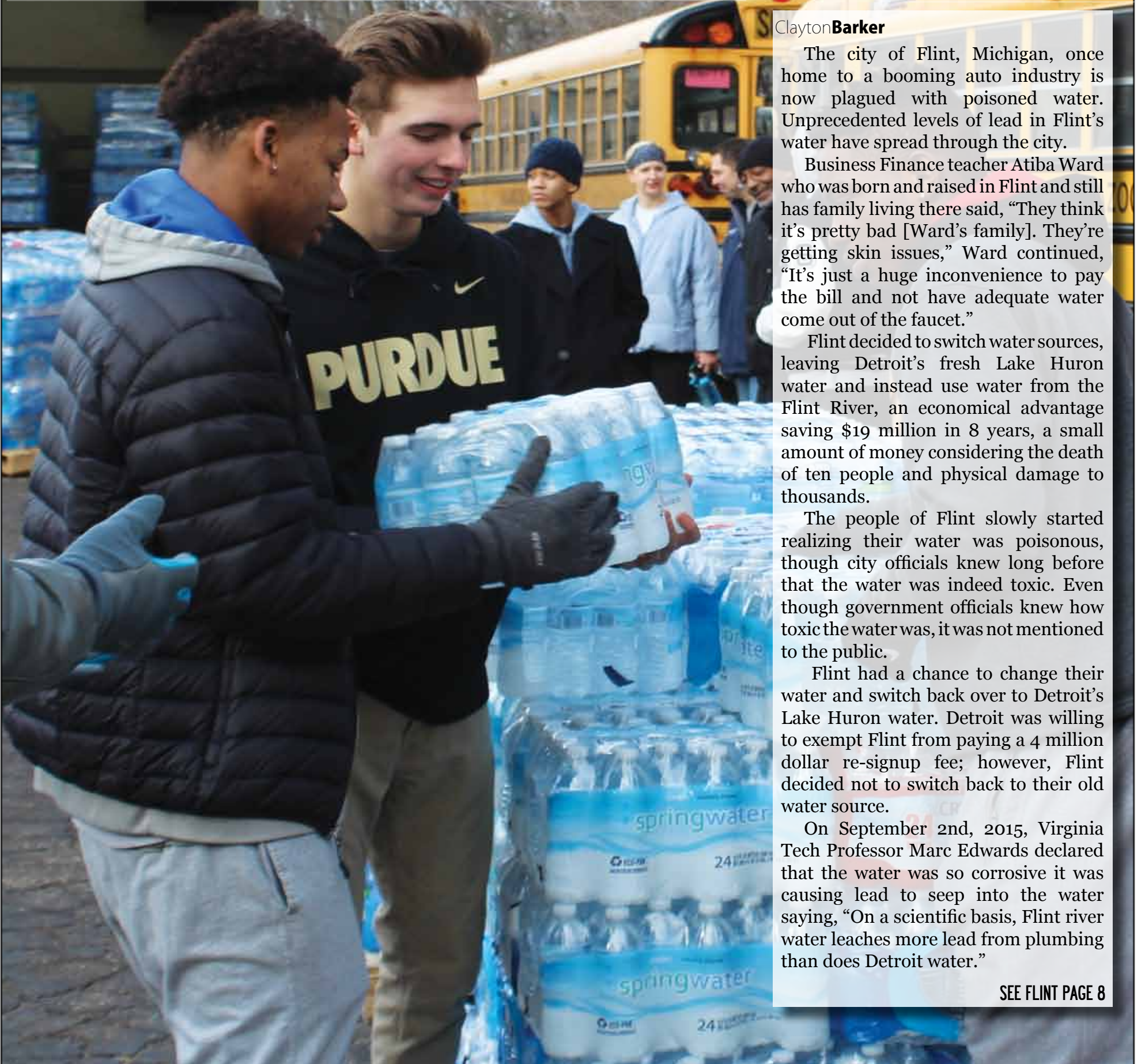
Flint decided to switch water sources, leaving Detroit's fresh Lake Huron water and instead use water from the Flint River, an economical advantage saving \$19 million in 8 years, a small amount of money considering the death of ten people and physical damage to thousands.

The people of Flint slowly started realizing their water was poisonous, though city officials knew long before that the water was indeed toxic. Even though government officials knew how toxic the water was, it was not mentioned to the public.

Flint had a chance to change their water and switch back over to Detroit's Lake Huron water. Detroit was willing to exempt Flint from paying a 4 million dollar re-signup fee; however, Flint decided not to switch back to their old water source.

On September 2nd, 2015, Virginia Tech Professor Marc Edwards declared that the water was so corrosive it was causing lead to seep into the water saying, "On a scientific basis, Flint river water leaches more lead from plumbing than does Detroit water."

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# LOY NORRIX MOURNS THE LOSS OF SENIOR TEMETRION HEGLER

Jaidyn**Kynaston**

TEMETRION S. HEGLER  
6/15/1998 - 1/6/2016



Kalamazoo Resident and Loy Norrix senior Temetrion Hegler was shot and killed by his step-grandfather Bruce Embry on January 6th in his residence. He was 17. Temetrion was born on June 15th, 1998 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. He is survived by his primary guardian and grandmother Iqullia Hegler, his mother, Shatippia Hegler, his father, Asteem Glass, as well as seven siblings.

At the vigil held for both Temetrion Hegler and Deshontae Ellis, (a senior from Kalamazoo Central who passed away the first week of January) Temetrion's grandmother described Temetrion as an innocent kid, with a pure heart and soul. This was echoed by her tears as she thanked those who planned and coordinated the vigil.

Temetrion loved to play football and

planned to attend Michigan State in hopes of becoming an athletic trainer.

His best friends Jada Mitchell, Sarra Shears and Brinda Creagan describe him as being an amazing person that was very supportive to people who were struggling.

Jada said, "[Temetrion was] sweet, caring, and wanted the best for people."

Temetrion's impact didn't end with close friends and family though. Many knew Temetrion and appreciated his sense of humor and kind heart. Remembering the names of most of his classmates, Temetrion was the first to wave and say hello to those he recognized passing in the halls of Loy Norrix. This simple yet often overlooked gesture displayed his benevolence.

Temetrion's funeral was held at the 2nd Baptist Church on N. Rose, Kalamazoo, MI, 49007.

## OVERCOMING GRIEF: KALAMAZOO TEENS GRIEVE WHILE STRIVING TO STAY POSITIVE



Temetrion Hegler

Jonathan**Lo**

Recently the Kalamazoo Community lost two students, Temetrion Hegler and DeShontae Ellis. There was a candlelight vigil to



DeShontae Ellis

remember and mourn both students on January 10th, 2016. Even though days have gone by since these tragic deaths, there are many people still trying to cope with this heavy loss.

Dealing with grief and sadness is one of the most difficult obstacles one needs to overcome in order to move on with living.

This is the fifth death of a classmate that the Loy Norrix seniors have experienced. Having a class experience five deaths in such a short period is difficult, and it doesn't come as a surprise that people are remembering past friends who have died.

"It's shocking knowing that there are so many students who have experienced all this death. I just can't imagine how much pain this group of individuals are going through," Loy Norrix counselor Sheryl Scott said.

According to Psychologist Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, there are five stages of grief that one goes through on the road to acceptance: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

Denial consists of one not being able to believe that the event has actually happened. People who are suffering through denial often mentally shut down and are unable to process the tragedy. Some people can show a façade as if nothing happened, but this is often due to the denial of a loved one's death.

Denial is followed by violence and anger where a person lashes out. This anger can sometimes be directed towards others. Someone going through this stage of grief is expected

to be angry at almost anything. They can be angry towards family, friends, acquaintances, themselves, and even towards God. A person will also notice that they are getting angry at others or themselves over the smallest things such as what people say.

Bargaining consists of a person saying that they would trade in something in order to bring the deceased back to life. Often people will commit their life to doing something significant and expect that one day they will wake up and have their loved one back as a reward. During this stage people will seek out all sorts of personal faults and use that to bring themselves down.

After focusing on the past through bargaining, attention quickly shifts back to the present and depression sets in. Depression is one of the most difficult stages of grief for one to overcome. Depression is an overwhelming feeling of loneliness, helplessness and wondering about the purpose of life. During this stage it is crucial to get someone the help they need.

It's important to acknowledge that these stages of grief don't come in any specific order. One can experience denial one moment and feel depression the next. Often these stages will overlap making it difficult for people to move on.

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### INFORMATION FROM PAGE 1

Loy Norrix students Grant Mitchell, Nick Luttrell, Max Link and Damarquay Norman to help donate water for Flint at the Kalamazoo administration building on Howard Street, January 30th. Flint has been struggling with lead poisoned water. **Photo Credit / Clayton Barker**

# ISIS TERRORIST GROUP ATTACKS

Caitlin **Commissaris**

Imagine having a nice family dinner at a restaurant downtown. Everyone is laughing and sharing things from their day, smiling and enjoying one another. All of a sudden, BOOM, the moment is gone and men with machine guns and bombs strapped to them barge through the doors, shooting people who are lying helpless on the ground. This is what happened at six different venues in Paris on Friday, November 13, 2015.

There were 129 citizens in Paris, France killed as a result of these attacks. Along with the 129 people killed, 352 were injured. The most deadly of the attacks was at a concert hall where about 80 lives were lost. All of this damage is said to be done by only 8 ISIS members. This group, being relatively small and inflicting such damage, is particularly frightening.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has taken responsibility for the Paris attacks. According to CNN, the group began as Al Qaeda and then rebranded itself two years later as ISIS. Since then the group has shown more brutality and become more effective at controlling the territory it has seized in Syria and Iraq.

The new issue posed due to this violence is whether or not America should allow refugees from these countries. According to World Vision,



A militant of the Islamic State carrying their flag. This photo comes from a propaganda video by ISIS.

4.6 million Syrians are refugees, and 6.6 million are displaced within Syria; half are children.

“I think we should accept these refugees because America is based on helping those in need or struggling,” said senior Ben Byrd.

An article written by “The Atlantic”, “df1s France at War”, quotes President Francois Hollande. “Terrorism will not destroy the republic because it is the republic that will destroy terrorism.”

According to the article, Hollande will be meeting with President Barack Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin to form a unified coalition against ISIS.

However, Paris is not the only country we should be worried about. According to the New York Times

article, ‘ISIS Claims Responsibility’, these acts of terrorism are just the “first of the storm”.

“The threat posed by the group seems pretty small compared to the threat we hold over them. We have new technology and ISIS is still hiding out in the desert,” said Byrd.

According to CNN Student News, there have been multiple attacks linked to ISIS within the past month in multiple countries. In Bangladesh an explosion killed one citizen and injured many more. In Lebanon a suicide bombing killed at least 40 people. In Egypt a suicide bombing killed 4 police officers. In Yemen two large cities were bombed, killing 25 people. In Turkey explosions killed more than 100 people.

The goal of ISIS is to replace

existing, man-made borders and to expand “Islam’s war,” into America and Europe. They ultimately want to lead Muslims into an apocalyptic battle against all non-believers.

Many American citizens don’t think this group is something we should be worried about in our daily lives.

“I think it is really sad that this is happening. However, it doesn’t really scare me because it’s not a big enough threat that I should worry about it in my personal life,” said senior Ethan Leverton.

However, it is important to be aware of these occurrences. Many lives have been lost due to these relentless attacks. The group will execute anyone who disagrees with their methods.

According to the Independent News Source, a four-year-old boy was brutally murdered a week after his father was killed for having been found guilty of a December attack on an ISIS checkpoint. The boy was strapped with explosives that were attached in such a way that his organs would be blown apart.

Violence has become such a detrimental part of society, and the US is joining the fight against what is becoming a growing international dilemma.

## KALAMAZOO ACQUIRES BODY CAMERAS FOR POLICE

Maxwell **Offerman**

On January 11th, Jeff Hadley, the chief of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety (KDPS), announced that the department will be purchasing a total of 170 body cameras (cams) for officers.

Body cams are small front-facing cameras meant to record activity at all times, thus offering an unbiased record of an officer’s day, including any arrests they make.

This innovative surveillance method has been in the media spotlight frequently as pressure for police to use them increases with repeated incidents of police brutality, such as the highly controversial deaths of Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Freddie Gray, and many, many others. Quite frequently, there is missing information in police reports thereafter.

Although heavily debated, the decision to put body cams on police is far from unreasonable, with a staggering one thousand people killed by police during 2015. Of those, 198 were unarmed and 36 already in police

custody. Body cams are a simple addition to ensure that a citizen isn’t deprived of their rights.

Detroit, Grand Rapids, and many more Michigan cities have begun utilizing body cameras in their public safety divisions. KDPS has been field testing these devices since 2014, and the positive results have led to this progression.

Besides, if the officer isn’t doing anything wrong, then why should they be worried? Through an independent study by Lamberth Consulting, the KDPS was found guilty of racial profiling. Since then, the KDPS has enforced that it has a good track record and promotes transparency in its operations.

To combat negative views of police, in September KDPS, along with additional West Michigan police departments, joined “The Good Cop” initiative out of Kalamazoo which promotes stories of positive police encounters. Through TGC, residents have shared photos of officers helping build snowmen, playing sports, and otherwise assisting community

members. The website also allows you to nominate officers for “Good Cop of the Month” and relay personal stories.

While this decision was popular in Kalamazoo, body cams are still a hot topic of debate. A common counter point is that body cams constant recording may be worse for citizens. With cameras, there will likely be little to no leniency for minor offenses since officers will involuntarily have video proof of incidents.

Additionally, officers lose privacy while doing everyday activities like talking with their partner or stopping for a meal. However, these are small prices that KDPS is willing to pay in order to ensure their officers are acting within the law.

The decision to acquire body cams has been supported throughout the community.

“It’s becoming a trend in the country. Anything that adds transparency [to a police department] is a good thing,” said government teacher Michael Wright.

“It’s good that officers will always be held accountable [for their actions],”

said senior Megan Youngs whose mother is in the KDPS.

A total of 170 body cams are expected to be purchased by June, with many arriving within the next few months. Keep an eye out for them on KDPS officers along with some Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement officers, and community policing officers.



An example of a body camera used in south Birmingham.

**Photo Credit / West Midlands Police.**



# KNIGHT LIFE STAFF POLICE BRUTALITY UNVEILED: HOW POLICE ABUSE THEIR POWER

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Throughout the years, police brutality has been up for question as it has been a topic of debate. It's difficult to choose a winner to this debate especially when there are extremely different views on both sides.

When students heard about the marches and protests during the 1960-90's against segregation, students didn't really learn about the police letting dogs attack teenagers or how they beat protesters nearly to death with the batons they carried. While minorities have known about the brutality of police for as long as it's been around, the majority of our population is just now starting to open their eyes to the beatings, killings and the abuse of power our police officers are given to serve and protect.

Since the early 1960s and forward, there were many civil rights movements that took place. Even though these movements included people of multiple different races, religions and ethnicities, there was still violence that would follow almost every single time.

On May 2nd of 1963, more than 700 black students from elementary to high school protested racial segregation in Birmingham, Alabama. Many of these kids were arrested, blasted with fire hoses, clubbed and beaten by officers and attacked by police dogs.

The next day, May 3rd, 1963, countless more children began to march in protest of what occurred the day before. Eugene "Bull" Connor, commissioner of public safety,

then directed and enforced the local police and firemen to attack the children with once again, high-pressure fire hoses, (which can knock a person over, causing broken arms or legs, short term or even permanent head injuries, eye injuries, etc) batons and police dogs.

There was another instance on the 18th of February in 1965 where a non-violent civil rights activist was killed after a night march had been brutally split up by the Alabama State Troopers. While the night march was being broken up, civil rights activist, Jimmie Lee Jackson, fled with his mother and grandfather. Police followed them into a cafe where they physically assaulted the three. When Jackson went to the aid of his mother and grandfather, trooper James Fowler, an Alabama State Trooper, shot him twice in the abdomen, killing Jackson.

Now, almost 50 years later, the same incidents continue to happen. Media portrayal began on August

9th, 2014 when 18 year old Michael Brown was shot and killed by officer Darren Wilson. In Ferguson, Missouri, Brown, unarmed with his friend Dorian Johnson, were aggressively confronted by officer Wilson with suspicion of the two previously robbing a gas station. An altercation ensued when Wilson began yelling vulgar words at the two men and opened his door, hitting both Johnson and Brown. In total, Brown was shot twice in the head and four times in the abdomen and right arm. While it is hard to tell who was at fault in this case, it was the beginning of the social justice movement #BlackLivesMatter against police and the brutality that can accompany their power.

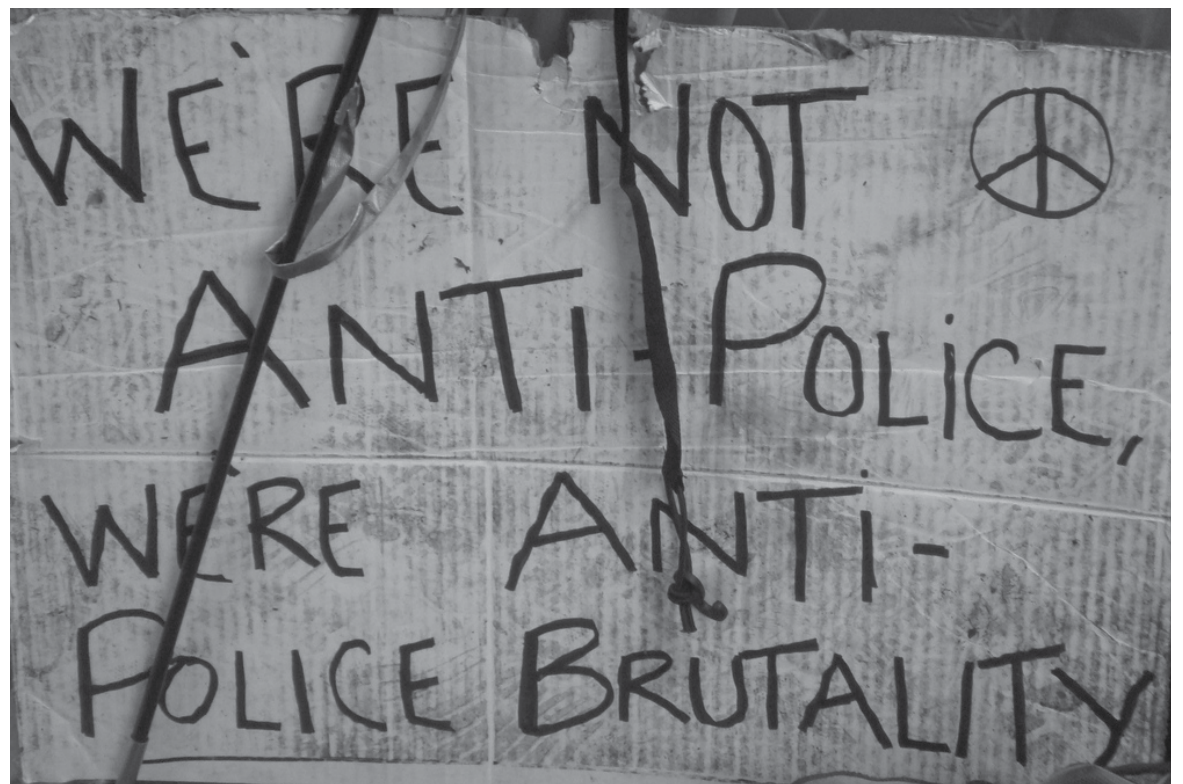
Shortly after this occurrence, riots and protests broke out throughout Ferguson. While it's understandable why the police showed resistance to the rioters, the same resistance was unnecessary when it came to the peaceful protests. The gas bombs and rubber bullets

that were shot into groups of peaceful, unarmed protesters were not necessary. The news spread across the nation and made the people who cared outraged.

As the news began to spread and reach all corners of our nation, more examples of police brutality broke out. For instance, there was the death of Eric Garner who was being restrained with an illegal choke hold and even though he exclaimed multiple times, "I can't breathe," NY police continued to tighten their grasp around Garner's neck, making the 43 year old lose consciousness and die. While Garner's obesity, chronic bronchial asthma and cardiovascular disease were contributing factors, the illegal choke hold put all three together causing failure of his heart and extreme loss of breath.

There was also the shooting of Tamir Rice, only 12 years old, who was playing with a fake gun and was shot

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# KS

KNIGHTS SPEAK

Do you think gun control will help curb violence? Why?



Senior Ahmed Younis

Better gun control would logically lower crime rates. However, the NRA controls congress so much through campaign donations that people on the terrorist watch list can legally buy assault rifles.

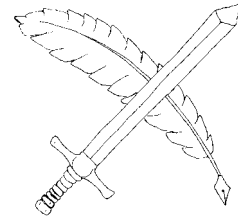


Senior Alisabeth Shigwadja

No because I believe violence starts within someone's heart and mindset, not because of a gun.



# POINT COUNTERPOINT



## OVERSATURATION: A SUPERHERO MOVIE ISSUE

I'm just going to come right out and say it: I no longer enjoy superhero movies. Yes, it's true. I believe the repetition of Marvel and DC (Detective Comics) has gone way too far.

Movie making today has changed from making meaningful films that positively affect the society we live in to cash grabs for large studios like Disney and Warner Bros. The general population is still demanding movies that are frankly, wastes of time. Why? The answer is simple: Money. Money drives everything, and the movie industry is no exception.

These movie studios are trying to make as much money as they can with poorly-made, quickly-produced movies, and the sad part is, it's working! Marvel makes more and more money every time they make a new movie.

Sadly, only a few superhero movies hold any weight with me. Sure, "Iron Man 3" was visually appealing, and "Captain America: The Winter Solider" had some pretty good action scenes, but overall I do not like these two movies. Their only purpose is to illustrate that these superheroes are good at fighting and to set up more movies to make more money. In twenty years, is anyone going to remember "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance"? Is anyone going to tell their children about the time they saw "The Green Lantern"? Of course not, both of those films were terrible.

You see, very few Marvel or DC movies are memorable for anything but the occasional cool special effects and nostalgia. No one will remember that they

Carsten **Strand**



made seven X-Men movies, or rebooted the Spider-Man franchise THREE TIMES (the next reboot is coming in 2017). Spider-Man's Uncle Ben has been shot THREE DIFFERENT TIMES. Why didn't Andrew Garfield as Spider-Man work out? I can tell you one thing, none of the blame can fall on Andrew Garfield. Marvel is to blame. Marvel (and Sony, the studio that made the movie with Marvel) quickly threw together a movie to "wow" the masses and didn't work on actually developing a story arc, or an interesting series of events with an actually interesting hero and intense villain. I mean, come on. The Andrew Garfield reboot was green-lit only five years after the last Tobey Maguire Spider-Man movie had been made.

This all works out for Marvel though, because they have made so much money on other projects that they are able to constantly try and try again with movie franchises. DC does the same. Superman got a reboot recently with "Man of Steel", a whopping

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Jake **Heasley**



Photo Illustration: Eryka Swank

I'm just going to come right out and say it: Marvel is the best movie studio of the 21st century. This sounds incredibly exaggerated, but let me explain. Marvel Studios has achieved a feat that would be considered unimaginable 15 years ago, a feat that no other studio has come close to accomplishing. Marvel's goal was to make an entire universe of movies, spanning multiple heroes and series, with one movie unifying all of them, "The Avengers."

The risk taken here was enormous, and if these movies had failed, Marvel would be out hundreds of millions of dollars. Admittedly, not all of the movies have been hits- "Thor" and "Fantastic 4," I'm looking at you-but the overall the quality of these films has been fantastic.

"Iron Man," "The Avengers," "X-Men" and even "Ant-Man" are all fantastic series. And none of these movies are like the others; "Iron Man" is nothing like "Ant-Man," just like "X-Men" isn't like the "Avengers." Yet somehow all of these movies are connected in one universe. One hero might

have a cameo in another's movie or they might share the spotlight, with movies that have multiple lead roles. All these interconnected movies aren't great because they're superhero movies, they're great because they're fantastic movies...that just happen to have superheroes.

Marvel has created comedies like "Ant-Man," goofy action films like "Guardians of the Galaxy," even emotional character dramas like "X-Men: First Class." However, most of these movies are part of a series, some of which have been running since the early 2000s. Surely after almost 15 years, "X-Men" would begin to wear down the audience's patience, right? Surprisingly, no. Contrary to some opinions, many of these long running series continue to increase in popularity.

Marvel has also managed to turn previously unknown comic book heroes into household names. The Guardians of the Galaxy were D-list superheroes before their movie was made. That very same movie grossed a worldwide total of 773 million dollars. "Ant-man," a lesser known superhero, was a "ton of fun," according to "Rolling Stone." Even the most unknown of superheroes continue to break records at the box office.

These summer blockbusters are highbrow art in comparison to what we had before. Remember "Batman and Robin," the 1997 movie, starring George Clooney and Arnold Schwarzenegger, that ruined Batman for almost a decade? A combination

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Senior Aliyah Denny

Yes, because there will be less guns on the street.



Junior Tristan Rabb

No, because violence is determined by your upbringing.



Sophomore Josh Killingsworth

Yes, but we also need to address a higher cultural problem.

## FROM OVERSATURATION PAGE 5

seven years after Superman had a reboot with “Superman Returns” in 2006. “Man of Steel” was simply mediocre, and didn’t contribute to the greater film community.

Forty one of the top fifty movies of the past five years have been sequels or reboots. While Thomas C Foster in his book “How to Read Literature like a Professor” argues that there truly is no original story, can we at least be a LITTLE more creative with our films?

I understand that all of these films are based on different series of comics released through Marvel and DC’s history. That’s just it though: these are all comics and are able to be released with virtual ease. I believe that a different stance should be taken with movies. They should not be released like comics, they should be events. They should be meaningful, not just another part of a huge empire of repetitive movies.

Now the studios have decided that the next chapter of superheroes should be the superheroes fighting each other! Looking at you “Captain America: Civil War,” and “Batman V Superman”.

These movie studios have identified that nothing sparks more debate than when people have to pick sides. Are you Team Edward or Team Jacob? Are you Team Peeta or Team Gale? Now Marvel has introduced Team Iron Man or Team Captain America and DC has Team Batman or Team Superman. It is a cheap marketing tactic that sadly fulfills its intended purpose of generating discussions and arguments that in turn generates hype.

Films are an art form. They should not be rushed, we should not be constantly pushing movies off the production line. Film, like music, needs to evolve and be constantly changing. Unless it gets stuck in a rut. Currently the movie industry is stuck. There are going to be twenty four new superhero movies from now till 2020. That is absurd and is an oversaturation of a genre that we all once loved.

Now I will regress for a moment. I loved the Dark Knight trilogy, and “Guardians of The Galaxy” was funny, awesome, and progressive. “The Avengers” really was a good film and it broke a lot of records. “Spider-Man 2” with Tobey Maguire was also an exceptional movie. There, I’m done.

My friend Jake Heasley asks the question: if Marvel and DC are so awful, why don’t people spend their money other movies? Well, Jake my good friend, there are no other movies for people to watch. As long as these two studios dominate the box office, the door is shut to other people who want to make movies that are worthwhile. If we were to open that door just a crack, we could finally get back to making films like we used to. If we start to make insightful and good films like “Silence of the Lambs” and “Jaws”, we will remedy this entire problem.

Please Marvel and DC, Make a movie that I will see in 50 years and genuinely want to watch again. Make a movie that I can tell my grandkids about seeing in the theaters. Make a movie for the ages and no, that movie is not “Punisher: War Zone,” or “Thor: The Dark World,” or “Catwoman,” or “Jonah Hex,” or...

## FROM INNOVATORS PAGE 5

of awful acting, writing, and action made it so even George Clooney couldn’t save that abomination. That is what superhero movies were before Marvel came along. These movies aren’t “so bad it’s good,” they’re “so bad it’s actually unwatchable.” Marvel changed all of this and created a series of films where the worst ones are merely mediocre and the best ones win Oscars.

As my compatriot Carsten points out, some people believe that Marvel movies are becoming repetitive. My answer to this is simple: then don’t watch them. What people have to realize is that Marvel movies are completely different from normal series. You have to think of these movies as comics. Comics have had the same superheroes for over fifty years but they’re not called repetitive. People who read comics read what they find interesting and skip the rest. The heroes they love are put in different situations each time, that’s what keeps the characters interesting, and that’s exactly what comic book movies are doing. The “Iron Man” series all explore different aspects of Tony Stark’s personality and that makes each movie completely different from the others.

On an even broader scope, just don’t watch comic book movies. There are still dozens of fantastic movies that have nothing to do with comic books. “The Revenant,” “The Hateful Eight,” “Spotlight,” “The Big Short,” “Creed,” and countless other fantastic movies came out this year, with no caped crusaders in sight. Heck, the new “Mad Max” movie shows that a good action film doesn’t need superheroes. These movies all did quite well and were in no way inhibited by superhero movies. Without a doubt, superhero movies are big, but they haven’t put a stranglehold on the entire movie industry and they definitely aren’t destroying it.

Marvel isn’t the best studio of the 21st century because they make good movies. Marvel is the best studio of the 21st century because they took a chance at something unprecedented. While most movie series can be described as a straight line from sequel to sequel, the Marvel cinematic universe can only be described as a spider web of interconnected movies. The difficulty of this accomplishment cannot be underestimated and Marvel should be commended for its achievement.

## FROM POLICE PAGE 4

by police two seconds after arriving on scene. Before the officers even stopped to see whether or not the gun was real, Rice was shot in the torso. Neither officer Timothy Loehmann or Frank Garmback administered first aid even after realizing the gun was fake.

This past summer, on July 13th, there was a case involving the death of a 28 year old woman, Sandra Bland, who was initially pulled over for allegedly failing to use her turn signal.

When Bland refused to leave her car, the officer threatened her with a taser and said “I will light you up!”

When Bland left the car, the officer pulled her away from the dashcam in his car. Off to the side, the officer began yelling things that insinuated Bland was attacking him. Bland attacking the officer was disproved by a cellphone witness video showing the officer putting his knee onto Bland’s back and forcing her head into the ground while yelling his accusations. Shortly after Bland was admitted to the Waller County jail, she was found dead in her cell. There is still an ongoing investigation on whether or not this should be ruled as suicide or murder due to the conflicting evidence.

On October 20th, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois, a 17 year old male named Laquan McDonald was shot ten feet away by officer Jason Van Dyke 16 times. Van Dyke claims that McDonald lunged at him with the knife, but a dash cam video from another Chicago police car shows McDonald walking away from the officers seconds before the 17 year old was shot. Originally, there wasn’t even a necessity to shoot the teenager. Shooting him twice while he was standing and then again, fourteen more times after he had hit the ground, was uncalled for and a complete definition of police brutality .

Although there have been many protests and many uprisings against all of these brutal attacks, more and more police brutality on black citizens examples keep occurring. So what needs to be done in order to control or completely stop these fatal attacks? It is believed that the change needs to start within the police departments themselves.

Since not every police officer can or should be labeled as someone who abuses their power, there needs to be something to specifically pin-point the good from the bad. This is why there needs to be a mandatory psychological evaluation of police officers every 6 months.

With these evaluations, a psychiatrist can point out who is or isn’t fit to do their job effectively. With this, there also needs to be constant check ups on the amount of complaints or lawsuits officers have on them.

In the case of Laquan McDonald, officer Van Dyke had at least twenty complaints and two lawsuits against him. Within the complaints, he has been accused of racial slurs, manhandling suspects and pointing his gun unlawfully at people he’s arrested.

If there had been a psychological evaluation and a routine check up, this whole situation could have possibly been avoided. A psychological evaluation can show a person’s strengths and weaknesses. They can also show when a person is about to break down due to the amount of stress or pressure they are under. Evaluations also allow different characteristics, like depression or anger management problems, to be shown. Psychology can determine the overuse of power leading to brutality by allowing the police departments to see who is or isn’t mentally stable.

If a person, especially a police officer who has access to weapons, isn’t mentally stable, there really is no telling what can happen. By adding a psychiatrist to every police department, a mandatory psychological evaluation every 6 months and a routine check up on the complaints or lawsuits made against officers, there could be a definite decrease in examples of police brutality.



# CATS: RELIEVING STRESS IN PUBLIC PLACES



Photo Illustration / Dagnija Tomsons

## Dagnija Tomsons

Cats are cute little fluff balls that are great listeners, cuddlers and fighters. They are best friends and enemies, with deadly claws, sharp fangs and glowing, devil eyes. Cats are basically the same as humans, emotion-wise.

According to 10 Fascinating Facts About Cats, “A cat’s grey matter shares some remarkable similarities to a human brain. Although experts disagree on the depth and range, [they] all confirm that kittens feel emotions not that dissimilar from people. Happiness, excitability, playfulness, depression, and anger.”

Cat cafes are coffee shops where customers can order food and drink like any other cafe, but also enjoy the

company of a furry creature. Sadly there are none in Kalamazoo, but there are many around the world.

If there were cat cafes here in Kalamazoo, I’m pretty sure that people would go check them out as soon as they are able.

“I think that cats in cafes and libraries is a good idea. I think it would be a good way for people to be around animals while doing something like drinking coffee or reading a book. I like the idea of having a cat sleeping on my lap while I read a book. It’d be lovely. If shops can have dogs then why can’t cafes and libraries have cats? I would go to a cafe or library with cats all the freaking time. I’d spend rainy days

there or snow days,” said junior Kierra Grado.

If rabbits and dogs can be in cafes and bookstores, then why are we leaving out cats?

“In Grand Rapids there is a rabbit cafe, where you can pet and feed rabbits to relieve stress, which is great,” said senior Skyler Makuch, “[...] Cats tend to be more favored than rabbits.”

Anyone who owns or has owned a cat knows that they often share our same emotions. Cats have their own hissy fits like toddlers’ tantrums when they don’t get what they want, and they purr like crazy when their owner rewards them with catnip or treats.

According to 50 Fascinating Facts About Your Cat, “Keeping a cat as a pet reduces the risk of heart attacks and strokes by nearly one third.”

There are a few places where cats are already taking up residence, including Catfe – a half cafe, half cat foster home – in Vancouver, The Spiral Bookstore in Philadelphia, and Neko Cafe TiME in Fushimi, Kyoto.

Bookstores and libraries also have cats as local residents, like Dewey Readmore of the Spencer Public Library in Iowa. Readmore was the library’s mascot from 1988 to 2006. There was even a book written about him in 2010 called Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World.

Cats were even used in Egyptian temples to rid their “temple libraries” of rats and mice that like to feed on books. So, it’s only right for us to have cats in our stores, right? They would have so many useful jobs, serving as mascot, greeter, companion and even assistant librarian, like Kuzya of Novorossiysk Library in Russia. They

know the library like the back of their paw. To make these cat bookstores and cafes even better, most of these furry babies are up for adoption from local shelters.

“Officials knew if people just took a few minutes to hold these animals, that a bond might form. And in fact — to date — 100 kittens have been adopted from the library. And it’s that kind of outside-the-cage thinking that folks here would like spread to other communities across the country,” said Steve Hartman, author of the article, “‘Cat Libraries’ Offers Purrfect Solution to Stress.”

It’s beneficial to keep cats as pets, not only to save them from being euthanized at shelters, but also because they are great companions that we can relate to in so many ways. Even if you can’t adopt one, you can still give some love to the kittens at those libraries and cafes. Besides, who doesn’t want a cute, fluffy, purring kitten sleeping on their lap?

Okay, maybe those allergic to cats wouldn’t want that, but lucky for them these kittens are usually kept in a separate room in cafes. As for the libraries? Watch out for those fluffy tails before you sneeze!

Most cats would love to have someone there to take care of them like an abandoned child, or at least give them a piece of their time and love. Cats may seem like independent loners, but most actually love the attention. Without a doubt, the combination of books and cats make an excellent, stress-free environment in our crazy society.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Generally speaking your newspaper is biased, focusing more on the mindset of left leaning thoughts. But in recent papers I’ve been pleased to see an effort to show different perspectives. One thing I’ve noticed is your point counterpoint articles. I would have liked to have seen an argument for the new tax, but it’s not like we can ask you to change too quickly. This is one of the lesser biased papers since I’ve been here, which made it a little more bearable to read. Just add more perspectives if you want to gain the respect of other groups.

Senior, Austin Herbert

Dear Editor,

I read “All Hail the Homecoming King, Long May She Reign.” I love this article, not only because Sabi and Nessa are two of my really close friends but because of the support that was shown. I loved how they stayed positive and mainly focused on the topic (The King) and how they pointed out how supportive people were for Sabi. The article could help others come out to their friends. You never know how much support you have unless you speak up. I like how they mentioned there was negative support but ended it there. Positive things most of the time overpower negative things.

Senior, Ti-Zhane Mitchell

Dear Editor,

I read the article titled “Pseudoscience Has Popularized GMOs” and I liked it. Clayton really explained GMOs well and why they are a problem. He has uncovered the truth about the harmful foods we consume and has given reasons as to why they aren’t healthy for our society. He also states how GMOs aren’t helping more than regular crops do. He has a valid point as to why GMOs are bad and I agree with him. GMOs are doing more bad than they are good.

Junior, Erika Wagoner

Dear Editor,

In response to Jalin Pritchett’s article, “Confederate No More: The Double-Crossed Flag is No Longer Relevant,” I would like to say that I was pleased with the author’s description of the contemporary impact that the Confederate flag has on modern day society. I think Pritchett does an excellent job at explaining the context in which the flag should be viewed. Let’s not forget that the cause for the Civil War was slavery, and that the Confederate States were willing to go to war for their “right” to own other human beings. A disgusting image- a reminder of the hateful ideals posited and practiced by the Southern states in the 20th century. By appropriating the flying of the flag simply to “uphold values of the Confederacy” is lunacy.

Senior, Wil Moss

## FROM FLINT WATER PAGE 1

Adequate drinking water should not have any lead in it.

Drinking lead-contaminated water for anyone is harmful, but children run more risk considering their brains are still developing. The symptoms include a list of problems for lead poisoned children including: kidney, behavioral, nervous system, speech, both muscle and bone growth and difficulty learning.

Adults who ingest lead also face problems, such as nervous system disabilities, problems during pregnancy, digestive issues, fertility and memory problems.

Many are worried for the students of Flint and how they're going to act in school.

Loy Norrix English teacher, Jameeka Johnson, who formerly taught in Flint said, "They're already disadvantaged economically. They're already so far behind without the lead poisoning-with that being included, I feel bad for their future."

On October 1st, Genesee County (which is where Flint is located) declared a public health emergency, telling residents to not drink the water. President Barack Obama has also declared a state of emergency for Flint. Governor Rick Snyder also called in the National Guard to help distribute water to Flint's people.

General Motors even issued a notice in 2014 stating they would cease to use Flint's river water in factories there, fearing that it would corrode even more cars than it already had. The water contained so much lead that it abraded car parts, yet the government kept insisting it was safe to drink.

Residents of Flint truly started to comprehend just how terrible their

water was when skin rashes became prominent. The water is a murky brown color that smells foul.

Governor Snyder and Emergency City Manager Darnell Early are facing the most scrutiny for the Flint water crisis who could have prevented this crisis by paying as low as \$80 daily to treat the water.

Virginia Tech's lead researcher on the Flint water crisis Marc Edwards said, "Science alone is powerless, absolutely powerless, to these agencies. Facts mean nothing to these people. Scientific truth means nothing to them."

Since the crisis has happened, Flint mayor Karen Weaver has estimated that it will cost between 1-1.5 billion dollars to fix the infrastructure damage and ameliorate (reverse and reduce) the physical damages to the citizens.

Dr. Mona Hanna Attisha, who works for Hurley Children's Hospital and Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine in the Department of Human Development and Pediatrics, published her findings of lead levels in children before and after Flint changed water sources. These findings are published in the American Journal of Public Health.

Dr. Attisha's study concluded that blood lead levels increased from 2.4 percent to 6.6 percent. The highest levels of lead were found in "socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods."

On November 13th, 2015, four families filed a class action lawsuit against Michigan Governor Snyder for violating laws that protect the water people use. Another class action lawsuit against him was filed January 14th, 2016.

Many blame Governor Snyder for his slow reaction. Snyder gave his State of the State address January 19th,

2016, where he endearingly thanked the whistleblowers who brought attention to the high levels of lead. He also promised \$28 million in state funds to help Flint, as well as many more bottles of water.

Governor Snyder said in his State of the State address "You deserve better. You deserve accountability. You deserve to know that the buck stops here with me. Most of all, you deserve to know the truth...no citizen of this great state should endure this kind of catastrophe," Governor Snyder also said, "Government failed you -- federal, state and local leaders -- by breaking the trust you placed in us."

Loy Norrix's Link Crew plans on helping Flint in a major way, asking students at Norrix to donate water. Jon

Krieder, one of Link Crew's organizer's said, "We started talking about it [Flint's poisoned water] in class on Monday [January 18th]. We started talking about the Flint situation in my Link Crew Class, and the kids got really fired up about it," Krieder also said, "The number one way [to help] would be to bring in bottled water," he said.

Loy Norrix senior Sarah Giramia said, "If this happened in a bigger city, with more balanced [diversity] amount of people, with more whites than blacks, then this wouldn't have happened. If this happened in his [Governor Snyder's] neighborhood, he would fix it, but because it's happening in Flint, they're going to take their time."



KPS Superintendent Dr. Rice hands off water to Kalamazoo Central's Assistant Principal Ajamian Gardner at the Kalamazoo Administration building on Howard St. Flint has struggled with lead poisoned water. **Photo Credit / Clayton Barker**

## FROM GRIEF PAGE 2

"I have sort of moved on, but there are moments when I have a sudden relapse into sadness in which I think I could've done something else," said junior Da'Jzon Hughes.

With the recent events in Kalamazoo there are many people who are grieving and going through these stages. Both Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix have counselors trained in order to help people deal with loss.

"We are trained to counsel students and be there for them, being in charge of data and schedules is second to taking care of our students," said Loy Norrix counselor Sheryl Scott.

Counselors are reliable people to help deal with stress and also grief. The counselors are licensed professional counselors or psychologists.

"I think anyone who feels like they are grieving should come in and meet

with a counselor," said Loy Norrix counselor Rebecca Learner.

The counselors fear that there are people who do not feel worthy of receiving this help. Many use the excuse that 'I didn't know the person' to dissuade themselves from meeting with a counselor and getting the support they deserve. However, the truth of the matter is that anyone can experience grief and everyone who is with grief should meet with someone to get help.

A person who goes into the counseling offices can meet with the counselor and personally talk or meet in a group with other people to deal with the grief together. There are many things done in group counseling that help people deal with grief such as reminiscing on memories, talking about how one feels, taking action by finding ways to remember the individual and by using coping strategies.

There are other resources outside of school available to people who are coping with grief. The Southwest Michigan Hospice Care has a program called Journey's which focuses on the needs of people who are grieving. Another place people can call is the Gryphon Place; it is always open and anyone can call in if they need someone to talk to.

The most important asset to someone who is overcoming grief is having others to rely on and share their feelings with. Friends, parents, relatives and other trusted adults are great people to confide your feelings to.

Coping strategies are important in helping someone overcome grief, but differ from person to person. Whether it be writing music, poems or journals, it's a good way for anyone to vent their feelings and to relieve themselves of bottled up emotions. Another way that one can deal with grief is by attending or planning events for the deceased,

such as a vigil. This allows for people to gather and share memories about the loved one. Such events allow one to see that they are not alone and that there are others who are going through the same thing.

"I was close to Temetrian, to cope with it, I've talked to relatives and Temetrian's cousin. I also play basketball to help cope," said Hughes.

Overcoming grief is a difficult obstacle that everyone at some point in their lifetime will deal with. The lives lost in the Kalamazoo community have taken their toll and conquering this grief will take longer for some compared to others, but moving past this grief is the biggest step towards acceptance and healing.



# WHERE DO THEY STAND? THE CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES

Nora Hilgart-Griff



Donald Trump (R)

**Income/Economic Inequality:** Plans to implement a new income tax plan with a zero percent tax on the bottom bracket of taxpayers and a 25 percent tax on the top bracket.

**Gun Control:** Wants to protect the second amendment, believes gun ownership makes U.S. safer, not more dangerous. He’s against gun-free zones.

**Affordable College:** Trump said, “I get asked all the time about student loans by students with debt up to here, and I tell them it’s all about the jobs. You have to get a job.”

**Immigration:** Wants to “ship back” illegal immigrants and build a wall along the Mexican/American border. Wants to place a ban on Muslim immigrants as a protective measure against terrorism and has said he might support a database system that would monitor the activities and movements of Muslim Americans.

**National Debt/Balancing the Budget:** Believes debt level is near “the point of no return,” and that his experience as a businessman can help him reduce it.



Ted Cruz (R)

**Income/Economic Inequality:** Believes income inequality is caused by government economic involvement; lowered taxes and reduced regulations will lead to greater economic equality.

**Gun Control:** He wants to protect the second amendment. He’s against banning high-capacity magazines and ‘unreasonable’ gun restrictions.

**Affordable College:** Recently helped to block legislation that would have allowed upwards of 25 million graduated Americans to refinance student loans at lower interest rates.

**Immigration:** He supports mandatory jail sentencing for immigrants re-entering the U.S. and wants to defund amnesty programs and strengthen border security.

**National Debt/Balancing the Budget:** Calls for a flat tax and a balanced budget. He hasn’t yet laid out a specific balanced budget proposal.



Marco Rubio (R)

**Income/Economic Inequality:** Limited government can help solve economic inequality. He believes that lowering taxes will allow people to keep more of the money that they make. Wants to expand earned income tax credit to make it monthly.

**Gun Control:** Asserts that there shouldn’t be new gun laws; gun laws are ineffective. Second amendment is “a cornerstone of our democracy”. Rubio voted no on banning high-capacity magazines.

**Affordable College:** Favors an income-based repayment system that would allow private investors to look at major, school, grades, etc and decide to invest in a student’s education based the perceived likelihood of repayment.

**Immigration:** Believes that comprehensive immigration reform is “politically unfeasible,” and in need for very strong border control, against amnesty.

**National Debt/Balancing the Budget:** States will return unused federal funds to pay off \$18 trillion debt. Rubio hopes to pass a balanced budget amendment to reduce spending and grow the economy.



Bernie Sanders (D)

**Income/Economic Inequality:** Should be addressed by raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, expanding the social safety net, reforming systems of inequality (criminal justice system), and removing tax breaks and loopholes that benefit the very wealthy and corporate multinationals.

**Gun Control:** Wants to ban semi-automatics and gun show loophole, require instant background checks, voted against gun shop lawsuits but for manufacturer lawsuits.

**Affordable College:** Supports a federal/state partnership to cover free public tuition, with money gained from taxing Wall Street transactions.

**Immigration:** Wishes to offer a path to citizenship and waive deportation. Sanders wants to secure the border without a wall, is against english-speaking-only policies, and for allowing hospital treatment for illegal immigrants.

**National Debt/Balancing the Budget:** Favors progressive taxation, higher taxes on the very wealthy and large corporations, reduce defence spending, and invest in infrastructure to create jobs and stimulate the economy.



Hillary Clinton (D)

**Income/Economic Inequality:** Wants to raise minimum wage to \$12 per hour and close corporate loopholes. Believes that Wall Street should ‘work with’ the government to promote economic growth. Says upward mobility needs to become more realistic for the average American.

**Gun Control:** She’s a strong supporter of gun control legislation, lawsuits against gun shops and gun manufacturers, background checks, and Pres. Obama’s recently introduced executive action on gun control.

**Affordable College:** Charge families for college based on what they can afford; hold students accountable for working toward a portion of their tuition on a weekly basis.

**Immigration:** Against a border fence, for a unifying language requirement. Wants to fight for a path to “full and equal citizenship,” plans to defend Pres. Obama’s executive actions re: immigration, with “humane and targeted” immigration enforcement.

**National Debt/Balancing the Budget:** The national debt is an issue of “national security.” Believes that former Pres. Bill Clinton’s policies (he presided over the last economic surplus) could help us climb back out of the deficit hole.



**Bailey Martin, Senior:** “It isn’t so much that I like Donald Trump, but that I respect what he’s doing. Taking votes [...] from Hillary [...] speaking his mind, and dividing a ruined Republican party [...] which has been divided between warmongering neoconservatives, and old fashioned libertarian constitutionalists. He’s void of outside influence from [special interests]. His appeal is that he’s saying what no other politician wants to discuss.”



**Michael Wright, U.S Government & American Military History Teacher:** “[I like Cruz] because he’s a constitutional originalist who believes in the vision of the founding fathers, believes American should be a libertarian society with a small government and maximized personal freedom, and he’s not afraid to attack the Republican establishment.”



**Alex Lutz, Senior:** “I like his immigration plan. He seems down to Earth. But, I don’t think he’ll win, because popular opinion tends to be for the idiot with the large mouth. If he is elected, he will bring about change and hopefully bring the U.S together to help solve our problems.”



**Isabelle Tavares, Senior:** “I really like Bernie because he advocates for Black Lives Matter, wants to break up big banks, believes in an economy for all (not just the wealthy), recognizes that health care and education are rights, wants to regulate capitalism, wants to fund service for victims of domestic violence, and ban high capacity magazines in guns. He’s also for equal pay for women and a sustainable energy system.”



**Matt Porco, AP U.S Government Teacher:** “I think her experience as senator and secretary of state give her the domestic and foreign policy experience that makes her ready to lead the country. My concern is that if the Democratic nominee is someone too far outside the mainstream, it would open the door for a more radical, outsider Republican.”



# SOCIAL JUSTICE: AN IN-DEPTH LOOK

## #SOCIAL JUSTICE: SOCIAL ACTIVISM IGNITES THE FIRE OF SOCIAL CHANGE

Ruby**Hensley**

Scrolling through your timeline, thumbing through the prank videos and DIY how-tos, your eye catches another news headline: ‘Young Boy Killed at the Hands of Police.’

You turn on the TV and yet another news anchor distraughtly mumbles about a young man opening fire on a school of students. Another tweet tagging sympathy for the victims of a bombing in a city across the world blinks on your phone. You sit behind the screen and count all the “others” and wonder when it will actually stop.

Over the past few years there have been many incidents around the world, including bombings, attacks and police brutality, that have informed the world of various inequalities that still exist today. Such travesties have caused large social movements to erupt throughout social media, news outlets and communities internationally. An example of one of these social movements is the #blacklivesmatter movement, which seeks to put an end to systemic racism in the United States. A common platform for these movements is social media and many people have voiced their opinions and frustrations over these issues through it.

There are many Loy Norrix students who are very outspoken about social issues, including senior Allegra Kistler, who has been to protests, lectures and rallies supporting the causes she is most passionate about.

“Last winter, I went to the Black Lives Matter protest downtown,” said Kistler. “We held posters and protested police brutality.”

Kistler has also attended the Gloria Steinem and Ta-Nehisi Coates lectures at Miller Auditorium. Gloria Steinem, a pioneer activist of the feminist movement, analyzed modern feminism and gender violence. Ta-Nehisi Coates, journalist and national correspondent for “The Atlantic”, discussed racism in the criminal justice and law enforcement systems in the US.

Although social media activism is a relatively new concept, and under quite a bit of scrutiny due to the concept of “slacktivism” (being politically active when it’s considered trendy), Kistler believes that it is important to make progress in social justice movements.

“I think it’s just another form of activism... it connects people and helps in carrying information. That can also be detrimental to the movement, but I think overall it has positive effects,” said Kistler.

Even those who are soft spoken believe that social activism is important, including senior Kirsten Haines.

“You need to stand up for what you believe in,” said Haines, “and if you don’t then nothing’s going to change.”

However, she has a somewhat different perspective on activism through social media.

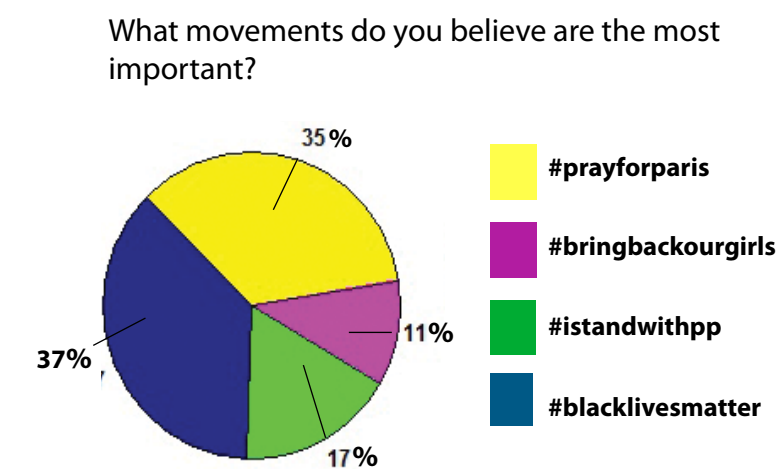
“I think [social media] blows things way farther than it needs to be. I also feel like it does give [information] that we normally wouldn’t know about or hear about,” said Haines.

Social media activism allows for a raw, uncensored report of current events to be spread to a wider audience, compared to that of mainstream news outlets. An example of this is the cellphone-recorded coverage of Eric Garner’s apprehension and murder by police in New York in 2014; the video received over 2 million views.

According to Jane Susskind of IVN, 39 percent of the American adult  
**SEE SOCIAL ACTIVISM PAGE 12**

## LOY NORRIX STUDENTS GET INVOLVED

Loy Norrix students were asked which social movements they thought were most important of the movements given, and if they had participated in any rallies/marches/etc. in support of a specific movement. The numbers are percentages from total responses.



There are many similarities between previous social movements and those of today. Left: Anti-Vietnam protests from Wikipedia taken in 1967; Right: Black Lives Matter Protest from Flickr taken in 2015.

## SEXUAL HARRASSMENT IN SCHOOL HAS COME TO BE EXPECTED

Maggie**Lager**



Photo Illustration / Maggie Lager

I was seven years old when I became aware of my body. It was one of the first warm days of my second grade year and I was wearing my new yellow skirt. My table partner, whose name I don’t remember, reached under the table and slid his hand up my thigh, resting it on my butt. Feeling violated and confused, I did the first thing I could think to do and got up to tell my teacher. As a seven year old the seriousness of what had just occurred wasn’t clear to me, it wouldn’t be until much later in my life that I came to realize this was the first time I had been sexually harassed, and even then I’m not sure I fully understood what that means.

Sexual harassment is defined by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as harassment in a workplace, other professional or social situation involving the making of unwanted sexual advances or obscene remarks. Common forms of sexual harassment include unwelcome sexual comments jokes or gestures, being called gay or lesbian with a negative connotation, being touched in an unwelcome way, having someone flash or expose themselves to you, being shown sexy or sexual pictures without your consent, being physically intimidated in a sexual manner, or being forced to perform sexual acts.

When many think of sexual harassment, they don’t realize how broad this term is.

When Loy Norrix students were asked the question “how do you define sexual harassment?” they gave a variety of answers. The answers were all true, but none fully encompassed everything that sexual harassment can be.

“[Sexual harassment is] basically stuff that you shouldn’t say to your mother,” said sophomore Lili Mead.

“I personally define sexual harassment as both physical and verbal advances on an individual that aren’t wanted, asked for, or appreciated,” said junior Sidney Richardson.

“I feel like [sexual harassment] is not just physical, I feel like if someone is intensely staring at your chest or somewhere else, that qualifies as sexual harassment,” said junior Lauren Hybels. According to “Hostile Hallways,” a book on sexual harassment in school commissioned by the AAUW Educational Foundation, “83 percent of girls and 60 percent of boys in grades 9-12 reported experiencing sexual harassment in schools.”

Even more shocking, according to a Gruber survey from the University of Southern Maine, “71 percent of LGBT students reported being sexually harassed at school in the last year.”

With statistics like these it shouldn’t come as a surprise that many Loy Norrix students report personally experiencing or witnessing sexual harassment at school.

“I’ve been sexually harassed a few times at Norrix by students. One particular time I was walking up the ramp to the A-wing when a boy within a group of boys shouted, ‘Hey sexy, look at me!’ I went to a teacher and reported this and filled out an incident report, but I’m not sure if anything ever happened,” said junior Sophia DeRango, “This encounter may seem trivial, but more aggressive things have been said to me in similar situations to this, ‘Hey sexy look at me!’ is incredibly demeaning and inappropriate especially when it is directed towards a minor.”

Those who’ve been harassed are likely to experience a wide variety of negative emotions including frustration, anxiety, stress, confusion, and even depression, especially around the place where the harassment occurred. Emotions like these are especially difficult for students to deal with, particularly when triggered in a school environment.

Students who have been sexually harassed at school often report avoiding certain classes/social

**SEE SEXUAL HARRASSMENT PAGE 12**

## JOURNEY INTO ACTIVISM: HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Christian**Baker**

From the Spring Valley High assault to the incidents in Ferguson, to the killing of Temettrion Hegler, there are societal flaws everywhere. Some people may want to get involved in politics with an activist point of view, but don’t know how to start. Former Loy Norrix student Kaitlin Martin gives us some tips on how to begin the journey into activism.

There are two important things to know before you can put your voice into the world.

“Knowledge is key,” Martin said.

You have to know what is happening around you to understand what the problem is.

“Do a lot of research on what exactly you are fighting for... and if you stand for it completely,” said senior Sidney Ellis.

If you don’t understand what you’re fighting for, you will come off as ignorant, and people won’t take you seriously. Think before you speak. Don’t just come out and type something up on Twitter or Facebook.

Second, know how to respond to situations, for example, the shooting of Zaevion Dobson in Tennessee December 19, 2015 or the Charlie Hebdo attack in France.

Kalamazoo for Justice (K4J) is a group that has in the past been devoted to educating people how to react and “engage” in situations such as things like police brutality or corrupt government officials. The group put pressure on government officials watching their actions and when a crisis would arises, they stood in solidarity with the people affected and the people doing something about it.

It may seem hard to see what is wrong with society, but there are many ways to open your eyes. Though the group Kalamazoo for Justice currently lacks participation and interest, there are many other ways to get involved. Get associated with local groups around Kalamazoo like the LN for Justice Facebook page or the YWCA, an anti-violence group, and stay up to date with current events; social media is a good resource, as well as the local news.

No matter who you are there is something you can do. If you are someone who likes technology, you can create a website to help keep people aware. You could also start a group in your community or school. If that’s not for you, just being knowledgeable of current events and talking to your friends about the events is something anyone can do.

Social injustices may seem distant, but they can be right at our doorstep within a blink of an eye. When people are discriminated, mistreated, beaten and killed, will you be someone who does something about it? As people of a society that have power, it is our responsibility to use it.

## LOCAL ACTIVISM

### KKK AND KALAMAZOO

According to MLive; May 14, 1983: Ku Klux Klansman Daniel Emery and 13 Neo-Nazis host an Anti-Gay Rally. During the rally, hosts attempt to convince 300 counter-demonstrators to join their side.

### PBC PROTESTS

According to michigan united; on May 16, 2013: The Kalamazoo River Clean-Up Coalation (KRCC) and Michigan United hold a march and rally to convince the EPA to remove toxic waste from the Allied Paper Landfill.

### KALAMAZOO DIE-INS

December 4, 2014: Students at Loy Norrix High School hold a die-in to show their support for the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown. A similar die-in occurred later that day during the December Art Hop at the Kalamazoo Mall with hundreds in attendance. Information from MLive.

### KC WALK OUT

According to MLive, on December 8, 2014: 200 Kalamazoo Central students walk out of school at 1:00 to take a stand against racism and police brutality. More than 100 people also walk through Kalamazoo chanting “Black lives matter! No justice, no peace,” protesting the previous incidents of police brutality in Ferguson, Missouri.



# HOVERBOARDS THREATEN PEOPLE'S SAFETY AND WREAK HAVOC



Senior Nique Jackson poses on the hoverboard that her sister got for Christmas this past year.

**Photo Credit / Avionce Compton**

Makenna**Sandt**

Imagine hitting the pavement, hard. You try to figure out what is hurting more, your body or your self-esteem. After spending up to \$500 to buy a hoverboard that just knocked you to the ground, now even more money is being spent going to the emergency room to check the injuries.

Injury after injury has been occurring because of one of the hottest holiday presents of 2015. Priced at almost \$400 to \$500, people have been buying and raving about the hoverboards throughout the holiday season. The growing sales add to a growing number of injuries too.

According to the article "Hoverboard Fires, Injuries Soar Amid Safety Probe" by CBS News, "people are being sent to the emergency room and fires have been started because of the hoverboards."

They may be cool new toys, but the dangers are costly.

Kids and adults alike have shown interest in riding the hoverboards and owning them. They are amazed when seeing someone riding it without trouble or injury.

The article "Hoverboard Injuries, Fires on Rise" by Kathleen Doheny on WebMD says, "The injuries treated in emergency rooms include fractures, strains, sprains, contusions, lacerations and head injury."

Senior Nique Jackson and her family have a hoverboard. Her sister got it as a Christmas present and the family shares it. Jackson has experience riding the board around her house.

"No they're not dangerous if you know how to ride it," Jackson said.

However, that could be where the problem starts. A hoverboard owner could be learning how to ride it, and that's when the accident happens.

Not only are injuries adding to the cost of owning a hoverboard, but these problems are putting every user and owner at risk.

Issues with the hoverboard have been causing some of the boards to catch on fire while they are charging.

The article "Why Are 'Hoverboards' Literally Catching Fire?" by NPR News says the issue with the "hoverboards have been burning up because of problems with their lithium ion batteries."

College campuses are also banning hoverboards from campus because of their dangers.

According to NewsObserver in an article "Triangle Colleges Ban Hoverboards, Citing Fire Risk" by Jane Stancill, "Colleges and universities have taken action to ban the self-balancing scooters from campus buildings because of fire concerns related to the lithium-ion batteries related to the device."

Hoverboards have been banned from resident halls at Campbell, Duke, Meredith and many other colleges.

The fire risks have lead to the chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Elliot Kaye, making a statement about the dangers of the hoverboards. Kaye's statement suggests that hoverboards should not be charged overnight or right after riding. Kaye also says that it is best to buy a hoverboard from a location, somewhere that the hoverboard could easily be returned if necessary.

Kaye gives other tips about being safe too. For example, do not ride the hoverboard near vehicles.

Location can affect the rider's safety too. Jackson suggests not to ride the hoverboard when it is raining or snowing.

Jackson's sister tried to ride their hoverboard outside when it was snowing, and it did not go as planned.

"Because she [her sister] tried it, and she fell off and scraped it," Jackson continued, "because it's on wheels so the traction won't pick up."

Senior Sarah Giramia is not supportive of people purchasing the expensive toy.

We will eventually become completely reliant on technology, just like the characters in the Disney Pixar movie WALL-E.

"They're ridiculous. We're going to end up like those people in WALL-E," Giramia said.

Junior Brittany Day learned how to ride a friend's hoverboard, but she would not buy one herself.

"I don't want to spend that much money because it will get boring fast," Day said.

Jackson agrees, she said she would not spend her own money on a hoverboard.

"I guess if you're a lazy person maybe I would buy one," Jackson said.

## FROM SOCIAL ACTIVISM PAGE 10

population participated in "some type of political activity on a social networking site" during the 2012 Presidential Election. Though this statistic may seem small, the level of activism in young adults takes up a much larger margin of the numbers relating to social activism.

"Younger adults are much more likely to [be] politically active on social networking sites," Susskind said. Which is not all surprising due to the widening generation gap related to personal views on social activism.

Although this generation gap is very prevalent in social activism in 2016, previous generations don't necessarily find negativity in social media activism.

According to Cindy Vanlieu, AP Studio Art teacher at Loy Norrix, social media activism is beneficial to social movements due to its ability to spread more information to more people.

"Information that you want people to know can be transmitted in so many ways," said Vanlieu. "More people are aware of the issues, but not all the information is accurate, so that can be problematic. I think the issues are very much the same."

Vanlieu was a protester during the Vietnam War, advocating for peace as well as advocating for women's rights. She notes how some social movements changed her generation's view on social activism.

"The Civil Rights movement was a game changer for many of us," Vanlieu recalls, "I was at the University of Michigan when the 'Students for a Democratic Society' was organized and became a very strong voice of social dissent."

Social media is a platform for activism to thrive and make itself available to the masses, even when some cannot actively participate in social movements. It especially provides an area of expression for those with physical and mental disabilities who are not able to be a part of rallies, protests or marches. All-in-all, social media activism is essentially a more accessible version of full-fledged activism.

## FROM SEXUAL HARRASSMENT PAGE 11

situations, such as lunch or sporting events. These are behaviors which often exacerbate effects of anxiety and depression and make the situation worse. Not to mention that many middle and high school students have fewer opportunities and resources to learn coping methods for these negative emotions, due to a lack of time, and in many cases, support.

"For me, [sexual harassment] did have long term effects. I honestly don't think I'll ever forget how embarrassed and humiliated I felt; I still kind of blame myself for letting it happen," said an anonymous senior.

In addition, not punishing harassers, especially those at a young age, reinforces the idea that it's acceptable to treat people in demeaning ways, putting ideas in people's head that can last a lifetime.

Sexual harassment is preventable. By teaching students and educators exactly what sexual harassment is and how to respond with consequences for the harasser and support for the victim, the presence of sexual harassment could be drastically reduced. As with all social issues, the problem doesn't have an obvious cure-all solution, but by taking these easy steps towards prevention, schools can become places where students no longer have to worry about covering up their bodies to walk down the hallways or being groped in the lunch line.

Finally, it's important to remember that passivity is a form of tolerance and that by remaining silent when you witness harassment, you are siding with the harasser. Know that your voice is your most powerful tool and it can be used to change the world for the better or the worse. Do your part in preventing sexual harassment by speaking up and encouraging victims to report harassment.



# THE PRICE OF COLLEGE IS RISING, WHILE STUDENT FINANCIAL STABILITY IS FALLING



Illustration / Frankie Stevens

Frankie **Stevens**

You're finally graduating college after four hard years of lectures, late nights, and coffee. Finally free from the everyday rhythm of classes and homework, you're ready to start your new job, but let's not forget about the \$50 thousand in student loans that got you to this point.

Every year, students are graduating from college with thousands of dollars in student debt. Milestones like buying a house, starting a family or saving for retirement are all affected by this.

For the students in Kalamazoo Public Schools who receive the Kalamazoo Promise, paying for college isn't as scary as it is for others. These students have the security of knowing that a portion or all of their tuition is paid for.

"If I didn't have the Promise and couldn't get enough grants or scholarships, I don't think going to college would be worth taking out loans," said junior Josh Wild.

Forty million Americans have an average of \$29,000 in student debt each, making the nationwide total rise to \$1.2 trillion. Many people put off going to college or decide not to go when they realize they can't afford it straight out of high school, but as a college education becomes a requirement for many jobs, not going to college is less of an option.

"Student loans were the only way I was going to be able to go to college, so I think it was worth taking them out because I wasn't able to pay for it myself," said Loy Norrix teacher Jay Peterson. It took Peterson 13 years to finish paying off his student loan debt.

For others that are fresh out of college and have only been teaching for a few years, like math teacher Samantha Maxwell, finally paying off student loans is a long term goal.

"This is the fourth year I have been paying them, and I'll continue to pay them for at least thirty more," said Maxwell.

Other countries like Brazil, Finland, Germany, and Sweden all offer free college tuition. In France annual tuition is \$150-\$900 dollars, but compared to the U.S that equals about two credit hours at Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC). Finland, on the other hand, has completely free college tuition and is said to have the best education system in the world. Free college comes with a price though, an average tax rate of 24 percent. The European countries have a higher tax, so they can offer additional social services like college tuition.

Other methods of paying for college include grants and scholarships. If a student doesn't have proper funds, applying for them is beneficial since the money can go towards room and board and books.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FASFA, provides \$150 billion in federal grants and loans each year to more than 13 million students who are struggling to pay for college. The process starts with filling out and applying for student aid, getting a federal student aid ID and providing the the right paperwork. The state deadline for students attending college in 2016-2017 is March 1st for applications.

## THE STATE DEADLINE FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING COLLEGE IN 2016-2017 IS MARCH 1ST FOR APPLICATIONS

After you submit your application it takes a few weeks to know if you have been selected to receive student aid. If you have been selected you choose which type of aid you need and reply back within the deadline. The process can be long but worth the help you receive.

Overall the price of college in the United States is an average of over \$32 thousand and the students here are struggling to keep up with payments. Students need to get involved in their future and learn about their financial options to avoid being part of the 40 million in debt.

# TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS SEE MAJOR DECLINE IN ENROLLMENT



Math teacher Alex Stephens is seen here helping student Madison Holmer with her classwork. Stevens was an intern at Loy Norrix for Adam Hosler for all of the 2014-2015 school year.

Photo Credit / Abby Farrer

Abby **Farrer**

The professor looks up from the class roster then back to the students that are filing in. Only 10 students signed up for the class This can't be right with. They watch as the front rows are scattered with only those select students. They can remember only four years ago when the classroom was almost full with nearly thirty people.

America has seen a steep decline in students who want to be teachers in states such as Michigan, Rhode Island, California, New Hampshire and Vermont. With more viable job opportunities, college students are seeing that teaching is an unappealing career.

According to Sarah Hofius Hall from the "Tribune-Times", "in 2012-13 there were nearly 25 thousand teaching certificates issued, by 2014-15 there were only 8 thousand."

In the state of California, there has been a 53 percent decrease of teachers in the school system. This is happening across the country due to the number of college students taking an interest in subjects that aren't focused on teaching. To remedy this issue, some states have tried to prevent current teachers from resigning by giving them a raise in their salary.

According to the "Tribune-Times", "In the past three years the number of teaching certificates that have been issued has dropped by 66 percent."

The cause of the decline is the teaching program requirements are hard for college students to balance. For a bachelor's degree, students are required to do multiple internships and several class evaluations while also taking courses at their own at the university. Becoming a secondary school teacher requires students to have a bachelor's degree in the subject they wish to teach in and complete classes that are focused on education. Another option is to complete a master's degree. A master's degree gives a teacher a better understanding in their field.

"A person who wants to be a teacher has to be passionate about two things, the subject and teenagers," said Latin Loy Norrix teacher Barbara Felkel.

There are more than just the requirements that make up being a teacher. There is something special

about watching the students grasp the knowledge that has been taught to them. Many teachers are not in it for the money.

"It's exciting for them to finally get it," said LN English teacher Lauren Kinnamon.

Stephen Sawchuk from "Education Week" has said, "The teacher-preparation program, a program that prepares teachers, has dropped 10 percent in enrollment from 2002 to 2014."

Regena Fails Nelson is a professor and chair of the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational studies at Western Michigan University. Nelson understands the impact of students not enrolling in teaching programs in college. She has noticed that there has been a small increase in the enrollment of high school students into an Education For Employment (EFE) teaching program, but that number doesn't compare to the magnitude of students taking art and science EFes.

"Van Buren County has over 75 students in their [Teacher Academy] program and Kalamazoo has 60 students," said Fails Nelson.

As of 2008, there has been a larger decline in the teaching field than experts predicted. Around the U.S. public school districts have had a major decrease in motivation to teach growing minds. These students may not have had a teacher that inspired them to follow in their footsteps or even thought about the future of their generation.



# POKEMON GO BRINGS CHILDHOOD DREAMS TO LIFE

Taylor **Krupianik**

Many kids have imagined since the early age of ten of becoming a Pokémon trainer, but sadly Pokémon is just a game. However, “Pokémon Go” is going to change that.

The new game “Pokémon Go” by Nintendo is scheduled to be released in 2016. They have created an app for iOS and Android, and you can order a sensor or a Bluetooth type accessory to put on a wristband or simply tuck into your pocket. The wristband accessory is a Poké Ball, and what it’s supposed to do is alert the app on your phone to tell you when there is a Pokémon near by. When you get to a certain distance by the Pokémon, you can try to catch it. This app will also allow you to trade Pokémon and to battle other people who have the same app.

“I’m excited to see what the app will look like and how everything will work. I’m excited to feel like a real

trainer,” said senior Arya Malmgren.

The game announcement has been blowing up all over people’s social media, excitement and chatter. This brings gaming to a whole new level.

Wherever you go you can catch any Pokémon. The app is free, but there are some items you may have to pay for in the app itself, such as the Poké Balls. As you go places the app will be able to tell you when you have an item you come across and then collect what you need, just like in the original games. Buying the Poké Balls or anything else is really just there to speed up the process.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how they pull off Pokémon in the real world and how battles will happen. I’m excited because you can run into Pokémon anytime of the day,” said senior Donovan Sarno.

Once your app scans the surrounding area, it will set off the watch or sensor and you can open it



up, and right on the screen you can see the graphics from all around you. Like in the handheld game when you catch the Pokémon, it records the time the date and where you met the pocket monsters. When trading, it shows who the original owner was and where they met the Pokémon.

This game will be breaking down

barriers and creating a new way of gaming by bringing the Pokémon world alive, even if it’s not technically real. People will make new friends, fight their Pokémon and trade other Pokemon.

Pokémon fans all over have been waiting and getting excited as the game release gets closer.

# LGBT COMMUNITY STILL FEELS OPPRESSION IN TV SHOWS



Arya **Malmgren**

In the Late 90’s a show called “Teletubbies” was brought to the homes of people in Britain and America. The show was watched and loved by millions of families with one to four year-old children.

Purple Teletubby Tinky-Winky, carrying a pink magic bag and wearing a tutu with a triangle on its head, created a response from the Christian community under the suspicion of being gay.

“As a Christian I feel that role modeling the gay lifestyle is damaging to the moral lives of children”, said Southern Baptist pastor Jerry Falwell.

Now, a number of years later, you would think that with the progress made in the fight for gay rights and the number of countries allowing same-sex marriage, children’s shows featuring possibly homosexual characters wouldn’t cause problems in this day and age. You couldn’t be more wrong.

Not only do these shows cause controversy, but they are being edited in other countries. One show, for example, is “Steven Universe”.

The show centers around a young

boy named Steven Universe who lives with three magical alien beings called the Crystal Gems who appear to be female. Since the Gems are aliens, they draw their power from the gem that is placed somewhere on their bodies. Therefore, their bodies are made of light, and they choose to appear female. Steven is the first half-human, half-gem that has ever existed.

Steven spends his days with his friends, going on missions with the Gems, hanging out at his dad’s car wash and getting acquainted with his inner thoughts and dreams.

The creator of “Steven Universe,” Rebecca Sugar, shows support for the LGBT community and applies that to the theme of the show. One example of supporting the LGBT community is a lesbian relationship hidden throughout the entire first season of the show and then revealed at the season finale. The relationship had been kept secret from Steven because the characters wanted to make it a surprise for him on his next birthday.

The program also blurs the lines between gender roles as Steven is not

afraid to wear a dress and makeup and perform onstage, as in the second season’s episode, “Sadie’s Song.” Many people find the show to be a jumpstart for kids towards LGBT acceptance.

“Steven Universe” recently aired an episode in the UK with edits to “make it less gay,” according to the website ggwnews.

The original episode features an intimate dance scene between two female lead characters. In the edits that the network made for its UK audience, a part of the dance where the two characters seem as though they are about to kiss was removed and cut away to another character. You can watch the video in a side-by-side comparison between the UK edit and the original on YouTube.

“It kind of annoys me in a way because there’s nothing that bad that they censor. They shouldn’t have to do that, there’s nothing wrong with two characters that look like females loving each other,” said freshman Hannah Newhouse.

This is not the first time the LGBT themes in Steven Universe has incited censorship in other parts of the world. The show has been censored in France, Germany and Russia in an attempt to extinguish the homosexual relationships between characters.

Examples include giving a character in a lesbian relationship masculine features to make her appear male, or lyrics being changed so a song about a relationship is instead about friendship.

“The thing is that the program’s not

gonna make [kids] gay, but censoring the program is going to make them think [being] gay is wrong,” said sophomore Madison Holmer.

Fans of the show are outraged at the censorship because of the double standards being used. It’s as simple as this; there is no censorship of the heterosexual themes of the show. After the dance scene mentioned earlier, there is a kiss shared between a male and female character that was not cut out of the UK edit, as well as the male and female characters having their own dance that ends with another kiss.

There is also a perceived relationship between Steven and his best friend Connie that any fan has yet to hear of being censored. Is it assumed that children can only handle intimate relationships between male and female characters even after the progress people have made for gay rights?

“Twenty countries have approved the freedom to marry for same-sex couples nationwide: Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, Argentina, Denmark, France, Brazil, Uruguay, New Zealand, Britain, Luxembourg, Finland and Ireland,” according to the website freedomtomarry.

The list continues with Mexico, Slovenia, and the United States.

Even though Britain is one of the many countries allowing same-sex marriages, they still feel the need to censor they still feel the need to censor such relationships in programs for

SEE LGBT PAGE 18



# ALEXANDER HAMILTON: AN AMERICAN FOUNDING FATHER MAKES HISTORY ON BROADWAY



Sophia **Boismier**

Though many only know him as the guy on the ten dollar bill, Alexander Hamilton, one of the founding fathers of the United States, found his way to the Richards Rodgers Theater on Broadway in New York City on August 6, 2015. Before making it to Broadway, “Hamilton” made a debut performance on Off-Broadway theater in New York City, the Public Theater, in February of 2015.

“Hamilton: An American Musical” is a “hip-hop musical” with lyrics, script, and music by Lin-Manuel Miranda and based off the biography “Alexander Hamilton” by Ron Chernow. The

musical tells the story about a young, hot-headed immigrant Alexander Hamilton, driven by ambition and obsessed with his legacy, who made his way to the top of politics and attended the Constitutional Convention. The show tells of Hamilton’s personal scandals and tragedies and how he eventually was killed in a duel by friend and fellow politician Aaron Burr, Vice President under Thomas Jefferson. This musical is very unique in “modernizing” the 1700s.

As said in a radio ad, “Hamilton” is “a story of America then, told by America now.”

Junior and Broadway enthusiast Lena Wood loves “Hamilton” and all that it stands for.

“I don’t think that the use of rap in the show is just used to appeal to younger audiences, but it also allows so much more to be said with the span of two and a half hours, more than traditional musical theater,” said Wood.

The soundtrack of “Hamilton” is on Spotify, iTunes, and YouTube; it is worth taking the time to check out.

“Probably the most noticeable aspect of the show besides the score [the music] is the casting,” said Wood, “This show gives a fantastic opportunity to many black, Hispanic and Asian theater actors [by casting them in the lead roles] who otherwise would not be working or would be stuck in ensemble roles for their entire careers.”

As the hottest show currently on Broadway, “Hamilton” is sold out until September 2016 and has made over 1 million dollars at the box-office.

Along with celebrities like Beyonce, Julia Roberts, and Jon Bon Jovi, President Barack Obama and his family have seen this historical musical.

According to Christian Holub from “Entertainment Weekly,” Obama praised “Hamilton”

very highly.

“It’s brilliant, and so much so I’m pretty sure this is the only thing that [former vice president] Dick Cheney and I have agreed on,” said Obama, “It speaks to this vibrancy of American democracy, but also the fact that it was made by these living, breathing, flawed individuals who were brilliant.”

Even though the historical figure Alexander Hamilton is briefly covered in U.S History and AP U.S History, most who have seen this musical or have even listened to the music, have learned more about Hamilton than in their classes.

“We mostly just talked about how he set up the national bank,” said sophomore and AP U.S History student Bonnie Bremer, “I didn’t know how important he was until this musical.”

“He’s under appreciated,” said AP U.S and European History teacher Matt Porco, “he [Hamilton] had such a big influence on that time period.”

Porco was then asked about what he thought about the musical in general.

“I think it’s great, but not a surprise,” said Porco, “that generation is obviously so interesting. What’s surprising is that Alexander Hamilton is the subject of it.”

For all the people that would be interested in seeing this hit musical, but don’t want to travel all the way to New York City, Hamilton plans on touring to the PrivateBank Theater in Chicago this September.

For a founding father who was determined to make a legacy for himself, it is safe to say that “Hamilton: An American Musical,” will keep Alexander Hamilton’s story alive for generations to come.

# JAZZ MUSIC ENTERTAINS NEW GENERATIONS



This group of musicians form the Western Jazz Quartet. They have all studied at Western Michigan University. **Photo Credit / Alexis Martin**

Alexis **Martin**

Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to be in a college jazz band? To go from place to place just to make music with your small jazz quartet?

On November 4th, 2015, the Western Jazz quartet came to play for the band and orchestra students at Loy Norrix by request of orchestra teacher Sandra Shaw.

The Western Jazz Quartet was formed in 1974. Being a Quartet, there are only four members: Tom Knific (Bass), Keith Hall (Drums), Andrew Rathbun (Saxophone), and Jeremy Sinskind (Piano).

The quartet members asked students different types of questions, and students gave a variety of answers. When they asked a certain question regarding a one word response, students took guesses at the answer, but no one had the answer they were looking for: syncopation.

In jazz music, syncopation is used to make the upbeat of the music louder and more pronounced. However, musicians don’t always use it, at least not all at once.

When listening to these musicians play, you can hear all the work they put in. Their dedication shows when they perform, but you can also see how much fun they have while doing it. They move as they play, swaying to the beat of the music. The musicians smiled when they saw the LN students clapping at the end of songs. They also smiled when students asked questions that went further into this style of music.

“We really enjoy knowing what the students are thinking,” said bassist Tom Knific, “Your crew has really interesting thoughts and questions.”

The students did have some funny and interesting questions and opinions. One student asked the model and cost of Rathbun’s saxophone. This brought out a laugh from both the students and the quartet’s members, but the quartet had some questions for the students as well.

“I love jazz, so I really liked the performance. I thought it was very educational and it taught me a

lot about jazz that I didn’t already know. Blue Lake [Camp] really got me into jazz and just seeing that people in our community love jazz just as much is really important to me,” said junior Alexis Terrian.

The quartet members quizzed the students about their performance, asking “What tempo was that song played in?” or “What are the different elements of jazz music?”

If you enjoy jazz music, the Western Jazz Quartet plays at The Union located in the South Kalamazoo Mall, Wednesday nights from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m, and welcomes you to come and hang out for the night with your family and friends.



Orchestra teacher Sandra Shaw enjoying the music being played by the Western Jazz Quartet. The Quartet played “Happy Birthday” for Shaw. **Photo Credit / Alexis Martin**





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**SENIORS: Have you completed your Promise paperwork?**

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- Deadline for scholarship acceptance form:  
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Contact Bob Jorth with questions at (269) 337-0037 or [bjorthkalamazoopromise.com](http://bjorthkalamazoopromise.com)



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# DAILY FANTASY SPORTS SITES SLOWLY BEING SHUT DOWN



Loy Norrix senior Traver Parlato looks up player stats and edits his fantasy football lineup during his free time in class. Parlato is enjoying his first year playing in a fantasy football league with some of his close friends.  
**Photo Credit / Zach Mason**

## Zach Mason

On November 10th, 2015, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman declared that daily fantasy sports (DFS) constitute as illegal gambling under New York State law. New York was the latest on the list of states attempting to either completely ban DFS or ban certain sites. Schneiderman ruled that daily fantasy sites violate Article 225 of the New York State Penal Code, claiming that they are based on a “material element of chance” because the bets are placed on the results of real events outside of the control of the

player. Schneiderman then followed this declaration with a decision that dropped a bomb on the DFS industry, filing a lawsuit on December 31st asking for DFS companies to return all the money they made in the state of New York.

On January 19th, 2016, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton joined Schneiderman in declaring DFS as violating Texas state law, and Texas joins the ever-growing list of states banning them. Three of the five most populated states (New York, Texas, Illinois) have seen their attorney generals ban DFS, which poses a huge threat to the previously-growing

industry.

Fantasy sports have been a part of American sports culture since the 1980s and have gained immense popularity with the rise of the internet. Fantasy leagues usually last the entire season of whatever sport they are for, but recently, day-long fantasy leagues have been gaining immense popularity. Fantasy sports give people a way to be competitive and stay connected to current events in sports. Many students at Loy Norrix participate in several different fantasy sports, ranging anywhere from baseball to football.

Loy Norrix senior Traver Parlato is in a fantasy football league with several of his friends and is enjoying his first year of playing.

“I like being competitive with my friends in a fun and easy way while being able to stay connected to ongoing football games,” said Parlato.

DFS differ from the type of fantasy sports that Parlato and other students at Loy Norrix play in that they involve real money and, as insinuated in their name, only last a day rather than an entire season. A competitor would spend real money to purchase a certain amount of virtual money to spend on adding athletes to their team. Generally, better players cost more money, and the prices of all players vary from week to week based on how they have been performing recently and their projected performance for that game.

Their line-up then goes up against other line-ups, and their players score

points based on the statistics they put up in their game that day. Depending on how your league is set up, you may go head-to-head against another player or compete against a pool of other line-ups. The winners of these contests win money, which most DFS competitors use to purchase their line-up for the next day that they play.

The two largest sites that run DFS leagues are FanDuel and DraftKings. According to Business Insider, each company receives between three and four million dollars in entries every week.

After paying out prize money to the weekly winners, each company ends the week making somewhere around two million dollars in profit, according to Business Insider. Both sites have gained popularity by running countless ads on TV, advertising the large prizes they offer to winners of leagues, and by sponsoring several professional sports leagues, including the NFL, MLB, NBA, and NHL.

Since gaining popularity, both companies have fallen under the scrutiny of the government, especially after a scandal involving a DraftKings employee winning prize money from FanDuel. The DraftKings employee leaked data about player selections in DraftKings leagues and used that inside information to gain a competitive edge in his player selections on FanDuel. As a result, he ended up winning \$350 thousand.

SEE FANTASY SPORTS PAGE 19

# HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLERS BATTLE SKIN INFECTIONS

## Paul Vallier

Without a doubt, wrestling tops all sports for being the dirtiest in high school. Every time you touch someone or something you transfer different germs, but imagine you’re drenched in sweat and grappling body-to-body against another person, the amount of germs transferred in that time of wrestling alone, then the unsanitary mats on top of that make it the nastiest of all sports.

“Wrestling is the nastiest sport, you can’t even compare it to others,” said senior wrestler Jalen Pace.

Pace has had a lot of experience wrestling, this season marks his seventh year wrestling as he wrestles for the Loy Norrix varsity team.

Skin infections are becoming a major issue for high school athletes. According to “The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association,” in 2011, “8.5% of high school injuries were related to contagious skin

infections.” As for wrestlers, they are at the highest risk, due to the amount of skin exposed, sweat and the transfer of germs and spit. With that, many other matches take place on the same mats with minimal cleaning. Loy Norrix buys top of the line mat cleaner to help prevent skin infections.

“Mats are mopped one time before a practice or tournament and one time after, all the time in between is never cleaned unless there’s blood. No matter how many people wrestle on the same mat,” said Pace.

Pace has had MRSA and a Staph Infection in his time of wrestling, these are two of the less common of the major skin infections, but are still highly contagious. MRSA shows up as red bumps filled with pus; staph infections have the same rash appearance but also come with sickness and flu-like symptoms.

The more common skin infections among high school wrestlers are impetigo, tinea corporis (ringworm),



Junior Zeke Thomas slams his opponent in a match last year. While wrestling there’s always precaution to catching skin infections.  
**Photo Credit / Cori VanOstran**

and herpes simplex. Symptoms of impetigo are red rashes and blisters, along with itching and pus from infected areas. For tinea corporis (ringworm) they start as small red rashes then continue to grow into large rings where the fungus is located. Others include rashes and irritation to

the skin due to bacteria and fungus.

According to “Journal of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners,” “Approximately 2.6% of high school wrestlers have been impacted by the herpes simplex alone.”

SEE SKIN INFECTIONS PAGE 18



# LOY NORRIX MEN'S BASKETBALL HONORS VETERANS IN MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME

PaulVallier

A big question often asked by coaches to their players is who do you truly play for? The common answers are their family or friends, but on January 19th, 2016, the Loy Norrix Knights varsity basketball team played for those who have kept us safe after many years, the veterans and current military of the United States.

Organized by varsity basketball coach Matt Covault, the night was set up to honor current military members and veterans. The presentation of the flag by the U.S. National Guard started off the event, followed by honoring the veterans at halftime. Then following the game a reception for the honorees.

"I am very proud to have played a small role in this event. The military does not get the respect and recognition that it deserves, so my hope is that this event will help to bring a bit more of that respect and honor to all of the amazing servicemen and servicewomen in attendance," said Covault.

Many players of the Knights varsity basketball team honored family members who have defended our country. GK Wells-Lindsey (Mother and Father), Jake Link and Max Link (Both Grandfathers), DQ Wiggins (Dad and Uncle) and coach Matt Covault (Father). The game was dedicated to all of them and anyone else who has put their life on the line for our freedom.

"I hope that by holding this event, the student body realizes how lucky they are to have their freedom and also be able to associate the cost of their freedom by witnessing the military members at the event," said Covault.

The stands were packed with parents, military personnel, veterans and excited fans ready to cheer on the Knights as they took on the Battle Creek Central Bearcats. The men's varsity team sported new school colored camouflage jerseys donated by the army. Each jersey had a different word on the back to show what it takes to be a soldier: honor, courage, respect, loyalty, integrity and duty.

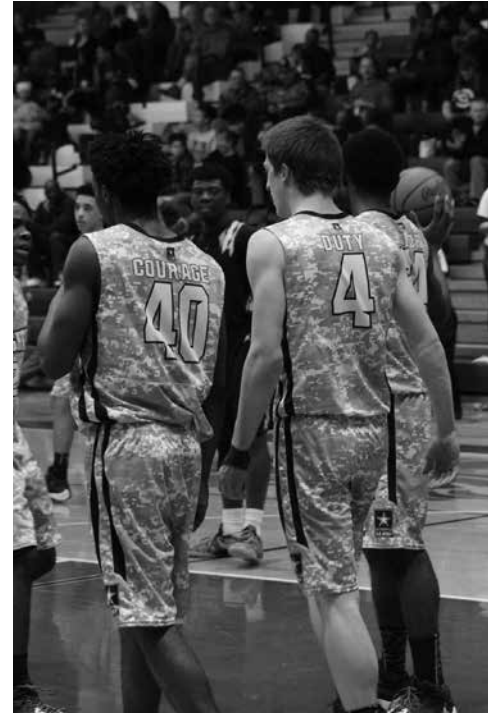
"It was awesome to honor veterans and give them what they deserve, and the game overall is a big step towards a conference championship," said senior Jake Link.

Link honored both of his grandfathers as they both served in the Air Force.

The Knights put up a battle, going back and forth until the final buzzer when Battle Creek Central hit a three-pointer for the win. The Knights lost 57-56, but sometimes the game isn't all about the wins and losses, it is the people you truly play for.



Senior GK Wells- Lindsey hugs his mother during the halftime ceremony at the military appreciation game. His mother served in the Air Force.  
**Photo Credit / Lauren Johnson**



The Knights players Grant Mitchell and Armonte Tolbert stand together before freethrows, sporting the military jerseys that read Courage and Duty.  
**Photo Credit / Lauren Johnson**

## Senior Grant Mitchell in LN Camoflauge Uniform

### LGBT FROM PAGE 14

children.

"I think that's pretty bad because, not saying all kids, but some kids figure out their sexuality before high school like I did, and I think it's a good thing that they're [the creators of the show] making them lesbians," said junior Jaylan Shields.

The viewers of "Steven Universe" are made up of primarily elementary school kids, but people of all ages watch it. People who struggle with body image and sexuality are thrilled that they are being represented by these characters. By simply photoshopping over and taking out parts of the show, the people who are represented are being snuffed out. It's not fair to Rebecca Sugar and it's not fair to the viewers, no matter what country they live in.

### SKIN INFECTIONS FROM PAGE 17

Other sports have some skin contact but none to the level of wrestling then on top of that you never know how clean your opponent is. There's no rules or regulations of how clean a person must be. The decisions of your opponents cleanliness can determine some risk of your chances of acquiring skin infections. When it comes to skin infections officials check each wrestler prior to each match.

"The thing needed most is getting kids to shower after practices, and to wash practice gear, it will significantly make a difference," said Loy Norrix teacher Sean Bergan. Bergan used to be the varsity wrestling coach at Loy Norrix.

When you are infected with any contagious skin infection, you are supposed to sit out and not have any contact with anybody until completely taken care of and approved by a doctor. However, skin infections often aren't caught right away and continue to spread when others wrestle with the skin infections.

Loy Norrix uses the procedure of cleaning once before and once after a practice. Loy Norrix coaches take high precaution by purchasing anti-bacterial skin creams that kill the bacteria right on contact and can prevent the skin from allowing in the bacteria.

"Most coaches do very well and buy skin care creams then mop on top of that, and make the game as clean as it can be," said Bergan.

Sports can all get gritty and nasty, but without a doubt wrestling trumps them all. Attempting to eliminate contagious skin infections throughout the sport could solve the issue on a seasonal basis each year.

# STEVEN FINLEY QUALIFIES FOR STATE



Senior Steven Finley finishes his race in the 100 yard breaststroke. His hard work and dedication pays off after four years of training.

**Photo Credit / Herbert Todd**

## Audra Penny

Senior Steven Finley has been swimming for Loy Norrix's team all four years of high school. Finley was first introduced to swimming at the YMCA where he would swim for fun, but once he reached high school, his mom encouraged him to go out for the team.

Along with his mom's encouragement, Finley knew some

of his friends were also joining, influencing his decision to become part of the LN swim team.

After his freshman year, Finley was hooked on swimming and his coach, Paul Mahar, took notice.

"Coming in his freshmen year, he had little experience but as he grew in the sport, he found parts of swimming that he truly loved and that gave him some motivation to look higher up,

like qualifying for the conference meet and qualifying for the state meet," said Mahar.

Finley started aiming for state during his sophomore year, but it wasn't until junior year that his skills really began to develop.

"I started doing everything an athlete could, eating healthy, stretching, drinking water, and doing Kalamazoo United [during the off season]," said Finley.

In his junior year, he missed the cut for state for the 100 yard breaststroke by a mere 0.08 seconds; his time was 1:03.51 seconds, whereas the qualifying time was 1:03.59.

"[Missing the state cut last season] made me hungry to work harder, [so] I started to train year round," said Finley.

Previously, Finley has played football during the fall sports season, since the 6th grade (excluding freshman year). However, Finley decided to drop football his senior year to continue training towards swimming in the state meet.

Going into this season, coach Mahar continued to keep him concentrated on his goal.

"I think that it takes a good mentor to help make any top athlete. He had a goal and he needed somebody like myself to keep him focused," said Mahar.

After all his dedication and commitment to qualifying for states, Finley achieved his goal on January 5th, 2016 at Kalamazoo Central High School. Finley swam a 1:03.42 in the 100 breaststroke and qualified for state by .17 seconds.

"There's nothing better [than] when you work hard for a goal and you achieve it. [This] is something I'll remember forever," said Finley.

However, even after achieving his goal, Finley knows there's still work to be done.

"I'm setting milestones for myself [before I go to state]. I hope to break the school record (1:02.12 in the 100 breaststroke), and then a month later or maybe even sooner, I would like to get under a minute," said Finley.

Since the season is just beginning, Finley has a couple of months to train before state, which is on March 11 & 12th.

"We have such a focus group and large group who are students of the sports and they have set their goals high and I have just confirmed it as a coach. We're looking to have our best finish in my career and one of the better years in history," said Mahar.

## FROM FANTASY SPORTS PAGE 18

In an attempt to stem the controversy, both FanDuel and DraftKings banned their employees from using any DFS site, but the public is still skeptical about the possibility that the outcomes of DFS games could be influenced by access to inside information.

According to the Seton Hall Sports Poll, "54 percent of people polled think that DFS should be legal, and 38 percent said DFS should be banned (nine percent said they don't know). 50 percent of people polled believe that DFS are a form of gambling as opposed to the 31 percent who think it is a game of skill (19 percent don't know)."

After the DraftKings/FanDuel scandal, many state governments began to take a closer look at the legality of DFS. So far, six states have completely banned DFS, including Nevada, home of the gambling capital of the United States, Las Vegas.

Several other states have banned other specific sites, most commonly DraftKings and FanDuel. These states

claim that DFS constitutes as illegal gambling because they rely on the outcome of events outside the control of the player, and certain people can have an unfair advantage based on their ability to gain access to inside information, similar to insider trading in the stock market.

## IT WOULD BE LIKE IF BUDWEISER SPONSORED THE NEW YORK YANKEES DURING PROHIBITION

Although DFS companies are fighting these states' decisions in court, many other states are slowly following suit and banning DFS. This poses a huge problem for DFS companies: what will happen to their sponsorships with professional sports teams if DFS becomes illegal in the United States?

Many sports teams would then

be sponsored by an illegal business, and this would result in a huge conflict of interest. It would be like if Budweiser sponsored the New York Yankees during prohibition. If DFS companies are forced to terminate their sponsorships, professional sports in America will lose a huge supporter.

According to Legal Sports Report, 16 NFL teams are sponsored by FanDuel and 12 are sponsored by DraftKings. The NBA signed a deal with FanDuel in November of 2014, and the MLB and NHL both signed with DraftKings in March and November 2014, respectively.

If DFS becomes illegal it would cast a huge shadow over these teams and leagues for investing in an illegal gambling organization. This would not be beneficial to the public image of many leagues, which has been recently tainted with the recent problems involving players involved in domestic violence situations, performance enhancing drug usage, and the issues in the NFL specifically with people

disputing potential fixed outcomes of games (Deflategate, poor officiating, not having a clear rule defining what a catch is, etc.). Professional sports really can't afford another controversy.

Currently there are 27 states questioning the legality of DFS, and it is quite possible that the issue will reach the federal government in the coming months of this controversy. As of now, the only DFS sites banned in Michigan are StarsDraft and Star Fantasy Leagues, neither of which are major players in the DFS market like FanDuel and DraftKings. These bans could indicate that Michigan may be one of the next states to take a long look at whether or not DFS constitutes illegal gambling. So if you were planning on attempting to win money using a DFS site when you turn 18, you may not get your opportunity.



# THE ~~LOVE~~ COST OF THE GAME

ChrisHybels

As the winter sports season starts, we take a look at the actual costs athletes pay to play their game. Different sports require various pieces of equipment and these items can come at a high cost to the athletes. In basketball, athletes can spend around twenty dollars just for the right pair of socks, while a swimmer will spend hundreds on a suit that will only last about five uses.

Photos Courtesy of Kristi Schau- Johnson, Cori VanOstran and Chris Hybels

## BASKETBALL

Freshman Ebube Okpechukwu



Basic Costs:  
\$100

Socks: \$18

Shoes: \$80

## WRESTLING

Senior Jalen Pace



Headgear: \$30

Multiple Singlets:  
\$60-80

Knee Pads: \$20

Shoes: \$60-80

## HOCKEY

Senior Zach Mason



Helmet: \$80-100

Shoulder Pads:  
\$80-100

Elbow Pads:  
\$60-80

Gloves: \$100

Shin Pads:  
\$80-100

Stick: \$200

Skates:  
\$400-1000

Rink/Jerseys/ Bags Costs: \$2,000  
Miscellaneous: \$100

## MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Senior Steven Finley



Swim Caps: \$10  
Goggles: \$20-30

Multiple Suits:  
Each \$20-40

High Tech Suits  
(for high levels of  
competition) : \$100-450

Competition Suits:  
\$40

Warm Ups: \$65

## COMPETITIVE CHEER

Freshman Porshya Smith



Bows: \$10

Crop Top: \$13  
Team Shirts: \$15

Pom Poms: \$20

Spandex  
Shorts: \$6

Warm Ups: \$35

Bags: \$30

Shoes: \$50

## BOWLING

Senior Haruto Kumasaka



Ball: \$150

Shoes: \$80