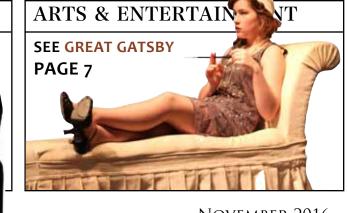


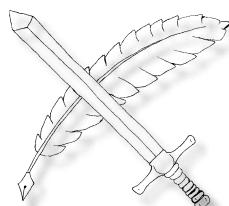
VOLUME 57, ISSUE 1





November 2016

# LOY NORIX



# KNIGHT LIFE

KALAMAZOO, MI SINCE 1960 =



PHOTO CREDIT / ZACH LIDDLE

Larner laughs with students in AP French while sharing a story about her new dog Romi. Many students think of her as a friend rather than a teacher.

## ADVANCED PLACEMENT FRENCH IS FINALLY HERI

## **MEGHAN LEWIS** A & E EDITOR

Brittany Day, a senior at Loy Norrix, is one of the twelve students in Larner's 1st hour AP French class. She has taken French all throughout high school and will receive college credit for it if she passes the AP

"I like Madame Larner, she tells funny stories spoken in French, and we learn more about her life," Day continued. "I just take French for fun. It's really cooling learning about a different culture and how they speak".

Taking an advanced placement (AP) language class can be challenging, but Rachel Larner, the French teacher at Loy Norrix, makes it worth it.

"I wanted to take French because I love the way it sounds, and I've always wanted to go to Europe. French is spoken in most places there and [I] hope to go to France one day", said Day.

AP classes are taken for a full school year and give you the ability to earn college credit in high school by passing the AP exam. Not only can you gain college credit, you'll be able to go to a different country and be able to have a conversation with people from there. AP French is taught in A14 by Larner. Loy Norrix has always offered this class, but until now, not enough students enrolled to run the class.

Larner teaches 6 general themes, including global challenges, identity, beauty,

science & technology, family community and contemporary life. The class may seem challenging, but Larner uses many creative teaching methods such as hand motions and drawings so that her students can understand what she's saying. All of the directions, warm ups, lessons, vocabulary and novels are spoken and taught in French.

Being in a class where the instructor enjoys teaching is important. Having such a lively teacher makes more students want to take the class and have a full conversation in French.

"I like that there's more freedom to talk about what's important to us in French," said Larner.

## SEE **AP FRENCH PAGE 3**



PHOTO CREDIT / BAILEY HANDLEY

Ms. Xing Gao teaches the Chinese class at Loy Norrix. She pronounces how to say several country's names in

## CHINESE CULTURE ROLLS INTO LOY NORRIX

### **BAILEY HANDLEY** SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM

Loy Norrix High School recently began offering a new experience for students to take part in. Up until now, students have only been able to take Spanish, French, and Latin as a foreign language, but beginning this year Loy Norrix is offering Chinese to

any students who are interested.

Chandler Maples, a senior at Loy Norrix, decided to take Chinese because it is going to help with his future career plans.

"I plan on going into product design after high school. I need and want the knowledge of the Chinese language so I can communicate with other cultures for business purposes," said Maples.

Wyatt Atkins, a sophomore at Loy Norrix, is happy to be taking Chinese for different reasons. He was getting bored of taking Spanish and wants to travel to China one day.

"I have always wanted to visit the Great Wall of China because it is one of the world's most historical landmarks. If I do one day get the opportunity to visit China, I'd like to study the Chinese culture in a more in-depth way and try out all of their different foods," said Atkins.

Claudia Ely, a senior at Loy Norrix, took Latin for three years before taking Chinese this year. She says Chinese and Latin have similarities and differences.

"The reason I took Chinese was to try something new because I had already taken Latin for three years," Ely continued, "after taking Chinese for a just few weeks I have already realized the words are structured differently in each language, but the roots are the same. I am really enjoying the class and hope to someday travel to China to see how life differs from here in America."

The new Chinese teacher, Ms. Xing Gao, came to America from China. She is employed through the Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University and came upon the job at Loy Norrix through an interview and training process led by teachers from America.

SEE **CHINESE CULTURE PAGE 3** 



**PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON** 

Junior Jenni Peterson puts her ballot into the tabulator to be counted.

# UPPERCLASSMEN TAKE PART IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

### **SIDNEY RICHARDSON** NEWS EDITOR

"This generation can decide what direction this country is going in," said junior Nikki Russell as she helped her classmates by handing out ballots for the Loy Norrix Mock Election.

It's clear that much of today's youth know the magnitude of the impact their generation has on their country. Millennials have grown up in an age where information is readily available at the touch of a button.

"I think they are more aware because they have easier access to information, there are so many more ways [for them] to get their information," said John Brown, the Regional Chairperson representing the Elections Division of Kalamazoo.

John Brown has held this position for 25 years. The way he compares millennials to past generations goes to show that even the older generations know just how much their successors will impact the United States as a nation.

"Anybody is ready to vote as long as they are educated, yet this generation lacks a stake in the game, but that can be overcome," said government teacher Michael Wright.

The League of Women Voters is attempting to educate high schoolers on the process of voting so that they will be able to utilize their political knowledge by organizing mock elections across the Kalamazoo area.

Young voters are often concerned that their vote won't matter and some avoid voting altogether simply because they don't know how.

"The League of Women Voters presented the Voter's Education Project to the three Kalamazoo Public School high schools and the Young Adult Program and all four of the schools are hosting mock elections today," said Jennie Hill of the League of Women Voters, "you will all be 18 [eventually] and need to make important decisions that govern your [the students'] futures."

While many are self-educated in the ways of politics, some grew up naive and are now looking for answers.

"Most kids don't understand what goes on with politics without taking a class like government. I just know I was a Democrat because of my parents," said junior CJ Washington, "I'm learning how to fill out a ballot because at first I didn't know how to."

Young voters are often concerned that their vote won't matter and some avoid voting altogether simply because they don't know how. But now the League of Women Voters and the rise in communications technology are making a change.

SEE MOCK ELECTION PAGE 4

**NEWS** 

## LOY NORRIX MOURNS THE LOSS OF ANOTHER FALLEN KNIGHT

Daquarion "DQ" Hunter September 16, 1998 - September 5, 2016



PHOTO ILLISTRATION / KEON FOSTER

### **KEON FOSTER** GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Loy Norrix Alumni and resident of Kalamazoo, Daquarion "DQ" Hunter, has left us sooner than we expected, days before his 18th birthday.

Monday, September 5th, around 9 p.m. a tragic accident took place in an alleyway in the Kalamazoo Edison Neighborhood. DQ and a group of friends were walking down the alleyway when one of his friends accidentally shot and killed him. Moments later, the friend turned the gun on himself.

One of DQ's closest friends, Armonte "Nano" Tolbert, was there to hold him as he passed. Tolbert chose not to speak on the death of his best friend. Another friend of DQ's, Timothy "Tim" Whittaker, wasn't present at the time of the accident; however, he was willing to share about his friend's death.

"He was a funny guy, you could always go around him if you wanted a laugh," said Whittaker.

Days after the death, DaQuary Blanks, also one of DQ's close friends, posted a mournful statement on Facebook that reflects how all of DQ's friends and family feel about what happened.

"Honestly I don't know what to feel," said Blanks. "It seems like a nightmare I haven't woke up from yet...."

DQ's funeral took place the day of his birthday, September 16th. Many people attended, sharing their memories of his greatness and appreciation for him, as well as paying homage to his family. During the funeral, about ten people, including three members of the Loy Norrix football team, spoke of DQ's character and how he changed their lives. Steve Kreider, DQ's mentor, spoke of many memories the two shared.

An especially significant quote from DQ himself seemed to catch everyone's attention: "Never give up, because your time to shine will come." The quote touched a large amount of DQ's friends and family because no matter the time or place, it was always Daquarion's time to shine.



DQ Hunter was a senior basketball player for Loy Norrix High Schools's 2016 varsity team.

"Honestly I don't know what to feel," said DaQuary Blanks. "It seems like a nightmare I haven't woke up from yet."

## LOY NORRIX HONORS FALLEN KNIGHTS



**MICHAELA WHALEN SOCIAL MEDIA TEAM** 

Every day is not always promised, and that fact has started to settle in for the students at Loy Norrix High School.

Around 7 p.m. on Friday, September 9th, Loy Norrix students, faculty, alumni and fellow community members came together to recognize a loss of two loved ones. Following the deaths of Daquarion (DQ) Hunter and Marsavious (Savie) Frazier on the night of September 5th, a moment of silence was necessary to honor the moments when these two young men touched the lives of the Kalamazoo community.

Before the national anthem was sung at the home football game against Kalamazoo Central on Friday, Andrew Laboe, the athletic director at Loy Norrix High School, gave Hunter's mother his newly retired jersey, signed by Hunter's teammates. DQ Hunter, a 2016 Loy Norrix graduate and four year football and basketball player, will be remembered for

throughout Loy Norrix.

Hailey Timmerman, a Loy Norrix senior, enjoyed Hunter's humor.

"What I remember most about him is that he was so funny. I remember when him, Nano [a friend] and I used to be in Mr. Greeley's class cracking up everyday. If I needed a laugh, he'd be the guy," said Timmerman.

Laboe recalled similar memories with Hunter.

"DQ was funny. He had random waves of humor that varied from silly to sarcastic to over the top but was always able to make me smile or laugh. If I wasn't in my office when he came to see me alone, he would ask Ms. G if he could leave me a note," Laboe continued. "There would be notes all over my computer screen sometimes or a serious note under my

Frazier, a Loy Norrix Knight for two years, would have been a graduate at Phoenix High School this spring. Frazier was a caring individual and valued the loved ones in his life.

"He always knew how to put a smile on my face, and if he didn't know at the time, he'd find a way," said junior Jasmine Huyck.

These two men were lost on Monday due to an accident where one of the boys accidentally shot the other, then took his own life out of despair. According to the website "International Business Times" in the year 2015, 265 people under the age of 18 picked up a gun and accidentally shot someone in the United States.

> "DQ was funny. He had random waves of humor that varied from silly to sarcastic to over the top but was always able to make me smile or laugh. If I wasn't in my office when he came to see me alone, he would ask Ms. G if he could leave me a note," said Andrew Laboe. "There would be notes all over my computer screen sometimes or a serious note under my mouse."

The students of Loy Norrix wanted to come together on September 9th to

honor and remember their lost friends. The student section at the Friday football game wore shirts with Frazier's and Hunter's names and pictures printed on them.

At Thursday's home football game against Gull Lake on September 15th, the remembrance continued. The Gull Lake football program donated \$200 to the family of Hunter for funeral expenses. Loy Norrix's student section had a birthday party theme in honor of what would have been DQ Hunter's 18th birthday the following day.

In moments of tragedy like these, it can be hard to find a positive light amongst it all, but Laboe tried to look for

"[I hope] that community leaders can take hold of the pain of the deaths of the two young adults," Laboe said, "and begin a real conversation about violence and guns in Kalamazoo."

It is important to try and stop the misuse of guns in Kalamazoo.



PHOTO CREDIT / ZACHARY LIDDLE

the numerous laughs and smiles he spread

**NEWS** 

## LOY NORRIX MOURNS THE LOSS OF A FORMER KNIGHT

Marsavius "Savie" Frazier October 19, 1998 – September 5, 2016



#24 Marsavius; third from the left, and friends pose for team photo. His love for the sport led him to play for the Elite Skills basketball team.



PHOTO CREDIT / NICK LUTTRELL Savie wears Jordan retro fours, cargo shorts and an average white T-Shirt, what most people including Savie would call "a crispy fit" [Well put together outfit].

### **ZACH LIDDLE PHOTO EDITOR**

On Monday, September 5th, former Loy Norrix student Marsavius Frazier and Loy Norrix graduate Dequarion Hunter, were found dead after an accident that took place in the 1500 block of Clinton Ave.

One of the boys in their hangout came into possession of a gun which was accidentally fired, fatally wounding another member of the group. Distraught and filled with grief, the boy took his own life shortly after.

Frazier was registered to complete his senior year at Phoenix High School. Though he only spent one year at Loy Norrix, he made a mark on teachers and students.

"He was and will always remain, for me, memorable," said Anne Bowser, Fraziers' former English teacher. "He always had a strong presence."

Fraizer was not a student who craved being the center of attention, but he wasn't one to just sit in the back and stay unnoticed either.

"He was the joy to a lot of people's lives," his friend, junior, Nick Luttrel explained.

Fraizer was taken at a young age, but the mark he made on people will remain in our memory. In honor of Marsavius Frazier, students have made shirts with his name on it or his picture. They wear these to honor his memory and to help his friends and family members grieve.

The community's hearts go out to the families of Marsavius Frazier and Dequarion Hunter. A public visitation for Marsavius Frazier took place on September 12th at the Galilee Baptist Church.



Candid photo of Savi, taken by his bestfriend Nick Lutrell

## PHOTO CREDIT / NICK LUTTRELL

Jaela Jordan February 10th, 1999 - September 11th, 2016
On September 11th, 2016, the Kalamazoo Community experienced a great loss in the death of former Loy Norrix Knight, and current Phoenix High

School Falcon Jaela Jordan. Jordan was 17 years old, and passed due to a medical condition. Jordan left a lasting memory at Loy Norrix, and a full obituary will be available on knightlifenews.com and printed in the next issue of Knight Life. Our hearts go out to Jaela's family and friends and everyone else on whom she made a lasting impression during her life.



PHOTO CREDIT / FRANKIE STEVENS

Pastor Rob Link addresses his congregation about the importance of an intimate relationship with God. Pastor Rob started The River church

## THE RIVER CHURCH REACHES OUT TO HELP GRIEVING FAMILIES

## **FRANKIE STEVENS** BUSINESS MANAGER

The Kalamazoo community was consumed with grief on the night of September 5th when two young men were killed in a tragic accident. Daquarion (DQ) Hunter and Marsavious (Savie) Frazier were both well known by the KPS community and active in their schools of Loy Norrix and Phoenix respectively.

Out of this disaster came an opportunity for the Kalamazoo community to come together and help the families of these young men. Community members united to support the family and friends of DQ and Savie by hosting memorial services and other events, including a major donation made by The River church and its congregation.

The River church located at 517 Walbridge St. Kalamazoo, MI, has been in existence for twelve years and was started by Pastor Rob Link, his wife, Kristy Link, and 59 of their friends. Now an average of 850 people attend service every Sunday.

"When we heard about the tragedy, we brainstormed ideas of how we could be helpful. Someone threw out the idea of paying for the funerals and we thought that it was impossible, since our church is made up of predominantly homeless people and college students," said lead pastor Rob Link, "but we decided to do it

Pastor Rob found out about this sad event through his sons, Max and Jake Link, who knew DQ and Savie. The following

Sunday Pastor Rob went to his congregation and told them about what happened. He also shared a video his son, Jake Link, made of his and DQ's time together on the football team. This encouraged the people of the church to donate money to give to the families of both boys.

At Sunday service, Pastor Rob put jar in the front of the room and asked for people to donate. Even though the boys were not well known by the church, the congregation still raised \$12,000 to give to the families. This was enough to cover almost all the costs of the funerals, but \$800 more was paid for by the church staff. The church also does a "grace giving" twice a year where they set up the jar and raise money.

Earlier this year they raised \$16,000 for the Gospel Mission.

"I am very grateful and feel very blessed for having received the donation. I'm sure Daquarion would have appreciated every penny, from the smallest amount to the largest," said Daquarion's mother, Mable

Hunter.

### FROM AP FRENCH PAGE 1

Before taking AP French, students are required to take levels I through III. That means beginning with French at the start of freshman year and continuing throughout high school until senior year. Although at Loy Norrix only two years of a world language are required for graduation, some students decide to go further. Some colleges require more than 2 years of a language, and it looks good on applications.

"It's important to understand it's a four year commitment," said Larner, "It's something you ask yourself freshman year, and [you need to] have AP French on your senior schedule."

Spending four years learning about French with Larner introduces students to a wide variety of topics.

"In French I you focus more on yourself, the environment and what you like. In French II you describe other people, dive deeper into what you were like as a kid and more detail with vocab. In French III there's more literature, short stories poems, novels, and the vocab based on that," said

If you are interested in taking AP French, stop into Madame Larner's classroom and talk to your counselor. It's never too late to learn more about the French language. Taking an advanced placement class has many benefits such as, you can study abroad, take the class at a college level and earn a college credit for it. You'll be able to start at a more advanced level once you are in college, making it more time efficient to take the required classes you need.

### FROM CHINESE CLASSES PAGE 1

Ms. Gao graduated from Beijing Language and Culture University (BCLU). Around half of the students who attend BCLU are immigrants from countries all over the world who are there to study the Chinese language.

Teaching at Loy Norrix is only a temporary job for Ms. Gao because she can stay in the United States for a maximum of three years with her Visa. Even though the job is temporary, she is still enjoying her time teaching American students and has realized she has to organize her classroom differently than in China.

"The students here at Loy Norrix are learning the language very well and can already say a few sentences in a row without assistance. The students in America are more interested in learning when there are games and activities involved," Gao continued, "the students in China have a strong motivation to learn the language so they do not want to play games, they just want to hear the teacher speak so they can correct their pronunciation and perfect the language.

Dr. Xiaojun Wang is a professor and advisor of Chinese in the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Western Michigan University. He has also served as founding director of Confucius Institute at Western Michigan University from 2009 to 2011.

Originally from Beijing, China, Dr. Wang taught at Beijing Language and Culture University, as well as University of Arizona, University of Indiana at Bloomington, and quite a few other institutes. Dr. Wang takes great pride in being able to teach young people the Chinese language.

"I became a Chinese professor to gain a better understanding of the language I grew up speaking. I wanted to be able to teach people who were learning the language for the first time not just how to speak fluent Chinese but also about all the different cultures within the Chinese language," said Dr. Wang. "The young people have a hard time learning the language and I admire that they accept the challenge of becoming fluent in another language."

The Chinese language is the most spoken language in the world, with over a billion people speaking it. As Ms. Gao said, half of the students who attend Beijing Language and Culture University are not from China. This shows how important the Chinese language is around the world and how important it is for people to learn the language. With more students learning the language, the number of people using the Chinese language will only continue to grow. Now that Loy Norrix is offering this class, there will be an easier opportunity for students to learn about the Chinese language and the culture surrounding it.

4 NEWS

## GREEN SCHOOL CLUB MEMBERS WORK TO MAKE LOY NORRIX A MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PLACE

**MAGGIE LAGER** ASSISTANT WEB EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT / MAGGIE LAGER

During Green School's first meeting of the year junior Conner Wilger shares his ideas for the year with the rest of the club. After, some of the group members planned on going and collecting recycling.

It's easy to become overwhelmed by the environmental challenges humanity faces. With issues like global warming and deforestation getting harder to ignore, sometimes efforts to save the environment can feel hopeless and the challenges we face completely out of control. In reality the situation is exactly the opposite.

Orginizations like Michigan Green Schools work to acknowledge this and

teach kids of all ages that by making improvements on a local level, the ecosystem is impacted positively.

Michigan Green Schools is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Michigan schools achieve environmental goals which include protecting the air, land, water and animals through the use of a tier system. Students participate in projects related to four basic categories. Categories include

reduce/reuse/recycle, energy, environmental protection and miscellaneous.

Once a certain number of projects are completed in each of these categories, students are able to apply for the title of either Green, Emerald or Evergreen school. The title you apply for depends on the number of projects your school has completed, to earn a higher rating schools just have to complete more projects in each category.

Green School was started at Loy Norrix by Biology and Environmental Science teacher Jason Wagner.

"It started with a couple kids in the environmental science class, someone brought up the idea of us trying to get certified so we started to do some projects," said Wagner.

Last year, Loy Norrix was awarded the title of Emerald School, having completed fifteen total projects with at least two in each category.

"It's fun to do a lot of good projects for the school. I think we're trying to just work up the chain, and it's fun to do all the projects that get us to that point," said senior and Green School member Alex Wallace.

Some projects Loy Norrix Green School members have done over the past year include building a monarch butterfly waystation (places that provide resources necessary for monarch butterflies to produce successive generations and sustain their migration), installing water bottle filling stations around the school and spreading information via poster about how much waste the school produces.

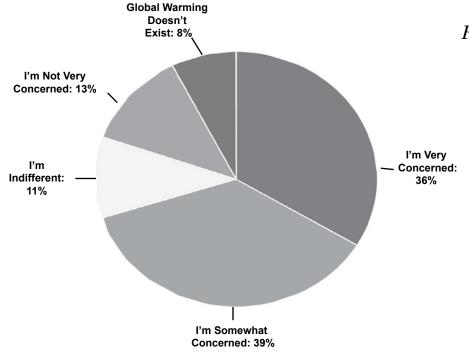
Out of the many projects, Green School members have done over the past year, senior and Green School president Taylor Brown enjoyed participating in the Green School art competition the most.

"That was fun because I made something for it, but it was [also] other student involvement. It was nice to get the word out there that Green School is cool," said Brown.

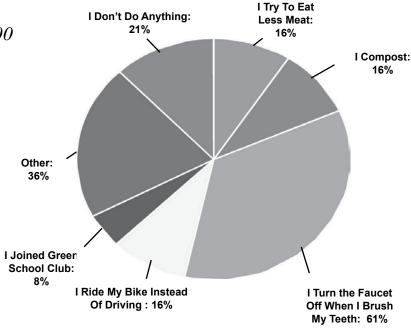
Outside of helping the environment, joining Green School is a good way to get volunteer hours, improve your college applications and find something positive to be a part of.

"It's a really good way to get involved in something at Norrix. Anyone can join and you can kind of build it how you want to, you don't have to go every time. You can kind of make it your own thing," said junior and Green School Member Alli Mitchell. Green School meets Thursdays in Wagner's room, B15, from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Anyone willing to work towards making Loy Norrix a greener environment is welcome.

## HOW CONCERNED ARE YOU ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES?



RESULTS FROM 100 STUDENT SURVEYS...



DO YOU DO ANYTHING TO HELP

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT?

## LOY NORRIX PROTESTS STATE SCHOOL CONDITIONS AND STANDARDIZED TESTS

## **GRACE MARSHALL** WEB EDITOR

Bleary eyed high schoolers trudge through a crowd gathered in front of the main entrance to Loy Norrix. As the dark sky lightened, the air was filled with chanting. One voice calling out, "More time learning!" Each time the crowd replying, "Less time testing!"

On October 6, 2016 at 6:55 a.m., a crowd of teachers, administrators and students gathered in front of the main entrance of Loy Norrix High School to protest the amount of time spent on standardized tests and unequal funding for schools in Michigan.

The Loy Norrix community was not unique in their protest. Led by The Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools, more than 2 thousand schools across the United States performed peaceful walk-in protests on the same day. According to Kalamazoo Education Association (KEA) President Amanda Miller, 26 out of 26 Kalamazoo Public Schools participated in the protest.

"It was part of a national walk in. The reason that we're against it [standardized tests] is it takes away class time and it takes away resources for things like computer labs," said Miller.

According to The Alliance's website, their 2016-2017 platform is focused on erasing discrimination in the distribution of funding and resources with extra focus on providing

"Testing makes us feel stupid if we don't get a good grade... We feel under pressure during the test," said sophomore Demario Morrow.

better resources for underprivileged neighborhoods.

In Kalamazoo specifically, the KEA is protesting the amount of time dedicated to standardized tests and advocating adequate funding for all schools and an education curriculum that focuses on the entire child with more emphasis on arts and physical

education.

"Tests don't take into account students are human, it doesn't take into account poverty. Tests end up punishing students who need the most help," said Miller. "The state has been using tests as a way to punish schools. They have threatened to shut down schools in Kalamazoo and schools in the nation have been shut down and reopened as charter schools."

Some students were protesting more than just standardized testing. One student, junior Grace Barrett, was protesting the occurrence of bullying in high schools. Brett knows firsthand the feelings of dejection and isolation caused by bullying.

"I have been bullied at school," said Barrett. "The school should have less bullying and more love because it causes students to have depression and makes me feel isolated and alone."

At Loy Norrix, the main focus of the protest was standardized testing. In a study done by CBS News it was revealed that the average public school student takes 112 mandatory standardized exams between kindergarten and senior year. Many protesters were holding signs reading, "Freedom from anxiety caused by tests!" "Kids are more than a test score!" and "Schools all our kids deserve!"

According to a survey performed by the California Teachers Association, out of 200 teachers surveyed, 68 percent report that they spend anywhere from 20 to 60 percent of their class time on test prep.

"A lot of class time is taken away from instruction by standardized testing," said Loy Norrix guidance counselor Susan Benton.

Benton felt that it was important for students to see their educators standing up for them and their learning. "It's good for students to see this too because they're the ones taking the tests," said Benton.

Benton and another guidance counselor, Pamela Robinson, protested together. Both expressed concerns about the amount



PHOTO CREDIT / NORA HILGART-GRIFF

Students and teachers assemble together in a walk-in protest. They are protesting conditions in schools and the amount of time devoted to standardized tests.

of attention and importance given to standardized tests by not only Kalamazoo Public Schools but the nation.

"Students are judged and given a number because of testing. They are more than a number," said Robinson.

For students, testing is an added layer of stress.

"Testing makes us feel stupid if we don't get a good grade... We feel under pressure during the test," said sophomore Demario Morrow.

Protestor and Loy Norrix Principal Rodney Prewitt, said it best, "Testing doesn't measure a person's true ability."

The Loy Norrix community values growth in their students academically, socially and emotionally. Teachers want to spend their time focusing on teaching their students, not preparing for a test. It is clear that this school has a strong voice and isn't afraid of speaking out for what they believe in.

## FROM **MOCK ELECTION PAGE 1**

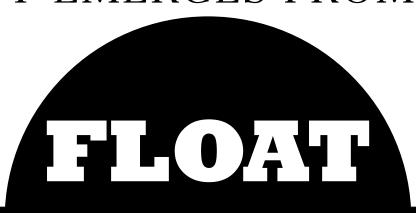
The youth of today are getting educated and when they are old enough to vote, they will be ready to make a difference.

"I think that every vote counts, especially in a close election like this that's making many people want to vote third party," said senior Julia Townley.

It's safe to say that Generation X can take solace in the fact that its successors are prepared to take the U.S. in the right direction. Thanks to the acts of organizations like the League of Women Voters, the nation will soon have a group of well informed young voters.

The result of the mock election was a landslide victory for Secretary Hillary Clinton by a margin of 251-59 over Donald Trump at Loy Norrix. In the four combined elections, her margin increased to 659-170 over Trump. Third party candidates Jill Stein and Gary Johnson received 48 and 79 votes respectively.

## LOCAL COMPANY EMERGES FROM LOY NORRIX



Floatclothing.co

Twitter.com/floatclothingco

Instagram.com/floatclotingco

### **JONNIE PALONE** ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Wearing nice clothes and dressing fashionably is something that matters to high school students. Some students are taking fashion into their own hands. Loy Norrix senior Andrew DeHaan and Grand Valley State University student Colin Cady are coowners of a premium embroidered clothing brand named "Float." They launched the website on August 5th, 2016, starting their company.

Float offers high quality clothing to their customers, and lots of Loy Norrix students already own some. DeHaan works with another Loy Norrix senior, Jon Wilson, who is in charge of the media such as logo design, promotion and art for the company.

Owning a business can be challenging and there is a lot to consider before you start one of your own. Some of these challenges include having high quality material, reasonable prices and a marketing scheme to sell your product. DeHaan is aware of this issue.

"Before I started Float, I did a lot of background research as far as how a lot of other companies are started... after going to 12 different factories and talking to different people, I finally found one that I liked," DeHaan continued. "Then I was in LA for a week with my dad and, weirdly enough, that factory was in LA, so I was able to go and actually visit it, pick out what clothing I wanted, what material, pick out the thread and build it together."

Creating a business requires help from other people to stay up and running. Other people have important skills that can help a business be successful. Senior Jon Wilson came out with an original album featuring Float's sunset logo earlier this year. Wilson and DeHaan have since then collaborated to create Float's image and style.

"Well, I've helped mostly with designing. Designing is really my outlet in which I work. I design most of the logos, a lot of the streetwear, the website, promotion videos. I'm more the media and art side of Float," said senior Jon Wilson.

Float as of now offers t-shirts in black and pink, as well as hats, but there is more to come in the future.

"As of now we're just finishing the first line of products we got, which was 70 shirts and 30 hats. Right now, I'm working on a long sleeve, [and] also looking for different companies to collaborate with. This fall we have crewnecks, hopefully a hoodie and [are] looking for flannels as well, and hopefully a beanie cap," said DeHaan.

Students that already own Float merchandise have several reasons for supporting this local company instead of buying common brand names.

"I wear Float because it's organic cotton, it's not, like, cheap material. My friend made it, and I like to support the logo," said senior Laura Worline, a Loy Norrix student who represents Float clothing regularly by wearing their merchandise.

"Float's style is more like Pacific Sunware type stuff, definitely not really a preppy clothing line, but I think it also appeals to everyone because it's from someone from our school," Worline continued.

Students at Loy Norrix as well as students from other schools are already representing their Float merchandise.

"Students can buy Float merch off our

website which is floatclothing.co. You can contact me on Instagram, Twitter, VSCO actually as well, then we have a Facebook and we also have a Snapchat, so there's multiple ways to contact me," said DeHaan. "We accept credit cards and checks too, as well as online orders on the website. Personally, if you go to Loy Norrix, you can just come up to me and I can get you whatever you need."

Every company has competition and tries to bring something new to the table which makes them stand out from other companies. Float's mission is no exception.

"I like how unique we are and how we're kinda doing something not a lot of people at our age are doing, and as far as what our message is and what we're about, it's different than a lot of brands that we've seen and we tried to make it so it's unique," said Wilson.

DeHaan, Cady and Wilson have just gotten started with their brand. Float offers clothing that can appeal to everyone. There will be more to come in the future. As of now, stay tuned and keep Floating.

## GROWING UP IN POST 9/11 AMERICA

### **SIDNEY RICHARSON** NEWS EDITOR

"I was a freshman in high school, I was at my locker and some kid told me what happened and all we did for the rest of the day was watch the news," said English teacher John Kreider.

The events of September 11th, 2001 forever changed the course of the United States. The hijacking of three planes by terrorist forces and the subsequent suicide bombings on the two towers of the World Trade Center as well as the Pentagon took the lives of almost three thousand innocent people and injured over six thousand more, leaving children without parents, parents without children and sisters without brothers. The fall of the Twin Towers both literally and metaphorically left a dismal cloud over the United States.

The series of terrorist bombings left the United States in a state of paranoia and shock that Americans hadn't felt since Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. The United States is a military superpower in the modern world; therefore, the United States seldom is attacked. 9/11 was an act of terrorism that shook the foundation of this great nation and set United States citizens on the path of preemptive action that is now employed.

As more and more time passes, millennials have grown up in a post-9/11

world and are ignorant of what it was like before that event changed the way the country worked. However, some have a moderate grasp on the effects.

Some students believe that an event like this had to happen to mold the United States into the military power it is today.

"Certainly, the attack shocked the US into a realization that a new type of enemy is abroad," said sophomore Aidan Lane.

"Not only did they have an increase of normal security measures, but there was also a rise in discrimination and racism towards

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Arabs," said senior Austin Root, testifying to the changes in society in regards to hate rooted in the events and changes made to increase national security, and the evident racism that is now an accepted part of society.

"We likely wouldn't have the Islamic fear that we see today in the media. Those we lost would still be here, and conflicts that resulted wouldn't have happened," said senior Patrick McDade on the world he sees had the 9/11 attacks not occurred.

Following the 9/11 events, the United States started the so-called "War on Terror," including the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S. engaged in combat with both of these countries in the wake of this tragedy and held them responsible for the hijackings and subsequent bombings. National security was heightened with the Patriot Act, which covertly took away some of U.S citizens privacy rights, and the

National Security Agency (NSA), an organization that looks for risks to national security, both foreign and domestic, was created. Military spending was increased by nearly 50 percent according to the website "National Priorities." In addition, the United States increased border security in the form of more frequent patrols of the Mexican/

American border and through more stringent airport safety regulations.

As the 15th anniversary of the 9/11 bombings passes, a new generation of children has grown up that were either not born or unaware of what was going on at the time of the events of September 11th, 2001. Many Loy Norrix students were too young to remember or comprehend anything. They grew up in a paranoid United States, completely unaware that the country was any different before.

Adults, however, are left with a lasting memory of the day itself. If you ask anyone over 30, more likely than not, they can tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing when the plane hit the first tower.

"I remember coming home from college when the first tower was hit and seeing mile long gas lines because people were panicked that they weren't going to get gas, and strangely enough, people stayed off the roads by midday," said economics teacher Ryan Allen recounting where he was when the first plane hit.

"You can't grasp the magnitude of the event if you didn't experience it, like when Mark Lowrie and I team taught and watched a documentary on the event later on and we had to take turns crying in the hallway as the class watched," said team teacher Jennie Ko.

As the anniversary passes, Americans can take some time to look back on this day in history and properly remember those we lost and realize what had changed. America has changed a great deal since that fateful day, that much is true. Life as we know it would most likely be so much different than it is today.

Is the nation better equipped should a situation like this arise again? Let the American citizens hope that the precautions that the government has put in place will protect against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

 ${\bf PHOTO}\,{\bf CREDIT}\,/\,\,{\bf KELLY}\,{\bf WURX}\,{\bf FILMS}$ 





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## TAKE A LOOK INTO OUR ORCHESTRA PROGRAM

### **SIDNEY RICHARDSON** NEWS EDITOR

There are many hidden gems at Loy Norrix that aren't public knowledge among the student body. The orchestra is a talented group of students who play instruments like the cello, violin, viola, and bass among others.

Currently there are 42 members in the Loy Norrix orchestra.

"We focus on postures and positions so that skills that we work on become easier with repetition. How the bow is held, for example, everything from simply drawing the bow to playing quality sounding accents, become more difficult at the start, with improper bow holds," said teacher Sandra Shaw who has taught at Loy Norrix for the past 6 years. "After that, the emphasis on producing a beautiful tone that will make others want to listen is our primary focus."

The group frequently travels to compete at festivals to display their talents before judges where they consistently receive top marks. One example is the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's District 11 Orchestra Festival. The Loy Norrix orchestra has received a rating of 1, the best you can get, for three years running.



PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON

Sophomore Peyton Cool is a first chair cello player. "My favorite solo to play is the Elgar Concerto in G major," said Cool.



PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON

"My favorite thing about orchestra is going to festivals and seeing how I've progressed," said Dustin Keltsch. Just a sophomore, Keltsch is a first chair cello player and plays alongside his good friend Peyton Cool.

"The emphasis on producing a beautiful tone that will make others want to listen is our primary focus," said orchestra instructor Sandra Shaw.



PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON

"Each section comes together to make a creative unit that creates beautiful

music," said senior Lexi

Terrian.

"My favorite song to play

in orchestra is Pirates

of the Caribbean," said

sophomore Peyton Cool.

Sophomore Aria Kleber plays the cello during class. "I play the cello and I've played for 6 years" said Kleber.



PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON

Senior Lexi Terrian looks on during instruction. "My favorite thing about orchestra is how each section comes together to make a creative unit that creates beautiful music," said Terrian.

# The Kalamazoo Promise

# Seniors: Turn in your Kalamazoo Promise applications!

Applications are available in the guidance office or at www.kalamazoopromise.com



Complete the FAFSA -

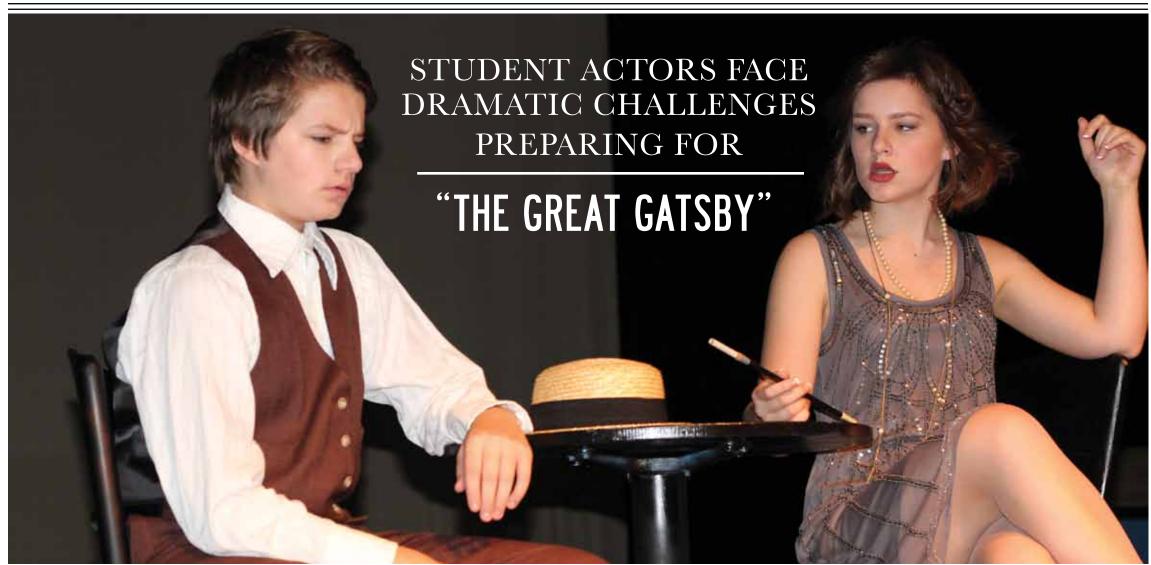
FAFSA Workshop in the library at Loy Norrix

November 15th, 5:00 to 7:00 PM

See Bob Jorth with questions or to schedule an appointment with him in the guidance office.

(269)337-0037

bjorth@kalamazoopromise.com



Drew Strand, left, and Bonnie Bremer, right, are in full character mode for their roles in the play "The Great Gatsby." Strand plays Nick Carraway and Bremer plays Jordan Baker.

PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD

#### **EMMA WHITEHEAD** FEATURE EDITOR

For many students their dream is to star in a play. For junior, Drew Strand, junior, Victor Moss, and senior, Olivia Mears this dream has become a reality as they have been given the leading roles in Loy Norrix's adaptation of "The Great Gatsby."

The "Great Gatsby" is a play that has secrets discovered that could tear families apart.

Junior Drew Strand is playing the role of Nick Carraway.

"This is my first leading role and I'm super stoked," said Strand. Strand has been in many of Loy Norrix's productions since his freshman year. He played Flute in "A Midsummer Night's Dream," and was a member of the ensemble in "Urinetown." He also played Randolph in "Bye Bye Birdie" and was in several productions at Maple Street Magnet School.

"Drew has this ability to tell a great story. In forensics, he's an exceptional storyteller, and Nick has a lot of lines and monologues," said Loy Norrix drama teacher and director of "The Great Gatsby," Paige O'Shea. "He's what pushes the whole play forward. I think Drew is someone who can do that because he's sincere and beyond talented. He has such great talent and he's never a jerk about it, he's just who he is."

Junior Victor Moss has been in a few other productions at Loy Norrix as well. His repertoire includes, "A Midsummer Night's Dream," where he played Lysander, and "Bye Bye Birdie," where he played Conrad Birdie, and now stars as the dashing Jay Gatsby.

"Last year I was able to watch Victor kind of try theater for the first time, and I watched

how he became invested quickly and is passionate about what he's doing. Then, this year at auditions, Victor blew me away with his ability to kind of be a man of mystery and to transform who he is to be whatever character is requested of him," said O'Shea.

Senior Olivia Mears has been in two other productions at Loy Norrix. She played Puck in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" last year and she was Belinda in "Noises Off" during her sophomore year. Although she's only had a

couple of roles she's been on production crew for the rest of Loy Norrix's productions since her freshman year. Now she is playing Daisy Buchanan.

"Olivia as Daisy was interesting to cast because Daisy's such a complex character and she goes from ups and downs and inbetweens and all over the place, and then she's happy one minute, and knowing Olivia and getting to know her last year and seeing her

read as Daisy, it just fit," said O'Shea. "They both have these sweet and sincere sides and Olivia has this ability to act that's beyond her age. She has that ability to go manic and come back and be mellow and then be this frantic person."

Each actor connects with their character in their own ways.

"I'm pretty sure Nick and I are the same person," said Strand.

"Gatsby's a mysterious man and I've been told that I'm mysterious too, mostly

"Gatsby's a

I've been told that

mysterious man and

I'm mysterious too, mostly because I'm not a huge talker," said Moss.

> Moss shared that he got his hair cut to get into character and to prepare for his role.

fits," said Mears.

because I'm not a huge talker," said Moss.

"I think Daisy and I are pretty similar.

She's a little bit more manic depressive than

I am, but she puts a lot of trust in people and

sees the good in people. I identify a lot with

time for the sake of the show. They spend

These students dedicate much of their

hours and hours a day memorizing all of their

lines and cues to go on stage. They all have

different ways of getting prepared for their

roles and get into character.

"Daisy has so many levels,

depressive, but there's so many

levels to that, it just depends on

the line, like if I say something

then Ms. O'Shea will give me a

different direction or tell me to

find a different emotion in that

with all the different emotions

line. So we just have to play

in certain lines and see what

wrong or if I say something

that doesn't seem like Daisy

like yes she's crazy and manic

that part of her," said Mears.

For Moss, since he doesn't relate with the secret love interests and drama of Gatsby, he said, "If I have lines that are super lovey dovey and having to do with Daisy, I'll think about other things that I feel that way about and that kind of helps me get into the mood."

School plays and musicals require so much more than just practicing lines over and over again and then going on stage and

performing for an audience. It's about the actors really giving it their all and leaving it all out on the stage.

School plays and musicals are also a way to make new friends, meet new people, have a good time and create a lifetime worth of amazing memories.

"The best time for me was probably when Ms. O'Shea had a meeting and we all got together in the room and we were trying on costumes and going over our lines together and it was really laid back and kind of an easy rehearsal," said Mears.

Rehearsal is usually fun but sometimes things get just plain awkward.

"My worst time in rehearsal was probably when we first had to do stage kisses. That was pretty weird because the person I was doing the stage kiss with was Bonnie Bremer, and I've known her for a long time and that was just kind of weird," said

According to the actors rehearsal has good days and bad days but it's an amazing experience. Once it's all over and they see how well the performance went, it all becomes worth it.

"My favorite time is usually in the beginning when everyone is really amped up and they're like, 'this is my first time in a show,' or 'great I have lines this year last year I didn't," O'Shea continued, "and they're excited about this new adventure and they're excited to have a costume and they're excited to have props and they're excited for their parents to see them on stage and I love seeing their passion grow from that."



PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD Senior Sophia Boismer works hard to prepare for her role as Myrtle Wilson. Myrtle is a very dynamic character and Sophia did an amazing job pulling

"I've never played such a dramatic role in a dramatic play before so it was really cool to do something so different," shared Sophia Boismer.



PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD

Justin Page, who plays George Wilson, mourns the loss of his wife Myrtle. Sophia Boismier plays the feisty



PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD This photo was taken during the scene where Daisy and Gatsby are dancing. Shortly after this scene Gatsby goes to war and leaves behind a broken hearted Daisy.



PHOTO CREDIT / EMMA WHITEHEAD

Olivia Mears stands next to Bonnie Bremer who play best friends in the play. irronically these two are good friends in real life as well.

"It was pretty easy playing best friends with Olivia. We have been friends for a long time so we definitely had that type of chemistry," shared Bonnie Bremer.

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OR Submit to Room K6

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## -250 words or less

-Must contain author's name, 3rd period, and ID number

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Guest columns and personal opinion pieces may be withheld if the piece contains libel or obscenities, disrupts the school environment, invades the privacy of others, or if space is limited.

## **NOTE TO READER:**

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Knight Life will publish a formal correction of any factual error made in a previous issue.

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## KNIGHTS//// ""SPEAK

## **STAFF EDITORIAL**

## THE U.S. NEEDS BETTER GUN CONTROL

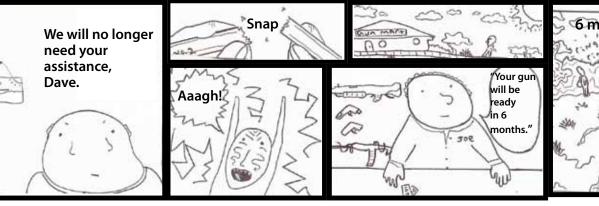






ILLUSTRATION / SHANE HARRELSON

On April 18th, 2011, Kalamazoo police officer Eric Zapata was shot by Leonard Statler. On February 20th, 2016, Jason Brian Dalton drove around Kalamazoo shooting innocent civilians killing six people and injuring two others. On September 6th, 2016, Daquarion Hunter and Marsavious Frazier died in a tragic accident involving a gun. These deaths have rocked Kalamazoo in the past five years, and they all have one thing in common. A gun was involved. This is the theme in modern tragedy.

With the current gun laws people can go to the store and buy a gun after they pass a background check. The U.S. government does not have any laws about waiting periods so it is left up to the states to decide. It is too easy for people with bad intentions to buy a gun.

Waiting periods are a set time barrier between the time a gun is purchased and when the buyer receives the gun. These are very important because they prevent people with malice from getting a gun right away. Only seven states and one district have a set waiting period: Florida, Iowa, Maryland, New Jersey, California, Rhode Island, Minnesota and the District of Columbia. Michigan is not on the

To buy a gun in Michigan, you need a permit: then you can buy a gun. At the store where you are buying the gun you must fill out a form and then the owner makes a phone call to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Once contacted, the NICS checks for any problems on your record. This can take days, but often takes only minutes.

As long as you don't have any problems in your criminal and mental health history, dishonorable military discharges, past drug use, questions about your immigration status, and are not under indictment, then you can pass a background check. Once you pass this test, you are then presented with your recently purchased handgun. It is that simple.

Because the background check required to get a gun is so quick, the quality of the check is very poor. The checks happen too quickly for any thorough investigation, and it can only detect something in the actual records like a felony charge. It is harder for background checks to detect someone who supports a radical political profile (often violently), or someone with a mental disability.

It would be very beneficial to increase this waiting period significantly because background checks done so quickly are very inadequate. A waiting period of at least six months is ideal, as this gives people time to calm down if they are buying the gun with the intent to cause harm on a spur-ofthe-moment impulse. Increasing the time it takes for a buyer to get a gun also allows time for a more thorough background check.

The main argument against an extended waiting period is that many criminals buy guns illegally, so imposing a legal waiting period only hurts people who need the gun to protect themselves. But even "good" people can cause others and themselves a lot of

In 2015 toddlers shot 58 people according to an article by "The Washington Post." When people have not been trained how to use a gun properly, they can easily cause

According to The Brady Campaign, "Every day on average, 55 people kill themselves with a firearm. Preventing those people from obtaining guns would not stop all of them from killing themselves, but it would save

According to the Michigan State Police in order to obtain a permit you need to complete a training course, fill out some paperwork and have your fingerprints taken. After that, the county clerk has up to 45 days to issue the permit. Those are the steps for Michigan. However that is only for handguns. When we

are talking more deadly weapons, like assault rifles, it is an entirely different story.

Should civilians access to assault rifles and other military grade weapons be allowed? The issue is centered around a type of rifle commonly known as the AR-15. This name refers to many semi-automatic rifles, guns that fire as fast as the shooter can pull the trigger.

> "[The shooter] chose the AR-15 because he was aware of how many shots it could get out, how lethal it was, the way it was designed, that it would serve his objective of killing as many people as possible in the shortest time possible," said Nicole Hockley.

It is easier to buy a civilian assault rifle than it is to buy a handgun in the U.S. The reasoning behind that is that it is a "long gun." A "long gun" is a gun that has a barrel that is over 16 cm. These types of guns are easier to acquire because they are supposedly harder to conceal. All a person needs in order to qualify to buy a "long gun" is to be over eighteen years old and to pass the background check. Private sale of a long gun can be done without a background check so the only requirement is that the buyer be over eighteen.

This gun has been the weapon of choice in multiple shootings, including the Orlando nightclub shooting and the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"[The shooter] chose the AR-15 because he was aware of how many shots it could get out, how lethal it was, the way it was designed, that it would serve his objective of killing as many people as possible in the shortest time possible," said Nicole Hockley, a mother

who lost her child in the Sandy Hook shooting, quoted in "Rolling Stone."

The main argument to justify civilian ownership of assault rifles is the potential need to defend against tyranny. According to an article written by Marty Hayes J. D. on the "Armed Citizen's Legal Defense Network," assault rifles are weapons of protection, in case the government takes over.

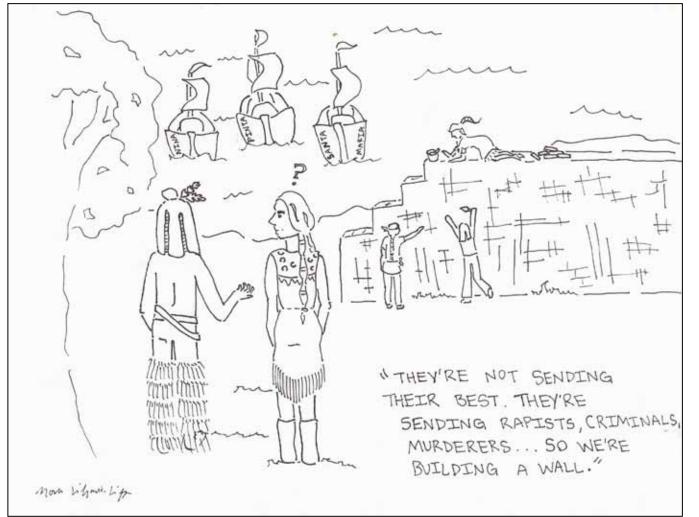
"...an assurance that Americans will never lack the weaponry to fight against their own government, if that government becomes tyrannical," Hayes continued "After all, high capacity semiautomatic rifles are not used for hunting or sporting purposes, just for killing humans. To which I respond 'exactly.'"

Although fear of government oppression is a very legitimate fear in many parts of the world, it is not a particularly valid fear in the U.S. due to the foundation of this country being based on liberty and justice for all. Oppression is not as much of an issue as it is in countries like North Korea and Syria. Our government does not use chemical weapons on us or arrest us for speaking against the state.

Fear and wanting to protect yourself are very natural desires and emotions. However, providing everyone with a firearm is not the smartest way to go about that. Though it's true that many people would get a gun for protection, it would also put guns into the hands of those who want to kill.

U.S. citizens do not need assault rifles and don't need speedy access to handguns. We need a barrier between these weapons of mass murder and the hands of violent people. Installing a 6-month waiting period and preventing any access to assault weapons will the U.S. a safer place. Guns make it far too easy to kill a human being. Putting them in the hands of violent and deranged people only makes the problem worse.

## COLUMBUS DAY: YAY OR NAY?



In a poll created on twitter, users responded to the question

"What are your views on celebrating Columbus Day?" Results as follows:

3% We should celebrate Columbus Day

28% We shouldn't celebrate Columbus day

58% We should celebrate Indigenous People's Day instead

11% No opinion

**ILLUSTRATION / NORA HILGART-GRIFF** 

## Do you think the U.S. needs more or less gun control?



Anna Puca, 9th

'I think we should increase gun legislation with more restrictions regarding the type of gun, for example not allowing individuals to have machine guns."



Naquavion Evans, 12th I think this is a hard subject to develop an opinion on. If we increase gun legislation then the average civilian can ose ways of self-defense, nowever, if we decrease legislation innocent people on the streets run the risk of



Emma Scheele, 9th

"More, people carrying around guns is unsafe, and we should have restrictions of concealed carry.



'I think there should be a limit on how many guns and what type of guns

Tasheanna Mckinney, 11th you can have, I don't want a psycho shooting up a school."

## TEACHERS SHOULD ALLOW STUDENTS TO LISTEN TO MUSIC IN CLASS



**DAGNIJA TOMSONS**CHIEF COPY EDITOR

That moment of utter silence envelopes you as you finally are released to work independently and instead of listening to random coughing and the tapping of pencils, you instead pop in those earbuds to listen to some relaxing or upbeat music.

Music can help you get into a zone where everything else just flows away and all that's left is you and your soothing tones. For instance, in class when that one kid decides to keep jabbering on about some football game where the quarterback messes up the game, instead of listening to their jabber, you decide to pop in the earbuds and escape from that argument for once in your high school life.

According to the website
The Guardian, "We seem to
have two attention systems:
a conscious one that enables
us to direct our focus
towards things we know
we want to concentrate on
and an unconscious one that
shifts attention towards
anything our senses pick up
that might be significant."

Listening to your favorite song can help boost your productivity whilst doing

According to the website The New York Times, "In biological terms, melodious sounds help encourage the release of dopamine in the reward area of the brain, as would eating a delicacy, looking at something appealing or smelling a pleasant aroma."

Music is an expression, something not just used to calm yourself down when angered or sad, but as a way the artist speaks out to others.

According to the website eMed Expert, "Music, especially upbeat tunes, can take your mind off what stresses you, and help you feel more positive and optimistic. This helps release stress and can even help you keep from getting stressed over life's little frustrations in the future."

The reason most artists write songs is to tell the world what's going on and to share what they have experienced.

Taylor Swift, a country and pop singer, said about her song "22", "I wanted to write a song about what my summer had been like, with my friends with that kind of attitude of like 'We are in our 20's and we don't know anything and it's awesome.' It's kind of fun to embrace that and I've got to say that's probably one of the biggest choruses on the record."

According to the website Bass Connections, "Music is capable of provoking powerful emotions."

"[I like] "Thinking
Out Loud" by Ed Sheeran
because it helps me escape
time," said senior P.J. Singh.

If there's too much noise or just a lot of commotion going on around you, it's



helpful to plug in that music to help you lose track of all the excess distractions and focus more on what you are doing. When there is no alternative to moving from the noisy room, it's easier to just pop in earphones to escape from the noise and focus easier on your task.

According to Help Scout, "Dr. [Teresa] Lesiuk's research focuses on how music affects workplace performance. In one study involving information technology specialists, she found that those who listened to music completed their tasks more quickly and came up with better ideas than those who didn't, because the music improved their mood."

Depending on what type

of music you listen to, it gives off the emotion that will be portrayed in everyday life. If someone is listening to really upbeat rock, they'll end up being really energetic and happy the rest of the day. Whereas if they listened to something slower, they'll probably feel more tired and sleepy, or just sad if it's one of those days.

"I use music just because I enjoy music. I enjoy listening to it. Music cheers me up when I'm sad and calms me down," said senior Sean Fanning. "I don't know why but "Lift Me Up" by Five Finger Death Punch, always cheers me up and makes me feel like I can take whatever is thrown at me."

When bored in class, people end up spacing out

or sleeping, but teachers get mad when that happens, so it's easier to just pop in those earbuds and listen to that jam. Some teachers allow students to listen to music during independent work time when there are no more directions to be given.

"[Music means] everything when I have no one to talk to or [nothing] do," said freshman Dayanna Porter.

"'I Just Want to be Happy' by Gloria Estefan makes me happy because it reminds me of a dance I did awhile back, and I remember having fun with friends in dance class," said senior Alexis Kahler.

Unlike using the independent time to actually listen to music, some

students don't use that time wisely and instead float on social media and play games. With this, there's not much you can do to stop them besides a stern warning and eventually taking away that device, but enforcing for no electronics the whole time is unfair to those who actually use their time wisely.

Music is an inspiration, an escape, something to go to when there's nothing else to do. It's a great way to start and end the day, despite what mood is going around. Next time there's something big going on or nothing at all, pull up that favorite song and just let it

## HALLWAY CONGESTION: GETTING AROUND LOY NORRIX



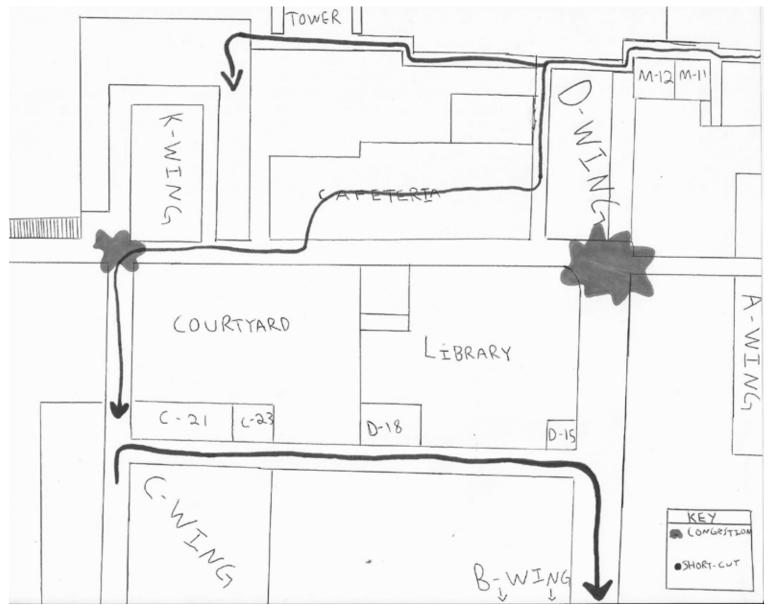
## SHANE HARRELSON

GRAPHIC EDITOR
There is a serious
congestion problem in the
hallways of Loy Norrix.
Students often find
themselves completely
stopped either waiting
for large groups of people
to move, or for hallways
to unclog from student
traffic. The issue is caused
by students congregating
in groups in the main
intersections of the school's
hallways.

Ninety percent of students surveyed during B lunch identified the intersection of the A wing, B wing and the large hallway between the cafeteria and library as the most congested area of the school.

Passing time is only five minutes long and Loy Norrix holds approximately 1,500 students. When groups of seven or so congregate in the hallways it affects the amount of time each student has to get to class. Groups of motionless students halt the flow of students trying to get to class on time. This is a very inefficient system. The students who do not care if they get to class on time affect those who do in a negative way. This seems to be a topic of frustration throughout the entire school.

"Stop standing still in



the middle of the hall!" said senior Eddie Landon, quite passionately.

The issue is apparent, but how should the student body deal with it? The solution is avoidance. Students need to stop standing in the halls during passing time and avoid the main intersections when it is possible. However,

usually avoiding the main intersection isn't possible, which is why this is such a

huge problem.
When you're in a situation in which you must go through the congestion, the best method is to weave through the crowd in whatever way you possibly can. This skill is an extremely valuable one at Loy Norrix,

and you could be chronically

late without it.

Attending Loy Norrix
definitely trains you on how
to get through a crowd.
You have no option but
to pass slow kids in the
halls. Another solution that
commonly appeared on the
survey was to paint lanes
on the floor and treat the
hallway like a two way road

## GRAPHIC CREDIT / SHANE HARRELSON

system. Unfortunately this would not be a feasible solution because any sort of enforcement of this rule would be one, impossible, and two, ridiculous. Having security guards or teachers telling kids to walk on the right or left side of the halls all day just wouldn't work and it would make the school feel too much like a prison.

The hallways of Loy
Norrix are insufficient. The
only solution is for the entire
student body to cooperate
and understand that when
a group of people stand in
the middle of the hall during
passing time, it affects
everyone's ability to get to
class on time. Be courteous
because nobody in the
school is given the choice of
being there and everyone
has to put up with the lack of
space in the halls already.

Save some time on your hallway commute by trying these shortcuts:

- Going from the C wing to the B wing?
   Just use the connecting hallway between them instead of hitting the main hallway traffic!
- Trekking all the way from M wing to J wing? Go through the tower, and say a quick hello to Ms. Hampton while you're there!
- Avoid half the traffic by cutting through the cafeteria when you go from the M or D wing to the C wing!



Zack Sims, 11th

"Guns don't kill people, people kill people, because a gun doesn't have a mind, thoughts, arms, or legs."



Lily Whalen, 10th

"We have the right to protect ourselves against maniacs and psychos."



Austin West, 12th

"People should be allowed to have guns if they have permits."



Jack Cruz, 9th

"I think there should be more thorough background checks." **SPORTS** 

## DUCKETT BROTHERS DONATE JERSEYS FOR GOOD CAUSE

**MAX LINK SPORTS EDITOR** 



PHOTO CREDIT / ZACH LIDDLE

Loy Norrix (right) Kalamazoo Central (left) head off against each other on the night of September 9th 2016. The two teams wear donated jerseys for breast and prostate cancer awareness.

On the night of September 9th, 2016, two rival teams, Lov Norrix High School and Kalamazoo

Central High School, fought for the title of the city.

Lights were shining on the field, and out came both teams, Kalamazoo Central in pink and Loy Norrix in blue. Blue and pink are the colors that represent breast and prostate cancer.

Loy Norrix alumni T.J. and Tico Duckett donated jerseys for the football game in memory of their mother Jacquelyn, who died of breast cancer. She battled breast cancer for 10 years before she passed away.

"It was a very tragic death," said their father Ted Duckett, who has been working at Loy Norrix high school for 47 years.

When asked why those colors are significant, T.J. Duckett said, "It represents women and men in their struggle [against cancer] for life."

T.J. played for the Loy Norrix football team from 1995 until 1998, and Tico

from 1984 until 1988. Both T.J and Tico went on to play college football at Michigan State University. Tico played running back for four years at MSU before going on to play with the Washington Redskins for one year.

T.J went on to play in the NFL (National Football League) for six years for multiple teams including the Detroit Lions, Seattle Seahawks and Atlanta Falcons. Throughout his six years in the league, he played 93 games and had 44 touchdowns.

Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix have been rivals since Loy Norrix was built in 1960. The overall football record between the two schools is Kalamazoo Central with 39 wins and Loy Norrix with 18 wins from a total

of 57 games. Every time that these two teams play, out comes the school spirit that

makes up the rivalry. Both T.J and Tico said that this game is the highlight of the year. The final score of this year's game was 41-13 in Kalamazoo

Central's favor. "It feels great! Makes you remember good times," replied Tico when asked what it feels like to come back to Norrix. "It brings back memories that you have forgotten."

It's great to have two former players and student come back and donate the jerseys for a great cause.

"Donating money or things to anything is great, but when it's for a cause like this, it's just fantastic," said Loy Norrix sophomore Will Dales, who is a big fan of Loy Norrix football.

## NFL PLAYER TAKES A KNEE FOR INJUSTICE IN AMERICA

**ABBY FARRER SPORTS EDITOR** 



Loy Norrix Varsity football stands during the national anthem. All players are standing by their own choice.

People protest in different ways, from on the streets to social media.

Colin Kaepernick, quarterback for the 49ers, has been kneeling while the national anthem plays before each of his games. Kaepernick began doing this during the National Football League's (NFL) preseason. Although the NFL doesn't require their players to stand during the playing of the national anthem, that hasn't stopped Kaepernick's protest from gaining a lot of attention. He started gaining attention when he was dressed for a game, in

jersey and pads.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color," Kaepernick told NFL media after a game. "To me, this is bigger than football, and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

Kaepernick isn't the first athlete to sit down and protest during the national anthem. This has been an ongoing fight in the sports community.

Professional athletes have been protesting in similar ways for years. At the 1968 Olympics, two American athletes, John Carlos and Tommie Smith, raised their fists in the air, to show their support for the black power movement that was especially large in the 1960s. With the media taking up such a large role in modern day sports, Kaepernick has drawn the eyes of people around the world.

"In that era, guys took on social issues and their presence forced the country to address larger social issues like racism,"

said Donald McPherson, a former quarterback for the Philadelphia Eagles. "The echo chamber these guys live in via social media allows them to feel they have the support of a large population of people that support their causes. It helps that, today, athletes are financially comfortable to take a stand."

High schoolers in New Jersey, Virginia, Illinois and Texas joined in on this protest. In Lincoln, Nebraska, an African American football player kneeled and one of his white teammates joined him. At Woodrow Wilson

High School in Camden. New Jersey, a football team followed the example of their coach when he knelt.

Loy Norrix football coach Jason Porter wants his players to come to him. If the player has a good reason to protest, he will let them. He wants to make sure that his players will come to him if they ever feel the need to go along with Kaepernick.

"First, sit down in a oneon-one situation and make sure what they are doing is for the right reasons, but also make sure that the team and the program as a whole knows what's going on," Porter said. "I think that most of the team is pretty open, where they would say, 'Hey coach, I'm thinking about doing this,' so they would let us know before hand and we wouldn't get any big surprises."

Over the weeks, there have been more and more players supporting Kaepernick with his protest. Megan Rapinoe, an openly gay player for Seattle Reign FC and United States Women's National Soccer Team, agrees with what Kaepernick is doing.

"Being a gay American, I know what it means to look at the flag and not have it protect all of your liberties. It was something small that I could do and something that I plan to keep doing in the future and hopefully spark some meaningful conversation around it," Rapinoe said after showing her support to Kaepernick before a game.

Many people either agree with Kaepernick's right to uphold his first amendment right and others

are strongly against it. Many people don't understand the reasoning behind Kaepernick's protest, people just see an American not standing for his country that men and women have lost their lives to protect. However, not all veterans are against the fact that Kaepernick is kneeling.

"Too much focus was given to the symbol of [Kaepernick] sitting rather than the message," Joe McCastle currently serving with the U.S Army told "Huffington Post". "His message was being clouded by constant slander ... there are veterans who are not only not offended but are actually behind him and are indeed proud of how he exercises the rights we fight tirelessly for."

When people disagree with what Kaepernick is doing they say that he is anti-American. In countless interviews he has said that is not true. He respects what the men and women of the military have fought for their lives. He knows that there have been many lives lost, but he also knows that people aren't looking at the message that is behind his kneeling.

"People don't realize what's really going on in this country. There are a lot of things that are going on that are unjust. People aren't being held accountable for. And that's something that needs to change. That's something that this country stands for freedom, liberty and justice for all. And it's not happening for all right now," Kaepernick said.

## FRESHMAN JOE MEYERS IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL TWO-SPORT STAR

**SIDNEY RICHARDSON NEWS EDITOR** 

Think of your usual star athletes; they know they're talented and they act like it. You can pick them out in a crowd, and you know that they're an athlete as you pass them in the hallway. Not Joe Meyers.

This young freshman is a whole different breed. He's humble and quiet beyond belief, with a unique attitude towards his talents, regardless of the fact that he is a star on both the cross country course and on the tennis court.

"I kinda try not to go out and tell people what I do because it's not their business, I do it for me — with my running and everything — so it's not really something that they need to know," said Meyers

of his humble demeanor. Meyers is already grappling the difficult task of not just playing, but dominating two varsity sports in the fall of his freshman year. He is the second best singles tennis player at Loy Norrix, behind fellow freshman Reed Crocker, with a 19-6 record. He's also the number two runner on the Loy Norrix Cross Country Team, behind senior Gabe Runyon.

Teammates can testify to

"He's a pretty hard worker; if he's not at tennis, he's at cross country, which is pretty good," said sophomore and cross country teammate Richard Sackett.

Meyers masterfully balances two sports that share the same season, and his talents fall short in neither.

"It's kinda nice to have two sports and be really

his amazing work ethic.

quite a burden.



PHOTO CREDIT / NICK LOKEN

Freshman Joe Meyers hits his finishing kick during the SMAC East Jamboree. He took second behind fellow Knight senior Gabe Runyon.

good at them," said Meyers. Handling all this training while keeping up with schoolwork is, however,

"It's pretty difficult to handle all my schoolwork

and having a social life," said Meyers. Yet somehow he finds the time to train for not only tennis and running, but triathlons and cycling events too. He fills what little free time he has training with his

father doing various cycling workouts.

"I play tennis after school with the team, and some days I get up and run miles before school, and I also do cycling with my

dad every other day which helps stimulate my running," Meyers continued.

Meyers is also adjusting to high school as the end of the first month of the school year approaches, and the social impact of playing on two teams.

"I've had people I don't know come up to me and congratulate me and it's made the experience more welcoming," said Meyers.

You'd think someone with that kind of talent would have a massive ego, but not Meyers. He's a quiet, almost shy kid, who takes modesty to a whole new level. He doesn't brag about his accomplishments despite the fact that he has plenty to brag about.

**SPORTS** 

## VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS BALANCE SPORTS AND SCHOOL

**BILL BOWSER** ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER

Fall at Loy Norrix is the one of the best times for sports. Football games fill the stands with excited students and faculty. Men's soccer players run up and down the field tirelessly in the beating sun and the volleyball team continuously spike their way to victory.

The volleyball team, both varsity and junior varsity, began practicing this July in preparation for the rigors of the season.

"We play to win, but also because we love the sport," said sophomore Aria Kleber, a second year Norrix volleyball player and member of the women's junior varsity team.

Attending practice while still having time to do homework is the biggest challenge any student athlete faces. A 2014 survey of one thousand K-12 teachers by US News showed that the average amount of homework given each week is 3.5 hours. For students with five different classes a day, this can mean up to 17.5 hours of homework. It's no small feat balancing out this workload and a two hour a day practice, not to mention occasionally travelling hours away for a game.



PHOTO CREDIT / SIDNEY RICHARDSON

The junior varsity team circles up and listens to their coach during a timeout. They faced off against Mattawan on 10/5/16

"We have time before practice to study, but on game day we have less time, so you have to fit it in somewhere," said Kleber.

Players also have to adhere to the many requirements of Norrix athletes. School is the biggest challenge players overcome in

order to play volleyball.

"It was hard work, you put in a lot and you get no weekends off," recalled sophomore Rebecca Thompson, a former Norrix player.

Thompson stopped playing after last year's season due to

practicing 10 hours a week and requirements that needed to be met for the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center (KAMSC), an advanced math and science program that she attends. KAMSC students adhere to a greater workload than their peers in public schools typically do.

"I weighed my options and school seemed more important than volleyball," said Thompson.

It can be difficult to know when to be a volleyball player and when to be a student.

"I can really over stress myself," explained senior Lizzie Ko, captain of the women's varsity team.

Ko explained how it is necessary to know how and when to differentiate between school and practice.

"Time management is important. You're a student first, practice is only two hours a day," commented senior Ashantai Hale-Sandifer, a senior varsity player.

"When you're on the court, you have to focus on only what's between the courtlines," Kleber explained further.

Despite these challenges, the volleyball players continue to put forth their best effort in both practice and in games, learning to cope with their commitments to both school and volleyball. The team's final record is 18 wins, 20 losses, and 3 ties.





PHOTO CREDIT / BILL BOWSER

Senior Lizzie Ko, junior Abby Guimond, and senior Ashantai Hale-Sandifer prepare for the incoming serve. All three are returning players from last season.

Senior Ashantai Hale-Sandifer goes up for a spike against Mattawan. Norrix lost the match against Mattawan.

## INJURIES AFFECT ATHLETES AT LOY NORRIX CONLEY COPY EDITOR

Sweat and tears run down an athlete's face as they lay on their back, unable to stand. The trainer rushes out and kneels down beside them trying to figure out what is

Injuries occur all the time for athletes. Roughly two million injuries a year are accounted for by high school students in the United States, according to statistics compiled by Stop Sports Injuries. Some are more severe than others, but they all have a lasting effect on

"I'm worried about re-injury and hope that I can completely play next season," said junior football player CJ Washington.

Washington tore his meniscus, a ligament in the knee, before the season began.

Most recently in the NFL, Detroit Lions' wide receiver, Calvin Johnson Jr., retired due to the physical toll football took on his

"Based on the way that my body felt, the way I felt mentally and all those things working together, I wanted to not have those problems later," said Johnson in an interview on his retirement with Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) 60.

Athletes at Loy Norrix High School often deal with a similar dilemma when they suffer a major injury. The decision to continue playing is a stressful one. The athlete has to consider how sitting out will affect themselves and the

There are all different kinds of sports injuries and each injury has its own effect on the athlete. Injuries include: broken bones, torn ligaments, strained muscles and sprained ankles, as well as many others not listed. The most common injuries student athletes suffer, according to a study conducted by DISC Sports and



Junior CJ Washington stands on the sideline with the rest of the football team. He is thinking about the opportunities that he missed due to his knee injury.

Spine Center, are those related to the knee.

Playing injured is something that Loy Norrix sophomore Kamryn Stratton, a women's soccer player, has done before. In the past two seasons she was physically unable to play due to the tearing of both of her ACLs. The ACL is a ligament in the knee. She was not able to play with that injury, but she has played on sprained ankles before. Sacrificing her physical well being was something she was willing to do for her team.

"I love the sport and didn't want to feel left out," said Stratton.

This mentality has forced many young athletes into decisions that nobody their age should have to make: continue to play and potentially create a lifelong injury, or step back from something that is very important to them. Senior volleyball player, Hana Lee made

this decision.

"I hurt my knee powerlifting the summer before my junior year. That was the first time my doctor told me to stop and I didn't," said Lee. "Instead of just stopping powerlifting, I continued powerlifting and playing volleyball. I just kept going with all of it. It got to a point where I just could not play anymore and he [my doctor] told me, 'you've done it, you can't ever play again.""

Sports damage the body in different ways. Volleyball stresses the knees; soccer, the legs; and football affects the whole body. Sitting on the sideline knowing that they could be helping their team kills athletes on the inside when all they want is to get back on the field and play with their teammates.

"It's a family, my teammates are like brothers and sisters [to me]," said Washington.

Washington has been out

since the first week of the football season due to his knee injury. He hoped to return this season and play in one of the final games but he was not cleared to play.

Sitting on the bench with an injury is no easy feat for any athlete. Athletes want to play. Athletes want to feel needed and they will do anything and everything to get back out on the court or field.

"It sucks, I wanted to just cry sometimes," said Stratton.

Not playing because of an injury mentally affects student athletes. They have more time to spend on school but they feel like something is missing.

"I feel like a lot of my motivation is gone, and I feel like there's a certain mindset that comes with being a student athlete that I just don't have anymore," Lee said. "I feel like in being a student athlete you feel

your game all the time and act right and represent your whole team by going beyond people's expectations." When an injury occurs, the

extra motivation to be on top of

rebound is the hardest part. The mentality is not the same. Players begin to doubt themselves as athletes.

According to Association for Applied Sports Psychology "athletes may be ready physically [to return to play], but are not prepared mentally to return, which could result in: decreased confidence leading to a decline in performance, re-injury or further injury, feelings of stress and anxiety due to lack of confidence in their physical condition, or a fear of injury and fear of returning to play."

Both Stratton and Washington reported feeling out of shape in the process of their return.

"I doubt my skills because while everyone is working on the off season, improving their playing I'm still working on getting my knee better and not focusing on them, and I will be behind everyone else," said Stratton.

Any athlete that has had a major injury that puts them on the sidelines understands these feelings. An injury can be more damaging to an athlete's mind than their body. Sitting on the bench is no easy task for an athlete. It takes a lot to watch knowing they can't make a difference at that point in

Being an athlete is a lifestyle. Whatever sport the athlete plays, it takes their time and commitment. It is a social environment that is comfortable to them.

"Not playing volleyball has made me feel really lethargic and sad not being on the team anymore," said Lee.

12 FEATURE



PHOTO CREDIT / HANNAH PITTMAN

WEDNESDAY: Seniors Maeve Wilson, Brittany Day, Brendan Feenstra, Sophie Nielson and Hana Lee dressed in college gear. "I got my hoodie from Aquinas last year when I visited, the campus was really pretty," said Wilson.

## HOMECOMING 2016 SPIRIT

**HANNAH PITTMAN** OPINION EDITOR

WEEK



THURSDAY: Juniors JT Mitchell, Sebastian Rodriguez, and **Nick Srodes** wear matching neon running shorts with Chewbacca shirts and jean jackets. They call themselves 'Pibb Boi's' "It is really cold," said Srodes.

PHOTO CREDIT / HANNAH PITTMAN



PHOTO CREDIT / HANNAH PITTMAN

MONDAY: Freshmen Amanda Johnson, Janiyah Blanks and Tiyanir Lewis dressed for the day. They all took part in pajama day for points for their freshman class.



PHOTO CREDIT / HANNAH PITTMAN

TUESDAY: Seniors Taylor Brown and Carolyn Wilson in their career day outfits. Brown wears scrubs from her EFE, and Wilson has her uniform on from her job at Culver's.



PHOTO CREDIT / HANNAH PITTMAN

FRIDAY: Senior Vaughn Taylor shows his school spirit with blue and white pom poms. "I'm pumped for my last homecoming pep rally," said Taylor.

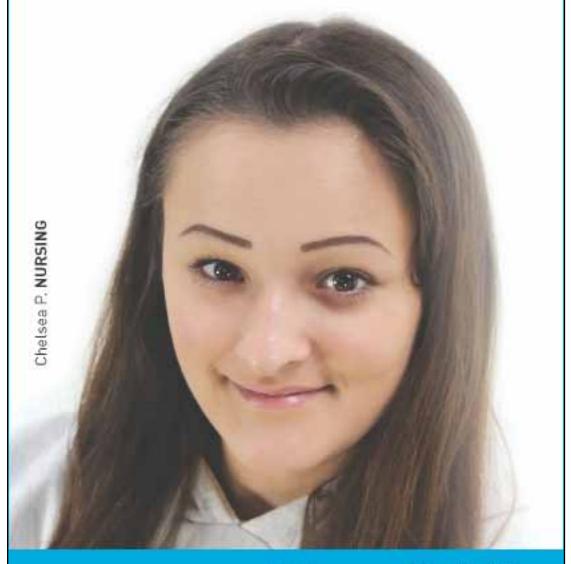
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